

IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.72 PL 110.9/TSQ110.9

224.40 PL 110.9/TSQ110.9

442.675 PL 110.9/TSQ110.9



August 2021

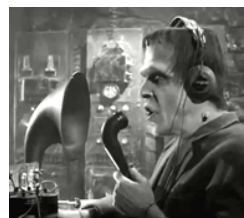
August Club Meeting Is Online

The August club meeting will be online. Bill will be talking about the club repeater network, how it's designed, how it works, and future plans involving the new City of Irving Emergency Operations Center. Click this link to register: <https://iarc.byrom.net>

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

I hope your summer is going well – I spent way too much time driving back and forth between Texas and New Jersey, along with trips between New Jersey and Ohio, which gave me a chance to finally spend some quality time with the radio in my truck and setting up APRS. In addition, I spent a little time upon my return to Texas and set up one of our spare/backup Yaesu DR-2X repeaters at the Bingo Hall on our previously unused UHF repeater pair (442.375, +5 PL 110.9). And speaking of the shack at the Bingo Hall, Dennis Brady, W5FRS, and Ron Tabb, KC5HPO, recently put up a new 20 meter vertical antenna at the Bingo Hall.



APRS

I'd always been a little doubtful of the practical uses of APRS. APRS is a mode or service that offers a number of functions to the user – aside from position beaconing, it also allows for messaging between users and other functions, and while driving from Texas to New Jersey I decided to configure my radio to beacon my position. Well, it took a while, but I eventually found a great video on YouTube that consisted of nothing more than a video showing each setting on the presenter's radio, commenting on each setting he changed to make APRS work. After flailing around for the better part of an hour, finding that video was a blessing. Within 5 minutes I had my Kenwood TM-D710GA radio beaconing my speed, heading and location to the world. I was impressed by the APRS coverage as I drove from Little Rock, AR to New Jersey – I had almost complete coverage my entire route. I left the radio beaconing my location on while I drove, and I soon had friends warning me to slow down, they noticed I was exceeding the speed limit! I have since turned off APRS, but it only takes a moment to switch it back on, if I ever want to. If you want to learn more about APRS, visit <http://www.aprs.org/>, to see who's beaconing their location, visit <https://aprs.fi/> for a map of all the beaconing radios in the area that were "picked up" by an iGate (a radio linked to the internet that receives the beacons and forwards the information to internet servers like aprs.fi).

Fourth Club Repeater

While I was away, we had some issues with our repeaters on top of the hospital – among other things that occurred in response to the issues, I committed to taking one of our spare/backup dual-band Yaesu DR-2X repeaters and putting it on the air to test it's suitability in our environment. It is set up on our second UHF pair (442.375 MHz, +5 MHz offset, 110.9 PL Tone), and has been on the air for a couple weeks now. It's a very basic repeater setup – the Yaesu repeater, a mobile UHF duplexer that I had previously had tuned to that repeater pair, and connected to the club's tri-band antenna (CX-333) on top of the Bingo Hall.



President

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Vice-President

Bill Byrom N5BB

Secretary

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Directors

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

General/Business Meeting:
Aug 26 @ 7:00 pm

Weekly Meeting Nets:
7:00 pm each Thursday on
the WA5CKF repeaters.

Contact Us

Irvingarc.org

P.O. Box 153333

Irving, Texas 75015-3333



Repeater coverage is pretty good, considering the low power (20 Watts RF output) and the low altitude of the antenna (about 25 feet above the parking lot of the Bingo Hall). Coverage is something less than all of Irving, but the repeater has proven itself reliable and easy to program/set up.

The Yaesu DR-2X repeaters have a lot of interesting features, including the ability to use it's second receiver to monitor a second frequency for DTMF commands to turn the transmitter on or off, alter operating mode (it supports analog FM as well as digital C4FM/Fusion), and more. I did purchase a voice board (FVS-2, about \$40) so the repeater voice IDs instead of CW.

If you get the chance, when you are near a UHF radio, try "hitting" the new (temporary) repeater and take note of where you are & what radio and power level you are using – the club will be interested in these reports in the near future as we prepare to organize our equipment for the new Irving Emergency Operations Center (EOC), which will become either a backup repeater location, or it may become our new primary location, with the Hospital remaining as a so-called "hot-spare," ready to be switched on at a moment's notice, should a repeater fail.

There will be a lot more information on our current repeater situation, as well as a discussion of the formation of a "Repeater Committee" tasked with defining the functional goals of our repeaters (coverage areas, etc.), an assessment of our current repeater system and formulate a plan for the installation at the new Irving EOC.

New Bingo Hall Antenna

Dennis and Ron recently researched alternatives to allow us to potentially transmit on the 20 Meter band from the Bingo Hall without interfering with the Bingo Hall PA system. They decided to try a mono-band Vertical, purchased from DX Engineering, and installed it on the roof of the Bingo Hall – the good news is that the antenna, being vertically polarized, does not interfere with the Bingo Hall PA system, the great news is that Dennis and Ron were able to make contacts on 20 Meters!

Virtual Meetings

It was decided that the August Club Meeting will be virtual – on WebEx – again and going forward, likely to the end of the year. It was a decision arrived at by the club officers given the current state of the pandemic we find ourselves in today, and the likely progression we will see going forward.

While our meetings will be virtual, we will have door prizes, but no 50/50 drawings. We will use the "Wheel of Names" website to pick winners.

That's about it from me, but elsewhere in this newsletter you should see an invitation from me to consider being part of the forthcoming "Repeater Committee" (you don't need to be technical to participate, there are expected to be lots of tasks requiring varying skill levels), and a proposal that our club consider participating in monthly "Siren Tests" for the City of Irving – I've helped the city of Farmer's Branch through the Richardson Wireless Club (K5RWK), and I think this is a great opportunity to give back to the City – I do hope you'll consider helping.

I hope you can join us this week for our virtual meeting – To register for the meeting click on the link at the top of Page 1 of this newsletter. Once you are registered you will get an email with the meeting info.

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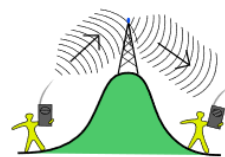
Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Repeater Committee

Ken Hansen N2VIP

At the August, 2021 meeting we will be forming a Repeater Committee to define what performance and management needs we have for our repeater system, and to do the ground work to prepare for the build-out of the new club repeater site at the new Emergency Operations Center later this year. If you have an interest in being part of the Committee, please let me know at the upcoming meeting – if you can't make the meeting, you can reach out to me directly.



One of the more interesting activities of the Committee will be the performance evaluation of our current repeater system against the requirements the Committee determines – it will likely involve asking club members to take their radios out and wander around Irving and document the performance of our repeaters. Even if you aren't able to join the committee, I hope you'll try and help us document the current repeater system's performance.

In addition, the Committee will consider the option of configuring one or more of our repeater pairs to support digital operation, be it D-STAR, C4FM/Fusion, DMR, or other digital mode. We'll certainly not migrate the two meter repeater to a digital mode, but perhaps one of the UHF "pairs" the club controls could be set to a digital mode? Who knows? I think this will be an interesting exercise for the club to work through, and I hope you'll either join the Committee or perhaps just participate in some of the evaluation exercises.

Emergency Siren Monitoring

John Cheyney KF5PFP

The Irving Office of Emergency Management (OEM) has 26 emergency sirens spread throughout the city. The sirens are tested each month, on the first of the month, at 1:00 pm. A single tests last three to four minutes. The tests are not held if the weather appears bad enough to confuse people.

The Irving ARES/RACES team monitors the tests and report findings back to the OEM. Available members visualize the siren test and report to Net Control on the IARC repeater system. In the first outing we had five operators who monitored six sirens. One of the sirens was noted to have an issue and was reported in.

The goal is to cover all of the sirens twice a year. To accomplish that we'd like to enlist the assistance of any radio operator who can monitor the tests. The next test is Wednesday 1 September 2021 at 1:00 pm. The procedure is below:

1. Find a siren on the [City of Irving map](#) (address list below). We are especially interested in monitoring sirens in the Las Colinas/Valley Ranch area because we have fewer members.
2. Check in to the Irving 2 meter repeater at 12:30 pm on the day of the test and let Net Control know where you are going.
3. Find a location where you can visualize the siren for the test.
4. Report what you see back to Net Control.

We realize not every siren will be monitored for every test.

If you have any questions or are available to help please contact John Cheyney KF5PFP (jjcheyn@gmail.com) or Billy Geer (wgeer@verizon.net).

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Irving Emergency Siren Addresses

1	Fire Station 5	Currently down for maintenance
2	West Park	530 Davis Dr
3	Fire Station 2	1306 E. Story Rd
4	Fritz Park	312 Vilbig Rd
5	Lively Park	909 N. O'Connor Rd
6	Sunrise Park	1809 E. Union Bower Rd
7	Twin Wells Park	1900 E Shady Grove Rd
8	Police/Fire Training Academy	2603 Esters Rd
9	Carbon Road	2900 Carbon Rd
10	Victoria Park	2800 W. Northgate Rd
11	Walnut Hill and Brangus	1718 W. Walnut Hill Rd
12	Former Fire Station 4	3303 N. MacArthur Rd
13	O'Connor	O'Connor and Northgate
14	Northgate and Carl Road	1203 Northgate Dr
15	Valley View Road	Valley View Lane South of SH 183
16	Fire Station 11	6200 Love Dr
17	Las Colinas Elementary	2200 Kinwest Parkway
18	NW Water Tower	8516 Esters Blvd
19	Valley Ranch Parkway	9830 West Valley Ranch Parkway
20	Ranch View	8000 N MacArthur
21	La Villita	W. La Villita Blvd and Riverside
22	Peters Road	NE Corner of Peters Rd and 183
23	North CJC Barn/Police North	5992 Riverside Dr
24	Longhorn Drive	6454 Longhorn Dr
25	South MacArthur	MacArthur/Hunter Ferrel Median
26	Convention Center	500 W Las Colinas Blvd



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Irving ARES/RACES Report July 2021

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 13

Change since last month: (-) _____ or (+) _____ or same: >__X_____

Local Net Name: Irving RACES/ARES

Total sessions: 4

NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Net

Number of ARES drills, tests and training sessions this month: 3

1 Dallas Training

1 Irving Training

Person hours: 32

Number of ARES public service events this month: 1

--Irving Fourth of July Parade

Person hours: 28

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 4

Total Person hours: 60

IARC Meeting Minutes July 2021 (Pending Approval)

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Meeting began at approximately 7PM

Ken Hansen, N2VIP, IARC President gave overview of events for the evening.

Pledge of allegiance and prayer to open up the meeting. Mentioned the reasons for this evening's important vote on bylaw changes.

17 members including Executive committee and board members were in attendance.

Sharing of Concerns: N5BB brother out of the hospital and back home, weak but getting stronger. Stephen B having surgery on leg next week. Ken's daughter fell

Ken reports we are one of the first clubs in Dallas county to have an in person meeting. Other clubs seem to be waiting until September.

Ken gave a few highlights of his recent trip to the Northeast and Midwest.

Minutes were distributed pre approval via the club newsletter by Secretary Tom Schuessler, N5HYP, Club Secretary. Motion to approve by Billy, Ka5OZC, Seconded by John, KF5PFP; Approved by membership present.

Ken described last two months of expenditures for financial report. Motion to approve Treasurer's report was Given by Bill, N5BB, Seconded by Tom, N5HYP and approved by membership present.

Bylaws Biggest change was terms of officers. 2 year terms for officers and three terms as a term limit. Board of Directors Include 2 board members in on year and 2 in another Directors can serve two 2 year terms as term limit.

Bill, N5BB, bylaws committee chairman, gave high level changes. Allowing for designating meetings to be in person or virtual. Adding electronic means to get notifications up to current standards. Quorum is now 25% of membership for regular meetings. Also included is a modification of quorum for board meetings to be denoted as "a majority" of sitting leadership and board members.

Bylaw modifications relating to elections include allowing electronic means of voting for major items like bylaws. Changes in nominations committee institution. The Board of Directors will appoint a nominating committee chair and nominating committee. Nominees will now be presented by the committee in Feb. other nominations from floor could be made in general meeting in Feb. with election to be held in March, Removing the month-long waiting period for installation of officers and board. Installation will happen in same meeting of the election. Additional bylaw modification would allow for eligibility requirements for an individual member to hold an office may be waived by the board to fill a vacancy. Or for election Changes in bylaws by either petition of 10% of membership, or committee, must be first approved by board before moving to membership for approval.



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Other proposed modifications to the bylaws include:

- Slight changes to the description of the duties of the Vice President and Secretary. President will appoint a chair of an audit committee for club financials.
- Changing wording in bylaws to reflect the way Ham Club Online works by defining that annual membership dues will now be dues on anniversary date of membership.
- Allow the board to "Comp" dues for certain members
- Defining membership lapse period after being two months late on dues payment.

Election was held to approved published and discussed amendments to bylaws. Absentee ballots were allowed per the current bylaws. Total of 26 votes were cast including absentee ballots. Results were 25 in favor and 1 against.

Other notes of interested presented to the club

An announcement that VE testing, normally the 3rd Sat of the Month at Bingo 8AM, will resume in August.

Ken N2VIP, reported on putting up spare Yaesu repeater at shack on 442.375.

Bill N5BB, reported on other repeater news. Regular 440 repeater is now working again but had a failed power supply. Current 2 and 70 repeaters now have 110.9 on output. 220 repeater was thought to be malfunctioning, but is actually working fine. Bill and Ron will re-activated Still though an ongoing problem with noise on 2M and 440 but worse on 220. Still investigating the cause.

Dennis Brady W5FRS, described new 20M vertical that is now mounted on top of bingo hal. New antenna has fixed the RF into the PA system of Bingo two.
Also a note by Ken that the club has lots of equipment to dispose of .

Program for the evening was a "Show and tell", with Ken Hansen, Bill Byrom, and Tom Schuessler bringing items to describe to the members present.

Meeting ended approximately 9PM.

Respectfully submitted
Tom Schuessler, N5HYP; Irving Amateur Radio Club Secretary.

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