

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



September 2023

September Meeting Information

The September meeting will be Thursday, 28 September 2023, at 7:00 PM. We will be meeting at the club shack, Betcha Bingo II, 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061. The program will be Show and Tell. If you have anything interesting please bring it.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

I've got a lot of ground to cover, so let's get to it!

Welcome to September! Sadly, the weather is still quite warm, so I suspect many are putting off outdoor/antenna projects – I know I want to put the MFJ Cobweb antenna on the Bingo Hall Roof for the club station, but for now it's just Too Darn Hot!



Speaking of the Club Shack at Betcha Bingo II, we've had two recent "Work Parties" and the shack is looking great! Thanks to all involved, especially John Cheyney for heading up the effort. Our next work party (not scheduled yet) will be to try and re-establish remote access to the IC-7300 in the shack. We have used the software from RemoteHams.com, and I think we're planning on using that again. In order to avoid RFI/feedback issues I think we can "block" transmissions during Bingo Hall business hours. While that's unfortunate, maybe we can investigate addressing the RFI/feedback issue by installing toroids on the speaker lines.

Earlier today I participated in three Ham club events – the MARS "Hams and Eggs" at Whataburger, an RWK "POTA" event over in Garland, and the DARC Lecture and Lab. The "Hams and Eggs" breakfast event is typically well-attended (about a dozen attendees), but today the turnout was light. It's always a good time, and while I was only there briefly, I enjoyed my visit. The RWK "POTA" event was well-attended, about 16 members and friends of the RWK club attended, several stations were set up and everyone that wanted to was successful in "activating" the park (log 10 QSOs while operating portable inside the border of the park). Finally, I just visited the DARC Lecture and Lab – I arrived a couple hours late, so I just watched participants finish their "Offset Attenuator" for Fox Hunting. I typically participate in the monthly Kit Builds, but since I don't Hunt Foxes, this build was of little interest to me. Last month, the build was a 14 amp LiFePo4 battery box with a charger. The build was \$100, and DARC sold all 20 kits they prepared. (My battery box remains unfinished, the battery was completed (my main goal), the various switches, outlets and other accessories just took too long...

If there is sufficient interest we could try and do something similar in the Irving club – so, is there interest? Would you like to try some builds? We could try end-fed antennas, smallish battery boxes, station accessories, etc.

Our meeting this month (September) will be at the Betcha Bingo II shack, we have a few ideas/thoughts about the shack and what we should do next, and we're looking for YOUR INPUT, please plan to attend.

President

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Vice-President

Bill Byrom N5BB

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John Cheyney KF5PFP

Directors

Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Ron Ford KF50MH

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

General/Business Meeting:
24 August 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

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Facebook:

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



At the last Work Party the club officers and others discussed the need for a couple First Aid kits – one to stay in the shack at the bingo hall, and another to carry to club activities outside the Bingo Hall – by First Aid kits we mean “light” First Aid kits (bandages, aspirin, antiseptic cleansers, etc.). I’ve asked Venzula Matthews to look into this and come to the meeting with some numbers and suggestions.

I hope you can join us again at the Bingo Hall, Thursday at 7:00 PM – it should be an interesting meeting.

Update on Shack Clean Up

John Cheyney KF5PFP

We had another shack cleanup day two weeks ago, this time focusing on the vault. We made significant progress. Be sure to come to the club meeting on 28 September and see the work.

We still have many items that the club has no use for. Some of it may have a small amount of monetary value, most probably doesn’t. The next part of the cleanout will be at the IARC HamFest. We are going to put those items out on a table for free, or little money. Before that we plan on letting club members go through everything and get what they want.

The good news is, the operating stations are now workable. At the meeting we will talk about how we start using the great equipment we have.

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in the clean up so far:

- Ken Hansen N2VIP
- Ron Tabb KC5HPO
- Bill Byrom N5BB
- Shane Outlaw KI5GNU
- Ron Ford KF5OMH
- Venzula Matthews KF5PJH

Portable Operating Subgroup

John Cheyney KF5PFP

The Portable Operating Subgroup had its first meeting on 4 September at the Shack. We had a discussion and demonstration of ham-stick antennas, both vertical and dipole.

The next meeting will be Monday 2 October, 2023, 7:00pm, at Betcha Bingo II. Shane Outlaw KI5GBU will be presenting on using HAMMRS for logging POTA.

Twenty-Four Hour Radio Kit

Ron Ford KF5OMH

This information was presented by Mike K5YX on the April 2018 Denton County ARES Training Net. Just substitute “RACES” for “ARES” and this becomes applicable to the IARC.

Purpose of a 24 Hour radio kit

When responding to an emergency event, or even a training exercise, there is a minimum set of equipment and personal gear you should bring with you to get the job done. This is intended to be ready to grab and go. You should not have to scurry around your house or shack to find your radios, batteries, cables, manuals, etc. It should be already together in a container or bag that you can simply toss in to the car and go.

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The 24 hour kit with respect to amateur radio is centered on communications. You may have other grab bags for personal and family disaster response and/or evacuations. Those are also valuable and recommended. However, this training is focused on a subset of that enabling you to contribute and participate in ARES activations and deployments for emergency communications.

What Should I put in my 24 hour ARES kit?

Let's categorize the 24 hour kit contents by radio hardware, tools, and documentation.

Radio Hardware:

- 2-meter/70-cm dual band hand-held radio – programmed with the Denton ICE plan and/or DFW/Denton HRIG plan
- Dual and mag mount antenna and coax with the appropriate pigtail to connect to your radio's antenna connection (typically the pigtail converts the UHF connector on the coax to an SMA connection your radio utilizes. The pigtail can also help reduce strain on your hand-held radio antenna connection. This antenna will provide the extra gain you may need with a low power handheld to reach the net repeater and/or simplex stations.
- Earphone for the hand held radio (helps in noisy environments)
- Extra Batteries for the radio – Also look for a battery adapter fitting your radio which utilizes AA or AAA batteries as a backup

Tools

- Small multimeter – Harbor freight has these for a few dollars
- Multi-tool such as a Leatherman
- Multi-tip screwdriver
- Flashlight and/or head lamp with extra batteries
- Small roll of electrical or duct tape
- Reflective Vest
- Clock or watch

Documentation

- ARES ID Badge
- ARES Field Resources Manual
- Paper and Pencil
- ARRL Message Forms
- ICS-213 Forms
- Frequency band plan
- Copy of the ICE plan

What additional items could I consider adding to the kit?

- Mobile Radio fashioned into a go kit – these can be fairly easily built to operate on battery or AC power.
- Small deep cycle battery (6 to 8 ah)
- Small solar panel to recharge deep cycle battery
- Roll up J-Pole antenna – these are made of 450ohm ladder line and can be made yourself or purchased from Internet sources.
- Small soldering iron and solder
- RF connectors and adapters
- Extra coax
- Headphone set
- Small tent
- Laptop and some sort of TNC or sound card interface for digital communications with the appropriate interface cables for your radio model

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Pitfalls and Reminders

- You have to carry this, don't get carried away!!
- This is not intended for 72 hour or longer deployments. This is a 24hour kit!!
- Regularly inspect and test your kit equipment, rotate batteries, change batteries, etc.
- Do not self-deploy!! ARES activations and deployments will be requested and coordinated through your county and section ARES emergency Coordinators.

Irving RACES/ARES Report July 2023

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Total number of ARES members: 12

Change since last month: (-) _____ or (+) _____ or same: >__X_____

Local Net Name: Irving RACES/ARES

Total sessions: 4

NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Traffic Net

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

--2 Dallas Training (22.5 hrs)

--1 Irving Training (9 hrs)

Monthly Warning Siren Check (2 hrs)

Person hours: 31.7

Number of ARES public service events this month: 0

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 4

Total Person hours: 33.5

August Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

IARC July 2023 Meeting

Betcha Bingo II, Irving

24 August 2023

Officers Present:

President Ken Hansen N2VIP

Vice-President Bill Byrom N5BB

Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP

Treasurer Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Director Billy Geer KA5OZC

Director Ron Ford KF5OMH

Director Venzula Matthews KF5PJH

Call to Order 19:08 pm by Bil Byrom N5BB

There were 14 members and 2 Guests

Pledge: Ken Hansen N2VIP

Prayer: John Moss KI5WRQ

Introductions

New Applications:

- 1.KJ5BVX Lyle Baker: Unanimous



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Old Business:

Approve minutes from last meeting John Cheyney KF5PFP

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Unanimous

Treasurer report: Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Repeater site: Ken to go and put the other DR2X as a backup 2M repeater. Bridgecom 220 repeater needs to be sent off for repair. Currently, all the repeaters are up and functioning. Kenwood repeater that was used as a UHF FM repeater at the hospital is down. Needs to be taken out and a plan determined what to do with it.

Microgrant. Ken has gotten updates from most of the organizations and will give final updates at next meeting.

New Business:

Move by Ken Hansen N2VIP to donate \$100 to HamClub Online

Motion by Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Second by Billy Geer KA5OZC

Unanimous

Donation of small computer-size fans to be sold/given away at ham fest. Can be used in various ham projects. Sizes of the donations can vary. Ken is going to go back and tell them we are interested in them if we can wait until just before our HamFest.

Giveaways:

Billy Geer KA5OZC Baofeng Radio

Roger Bacak N5VUJ HRO Gift Certificate

Motion to Adjourn: Billy Geer KA5OZC @ 2100

Second: Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Unanimous

Submitted by IARC Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP.

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