

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

December 2022



December Meeting Information

Due to the Christmas holiday the monthly meeting was held last week. The January meeting will be Thursday, 26 January 2023, at Senter Park East.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Welcome to the December President's Corner, it's a little strange to be writing this AFTER our monthly meeting, but that's how things worked out this month. There's a lot going on, let's get right to it!



Over the past few months, the club has been the recipient of several Silent Key (SK) estates, and we struggle with storing the items donated to the club. Going forward, the club will need to come up with a formal plan for dealing with SK estate items BEFORE we agree to take possession of any items. We can not just take anything, any time a family wants to donate items to the club. Of course, we will do what we can to help families deal with these items, but our first step needs to be assess the items as well as our ability to store and dispose of the items. I hope we can discuss this at an upcoming meeting, but for now, any requests to assist SK estates must be presented to the club officers, and we will all discuss the request and a club officer will follow-up with the club.

We've made great progress at the new EOC Repeater Site – the City is working to grant a handful of club officers to be able to visit the equipment shed at the tower location, and it should be established soon (hopefully by the end of year?). In the meantime, I was able to purchase the two racks and accessories at Altex, and then build the racks in the shed. We are now waiting for the city to bolt the racks to the floor, and once secured, we can start installing and configuring the equipment. Once we are able to set the equipment up we will likely test the new repeaters on our current frequency pairs but with different PL Tones, so that we can test the new equipment without interfering with our current repeaters.

The project to install a cobweb antenna on the roof of the Bingo Hall needs to be rescheduled. I had hoped a club member would step up and oversee this project, but to date no one has. I may be able to organize a couple consecutive work parties in January, but my schedule is a bit up in the air for the next few weeks. I am committed to completing this project as soon as possible, if you'd like to help organize this effort, please let me know.

Earlier today, I participated in a mobile radio install "work party" for one of our club members. Randy Patterson, KE5JIT, recently purchased a new car, and he put the word out at a recent DARC meeting that he wanted to install a radio and antenna in his new car, and several area hams showed up to help. The effort was non-trivial (for example, they had to remove a wheel from the car to access an existing hole in the firewall to run power and antenna coax!), but after just a few hours, Randy had his new dual-band radio installed in his car. If you want to install a radio in your car or truck, why not just put out a call at an upcoming IARC club meeting, I'm positive several knowledgeable club members would be happy to help.

President

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Vice-President

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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:
January 26 2023 @ 7:00 pm

Weekly Meeting Nets:
7:00 pm each Thursday on
the WA5CKF 2m repeater.

Monthly VE Testing:
2nd Saturday of the month,
Business Jet Center at Dallas
Love Field. Check the IARC
Calendar [here](#) for more
details.

Contact Us

Irvingarc.org

P.O. Box 153333

Irving, Texas 75015-3333

Facebook:

[https://www.facebook.com/
Irvingarc.org](https://www.facebook.com/Irvingarc.org)

So far this month, I've been to two club holiday parties, aside from our own party I attended the Dallas Amateur Radio Club's "Winter Diner" (so-named for a now infamous misprint on raffle tickets a few years ago), and both were wonderful. Both events had good turnout, there was plenty of talking and socializing, and both clubs had sufficient door prizes so that every attendee was awarded a prize. (There were three attendees that did not win a prize at our IARC Holiday Party, but just after the party ended, I decided to use my discretionary spending authorization and award those three individuals \$25 gift cards, HRO gift cards for licensed recipients and a \$25 Amazon card for the unlicensed recipients. I mentioned my plan, and the club officers agreed.)



Photo of Randy Patterson, KE5JIT, and his new car having a new dual-band mobile installed.



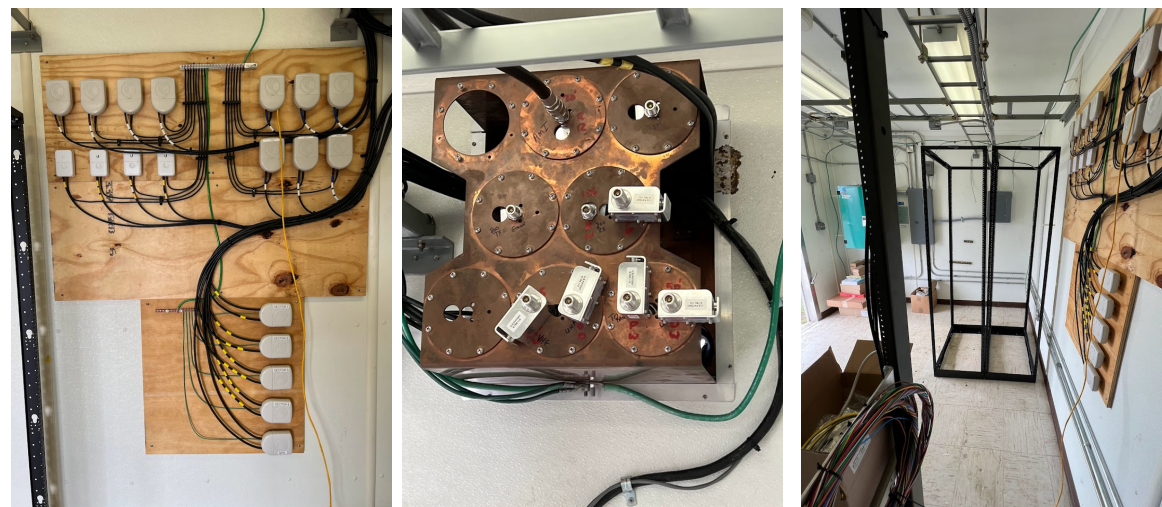
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January is not only the beginning of a new year, it is the start of our Club Officer and Director election process. The first step is the formation of a nominating committee to put forth their nominations for all open positions at an upcoming meeting. If you'd like to be part of the nominating committee, or if you'd like to be considered for an open position in the club please reach out to the soon-to-be-created Nominations Committee once it is formed.

Ron Ford, KF5OMH, has been helping me with the 2023 Hamfest – he created a great advertisement (to take the place of a hamfest “flyer”) and I will be reaching out to nearby clubs, asking them to include our advertisement in their January and February newsletters. Some clubs may publish the ad in their newsletter for free, but others may want a small payment/donation. Ron & I will decide, on a case-by- case basis if it makes sense to pay to publish our ad, based on cost, the size of the club, and the club’s proximity to Irving. In addition, Ron & I will need to decide on new door prizes and grand prize – I’m thinking it may be time to look beyond the venerable ICOM IC-7300 as our grand prize. There are a couple of interesting options on the market now, hopefully we can find a radio that will generate strong interest from the attendees.

Well, that’s about it from me – I hope everyone has a safe, happy holiday season, and I can’t wait to come back in the new year, rested and ready to bring our EOC Repeater site and Cobweb antenna projects to completion and put on another successful Hamfest in March!

EOC Repeater Site Rack Installation Photos



See the entire album at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/U8yRHNU8kV45MZoi7>

SK Estate Donations



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See the both albums at

- <https://photos.app.goo.gl/yHBVrLQjhkJXWYSz7>
- <https://photos.app.goo.gl/PqEAhwUCsn2gKnBRa>

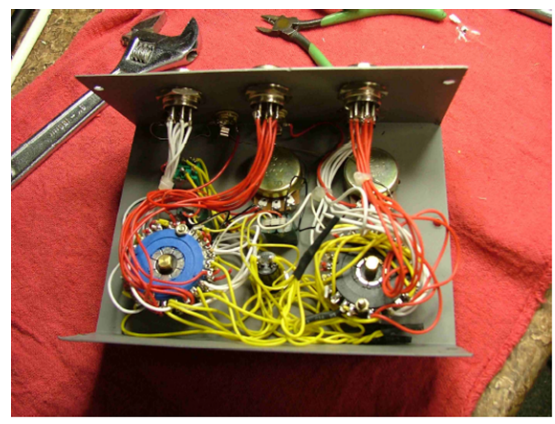


A Neat MIC Switch with Sound Card Interface

Ron Ford KF50MH

A friend, WB8YWA (SK) had a problem that many of us face; several rigs, and he wanted to use the same MIC and wanted both rigs to have the ability to operate PSK31 & MMSSTV. He did a lot of cable swapping while looking for an 8 Pole 2 Position switch. He easily found all the parts needed except the 8P2T switches. Then one day while cleaning out some junk boxes he found some old left over computer data A/B switch boxes. He opened one up and found an excellent 25 Pole 2 Position switch with just the correct length of wire color coded for the project. Note: these A/B switch boxes are found at flea markets all the time and come in all configurations, but all have at least 9 poles. Some have more than 2 Positions if you want to switch more MIC's or radio's. He operated ICOM equipment thus some references to ICOM.

He wired two of these switches using the common of each switch and the other 2 Poles to the four 8 Pin female MIC jacks, two for two rigs and two for two different MIC's (desk & headset). Then he switched pin 1 and 8 (ICOM Audio in and out) of the common wires with a 2P2T toggle switch, one pole to 1:1 audio transformer and 10K pot for the sound card and the other back to the common wiring for MIC use.



He also installed a push button (push on – push off) switch that he also wired to pin 5 and 6 (ICOM push to talk pins). This allowed keying while using headset or if keying is not done through the computer in the data mode.



This switch can be custom made for any type of radio; the enclosure can be any style but think you should use solid metal for RF Shielding.

Wiring for the 1:1 and 10k linear taper is for radio MIC to computer speaker (wire one side of 1:1 transformer to arm of 10K and other lead to end of 10K). Wire computer jack to this same terminating point. Other end of 10K is wired to ground. Second winding of 1:1 transformer is wire to ground with one lead while the other lead is terminated to the 2P2T switch that would be Pin 1 (MIC Audio ICOM).

For the computer MIC to radio audio wire one side of 1:1 transformer to arm of 10K and other lead to end of the 10K. Wire computer jack to this same terminating point. Other end of 10K is wired to ground. Second winding of 1:1 Transformer is wire to ground with one lead while the other lead is terminated to the 2P2T switch that would be Pin 8 (speaker out audio ICOM).

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Short Takes

Irving ARC and Irving RACES/ARES team members provided communications support to the City of Irving Holiday Parade. Picture by Billy Geer KA5OZC



Front Row (L to R): Mark Corona KD5TTT, Billy Byrom N5BB, Ron Ford KF5OMH
Back Row: Ken Hansen N2VIP, Billy Geer KA5OZC, Ron Tabb KC5HPO, Barry Mac Gregor N5SMW

Club Vice-President Bill Byrom N5BB and Treasurer Ron Tabb KC5HPO presented a check for \$1000 to the Irving Schools Foundation for our annual scholarship. This is the third year the IARC has provided this scholarship to an Irving ISD graduating senior. Applications and the selection process will occur later in the year.



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Irving RACES/ARES Report November 2022

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 13
Change since last month: (-) _____ or (+) 1_____ or same: >__X _____
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: 5
--2 Dallas Training
--1 Irving Training
--1 Skywarn (11/04/2022)
--Monthly Siren Test (includes 3 IARC Members)
Person hours: 44.4
Number of ARES public service events this month: 0
Person hours: 0
Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0
Person hours: 5
Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 5
Total Person hours: 44.4

December Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

IARC December 2022 Meeting/Holiday Party

Spring Creek BBQ, Irving, Texas

15 December 2022

Officers Present:

President Ken Hansen N2VIP
Vice-President Bill Byrom N5BB
Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP
Treasurer Ron Tabb KC5HPO
Director Billy Geer KA5OZC
Director Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT
Director Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Call to Order 07:32 pm by Ken Hansen N2VIP

There were 16 members and 4 Guests

Billy Geer KA5OC made a motion that the club buy 10 high visibility vests for club members to use at public service events. No objections.

Ken N2VIP assembled the racks at the new EOC site, waiting for the city to bolt them to the floor. At that point the club will start putting in equipment. This requires multiple cables for the radios and network cables.

Meeting Adjourned at 07:52 pm



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Hamfest

- 70 Tables for Vendors and deals
- Hourly Door Prize Drawings
- Testing Table (Test before you buy)
- VE Testing
- Full Service Snack Bar

<https://irvingarc.org/hamfest>

Irving Amateur Radio Club Annual Hamfest

March 4, 2023 8:00AM-2:00PM

ADMISSION \$5.00 (UNDER 12 FREE)

TABLES \$10.00 EACH

DOOR PRIZE TICKETS 3 FOR \$5.00

GREAT DOOR
PRIZES

Betcha Bingo
2420 W. Irving Blvd.
Irving, TX 75061



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