

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

March 2022



March Meeting Information

The March club meeting will be LIVE!!!! The meeting will be Thursday 24 March 2022, 7:00 pm, at Senter Park East. The address is:

1100 Senter Road
Irving, Texas 75060

The meeting will include officer elections. Current nominations are:

- Secretary: John Cheyney KF5PFP
- Treasurer: Ron Tabb KC5HPO
- Director: Billy Geer KA5OZC
- Director: Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

It's been a busy month, what with the Hamfest a few weeks ago, an impromptu "Play day in the Park" (see elsewhere in the newsletter for information on that, and other activities, lets just get right into it!



2022 Hamfest

As noted in the 2022 Hamfest Final Report I sent out previously, our recent Hamfest was a great success. We welcomed approximately 500 visitors to our event (including two notable members of the Amateur Radio Industry, Ray Novak and Phil Parton of Icom and Kenwood respectively), and we sold out all of our 500 Raffle 3-packs, as well as topping table sales at 70 tables.

There were some ideas for our next Hamfest, but I'll direct you to the previously distributed Final Report to see what those ideas are. All in-all it was a great event, and after the challenges faced by the Cowtown Hamfest back in January, I was very concerned going into our event in March - luckily it all worked out, and we had (another) great success.

Repeater Site

Work at the new Repeater Site has been on hold for a while, the City Communications Group has been working several issues at other tower sites in the community, but plans to return to the site and finish up the work "soon". Right now, the project has got all of the planned antennas installed on the tower, All of the feedlines have been run down the tower and run into the building, terminated inside near a ground plate. For our needs, the outstanding items to be done are to install the Surge Suppressors (which we needed to supply, about \$550), then purchase and install two shallow open racks and needed jumper cables and power distribution units to support our planned radio installations. I expect, but have no commitment, that we will be able to "lite up" the repeaters before the end of April.

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:
March 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



Election

At our upcoming meeting later this week, we will be replacing two out-going Directors with two nominees from the Nominating Committee, in addition we will be replacing two officer positions with two other club members. For the last year or so, I've been doing double-duty as both club Treasurer and President, and Ron Tabb, KC5HPO has offered to step forward and take over that job until the next election. In addition, John Cheyney, KF5PFP has agreed to take over the position of Secretary until the next election – I want to thank Ron & John for stepping forward and taking on these positions, it is greatly appreciated.

HamClubOnline

For months the Club officers have struggled to manage new member applications – the process for collecting new member applications and their associated dues has been, to be polite, A Mess. But last month, I put out the request for a club member to step up and sort-out what it would take to shift our on-line application process to one managed/facilitated by HamClubOnline, and Ron Ford, K5MOH stepped forward. Since our last meeting, Ron reviewed the situation and shared with the officers how it should be done. His suggestion is being reviewed by the Club Officers, and it is expected to be implemented soon. Ron did a great job, and we all owe him a debt of gratitude for taking this on – Thanks Ron!

Giving Back

Our club has a long tradition of Giving Back to not only the local Amateur Radio Community, but also our local community. I was very proud to stand before the Hamfest attendees and hand out our generous donations to two great local charities doing great work in our community, Irving Cares and The Main Place, two organizations that help our neighbors struggling to make ends meet or to get back on their feet – we should all be proud of those donations and the positive change we make in our community.

In addition to helping our neighbors, we also have a strong tradition of organizing and hosting a very successful Hamfest, which helps bring our local Amateur Radio community together for some well-needed social interaction and to engage in a little bit of commerce, buying new treasures to take home and enjoy. Our 2022 Hamfest couldn't have been the success it was without the volunteers of two neighboring clubs, the Dallas Amateur Radio Club and the Richardson Wireless Klub, as well as the volunteers from our own club. I suspect the partnership of several neighboring clubs coming together is a bit unusual, as most clubs struggle to “do it themselves,” but I really value the help and friendship between our organizations.

And we have a new tradition of Giving Back – the Micro Grant Program. The Micro Grant Program has been very successful in helping neighboring Amateur Radio Clubs invest in infrastructure that improves their ability to help their local community. We've only offered Micro Grants for a few years, but the recipients have done a great job following through on their projects, and it is my hope that we can continue to offer our Micro Grants in the coming years.

Finally, our club has just begun to offer a modest scholarship through the Irving Schools Foundation, helping deserving students meet the financial obligations involved in their post-secondary education plans. These scholarships make a difference in a child's life, and it is a wonderful compliment to our other charitable efforts.

It really is amazing the impact our little club can have on the community around us, but it should not go unmentioned that none of this would be possible without the generosity of the Betcha Bingo Hall, and the Irving City Council – because we are a “sponsor” of the Betcha Bingo Hall, we share in the profits the Bingo Hall generates, and because of the community-focus of our city council, we are in the ONLY city in all of Texas where the local government has decided to decline a portion of the taxes they are entitled to and in-turn authorized Betcha Bingo divide that money among all it's sponsor organizations, a benefit that gives us significantly increased revenue to fund our charitable programs (listed above).

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Everybody, Somebody, Anybody and Nobody

Once there were four people named, **Everybody**, **Somebody**, **Anybody** and **Nobody** who wanted change.

So, **Everybody** said “I want change.”

Somebody said “If only anybody would start to change, I will join.”

But **Nobody** said “I will change.”

Finally **Everybody** stayed the same, blaming **Somebody** for waiting for **Anybody** to start changing, so **Nobody** changed.

I know for myself, and I have to assume I'm not the only one, frustrated by the activities or lack thereof in the Irving Club. This month we plan on meeting face to face, at a location described elsewhere in the newsletter, and that's a start, but as we emerge from the Zoom Meeting era of our club, we need to start thinking about what we want to do going forward.

One example that sprung organically from Tom Schuessler, N5HYP, was a Playdate in the Park. It was a nice event, Tom was joined by John Cheyney, KF5PFP, Ron Tabb, KC5HPO, and myself. Tom and I each setup vertical antennas and John put up an End Fed Half-Wave antenna, and we all made some contacts, either SSB or digital. Ron just visited, and helped us quickly takedown our equipment when we “called it a day.” I'd like to see more activities like that, I think these kind of activities (quick, pick-up events) will go a long way toward making our club one of the more active clubs in the area. If there's something you'd like to propose as an activity, please feel free to just announce it at an upcoming club meeting, and with sufficient notification you will likely find a few other club members interested in joining you.

Other Hamfests

The Spring “Belton Hamfest” is occurring this weekend, and I plan on driving down with James Shugart, N5BKL – we leave from my driveway about 5:30 in the morning, and we're back home late afternoon (typically before 4:00 PM, James and I like to stop at Texas Roadhouse after the Hamfest for a quick meal on the way home). If you'd like to join us for the ride down, just let me know. If you plan to drive yourself, let me know, and maybe we can plan to meet-up for a meal on the way home. If the success of our Irving Hamfest is any indication, I expect the upcoming Belton Hamfest to be great! If you can't attend Belton this weekend, they also have a fall Hamfest in October, perhaps that will work with your schedule.

And finally, I plan on travelling to Dayton this year – the organizers have committed to putting on the event, and I've secured my room, and as I did every other time I attended, I will be volunteering to help at Dayton. When Dayton was at the Hara Arena volunteers got preferred parking next to the arena, a free pass to the Hamfest, and a souvenir hat. Now that the event is a Xenia, the parking is an even bigger issue, so the up-close parking pass is a welcome gift. When I volunteer, I drive a golfcart in the parking lot, taking attendees to their cars. I love it because I not only get to drive around the hillside in a golf cart, but I also get to meet hams from around the country for a few minutes one-on-one. I work on Sunday AM, because by then, all the “must-have” bargains are gone, and anything I wanted to pick up, I got either Friday or Saturday, and since no one leaves while they hand out the door prizes, I don't miss the drawings on Sunday.

I highly-recommend volunteering if you ever get the chance to go to Dayton, it really is a great way to meet people, have some fun, and help support a great event.

I hope to see you at our in-person meeting later this week!

Irving Schools Foundation Scholarship

Bill Byrom N5BB

For the second year in a row, IARC will present a \$1000 scholarship to a student graduating from an Irving ISD school. The scholarship will be presented at the 35th Annual Breakfast With the Stars, presented by the Irving Schools Foundation and hosted by WFAA (Channel 8) news anchor Cynthia Izaguirre. The breakfast will be Tuesday, 26 April, 2022, 0830, at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas. For more information, got to [34th Annual Breakfast with the Stars - Irving Schools Foundation](#).



IARC Hamfest 2022



Ken Hansen N2VIP presents checks to our two charities, Sharon Johnson of The Main Place (L) and and Kyle Taylor of Irving Cares (R).



Prize Winners:

Kenwood TM-V71 Radios

- Thomas Massie KD5DJB
- David Daverre KG5MUM
- Tom Sneed KF5VQH

Icom IC-7300

Charles Perry WA5VU (left)

President

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John Cheyney KF5PFP



Radio in the Park

John Cheyney KF5PFP

On Saturday 12 March, Tom Schuessler N5HYP organized a Radio in the Park event for club members. The event was at Shady Grove Trail Park in south Irving,

Ken Hansen brought his IC-705 (10 watts on external battery) and his Alpha EZMil whip. The EZMil has a 12 foot vertical element with a 49:1 transformer and an LDG RT-100 tuner. He was able to make FT-8 contacts over 1,000 miles away.

Tom used his radio and a Buddipole antenna and walked into the Wisconsin QSO party, making SSB contacts up to Fon Du Lac, Wisconsin.

I had my IC-7100 and an end fed half wave that was made from the Field Day Antenna kit the ARRL sells. This was the first time I had the antenna on the air. Despite having a very compromised install (a sloper with the high end at 16 feet) I was able to make an SSB contact in Wisconsin on 20 meters.

Joining us for the fun was Ron Tabb KC5HPO.

Events like this are a great time to come out, work some radio, and do some testing. Keep an eye out for future events. If you are interested in setting one up you can let one of the officers know and we can send out a notification via HamClubOnline.

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John Cheyney KF5PFP



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 1:00 pm, 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.

We will send out an email with the priority sirens. If you are available please reply so we can assign you a siren. We will be on the repeater starting at 12:30 if you become available the day of the event. If you do, check in and we will assign you a location.

The April test will be Wednesday, 6 April 2022. If you can assist please contact John Cheyney KF5PFP or Billy Geer KA5OZC.

Irving ARES/RACES Report February 2022

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 12

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

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: 29.5

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: 29.5



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