

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



January 2024

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. The program will be a demo of the RemoteHams setup for the shack IC-7300.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Welcome to not only a new month, but a new year! There's a lot going on, so let's get to it!



Hamfest Planning & Volunteers

As you should be aware of by now, the 2024 Irving Hamfest is nearly upon us – in the first week of the new year, we were able to get the Hamfest webpage up and running.

We've sold a handful of tables & advance admission tickets, before we've even sent out reminders to previous year's attendees. Ron Ford and Randy Paterson have agreed to work with me on this year's event, and we will need a lot of help the day of the event! For those not familiar, we'll need volunteers to set the room for the event at 12:00 AM, to assign vendors to tables, sell tickets at the door starting at 7:00 AM, security starting at 7:00 AM, staff for the club (selling) table (which should be set up starting at 7:00 AM), an assistant for the emcee, then we need volunteers to reset the room for bingo by 4:00 PM. It sounds like a lot of work (and overall it IS!), but we break the jobs down so that each assignment is no more than a few hours long. I will have more information on volunteering at this Thursday's meeting (we will also be soliciting volunteers from the Dallas Amateur Radio Club, they always come thru with needed staff for the event, and we really appreciate it!). The Hamfest is on March 2nd, setup starts at midnight, vendors can start setting up at 2:00 AM, and the doors open at 8:00 AM. The event runs through to 1:00 PM, when we'll have our drawing for the Grand Prize.

Winter Field Day

This Saturday is Winter Field Day, and we will be meeting at Heritage Park in downtown Irving. The plan is to set up 3 stations – one will be Bill Byrom's CW station, another will be Tom Schuessler's 10 Meter station, and the third will be an SSB station for members to operate. Both Bill and Tom have indicated they are happy to share their stations to interested members, but their plan is to keep their stations active during our event. Setup will start at 10:00 AM in Heritage Park, when we'll be setting up our antennas. Winter Field Day operation starts at 1:00 PM local time, and even though the event runs overnight into Sunday afternoon, we plan on breaking down our operation before sundown. Unlike ARRL Field Day, we can not operate FT8 (Voice, CW and "select legacy digital" modes only), and we can not aggregate scores from members operating from other locations – all stations must be located within an area no greater than 300 meters in diameter. We will be discussing Winter Field Day at our upcoming meeting, but for more information take a look at this website: <https://winterfieldday.org/>

President

Ken Hansen N2VIP

Vice-President

Bill Byrom N5BB

Treasurer

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Secretary

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Directors

Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Ron Ford KF50MH

Billy Geer KA5OZC

Andrew Harmon KD5RKO

Newsletter Editor

John Cheyney KF5PFP

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

P.O. Box 153333

Irving, Texas 75015-3333

Facebook:

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

Club Elections

Elections are coming up again (Didn't we just do this? LOL) Two Directorships are due to be filled, and two officer positions (Treasurer and Secretary). IF you'd like to help shape the future of the, or give back to the the club, serving as a Director or Officer is a great way to accomplish that. From memory, the process is we form a nominating committee in January which works to get nominees for each vacancy for the February meeting. At the February meeting we solicit nominations from the floor and run the election between the February and March meetings (on-line, via HamClubOnline, as in previous years), and announce the winners at the March meeting, and the new officers and directors assume their positions at the April Meeting. Please consider stepping forward and help manage the club.

ARES/RACES

As I look at the Calendar I'm reminded that we are in need of someone to step in and take over for Billy Geer's role as ARES & RACES head in the city of Irving. Billy has thus far been unable to find someone willing to take over inside his organization, so we're looking outside those organizations and hoping someone will be inspired to step forward and help lead these organizations into the future. Please feel free to contact Billy Geer directly for more information.

Cowtown Hamfest



I attended the Cowtown Hamfest, and it was much more successful than last year's event (if you remember, last year they had about half the attendance of previous years, and that really cut into the club's resources I'm sure) and everyone seemed to be having a good time. I went on Friday and picked up a few odds and ends, including an unbelievable 3 more radios (2x new in box Icom V-80 Sport 2m HTS, one used TYT MD-380 UHF DMR HT), but each was \$20 or less. In addition I picked up some rack hardware for either myself or the club, and some USB charging cables, power box accessories, and the like. There were sellers from California and Idaho, and they seemed pleased with the activity and sales they made at the event. The tables were full of lots and lots of older equipment, much of it looked like it had been in a flood. I saw a fair amount of stuff changing hands, and overall it was a nice event. If you haven't been to Cowtown before, I'd encourage you to attend. In March you'll attend the Irving Hamfest (Right?), then in April we have Belton. Belton is a brutal 2 hour drive, but there is usually a fairly brisk outdoor tailgate section as well as a huge number of indoor sales tables. Its well worth the trip, I try to go every year to both (April and October), though I question my sanity as I get in my car just before 6:00 AM...



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Remote Operation

John Cheyney has got the club IC-7300 set up for remote operation. There are limits on when and which bands you can transmit, but listening is unrestricted. Every club member should have access to the radio, if you want to access it reach out to John Cheyney directly and he'll help you get started. NOTE: You must have General Privileges to get transmit authorization, since the radio is HF-only. Technically Technicians can operate on certain band segments with certain restrictions, if you have a Technician class license and would like to operate the remote station reach out to John and something can probably be worked-out. To operate the radio you will need a Windows PC to run the required RemoteHams software. For more information on the software, see: <https://www.remotehams.com/>

Open Shack Hours

John Cheyney has been trying to open the Bingo Hall shack on a regular basis on certain Saturday mornings (the Bingo hall is empty, and there's no concern about the RF interfering with the bingo hall PA systems). If you'd like to come by and see the shack and maybe operate the radios, reach out to John for more information.

As I wind this up, I'm reminded that January is also the month we typically vote to make significant donations to various organizations in the community - expect that to be discussed in our meeting this Thursday. The Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc. is a major donor to the organizations we choose to support, they have come to count on our support, and while they continue to do good work in the community, we hope to keep helping them. Also, the Microgrant program has collected a few donation requests, but I don't expect the committee to bring their recommendations to the club this month.

Our upcoming meeting will be full of things to discuss, I hope you'll be able to join us as we prepare for Winter Field Day and get started on a new year...
Hope to hear you on the airwaves!

Remote Operation of the Club Shack IC-7300

John Cheyney KF5PFP

The remote set-up for the IC-7300 at the club shack is up and running. All current IARC members have receive-only access. General and Extra class members can get transmit access by request.

The radio uses the RemoteHams.com client. If you don't already have a RemoteHams.com account you will need to create one. **Make sure the username is your call sign.** Download and install the most recent RCForbClientSetup from the 'Downloads' page. The client is only available for PC's running Windows 10 or later. Launch the client and search for 'WA5CKF'.

If you are a General or Extra you can click on the 'Tune' button. There will be a popup message asking you if you want to request transmit privileges. Answer yes, which will put you on the list for us to approve. After that you are good to go.

We currently have the 20M band blocked for transmit because it interferes with the PA System in the Bingo Hall. The antenna switch is pointed to one of the fan dipoles. You can transmit on the 80/40/15/10 meter bands.

I have been able to make SSB, FT8, and WSPR contacts. I still haven't gotten Winlink to work using VARA. Note that digital modes will require you to install extra software.

If you have questions please let me know. I will be doing a demo at the club meeting this Thursday. Special thanks to the testing team: Ken Hansen N2VIP, Ron Ford KF5OMH, Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT, and Tom Schuessler N5HYP.

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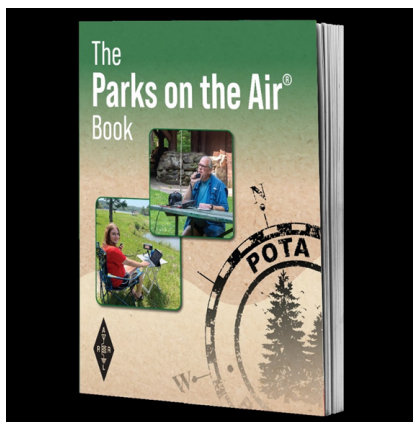
John Cheyney KF5PFP

ARRL Parks On The Air Book Review

Ken Hansen N2VIP

I recently picked up the new ARRL book on Parks on the Air (POTA), and I wanted to share my thoughts on it with the club members.

I found the book a nice read – it reviews what POTA is, and it contains numbers first-person accounts of several POTA activators who discuss their experiences, equipment choices, and suggestions for successful activations (and hunting). The book is comprised, as best as I can tell, with 100% original content, none of the chapters are repurposed articles from QST magazine – YAY!



In my opinion, the best way to learn about POTA operations is to sit with someone while they are either “activating” a park or “hunting” for activators. Absent an in-person elmer, this book is the next best thing. The authors are honest about the challenges they faced, and more than willing to share their advice to help you avoid the mistakes they made.

I originally bought the book as part of a “prize package” for the Club Holiday Party, and as I was checking out at HRO, I flipped through the book and bought a copy for myself – I highly recommend this book to anyone curious about POTA.

Once read, I find the book really has little “reference” value, so I propose the Irving club consider buying a copy and putting it in our Club Library so members can come to the shack at the bingo hall and take the book home and read it.

Link to ARRL Book Listing: <https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/2013464221>

Open Shack Day January 2024

John Cheyney KF5PFP

We held the January Open Shack Day yesterday, 20 January 2024. We spent the time planning for Winter Field Day. Thanks to everyone who was there.

If you haven’t seen the shack since we cleaned it up, it’s really looking good. All the radio positions are operational as are both computers. There is now space to move around the area. The next step is to get new chairs to replace the ones that we have.

I am trying to keep Open Shack Day on the third Saturday of the month. The February 17th event will involve going through the vault and determining what we want to offer up at the Hamfest. In March or April, depending on the weather, we plan on going up on the roof of the Bingo Hall, putting up our Cobweb antenna, and making sure all the current antennas are in good shape.

Please plan on joining us.



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December Club Meeting Minutes

John Cheyney KF5PFP, Club Secretary

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

NOTE: These minutes were also published in the December Newsletter. I have corrected some typographical errors that I noted.

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 guests

Introductions of club members and guests.

Business Meeting:

New members voted in:
Marco Bulgarelli KJ5GDGH
William Turk N5TLH

Hamfest prizes 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.

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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