

# IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

### WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.72 PL 110.9/TSQL 110.9

224.40 PL 110.9/TSQL110.9

442.675 PL 110.9/TSQL110.9



October 2021

### October Club Meeting Is Online

The October club meeting will be online. It will be Show and Tell night - discuss things you have done recently in amateur radio. The Webex session will open at 6:45 PM on Thursday, October 28, 2021. The actual meeting will start at around 7:00 PM. You must register in advance at:

<https://iarc.byrom.net>

### President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

#### Dennis Brady, W5FRS, SK

As you most likely heard by now, Dennis Brady, K5FRS, passed earlier this month. Bill Byrom, N5BB has written a brief remembrance of Dennis that appears elsewhere within this newsletter. Most recently Dennis was a big help overseeing the Club Station, working on the antenna system to allow us to operate on the 20 meter band without interfering with the Bingo Hall PA system and helping to assess recent donations from an SK estate earlier this year. Dennis was fond of building his own radios and he had previously told me he preferred to operate radios he'd built himself, but he was also quite fond of operating the club Icom IC-7300 HF/6m radio at the bingo hall. Dennis will be sorely missed in the club going forward.



#### SK Auction Results

Earlier this month the club held a "(Sort of) Hamfest" virtual event to help reduce the items that were being stored in the Bingo Hall. The event was a reasonable success. As a reminder, the process was that items were photographed and those photographs, along with prices for some of the items (most were free), were shared among the club membership via email. Club members had a few days to express an interest in any items listed, and their interest was noted. After a few days the event was closed, and the results tallied - any items with more than one member interested were distributed to one of the interested members based on a random drawing. At the end of the event we raised \$178 for Dennis Riise's Estate and we were able to clear many items out of the Bingo Hall "shack."

#### Lecture and Lab with Dallas Amateur Radio Club

Earlier today, Saturday, October 23rd the Dallas Amateur Radio Club held a "joint" Lecture and Lab/Play Day at a park near my house in Las Colinas at the TJ Richardson Grove Park (<https://w5fc.org/2021/10/04/darc-lecture-and-lab-oct-2021/>). I was unable to participate (I arrived home from a two-day drive from New Jersey to home at around 2:45 AM Saturday morning), but I was able to stop by after the event was over, and I heard it was well-attended, everyone had a great time, and everyone that choose to build the project (a 2 meter roll-up Coax antenna) went home with a functioning antenna. The Dallas club reached out to the Irving club for help securing a suitable outdoor venue for the event. Once the venue was secured, the Dallas club invited us to join them, and several Irving members did just that.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club is a good friend of the Irving Amateur Radio Club, they've stepped up and helped us mount several recent Hamfests, and I hope to see more joint activities with not only the Dallas Club, but also other area clubs. Speaking of Hamfests...

#### President

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#### 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:**  
Oct 28 @ 7:00 pm

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

#### Contact Us

[Irvingarc.org](http://Irvingarc.org)

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Irving, Texas 75015-3333

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**2022 Irving Hamfest**

This month (October, 2021) I am starting the work required to put on our annual Hamfest the first Saturday in March, 2022. At this point it is mainly a matter of alerting the various Hamfest/Event calendars to include our planned event, and updating the club website to support signing up for tables. I'm not sure, but I think for this coming year we may only offer pre-sale admission tickets to the vendors renting tables. The idea being that if we need to cancel the event at the last minute, lets try and keep the number of potential refunds to a minimum.

We may eventually be forced to cancel the 2022 Irving Hamfest, but for now we are working with the assumption that we will have a Hamfest in 2022.

**WinLink Wednesday**

The North Texas Section of the West Gulf Division of the ARRL has been holding "WinLink Wednesday" events for a while now, and I've decided participating in that activity is one of the top items on my personal To-Do List - to that end, I plan on attempting to set up a dedicated WinLink station to enable my sending and receiving emails over the airwaves. Briefly, "WinLink Wednesday" encourages hams to setup and test a personal WinLink station to allow the sending and receiving of non-business emails over the airwaves. There are WinLink Nodes with ties to the public internet that accept your transmitted emails and send them on their way over the public internet. More information can be found here: <https://sites.google.com/view/winlink-wednesday-ntx/home/check-in/winlink-express>

Station requirements are quite minimal, requiring little more than a suitable radio, a personal computer running either Windows 7 (or better) or certain Linux distributions. In my case, rather than use one of the radios I already own, I was able to pick-up an Alinco DR-135TMKII 2 meter radio with a connector to allow for easy connection to a suitable computer to get signals in and out of the computer and out over the airwaves. The Alinco radio has a 9 pin connector, to which I will attach a custom board from Repeater-Builder.com that ties the radio to the computer (sound-card interface). This radio, this board, and a computer running Win7 or better are all I need to get my WinLink station up-and-running. Keep an eye out for additional information going forward.

The Alinco radio I purchased is described here: <https://www.hamradio.com/detail.cfm?pid=H0-008739>. The add-in board for radio-computer integration is described here: <http://www.repeater-builder.com/products/usb-rim-lite.html>

**And Now for Something Completely Different**

I found myself back in New Jersey earlier this month, and I had a great time at a non-radio event - I attended the Vintage Computer Festival East in Wall, NJ. VCF East is a gathering of people that collect and/or appreciate the computers - personal and other - of yesteryear. Along with seminars and a consignment area, they also had exhibits and even a "maker" area where attendees could buy and construct a kit from an attending vendor. I chose to assemble a small computer (it fits on a 5" x 8" circuit board) that runs the CP/M operating system (a precursor to MS-DOS from the early 1970's) with a compact flash card emulating disk drives. It was a lot of fun, my computer booted right up after I assembled it. Unfortunately the board I built requires a "proper" terminal to operate, but while I was in New Jersey I came across another kit to build a terminal that is based on an Arduino chip, and uses PS/2 keyboards and VGA monitors. I really enjoy soldering kits together and watching them come to life. If you haven't had the opportunity to learn how to solder and build something from a handful of components, I encourage you to try your hand at one.



## Ask Not What Your Club Can Do for You...

Finally, it has become a recurring challenge to try and secure interesting presentations/activities for our club meetings – if you have something you do in or around the Amateur Radio hobby, please, PLEASE, consider offering to present a brief talk to the club members describing what you are up to. We are a very supportive group, and we'd be very interested in hearing what you're up to. If you can't put together a full 30 minute plus presentation, partner up with another club member and each can briefly describe what they are up to.

Also, the club website and newsletter would really, really appreciate any content you might like to have included in either/both. Obviously, the content should be radio-related, but aside from that one requirement, there are broad areas to cover (Did you put up a new antenna? Why not describe the antenna, how you installed it and how it performs for you. Get a new radio? What do you like or not like about it? Etc.).

Well, that will do it for now, hope to see you (virtually) at our upcoming WebEx meeting this Thursday, October 28th – keep an eye on your in-box for more information on how to participate in our on-line meetings. Remember, you need to register for club WebEx meetings, and if you are stuck, members are typically monitoring the club 2 meter repeater, why not reach out over the airwaves thru our 2 meter repeater and ask for help connecting.

## Dennis Brady W5FRS SK

Bill Byrom N5BB

It is with great sadness that we share the news that Dennis Brady W5FRS passed away early Tuesday, October 5, 2021, at the age of 73. He was preceded by the death of his wife Sandra on August 29. Both had heart problems which led to their passing. Dennis was a long-time member and previous officer of the Irving Amateur Radio Club and mentor and friend to countless club members. He worked as a field systems engineer for IBM for many years before retiring.



Dennis was always very giving of his time, and was eager to help other hams get on the air, offering to assist interested club members in operating our radios at the club hamshack. Dennis was also a valuable resource, willing to help nurse older radios back to operating condition, with the goal of getting them back on the air and in the hands of someone that could/would use them. He helped many other new and old hams with technical problems and provided encouragement to all.

Dennis made significant contributions to the bingo hall shack antenna system, most recently installing a 20 meter vertical to allow operation on that band without interfering with the Bingo Hall PA system. He made other major improvements to our ham shack over the years.

Dennis was a friend to me and many others in the IARC. He left some big shoes to fill in the club. I sat next to Dennis at IARC Field Day many hot summers working CW with him. He and his wife Sandra will be sorely missed by many in our community.

Dennis is survived by his two daughters and three grandchildren. His grandson Ronan McCarter in Austin is KI5PXX and I believe is in middle school. Ronan has been licensed since May of this year, and he visited Dennis's shack this summer and spoke to several of us on 2M. Ronan is interested in continuing the tradition of a ham in their family. The callsign W5FRS passed from Dennis's dad to Dennis.

There was a memorial service held on October 8th at Woodhaven Presbyterian Church in Irving. Six IARC members attended this service, and some of us spoke with the family after the service.

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# DARC Radio in the Park

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Bill Byron, James Shugart, Ken Hansen and myself from Irving participated with others from the Dallas Amateur Radio Club at the lecture and lab/Radio in the park day at TW Richardson Grove Park Inn North Irving on Saturday the 23rd. Antennas were made, satellite contacts given out, go boxes displayed and fun was had.



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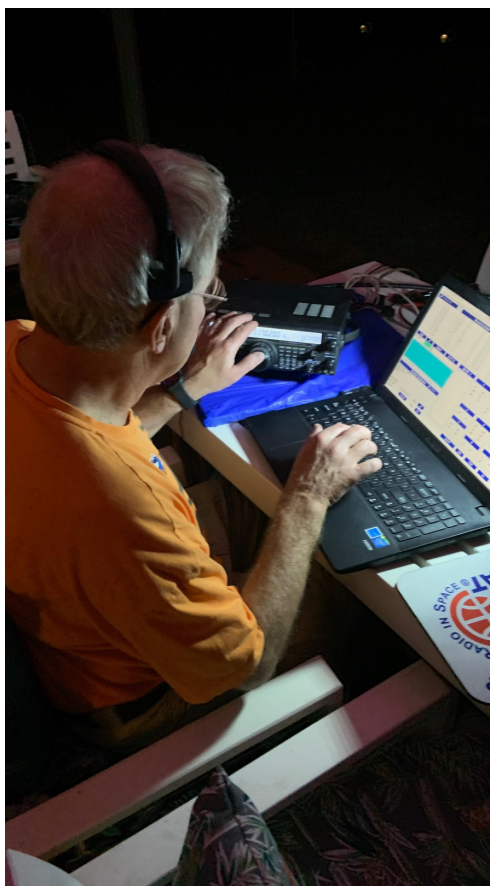
John Cheyney KF5PFP



## North American SSB Sprint

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Had a tougher time than I expected for the North American a SSB Sprint this Saturday evening the 23rd. Ran 40 m as a buddy Pole vertical but had a lot of RF coming back to the radio and it caused me the limit power to about 50 watts so only made about 25 QSOs in two hours.



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## Irving ARES/RACES Report Aug 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: 4

2 Dallas Training

1 Irving Training

1 City of Irving Siren Test

Person hours: 32

Number of ARES public service events this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 4

Total Person hours: 32

The Irving RACES/ARES Team and Irving ARC members continue to assist the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) by monitoring the monthly warning siren tests. The next test will be Wednesday 3 November 2021 at 1300L. Members go to the location of a siren for the test and report the results on the IARC 2 meter repeater. Results are collected and sent to the OEM for review.

For more information please contact Billy Geer KA5OZC at [wgeer@verizon.net](mailto:wgeer@verizon.net) or John Cheyney KF5PFP at [jjcheyn@gmail.com](mailto:jjcheyn@gmail.com).



# IARC Meeting Minutes September 2021 (Pending Approval)

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Meeting Called to Order

2. Concerns: Dennis Brady, Loss of wife and Heart condition getting worse. Bill Byrom's brother still weak but hanging in there.

3. Prayer Led by Tom Schuessler.

4. Pledge of Allegiance

5. Introduction

a. Ken Hansen's introduction: Tonight's presentation is from John Cheyney, KF5PFP, but before that, we have the following topics to discuss:

i. Discuss the method to hold a private, IARC-only "Hamfest (of sorts)" to help clean out the Club Vault of SK estate items

ii. Contingency planning for possible Hamfest in March, 2022?

iii. Belton is next weekend, Oct. 1 & 2

6. Presentation/Discussions

a. John Cheyney Presentation on WSPR.

7. Old Business

a. Review and Approve

i. August Meeting Minutes (as published in club newsletter). Motion to approve by Bill, N5BB and Seconded by Dick, WA6MDI. Approved by acclimation.

ii. August Treasurer Report (as shared prior to meeting). Motion to approve by Bill, N5BB and seconded by Tom, N5HYP. Approved y acclimation.

b. Ken Hansen, N2VIP reports that RFI at Bingo Hall – (tiny amount of) RFI in one PA system.

c. Work party update

i. 9/11 Work party picked up around the shack, set both computers and laser printer to use our Spectrum Internet service, decommissioned 442.375 repeater, set club IFR500 Communications Analyzer for member use

ii. 9/18 Work party photographed the majority of the SK estate items, the "catalog" will be shared next week

iii. Still need to configure Remote station – hopefully will be set up next week

d. Hamfest (of sorts) presented by Ken Hansen, N2VIP.

i. How to handle selection/sale of items?

1. Share catalog via email, with starting prices for items

2. Solicit interest in lots

3. Uncontested lots go to the sole interested party, at quoted price (if any)

4. Contested lots will be decided how? Random selection? Bidding war?

5. N5BB moves to accept Kens plan. Tom seconded and approved

e. Repeater Committee, Ken Hansen made several questions to consider and points to discuss.

i. Needed?

ii. If we choose to form a repeater committee Ken, as president, will be seeking volunteers to help plan for new repeater site at Irving EOC:

1. Determine Functional Requirements Will we have Internet, racks, other purchases..

a. Do we want to operate FM, Fusion, DMR, or D-Star on 442.375?

2. Measure Performance of current repeaters.

3. Poll area clubs about experiences with various repeater brands

4. Decide on needed equipment for new location, seek approval for purchase, and install equipment when the site is available

5. Measure performance of new repeaters against Functional Requirements

6. Issue final report.

f. Two-meter Go-Box by Ken, N2VIP.

i. Completed, as documented in Newsletter, and available for member loan

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## 8. New Business

a. New Members K2MOW – Joshua Freedman, and KI5IKC – Alec Sheidler were presented to the club. Motion to accept into membership by Dick, WA6MDI and seconded by Bill, N5BB and approved by acclamation.

b. Micro-Grant 2022? Bill, N5BB reports that it went well. We are still waiting for some progress reports. He will ping some of the recipients to see where they are. Well accepted. Ken suggests an earlier notification. Suggestion made that we will this year, send out notice in October on the upcoming 2022 microgrant opportunity.

c. Irving Foundation Scholarship? N5BB said that he will check on the scholarship recipient to see how she is doing. He will also check with foundation on whether we are still registered and when the new contracts are due.

d. Ken, N2VIP says that we should start preliminary planning for 2022 Hamfest? John agrees that we should begin to plan, Ken will have Roger put up Hamfest announcement in November. And then offer reservations at the beginning of 2022. Need to come up with a cancellation policy in case of continued COVID or other issues. We would again hold the event on the first Saturday of March, which is March 5.

9. Items from the floor? Tom, N5HYP, mentioned a Dallas ARC event TW Richardson Groves park on October 23rd. It is a Radio in the Park and “Lecture and Lab” day for DARC, but everyone is invited, no matter what club affiliation. 10S-2P.

10. Motion to adjourn by Billy, KA5OZ and seconded by, Bill, N5BB closed at 8:50P

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Schuessler, N5HYP IARC Secretary.

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