

# IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

### WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.72 PL 110.9  
224.40 NO TONE  
442.675 PL 110.9

January 2022



### January Meeting Information

The January club meeting (27 January 2022 at 7:00 PM) will be online. Bill Byrom N5BB will be sending out registration information.

### President's Corner

#### Ken Hansen N2VIP

It's been a very interesting month, much has gone on, from the Irving Hamfest moving forward (we've sold about 15 tables so far, which is pretty good because they just went on sale last week), the Cowtown Hamfest, the work at the new EOC location, and I found another band to add to my station...



I always thought the Cowtown Hamfest was much bigger than our Hamfest, but it turns out we have about the same number of tables for rent. Cowtown also has tailgating, but the real differentiator in my mind are the seminars they offer. We don't offer any seminars at our Hamfest, but it raises an interesting question – with just as many tables as Cowtown, and with our prices a fraction of what Cowtown charges for admission or tables), why are only attracting half the attendees? I don't have an answer, but I think it's an interesting question to ponder. We'll discuss the upcoming Hamfest at the January meeting – and I'll be looking for volunteers.

Work at the EOC Repeater site is going along great – there are some more things we need to order, but everything is coming together nicely – look for my write-up elsewhere in this month's newsletter.

I won't go into details about the "new band:" I added to my shack, look for the article elsewhere in this newsletter. I will say that I bet a few of my fellow IARC Club members likely have radios for this exciting, up-and-coming band in their closet, idle for years now.

At the January meeting we'll have a discussion of the EOC repeater site project and I'll be taking names of volunteers for the 2022 Hamfest (March 5, 2022) – we don't have a program for January, if you've done something new and interesting, or if you feel you are quite knowledgeable about some aspect of the hobby, consider putting together a presentation for a future club meeting – we're always looking for presenters.

And Finally, as this is January, it will be time to form the nominating committee to try and find the next leaders of the IARC for the coming years. If you are interested in helping shape the future of IARC, consider volunteering to run for elected office in the club.

Take care, stay safe, and I hope I'll see you at the virtual (WebEx) January meeting of the IARC.

#### 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:**  
January 27 @ 7:00 pm

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

#### Contact Us

[Irvingarc.org](http://Irvingarc.org)  
P.O. Box 153333  
Irving, Texas 75015-3333

# EOC Repeater Site

Ken Hansen N2VIP



The new repeater site at the Fire Training Center (the future Irving E.O.C.) has seen a lot of work being done these past few weeks. The tower was erected, the shed was installed at the foot of the tower, electricity was run, and the antenna installation is nearly complete. All the antennas for our applications are installed, but the repeater antennas need to have appropriate lightning suppressors installed (on order, expected to arrive next week), and the 5 GHz AREDN “Backhaul” antenna is a dish antenna that needs to be “aimed” at the Palisades Building in Richardson.

The initial tower crew is done their work, and a second team will follow in the next week or so to take care of the final items to finish the project.

Sadly, once we were able to stand in the shed at the foot of the tower, it became obvious to all involved that our donated racks were not going to “work” in the shed – they are way, way too deep at about 40” deep, so the club will have to buy two “open” racks for the shed.

You may recall that we had to purchase a couple sets of duplexer cans, one for the 220 repeater and one for one of the UHF pairs (we already have a set of 2m and one UHF set of duplexer cans in the club vault that we can use). The new duplexers were ordered from TXRX Systems in Albany, NY, and have already been shipped, with an expected arrival on January 27th.

The project is coming together, and with any luck we should be able to have the repeaters on the air by the end of February. I spent a lot of time at the repeater site these past two weeks, and I was very impressed with the tower team that came all the way from Phoenix, AZ to install the antennas on the tower.

We’ll discuss this more in the January General meeting.

## Eleven Meters

Ken Hansen N2VIP



The other day I was scanning the local repeaters, and I heard an interesting conversation on one of the local 70 cm repeaters. It was a couple local hams discussing an up-tick in local 11 meter activity, including a weekly net on CB channel 38, lower sideband (I think it was) every Saturday night here in the DFW metroplex. They mentioned that many of the participants of this informal weekly net were likely hams, though they wouldn’t admit it on the air.

That got me thinking about the 11 meter band (Citizens Band), and I will admit I even looked at a few radios on Amazon, just to see what was currently offered for the band. I found a lot of “cheap” radios from familiar names (Cobra, President), but nothing that compared to the classic radios of the late 70’s, like the Cobra 148GTL, Uniden Grant, and others... Oh well, I made a mental note to check out the activity this coming Saturday on an HF radio – I still have a mobile CB antenna (a K40 Magnet mount, a base-loaded antenna with a very long whip).



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Then later that day I went to our storage space (everyone has one, don't they?), and started going through a few boxes, looking for stuff to get rid of, and guess what I found? A Cobra 148GTL SSB radio, considered to be one of the best 11 meter radios "back in the day." I found it in a box with a couple old ham radios as well, all bought just before our move to Texas, packed up and put away all those years ago (2014). Along with the Cobra radio, I had a Uniden Grant XL (essentially the same radio as the Cobra), a Henry Radio Tempo One 2m PLL radio, along with a KDK 2m mobile (I forget the model), and a Kenwood 70 cm radio (TM-441).

Unsure of the status of those radios (they were bought on eBay and I never powered them up), I decided to take the two SSB radios (the Cobra and the Grant) to a local CB repair shop with a great reputation, CB Shack & Car Stereo on Lancaster Road in Dallas. They offer very affordable service – they claim to fix almost any CB for \$45-65, and business is surprisingly good – they have a three to four week turnaround time due to the number of radios waiting to be repaired.

I decided to try and put these radios back on the air, not so much to try and relive my youth, but to see what is going on with the 11 meter "scene" these days, and I think as the solar cycle brings back skip, I think there could be some fun on 11 meters going forward. As a reminder, there is no license requirement to operate a CB, and the FCC recently lifted the restriction on working stations more than 150 miles away (working "skip" is now legal!), and as long as you don't operate a modified radio with higher power or outside the official 40 channels, you won't risk running afoul of the FCC (Uncle Charlie) – but if you do run higher power, operate on illegal frequencies, or use an unapproved radio (a ham radio modified to operate on the 11 meter band), you run the risk of losing your Amateur Radio Operator License.

I don't expect anyone to run out and buy a new CB radio, but maybe scan around the CB band on a general coverage receiver (most current HF radios can receive the 26.965 to 27.405 MHz CB channels), and who knows, if you have an old CB in the closet, why not power it up and see what's going on? If you don't have an antenna, you can make one easily enough (an 11 meter dipole is only 17' across, a quarter-wave vertical is only 8' 6" long, or you can probably hook it up to a 10 meter antenna and at least listen to the Chicken Band. The local sideband net is on channel 38 LSB (27.385 MHz), and if you have an AM only radio, I understand channel 6 (27.025 MHz) is a popular "watering hole." Just remember, if you want to transmit on the CB band, be sure and keep your station legal – don't risk your ham ticket by running a "foot warmer" out-of-band to get an "auuuuuuuudio check" from a trucker.

## 2022 Cowtown Hamfest

**Ken Hansen N2VIP**

I attended the Cowtown Hamfest this past weekend, and it was interesting. I was able to have an extended conversation with the organizers of the Cowtown Hamfest, and I learned a lot. I learned that Cowtown spends just over \$5,000 to rent out their venue (Forest Hills), traditionally attracts over 700 paid attendees, and has around 75-80 tables to rent. Traditionally they rent out every table, and the event is generally very well received.

This was not a traditional year.

At the end of the event, they had just under 300 paid admissions, and while nearly all the tables were rented, just about half the vendors showed up – on Saturday afternoon, nearly half the tables were empty.

I've included two pictures from Friday evening (the Cowtown Hamfest runs from 3:00 PM to 7:00 PM on Friday, and from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM on Saturday), and there were 98 paid admissions on Friday, and almost 200 on Saturday.

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# 2022 Cowtown Hamfest



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# National Weather Service Skywarn 2022

This year's series of Skywarn schools will be a mixture of in person and virtual. The entire schedule is available [here](#). Skywarn training is required every other year for RACES/ARES member, but even if you aren't a member it's great information for the upcoming storm season.

## Monthly Siren Testing

**John Cheyney KF5PFP**

The Irving ARES/RACES team and Irving Amateur Radio Club team up to help the Irving Office of Emergency Management (OEM) monitor the monthly warning siren tests. The tests occur on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm, unless there is inclement weather. Each test lasts three minutes. The monitoring involves driving to a siren location, monitoring the test, and reporting your results to net control on the IARC 2m repeater.

The February test will be Wednesday, 2 February 2022. If you can assist please contact John Cheyney KF5PFP or Billy Geer KA5OZC.

## Irving ARES/RACES Report December 2022

**Billy Geer KA5OZC**

Total number of ARES members: 11

Change since last month: (-) \_\_1\_\_ or (+) \_\_\_\_\_ or same: >\_\_X\_\_

Local Net Name: Irving RACES/ARES

Total sessions: 2

NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Net

Number of ARES drills, tests and training sessions this month: 2

1 Dallas Training

1 Irving Training

Person hours: 22.5

Number of ARES public service events this month: 1

1 City of Irving Christmas Parade

Person hours: 22.4

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 3

Total Person hours: 44.9



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# Hamfest 2022

**MARCH 5TH, 2022**

**8:00 AM TO 2:00 PM**

**BETCHA BINGO**

**2420 W. IRVING BLVD**

**IRVING, TEXAS 75061**

Mark your calendars for the return of the **Friendliest Hamfest** in North Texas. As always we will have over 70 tables of vendors and deals, hourly door prizes, VE testing, and a full service snack bar. Join us for a day of amateur radio fun and fellowship.

## Prizes include:

- Three Kenwood TM-V71A Dual-Band mobile radios (144/430 MHz)
- Icom IC-7300 SDR Transceiver
- AND MORE!

Tables for vendors: \$10

Admission: \$5 (Under 12 are FREE)

For more information: <http://irvingarc.org/hamfest>



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Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955



March 5th 2022

8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

**BETCHA BINGO**

**2420 W. IRVING BLVD**

**IRVING, TEXAS 75061**

**TALK-IN: 146.720/**

**PL110.9**

**CONTACT US**  
**IRVINGARC.ORG**  
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**IRVING, TEXAS**  
**75015-3333**