

# 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

April 2023



## April Meeting Information

The April meeting will be Thursday, 27 April 2023, at Senter Park East, 7:00 PM. We will talk about plans for ARRL Field Day in June.

## President's Corner

### Ken Hansen N2VIP

Welcome to April! The weather is getting nice, transitioning from cold to not-too-hot, and it's a great time to do any needed antenna work. I know I had my share of Antenna work this week with the issues at the Hospital repeater site, as described elsewhere in this newsletter. Bottom line, all the repeater pairs are on the air and working as they should – give them a try!

This month I also participated in a POTA activation with the Dallas Amateur Radio Club as well as a Team Fox Hunt – both are described elsewhere in the newsletter you're reading now – and had a lot of fun. I know the Irving club used to run Fox hunts, but we haven't done so for a few years now – it may be time to revisit that idea. I don't think we could run a Fox hunt like the Richardson club does, but maybe we could try a more "traditional" fox hunt where it is for a certain span of time, someone supervises the fox transmitter, etc. I know we have a few club members that do POTA activations, maybe we could convince them to organize a presentation for the club describing their activations, the equipment they use, and share their insights with the club.



Speaking of field operations, ARRL Field Day is fast approaching, are you planning to participate? I hope so – the facility we used for Winter Field Day was good, but there were a few challenges that will need to be overcome before the last weekend in June. The issues are pretty simple, but we'll need to spend some time discussing the issues and deciding what form our proposed Field Day event will look like. If you can't join us for Field Day, the ARRL has made club score aggregation a permanent feature. Club Score Aggregation means you can operate individually either at home or in the field and add your individual score and apply it towards the IARC Club total, just like under the COVID-19 shutdown.

I've been reminded that we should get up on the roof of the bingo hall and put up the COBWEB antenna, but since I spent so much time with the club repeater work parties I haven't had a chance to organize a work party for the Cobweb – if anyone would like to organize that effort, that would be greatly appreciated!

Anyway, I'll wrap this up by reminding you that our General Meeting is this coming Thursday, 7:00 PM, at Senter East Park – I hope you can join us!

## Radio In The Park - A Fun Afternoon On The Air!

### John Moss KI5WRQ

Saturday, April 1 turned out to be a perfect day for our Spring, 2023 "Radio In The Park" outing at Shady Grove Trail Park in South Irving. We had a beautiful sunny afternoon, and good band conditions helped us make lots of contacts. John (KF5PFP), Tom (N5HYP) and I (KI5WRQ) all set up battery powered remote stations and antennas in the northwest corner of the park.

### President

Ken Hansen N2VIP

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Ron Ford KF50MH

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

### Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

### General/Business Meeting:

April 27 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](http://Irvingarc.org)

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Irving, Texas 75015-3333

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/Irvingarc.org>



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KF5PFP ran 80 watts from his ICOM IC-7100 into his new Buddistick Pro vertical antenna, N5HYP brought his Yaesu FT-847, his sloper antenna, his satellite antenna and various associated gear, and I ran 95 watts from my Yaesu FT-991A into the Radiowavz 20 meter "Inverted V" dipole that I won at the IARC Christmas Party last December. Billy Geer (KA5OZC) and Tim Fooks (N5JPF) came by and checked on us during the afternoon as well.

We were fortunate to be set up at the park on the same day that several states had QSO Parties going on. All together the three of us logged approximately 33 QSOs during the afternoon, making contacts in Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Kansas, Missouri, Vermont and Mexico. N5HYP worked a satellite pass at around 2:00 in the afternoon. We worked some "special stations" during the event, including K5YD, the Mississippi State University Amateur Radio Club station, K0M (using a Special Event callsign honoring Medical Field Workers and First Responders in Kansas and Missouri), and N0W (using a Special Event callsign for the Missouri QSO Party). KF5PFP also worked W1AW/1, who was utilizing that ARRL special callsign spotlighting Volunteers On The Air (VOTA) in Vermont. The ARRL is using those "W1AW/#" callsigns in every state this year to increase awareness of the need for more volunteers in Amateur Radio. It was a busy day on the air across the US, and it was fun to hear so many people calling CQ for their state QSO Party events.

Thanks very much to N5HYP for organizing our Spring, 2023 Radio In The Park event. We hope the next time we do it, we will have even more club members participate. It was an afternoon of fun, fellowship and improving our remote operating skills in a great Irving City Park on a beautiful day.



Tom Schuessler N5HYP



John Cheyney KF5PFP



John Moss KI5WRQ

## 2023-24 DARC POTA Event

### Ken Hansen N2VIP

Earlier today I attended a Parks On The Air (POTA) Activation, and it was a good time. The Dallas Club has what they call a Lecture and Lab, where the interested members come together and either learn some new thing, build a small kit, build an antenna or, in this case, went out into the field to demonstrate how to activate a POTA park in Garland.



Calvin Gluck W7KYG

I did not attempt to activate the park, but that was only because I was unable to create a POTA account or setup my log software to create the required ADI file to submit to the POTA website. Basically, what happens in an activation is that you travel to an "approved" park (there's a list available on the POTA website), setup a radio, antenna and power source, and call CQ POTA in an effort to log and submit 10 confirmed contacts to the POTA website. Typically, park activators try to log more than 10 QSOs to ensure at least ten of the QSOs are confirmed.

POTA participants can "self-spot" on the POTA website, alerting interested "hunters" to try and find activators that might be on the air at any given date/time.



For the Dallas POTA event, two members brought their personal HF Go-Boxes, battery packs, and they used the Alpha Mil Whip FMJ antenna like the one our club owns – they were very successfully employed, with operators able to work POTA hunters across the US.

If you'd like more information on POTA, visit this website or simply search YouTube with the keyword POTA or go to <https://parksontheair.com/>

## Richardson Wireless Club Fox Hunting Team Event

**Ken Hansen N2VIP**

Earlier this month I participated in a team event Fox Hunt held by the Richardson Wireless Klub, and it was a great time. Every Saturday the RWK team deploys two Fox transmitters in and around the city of Richardson and/or Plano early Saturday Morning and leave them unattended for about 24 hours, to be “hunted” whenever a participant chooses to.

Once the fox is found, the hunter uses their smart phone to use the QR code on the fox to take them to a web page where they can log their find and be entered in a monthly drawing among the successful hunters.

I was lucky enough to be paired with two very-experienced fox hunters, and on this particular weekend I was in the first team to discover both foxes. We used a very high-tech piece of equipment, a radio direction finding tool called a KrackenSDR ( <https://www.krackenrf.com/> ) that uses four antennas on the vehicle to point towards the fox transmitter (or the strongest reflection off a structure!). In addition, because this was a teaching event, we also employed “loop” antennas on HTs, “body blocking” for close-in work, commercial and homemade yagi antennas to help us find the fox.

I enjoyed hunting the fox, and if you ever want to give it a try, the RWK event is open to anyone that wants to participate, see this webpage for more information:

<https://www.k5rwk.org/foxhunt/>

## IARC Repeater Work Party Report

**Ken Hansen N2VIP**

The work party is done, David Darcy has completed all the requested tower work.

The backup two meter antenna was brought down and stored on-site (despite the damage sustained by the mounting bracket arms, the antenna is in perfect shape)

The primary two meter antenna on top of the tower was straightened, and the primary 2m repeater remains, as always, at the hospital.

The 220 repeater antenna was untouched, it should be fine.

The 220 repeater was subsequently found to have low-output issues, and the cold-spare 220 repeater was swapped into service at the hospital site, by all accounts it is working fine now.

The 442.675 repeater antenna was straightened and secured. But the repeater was found to also be suffering from low-output issues, so a decision was made to relocate the 442.675 repeater to the new proposed EOC and is currently operating normally. An issue was noted with the touch-display on the Yaesu repeater which may require it being sent to Yaesu for repair. If that is necessary, we have an additional Yaesu DR-2X repeater to put into service.

The 442.375 repeater remains on-air from the proposed EOC location, nothing has changed.

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John Cheyney KF5PFP



I removed the backup two meter duplexer cans from the hospital and delivered it to the proposed EOC site, if our primary two meter repeater ever goes down, we can relocate the two meter repeater pair will be relocated to the proposed EOC.

The repeaters at the Hospital repeater site are attached to an external repeater controller, and the repeaters at the proposed EOC location are relying on the basic repeater controllers built-in to the DR-2X.

We will test the output of the 220 repeater to determine if it needs repair, and at our convenience we can test the problematic 442.675 repeater.

Thanks to everyone involved, James Shugart, Billy Geer, Myself, and of course, the tower climber David DArcy, who spent 6 hours on the tower (9:30 to 3:30).

Please, at your earliest convenience, exercise the club's repeaters - all of them!



Before and after Images of the repeater antennas at the hospital repeater site

## Upcoming Events

Mark you calendars for the following events:

- 3 May 2023 @ 1:00 pm: Monthly City of Irving siren test monitoring. See John Cheyney KF5PFP for more details.
- 6 May 2023: Tentative day for the next Radio in the Park, focusing on getting ready for ARRL Field Day
- 24-25 June 2023: ARRL Field Day. We will talk about planning at the club meeting on 27 April 2023.

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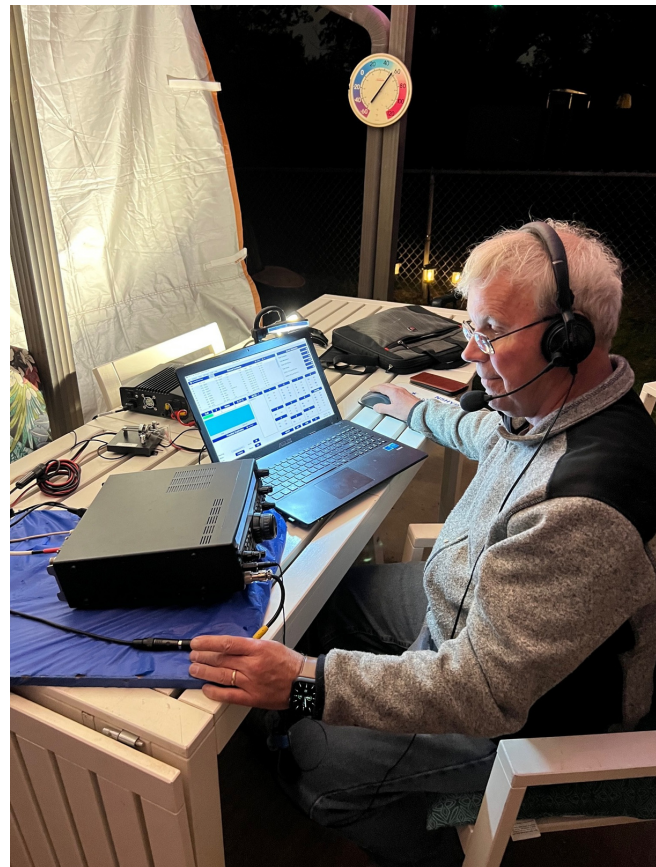
John Cheyney KF5PFP

# North America SSB Sprint Contest

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

I took part in the North American SSB sprint contest on 22 April 2023. It's a four hour long event, and the cool part about it is that you can't park on the frequency and call CQ all night long, You have to move around. There are specific rules about that. It's an operator skill test, not just a how big a stick you have. I used my BuddyPole antenna as a vertical one vertical element. The coil has two different tap points and I have two different counterpoise wires made resident for 20 and 40 m. I can only work one band a time without lowering the antenna changing the coil, tap and raising the antenna up.

I only worked the four hour contest for two hours. Temperature started to drop near the end. I made 60 contacts although there were stations I worked that had work 150 or 200 contacts over those two hours. The 20 m vertical aspect worked pretty good. 40 was not so much but I did manage to make 15 of the 60 contacts there. Note the thermometer on the patio down below 60°.



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# Irving RACES/ARES Report March 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: 5

NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Net

Number of ARES drills, tests and training sessions this month: 4

--2 Dallas Training (18.8 hrs)

--1 Irving Training (10 hrs)

--Yearly Face To Face Meeting (36 hrs)

Person hours: 57

Number of ARES public service events this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 1

--1 Irving Skywarn Net

Person hours: 10

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 5

Total Person hours: 67

## March Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

IARCMarch 2023 Meeting

Senter Park East, Irving

23 March 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 Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Call to Order 19:20 pm by Ken Hansen N2VIP

There were 11 members

Pledge: Ken Hansen N2VIP

Prayer: Tom Schuessler N5HYP

### Old Business:

Approve minutes from January Meeting

Motion: Bill Byrom N5BB

Second: Billy Geer KA5OZC

Unanimous

Treasurer report to follow this meeting.

Vote was taken and the slate of officers for 2023-2025 was elected 11 Yes - 4 No.

- Ken Hansen N2VIP - President
- Bill Byrom N5BB - Vice-President
- Venzula Matthews KF5PJH - Director
- Ron Ford KF5OMH - Director



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John Cheyney KF5PFP



Hamfest Update  
~385 Tickets in the bucket representing attendees  
72 tables sold.  
5 tables donated to other organizations.  
Final cleared from the event was slightly less than \$2400.  
Full report to follow.

EOC Repeater Site: City needs to do some testing on the soil before moving forward with the EOC. Currently the second repeater on the 442.675 pair with a tone of 173.8. People can test both and see what the delta between the two is.

Ken has written up a document on how the members who have access can get into the site.

Ken has asked for Authorization for \$300 for purchases of

1. Repeater needs a voice module to ID. \$35
2. Backup batteries for the repeaters. Recommend 55amp battery. The facility has a UPS. Harbor Freight has that battery for \$60 each, need two.
3. Label maker supplies and batteries
4. HiViz vests

Motion: Bill Byrom N5BB

Second: Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Unanimous

Visit to the new repeater site, This Saturday at 1pm. Ken to send note out to the club.

#### **New Business:**

ARRL Field Day is the last weekend in June 24th. Working group formed to put together a proposal.

Committee:

Bill Nyrom N5BB

John Moss KI5WRQ

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Motion: Bill Byrom N5BB moved that we ask Jordan Serrano to help us reserve the Heritage Park building

Second: Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Unanimous

John Cheyney KF5PFP to talk to Jordan about getting Heritage Park

Club Banner: General banner, approximately 2ft x 6ft. Needs to be generic enough to be reusable. Andrew Harmon KD5RKO to gather information to present to club.

Work Parties:

Ken to try and set up work parties for shack. One is remote operation work party to set up the remote ham software. Goal before it gets hot is to put the cobweb up.

Radio in the Park: April 1st, 1 pm to 5 pm. Shady Grove Trail Park,

**Program:** Transverters with Dick WA6MDI.

Motion to Adjourn:

Morgan Case KI5WAV

Bill Byrom N5BB

Submitted by IARC Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP.

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