

IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.720 - PL 110.9 TSQ 110.9

224.400 - PL 110.9

442.675 + PL 110.9

442.375 + PL 110.9

December 2023



January Meeting Information

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 25 January 2024, at 7:00 PM, Senter Park East, 1100 Senter Rd, Irving, TX 75060. We will start the business meeting at 7:00 pm, and club meeting at 7:30 pm. Everyone is invited to all parts.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Well, it's end of another year, and things are looking great for our club - here's what's going on:



The Holiday Party was a great success - we had a good turnout, everyone seemed to be having a good time, and of course, we had a great selection of door prizes. I'd like to thank the other officers and directors for their help in selecting the door prizes.

As mentioned at the Holiday Party, we hope to have the club's IC-7300 HF/6 meter radio available for Remote Operation in the coming weeks - John Cheyney and I have been testing it, and while not great, it's serviceable and is something that new members, or existing members with HF privileges might find useful. Once configured, we'll have a presentation at a club meeting on it's use.

Also mentioned was the planned Satellite Station - as envisioned by me, it would comprise an IC-9700 VHF/UHF radio, a Yaesu G5500 Az/El rotor mounted on a non-penetrating mount on the bingo hall roof supporting an M2 LEO-Pack with hardline for connecting the radio to the antennas, and an S.A.T. (Self-contained Antenna Tracker) that would control both the radio and the antenna rotor to allow the operator to simply "dial up" a satellite and operate! Of course, there would be some other minor items to procure, but that largely describes the station. We will discuss this in an upcoming meeting, but the estimated cost should be around \$4,000 plus the cost of hardline, duplexers, etc., so around \$4,500 all-in.

Speaking of the Club Station Manager John Cheyney, we had an Open House this past weekend, and I understand there was a pretty good turnout with several people getting on the air, and one of our newest members, Marco, was able to get his new Handie Talkie programmed for at least the club repeater - we all look forward to talking to Marco (and everyone else) on the club repeater.

The club officers met via text and decided to take advantage of a limited-time offer from HRO and Icom, that had Icom's new, 3rd Generation D-Star repeaters on deep-discount (\$400 vs \$1,800). The Officers decided to purchase a UHF D-Star Repeater, which I have since taken delivery of and hope to put it on the air on our 442.375/447.375 pair, initially in FM mode, and eventually in D-Star mode soon. Like our current Yaesu DR-2X repeaters, this unit has a built-in mini controller, allowing it to be used as-is, or attached to the internet via a gateway computer to allow linking with other D-Star repeaters and reflectors around the world. Once the repeater is in D-Star mode, expect a presentation at an upcoming meeting to help you get started with D-Star.

President

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John Cheyney KF5FPF

Directors

Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Ron Ford KF5OMH

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5FPF

General/Business Meeting:

25 January 2024 @ 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

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Irving, Texas 75015-3333

Facebook:

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



The 2024 Hamfest preparations are moving along nicely - Ron Ford & I have picked and purchased the major door prizes for the upcoming Hamfest - the major door prize is a Yaesu FT-710AESS HF/6M radio, with a Yaesu FTM-500 as another prize, along with two Yaesu FT-2980 2m mobiles, two Icom IC-V3500 2m mobiles, and two Icom IC-T10 dual-band FM HTs rounding out the prize pool. The event has been registered with the ARRL, and while I reached out to CQ Magazine, I fear they are out of business (again).

In closing, I'd like to encourage everyone to try and get more "Radio Active" by getting on the club repeaters more often - it's not enough to simply leave your radio on scanning the local repeater waiting for someone else to get on the air, you need to reach out and let others know you are there. If you can't get on the air, there's always the club Discord server - it's a bulletin board-type of social media service, sort of like an on-going group chat via text messages, where you can not only post questions or make suggestions & get new ideas, but you can also search the history of the "conversations" to find something someone shared previously. Information for signing-up for the club discord server is on the club website - if you've never used a service like this before, we will try and have a presentation on this tool at an upcoming meeting.

Also, along the lines of getting more "Radio Active", consider participating in the IARC Portable Operating Group. The group holds it's own meetings independent of the traditional club meetings, and occasionally organizes portable operating events using club equipment to play radio. If you want to start operating portably (?) but lack the equipment or experience to go it alone, you could always reach out to find someone to help you by either getting on the club repeaters and putting a call out for help, or jump on the club Discord server - I'm sure if you reach out, someone will answer.

Next month (next year!) we have Winter Field Day, which will have us setting up at Heritage Park in Irving. RF-wise, the location is not ideal, but facility-wise it is a nice, comfortable facility which works well because honestly the event is as much a social event as it is a radio operations event. In preparation for this operating event, the club may need to purchase some new coax cable - the club has an inventory of older coax which is quite bulky and stiff (RG-8), and we might be better-served with some new LMR-400 UltraFlex coax to allow us more-easily store/deploy the coax. The current coax needs to be put out in the sun for a while to "warm it up" so that we can easily uncoil it, and it is getting a bit long in the tooth.

One last thing - the 2024 Irving Micro-Grant Program has had a few applications for funding. Bill Byrom has been heading up that effort, and should soon be organizing a review session for the committee members to consider the submitted applications and decide which, if any warrant funding. If you'd like to participate in the evaluation process, reach out to Bill Byrom.

Oh, I almost forgot to mention - the 2023 Irving Holiday Parade went well, we had a great turnout in support of this community event, and despite the mayhem caused by what appeared to be the world's longest "gaps" in the parade, it went well. I worked on four holiday events this season - Turkey Roll (a bike event), Turkey Trot (an 8K run in downtown Dallas), the Richardson Holiday Parade, and the Irving Holiday Parade. I always have a good time at these events, and I'd encourage you to consider pitching-in when you hear of such an event. Don't feel you can't participate in events outside Dallas because you aren't a member of the organizing club - most clubs actively welcome outsiders to join them (they could use the help!) and it's a great way to learn about other clubs, what they do, and bringing those ideas back to our club right here in Irving.

Any way, that's it from here - I'll be out of town starting Christmas Day (this will be my first time back on a plane since before COVID-19, wish me luck!), but I hope to get the new Icom repeater on the air and stable before I head out of town. I don't think I'll be packing much in the way of radio equipment, maybe a digital HT and a hotspot, but I do hope/plan to operate my remote HF station while on vacation. If anyone is interested, I'd be happy to demonstrate my setup/operation at an upcoming meeting. (I just realized, I think I've promised/proposed several meeting topics for the new year!

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Ron Ford KF50MH

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP



Going forward we need to start having more and better meeting presentations, if there's something you'd like to see us cover/discuss/present, please don't hesitate to mention it to me or any of the other Club Officers - I promise our first response won't be "Great, when can you give that presentation!" I can't promise we won't ask you to give the presentation, but I can promise it will be OK for you to decline the request...)

Happy Holidays, and Happy New Year - I look forward to seeing everyone again next year!

Holiday Party Spreads Good Cheer And Good Amateur Radio Gifts

John Moss KI5WRQ

The IARC held its annual Holiday Party on Tuesday evening, December 12 at Spring Creek Barbecue in Irving. A good time was had by all of the approximately 30 attendees - including club members, spouses, friends and family members.

After we all ordered excellent Spring Creek BBQ and sat down to eat and visit with our friends, Club President Ken Hansen N2VIP and Club Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP took care of some club business items. One of the business highlights of the evening was officially voting in our two newest club members - Marco Bulgarelli KG5GDH and William Turk N5TLH. After the business items were completed, we went to the most exciting part of the evening - the gifts! This year club leadership decided to provide two types of gifts - "non radio" and "radio". The four "non radio" winners received gift certificates to local restaurants and boxes full of chocolates. The "radio" winners received dipole antennas, mobile antennas, instruction books, CW practice keys, logging software and a \$75 HRO gift certificate. Winners names are shown below. (John - please add).

Many thanks to our IARC club leadership for organizing another fun Holiday Party, with lots of excellent prizes. It was a great night of eating, visiting, laughing, and - for some lucky attendees - winning.

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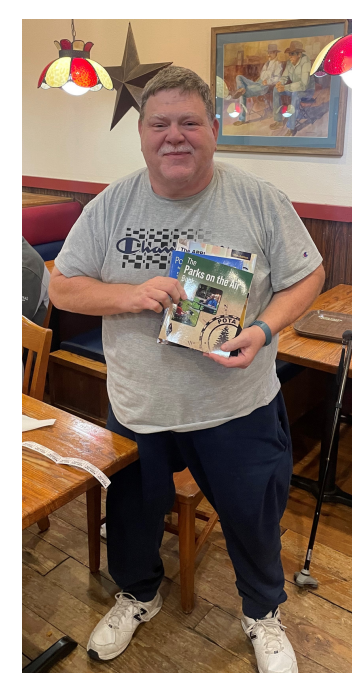
Ron Ford KF5OMH

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POTA Activation At Cleburne State Park

John Moss KI5WRQ

On November 28 Shane Outlaw (KI5GBU) and I (KI5WRQ) traveled about an hour southwest of Irving to attempt a Parks On The Air (POTA) Activation at Cleburne State Park - POTA Park K-2998.

We arrived at the park around 11:00 am and set up our gear at a big picnic table under a grove of trees just inside the park. It was a beautiful clear day, with temperatures reaching around 60 degrees. The park has a fishing lake with a fishing pier, several parking areas with picnic tables, five hiking trails, a central lodge area, cabins, a baseball field and approximately 50 camp sites for overnight stays. Cleburne State Park is full of oak trees and is a very nice place to spend a day or a weekend.

We used Shane's Yaesu FT-891 and End Fed Half Wave antenna - and my Yaesu FT-991A and RadioWavz 20 meter dipole for our Park Activation. We used Shane's battery pack and my Bioenno 12 Ah battery to power our rigs. We got all set up, spotted ourselves on the POTA website and began calling "CQ POTA" around 11:30 am. Both the 20 meter and 10 meter bands were in good shape that day, and we made contacts for the next 90 minutes. When we stopped around 1 pm to eat a sandwich and tear down our gear, we had made around 50 contacts from all over the United States - plus one Canadian QSO (see the 20 meter and 10 meter QSO maps). We worked as "Two Operators" that day, so all of the POTA Hunters who responded to our "CQ POTA" calls got to work and log both of us.

Shane is an experienced POTA Park Activator, with 35 Activations under his belt so far. This Cleburne State Park Activation was my 5th Activation. In the few months that I have participated in Parks On The Air as a Hunter and an Activator, I have found out how much fun it is to get outside in a State Park or National Park, set up your radio, antenna, battery, and other gear - and just get on the air. At Cleburne State Park, we had almost the entire park to ourselves. Both Shane and I had a great time getting away from civilization for a few hours, getting on the air, and seeing who was out there and available for a POTA contact. We both uploaded our QSO Activator Logs to the POTA website that evening, and Cleburne State Park was successfully activated!

A few others in our Club have also made Parks On The Air Activations in the past few months. If you haven't become active in POTA yet, you might consider getting involved. I promise that you will really enjoy it. If you want to get started in POTA, ask Shane, Roger, Lyle, Ken, John Cheyney, me - or others - what you need to do to get set up with a POTA Account, and what you need to do to become a new Hunter or Activator. It's very easy - and a lot of fun - to get started in Parks On The Air.



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December Open Shack Day

John Cheyney KF5PFP

We had our first Open Shack Day on 16 December 2023, to show off all the hard work the club has been doing to get it back into shape. New member Marco Bulgarelli KJ5DGH got his QRZ-1 HT programmed for the IARC 2 M repeater. Ron Ford KF50MH took some traffic to pass on. Tom Schuessler N5HYP, Shane Outlaw KI5GBU, and Barry Mac Gregor N5SMW all made some HF contacts.

We will be doing these once a month, so look forward to 20 January 2024 for the next event.



Help Wanted

Repeater Committee:

Looking for a club member to assist in overseeing the IARC Repeater infrastructure, both the repeaters on “the hospital” and at “the EOC site”.

The ideal candidate would have an interest in managing the repeaters the club relies on to provide coverage across the area. Responsibilities will include investigating and resolving issues with any of the club repeaters (employing outside resources to resolve outstanding issues beyond their abilities), implementing technology and procedures to remotely manage club repeaters, and evaluate, design and implement new technologies in the repeater infrastructure. Potential projects include AllStar, Broadcastify streaming, Digital Modulation (C4FM/Fusion, etc.), and other enhancements as the club membership may desire.

The candidate selected for this position will be required to obtain required City of Irving and Baylor Scott & White Hospital Identification credentials to ensure access to either repeater sites

Hamfest Committee:

Looking for a club member to assist in overseeing the 2024 IARC Hamfest this coming March. The ideal candidate will have an interest in planning, coordinating, and overseeing the Hamfest, and possibly taking a more significant role in future Hamfests. The work is not hard, it will not occupy more than a few hours of your time per month. Responsibilities will include alerting Ham Publications and websites of the planned event, determining door prizes, printing the admission and door prize tickets, overseeing ticket and table sales, Bingo Hall set up and take down, as well as oversight during the event and reporting to the club the results of the Hamfest (attendees, ticket/table sales, revenue generated, and so on)..

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Irving RACES/ARES Report November 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 (18.5 hrs)
--1 Irving Training (8 hrs)
Monthly Warning Siren Check (1 hrs)
Person hours: 27.5
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: 27.5

December Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

**IARC December 2023 Meeting
Spring Creek Barbeque, Irving
12 December 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

Call to Order 19:00 pm by Ken Hansen N2VIP
There were 20 members and 5 guest

Introductions of club members and guests.

Business Meeting:

New members voted in:
Marco Bulgarelli KJ5GDGH
William N5TLH

Hamfest prized have been bought and are in the vault at the shack. Hamfest is registered with the ARRL. Ron Ford KF5OMH working on an ad for local ham club newsletters. People who only buy one ticket online will have a \$1 PayPal charge added.

Reminded everyone Officer elections will be coming up after the first of the year.

Open Shack Day scheduled for 16 December 2023
Winter Field Day 27 January 2024

John Cheyney KF5PFP asked for people with ideas and willing to help with the Portable Operating Group to contact him.



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Bill Byrom N5BB gave an update on the Microgrant Project. As of the closing date, five entries for a total of \$5229 have been received.

Billy Geer KA5OZC reminded everyone that he will be retiring as RACES/ARES Radio Officer at the end of the first quarter of 2024. Ken Hansen N2VIP asked for people interested in the position to contact him.

The meeting was then adjourned. Door prizes were drawn for and awarded. Winners as follow.

- 2M/70CM Portable Antenna: John Cheyney KF5PFP
- 2M/70CM Portable J-Pole Antenna: Barry Mac Gregor N5SNW
- MFJ Code Practice Oscillator: Kevin Grantham N5KRG
- Powerpole Crimpers and Connectors: Bill Byrom N5BB
- Portable Operating Book Bundle: William Turk N5TLH
- N3FJP Full License Set: Ron Tabb KC5HPO
- 20M Dipole and Paracord: Lyle Baker AI5NO
- \$15 HRO Gift Card: Kevin Grantham: N5KRG
- \$50 Texas Roadhouse Gift Card Kim Walter: KI5ZOT
- \$50 Olive Garden Gift Card: Joyce Tabb
- \$50 Chili's Gift Card: Renee Shugart
- 1lb See's Milk Chocolates: Joyce Tabb
- 1lb See's Soft Center Chocolates: Holly Schuessler KC5QLN



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