

LLBARC

February 2016 Newsletter

February arrived with good news, the KK6NXT Repeater is up and running with Echolink connectivity and METAR weather information available from the local Long Beach Airport. Simply enter 5 # (DTMF) to listen to local weather in aeronautical format. Other airports (LAX for example) are available if you enter the airport letters after the # sign.

As for the repeater system, a complete system reload and configuration file was installed, along with a Linux operating system upgrade to the latest Version 8 of Debian Linux. The system is running the latest stable version of SVXLINK repeater software (www.svxlink.org). Current fine tuning continues with adjustments for signal levels and special effects (computer voice). Other features can be utilized such as Parrot mode, QSO recorder, and even voice mail. A new personalized greeting is in the works for Echolink users to identify the KK6NXT repeater as the Lakewood Amateur Radio Club.

Last month's club visit to the Claremont swapmeet was a successful one for club member Travis KK6EON, who found a nice professional four track reel to reel tape recorder in good condition. Other items seen such as linear amplifiers and computer parts were all very good to see. The upcoming Claremont swapmeet is on February 20th (the third Saturday). See you all there!

TRW swap meet was a profitable one for members Joe W6MYN and Travis KK6EON who acted as sellers and were able to sell a number of items. Selling at TRW costs \$20 paid before opening at 7am. TRW is the last Saturday of the month, rain or shine.

Plans for a club NPOTA (National Parks on the Air) activation are in the works for March at the local Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (<http://www.nps.gov/samo/index.htm>). Joe W6MYN is investigating antenna solutions and will be traveling to the park to scout out potential operating positions.

The park visitor center is located at: King Gillette Ranch - 26876 Mulholland Highway, Calabasas, CA, 91302. This park has an area of 244.8 square miles so finding a suitable location may take some time. Anyone willing to provide help, operating experience, or information is welcome to contact Joe at: w6myn@ARRL.NET Dates are not set in stone yet, and some leeway is expected when planning this sort of excursion.

Plans continue to be made for the summer activation of Santa Rosa Island. A club generator purchase is being considered, as are logistics and scheduling.

In other news, our first meeting at the new General meeting place (Rubio's Mexican Grill on Sepulveda Blvd) went well with all member indicating that the food was good and the restaurant not crowded immediately following the TRW swapmeet. Meeting information is available on our web page under the Meetings tab.

Finally, at last months' TRW swapmeet, a chance conversation with ARRL division director indicates that our club affiliation will be voted on, on or before March 1st. We are hoping to be able to add an ARRL affiliated club logo to the web site soon! We are currently at 100% ARRL membership in the club so that should be no problem.

73 and best DX,

-Brett Williams WA6SXU