

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

June 2024



June Meeting Information

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, 27 June 2024, at the club Shack at Betcha Bingo II on 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061. 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.



Welcome to June! What a crazy month this is, with DFW Ham Expo, Field Day, and, if you're like me and interested in vintage Personal Computers, the South West Vintage Computer Festival – all in a ten-day period!

The state of the club is looking good, we've been adding members these past few months, and the mood at our recent meetings has been improving – I think we're heading in the right direction, and I hope we can continue along this path. I do wish we could offer more technical presentations at our meetings, but present club leadership lacks the “processing cycles” to manage that effort – if someone would like to spearhead that effort and start coordinating technical presentations going forward, please, just let me know.

You should have received a poll/survey from Ham Club Online regarding the club and what you like, don't like, or would like to see us do going forward. Please, make a point of responding to the poll/survey – we're very interested in what you'd like the club to do going forward. Of special note are the questions about recording and/or streaming our club meetings going forward – doing either in a useful form is a non-trivial task, but if there is sufficient interest AND someone is willing to step-up and take on the task this is something we can do.

Speaking of upcoming meetings, as a reminder our next meeting will be at the Betcha Bingo Hall – several members requested the change at the last meeting and those in attendance agreed to relocate our next few meetings there. For now, this is a temporary change on a month-by-month basis.

DFW Ham Expo had another successful event this past weekend. This year, organizers expanded both the length and the size of their hamfest – they filled two vacant store fronts instead of just one as in previous years, and they added a second day to the event. The club booked a table for the event, as an opportunity to both promote the club AND to yet again shed some more surplus items from the club shack. Notable sales were the Outbacker antenna, the hand-crank mast, five 100' runs of “vintage” RG-8 coax, two Rohn push-up poles, the mic and auto-tuner from the IC-7300 we recently replaced in the shack HF operating position. In addition we gave away the surplus cube fridge and printer, as well as the dozen PVC pipes leftover. In all, it was a very successful event for the club – we made some room in the shack/vault, and we took in \$600 from the sales. We did buy some new ultraflex coax from HRO – we ordered two 50' RG-8x runs, as well as one 50' and one 75' run of LMR-400 for \$356.

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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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Facebook:

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



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President's Corner Cont'd

Attendance at DFW Ham Expo was strong – the Friday afternoon into Friday night hours attendance was light, and about a quarter of the vendors chose to not even set up for Friday, opting to only sell on Saturday. Attendance on Saturday was strong, yet again not all vendors choose to set up. The reason some vendors may have chosen not to set up was because one of the vacant stores had no air conditioning (or because they heard turnout was light on Friday?). Organizers offered vendors with tables in the room without air conditioning refunds on their tables, a gesture that most vendors declined but appreciated the gesture/offer.

For the sake of those not interested, I'll just briefly mention the Vintage Computer Fair I attended at UT Dallas was a great event. It was held in a nice venue with ample parking, they had a great variety of “vintage” computers from the 1970s, 1980s, and beyond. There were lots of TRS-80s, Atari, Apple II, and early CP/M machines, along all manner of IBM PCs of unusual business computers from “the early days.” I was around the microcomputer hobby back then and I saw a great number of the early computers I either owned or wanted. The event is a little odd, it's a combination flea market and show-and-tell event, with some seminars and tutorials as well. One session I was very happy to attend was a hands-on kit- building session where we took an obscure microcontroller (the Propeller CPU) and built our own single board computer (SBC) that uses a microSD card for program storage, has a PS/2 keyboard and VGA video connection and runs a version of what's called “Tiny BASIC” (a much more limited version of BASIC compared to the Microsoft BASIC included with systems like the Apple II, TRS-80, Atari, etc.). It was a nice build of a through-hole board kit. The group supplied all the needed tools, including solder, but it was probably the tiniest solder I've ever worked with – it was 0.01 mm diameter – it was so thin I struggled feeding it to the solder joint, it kept bending at the slightest pressure! (Normal solder has a diameter of 0.3 mm.)

And let's not forget Field Day! I'm writing this before Field Day, so I'm hoping all goes well. John Cheyney and several other club members have been working hard to pull this event off, and their plan seems solid. As I understand it, the event will be low-key, setting up just two or three operating positions, a couple simple antennas, and some snacks and drinks. Setup is planned to start around 11:00 AM, operating starts around 1:00 PM, and we plan to wind down our event around 6:00, hopefully being out of the park by 7:00 PM. It should be a very nice event, I hope everyone had a chance to at least stop by, if not stay a while and operate for a while.

And finally, the club remote shack is still going strong – there is a problem with the power button thru the Remote Hams software so it has been removed from the GUI. If you have a problem, we can power-cycle the radio over the internet, just reach out to John Cheyney if you have any questions.

The Irving Siren Tests on the First Wednesday at 1:00 PM could use a few more volunteers – it's a very easy opportunity for hams in Irving on Wednesday to give back to the community and the city. Also, consider getting involved in the Irving ARES/RACES group – there are regularly scheduled on-air training nets and occasional public service events to participate in. The group meets on our 146.720 2 meter repeater on a bi-weekly basis at 7:30 PM on Thursdays – if interested, why not reach out for more information after our Thursday Net? Well, that's more than enough from me – I'm looking forward to Field Day, and I hope to see you there.

Remember, our June meeting is at 7:00 PM at the Betcha Bingo Hall, Thursday the 27th – I hope you can join us.

Ken Hansen, N2VIP
President, Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

May 2024 Meeting Minutes

IARC May 2024 Meeting
23 May 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: Bill Byrom N5BB is traveling.

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

Introduction of members and guests

Treasurer's Report from April:
Kim Bacak N5KCB read the report
Motion to accept with no changes: Billy Geer KA5OZC
Second: Ron Tabb KC5HPO
Unanimous

Minutes of the April meeting were posted in the May newsletter
Motion to accept with no changes: Billy Geer KA5OZC
Second: Venzula Matthews KF5PJH
Unanimous

Old Business:
VE Testing: One person (IARC member Kirk Hooks KJ5FRV) passed the General exam.

The club has a net every Thursday (except the meeting week) on the 146.72MHz repeater and Echolink. The net lasts approximately 30 minutes and is open to all amateurs.

The club has Open Shack days on the third Saturday of every month. All amateur radio operators are welcome.

Shack Update:
ARRL Lending Library books are available for checkout. We also have equipment that can be checked out. Lists of both were published in the last newsletter.

Antenna Upgrade:
On 19 May 2024 a team completed the installation of the MFJ cobweb on the roof. It is now complete and tuned and ready for use. One of the Yaesu FTdx-10's is installed on the HF desk and is operational. The RemoteHams setup is not working, but John Cheyney KF5PFP is working on it.

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Shane Outlaw KI5GBU

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Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

May 2024 Meeting Minutes Cont'd



The two IC-7300's will be sold to club members for \$600 each. Ken Hansen N2VIP will put together a list of members who are interested and will create an ordered list. The option to purchase the radios will be given to the first two people on the list, and then will work down it if those people aren't interested. The IC-7300 currently used for portable work will be kept with the club until after Field Day as a backup.

DFW Ham Expo:

This will be held the weekend of 14 and 15 of June 2024 at Vista Mall in Lewisville. The club has bought a table to dispose of items no longer needed. Club members can also put items up for sale.

One person has applied for club membership, although the application came in not through HamClub Online. He has also paid his \$25 via PayPal. John Cheyney KF5PFP has made multiple attempts through email to contact him without success. Kim Bacak N5KCB will refund the money via PayPal with a message for the correct way to apply.

Roger Bacak N5VUJ contacted the officers and directors about making two changes to the current meeting structure. One was livestreaming the meetings over the Internet. Discussion was held about different technologies. Other local clubs do this successfully. Barry Mac Gregor made the suggestion that we survey the club membership to see if there are people who don't currently attend are interested in this. Ken Hansen N2VIP will send out a survey via Ham ClubOnline asking this, as well as taking a survey to see if there are other things that would increase membership.

Roger Bacak N5VUJ also suggested moving the monthly meetings to the Club Shack at Betcha Bingo II. After discussion by the group, it was decided to move the meetings to that location, starting with the June meeting.

Ron Tabb KC5HPO is responsible for getting snacks and drinks for the meetings. Motion was made to advance him \$100 for this so that he doesn't have to put the money out and get reimbursed.

Motion: John Moss KI5WRQ

Second: Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Unanimous.

Field Day Committee Report:

Field Day will be 122 June 2024 at T.W. Richardson Grove in Irving. Setup will start at 11am, operations start at 1pm, the event will end at sundown. We will have three stations: Bill Byrom N5BB will bring a radio, the club will have an HF station and the UHF/VHF go-box. Club will provide drinks and food.

Shane Outlaw KI5GBU will manage a Fox Hunt on 2 June 2024 starting at 1pm. This will be a test run. More information will be sent out as we get closer.

Newsletter Editor Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT asked for content for the newsletter.

Motion to Adjourn: John Moss KI5WRQ

Second: Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Business Meeting Adjourned @ 2014

The presentation was Solar Weather and HF Propagation by John Cheyney KF5PFP.

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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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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

July 4th Parade

It's that time again for the Irving July 4th Parade in Downtown Irving. For Irving RACES/ARES members, working the parade will satisfy the annual requirement for working a special event.

If you can work the parade, please let Carry KD5RFB know, no later than Friday, June 28th. Once she has a list of people available to work the parade, she will make assignments. If you have a specific location that you have worked or want to work, please let her know and she will try to accommodate your request.

See the attached map showing the parade route this year.

For more information about volunteering at the parade , Please contact Carry-KD5RFB

President
Ken Hansen N2VIP

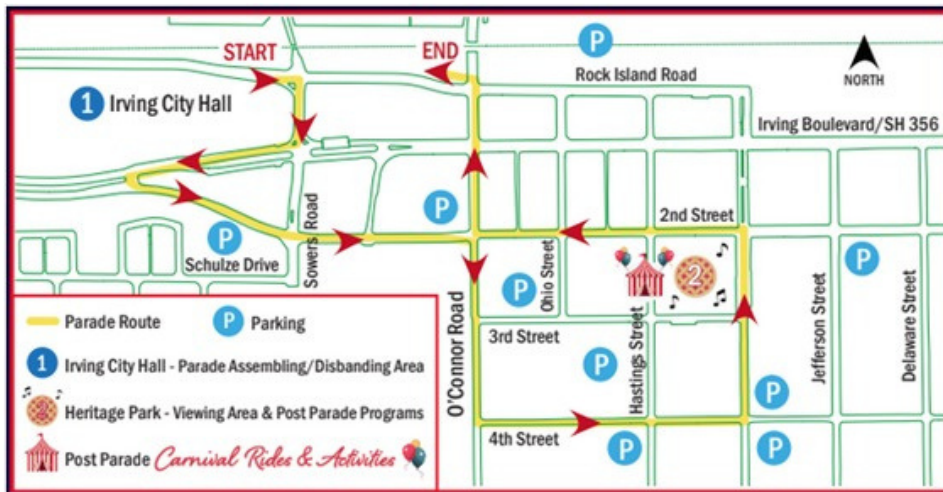
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4th July 2024 parade route map

Volunteer Examiners Serve The Amateur Radio Community

Every week people travel to testing sites throughout the US to take exams for FCC Amateur Radio Technician, General and Extra licenses. The Irving ARC and Dallas ARC have teamed up to provide accessible testing opportunities for Dallas/Ft. Worth area applicants. On the second Saturday of each month, our group of Volunteer Examiners (VEs) meet at the Business Jet Center at Dallas Love Field to set up a testing session and administer exams to any qualified person who wants to register and test that day.

Our team is led by Roger Bacak (N5RCB) from the Irving Club and Tony Mendina (NT5TM) from the Dallas Club. Roger estimates that this VE team has held 44 testing sessions and given exams to 169 applicants over the past six years. The team did not test for several months during COVID, but has provided testing services every month since that time.

On Saturday, June 8 the team met and held a testing session. Three applicants tested that day - one person testing for a new Technician license and two people testing for "General to Extra" license upgrades



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Members of the VE team

K9SQ John Carlson

KI5WRQ John Moss

N5TLH Will Turk

NT5TM Tony Mendina

N2VIP Ken Hansen

N5BKL James Shugart

N5GSG Greg Graham

N5KCB Kim Bacak

N5RCB Roger Bacak

Missing is John Cheney - KF5PFP, who was absent because he was working on a club project at the IARC Shack at the time the above photo was taken.

Volunteer Examiners Serve The Amateur Radio Community Con'td

If you are considering a license upgrade, or if you have friends who are thinking about getting their Amateur Radio license for the first time, please keep the IARC/DARC exam sessions in mind. The team would love to see you from 9-10:30 am on the second Saturday of any month at the Business Jet Center at Love Field. Additional information is available on the IARC Club website.

Volunteer Examiners give of their time and experience to provide opportunities for current Hams to upgrade their licenses - and for prospective Hams to get licensed and on the air. Many thanks to our joint IARC/DARC Volunteer Examiner team.



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Technical Topic

The National Traffic System (NTS)

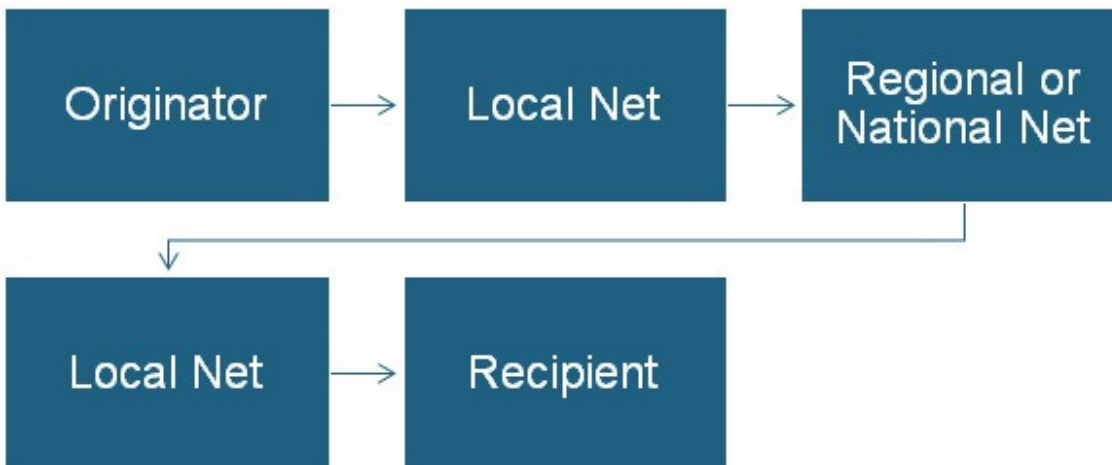
By Ron KF50MH



Do you remember your Technician license training? Have you ever seen one of these forms?

They did not dwell much on it at the Technician level or at any level for that matter. The Radiogram is the heart of the National Traffic System. To put it simple, Individual A writes out a message to Individual B and passes it off to another operator on a local net like the DFW Metroplex Traffic Net where another operator picks it up and moves it closer to its destination via a regional or national traffic net. At this point it is given to another operator who, in turn, takes it to a local net close to its destination or delivers it to the recipient by phone or passes it to another operator who will deliver it.

So, if this has been too many words here is a flow chart that may simplify it for you.



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Technical Topic



National Traffic System (NTS) Cont'd

In The Beginning Amateur Radio started out as a scientific hobby but quickly it was realized that Hams could provide a great public service. Back at the turn of the century, Marconi was the first to prove that a message could be relayed by wireless from one point to another. Our Military realized the Amateur's usefulness in the years after the first World War and the formation of MARS was established in 1925 as then the Army-Amateur Radio System. During MacMillan's expedition to the Arctic on the schooner Bowdoin in 1923, Amateurs provided communications between the schooner and the adventures' homes. Then, as now, Hams have proven their ability to communicate when there are no other ways to do so.

What is Traffic?

So, what is Traffic? No, it is not something that you set in for extended periods of time on the Interstate, it has become known as the messages that are passed from one point to another. There are several parts to a message or piece of traffic. A standard form or method of writing up a message has evolved over the years by Amateurs that have participated in passing a substantial number of pieces of traffic. It was found that a standard form for everyone to use was the most efficient and fastest way to transmit a message. There are many different ways to transmit a piece of traffic such as SSB, CW and many different ways on the new technology that is available today with the computer. But with all of them you will use the same basic form.

WHY LEARN TRAFFIC HANDLING

In this day of cell phones and digital technology the need for learning traffic handling, nets in general and Ham Radio for that matter might seem obsolete. An emergency of some sort, such as the last two Gulf Coast hurricanes and the shuttle crash, proved that is not the case. We may not manage traffic in the same way or in the amount we did years ago but just like CW, there is still a need.

During the hurricanes it became obvious that there is a need for Hams to learn how to check into nets and what is meant by a piece of traffic. Cell phone towers can blow over and the back-up power to the sites can either not work or be used up if the emergency goes on long enough. Cell phones do not always work in some areas; such was the case during the shuttle crash. During the hurricanes people were checking into nets that had never done so before and did not know the procedures or the disciplines of the net. What was needed and not needed in a health and welfare message was not known in a lot of cases.

A traffic net during an emergency is a hectic place and is made even worse by stations not knowing the correct way or the net's way of doing things. As a matter of fact, inexperience and lack of knowledge can hinder a net's operation greatly. The people on the net become like a family and the net controls learn to know calls, names and locations and therefore will know who can take what message. This makes it so much easier during an emergency to run the net smoothly.

Just as in the early days of Amateur Radio, emergency response organizations are continuing to find out that Hams can help with communications when there is no other way. We need to be prepared so that Ham Radio will be known as a helpful and knowledgeable group.

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Technical Topic

National Traffic System (NTS) Cont'd

DURING AN EMERGENCY IS NOT THE TIME TO LEARN HOW TO PASS OR WRITE A PIECE OF TRAFFIC OR LEARN HOW TO CHECK INTO A NET.

If you are not familiar with either, then LISTEN and learn before there is an actual emergency.

Where Can you Listen?

Right here at home! The DFW Metroplex Traffic Net has two nets a day, 365 days a year. The first one is at 1830 on the W5FC repeater and the second one is on the Irving WA5CKF repeater at 2130. Check in to the net and tell net control that you are just here to learn. When you feel comfortable with the flow of things take a piece of traffic to deliver. That is where the fun starts.

There is some very informative training material on the DFW Traffic Net web site -- <https://www.dfwtrafficnet.org/nts-training-resources/>.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at kf5omh@gmail.com.



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IARC Field Day 2024 Event Held At Irving's T.W. Richardson Grove Park



The IARC enjoyed going to T.W. Richardson Grove Park in far North Irving on Saturday, June 22 to participate in ARRL Field Day 2024. Eleven IARC Members and a visitor or two met under the park's very nice covered shelters for the afternoon's activities.

This year we were categorized as class 2A with our location as NTX, using the club's call sign WA5CKF. We had two HF stations running concurrently - using the club's new Yaesu FTDX-10 and the club's ICOM 7300. Thanks to KI5GBU's excellent throw up into a tree limb, we ran our club's Off Center Fed dipole about 25 feet in the air to work along side the Yaesu transceiver, and we utilized our vertical antenna with the ICOM transceiver. We worked mostly SSB on 40, 20 and 15 meters. We also had a 2 meter station and a 6 meter station in action during the afternoon.

When all the QSOs were logged, we made about 85 contacts across the US. Thanks to KF5PFP's Field Day leadership, and thanks to everyone on his committee who helped to plan activities, set up equipment and provide food and drinks for the event.

ARRL Field Day is an important event on the annual Amateur Radio calendar, and everyone from our club who participated greatly enjoyed the opportunity to visit with friends, get radios and antennas on the air, and make some contacts with other ARRL Field Day 2024 contestants all across the US.

The Field day team doing their thing!



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