

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

April 2022



April Meeting Information

The meeting will be Thursday 28 April 2022, 7:00 pm, at Senter Park East. The address is:

1100 Senter Road
Irving, Texas 75060

The meeting program will be CW communication and HF operation. We will have multiple radios and some CW equipment. We will also talk about batteries and solar power. Bill Byrom N5BB will be leading the program.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Hello, and welcome to the April edition of our newsletter – I've got a few thoughts to share, so let's get right to them!



FCC License Fees

Earlier this month, the much-discussed FCC License Fee for Amateur Radio license holders (and others) went into effect. I won't try and litigate the situation - it's in effect as I write this – but I wanted to share the latest information on the topic, from the AR

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) staff has clarified in response to an ARRL request that the new \$35 application fee will not apply to most license modifications, including those to upgrade an amateur radio licensee's operator class and changes to club station trustees. The FCC staff explained that the new fees will apply only to applications for a new license, renewal, rule waiver, or a new vanity call sign. As previously announced, the new fees take effect on April 19, 2022.

(Source: <https://www.arrl.org/news/new-fcc-application-fee-will-not-apply-to-amateur-radio-license-upgrades>)

Please note, there are no fees for address changes, trustee changes, and license upgrades, so if you were considering upgrading your license now would be a great time to do so – then again, ANYTIME is a great time to upgrade your license, if you want to upgrade but are struggling, don't be afraid to ask for help.

ARRL Website

As I write this, the redesigned ARRL Website (<https://www.arrl.org>) was having issues. I have no idea when this will be corrected, but I know they are working hard on this issue and I expect it to be resolved soon. As a bit of background information, until very recently the ARRL was "trapped" in a ten-year contract for the club website with a third-party that charged hefty fees for any changes to the website. The ARRL just got out from under that contract and is administering their website in-house, and experiencing the expected growing pains.

President

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Vice-President

Bill Byrom N5BB

Treasurer

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Secretary

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Directors

Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

General/Business Meeting:

April 28 @ 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



2022 Mentorfest

I attended the 2022 ARRL North Texas MentorFest (<https://arrlntx.org/WP/learning-center/mentorfest-3/>), and it was interesting. While turnout was light (fewer than fifty attendees) and the seminar topics were “scattered” I had a good time. I spoke with ARRL Section Manager Steve Lott Smith, KG5VK after the event, and there is a desire to expand the event, but uncertainty as to how to do so. Was the date an issue for potential attendees? Were the topics not of broad enough interest? Was there sufficient publicity for the event? My suggestion to Steve was roughly as follows: I would enlist the assistance of area clubs, encourage each club to sponsor one presentation, and I would suggest the topics center around a single idea – “New to the Hobby,” “Antennas”, “HF Operating”, “Emergency Communications”, etc. By enlisting each club to present, you take care of the publicity issue, and of course, don’t schedule MentorFest on the same day as NWS Storm Watcher Training. I’d add to my suggestion the idea of expanding Mentorfest to twice a year, with one in the DFW Metroplex area and one out in the west-end of the North Texas Section territory.

HamCom Replacement?

There’s a group that is trying to put together a Hamfest in Lewisville, on June 11th at Music City Mall. It’s a very ambitious undertaking and I wish them the best of luck. More information can be found on the event website: <http://www.dfwham.com/>

New Repeater Site

Just a placeholder to note that things are still on-hold for the new repeater facility at the new Irving EOC/current Fire Training Center. At our last meeting we approved the purchase of an additional Yaesu DR-2X repeater, so that the three main repeaters (2 meter and the two 70 centimeter repeaters) will all be the latest model with LAN interconnect boards, providing us with maximal connectivity. For more information in this repeater model, see: <http://systemfusion.yaesu.com/dr-2x-2/>

NCTC and our 442.375 Repeater Pair

I entered into a discussion with the leaders at the North Central Texas Connection group, and they have agreed to allow us to connect our 442.375 repeater to their “network” of repeaters across north Texas. The discussion was non-binding, and they understand it may be a month or two before we can connect with them, but I think this could be an interesting offering on our currently unused UHF repeater pair. We would connect to their network either over Allstar or over an RF link, and the NCTC leadership requires a means to disconnect our repeater from their network remotely. For more information on the NCTC network, see: <http://www.nctc.info/>

AllStar

I’ve been playing with Allstar, which in a lot of ways is like Echolink, but a bit nicer to operate. Several local clubs have linked their repeaters to Allstar (for example DARC and RWK), allowing members unable to construct a suitable RF station to reach the club repeaters to “join in the fun,” but also enable travelling members to “check-in” back home on their club repeaters. Allstar is simple to operate, you just need an RF radio and a “node” that takes the RF and puts it on the internet. The radio you need is nothing more than an FM HT with a DTMF keypad (you use DTMF tones to link to repeaters) and a “node”. I have built a SHARI PiHAT from Ham Radio Projects (<https://hamprojects.info/shari-pihat/>) and use a “nice” Baofeng GT-5R or TYT TH-88UV dual-band HT to link to other FM repeaters. I suggest we seriously consider putting at least the 2 meter repeater on AllStar once we are up and running at the new EOC location, I hope to put together a presentation on AllStar for an upcoming meeting. For more information on AllStar, check out Youtube or take a look here: <https://www.allstarlink.org/>

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SK Stuff

And finally, a few weeks ago Jerry Aberdeen and I went through boxes and boxes of random items that the club is charged with disposing of from the Dennis Riise Estate – we offered most of it to the membership in our “Hamfest of Sorts” previously, but we still have boxes and boxes of items to be rid of. I hope to bring much of it to the Club Meeting this Thursday, and the hope will be that either items will be taken away by members or they will be disposed of at the next electronics recycling event. This will be a cash-free event - nothing offered will have a price on it – we couldn’t sell the items to club members, we couldn’t get rid of them at the Hamfest, this is their last shot. I hope to setup an hour before the meeting (6:00 PM on Thursday, the meeting starts at 7:00 PM), and remember our topic for the night will be on CW operation, presented by Bill Byrom, N5BB, I hope you can join us!

Hamfest Update

Ken Hansen N2VIP

The 2022 Irving Hamfest was a great success, in no small part because of the help of two neighboring Amateur Radio Clubs, the Dallas Amateur Radio Club and the Richardson Wireless Klub.

The Richardson Wireless Klub was able to step up at the last minute and run our VE testing at the Hamfest. They had, I believe, 9 test-takers, 8 of which passed their exams. We owe Richardson Wireless Klub a huge Thank You for this effort.

The Dallas Amateur Radio Club, as it has in previous years, stepped forward and provided easily half the manpower required to actually run the Hamfest on the day of the event. Dallas volunteers assisted in all aspects of the event, from setup to ticket sales, through security and breakdown.

In previous years we presented the Dallas Amateur Radio Club with a cash donation as a token of our appreciation for all their help, and this year is no different - I was pleased to present the Dallas club with a check for \$850 at their April, 2022 meeting.

(In the picture is Ken Hansen, N2VIP, President of the Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc., presenting the check to Randy Patterson, KE5JIT, President of the Dallas Amateur Radio Club)



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Volunteer Opportunity

We received this from the Richardson Wireless Klub.

The 35th Anniversary Bike MS: Sam's Club Round Up Ride City will be in person May 14-15. We would love to have you join us again as a volunteer at this exciting two-day event:

- Day 1 start line: Westin Stonebriar Hotel, Frisco
- Day 1 finish line / Day 2 start line: Texas Motor Speedway
- Day 2 finish line: Panther Island Pavilion FTW
-

You can now sign up to volunteer for Bike MS: Sam's Club Round Up Ride in just two steps using our new volunteer portal:

Step 1: View and Respond to Volunteer Opportunities – Click this link sign up today: Bike MS: Sam's Club Round Up Ride 2022. https://nmss.galaxydigital.com/need/?s=1&need_init_id=5248

Step 2: Create your Volunteer Profile

- You may already have an account with us, if so, just reset your password to login!
- Instructions to reset your password found [here](#).

Step 3: (Most Important for Communicators) – KD5UMO has once again updated the COMMUNICATOR Specific sign-up page. Please sign up on BOTH the NMSS site and COMMUNICATOR site, highlighted in yellow.

<https://sites.google.com/site/dfwmsridecomms/volunteering>

This link will have Radio Operator specific detail - <https://sites.google.com/site/dfwmsridecomms>



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Treasurer's Report

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Transaction - Last month

3/1/2022 through 3/31/2022

| Date | Account | Num | Description | Memo | Category | Tag | Clr | Amount |
|-----------------------------|----------------------|-----|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| BALANCE 2/28/2022 | | | | | | | | 49,998.74 |
| 3/2/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | Spectum Busi... Monthly Pay... | Internet Servi... | General | | | -120.14 |
| 3/3/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | Ham Radio O... Repeater Sit... | 2022 Repeater | Repeat... | | | -6.95 |
| 3/4/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | Home Depot | Tape for Ha... Supplies | Misc | | | -17.93 |
| 3/4/2022 | Irving Checking 2038 | | Cash | Cashbox see...Hamfest 2022 | hamfest... | | | -1,200.00 |
| 3/4/2022 | Irving Checking 2039 | | Ken Hansen | Reimbursme... Hamfest 2022 | Printing... | | | -118.19 |
| 3/7/2022 | Irving Checking DEP | | Pay Pal Deposit | Multiple Buy... Hamfest 2022 | 2022 T... | | | 1,782.16 |
| 3/7/2022 | Irving Checking DEP | | 2022 Dues | Venzula Matt...2022 Dues | General | | | 28.42 |
| 3/7/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | Wonderful W... | volunteer mealHamfest 2022 | Misc | | | -180.00 |
| 3/7/2022 | Irving Checking 2040 | | The Main Place | 2022 Charita... Donation Exp | General | | | -5,000.00 |
| 3/8/2022 | Irving Checking DEP | | Cash Deposit | ticket and cl... Hamfest 2022 | cash fro... | | | 4,916.00 |
| 3/10/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | PayPal Purch... | Unknown Ch... Misc Expense | Misc | | | -111.50 |
| 3/11/2022 | Irving Checking 2041 | | Irving Cares | 2022 Charita... Donation Exp | General | | | -5,000.00 |
| 3/14/2022 | Irving Checking DEP | | TX RX Systems | refund for sal...2022 Repeater | Repeat... | | | 195.47 |
| 3/14/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | PayPal Purch... | Unknown Ch... Misc Expense | Misc | | | -23.69 |
| 3/15/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | PayPal Purch... | Unknown Ch... Misc Expense | Misc | | | -25.95 |
| 3/25/2022 | Irving Checking DEP | | Albertsons | reward prog... Donation | Alberts... | | | 19.23 |
| 3/30/2022 | Irving Checking EFT | | Spectum Busi... Monthly Pay... | Internet Servi... | General | | | -120.14 |
| 3/1/2022 - 3/31/2022 | | | | | | | | -4,983.21 |
| BALANCE 3/31/2022 | | | | | | | | 45,015.53 |
| TOTAL INFLOWS | | | | | | | | 6,941.28 |
| TOTAL OUTFLOWS | | | | | | | | -11,924.49 |
| NET TOTAL | | | | | | | | -4,983.21 |

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 May test will be Wednesday, 5 May 2022. If you can assist please contact John Cheyney KF5PFP or Billy Geer KA5OZC.

Irving ARES/RACES Report March 2022

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 14

Change since last month: (-) _____ or (+) __2___ or same: >_____

Local Net Name: Irving RACES/ARES

Total sessions: 5

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

Siren Monthly Test

Person hours: 25.8

Number of ARES public service events this month: 0

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 1

1 Skywarn Net

Person hours: 9

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 3

Total Person hours: 29.5



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John Cheyney KF5PFP

March Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Officers Present:

President Ken Hansen N2VIP
Vice President Bill Byrom N5BB
Director Billy Geer KA5OZC
Director Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Call to Order 7:18 pm by Ken Hansen N2VIP

There were 14 members and two guests present.

Concerns

Bill Byrom N5BB's brother, who previously had a lung transplant, was hospitalized for shingles but is currently out of hospital.

Prayer

Greg Graham AI5EQ

Pledge of Allegiance

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Old Business

No minutes from the previous meeting

Treasurer's report

The IARC Hamfest was in March. This money is not accounted for in the current financial statement. Transactions from February 2022 include one door prize (IC-7300), from which the club gets a \$100 rebate, two repeater site purchases and dues payments via PayPal.

Motion to Accept: James Shugart N5BKL

Second: Billy Geer KA5OZC

Approval: Unanimous

Election

Slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee:

Secretary: John Cheyney KF5PFP (One year, completing term for Tom Schuessler N5HYP)

Treasurer: Ron Tabb KC5HPO (One year, taking over for Ken Hansen N2VIP)

Directors: Billy Geer KA5OZC and Andrew Harmon KD5RKO (Two year terms)

Slate put forward by Bill Byrom N5BB

Second by Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Approval: Unanimous

Micro-Grant Update

Bill Byrom N5BB explained the micro-grant program history and process and our relationship with Betcha Bingo. Due date for applications is 1 April 2022. Bill N5BB will send out a reminder to the groups this week.

Sachse Amateur Radio Club has submitted a request for \$630 for UHF backup repeater to be used as a cold spare.

Irving Schools Foundation Scholarship

IARC has funded a \$1000 scholarship to a graduating senior. The club has provided three ranked names to the ISF and they will award it on 26 April.



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Repeater site Update

New repeater site is at the Joint Fire Training Center at George Bush Turnpike and Beltline. IARC has five antennas on a 120 foot tower along with multiple AREDN node antennas. Antennas are up, feedline is into the building. City got held up on other sites. Ken N2VIP expects to be in the building by the end of April, but that is not promised. IARC still needs to buy cables and other pieces of equipment. Ken N2VIP is proposing another repeater. Yaesu is still having a promotion for the DR2X. The club currently has sufficient repeaters to meet all needs. However Ken N2VIP feels the DR2X has a more sophisticated controller and more options than the DR1X, including dual receivers for RF control. The club has two DR2X repeaters with LAN connections, which would allow them to be linked together. The current DR1X would be the backup. The purchase would only need the repeater..

Motion to purchase: James Shugart N5BKL

Second Billy Geer KA5OZC

Vote: Unanimous

North Central Texas Connection

Multiple repeaters in the area interconnected. Ken N2VIP has a map that shows a hole in the Irving area. Ken N2VIP will look into the program further for presentation to the club at a later time. This will have to wait until we are at the new site because there is no internet access to the repeaters at the current site.

New Business

Ron Ford KF5OMH looked at the HamClubOnline (HCO) application process. He took the questions on the current application and put them into the HamClubOnline process. When the application is submitted, the applicant has to pay before the app gets forwarded. It will then get forwarded to the President to bring to the group. Currently, the process is disabled in HCO.

Discussion about the questions and the necessity for a separate family membership, but those will be kept due to requirements in the Bylaws.

New Process for application::

1. The club website refers the person to HamClubOnline.
2. Applicant fills out the application form and submits it with payment.
3. Membership will be voted on at the next meeting.
4. If the application is not accepted, payment will be refunded.

Motion: Billy Geer KA5OZC

Second: Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Vote Unanimous

Ron KF5OMH will turn the process on. He will also remove references to a paper application, which is no longer an option. Ken N2VIP will reach out to Roger Bacak N5VUJ to add this to the website.

Hamest Update

Report was sent by Ken N2VIP to all club members. Total profit was just under \$3100. Dallas and Richardson clubs both provided significant assistance. Historically, we have given Dallas a portion of the profits as thanks for their assistance. Ken is proposing we donate to Dallas and Richardson.

\$850 to DARC. This equals what they have gotten in the past.

Decision was made not to donate to the Richardson club because the VE's get some reimbursement from the fees for the test.

Motion: James Shugart N5BKL

Second: Billy Geer KA5OZC

Vote: Unanimous



The IARC VE team will start testing again on the 3rd Saturday in April. Max Perry K5BSA has worked with the club webmaster to get this on the website.

Ken Hansen N2VIP said we had received a check for \$4.23 from Tom Thumb. He reminded everyone they can have a Tom Thumb or Kroger affinity card set up to donate a part of their purchase to the club. He also mentioned the Amazon Smiles program. After discussion, it was agreed we would participate and Ken Hansen N2VIP will set that up.

The club got a thank you note from the Main Place and a receipt from Irving Cares for 2021 donations.

We have an applicant Susan Steele does not currently have a license applying as an associate. Has not paid yet.

Jerry KB3RWT volunteered to be station master for the Ham Shack.

Clean up day with a small number of people.

Ken is working on putting inventory in HCO but it's a difficult process.

Open Hours for the shack. During VE Testing?

AREDN set up at the Bingo Hall. Really need a non-penetrating mount then CAT5 cable into the shack.

ARRL Website will be down for an upgrade 3-25 to 3-28.

New amateur Radio license fees going into effect on 19 April. \$35 for new licenses or any changes other than address change.

Bill N5BB has a source for 12v and 24v solar panels. 25 to 35 cents per DC watt. All are new with many in boxes.

For next meeting Bill N5BB will do a presentation on CW. Richardson club has started a CW class with the Long Island CW Club

Ken Hansen N2VIP brought up a discussion about future face-to-face events. Several options including field operating events, Fox Hunts, and kit builds. He also mentioned the need for presentations at each meeting. Bill Byrom N5BB will make a presentation on CW and Morse Code at the next club meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 9:15 pm

Motion: Ken Hansen N2VIP

Second: John Cheyney KF5PFP

Submitted by IARC Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP.

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