

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 2024



April Meeting Information

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 25 April 2024, 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 of the meeting.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

President, Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Spring is in the air, this is the time of year when a young man's fancy turns to Antennas? Yes!

This is one of the few windows here in North Texas when the weather is neither too hot nor too cold, it's just right to go out and tackle those long-planned antenna fixes and upgrades. I encourage everyone to know their limits, and be certain to work within them – if you need someone to help you climb a tower, bring down a push-up pole, or whatever, don't be afraid to reach-out and ask for help. Before you know it the temperature will start getting too hot to do any serious work outside. My personal rule on antenna work is to ALWAYS have someone with me if my feet are going to leave the ground – if there's even the slightest risk of falling, make sure you have someone with you just in case!

Another ritual in spring is outdoor operation – as I write this (Thursday, April 18th) I'm looking forward to joining the IARC Portable Operation group (weather permitting) on Sunday the 21st. If you can't (didn't?) get a chance to join us Sunday, think about taking some radio equipment outside and operating. Don't have an HF radio, an Antenna or Battery? The club has them to lend-out to club members. If you have questions, reach out – there are many club members eager to help you get on the air. We also have some 2m/70cm equipment we can loan out to club members if you want to join the fun on local repeaters. The club is here to help, don't be bashful!

One of my favorite Spring activities is attending Hamfests. My second favorite (after our own Irving Hamfest!) is the semi-annual Belton Hamfest in Temple, TX. I've gotten some great deals at Belton, and this year was no exception. On the one hand, there are sellers like Tower Electronics, that stock all those connectors, adapters, and other bits that we're always out on the look-out for. I got a pretty good deal on a few odds and ends, including an off-brand brand-new two meter 5/8 wave mobile antenna for \$15, and a mirror mount with a 3/8th x 24 mount on one side and an SO-239 on the other for \$10 (Folks in the Richardson Wireless Klub take these mounts, ad a 17' telescoping whip and a couple counterpoise wires and having a lot of fun on 20 – 6 meters). But my best deal was an older Icom IC-2100H 2 meter radio I picked-up for \$30. The issues that made this radio such a deal were that it didn't have a manual or power cord and it has a "crunchy" volume knob (when you turn the knob it makes noise, but left alone it has no issue). This radio model has a special place in my heart because it was the first radio model I bought after getting my license (and I still have it!), and at \$30 it was too good a deal to ignore. I didn't take my new purchase to the "Radio Test Table" Belton has (I just didn't think of it), but when I got it home I put the radio in VFO mode and tried a few local repeaters, getting good, solid reports on each. Of course, I had to buy a Power Cord (\$15 at Tower Electronics), but aside from that, I couldn't be happier with my deal.

President

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Vice-President

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Treasurer

Kim Bacak N5KCB

Secretary

John Cheyney KF5PFP

Directors

Venzula Mathews KF5PJH

Ron Ford KF5OMH

Barry MacGregor N5SMW

Shane Outlaw KI5GBU

Newsletter Editor

Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

General/Business Meeting:
25 April 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

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Irving, Texas 75015-3333

Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/irvingarc.org>

President's Corner Cont'd

The Club Shack is coming along nicely, it very clean and welcoming, and we need to start using it more – it's a shame it sits idle so much of each month. I'm curious about anyone's use of the remote station – John & I have to go back up on the Bingo Hall and tune the cobweb antenna, but the big folded dipole (B&W, I think) works great and it's the antenna that's connected to the shack IC-7300. If you haven't set yourself up for remote access, just ask John Cheyney to get you set up...

The upcoming DFW Ham Expo in Lewisville looks to be a much bigger event for it's third year – the organizers are planning on securing a much bigger venue (a vacant department store, I understand), and it should be quite an event. I was thinking about this Hamfest recently, and I think we, IARC, should consider renting a table at the event (or secure a space in the tailgate area, or maybe even both!) to both promote our club AND help us get rid of some of our "stuff" that is surplus to our needs and simultaneously "Too valuable to trash, too rough to be worth cash." (We failed/forgot to put out at our Hamfest - lots of stuff in the club shack that we identified as surplus to our needs.)

At our upcoming meeting we'll be installing a few new officers and directors, I'd like to thank everyone that stepped up to fill the vacancies, and I hope the rest of the club will join me in working with everyone to help make this the best radio club in the area! I hope you can join us at our April Meeting, I know I'm looking forward to it!

Buy/ Sell/ Trade

Note: Please contact sellers for information concerning their items.

For Sale by John-KF5PFP
Radioddity GS-5B HT with charging base
Also charges via USB
Signal Stuff Signal Stick antenna included
Dual Band (2M/440cm)
1 watt low/5 watts high power
Flashlight/strobe light on the bottom
Can be programmed from a phone via Bluetooth or using a cable
Uses standard Kenwood connectors
Price: \$35.00

For Sale by Jerry- KB3RWT
A Yaesu FC-30 Antenna tuner, Good but used.
It can be used with the Yaesu FT- 857D, FT-897D, FT-450D.
It comes with all the cables.
I do not have the box.
Price: \$150.00



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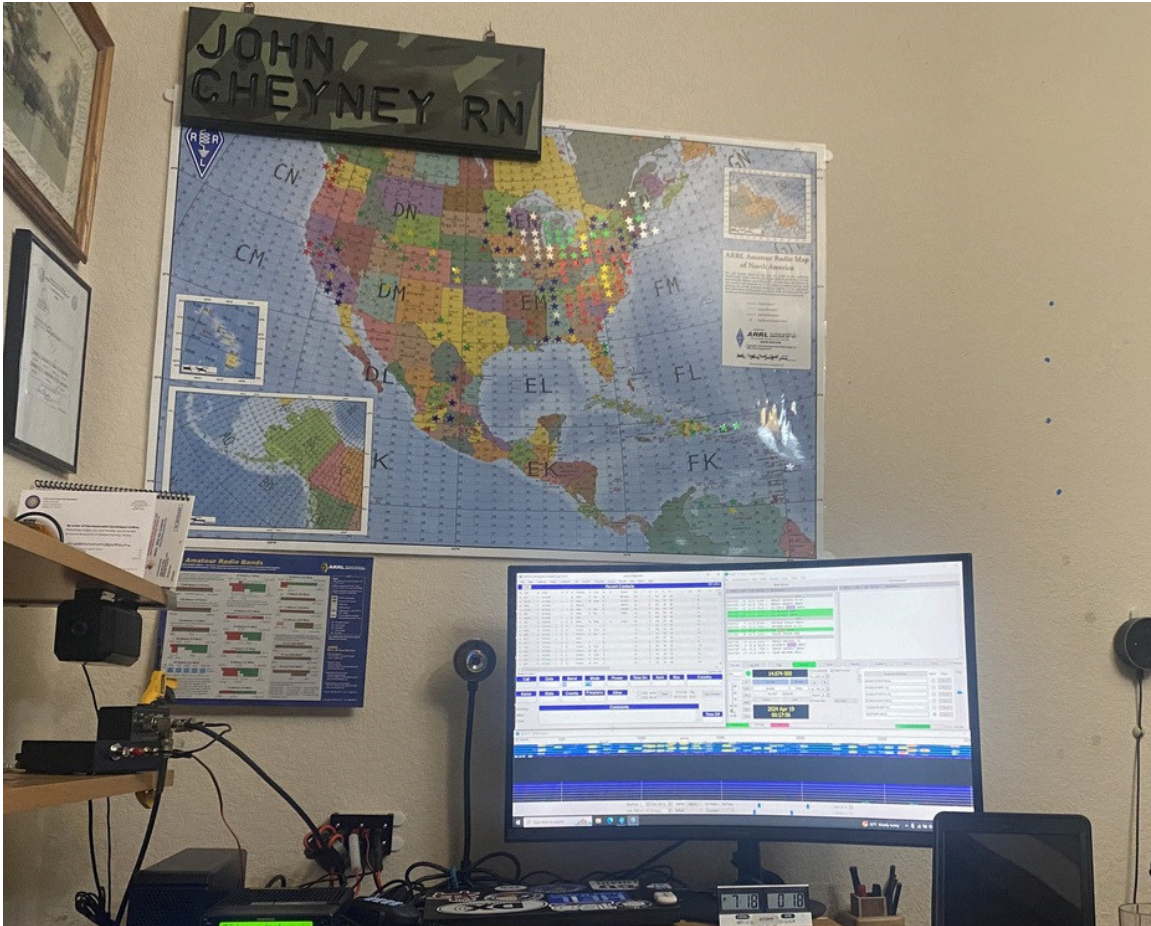
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Show Your Shack- ! Boast Off !

Today We have the opportunity of seeing the shack of John Cheyney- KF5PFP



John writes”

Here is my shack. Like every shack it's never complete, but for me it works very well.

Samlex SEC-1235 Power Supply through a SOTABEAMS distribution box.

- Kenwood TM-V71 for UHF/VHF connected to a Comet dual bander hidden from the HOA in a Live Oak in front of the house.

Brand new Yaesu FT-710 AESS for HF connected to a 9:1 Palomar UnUn on a 53 foot wire.

The Yaesu tunes all the bands from 40m-10m.

SDRPlay RSPdx SDR. I have an MFJ switch so it's on the same antenna as the Yaesu.

- Outside the window I have a box with two Alpha-Delta lightning arrestors. Everything is grounded together but I still need to bond it to the house ground.

- I have dedicated my Icom IC-7100/LDG AT-200PROII to purely portable work with either the Buddistick Pro or a homebrew 9:1 on a 3D printed holder I designed. I made multiple contacts to Europe on SSB with this combo.

I have started taking CW lessons with the Long Island CW Club, so I have a Bendix straight key and CWMorse paddles.

The laptop is a refurb Lenovo. Same laptop I use for everything.

A glass of Zinfandel. Because Amateur Radio and good wine are made for each other.

The map on the wall has a star in every grid I have made at least one contact in.

I work remotely so to the right of this picture is my work laptop/monitors.

Editor's note: I like your shack John, it looks very simple.

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March Meeting Minutes

IARC March 2024 Meeting
Senter Park East, Irving
28 March 2024

Officers Present:

Vice President: Bil Byrom N5BB
Secretary: John Cheyney KF5PFP
Treasurer: Ron Tabb KC5HPO
Director: Billy Geer KA5OZC
Director: Andrew Harmon KD5RKO
Director: Ron Ford KF5OMH

Call to Order @ 1904 by Bill Byrom N5BB
There were 15 members and 1 guest present.

Concerns

Bill Byrom N5BB's brother is out of the ICU but still hospitalized.

Pledge of Allegiance: Bill Byrom N5BB

Prayer: John Moss KI5WRQ

Minutes from the previous meeting were posted in the newsletter.

Motion to accept without changes: John Moss KI5WRQ

Second: Will Turk N5TLH

Unanimous

Treasurer report from Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Will be published and emailed to members via HamClubOnline..

Old Business

Microgrant Update:

Checks for this round of recipients were handed out at Hamfest.

Repeater Update:

No issues reported.

Scholarship:

The recipient for the scholarship is from MacArthur High School. 1 May 2024 is the Breakfast with the Stars award program



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March Meeting Minutes Cont'd



Hamfest:

Donations to the Main Place and Irving Cares. Ron Tabb KC5HPO to make sure the Irving Cares check was given to them. 14 people tested with the VE session, 11 passed. The full report was published in the March newsletter

Club Shack Update:

1. A team went up on the roof on Saturday 23 March 2024. They pulled down both of the fan dipoles and replaced them with a single folded dipole tied to the Antenna 1 slot on the switch. The cobweb was also installed, including the remote tuner, and connected to Antenna 2 slot. That antenna still needs to be tuned properly to use.
2. The new printer is at the shack and needs to be set up.
3. Cleanup has gone well. Several spare items (folding table and chairs, push cart, vacuum) were donated to The Main Place. John Cheyney KF5PFP was given a tour of the facility by Site Director Joe Longoria.
4. Next step is to put together a list of items to be given away/sold to club members.
5. Please do not drop anything at the shack without letting Shack Manager John Cheyney KF5PFP know. Anything just left there will be at risk of being disposed of.

Portable Group Update/Upcoming Events

1. The shack will be open on 8 April 2024 for the Solar Eclipse QSO Party.
2. World Amateur Radio Day is 18 April 2024.
3. The April Open Shack day will be changed to Radio in the Park on Sunday 20 April 2024. John Cheyney KF5PFP will coordinate.
4. John Cheyney KF5PFP reported all three City of Irving buildings are booked for Field Day. Bill Byrom N5BB appointed the following to plan for IARC Field Day events:
 - a. John Cheyney KF5PFP - Chair
 - b. Tom Schuessler N5HYP
 - c. John Moss KI5WRQ
 - d. Shane Outlaw KI5GBU

Election Results:

Ron Ford KF50MH, Chair of the Nominating Committee, announced 54% of membership voted. The following members were elected to office for the 2024-2026 period:

1. Kim Bacak N5VUJ - Treasurer
2. John Cheyney KF5PFP - Secretary
3. Barry MacGregor N5SMW - Director
4. Shane Outlaw KI5GBU - Director

Outgoing Directors Billy Geer KA5OZC and Andrew Harmon KD5RKO were thanked for their service.

There were no new member applications.

New Business:

Billy Geer KA5OZC presented a motion to amend the By-Laws around how officer elections occur. The motion was seconded by Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT. Billy read the note that was printed in the March newsletter. His motion was to change the current method of election so that if there was only one person for each office nominated at the February meeting, all persons nominated would be placed in office by acclamation, to take office in March. If any of the offices had more than one nominee, all offices would go for a vote. After discussion by the members present, Bill Byrom N5BB called the question of whether the members present wanted a group appointed to put together an amendment to the by-laws for this. The motion was rejected, three votes to accept Billy's motion and six to reject

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March Meeting Minutes Cont'd

The ARRL has a library pack of books for \$250. Discussion was held about purchasing this for the club to lend to members. Tom Schuessler N5HYP made a motion to purchase them seconded by John Moss KI5WRQ. After the discussion, the motion was accepted. Barry MacGregor N5SMW made a motion to hold the purchase until after June when the new Extra Class pool takes effect. After discussion that motion was rejected and the decision was to order the books now, six votes for and five votes against.
-End-

April Open Shack Day



Two club members using the shack during the April open Shack day

Our Club is fortunate to have a fully operational Shack, with excellent radios in the building and a variety of antennas on the roof of the building. The Shack looks and feels much different than it did 6 months ago, due to the hard work of several Club officers and Club members who cleaned up, spruced up, threw away lots of stuff, re-organized and re-wired. It is now a place where IARC Club members can go to get on the air, talk about radio topics and relax with other members. On Sunday afternoon, April 21, our Club held another "Open Shack Day". Eight of our current and future members met that day to fire up the ICOM 7300, work some QSOs and talk to each other about technical topics. It was a fun afternoon. Please be sure to attend one of the Open Shack Days in the near future - you will enjoy the facilities, the radios, the antennas and the fellowship. Our IARC Shack is now in top shape, and everything works. Let's take full advantage of it!



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RACES/ ARES Corner

Races/ARES Monthly Report

Month: March Year: 2024

**Amateur Radio Emergency Service
District 5
Irving**

Total number of ARES members: 12

Change since last month: (-) _ ____ or (+) ____ or same: __X__

Local Net Name: **Irving RACES/ARES**

Total sessions: 5

NTS liaison is maintained with the: DFW Traffic Net

Number of ARES drills, tests and training sessions this month: 5

2 Dallas Training 16.3 hrs

1 Irving Training 6.0 hrs

Yearly Face to Face meeting 34.0 hrs

Monthly Outdoor Warning System Check 2.5 hrs

Admin work (travel time, reports, documenting) 5.0 hrs

Person hours:> 63.8

Number of ARES public service events this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Number of ARES emergency operations this month: 0

Person hours: 0

Total number of ARES operations/activations this month: 5

Total Person hours: 63.8

Comments: This report was submitted by Billy Geer KA5OZC on the behalf of Carrye Johnstone (KD5RFB) Radio Officer for the city of Irving RACES and Emergency Coordinator for the city of Irving ARES .

-End-

RACES/ARES notices

For those of you who are not aware, Billy-KA5OZC retired as the RACES Radio Officer and ARES Emergency Coordinator within the city of Irving, TX. Billy served with distinction in those positions for the past 36yrs, from sometime in 1988 to March 31st 2024. We want to thank him for his service to our great city. Billy seem to like serving his people, because he is also a veteran who has served our great country as part of the US Air force. Once again thanks to Billy and may God bless and keep him in his future endeavors



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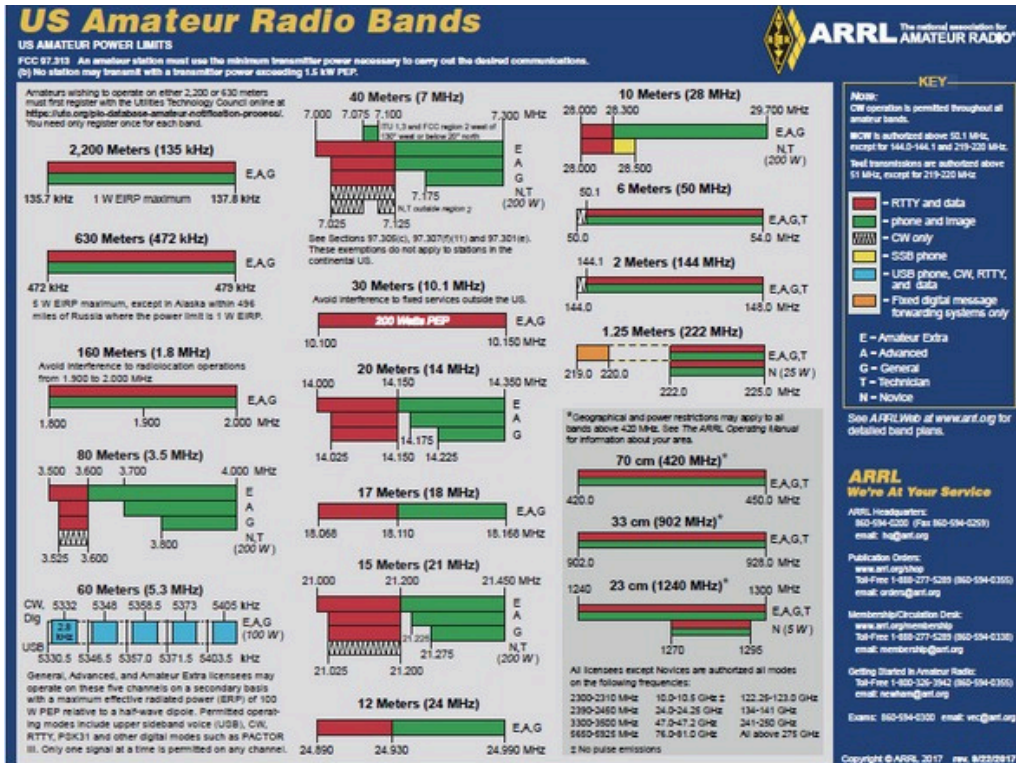
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Technical Topic



So you have been operating for years, but are you on the right frequency, do you know your privileges and bands you should be on according to your license class?? Below is a copy of the ARRL Amateur radio band plan, get to know it if you don't already know it..



Courtesy of the ARRL: <https://www.arrl.org/graphical-frequency-allocations>

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