

IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.720 - PL 110.9 TSQ 110.9

224.400 - PL110.9

442.675 + PL 110.9

442.375 + PL110.9



March 2023

March Meeting Information

The March meeting will be Thursday, 23 March 2023, at Senter Park East, 7:00 PM.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

So, how about that Hamfest! While our numbers were down a bit from last year's record number of attendees, we had almost 400 attendees, sold over 70 tables, gave away our most valuable collection of door prizes and did quite well financially – I'll have details at the March meeting later this week.



Earlier today I participated in an ARES/RACES in-person meeting, and I'd like to take a moment to encourage every member of the Irving ARC to consider joining the Irving ARES/RACES group. There's regular on-air training on various topics, and the opportunity to give back to the community preparing to assist local authorities when a need arises. If you'd like more information, reach out to Billy Geer, KA5OZC. While at the training, I learned that the proposed Emergence Operations Center appears to be on hold right now, due to soil issues – it seems the ground at the site is not stable enough for the proposed structures. I happy they were able to erect the 120 foot tower with our antennas on it, so our repeater project can move forward.

This week I plan on installing the second repeater at the site. I plan on installing a second UHF repeater on our 442.675 "pair", but with a different PL tone then the one on our current 442.675 repeater, so that we can do some A/B testing to determine which site has better coverage. I'll share the alternate PL tone at our upcoming meeting later this week.

The weather has been a bit "erratic" these past few days, but the seasons are about to change and then we'll be in Antenna Season! While my HOA doesn't allow antennas, I hope to undertake a few projects at my Granbury location – I've got a mono band 20 meter vertical that I hope to replace with a used Hustler 5BTV I picked up a few years ago at the Temple Hamfest in Belton, and I have a 40 meter dipole in the attic I want to switch out for a 20/40 meter trap dipole. For the club, the weather is just about right to finally put the donated cobweb antenna on the roof of the bingo hall. I hope we can pick a date at this month's meeting...

There's been a lot of talk about the DFW Ham Expo, and for those that are interested, the organizers are planning to put on another Hamfest in June this year, but for various reasons they haven't yet settled on a location – they'll likely be in the same vacant shop as last year, I'll share more details as I get them.

I've been wrestling with re-establishing my Logbook of the World account with the ARRL, while the League workers have been responsive (returning emailed questions within one business day, I'm still not back "on the air," so to speak... It's very frustrating, but I think I see the light at the end of the tunnel – I just hope it isn't an on-coming train! I'm working my way through this issue so I can log QSOs and help folks get "valuable" VOTA (Volunteers On The Air) points...

President

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Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

General/Business Meeting:

March 23 2023 @ 7:00pm

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>

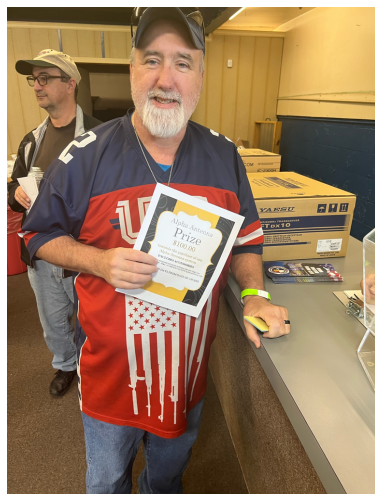
My latest project has been to try and get my brain around D-Star operation – I own several D-Star capable radios, and I never really understood how to take advantage of the digital voice mode – it’s been challenging, but with the help of a friend from the Dallas Amateur Radio Club I’m starting to understand it. Have you been working with any digital modes (DMR? System Fusion? D-Star?)? I’d like to hear what you’ve found, maybe we could discuss it at the meeting this week?



I hope you can join us this Thursday for the Monthly meeting at Senter East Park, 7:00 PM.

Hamfest 2023 Pictures

Ken Hansen N2VIP and John Moss KI5WRQ



ARRL North Texas Section Manager Steve Smith KG5VK accepts a check from the IARC to assist with the North Texas Hamfest planned for 2025.

Sharon Johnston of The Main Place Irving and Kyle Taylor of Irving Cares accept checks for donations from the Irving Amateur Radio Club



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Radio In the Park - 1 April 2023

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

There is nothing better than getting together with fellow hams, and doing radio. Everyone is invited to join in a "Radio in the Park" day, on (weather permitting) Saturday April 1, from 1-5PM at Shady Grove Trail park in South Irving. You can bring out a radio, antenna, or just yourself, to have a fun time operating, learning, and just plain visiting with fellow amateur radio enthusiasts. The park has an official address of 799 Vilbig Lane. It is located just a few blocks south of Shady Grove Road and a few blocks east of McArthur Blvd.



The park has two pavilions near the central playscape area. We will grab one of those and do our thing. There is no usable AC power so folks who want to come with a radio are encouraged to bring along battery power. Several of us have batteries, so most likely there will be someone who can share their 12V supply with you.

We have done several of these "Play Days" in the past and they are a lot of fun. Hopefully we can do another one in May sometime, before the weather gets way to hot. More details on a date for that will be forthcoming.

Please put this on your calendar and plan on coming out, even for a few minutes. Plans will be updated at the upcoming IARC meeting. If you need directions or help getting there we will be monitoring the IARC 2M (146.72) repeater.

Irving Public Library Ham Radio Resources

John Cheyney KF5PFP

My wife and I recently got cards for the Irving Public Library, and I have been surprised at the number of resources that they provide that I can use as a ham.

Over the years the IARC has donated ham radio books. I grabbed a copy of the ARRL's RFI book to help me track down some noise that I am seeing on 20 meters here at the shack. In addition to radio books they have a lot of books on electronics and other radio-adjacent topics. The library also offers access to multiple download services for books, movies and music.

Two of the libraries (the South library and Valley Ranch) have makerspaces that include sewing machines, Cricut machines for cutting paper/vinyl/fabric, and 3D printers. In addition the Valley Ranch library has a laser etcher. This equipment is free to use. They provide classes on how to use them or, if you already know how you can just go set up on them.

If you want to learn a new skill they also provide access to LinkedIn Learning, which has online tutorials on a number of computer/business related topics.

I have been curious about 3D printing but haven't wanted to make the financial outlay to get one and try it out. I attended a class at the South library that gave me the basics on how they work. I was able to download the print some guying rings for my SotaBeams carbon fiber masts. After that I went out to LinkedIn Learning and found a tutorial on Tinkercad, which allowed me to design and print my own replacement end cap.

The library has multiple types of cards, including one for non-Irving residents. For more information visit the website at <https://www.cityofirving.org/1054/Library>.

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Irving RACES/ARES Report January 2023

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: 7
NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Net
Number of ARES drills, tests and training sessions this month: 3
--2 Dallas Training (18.8 hrs)
--1 Irving Training (10 hrs)
--2 Radio Checks (2 hrs)
--Skywarn Training (18hrs)
--February Siren Tests (3.5hrs)
Person hours: 52.3
Number of ARES public service events this month: 0
Person hours: 0
Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0
Person hours: 0
Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 7
Total Person hours: 52.3

February Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

IARC February 2023 Meeting

Senter Park East, Irving

23 February 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 Venzula Matthews KF5PJH

Call to Order 19:13 pm by Ken Hansen N2VIP

Pledge: Ken Hansen N2VIP

Prayer: John Moss KI5WRQ

Old Business:

Approve minutes from last meeting (January)
Billy Geer KA5OZC
Ron Ford KF5OMH

Treasurer report to follow this meeting.

New repeater site: Ken Hansen N2VIP to create instructions on how to get in the site for those members who have access.

442.375 repeater is up and running at the new repeater site. Ken would like to test the repeater. Plan then is to put up parallel repeaters with same frequencies with different tones. Venzula Matthews KF5PJH mentioned we need to have safety protocols in place for the new site.



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Irving Schools Foundation: Agreed to give them \$1000 for a scholarship. Bill Byrom N5BB has been able to get six student applications. Committee is looking at all the applicants and will rank the top 3.

Microgrant project needs to be started. Committee to get started. Bill Byrom N5BB will lead. Ron Tabb KC5HPO, Ken N2VIP,, Billy Geer KA5OZC, Ron Ford KF5OMH. Bill also waiting to hear back on status of the last rounds of grants. We still have four grants from 2021 and one from 2022 that we don't have confirmed completion. Bill wants to get word on those before we start talking about another round.

Nominating Committee:

Update from Billy Geer KA5OZC on behalf of Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT.

President:

Vice-President: Bill Byrom N5BB

Director: John Moss KI5WRQ for position currently held by Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT (would need approval of Board)

Director: Venzula Matthews KF5PJH for the same position

After group discussion, Motion by Bill Byrom N5BB to nominate:

Ken Hansen N2VIP as President, second by Venzula Matthews KF5PJH

Bill Byrom N5BB as Vice President on recommendation of nominating committee.

Ron Ford KF5OMH to be Director, second by Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Slate of Officers to be sent out a week before the meeting.

Allow emails the week prior to the meeting and then live voting the at the meeting.

Motion by Alec Scheidler KI5IKC

Second by Bill Byrom N5BB

Unanimous

Two applications via HamClubOnline

Jeff Etessam AI5JY Retired police officer from Duncanville, currently an Amateur Extra

Bill Byrom N5BB

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Unanimous

MVL Prasad K5MVL has paid his dues for associate membership

Bill Byrom N5BB

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Unanimous

New Business:

Trinity River Roundup ARRL Section and Division to put up a new HamFest in June. Target June 2025. They think ~ \$50000 to put this on. Need \$5000 to hold the space. Private Donor had offered \$1000, officers of IARC have talked about \$2000. Club would do something like sponsor seminar rooms or some other kind of advertising opportunity. There has to be an understanding that the money will be lost. Looking at Mesquite Convention Center. They can do outdoor tailgating and not have massive fees. We will hear more about it once they get the banking set up.

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Hamfest:

We have currently sold/comped 55 tables.

Donations: Irving Cares, the Main Place.

John Cheyney KF5PFP has contacted both organizations to let them know we will be donating to them again this year and asked them to be there at 11: 30 AM.

Door prizes

Alpha antenna X 5

HRO X 3

ARRL X 3

5x 2M mobile radios

Yaesu FTDX10

Volunteer prizes

5 x \$50 HRO gift certificates All volunteers get 1 ticket.

Need volunteers

Set up at Midnight

Ticket Sales 7-10 or 10-1

Security (standing by the front door, checking wristbands)

Master of Ceremonies

Club table sales

Radio Test Tables

Talk in as a volunteer task

Club is doing VE Testing 9-12

Room Reset at 1 pm

Motion to Adjourn:

Morgan Case KI5WAV

Bill Byrom N5BB

Submitted by IARC Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP.

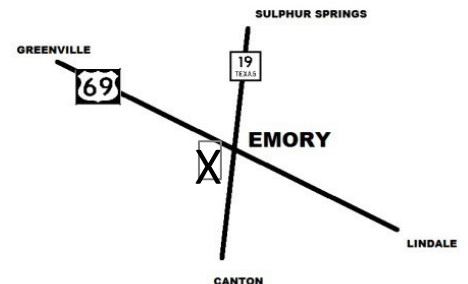
EMORY HAMFEST APRIL 22, 2023



HALFWAY BETWEEN CANTON AND SULPHUR SPRINGS!
HALFWAY BETWEEN LAKE TAWAKONI AND LAKE
FORK! HOUR EAST OF DALLAS AT THE CROSSROADS OF EAST TEXAS



RAINS COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS IN EMORY, TEXAS



159 W LENNON DR (US 69) in EMORY

Vendor Setup \$10, General Admission \$5, Under 17 Free – RAIN OR SHINE

SATURDAY APRIL 22ND FROM 7:00AM TO 4:30PM Talk-in 146.92 (-.600 PL 88.5)

~50K SQ FT OF COVERED SPACE– See www.w5ent.org for details. First come first served.

Suggest you Bring Your Own Table and Chairs. Overnight camping available Friday Night. Contact club for details.

SELL YOUR OLD STUFF – BUY YOUR NEW STUFF!

DOOR PRIZES, SILENT AUCTION, FOOD CONCESSIONS, MAIN PRIZE DRAWING AT 3:00PM (must be present to win)

One ticket with admission. Extra Tickets \$1 each, 6 for \$5.00

9:00 AM – VE Testing (all classes available)

When you're done "hamfesting", hit the lakes: Stripers and Crappie on Lake Tawakoni, Largemouth Bass on Lake Fork!County Officials have approved our hamfest as long as we abide by this common sense Covid policy for the hamfest:

- 1.Masks and social distancing are strongly recommended. RARA, ARRL, Rains County Fair, Rains County, and its members and residents are not responsible for your health, well being, or property. YOU ARE!
- 2.Check in with a RARA representative at the check-in table before setting up.
- 3.Hand sanitizer will be available at the check-in table
- 4.Although it has been proven that cash money can be dirty, it's still the legal tender. Bring a lot of it with you to take advantage of the deals. ATM available at the adjacent Valero and across the street.
- 5.Your admission fee will help pay for the venue and is appreciated.

Sponsored by Rains Amateur Radio Association

www.w5ent.org / Like us on facebook!

For more information contact David @

rara.w5ent@gmail.com or 903-408-0365