

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

February 2022



February Meeting Information

The February club meeting (24 February 2022 at 7:00 PM) will be online. Register for this meeting at <http://iarc.sent.com>. Current plans are for the March 2022 meeting to be in person.

Club Webmaster Roger Bacak N5VUJ has asked if we can all look at the website's Silent Key page and let him know if there are any errors or omissions. His email is N5VUJ@yahoo.com

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Welcome to the February President's Corner, I'd like to take a moment and thank everyone that participated in our joint Winter Field Day event with the Dallas Amateur Radio Club last month. It was a good time, it was well-attended by both clubs, and a good time was had by all. Elsewhere in this edition of the newsletter there should be some pictures from the event.



Nomination Committee

You may have been contacted by the Nominating Committee this past month, it's important that members take their responsibility to help lead the club seriously and consider the possibility of stepping forward to join club leadership. If you aren't able to commit to a year-long executive or board position, consider many of the other tasks our club needs help with – we need someone to oversee the club station, someone to help organize programs for our monthly meetings, we could use someone to work on new member recruitment and mentoring, and last but not least, we need members to contribute content to both the club newsletter and website. We've not really discussed these needs in recent meetings, but these are areas I feel the club needs to focus on in the coming year.

2022 Micro-Grant Program

We should really be proud of our ability to help area clubs improve or maintain their club's infrastructure through the Micro-Grant program. Started several years ago, we originally offered financial support to just a handful of neighboring clubs, and over the years we've expanded the program to include dozens more area clubs. Soon the Micro-Grant committee will start reviewing grant requests, and we'll be starting another round of helping area clubs.

New Repeater Site Update

Elsewhere in this newsletter you'll find an update on the new repeater site – work on this project continues, and hopefully we'll be testing our repeaters at the site starting in April. With this new (additional) repeater site I expect our club's repeater's reach to expand significantly, and that may in-turn draw increased attention from area hams.

New Members

For the last few months we've been blessed to attract new members to our club, in large part due to the Thursday night repeater Net. I rarely am able to check-in to the net – which meets every Thursday night at 7:00 PM on the two meter repeater (146.720, -offset, 110.9 PL) unless we have a club meeting that night. If you haven't checked into the net recently, I encourage you to mark your calendar and try and join the fun!

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:
February 24 @ 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

**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

ARES/RACES

The Irving ARES/RACES groups are (always) looking for a Few Good Hams to help them give back to the community in various ways. Our local ARES/RACES Coordinator Billy Geer and his groups efforts were instrumental in us being invited to co-locate a set of repeaters at the new EOC facility. If you have any interest in helping the ARES/RACES groups, reach out to Billy Geer and he'll be happy to help get started with the application process.

Monthly Siren Tests

You may not be aware (we do have some new members) that our club has recently started observing the Irving Sirens during their monthly test on the first Wednesday afternoon of each month. Club member John Cheyney heads up the effort, and he's always looking for help.

Club Shack Open House

Earlier in this column I mentioned the club needs someone to oversee/maintain the club station at the Bingo Hall – ideally, I'd like the shack to be opened for members to drop-in, play radio, and socialize at least once a week. We'd need to work around the bingo hall schedule, because right now we still have an RFI problem “bleeding” into the Bingo Hall Public Address system. If someone would like to help make this idea a reality, please reach out to Ken Hansen.

Presentations/Activities

Its one thing to welcome new members to the club, its another to keep them active in the club, and to that end, we need to start thinking about in-person and virtual activities we could offer to help new members get started in This Thing of Ours and help veteran members explore new technologies and activities. I encourage you to bring your activity ideas to the February meeting so that we can discuss them.

Well, I've gone on long enough, I hope you'll join us on-line this week for our monthly meeting. Once again we'll be meeting on WebEx, but hopefully this will be one of our last virtual meeting – nobody wants to return back to in-person meetings more than me and the other club officers, but we'll only return to in-person meetings when the consensus of the leadership is that we can do so safely.

New Repeater Site Update**Ken Hansen N2VIP**

Work at the new repeater site (the current Joint Fire Training Center on Belt Line, near PGBT) is progressing, albeit slowly. After the flurry of recent activity at the site (the antennas were all installed, the feedlines were run, electric service was installed) work has slowed down as the other part's of the City's other project sites have run long.

The City of Irving is planning to return to the site sometime in March to complete the project and start rolling in their equipment. When the City's workers return to the site they will install internet service and finalize the antenna installations, including “aiming” the 5 GHz AREDN “backhaul” link at the Palisades building.

Once we are able to start working in the radio shed, which I expect will be in early April, we will need to secure appropriate racks for the site, some coax jumpers for inside the shed, a power distribution system, and some misc. rack hardware (shelves, drawers, etc.). We already have most of the needed equipment – repeaters, duplexers, repeater controllers, and assorted associated items.

The next flurry of activity for the repeater site is expected to occur in mid- to late-March, work is progressing slowly at the other tower sites, and that work must get done before they return to the Training Center/EOC site.



Our current plan is to set up repeaters on each of our coordinated repeater pairs, with one UHF repeater pair (442.375 +5) being setup as a digital repeater, most likely with a Yaesu Fusion/Wires-X mode repeater, which would take advantage of the planned Internet connectivity at the shed.

Once the new repeater site goes “on-line” visitors to the equipment shed on the site will likely need to be accompanied by fellow members that have passed the city’s background check, a requirement that is easily met by joining RACES.

As the repeater committee learns more about progress at the new repeater site, we will make every effort to share that information with the rest of the club.

2022 Irving Hamfest Update

Ken Hansen N2VIP

The 2022 Irving Hamfest is scheduled for March 5th, and it is shaping up to be a great success. As I write this, we’ve sold over 40 tables.

In order for this year’s event to be the success we all want it to be, we’re going to need everyone’s help. To that end, we need volunteers for the following positions:

- set-up (midnight to 2:00 AM, probably less) 4-5 people
- security (7:00 AM - 10:00 AM, 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM) 2 or 3 per shift
- ticket sales (7-10, 10-1) 2 or 3 per shift
- MC, assistant (7-1, with lots of breaks) 1 each position
- PA Setup 1 person
- staffing club sales table (7-10, 10-1) 2 people minimum per shift
- VE testing 3 people for entirety of event, work with VEC
- take-down (1-3, estimated) 4-5 people, more if available

If you’d like to help, please drop me an email at ken@n2vip.org – I’d like to thank those that have already volunteered, and if you haven’t volunteered yet, I hope you’ll consider joining us. As a reminder, volunteers get a free admission ticket to the Hamfest. (A \$5 value!)

As a reminder, our go/no-go date for the Hamfest is Feb. 28th - that is the day we either commit to holding the Hamfest or refunding everyone’s money and figuring out what to do with our door prizes...

2022 Club Officer Election

Bill Byrom N5BB

The nomination committee will present their officer and director proposal at the February meeting on Thursday. The nominations are for the following offices:

- Secretary (now a 2 year term)
- Treasurer (now a 2 year term)
- Director A (2 year term)
- Director B (2 year term)

The following offices are not to be voted on this year, since the positions are now in the middle of their 2 year terms by the new By-Laws. We will vote for these positions next year, when these terms expire:

- President (remains Ken Hansen N2VIP)
- Vice President (remains Bill Byrom N5BB)
- Board C: (remains Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT)
- Board D: (remains Venzula Mathews KF5PJH)

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



The procedure (from the club By-Laws) is:

- The nominating committee presents their results at the February meeting.
- At the February club meeting, after the committee report is presented the President asks for nominations from the floor. I believe that all of the nominations will need to be seconded by someone, just as any other proposal (by Roberts Rules of Order).
- The list of all nominees (from the committee with any additional ones nominated from the floor at the February virtual meeting) will then be posted in the March IARC newsletter.
- We will vote for those nominees at the March meeting (which we plan to be in person).

If you are interested in a position please contact Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT.

AMSAT at the Irving Hamfest

Tom Schuessler N5HYP



I will be representing AMSAT, the Radio Amateur Satellite corporation, again this year at the Irving Hamfest. I am very much looking forward to seeing many of you and showing off some of the cool things available to hams in relation to Amateur Radio in Space.
<http://cubesatsim.com/>

This year, I am hoping to have for demonstration, the current version of the AMSAT Cubesat Simulator. <http://cubesatsim.com/> The Sim is a device that emulates some of the functions of a real cubesat satellite, including transmitting various data modes for telemetry, as well as SSTV images. The sim is based around a Raspberry Pi computer, with solar panels, a charge controller, sensors, and camera and is housed in a 3D printed spaceframe. I had access to this unit at last Summer's Moon Day at Frontiers of Flight Museum and it was quite a hit. There is also a Raspberry Pi ground station computer as well in the package.

2022 Winter Field Day

John Cheyney KF5PFP

The Irving and Dallas Amateur Radio Clubs came together on 29 January 2022 for this year's Winter Field Day. All members operated under the Dallas clubs' W5FC call sign at T.W. Richardson Grove Park in North Irving. The following pictures are courtesy of Ken Hansen N2VIP.



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



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





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

Irving ARES/RACES Report January 2022

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 12

Change since last month: (-) _____ or (+) __1___ or same: >_____

Local Net Name: Irving RACES/ARES

Total sessions: 3

NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Net

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

2 Dallas Training

1 Irving Training

Person hours: 22.5

Number of ARES public service events this month: 0

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 3

Total Person hours: 33.8

The Irving ARES/RACES team would like to welcome Mike Gibbs KI5TIK, Unit 707, as the newest member of our team.

IARC General Meeting Minutes 27 January 2022

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Meeting Called to order:

- Agenda:
- Concerns
 - David Dobbs, KF5STS, SK
 - Prayers
 - Pledge of Allegiance
 - Greetings
 - Old Business
 - Approve November, 2021 Treasurer Report, previously published via direct email. Motion to approve by Bill, N5bb, Tom, N5HYP. Approved by members.
 - Approve December, 2021 Treasurer Report, as published in January, 2022 Newsletter. Motion to approve by Billy, KS5OZC, seconded by Tom, N5HYP. Approved by membership.
 - Approve November, 2021 Meeting Minutes, as previously published. Minutes were not available.

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



d. Repeater Committee report as presented by Ken, N2VIP

i. Training Center Update

1. Antennas up, feedline run into shed, needed surge suppressors ordered (4 arrived, expected soon) – we'll need to order coax jumpers from wall to racks (LMR600, N Male connectors)
2. AREDN sector and backhaul antennas installed, Hardened Cat6 cable run to shed, suppressors installed – we'll need to create Hardened Cat6 jumpers from suppressors to racks (have Cat6, need grounded connectors and crimp tool)
3. Donated Racks not usable – Equipment shed at site too small, we'll have to order free-standing racks from Altex, once we can get into the shed
4. All ordered equipment (except one suppressor, see above) has been delivered, all stored at Bingo Hall – we'll need to order coax jumpers from repeaters to duplexers, 8 total, Male N connectors on each end (suggest ordering custom-length cables from ABR, once lengths are known)
5. We'll need to start preparing the equipment for deployment, looking for individuals to take responsibility for:
 - a. SCOM 7330 Repeater Controller Programming
 - b. Serial Terminal Server box
 - c. 2 Meter Repeater (Yaesu DR-1X)
 - d. 220 MHz Repeater (Bridgecom BCR-220)
 - e. 442.375 MHz Repeater (Yaesu DR-2X)
 - f. 442.675 MHz Repeater (Yaesu DR-2X)
 - g. ARDEN System (Backhaul, Sector, and switch)
6. Due to unexpected cost over-runs, we'll need to authorize \$2,500 additional funds for this project (we over-spent on 220 duplexer compared to proposal, we needed to buy AREDN radios, suppressors, racks, etc.) Motion to spend up to the \$2500 for above stated items was made by Bill, N5HYP, seconded by John, KF5PFP and approved by members.
7. How are repeaters operating? Any issues? Discussion on this topic with several members reporting that both 2M and 70 CM seem to be working good with less of the intermittent noise that has plagued them over the last year. The intent is to do "Benchmark testing" of performance of current repeater system, by checking it's availability from all Irving Fire stations, and then re-testing after new system is up at new facility.
 - e. Hamfest Update, by Ken, N2VIP.
 - i. The Hamfest ordering page went up and we've sold a bunch of tables (maybe 20?, I haven't counted), a promising sign
 - ii. Door Prizes
 1. We purchased 4x Kenwood TM-V71 dual-band radios, to be awarded at 10:00 AM, 11:00 AM, Noon, and 1:00 PM – in the vault
 2. We need to purchase an IC-7300 as the Grand Prize, inventory scarce, will purchase ASAP
 3. We planned on raffling off an IC-9700 radio, that has been sidelined – too much other activity, no time to properly coordinate
 4. We will need a plan to dispose of Door Prizes if 2022 Hamfest Cancelled
 - iii. Admission/Raffle Tickets will be ordered within the week
 - iv. Cancellation – we don't have a clear metric for Go/No Go decision regarding the 2022 Hamfest, suggest simple vote of club Officers and Directors by Feb. 28 deadline
 - v. Cowtown report – Attendance was way down at Cowtown (300 paid attendees, typically 700 paid attendees, many vendors "No Showed," others left early on Saturday (starting at 11:00 AM)
 - vi. VOLUNTEERS!
 1. We need all kinds of volunteers, please send me an email (hamfest@irvingarc.org) if you'd like to volunteer
 2. We need setup, take-down, ticket sales, security, club table, and VE Testing
 3. Please try and help, we need all hands on deck!
 - vii. I would like to increase Authorization for Hamfest expenses to \$2,750, we over-spent on 4x Kenwood radios, may not get discount on IC-7300. Motion to approve additional expenditure for this prize made by Bill, N5BB and seconded by Tom, N5HYP. Approved by the membership.

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



- f. Winter Field Day, presented by Ken, N2VIP and Tom, N5HYP.
 - i. We are participating at T. W. Reynolds Park (635 & PGBT)
 - ii. Partnering with DARC
 - iii. Bringing one radio (N5BB's IC-7610), and two IARC club antennas. Tom, N5HYP will bring satellite station.
 - iv. Setup at 10:00 AM, Starts at 1:00 PM, we will be leaving park before 10:00 PM
 - v. IARC has offered to bring Hot Dogs, Buns, condiments, and Healthy Snacks, DARC bringing Chili, drinks (?)
 - vi. Please try and attend, nice location, hopefully weather will be good (outdoor event)
- g. Micro-Grant Committee Update (Bill Byrom, N5BB)

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

- 6. New Business
 - a. Vote in new members (all have paid their dues). Motion to approve as a group by John, KF5PFP, seconded by Jerry, KB3RWT, approved by membership.
 - i. Michael Gibbs, KI5TIK
 - ii. John Hudelson, AI5FV
 - iii. Guy Dineen, K1GBD
 - iv. Bobby Lindsey, KI5TDB
 - v. Dave Lewis, AC5DL
 - vi. Gregory Hanson, KD5WXU
 - b. Nominating Committee
 - i. Need someone to head-up, volunteers for open positions. Jerry, KB3RWT has agreed to be the lead on the committee, Tom, N5HYP, Bill, N5BB and Ken, N2VIP will also serve on the committee. Nominations will be presented at the February meeting to be voted in and take over positions at March meeting. Several board members and officers may need to be changed.
 - c. Annual Donations
 - i. Great Days of Service
 - 1. Are they back in the field, or still in "hibernation"
 - ii. Main Place
 - iii. Irving Foundation Scholarship
 - 1. Donation (\$1,000) sent in December, 2021
 - d. New Business from the floor
- 7. Program
 - a. Discussion of Training Center/EOC Repeater Site project – Ken Hansen, N2VIP
 - b. Other topics from the floor

Meeting Adjourned:

Outstanding Approvals: Notes on actions taken above.

- 1. Repeater Committee
 - a. Training Center – was \$5,000, request upgrade to \$7,500
- 2. Hamfest Committee
 - a. 2022 Hamfest – was \$2,500, request upgrade to \$2,750

Respectfully submitted by Tom Schuessler, N5HYP

IARC Secretary.

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>



IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

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
P.O. BOX 153333
IRVING, TEXAS
75015-3333