

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



July 2023

July Meeting Information

The July meeting will be Thursday, 27 July 2023, at Senter Park East, 7:00 PM.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

So, it's July in Texas - I'll tell you what, as a transplanted northerner, I have come to love most things about Texas, but July in Texas really tests my affections for the state...

Looking back over the past month, I must say that our Field Day Event at the end of June was a great success, thanks to the hard work of several club members, especially our Field Day organizer/leader, John Cheyney, KF5PFP. With John's Leadership we were able to setup quickly, keep the three operating positions "on the air" and takedown went rather quickly as well. And of course, let's not forget the Brisket Taco Bar that was organized and by Kim and Roger Bacak, N5KCB and N5VUJ, respectively. They put a lot of effort into the food, and it was, in a word, wonderful. Thanks to John, Kim and Roger for their efforts to really help make Field Day something special.

As I write this, I am planning over the next few days (before we meet on Thursday) to head back to the Fire Training Center repeater site and install our third (and final) Yaesu DR-2X repeater as a backup 2 Meter repeater. I'll initially set it up with a different PL/CTCSS tone than our current 110.9 on the main repeater, details will be forthcoming at the meeting. I have yet to diagnose the Bridgecom 220 MHz repeater that was pulled out of service at the Hospital repeater site. I suspect the finals are blown, and the Kenwood UHF repeater needs to be diagnosed as well.



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Ron Ford KF5OMH

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

General/Business Meeting:

27 July 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

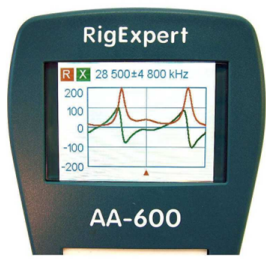
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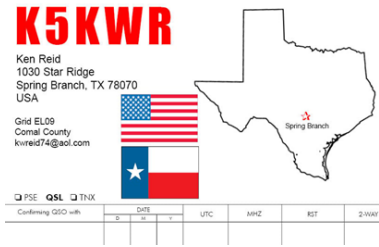
Now that things are calming down and we all are (I suspect) focusing on inside activities, I need to head back and give the club shack a good clean-up after our very successful hamfest this past March. I'd like some help with harvesting the email addresses off the admission tickets from last year, so we can send out reminders to all attendees that shared their info with us. (We only use the addresses from the previous year's attendees to remind them of the upcoming Hamfest.) Independent of my planned efforts, Ron Tabb, KC5HPO, and John Cheyney, KF5PFP, are planning to "organize" the items in the Vault (closet) at the Bingo Hall. Hopefully these efforts will make the shack more accessible/useable for club members.



As a reminder, the club has some equipment that members are welcome to borrow, that includes our RigExpert AA-600 Antenna Analyzer, a TriCrimp tool for attaching Anderson PowerPole connectors, and a few HF and VHF/UHF radios and antennas that members can "check out" for short periods (say a week or two). If interested, reach out to either Ron Tabb, KC5HPO, or myself (Ken Hansen, N2VIP) and we'll see what we can work out.



So the other day I got a surprising piece of mail - surprising because I don't normally get US Postal mail that isn't a bill or a catalog - and when I opened it up, much to my surprise I saw a QSL card inside for an FT8 QSO I had with Gary Pike, KA4KBX, back in May. The card instantly made me feel guilty that after 25 years in this hobby I have never sent out QSL cards to anyone I've contacted.



Granted, I am not the most "radio active" club member, but it made me realize that there is an aspect to the hobby I've never taken seriously, exchanging QSL Cards. The cards themselves aren't that expensive (KB3IFH offers 100 "State Cards" like above are \$52 but if you order 1,000 the cost is \$105 - both prices include S/H, for "Premium" QSL cards with your color photo artwork on one side, color printing on the back are available for \$125 for 1,000, again, including S/H). I know I need to get personal QSL cards, and I think the club should consider getting and sending QSL cards for our contacts from events like Field Day, Winter Field day and others.



And finally, in my quest to get everything that's needed to maintain the club repeater sites, I had been on the lookout for an affordable tri-band HT to "test" our repeaters at the repeater site. I was simply looking for an HT that could a) "work" each of our assigned repeater pairs, and b) be affordable/cheap. Well, I finally found one - the Baofeng UV-S9X3 HT. I ordered one from Amazon for less than \$30, and I'm quite impressed. I can "work" each of our four repeaters (those on top of the Hospital and those at the Fire Training Center) from my back yard in far east Irving/Las Colinas, and the radios as ordered from Amazon do not include a programming cable but do include a USB charging cable so you can (slowly) recharge the battery away from home.

As expected, these radios are supported by CHIRP, but again, no programming cable is included. I ordered two additional examples of this HT and they will be offered as alternate door prizes to our customary \$25 HRO/Amazon Gift Certificates. I'd like to provoke a bit more activity on our repeaters, and maybe this will do it?

That's it from me, I hope everyone can make it to our July meeting this Thursday at 7:00 PM, at Senter East Park (our usual meeting location), more information can be found in the Calendar on the club website.

2023 Field Day Thank You

John Cheyney KF5PFP

John Moss KI5WRQ has a wrap-up of the club's Field Day efforts, but as the organizer I want to thank everyone involved in making this work, and thank the club for giving me the opportunity to lead it.

Organizing Committee

- John Moss KI5WRQ
- Bill Byrom N5BB
- Ron Tabb KC5HPO
- Tom Schuessler N5HYP
- Venzula Matthers KF5PJH (Safety Officer)
- Roger Bacak N5VUJ and Kim Bacak N5KCB (Taco Bar)

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Ron Tabb KC5HPO

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Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Ron Ford KF50MH

Billy Geer KA50ZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

There Was Something For Everybody At IARC's 2023 Summer Field Day Event

John Moss KI5WRQ

On its "What is Field Day?" website page, the ARRL claims that "Field Day is a picnic, a campout, practice for emergencies, an informal contest and, most of all, FUN!" In order to be fun in the hot Texas summer there has to be great food, cold air conditioning and lots of interaction with friends. The Irving ARC's 2023 Summer Field Day event had all of those things - and more.

Roger Bacak, N5VUJ, and Kim Bacak, N5KCB, were very kind to offer to provide the food for Field Day this year. They brought excellent brisket tacos, with guacamole, cheese, salsa and everything else we needed to keep us operating at full speed throughout the day. The food was wonderful and was very much appreciated by all who were there. Many thanks to Roger and Kim!

For the second Field Day in a row the IARC was able to reserve Irving's Heritage Park for our activities. The renovated yellow house in the park is a great remote site for us, right in the middle of downtown Irving. It has plenty of space, full kitchen facilities, restrooms, and a good air conditioner. We were "remote", but we certainly were not "roughing it".

This year the Irving ARC operated as a "3A" Club, which meant that we operated three radios simultaneously, totally on battery power. Bill Byrom, N5BB, led the CW activities, and brought his own radio and antenna. With headphones on and with key in hand, Bill worked 68 QSOs on CW. John Cheyney, KF5PFP, brought his ICOM radio and ARRL Field Day antenna and worked mostly in digital modes on 15 and 20 meters (53 total digital mode contacts were made). John also gets kudos for the most remote DX station worked during the day - by working a ham in Cyprus on FT8 in the early afternoon. The third station, placed in the back room of the building, included the IARC club ICOM 7300 radio and vertical antenna. Club President Ken Hansen, N2VIP, helped us get the radial wires figured out, attached and operational on the vertical antenna, and that third radio became the 20 meter SSB phone station for the day. Barry MacGregor, N5SMW, Billy Geer, KA5OZC, Ron Tabb, KC5HPO, Shane Outlaw, KI5GBU, and I all got to work a shift or two at that SSB station during 2023 Summer Field Day. We had a total of 23 SSB phone QSOs. All three of our stations got heavy use during the event. Jerry Aberdeen, KB3RWT, arrived in the late afternoon and he was able to test a new antenna that he built.

We were also fortunate to have Venzula Mathews, KF5PJH, act as our Club's Safety Officer for Field Day. She monitored all antenna set ups, all coax layouts and all electrical safety requirements. Venzula has strong industry experience in the safety area, and we were glad to be able to receive direction from her on important safety issues.

As always, Ron Tabb, KC5HPO, led our antenna set up efforts, and we appreciated his knowledge and talents in that area. Antennas went up and came down as planned.

Maybe the best part of Summer Field Day was the time we got to spend together - just visiting. We got to spend time talking and finding out new things about our fellow Club Members, such as where they are from, how they became interested in Amateur Radio, what jobs they've had in their careers, and what they like to do in their free time.

Our Irving ARC Club probably won't win any of the top prizes in the 2023 Field Day contest when all of the scores are tabulated and the results are in. That's because in addition to working radio QSOs during the day, we all spent a lot of time eating brisket tacos, talking and laughing with our friends. 2023 Summer Field Day was a very successful event for the members of IARC, and a good time was had by all.

Thanks very much to John Cheyney, KF5PFP, and his project team for leading the 2023 Summer Field Day planning process. We look forward to even more Club activities around the 2024 Winter and Summer Field Days. They will be here before you know it!



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Vice-President

Bill Byrom N5BB

Treasurer

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Secretary

John Cheyney KF5PFP

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Ron Ford KF5OMH

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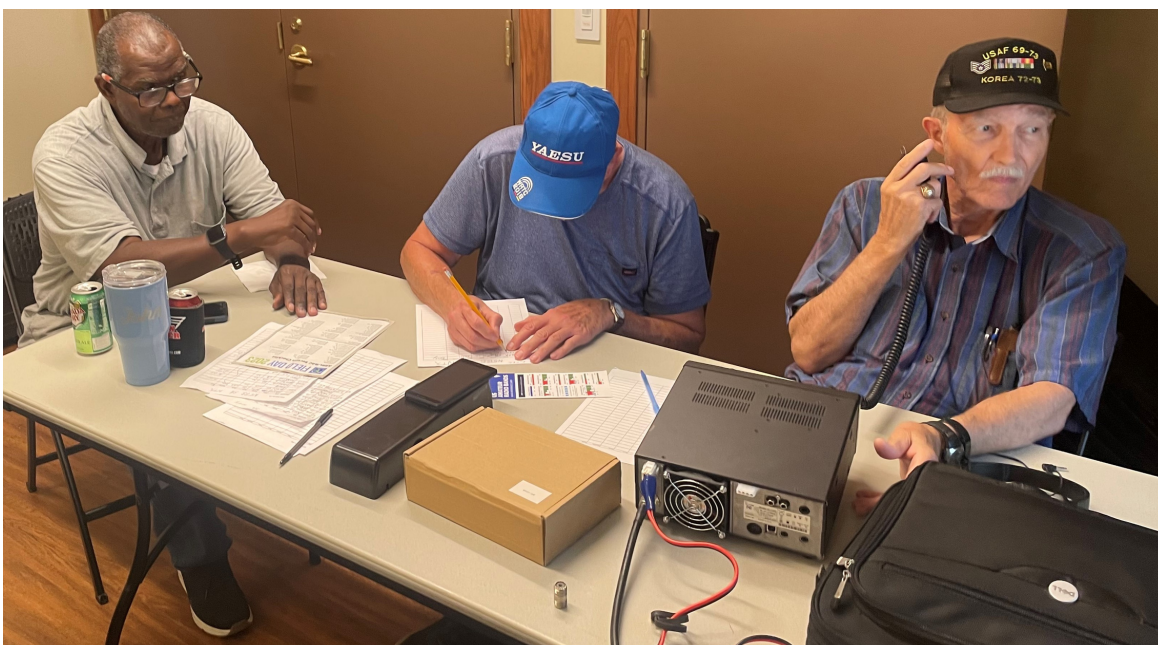
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John Cheyney KF5PFP



2023 Irving Fourth of July Parade

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Again this year the Irving Amateur Radio Club and the Irving RACES/ARES team provided communications support to the 2023 City of Irving Fourth of July Parade. Communication team members provided information back to parade control on parade flow and issues.



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Ron Ford KF5OMH
Billy Geer KA5OZC
Andrew Harmon KD5RKO
- Newsletter Editor**
John Cheyney KF5PFP

(From L to R)

- Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT
- Jon Sheets N5JBS
- John Cheyney KF5PFP
- Barry MacGregor N5SMW
- Ron Tabb KC5HPO
- Tim Fooks N5JPF
- Tom Schuessler N5HYP
- Ken Hansen N2VIP
- Billy Geer KA5OZC
- Mike Gibbs KI5TIK
- Bill Byrom N5BB
- Mark Corona KD5TTT
- Susan Corona KD5UKA

Irving RACES/ARES Report June 2023

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 13
Change since last month: (-) _____ or (+) _____ or same: >__X____
Local Net Name: Irving RACES/ARES
Total sessions: 3
NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Net
Number of ARES drills, tests and training sessions this month: 3
--1 Dallas Training (8.8 hrs)
--1 Irving Training (9 hrs)
Monthly Warning Siren Check (1.5 hrs)
Person hours: 20.3
Number of ARES public service events this month:
Number of ARES emergency operations this month:
Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 3
Total Person hours: 20.3



Thursday Club Net

IARC holds a net every Thursday night, except the fourth Thursday when we have our meeting. The net starts at 7:00pm on the 146.72 repeater or Echolink. Everyone is welcome, whether you are an IARC member or not. Net controls are:

- Bill Byrom N5BB
- Shane Outlaw KI5GBU
- John Cheyney KF5PFP

June Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

IARC June 2023 Meeting

Senter Park East, Irving

22 June 2022

Officers Present:

Ken Hansen N2VIP President
Bill Byrom N5BB Vice-President
Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP
Treasurer Ron Tabb KC5HPO
Director Billy Geer KA5OZC
Director Ron Ford KF5OMH
Venzula Matthews KF5PJH

Call to Order 19:12 pm by Ken Hansen N2VIP

There were 11 members

Pledge: Ken Hansen N2VIP

Prayer: John Moss KI5WRQ

Old Business:

Approve minutes from last meeting (May)

Motion: Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Second Ron Ford KF5OMH

Unanimous

Treasurer report: Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Currently we have \$48,296.34

Ron and Ken will sit down after July 1st and do the quarterly reporting. Will report at next meeting

Previous Microgrants:

Some recipients are still behind. After Field Day Bill N5BB is going to contact those groups by phone and get updates. Would like to have a committee meeting next weekend to go over current status.

Repeater Update:

220 Repeater failure at the hospital. The club's spare 220 repeater is in place. One of the radios in the repeater had the finals blow. Bridgecom recommended that we swap the two radios in the box for transmit/repeat. This needs to be test and the repeater repairs evaluated.

TKR (Kenwood) 440 repeater on the hospital (442.675) pair. After testing we will need to determine if it's worth fixing. We now have a Yaesu repeater at the EOC operating on that channel. Both UHF pairs are working at the EOC,

We have duplexer cans for 2m and 220 at the EOC. The 2m repeater is currently at the hospital. Ken Will put backup 2M repeater on the air at the EOC.

AREDN nodes on the EOC tower: Backhaul and two of the three Sector antennas are working.

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New Business:

July 4th Parade. Billy Geer KA5OZC is looking for someone to organize this. John Cheyney KF5PFP volunteered and will send out emails to IARC and RACES/ARES members

Donation request from Dale Finley to support HamVentures to provide Ham Radio equipment for the summer at Philmont Scout Ranch.

Motion by John Cheyney KF5PFP for \$300

Second by Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Unanimous

Field Day: Discussed final plans.

Motion to adjourn.

6/22/2023 20:40

Submitted by IARC Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP.



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