

IRVING AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Serving Amateur Radio Since 1955

WA5CKF REPEATERS:

146.720 - PL 110.9 TSQ L

110.9 224.400 - PL110.9

442.675 + PL 110.9

442.375 + PL110.9

April 2025



April Meeting Information

The next in person Meeting will be on April 24th 2025 at the club Shack at Betcha Bingo hall on 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061.

President's Corner

Ron Ford KF50MH

President, Irving Amateur Radio Club, Inc.



Another club year is under way and before I go any further with what it holds I wish to thank our outgoing President, Ken Hansen N2VIP, Vice President, Bill Byrom N5BB and Director, Venzula Mathews KF5PJH for their many years of hard work making the IARC what it is today. I, for one, hope that they will remain active in the club and that they will continue to participate in the many activities that you'll be hearing about in this and future editions of the Newsletter.

I also wish to thank those who stepped forward and were willing to run for office albeit unsuccessfully. That only means that someone else got one or more votes. Thanks Billy Geer, KA5OZC, Lyle Baker, AI5NO, Ken Hansen, N2VIP, and Bill Byrom, N5BB for being willing to serve if elected.

Many members have expressed an interest in splitting the business portion of our meetings away from the presentations thus allowing more time for our speakers to take as long as they need to get their material across. The Board of Directors has decided to hold completely separate meetings via Zoom with the first one being held on Sunday evening April 6. While that meeting is on my mind I must apologize for incorrect link being sent with the meeting announcement. While several of us were trying to figure out the various nuances of a commercial Zoom account, I picked up the link to a practice session we had been using and not the correct link for the meeting. My apologies to those who tried to attend but could not get in. We think that we now understand how to set up a permanent meeting; therefore, my fat fingers won't make that boo-boo again. Going forward the Board meetings will be on the Sunday evening prior to the club meeting at 6:30. Announcements for the meeting will be sent out with the CORRECT Zoom link. Meetings are open to all members. What happened at the first Board meeting? Rather than duplicate efforts see the minutes by John KF5PFP elsewhere in this newsletter.

Another new twist to the meetings is an automated check-in and door prize drawing method. If you paid attention to the communication that John KF5PFP sent out on Thursday April 17 you saw that by clicking on the link imbedded in the announcement message you will be able to check in and have your name in the hat for the door prize drawing. In addition, there will be a tablet at the back of the room so you can verify that you are, in fact, checked in to the meeting.

President

Ron Ford KF50MH

Vice-President

Ron Tabb KC5HPO

Treasurer

Kim Bacak N5KCB

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John Cheyney KF5PFP

Directors

Will Turk N5TLH

Roger Bacak K5RCB

Barry MacGregor N5SMW

Shane Outlaw KI5GBU

Newsletter Editor

Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

General/Business Meeting:
24th April 2025 @ 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>

President's Corner Cont'd

The April 24 meeting presentation will be by George Bradford, KF5QEZ. George is the founder of the North Texas NVIS Net. This group has been working on various forms of communications over NVIS antennas and George will be talking to us about one of those methods. Please refer to the communication on April 13 containing a document that has background information for George's presentation. Please take a few minutes to skim through the document so items discussed during the presentation aren't completely foreign.

One final item before I sign off for this month. One of the things that the Board agreed to do differently this year is to have each of the directors be responsible for various areas of the club's programs. These areas are:

Operations – Roger N5RCB

ARRL Field Day – Tom N5HYP

Winter Field Day - TBD

Days in the Park

Deployments

Hamfest – Ken N2VIP

Special Projects

Thursday Night Net – John KF5PFP, Kirk N3KD, Bill N5BB

Christmas Party – TBD

Technical – Will N5TLH

Repeaters

Trustee – Ken N2VIP

Repeater Sites – Ken N2VIP backup by John KF5PFP

Echolink Node – John KF5PFP backup by Ken N2VIP

Shack Oversight – John KF5PFP backup by Ken N2VIP

Property Coordination (vault) – John KF5PFP

Education and Outreach – Shane KI5GBU

Newsletter – Jerry KB3RWT, Editor

Public Information Officer (PIO) – TBD

Meeting Presentations – Kirk N3KDP

Webmaster – Roger N5RCB

Develop and outreach program to grow the club

Administration – Barry N5SMW

HamClubOnline

ARRL Website

Scholarship Committee

Charitable Donations

Micro Grants Program redesign

By-laws review

Each of the directors will be responsible for assisting and guiding the various functions in their area of responsibility. That is not to say that they will be responsible for details but to help as needed.

73, Ron KF5OMH



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Jerry Aberdeen KB3RWT

Webmaster

Roger Bacak-N5RCB

From The Desk Of the Secretary

**IARC March Meeting
27 March 2025
Betcha Bingo II**



Officers Present:

President: Ken Hansen N2VIP
Vice President: Bill Byrom N5BB
Treasurer: Kim Bacak N5KCB
Secretary: John Cheyney KF5PFP
Director: Ron Ford KF5OMH
Director: Shane Outlaw KI5GBU
Director: Barry MacGregor N5SMW

Meeting called to order at 1909 by Ken Hansen N2VIP
17 members and 4 guests present

Pledge: Ken Hansen N2VIP
Prayer: Tom Schuessler N5HYP

Introductions

Treasurer's Report from February.
Kim Bacak N5KCB read the report.
Motion to accept: Billy Geer KA5OZC
Second: Ron Ford KF5OMH

The Secretary's Report from February was published in the newsletter.
Motion to Accept: Kirk Hooks N3KDP
Second: James Shugart N5BKL

Donation checks to the three charities were distributed by officers.

Lana Hansen, Founder and Executive Director from Many Helping Hands gave a presentation on her organization and to thank the club for the donation.

Hamfest update from Ken Hansen N2VIP. Report sent to officers. 338 admission tickets, 1685 door prize tickets. 71 tables sold with six comped tables. Dallas Amateur Radio club will get \$500 for providing volunteers.

We donated two \$1000 scholarships to Irving Schools Foundations. Bill Byrom N5BB and Ron Tabb KC5HPO met the recipients. The scholarships will be presented on April 2nd. Some members of the club will be attending this event.

Motion by Ron Ford KF5OMH for the club to pay the \$50 fee for any member who wants to attend the presentation event. Club members will file reimbursement request with the Treasurer
Second by John Cheyney KF5PFP
Unanimous

Kirk Hooks N3KDP will be taking the second Thursday slot for the club's Thursday Night Net.

April 18th is World Amateur Radio Day. ARRL is wanting clubs to do Open Houses. Club members agreed to open the shack from 12:00pm to 6:00pm on April 18th.

Shane Outlaw KI5GBU is going to restart the Fox Hunt on 6 April 2025.

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From The Desk Of the Secretary

Tom Schuesller N5HYP talked about Field Day. Kim Bacak N5KCB checked with the city and there are no open buildings. Kim will check to see if TW Richardson Grove is available as well as any other park pavilion. Bill Byrom N5BB volunteered to help set all this up.

Siren test coming up next week. Contact Billy Geer KA5OZC

Officer election results were announced.

1. President: Ron Ford KF5OMH
2. Vice - President: Ron Tabb KC5HPO
3. Directors:
 - a. Will Turk N5TLH
 - b. Roger Bacak K5RCB

John Cheyney KF5PFP reported on the meeting of the computer group delegated by Ken Hansen N2VIP. We are currently planning on getting two computers and bringing the ECHOLINK unit back to the shack. He will have a financial request at the next meeting.

Ken Hansen N2VIP is looking at making at least one of our repeaters digital in some mode. Most members expressed an interest in setting up a Fusion repeater. Ken will get with Kevin Grantham N5KRG to discuss options.

Door Prizes:

James Shugart N5BKL
Ron Ford KF5OMH

Motion to Adjourn: Kirk Hooks N3KDP

Second: Billy Geer KA5OZC

Unanimous

Meeting adjourned at 2045.

Submitted by Secretary John Cheyney KF5PFP



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Irving Amateur Radio Club make Awards

By Bill Byrom N5BB

On Tuesday April 22, the Irving Schools Foundation sponsored the Breakfast With The Stars award event at the Irving Convention Center to present the scholarships to the students. Representing our club were Ron Tabb KC5HPO (IARC vice president) and Bill Byrom N5BB (previous IARC vice president). We were able to sit next to our two students during the breakfast event. See attached photos. Kristy won three scholarships and Joseph won two scholarships. These are smart kids!



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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.

Siren Test

Reminder to all,

Both the IARC and Irving RACES ARES group have committed to support the monthly Irving siren (ENS -Emergency Notification System) test.

Irving has 26 sirens located through the City, on City property. All sirens rotate and make a LOUD siren type noise, with the exception of the one that is located on top of the Irving Convention Center that does not rotate.

There is always a monthly test that occurs on the first Wednesday of each month at 1:00 PM and lasts 3 minutes. There are two types of tests, a full function test, siren and rotation (if it is designed to rotate), and a silent test (rotate only if it is designed to rotate). The silent test is only done if there is any possibility of a weather threat, or any other reason the OEM (Office of Emergency Management) feels it may confuse the citizens.

We will only monitor the test for full functionality, NOT the silent test. I will notify all that has a siren assignment if the test is silent (usually before noon on the day of the test), and get confirmation you received that notification.

The individual effort will take only around 5 minutes at the location, but may take a total of 15-45 minutes, depending on travel time to and from. You MUST be close enough to your assigned location to see it rotate and sound for the full 3 minutes (ear muffs and/or ear plugs are recommended).

A list of all the sirens with the ones needing to be observed identified to choose from will be sent to all the IARC and Irving RACES ARES group members the weekend before the test. You will need to notify me of your choice, and I will conform it is yours to observe, or request you to pick another because somebody else has picked it.

We, as Amateur Radio Operators, enjoy this hobby, and this is one way we can give back to the community. This is one of the reasons the FCC has allowed us to have assigned frequencies/bands to operate on, as HAMS, to enjoy and have the skills needed to support any government entity if needed, or during times of a national emergency. It is a GREAT and fun hobby.

Regards,
Billy KA5OZC

Note: Volunteers are needed to help test the Irving city siren system every first Wednesday of the month. If you are interested in helping, please contact Billy KA5OZC at 214 587 8729 or via email: wgeer@verizon.net



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The Wednesday Brunch Bunch

By Bill Byrom N5BB

The Wednesday Brunch Bunch continues to meet each Wednesday morning at 10 AM. Our current location is Mother's Daughter's Diner, just west of the intersection of Story Road and Shady Grove.

On April 23 we had 10 IARC members attending, which may be a record (or tied for a record attendance). I have attached a photo of the Brunch Bunch on March 26 behind the N5BB Hyundai IONIQ 5 EV.

On that morning Bill Byrom N5BB showed off his newly installed Lido LM-300HD articulated mobile mount (see attached photos). The bottom of the mount is attached under on of the screws holding the front passenger seat rail to the floor. There are three joints which can be tightened to fix the position of the mount. Bill has his Yaesu FTM-500 dual band 2m/70cm control head attached using the Lido mount. The radio itself is under the rear floor of the vehicle in the SUV trunk area. The FTM-500 has a good quality speaker built into the control head and the hand microphone plugs into the control head, simplifying installation.



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N5BB Lido LM-300HD articulated seat rail mount



N5BB FTM-500DR control head

ARC Website Suggestions – Your Input Needed!

By Roger Bacak – N5RCB



Hi everyone,

I'm currently gathering ideas on how we can improve both the functionality and appearance of our club's website. If you have any feedback — whether it's something you love, something that could be better, or a brand-new idea — please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm open to all suggestions!

Also, if anyone is interested in helping out with the website, I'd love to hear from you. It's not as complicated as it might seem, and having at least two people familiar with the site would be great for coverage if one of us is ever unavailable.

To keep the conversation going, I'll be starting a dedicated "website" thread on our Discord server where we can brainstorm and exchange ideas more easily.

Looking forward to hearing your thoughts!

Thanks and 73,
Roger Bacak – N5RCB

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Parks On The Air Events – Volunteers Needed!

We've got two more POTA – Support Your Parks Weekend events coming up this year, and I need YOUR help to make them happen!

I'm looking for someone to chair these events — that means helping with planning, logistics, and coordination. If you're interested in stepping up and supporting the club, please reach out!

Here are the event dates:

- Saturday, July 19, 2025
- Saturday, October 18, 2025

Let me know if you're interested or have any questions! -N5RCB@icloud.com

Tale of Two Radios

By Ken Hansen, N2VIP



Introduction

I am a member of the Richardson Wireless Club, and a few weeks ago a member of the club posted a note to all the members about an SK (Silent Key) estate he was helping a family dispose of a family members radio equipment. The member posted photos of the equipment he had to dispose of, and was soliciting offers. I spotted in one of the pictures a radio I thought was interesting - it looked like an ID-800 Dual-Band Star mobile radio - this was the only item that appealed to me (I have a weakness for Icom radios, and this looked interesting). Since it was about a 20 year-old radio, I offered what I thought was a reasonable offer - \$75.

When I look for an item in an SK estate, I always try to be a little generous, but as a Ham, I also want to get a bargain. In a situation like this, where the condition of the radio is unknown, the bargain side of me dominates. A few days later, I learned my offer was accepted (I don't think anyone else was interested in this old radio). So, a few days later, I was going to pick up the radio, and the fellow that was handling the estate handed me my radio it wasn't an ID-800, it was an IC-208H Dual-band FM mobile radio.

I was a little upset, an analog dual-band radio isn't that interesting, but when I started looking the radio over, I got excited - but I'll get into that in a minute. My friend pointed at another Icom mobile radio and asked me if I wanted it... I recognized it instantly, and quickly said "yes" - it was an Icom IC-2100H, just a plain 2 meter FM mobile, but it's a radio I really like (and already owned a couple, to be honest). But now I had two new-to-me radios to play with.



The IC-2100H powered up, and seemed to work great. I hooked it up to a small magnet mount antenna, programmed a few local repeater pairs into it, and, nothing. Oh, it receives fine, but when I pressed the PTT on the microphone, nothing. No RF output. Oh well, I paid nothing for it, so I wasn't really "out" anything, but I wanted this radio to work, darn it.

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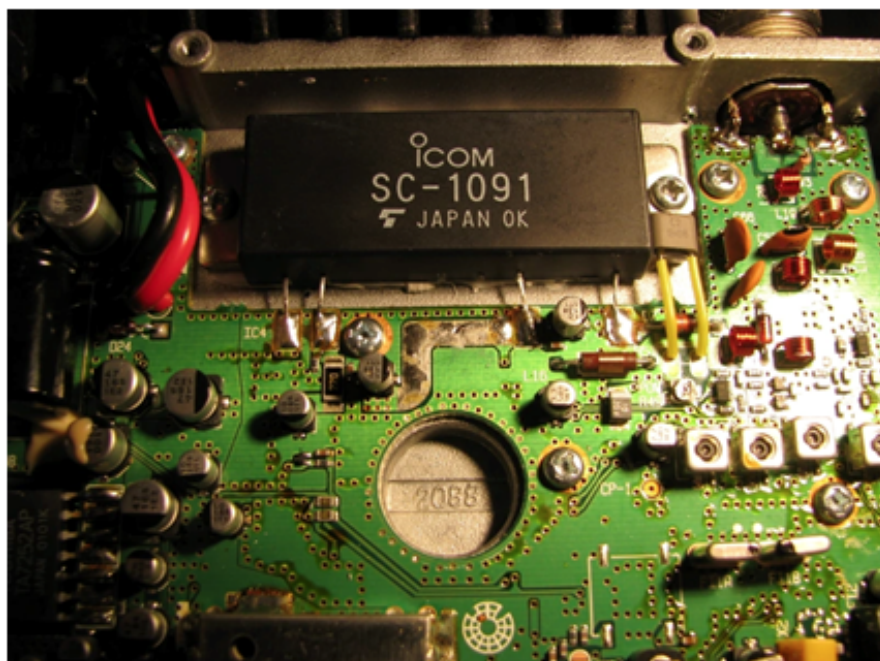
Tale of Two Radios, Cont'd

By Ken Hansen, N2VIP



Then I remembered something - at a previous Belton I picked up my third IC-2100H for \$30, but it had a known problem. The seller clearly indicated the volume knob was “crunchy”, but along as you didn’t turn the knob, the radio was fine. Well, inspired by my new (fourth) IC-2100H I pulled the “crunchy” radio out of the closet, and decided to get it working right. I researched the problem, and the hive mind (Internet) suggested getting some DeoxIT to lean up the “crunchy” volume knob, so I did... But when the cleaner arrived, I grabbed my toolbox and opened-up the radio only to find the volume control was completely sealed, I couldn’t squirt the DeoxIT into the control to clean it up. Bummer. Then, staring at the radio, I got an idea!

I’ve often heard people talk about this idea of a “parts radio” but I never really understood it. I mean, if I buy a radio, I want it to work, I don’t want to just stack it up in the corner and wait for another radio to break so I can scavenge needed parts from the parts radio... But this was different, I didn’t go out looking for a parts radio, but there it was. The front panel of the radio was held on by two long bolts - by removing the bolts, I could literally swap the entire front panel of the two radios and resolve the “crunchy” volume control on IC-2100H number three. Yay! Now, I’ve got a radio that has a “crunchy” volume control and no RF output... A little investigation revealed that there was a “power amp module” (an Icom SC-1091 module) inside the radio that could be easily replaced, but at a price of between \$30-60, depending on how much risk I’m willing to take. I’ll put it aside for now - who knows what its fate will be?



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Tale of Two Radios, Cont'd

By Ken Hansen, N2VIP



The radio I bought was in better condition - it was apparently the SK Ham's "daily driver" for VHF/
UHF repeater work - the radio was programmed and worked great, transmit AND receive!

The things I spotted about this radio that made it interesting was that on the back of the radio was a 6 pin connector for hooking up a signalink or other computer interface to use the radio for packet modes (like WinLink). That could be fun, but there was something else...

This radio has a very small, removable front panel but I didn't have the separation cable, and the separation cable has very, very unique connectors each end. It turns out just the cable sells for about \$60-80 online! I wanted one, but not at that price, yikes!

I reached out to the RWK member I bought the radio from and asked, every so nicely, if he had seen a cable that looked like this in the hams shack/closet/etc, and to my surprise he said he had! Yay! (I learned before I reached out that the radio shipped with a separation cable, so I figured the odds were pretty good there was a cable around to be found and it was!

So I got the cable, used it to hook the control head to the radio body and, nothing. The radio didn't turn-on. Darn it. Oh well, the radio still worked great, the radio still had that 6 pin port on the back, so I convinced myself it was OK, it's a nice radio.

Then, a few days later I looked at the radio separation cable again, and I decided to try it again - and again nothing. Darn it. I scanned the wire looking for cuts, breaks, etc and found nothing... What could it be? Then it hit me - maybe I'd hooked it wrong? Upon closer examination I realized that while the issue was - the "paddle" connector on the control head only went on one way, there was a captive screw to attach the cable to the control head, BUT the end that attached to the radio body, it turns out there were two ways to attach the cable, the right way and the wrong way, and when I attached the cable the right way, it worked great!

Conclusion

So what did I accomplish? I took a radio I previously bought that had an issue, and thru dumb luck fell into a "parts radio" that allowed me to fix the first radio and, theoretically, I have a project I can pick up on later (yeah, right!), but now my original three IC-2100H radios all work great (sitting in their boxes on the shelf in my closet!) I have to admit, my affection for the IC-2100H goes back over 25 years - it was the first radio I ever bought once I was licensed. As for the IC-208H, I don't know - I'm very happy with the radio, at \$75 it was a great deal, especially since I had also got the separation cable, but before you claim I "cheated" the SK estate, my offer was made blind - I had no idea if the radio would even turn-on, let alone function properly, that was a risk I took - a risk that paid off well.

So, what's the moral of the story - I don't know, maybe if you're really lucky you can take two radios with a problem (the "crunchy" IC-2100H and the no RF-output IC-2100H) you can make one good radio. Or, maybe, it's that it's good to take a chance and buy an odd radio from an SK estate - you could get lucky and get a nice radio for a good price, but if it turns out the radio doesn't work, you did a nice thing and turned an old radio into a few dollars for the family.

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Tale of Two Radios, Cont'd

By Ken Hansen, N2VIP

But, to be honest, I keep finding myself searching for that Icom Power Amp Module on the internet, thinking maybe I can get that fourth IC-2100H back on the air for \$30 or so, but there's still that "crunchy" volume knob - maybe I'll just keep an eye out for a fifth IC-2100H to put my fourth IC-2100H back in tip-top shape...

Maybe the thing I learned is that I might have a problem, and perhaps I need to stop buying/collecting Icom IC-2100H radios... (But they look so nice sitting next to each other on the shelf in my closet!)



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Technical Topic

Information and Tips on coax connectors.

By: WB8YWA(SK)

Here are some of the types and frequency for the different types.



In our world of ham radio we have five types that are used mostly.

SMA

Good to use in frequency to over 12 GHz

Used on RG-174 type coax. (Very small coax)

Hand held radios use them for the rubber duck antenna and for external connection.

Inside UHF equipment for connection from different circuit boards. UG-175

RCA phone jacks

Used on smaller coax RG-58 and could be used on RG-8X

This connector was widely used in the early days before solid state for 100 watts or less.

Heathkit and Collins use them on the output of their rigs and as inputs on their amps.

We think of them as stereo connectors.

Not used much today.

BNC

Good to use in frequency to over 2 GHz

Used on smaller coax also.

Used mostly in test equipment connections.

Patch panel

PL-259

Good to use in frequency to over 300 MHz

Used on small and large coax.

In the part number of this connector it states it is a UHF connector. While it can be used at these higher frequency it has a lot of loss compared to the N-Type below.

When using small coax a insert reducer is needed.

UG-175 is type number for RG-59

UG-176 is type number for RG-8X



President

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Vice-President

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Technical Topic

Information and Tips on coax connectors.

By: WB8YWA(SK)



N-Connector

Good to use in frequency to over 8 GHz

Used on large coax

Has less loss of any of the above connectors.

Used on the higher frequency of 144 MHz & higher,

Can be used on any frequency.



All of the above connectors have adapters where you can go from one type to another or even the same type. Here are a few of them;

Barrel connector for attaching two coax together.

RCA to PL-259

BNC to SO-239 (Female to the PL-259)

N to SMA

There is an adapter for every type of connector.

Different types of connector connection.

There are solderless type that have special crimp pliers to connect the coax to the connector. Not my favorite but a lot of hams use these only.

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There is coax seal that is very important to use when connector will be outside in the weather to make it



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Be warned that there are cheap (China) coax connectors that work but you get what you pay for it. It does make a big difference and is worth the added cost.

Couple of the best brand names are;

Amphenol

Times Microwave (LMR Folks)

There are many more.

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From the Desk of the editor



Some useful ham radio websites.

- 10-10 Organization- <https://ten-ten.org/>
- QSL - <https://qsl.net/>
- QRZ - <https://www.qrz.com>
- QTH - <https://qth.com/>
- Gigaparts store - <https://www.gigaparts.com/>
- Ham Radio Outlet- <https://www.hamradio.com/>
- OMISS - <https://omiss.net/>
- Icom America - <https://icomamerica.com>
- Yaesu - <https://yaesu.com>
- Kenwood USA - <https://kenwood.com>

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Let me take the opportunity to thank all our contributors to the current and past editions of the IARC club newsletter. I am always looking for articles that are ham related for the newsletter.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, please email your contribution to me at jerry.aberdeen@gmail.com, with the subject "IARC Newsletter and your callsign" e.g. IARC newsletter -KB3RWT

Going forward, I would like to have all articles for the newsletter sent to me on or before the Sunday of the week in which our in-person meetings are held., but I will accept articles as late as 8pm on the Tuesday before the meeting. This gives me time to organize, create and send out the newsletter in a timely manner. Thanks.

De KB3RWT