

IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.720 - PL 110.9 TSQL 110.9

224.400 - PL110.9

442.675 + PL 110.9

442.375 + PL110.9



May 2024

April Meeting Information

Our next meeting will be Thursday, 23 May 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. The program will be Solar Weather and HF Propagation by John Cheyney KF5PFP.

President's Corner

Ken Hansen N2VIP

President, Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Welcome to May, which officially marks the point in the year when you hopefully got all your major antenna projects out of the way – it's too dang hot out there now!

Thankfully, the Antenna work at the Bingo Hall shack is complete – for now (are antenna projects ever really finished?) – and things are looking great. I called an audible and didn't go up on the roof this past Sunday, but John and Kirk put in nearly 4 hours on the roof, straightening the mast and levelling the Cobweb antenna, as well as putting in some major work on tuning up the Cobweb (which covers 40 thru 6 meters, and thanks to John and Kirk's efforts (along with an MFJ remote auto-tuner), the radios in the shack see a 1.5:1 or better (!) SWR across all bands.

BUT, that's not the only change in the Shack – on Thursday AM HRO sent out their "Hamvention Specials" and one item jumped right out at me – the Yaesu FTDX-10 HF/6M radio was discounted to just \$1,050 (after mail-in rebate). I own an FTDX-10 radio, I bought it as an upgrade to my 8 year-old IC-7300 for portable use, and I couldn't be happier! It has built-in bandpass filters (more on that in a minute), an external monitor connection, and a USB port to attach a mouse (to avoid fingerprints on the touchscreen). Oh, and the receiver is fantastic, the only downside is the way Yaesu engineers clustered all those buttons and controls so close to the VFO knob! ARGH! (I'm on a public mail list with Rob Sherwood, famous receiver guru, and he and I both agree if not for the ergonomics of the controls it is a near-perfect radio). So, I quickly reached out to the club officers, and we four agreed that buying two FTDX-10s, cancelling the plan to buy \$700 worth of bandpass filters for Field Day, and selling the club IC-7300s was a good idea. So, I put it out to a vote across the club leadership (Officers AND Directors) and the response was not only positive, it was unanimous.

So the club now has two FTDX-10s, the associated Nifty Manual (two copies), and the Andrew Baron FTDX-10 book. For the next few days the club remote station will be unavailable until John or I can cut the RemoteHams software over to the new radio, and we finalize the long-planned installation of the Antenna Disconnect to help protect our radios from lightning damage.

President

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Ron Ford KF5OMH

Barry MacGregor N5SMW

Shane Outlaw KI5GBU

Newsletter Editor

Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

General/Business Meeting:

23 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>

President's Corner Cont'd

As you may have heard, MFJ is slowly leaving the Amateur Radio Market – the owner, Martin Jun, tried to sell off the entire company, but he could only find buyers interested in pieces of the business, and Martin insists on selling the entire company, he does not want to break it up. I can't predict if Mr. Jun will change his mind, but his exit from the hobby leaves a big hole that needs to be filled in the near future – maybe this will open the market to new products from new manufacturers? Who knows, all I know is, as much as we all liked to mock MFJ (I remember sharing an image of an MFJ antenna switch that had reportedly been shipped to a customer without any connections soldered (or even wired) – all the contacts looked brand-new!), I think we'll soon realize that their products are scattered throughout your shack – the good enough SWR/Watt meter, the great Antenna Analyzer (that eats batteries at an alarming rate), the cheap dipole you set up for that one contest and never took down, and of course, the affordable and very reliable 12 volt, 30 amp power supply you've relied on all these years. MFJ, you will be missed.

For this month's meeting I'm not certain we have an actual program with a presenter, if that's the case, I'll try and bring one of the new radios to the meeting, with an antenna, power supply and coax – maybe we could let everyone get a chance to play with our new radios! As for the old IC-7300s, our plan is to sell them, and our first step will be to offer them initially to club members at the upcoming meeting. We haven't settled on a price yet, but I got reports from Dayton that the used IC-7300s were selling for around \$700, and the club officers will be offering the two radios for sale at the May meeting, price to be determined. The way it will work is we will collect the names of everyone interested in buying the radios at the fixed-price announced at the meeting. If more than two people are interested in the radios. We will collect members names and put them in a hat, picking two “winners”, who each can purchase one of the radios. The “winners” will have until DFW Ham Expo in June to pay for their “new-to-them” radios, if payment isn't received by then, we reserve the right to offer the unsold radio at DFW Ham Expo OR offer it up to the club again at the June Meeting.

I hope you can make it to the meeting this Thursday – the meeting starts at 7:00 PM at Senter East Park.

Buy/ Sell/ Trade

Note: Please contact sellers for information concerning their Items.

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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IARC Presents Money to Dallas Amateur Radio Club



IARC President Ken Hansen-N2VIP, presenting DARC President Bill Brady-KF5ZBL with cheque.

Following a successful hamfest in March of 2024, the Irving Amateur Radio Club, presented the Dallas Amateur Radio Club a cheque of \$800 in appreciation for their assistance in helping the IARC put on the 2024 Irving hamfest.



Some of the club members attending the April club meeting at Senter East Park

- President**
Ken Hansen N2VIP
- Vice-President**
Bill Byrom N5BB
- 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

April Meeting Minutes

IARC April 2024 Meeting
25 April 2024
Senter East Park



Officers Present:

President: Ken Hansen N2VIP
Vice-President: Bill Byrom N5BB
Treasurer: Kim Bacak N5KCB
Secretary: John Cheyney KF5PFP
Director: Barry MacGregor N5SMW
Director: Shane Outlaw KI5GBU
Director: Ron Ford KF5OMH
Meeting called at 19:05 by Ken Hansen N2VIP
16 members and 3 guests

Concerns: None

Pledge of Allegiance: Ken Hansen N2VIP
Prayer: John Moss KI5WRQ

Introduction of members and guests

Minutes of the March meeting were posted in the April newsletter
Motion to accept with no changes: Billy Geer KA5OZC
Second: James Shugart N5BKL
It was voted Unanimous

Treasurer's Report from March as emailed to club members.:
Kim Bacak N5KCB read the report
Motion to accept with no changes: James Shugart N5BKL
Second: Ron Ford KF5OMH
It was also voted Unanimous

Old Business:

New officers for 2024-2026 were announced
Kim Bacak N5KCB - Treasurer
John Cheyney KF5PFP - Secretary
Barry Mac Gregor N5SMW - Director
Shane Outlaw KI5GBU - Director

Microgrant: Bill Byrom N5BB will follow up on any incomplete micro-grants from previous years.

Irving Cares Donation: Ron Tabb KC5HPO presented the check. Irving Schools Foundation Scholarship: The winner was from MacArthur High School. The scholarship will be awarded at the upcoming event on 1 May 2024.

Repeater Status: The club bought an ICOM D-STAR repeater. Currently set to FM on the 442.357MHz pair. Is not currently on the network. ICOM is working on a new Linux distribution to manage the gateway computer. Ken Hansen N2VIP will wait for ICOM to sort this out to put the gateway computer in place. He hopes to have it in D-Star mode by summer.

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April Meeting Minutes Cont'd



Thursday Night Nets: Held every Thursday except the meeting Thursday at 7pm on the 146.72

MHz repeater and Echolink. Bill Byrom N5BB talked about Echolink and how it works. We have a computer at the shack for the upgrade. Members should notify him of issues.

VE Sessions: At the last session, four people tested and three passed.

Shack Update:

ARRL Lending Library books purchased this morning and will be shipped to Ken Hansen N2VIP's house. Once we have them, they will be available for members to check out.

Antenna Upgrade:

Folded dipole is up and is the one set on the antenna switch.

Cobweb antenna is up but needs more work before it is ready to use. John Cheyney KF5PFP will set up a date for a team to go back up on the roof and complete that.

John Cheyney KF5PFP talked about the remote setup.

Members can get access to the shack. An officer can show club members how to access the shack lock. Ken Hansen N2VIP said this is only available during normal Bingo Hall hours, except for officers who have keys to the building.

Field Day Options from the committee:

- 1.T.W. Richardson Grove
- 2.Cottonwood Creek Park

After discussion by club members, a motion to go to the two smaller gazebos at T.W Richardson Grove Park

Motion By: Bill Byrom N5BB

Second: Shane Outlaw KI5GBU

It was voted Unanimous

John Cheyney KF5PFP to talk to OEM about getting the two small gazebos.

April Siren Test: Billy Geer KA5OZC will send out the spreadsheet to everyone.

DFW Ham EXPO in June: The club has purchased a club table for \$20. Will take things from the club shack to sell. Club members can also bring equipment to sell if they want to.

Officers are identifying items in the shack that we need to get rid of from the shack. Event is the weekend before Field Day in Lewisville.

New members

Kirk Hooks KJ5FRV

Carry Johnstone KD5RFB, who was appointed as the new RACES/ARES EC/RO.

Motion to accept: Billy Geer KA5OZC

Second: James Shugart N5BKL

tee vote was Unanimous

New Business:

Ken Hansen said that since Kim Bacak N5KCB has taken over as Treasurer from Ron Tabb KC5HPO, she now has his keys. Ron will need a way to pay for snacks for the meetings going forward. This will be discussed at a later date.

Motion to Adjourn: John Moss KI5WRQ

Second: Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Meeting Adjourned @ 2022

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Show Your Shack- ! Boast Off !

This month we have the opportunity of seeing the shack of Ron Ford- **KF50MH**



Ron writes:

Up until last July I lived in a single-family home in Lewisville and my shack was a shared room with XYL's office. After she passed I made the decision to move to an independent living facility in North Dallas (Frankford and Coit) on the top floor of a four-story building. Now I can do whatever (well, almost) I want with my radios. There are restrictions on having antennas outside which means they must go in the attic, so they say. More on the antenna situation later.

Pictured above is my shack that consists of the following equipment:

RADIOS

ICOM IC-7300, HF/50 MHZ Transceiver

ICOM IC-746PRO, HF/VHF Transceiver

TYT MD-9600 Digital Mobile Transceiver for DMR/VHF/UHF

ANTENNAS Homebrew 20/40 Inverted V hanging in the attic over my apartment. This performed well on SSB when it was in use outside in Lewisville; not so much here. It is oriented north/south, not by choice but by necessity. During the day it is very noisy but after 9:00 PM it works fairly well. There is a lot of construction in the area, and I suspect that some of the noise is generated by the various equipment in use. It does hear pretty well any time of the day or night on the CW portions of the bands. It tunes up nicely even on 15m and 10m, not so much on 80m. Dual band J-pole designed by Jeffrey Ball, N1BMX and home built. This hangs upside down from the ridge board at the peak of the roof in the attic where it works very well. I can hit every repeater in the metroplex and some beyond. It didn't do as well in Lewisville where it was on a 20-foot mast. The mobile is a

MOBILE RADIO

AnyTone AT D-578UVIII PLUS VHF/UHF/220/DMR

AnyTone Tri-band (144/220/440) antenna



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Show Your Shack- ! Boast Off !- continued

IN THE BULL PEN, That means it's on the shelf in the closet

XIEGU X6100 HF/50MHZ QRP All Mode Transceiver. This is my play around radio. I can go out on the property and play. It's a fun radio to play with.

YAESU FTM-400XD in a go box that will go to my grandson Eric KI5RDN at his Eagle Scout Court of Honor.

YAESU FT-891 HF/50MHZ which will also go to Eric as soon as he gets his upgrade to General.

ICOM IC-7100 HF, 50, 144, 430/440 MHz it's going in the car as soon as I get around to programing it.

Microphones

Heil ICM Boom Mic

Heil Pro 7 Headset/Mic combination.

ACCESSORIES

Ameritron ALS-600 Amplifier

MFJ-1263 Mic Switch

4 Port HDMI Switch

Pi4 which runs software for HamClock and a few other toys.

MFJ-1026 Noise Canceling Signal Enhancer

MFJ-4230MVP Power Supply

MFJ-108B 12/24 HOUR DUAL(CDT/UTC) LCD CLOCK

COMPUTERS

Lenovo laptop Intel(R) Core (TM) i5-8250U CPU @ 1.60GHz 1.80 GHz 8GB RAM. This one is for everything but radio stuff.

Gigabyte laptop 11th Gen Intel(R) Core (TM) i7-1195G7 @ 2.90GHz 2.92 GHz 16gb RAM. This is dedicated to radio work.

ASUS 27" monitor

LG 25" monitor

In conclusion, yes, I have far too much stuff. I can't take it with me when I make my next move so I might as well enjoy it now.



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Shack Update

IARC Lending Library

The club has purchased a library of books from the ARRL. These books are in the shack and available for check out by club members only. We are working on a way for club members to get to them. For now you can check them out at any shack event, or by contacting Ken, John, or Kim and setting up a time to meet. Please only keep each book two weeks at a time.

- ARRL Technician, General, and Extra class manuals
- ARRL Handbook
- ARRL Antenna Book
- Basic Antennas
- RFI Book
- Understanding Basic Electronics
- Basic Digital Electronics
- And many others

Club Equipment for Loan to Members

The club has several pieces of equipment that members can borrow for testing their stations, or for use at events. If you'd like to use some of this you can pick it up at any shack event, or make arrangements with John or Ken.

- Rig Expert AA-600 antenna analyzer
- IFR Service Monitor
- Anderson Powerpole crimp kit (you have to supply your own connectors)
- Soldering equipment
- Several desktop power supplies
- MFJ-557 Morse Code practice oscillator (for practicing CW)
- Multiple sets of HT's and tape-measure Yagi antennas for fox hunting
- 25 watt Retevis 2M mobile radio in an ammo can (great for events like the parades)

In addition we can lend out the UHF/VHF go box (contains two radios), the IC-7300, the PowerWerx battery box, and a number of antennas and coax runs to support special events or for testing.



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Antenna Work Party



John, KF5PHP working on the cobweb antenna as part of the work party

On Sunday 19 May, 2024, several IARC members got together at the club shack at Betcha Bingo II for an antenna work party. John Cheyney KF5PFP and Kirk Hooks KJ5FRV went up on the roof to finish the installation of the MFJ Cobweb antenna. We took the antenna off the mast, restrung the center support, and tightened up all the radiating elements. We then put the antenna back on the mast and tuned the elements. The antenna will operate on all the amateur bands between 40 meters and 6 meters. It has an MFJ remote tuner at the base. Initial testing has the tuner getting the SWR below 2:1 on all bands.

This gives us two new HF antennas, the MFJ cobweb and an ICOM folded dipole, to go along with the 20m vertical that is up there.

Last week the officers and directors voted to replace the two Icom IC-7300 HF radios with Yaesu FTdx-10's. One is now operational at the HF station in the shack. The other will be used for portable operations. The RemoteHams access to the radio is currently not available, but I plan on getting that up and running within the next week.

Finally, the club received a donation from a former member of two Kenwood TM-V71 dual-band mobile radios. We will determine how best to assign these soon.



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Antenna Work Party cont'd

Thanks to everyone who was there Sunday to make this happen. We have made a lot of progress in the last several months on the shack, and it really shows. Present were:

John Cheyney-KF5PFP
Kirk Hooks KJ5FRZ
Ron Ford KF5OMH
Ken Hansen N2VIP
Barry Mac Gregor N5SMW
Kim Bacak N5KCB
Roger Bacak N5VUJ

Special thanks to Andrew Harmon KD5RKO for the use of his ladder.

RACES/ ARES Corner

The Irving RACES/ARES group is always looking for amateur radio operators willing to join them in community service to the city of Irving, all you have to do is be a licensed amateur radio operator, and either work or live within the city of Irving. If you are interested feel free to contact Carry Johnstone KD5RFB, .

Volunteers are needed to help test the Irving city's siren system every 1st Wednesday of the month. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Billy Geer KA5OZC at 214-587-8729 or email him at wgeer@verizon.net

Buy/ Sell/ Trade

Note: Please contact sellers for information concerning their Items.

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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Technical Topic



Ohm's Law

Ohm's law states the relationship between electric current and voltage. The current that flows through most conductors is directly proportional to the voltage applied to it.

Ohm's law states that the voltage across a conductor is directly proportional to the current flowing through it, provided all physical conditions and temperatures remain constant.

The Ohm's Law Equation: $E = I \times R$, where E is the voltage across the conductor, I is the current flowing through the conductor and R is the resistance provided by the conductor to the flow of current

Other Derivatives of ohms law used to find Current and Voltage:
 $R = E/I$ $I = E/R$

Test Your Knowledge

What is the maximum bandwidth for a data on the 60 meters band?

- A: 60Hz
- B: 1.5kHz
- C: 2.8kHz
- D: 170Hz

What type of polarization is best for ground-wave propagation?

- A: Vertical
- B: Horizontal
- C: Circular
- D: Elliptical

What is the Decimal equivalent to the following binary ...1011001110001?

- A: 1000
- B: 15,235
- C: 5,745
- D: 57,235

Convert the following number to binary.....101.

- A: 1011101
- B: 1100001
- C: 1100110
- D: 1100101

Answers:

1: C, 2:A, 3:C, 4:D

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