

Independent Radio Club WA6IRC Newsletter

Volume 3, Issue 1

Winter 2005

Presidents Corner

Comments from IRC President Leon KC6JAR

Despite a few minor difficulties, our Christmas party went off with out a hitch. We had a great turn out and a great time. We were able to do a little bit more with our raffle and participation drawing this year. Congratulations to John KC6SAD who won the participation grand prize which was a new Yaesu VX-2. The party was a great success. We played bingo, had a prize drawing and had a desert contest. All the deserts were great. Jackie KD6RJE won the desert contest with her special donuts.

It was especially nice to see Lou KG6VFP and Lowell KG6AJF there as its hard for them to get around. They went out of there way to go despite their physical difficulties. Special thanks to Kim KF6MFU and Jackie for helping set up and run the party and for providing the marvelous decorations. I would also like to thank Ken's daughter Jenn KF6RSG for taking the party pictures. We appreciate everyone who came and helped make it a great success.

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900 MHz Repeater Project

Our new 900 MHz system

We have just put together a 900 MHz repeater which will eventually be linked to our 440 MHz repeater. The repeater has been installed at Juan's W6DMV house. Juan lives on top of a hill in South Pasadena which has a great view to the east and to the south. This should extend our coverage area out to the San Gabriel Valley, Orange County and the Eagle Rock area. The machine is currently on 927.700 MHz minus split with a PL tone of 100.0. The frequency will change when the coordinator assigns us a permanent pair.

Why are we using 900 MHz for this system? Due to the lack of available open repeater pairs on the more commonly used frequencies it's easy to get going in this band. We are also trying to make better use of the band so we can keep our privileges here. In the past this band has not been used much for the amateur service due to the lack of equipment for this band. Lately many public service systems have gone digital and are dumping their 900 MHz commercial radios on the surplus market. There are several commercial 900 MHz radios which are amenable for use in the amateur section of the 900 MHz band. This is a great opportunity for amateurs to get on the band and experiment with 900 MHz.

We are working out an arrangement to acquire some convertible 900 MHz commercial radios at an inexpensive price which we will offer to our members if you want to get on 900 MHz and play. Tune in to the Tuesday evening net and sign up for the club e-mail list to keep track of how we are doing and when the radios are going to be available.

You will want to check out our 2005 calendar which is now up on the web site. We still have a possibility of doing field day at the beach this year. It will take advance commitment from our members if you want it at the beach. If we can't work it out we will have an alternate site somewhere else. This year we are going to do more VE testing which we are attempting to set up on a regular basis. We have organized a general upgrade class this year which is coming up in July. We will also be doing two technician classes this year so please spread the word to anyone you know who wants to get a license.

Our 900 MHz system at Juan's W6DMV house is just about up and running. The system is ready to go it just needs to be installed. The new system will be linked into our 440 repeater and will allow coverage to the east and south.

Stay tuned and pay attention to the calendar. We have a lot of cool stuff going on this year. We are a growing club and a fun club and we are planning to do even more. We are going to do a camping trip, day hike, license classes, and plenty of other stuff. If you have any ideas of things you would like the club to do, let me know. We are here for you and want the club to reflect your wishes.

73 de Leon KC6JAR

Weekly net needs you!

Show your support for the club

Our weekly evening net is held every Tuesday night at 6:00pm. The net starts at 6:00pm with Newline followed by check ins hosted by our charming suave net controller Lowell KG6AJF. IRC members and all interested amateurs are encouraged to check in.

Checking in on the net helps you show support for the club, keep up what's happening in amateur radio, and let you hear what is going on with the club and our members. We would love to hear what you've been doing in radio or life in general. If you have an item to sell the net is a good way to mention it to your friends on the radio.

Club Echolink System

The club Echolink system is now online

Our club Echolink system is now operational. We are in the process of making some improvements which should extend the operational range of the system. We are also considering putting the system on a hilltop for substantially better coverage.

Our Echolink system operates as a crossband repeater. The input frequency for the system is 146.460 with a PL of 141.3. The output of the system is 449.460 with a PL of 141.3. You need to set up your dual band radio for crossband split to use the system. The system is located at Brian's (W2BRI) house located near Coldwater Canyon and Magnolia in Valley Village. Brian is our sysop and repeater trustee. To get more information about using the system and to get a set of operating instructions, e-mail Ken at w6cpa@arrl.net or call Brian W2BRI at (818) 505-0222.

Repeater Linking Project

Our Hauser Peak Linking project is still in process

We are still in the process of linking our repeater to Mark's KD6PXZ repeater on Hauser Peak. When we finish the project our combined system should have coverage down Highway 14 and throughout the high desert. We are looking forward to the increased coverage area coming down the road.

We have worked out the business end and the technical end of our agreement with Mark. The only thing left to do is to install the hardware. We have installed the hardware on the Contractors side and we expect the hardware to be installed soon on the Hauser side.

When the link becomes functional, we should have many new users to our system. We would appreciate it if you would extend a warm welcome to our new users. This should make the repeater much more useful and much more fun!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY JANUARY 28 AT 7:00 PM

FEBRUARY CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY FEBRUARY 25 AT 7:00 PM

MARCH CLUB MEETING

LAMPLIGHTER RESTAURANT
6261 LAUREL CANYON BLVD.
NORTH HOLLYWOOD
FRIDAY MARCH 25 AT 7:00 PM

TECHNICIAN LICENSE CLASS

EAGLE ROCK CITY HALL
2035 COLORADO BLVD.
EAGLE ROCK, CA
SATURDAY MAY 21 & 22 AT 9:00 AM

FIELD DAY

LOCATION ???

FRIDAY JUNE 24 AT 11:00 AM - FIELD DAY SETUP

SATURDAY JUNE 25 AT 11:00 AM TO SUNDAY JUNE 26

Field Day operations

See story in opposing column

2005 Field Day

Where will we hold Field Day this year?

Our members overwhelmingly voted to do Field Day at the beach this year. We tried to get reservations at several state beaches and we were unable to get through before the campgrounds filled. Although we missed out using the standard reservation system, we still have a chance to hold Field Day at Mc Grath state beach. Mc Grath has a separate reservation system which still has openings; however it will require an advance financial commitment to obtain it. To get the reservation, we would need to give them a non refundable \$100 deposit immediately, and to pay the reservation fees in full 30 days before Field Day. The campsite fees are \$30 per night plus \$8 per night for each additional vehicle. The campsites are large enough that two families could share one site.

We will be discussing our Field Day plans at the monthly meeting January 28. Please consider whether or not you are willing to make an advance commitment for a campsite. If we decide to use Mc Grath, we need enough advance commitments to keep the club from suffering a significant loss.

Should we decide not to go to Mc Grath or we don't get enough advance commitments, then we will do Field Day somewhere in the mountains, probably Chilao or Table Mountain. Be sure to attend the meeting on January 28 so we can hear where you want to go.

We are also looking for a member who wants to be Field Day chairman this year. The Field Day chairman is responsible for keeping track of who is coming, coordinating our operations with the campsite authorities, arranging for the logging and station setup, and to decide the kind of stations we want to operate. If you are interested in being the chairman this year, contact Ken W6CPA at w6cpa@arrl.net. See you at the January 28 meeting.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Statement of Income and Expenses
January 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004

Income:

Autopatch Memberships	840
Membership Dues	185
Net Class Fees	21
January Donations	70
February Donations	80
March Donations	70
April Donations	80
May Donations	60
June Donations	60
July Donations	83
August Donations	30
September Donations	92
October Donations	20
November Donations	18

Total Income 1,709

Expenses:

Bank Charges	91
Dues	10
Party Food	117
Site Rent	900
Telephone	389

Total Expenses 1,507

Excess of Income over Expenses 202

Independent Radio Club, Inc.
Balance Sheet
December 31, 2004

Operating Funds	1,312
Books	242

Total Cash	1,554

Total Assets	1,554
	=====
Unrestricted Fund Balance	1,554

Fund Balance	1,554

Liabilities and Fund Balance	1,554
	=====

Sign up for the Email list

Keep track of current club news by e-mail

A great way to keep up with what's going on with the club is to sign up for our e-mail list. Craig WA6EKP has graciously allowed us to use his mail list server to run our club list. To sign up for the list click on: <http://www.fatpenguin.com/mailman/listinfo/ircradio> for subscription information.

After you fill out a form and are signed up you can post e-mail to all list members and will receive all club announcements. This information is also available on the web site. Sign up now!

Club Repeater

KC6JAR/R repeater

445.340 MHz minus CTCSS 103.5

Contractors Point

Club Contacts

www.ircradio.org

Information:

Leon (KC6JAR) kc6jar@juno.com

Ken (W6CPA) w6cpa@arrl.net

Webmaster:

Jenn (KF6RSG) kf6rsg@arrl.net

Net Control:

Lowell (KG6AJF) kg6ajf@juno.com