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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 37 Issue 07

Web Site <http://www.w5rok.us>

April 2016

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 April 2016  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

Methodist Richardson Medical Center  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection  
*Conference Room A in Hospital Building*

**Subject:**  
**ALL YOU EVER WANTED TO KNOW  
ABOUT D-STAR RADIO**  
*By Bob DeVance K5CRX*

5PM to 8PM. We are welcome to stay longer if the room has not been reserved for a later time.

**Directions:** The new meeting location is in the hospital. No longer will we be meeting in the Doctors Building; we now meet in the main hospital building. To find your way for the first time enter by the main entrance on the south side of the hospital. Stay on the first floor and turn left at the entrance and go down the hall to where it just turns to the right heading for the emergency room; do not continue. Turn left and go into Conference Room A.

### RCARC Community Service Activities

**Crime Watch Patrol** Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in Richardson Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP). CWP members, after successful completion of Richardson Police Department Training, patrol their neighborhoods and report all suspicious activities to the Police Department.

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, Chris Havenridge KF5GUN, Frank Krizan K5HS, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 2 March 2016. Siren reports varied: some worked, some didn't and some worked partially. The siren testing is performed at 12:00 on the first Wednesday of each month. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.

## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

At the April program Bob DeVance, K5CRX, will present a program on D-STAR, titled "It's in the STARS or All you ever wanted to know about D-STAR radio." Please be sure to attend, but bring your own TELESCOPE!

Bob holds an Extra class amateur radio license and says: "I was licensed in August, 2009, fulfilling a dream lingering since my teen years. I have held a General Radio Operators License since it was a "2nd Class FCC license" in the 1980's and have worked on commercial radios and a variety of electronics systems, so radios were not foreign to me. So far it's been rewarding with a lot of firsts: first radio, first contact, first field day, first Texas QSO party, etc." (From <http://qrz.com/db/k5crx>)

**Location:** RCARC has RESERVED Methodist Richardson Medical Center Conference room A or B for the RCARC monthly meeting, (fourth Tuesday of each month) from April, 2016 through August, 2017. Each reservation is for

### North Texas Ham Radio Rodeo

The Majors Field ARC is putting together an amateur radio contest, scheduled the first full weekend of May (Saturday the 7th and Sunday the 8th). Our goal is to have a pre-Field Day contest as a warm-up for the big event. This will give us all a chance to try new gear, new antenna designs, and new ideas that can be tested and tweaked before ARRL's Field Day.

We hope to have as many local clubs participate as possible -the more the merrier. We are encouraging you and your club members to let everyone know about this event. Please forward this email to as many people as you see fit. (Continued on page 3)

**RCARC OFFICERS**

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<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> Joe Wolf N5UIC 214.202.2757 <a href="mailto:n5uic@arrr.net">n5uic@arrr.net</a>	<b>W5ROK CLUB STATION</b> 972.705.1349 461-290

**Richardson** The Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) VE team hold license testing on the third Thursday of each month at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Beltline Rd. Testing begins at 1900 hrs in room 12. Enter through the Northern most door on the east side of the church building. For further information contact Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail [warhog4@tx,rr.com](mailto:warhog4@tx,rr.com).

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**President and VP Messages**

**VE SESSIONS**

**Dallas** tests are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

**Irving** tests are held on the third Saturday of each month at 0900. Fifth and Main St. Contact Bill Revis, KF5BL 252-8015

**McKinney** VE test sessions are held at the Heard Museum the first Sunday of the month. The address is 1 Nature Place, McKinney TX. The time of the testing is 1430, ending no later than 1645. **Note: no tests given on holiday weekends.**

**Garland** testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist. Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH at 972.302.9992.

**Plano** testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 17<sup>th</sup> St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

**Greenville** testing is on the Saturday after the third Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

**This space reserved for President and/or Vice President's Message**

## Secretary's Report

There were no minutes recorded for the March 2016 meeting.

### North Texas Ham Radio Rodeo

*(Continued from page 1)* I have attached the basic rules, and individual and club score sheets. Since this is very informal contest, we are leaving the scoring up to individual ham operators. Just tally up your scores and email them to [contests@wd5gsl.net](mailto:contests@wd5gsl.net), along with pictures (maximum of 3) showing your set up.

The Majors Field Amateur Radio Club hopes you will be able to participate.

The rules and score sheets can be obtained by email from Jim Skinner [wb0uni@arrl.net](mailto:wb0uni@arrl.net) or Bob Kirby [k3nt@arrl.net](mailto:k3nt@arrl.net). The plan is also to post them on the RCARC website.

*(Contributed by Michael Ketchum K5MDK by way of Bob Kirby K3NT)*

### Air Boss Antenna Launcher

Bob Kirby, K3NT, reported that he has purchased the Air Boss antenna launcher. It is ready for use but does need a reel and spider wire. Bob and Mike Schmit, WA9WCC did some shopping for the 'Spider Wire' and end caps for the Air Boss antenna launcher. They are still looking for a Shakespeare fishing reel that can hold at least 150 yards of the spider wire.



The AIR BOSS antenna launcher was designed to launch a light fishing line over trees in order to create temporary antenna for ham radio operators. The AIR BOSS antenna launcher uses compressed air to launch a 2oz lead weight pulling a light fishing line. Once the weight is retrieved, the antenna or another line can be fastened to the fishing line and the line retrieved to erect the antenna.

### Collin County ARES Simulated Emergency Test, April 23, 2016

Collin County ARES will participate in a Simulated Emergency Test (SET) on April 23, 2016. All Amateur Radio operators are invited to participate. We will be set up at a location to be announced later and plan to be operational from 9:00AM to at least 1:00PM or later based on interest.

#### MAJOR OBJECTIVES

- To exercise the readiness capability of ARES members to interoperate with MARS, State/Local

RACES and served agency stations by providing requested information

- Sign off tasks on the NTX ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book.
- Training on emergency traffic handling skills including using HTML and ICS-213.rtf for Winlink Messages

For the first objective, emergency organization stations and ARES net participants are asked to pass traffic stating readiness and capabilities. An ARES Net will be announced on the national calling frequency and via other methods sometime during the exercise hours. Members will be invited to check into the net and provide their readiness and capabilities. Additional details will be provided prior to and during the exercise.

Collin County emergency services are asked to activate their stations to exchange voice and/or Winlink traffic or come to the exercise location to simulate their traffic. Please add the following addresses to your Winlink messages:

- [K5gtx@winlink.org](mailto:K5gtx@winlink.org)
- [Wd5erd@winlink.org](mailto:Wd5erd@winlink.org)

In support of the second objective, please bring the following:

- Paper copy of the attached ARES Emergency Communicator Individual Task Book (it is also available in the COLLINARES Yahoo Group)
- Copy of current FCC Amateur Radio Operators license;
- Copy of transcript(s) or certificate(s) for any FEMA/NIMS ICS training that you have completed;
- Copy of AUXCOM training certificate
- Copy of the SKYWARN class certificate(s)
- 24 Hour Go Kit
- Portable radio for signing programming tasks off

If you have a portable or mobile VHF or HF Winlink station, bring it out and we will use it to send a message to served agencies.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Greg Evans or Fred Varian. Contact information is below.

Greg Evans, K5GTX

Collin County ARES Training Coordinator  
214.505.6738

Fred Varian, WD5ERD

Collin County ARES Emergency Coordinator  
972-333-6156

*(Contributed by Michael Ketchum K5MDK by way of Bob Kirby K3NT)*

## Officials Vow to Block Obama Contacts

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Questions around U.S. President Barack Obama's recent NPOOTA activation have some Washington insiders vowing to prevent the contacts from being confirmed.



*U.S. President Barack Obama waves after activating the Georgetown Pizza Pit using the recently installed Comet mobile antenna visible in the photo.*

According to White House activity logs, Obama – who holds the callsign NØBMA – decided on a spontaneous pizza run Friday afternoon to the Georgetown Pizza Pit. After finishing a Chicago-style pie and boxing up the leftovers to bring home to his family, the president spent 45 minutes in the parking lot making 37 contacts. A spokesman says Mr. Obama uploaded the contacts to Logbook of the Globe upon arriving back to the White House.

Republicans immediately began questioning the validity of the contacts. Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell says the QSOs are no good. “The antenna was 12 feet from the pizza oven, a clear violation of the rules, thus voiding any contacts,” said McConnell.

House Speaker Paul Ryan, holding the party line, remains firm in saying, “we will not confirm any of the QSOs until after the new president is in place next year, even for those that included green stamps in QSL envelopes.”

At a Sacramento rally yesterday, Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump weighed in on the NPOOTA issue. “People are asking me about NPOOTA. They have questions. And I will say this: it’s a huge project. Everywhere I go, people are asking about pizza oven activations. It’s crazy. Make no mistake, they are being activated,” said Trump.

A spokesman says NPOOTA has “reenergized the president’s interest in ham radio and he plans to chase pizza oven activations for the remainder of his term” using a G5RV recently installed at the White House.

*(Courtesy HamHijinks.com)*

## Presentations for Monthly RCARC Meetings

RCARC has an urgent need for presenters to present a short topic on Ham Radio at our monthly club meetings. 45-60 minute Presentations may include, but are not limited to:

- Set-up, Building or Modifying Station Equipment (Antennas, Audio, Dummy Loads, Desks, Lights, ...)
- Operating a Radio Station (Listening & Transmission tips, Ham Logo decrypted, Popular Frequencies, ...)
- My Radio Broke (Possible Alternatives before using the Sledge Hammer, ...)
- Different types of Digital Operation (APRS, Packet, PSK 31-64, RTTY, ...)
- Software Defined Radios (Commercial, Kits, Remote, Internet, ...)
- Software used for Ham Radios (WSPR, PSK-31, ...)
- Emergency Radio Equipment (Go Kits, Batteries, Solar power, Easy-Up Antennas, ...)
- Ham Radio Activities (MARS, RACES, MARC, Contests, Satellites, Mobile, Portable, Remote, Field Day, SWL, ...)
- Radio Reference (On-line manuals, theory, how to books & Videos, ...)
- Social Mingle (With light snacks? Ham and cheese crackers? ...)

If you would like more information on a particular topic, and would like someone to do a presentation on it, you may suggest it as a topic. Please email Bob Kirby K3NT, Jim Skinner WB0UNI, Chris Havenridge KF5GUN, or Gene Duprey K1GD to present a topic or to suggest a topic for presentation.

Let’s try this out while supply lasts. Any RCARC member who presents a program or lines up and follows through with a speaker/presentation (including timely advanced bio and program description to Mr. Skinner) will receive a VHF (or UHF) commercial grade antenna along with a commercial grade magnetic mount with coax cable for each completed program. The speaker will also receive like antenna and magnetic mount/coax cable.

Please note: Simply passing along program prospects or leads, while highly appreciated by your radio club, does not count towards the antenna and magnetic mount with coax offer. However, you may be eligible for a hunk of pre-RF’ed feed line for your pet to chew on. In the absence of said pet, it just could become your "Pet Coax".

## Annual Armed Forces Day Cross-Band Communications Test Set for May 14

The US Army, Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard will cosponsor the Armed Forces Day Military/Amateur Radio Cross-Band Communications Test on Saturday, May 14, 2016. The event gets under way at 1200 UTC, with activity continuing through-

out the day. Some military stations may not operate for the entire period.

“New for Armed Forces Day this year, military stations and Amateur Radio operators are authorized to directly communicate on the 60 meter interoperability channels,” US Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, pointed out.

This year marks the 66th Armed Forces Day (AFD) observance, a week later than the radio event. Armed Forces Day is observed this year on May 21, but the Military/Amateur Radio Cross-Band Communications Test is held earlier in order to avoid conflicting with Dayton Hamvention®.

The annual communications exercise is an opportunity to test two-way communication between amateur and military communicators and features traditional military-to-amateur cross-band SSB and CW communication and offers an opportunity for radio amateurs to utilize modern military communications modes such as MIL-STD serial PSK and automatic link establishment (ALE). These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills, and to receive recognition from military radio stations. QSL cards will be provided to stations that contact military stations during this event. The complete announcement of stations, times, and frequencies—subject to change — is available on the US Army MARS website.

Participating military stations will transmit on selected military frequencies and listen for Amateur Radio stations on selected amateur frequencies, which the military station operator will announce. Contacts should be limited to a minute or two, so all participants get a chance. Some stations will operate on Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) frequencies; others will use CW.

Amateur Stations with automatic link establishment (ALE) capability can contact military stations on specific half-duplex cross-band channels established for this purpose. Military stations will scan and receive certain Amateur HFLINK ALE frequencies, and transmit on the corresponding military ALE frequency. Military stations will also transmit ALE station identification (soundings) on each military frequency at 30 to 90-minute intervals.

The traditional Secretary of Defense message will be transmitted via Military Standard radio teletype modes, described in MIL-STD 188-110A/B. Reception of serial PSK will provide a technical challenge to amateur stations to receive the broadcasts using a high symbol rate serial PSK waveform not utilized in Amateur Radio, but found in all modern military equipment. See the complete schedule for details. Additional transmissions will use wide-shift FSK (RTTY), as this mode represents a baseline in interoperability common in all radio services. Most RTTY programs can be set to decode this mode. To accommodate amateurs some stations will transmit the Secretary of Defense message using common ham radio modes such as RTTY, PACTOR, AMTOR, PSK31, MFSK and MT63.

Transcripts of the received text should be submitted “as received,” without attempting to correct possible transmission

errors. Provide time, frequency and call sign of the military station copied, including the submitter’s name, call sign, and address (with ZIP code). This information should appear on the paper containing the test message.

Stations copying the Secretary of Defense message from Army and Navy stations should send their entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Commander Netcom, ATTN: NETC-ITSMD, Bldg 90549 Jim Ave, Fort Huachuca, AZ 85613-7070.

Stations copying Secretary of Defense message from Air Force stations, should send entries to Armed Forces Day Celebration, 38CYRS/Chief AF MARS, 203W Losey St, Room 1200, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

## Upcoming Events

### MAY

**20-26 Dayton Hamvention** Since 1952 Hamvention® has been sponsored by Dayton Amateur Radio Association (DARA). For many years it has been the world’s largest amateur radio gathering, attracting hams from throughout the globe. More info at <http://hamvention.org/>.

### JUNE

**10-11 Ham-Com 2016** This event will again be held at the Irving Convention Center at Las Colinas providing Ham-Com with an exceptional event location. With almost 100,000 square feet of meeting and exhibit space, the building’s unique architecture, vertical design, and interior finishes create a beautiful event setting. And for Ham-Com 2016 the outdoor swapmeet/flea market will return. Details at <http://www.hamcom.org/>.

**11-13 June VHF Contest** Objective: for amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and possessions) and Canada. Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations. Operations 1800 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>.

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

**Daily** DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz

**Daily** DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz

**Daily** Texas CW Traffic Net (NTS) at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz [www.k6jt.com](http://www.k6jt.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm

# Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



**CLUB STATIONS**  
 (972) 705-1349

**W5ROK REPEATER**  
 441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input  
 131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

**W5ROK-1 PACKET BBS ROK Node**  
 145.05 MHz

**W5ROK-N1, W5ROK-N2 & W5ROK-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz**

Tuesday 26 April 2016  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting

**Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
 At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection**

*Conference Room A in Hospital Building*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 13 May 2016 ←←←**