

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 2023



January Meeting Information

The January meeting will be Thursday, 26 January 2023, at Senter Park East, 7:00 PM. John Cheyney KF5PFP will be presenting on End Fed Random Wire antennas for HF.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP



Well, it's been quite a time since our last meeting (Holiday Party), so I've got a lot of ground to cover – let's get to it!

First off, I want to thank Bill Byrom, N5BB, for securing to room at Spring Creek Barbeque, it was a great time, we had good attendance, and when all was said and done, nearly everyone walked away with a door prize. The multiple ticket/multiple drawing system we started last year has been popular (every attendee is given a number of tickets, and each door prize is drawn individually, with the benefit of never getting a prize you aren't interested in) and was in fact picked up by the Richardson Wireless Klub for their President's Dinner this month. Our Holiday Party continues to be a success, and that is in no small part because everyone's participation.

The club shack is a mess (again) because we recently accepted a large donation from an SK estate. The donation to the club was reviewed and several of the better items (scanners, HTs, etc) were included in the "used" door prize collection at the Holiday Party, there are a few nice items left, but there is also a fair amount of stuff that ranges from the "possibly useful to someone" to "Electronic Recycling," and right now the plan is to put the bulk of it on a table at the March Hamfest and aggressively work to shed everything then. Until then, the Bingo Hall Shack is lettered with 40 year-old radios and assorted random items. Going forward, the club officers need to be included in any decision to accept SK (or other) donations, because it's not fair to the rest of the club members to clutter-up the shack with random items for an indeterminate period.

Speaking of Hamfests, I attended Cowtown this past weekend, and spotted a few fellow Irving members there – James Shugart, N5BKL, Romie Green, N8WWR, Tom Schuessler, N5HYP, and Bill Byrom, N5BB – as well as lots of personal friends. Cowtown was well-attended, the vendor tables were all sold as far as I know, or at least there wasn't a large number of empty tables like there was last year (January, 2022). I don't know attendance numbers, but I think they did well, which makes me very hopeful about our next Hamfest on March 4th. I haven't put out the call for volunteers (yet), but I will soon – keep an eye out for the request, and please try and help-out. While the greatest need is, as always, is setup and take-down, there are a number of opportunities to help out that are less physical (on-site ticket sales, staffing the club table, etc), so if you want to help out, please let me know. I'd also like to thank Ron Ford, KF5OMH, for his work on the Hamfest advertisement – it has been sent to several neighboring clubs to be included in their January and February newsletters, in an effort to help boost attendance. And yes, I've learned the lessons that great door prizes drive attendance and raffle ticket sales, so this year I won't order ONLY 500 attendance tickets, LOL.

President

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Vice-President

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Treasurer

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Secretary

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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>



New Repeater Site – The paperwork and logistics have been worked-thru with the city of Irving, and I now have unfettered access to the new repeater site. I had previously purchased and assembled two racks in the shed at the base of the tower, and over the holidays the City came in and bolted down the racks. Once they were secured, I went to HRO and purchased a number of jumper cables for inside the shed (5 antenna to rack/duplexer runs, 2 repeater to duplexer runs PER REPEATER, and since we have four repeaters, that meant I purchased 13 cables), and earlier this month I put our first repeater “On The Air” from the new location, it is one of the Yaesu DR-2X repeaters w/ voice board for voice IDs, chosen because until we figure out the new SCOM 7330 controllers we purchased, we need a way to control the repeater remotely. The Yaesu repeater has two receivers, one of which can be configured as a control receiver and will listen on a different frequency for DTMF tones to control the repeater. The control information will be shared with those that have a need for it once the testing period concludes.

The new repeater was configured for our second, previously idle “coordinated” UHF repeater pair of 442.375, +5, PL 110.9 – I hope you’ll add that pair to your radios and then get on the air and try it out, it’s currently running 50 watts into about 100’ of feedline (a mix of LMR400 and hardline), to large colinear antenna about 100’ in the air. I’ve had reports from as far away as Richardson, and mixed-reports from closer locations. I hope to arrange an informal test in the near future – I’ll configure a radio to record all the repeater transmissions for an extended period (6-24 hours), and I’ll ask club members to try “hitting” the repeater as often as they can in that window. The hope is that we’ll get a mix of HT, mobile, and base reports from a large number of locations in and around Irving that are reports of the location, radio, power level, and type of antenna used. Once the testing is over, we’ll plot those reports on a map and try and get an idea of the coverage area. As we start to transition other repeaters to the new location, we will probably configure them with different PL/CTCSS tones and leave the old and new repeaters running in parallel, allowing individual club members to “A/B test” both locations by simply changing their PL tone to determine which repeater responds (for example transmitting with a PL tone of 110.9 will cause the current repeater to respond, and a PL tone of 167.9 will cause the new repeater to respond). We’ll have a discussion about this at the meeting, but the great news is now we can roll out our equipment to the new location as we want.

Winter Field Day is this weekend, and we have reserved Heritage Park for the day on Saturday the 28th. I don’t have a lot of information on what exactly we’ll be doing, but for now know that it is this weekend, from about 10 AM to around 5 or 6 PM depending on our enthusiasm, stamina, weather conditions, and band conditions. I understand we are planning a low-key event, we’ll have an HF setup and our new go-box, as well as a couple antennas for the radios we bring, and we’ll likely have some beverages and possibly light snacks. There’s no need to bring anything, but I hope you’ll try and stop by for at least a while, if not longer. This is a social event as much as a “contest” event, so I hope you’ll try and join us.

Well, that’s it for me – I have to save something for the club meeting – I hope you’ll join me at the January General meeting.

Winter Field Day

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Winter Field Day is the weekend of 28 and 29 January 2023. The IARC will be operating on Saturday the 28th only. Setup will begin around 11:00 am, operating starts at 1:00 pm, and we will go until we decide we are done. We currently have plans for two HF Stations and the UHF/VHF go-box. We will be operating out of Heritage Park, which is in downtown Irving. There will be multiple places within walking distance for food.

Please come out and join us. There will be a lot of opportunities for operating on several different modes and bands.

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VE Testing Update

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Last year the Irving and Dallas clubs combined their VE testing teams into one effort. Testing is the second Saturday of the month at the Business Jet center at Love Field in Dallas. All testing is done on tablets using the ExamTools.ORG website. At the last session we had one new Technician, one new Technician who also passed General, and one upgrade to General.

This month we had five VE's at the testing:

- Roger Bacak N5VUJ
- James Shugart N5BKL
- Ken Hansen N2CIP
- Greg Graham N5GSG
- John Cheyney KF5PFP

If you are interested in helping out please contact Roger Bacak N5VUJ.

ARRL Volunteers On The Air (VOTA)

From the ARRL West Gulf Division

The ARRL is celebrating 2023 as “The Year of The Volunteer.”

The inaugural step in what is intended to be a year in which the value of the contributions of every Amateur to the growth and preservation of Amateur Radio is recognized is an on-the-air operating event — Volunteers On The Air.

It is marked by qualified ARRL Members activating W1AW twice in each state during 2023 and by each Member QSO with an ARRL volunteer, another Member, W1AW/x portable station, and certain other designated stations earning points.

Each W1AW/portable operation will be a week in length, starting on a Wednesday and ending on a Tuesday.

W1AW/5 Texas Authorized Stations

The Texas VOTA Coordinator is Steve Smith, KG5VK, North Texas' Section Manager. If you want to serve as an authorized Texas W1AW/5 portable station, please go to: <https://ok.arrl.org/w1awtx/>

The Texas site contains a sign-up sheet for Texas operators. Although you sign up, please understand final approval to operate as W1AW/5 for Texas is subject to the approval of the State Coordinator, Steve Smith. Steve's contact information appears on the Texas sign-up page.

VOTA Information Sites

More details, rules and information on VOTA are available at these sites:

<https://www.arrl.org/volunteers-on-the-air>

<https://ok.arrl.org/vota/>

<https://ok.arrl.org/votatx/>



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Irving RACES/ARES Report December 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: 3
--2 Dallas Training
--1 Irving Training
Person hours: 29.3
Number of ARES public service events this month: 0
1 Skywarn (12/13/2022)
City of Irving Christmas Parade
Person hours: 20.8
Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0
Person hours: 0
Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 5
Total Person hours: 50.1

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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