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# SIGNALS

Rockwell  
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 31 Issue 11

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

August 2010

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 26 August 2010  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
Methodist Richardson Medical Center  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection  
Second Floor Conference Room 200

**Subject: Modeling Your Back Yard Antenna, by  
Loney Duncan, W0GZV**

**Club Meeting Talk-In.** Each month, on the night of the membership meeting we have a Talk-In on the club repeater. The Talk-In this month is 1630 to 1700 hours, prior to the meeting.

**2009 ARRL 10 Meter Contest Results.** Did anyone notice that Dennis, WA8ZBT, made the top ten for Mixed Mode Low Power with 90, 272 contacts per July 2010 QST page 86?

**FY 2011 RCARC Officers Election.** Our officers are asking all members to consider placing their names in nomination for the 2011 Officer Slate. The current officers would like to see more involvement of others in the leadership, and some can not serve another year. Current and some past officers have taken on other duties in addition to their officer roles for the RCARC. Some have served multiple terms. So—here is your chance to make a difference: candidates are especially needed for President, Vice President or Activities Chair. You are guaranteed to get help from the past officers and other members active in the Club.

## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice.** A brief introduction to Antenna Modeling on a personal computer will be presented by interactively modeling several of our antennas and transmission lines in real time. Some common myths about both antennas and transmission lines will be exposed. A comparison of modeling techniques and computing speed over a period of two decades will be made.

The purpose of the talk is to encourage our club members to use simple but powerful modeling techniques for their own antennas. A package of a few relevant QST articles, as well as some demo software will be made available for attending members.

Loney was employed by the Collins Radio Company and Rockwell International for almost 41 years. He spent half of his career in engineering and engineering management to the division director level, developing HF and VLF systems and high power transmitters. He spent the other half on the Rockwell Corporate Engineering Staff in the development and acquisition of advanced electronic processes and computer aided design techniques for all of Rockwell's electronic businesses. He retired as corporate staff VP of Electronics Processes and Technologies twelve years ago.

**July 2010 Signals Correction.** A typographical error was made on Tim Sharp's call sign in the article about Field Day. On the list of attendees, Tim Sharp is at the bottom with a call sign of KC5KBE. The correct call sign should be KC5LBE.

Make your interest known to the leadership now and help your club. There is plenty of lead time until the election this fall. When the nomination committee members call on you, respond—positively, please.

**W5ROK Group on [HTTP://Facebook.com](http://Facebook.com).** What is it? A method to allow people to place information and photos on the web to be used by other members and available for the newsletter. I will admit that I didn't ask permission before doing this and didn't plan on making folks upset. I figured it was another step in my Web Authoring efforts.

A Facebook group was used to coordinate my 40th High-School reunion. It worked well without a bunch of permission and lock-outs. So I thought it should be beneficial to the W5ROK Club as well. This way many pictures and text can be posted and available to all members.

Currently, the only way to get information out on the web is to have me post it (which I'll continue to do). However, if the Facebook technique works well, this web-head may be turning it all over to Facebook in the future. We'll see.

The only impediment I can see is if people are reluctant to join Facebook. From my experience, there doesn't seem to be any adverse issues. If you are on Facebook, simply go to the "search" line and type "W5ROK" to go to the group. (Submitted by Wayne I Hughes, WA0TGH)

## RCARC OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Mike Schmit WA9WCC  wa9wcc@arrl.net	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> Bob Kirby 319.360.0500 k3nt@arrl.net K3NT
<b>SECRETARY</b> Open	<b>TREASURER</b> Bob Diepenbrock 972.705.1461 Kc4uai@gmail.com KC4UAI
<b>ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN</b> Open	<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b> Wayne Hughes 972.705.1406 wa0tgh@arrl.net WA0TGH 461-258
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<b>CLUB STATION</b> 972.705.1349	<b>W5ROK</b> 461-290

## VE SESSIONS

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 10:00. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD (972) 917-6362

**Irving** tests are held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14:30, ending no later than 16:45. **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 Bill Reynolds, K8DNE, 972-475-3854.

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

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## President's Message

It's that time of year again. It's time to elect club officers for 2011. A full slate of club officers will be needed this year so please consider running for one of the of the club officer positions.

It is also time to prepare the annual report for fiscal year 2010. In this years report I would like to include a summary of public service events supported by RCARC members. I am asking all members who have participated in a public service event since last October, whether amateur radio was involved or not, to please drop me a note with a brief description of the event and your work. Please send your information to [wa9wcc@arrl.net](mailto:wa9wcc@arrl.net).



Mike Schmit, WA9WCC  
[wa9wcc@arrl.net](mailto:wa9wcc@arrl.net)

## Vice-President's Message

There is no VP Message this month. Watch this spot next month.

Till next month, 73 from Bob, K3NT  
[k3nt@arrl.net](mailto:k3nt@arrl.net)  
<http://w5rok.us>

## Secretary's Report

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, opened the meeting at 1735 on 22 July 2010, in the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Conference Room with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present at the meeting were:

Charles Beis	K5UWD	Don Bowen	K5LHO
Forest Cummings	W5LQU	Loney Duncan	W0GZV
Hernando Garcia	KC5FDW	Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
John McFadden	K5TIP	Steve Phillips	K6JT
Dave Russell	W2DMR	Michael Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI	Ross Terry	K5SRT
Sydney Terry	K5SDT	Nick Veenstra	KC0YNJ
Paul Veenstra	KC0TEG	Rick Vesny	N4GVE
Joseph Wolf	N5UIC		

### 1. Officer Reports

- President's Report:** Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, starting the meeting by welcoming all attendees and setting the agenda for the meeting.
- Vice-President's Report:** There was no Vice-President's report. Bob Kirby, K3NT, was unable to attend due to work.
- Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report is in the newsletter.
- Treasurers Report:** There was no Treasurers report.
- Station Trustee's Report:** The repeater is working well.
- Activities Chairman Report:** There was no Activities Chairman report.

### 2. Old Business

- RCARC Membership Dues:** Joe Wolf, N5UIC, explained the dues changes and the opportunity to "buy in" at the current rates for up to 3 years. Mike Schmit explained how to get membership forms from the W5OK website.

- b. **Elecraft K3 Transceiver:** The club will buy the P3 Panadapter display and interface for the K3 radio through the company. An additional \$350 needs to be spent to qualify for the full company stipend for FY2010.

**3. New Business**

- a. **Bring-Your-Kids-to-Work-Day:** Ross Terry, K5SRT talked up this event, encouraging members to participate. The shack will be open help is needed to man the radios during the morning. ICOM has provided about 200 Ham Radio related comic books for the kids, along with grid sheets and band plans.
- b. **E-Board Meeting:** A meeting on 31 August was proposed to draft the annual report. It will probably be held in the cafeteria—Joe Wolf, N5UID, will send an email when the date and place are firm.
- c. **Work Party:** A work party is needed to assemble the vertical antenna. A date will be set and Hernando, KC5FDW, will organize and lead the effort.
- d. **Officer Nominations:** Sydney Terry, K5SDT, will contact members and ask them to run for office, then draw up the ballot. FY2011.

The Business meeting adjourned at 1815 and Don Bowen, K5LHO, presented his program on the “Contributions of Ham Radio to the Development of the Quartz Crystal Industry.” He presented “amazing facts from the backside of history” about the discovery of crystal properties and the evolution of electronics from the “coherer” to the cat’s whisker crystal diode to the Fleming valve. The program described how Hams contributed greatly to the development of the electronics industry, especially in the area of crystal controlled radios. The quartz crystal industry didn’t amount to much, except in ham radio, until World War 2 came along.

**Bring Your Kids to Work Day.** RCARC members participated in this event, by opening up the shack manning the radios during the morning. ICOM provided about 200 Ham Radio related comic books for the kids, along with grid sheets and band plans. The following pictures show many future Hams.



**Hot Rocks Bike Ride – Public Service Event.** Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club participated with the Rotary Club’s Hot Rocks Bike race on Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> in Rockwall, Texas. The race lived up to its name, as we experienced 102° on the course. Michael Ketchum, K5MDK, represented the club by manning Rest Stop #5, along with boys from Boy Scout troop 314.





The troop leaders for our rest stop decided to wait until a SAG wagon released them to depart from the site with the equipment. I volunteered to haul some stuff back as well. Just then, an emergency call came to me to look for a missing elderly biker. Some time earlier, I had reported an elderly biker passing our rest stop. I reported it because he was not responsive to my vocal query neither my information about the distance to the next stop. Apparently, it was reported that his family could not reach him on the cell phone he carried. Additionally, he never made it to the next rest stop. With that, the call came to me to go look for him. After covering 30 miles of driving up and down several farm roads, I could not locate the rider. SAG wagons and Sheriff's deputies also joined the search, but the elderly biker was not found. I continued to report my position, and follow search patterns as instructed, until the man turned up at the starting area. What a relief that everything turned out well.

Overall, this was a great experience for me. The ability to couple radios with real work and have immense fun in the process is beyond compare. Although this was the first public service event I was able to participate in, I did very well by following a few simple rules. First, I studied my instructions and followed them. Second, I listened to all instructions of the net control. Third, I used proper net etiquette and keyed a second or two before speaking to allow for repeater delay. Forth, I kept a level head when things got rough or intense. And, finally, I insured my equipment was in good working order and setup properly before arriving to help, which included testing my equipment on the local repeaters before the event. Next year, we will need more volunteers from our club to help with this event.

The day began at 6:00am with a general assembly at the communications trailer. After introducing ourselves, there was a briefing to go over all the operator roles and any additional precautions. About 6:45, we were dismissed to our posts. When I arrived at the spot indicated on the map, I checked in. However, after driving up and down the area for almost an hour, I could not find my volunteer group or their rest stop equipment. A while later, a SAG wagon took me to the rest stop area, which was several miles away from the spot on the map.

The first riders did not even stop. To them, it was a race with no time to waste. About 20 minutes later, we started to see additional riders, who began the long procession of stopping for refreshment. We had bananas, oranges, Gatorade, water and just plain ice. I had many opportunities to request additional supplies, as well as relay race status information to my volunteers. I also took requests from riders for a maintenance vehicle to help them with such things as tires and parts. We had a good stream of riders pour through for most of the day. It was great to be the central attraction as information about the race was heard through my radio.

Near the end of the race, our rest stop volunteers made several requests through me for a SAG sweep, to insure there were no more riders. However, SAG trucks were very busy hauling hot and tired riders off the course and back to the start area, and they could not break away to perform the sweep. Although I recommended they wait for instructions before closing up, they closed up anyway, dumping the remaining ice and water. Just then, two more riders came up looking for water and ice, to which there was none. Fortunately, I kept a few bottles of water and some ice in my truck for myself. This came in quite handy for the hot and weary riders.

There were some lessons learned, some of which could have been solved if we had more SAG wagons and radio operators to ride with the maintenance vehicles. Also, an accurate map depicting rest stop locations with distance markers would be helpful to volunteers who have not worked this event before, like me. SAG sweep and/or a Tail End Charlie would have helped prevent premature closure of the rest stop. But overall, this event ran well and had a great team of organizers and net controllers. My thanks go out to Scott Hammond, KK5PP, for his organization of the radio operators. Also, much thanks to the skillful operation of the rest stop net control by Ron VanWinkle, N5YDX who performed flawlessly throughout the event.

## Events and Public Service Ops

**21 August 2010: Cook County Amateur Radio Club Hamfest** – Gainesville, TX <http://www.gainesvillehamfest.org> for more information.

**21-22 August 2010: ARRL 10GHz & Up** – North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. See the detailed rules for restrictions. Date and Contest Period: Third full weekend of August and September. The dates are August 21-22, 2010 and September 18-19, 2010. Operations may take place for 24 hours total on each contest weekend. Each weekend begins at 6:00 AM local Saturday though 12:00 midnight local Sunday. More info at <http://www.arl.org/10-ghz-up>

**4-5 September 2010: ARRL EME Contest** – The object of this event is to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Date and Contest Period: Three full weekend 48-hour periods (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). The 2010 dates and designated bands for each weekend are: Sep 4-5: 2.3+ GHz - Oct 2-3: 50-1296 MHz - Oct 30-31: 50-1296 MHz More info at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

**6 September 2010—Blackland Triathlon.** The Blackland Triathlon will be held Monday, September 6, Labor Day. The Kids race starts at 7:00 a.m. sharp and the Adult race starts at 8:45 a.m. It should be over before Noon. The website is: [www.blacklandtri.com/](http://www.blacklandtri.com/) Easiest parking is at the Plano Center, and walk across Jupiter. There is also parking at CCCC, but you have to get there early, and will not be able to leave until everything is over as the CCCC streets are closed during the event. Net control will be located near Oak Point Recreation Center. Briefing for all Amateur Radio volunteers will be there at 6:15 a.m. At 6:30 a.m. you will head to your assignments. Some assignments will be shadows, where you follow the person you are assigned. And other assignments will be stationary, watching and helping at certain intersections. If you have a stationary assignment bring something to sit on. If you have any special needs let us know and we will assign accordingly. Everyone should be able to talk to net control with a HT and we will operate on simplex and if necessary the K5PRK UHF repeater. Sign up with Kipton Moravec [kip+kdream.com](mailto:kip+kdream.com) or John Galvin [n5tim+arrl.net](mailto:n5tim+arrl.net). We will need about 20 people.

**11-13 September 2010: ARRL September VHF QSO Party** – The object of this event is to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only. Date and Contest Period: The second full weekend of September. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday (September 11-13, 2010). More info at <http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf-qso-party>

**17-19 September 2010—Plano Balloon Fest.** The Plano Amateur Radio Klub invites you to come out this September 18, 19 and 20 for the Plano Balloon Festival. PARK and other amateurs from the area have been providing communication support for this event for over 20 years. The primary reason for this support is to provide support to the balloonists and organizers of this event. With this event spanning three days it requires a rather significant effort to coordinate and administer. Operators are required in two general categories. Field operations and recovery. We also provide weather monitoring support and liaison to many of the Public Safety agencies supporting the event. In the past we have also used this event to deploy new technology and techniques to validate their operational capabilities. Information: [www.w5adc.com/PBF/PBF.html](http://www.w5adc.com/PBF/PBF.html) Those wishing to sign-up to work the PBF need to Sign up at: Plano Balloon Festival Volunteer Also include your T-Shirt size and ask to join the Yahoo group if you are not a member. Check the Plano Amateur Radio Klub for additional info.

**25 September 2010—JDRF Walk for a Cure.** Collin County Granite Park. I need your help with an annual event: JDRF Walk for a Cure. Get credit for a public service event; your time is dedi-

cated for a great cause and you will actually have some fun doing it. Even if you have never worked an event; and have a Hand held radio you can work this event. I can show you what you need to know.

When: Saturday, September 25th

Time: 7:00 - 12:00 noon 5K event

Location: Dallas American Airline Center

There is also an event in Plano for those of you who can't make the Dallas location Need: 11 operators (10 CRF-S and 1 CRF-B) If you have that morning available and would like to help. The JDRF team and I would love to have you join us. Please contact me with any questions. N5ROS+arrl.net or 214-289-1841

**9 October 2010—Wish100.** (Supporting Make-A-Wish Foundation) at Frito-Lay in Plano.

**23 October 2010—CoCo Best.** - Robotic games

## The Paris Texas Hamfest #6

**It's a Ham Radio Event Like No Other!!!**

**Friday and Saturday October 8 and 9, 2010  
RED RIVER VALLEY FAIRGROUNDS 570 EAST CENTER ST. PARIS, TX**

**VE TESTING, COMMERCIAL VENDORS, INDOOR FLEA MARKET, LIVE MUSIC, ONE OF THE LARGEST OUTSIDE TAILGATE SECTIONS AROUND, FOOD, DRINKS, AND FUN**

**TALK IN FREQUENCY 146.760+ PL 203.5 \*ADMISSION \$2, \* FLEA MARKET TABLES \$15 EACH, \* TAILGATE \$10.00 FOR UNLIMITED SPACE \*ELECTRICITY IS AVAILABLE\***

**RV CAMPING AVAILABLE, HOOK-UPS AVAILABLE \$20 per night , TENT CAMPING IS OK TOO!!**

**DEALER SETUP AT NOON ON FRIDAY AND 6:00 AM SAT MORNING. DOORS OPEN @ 5:00 PM FRIDAY NIGHT AND CLOSE AT 9:00 PM. DOORS OPEN AGAIN AT 8:00 AM SATURDAY MORNING**

**DOOR PRIZES !!**

**SPECIAL GUESTS.. AUSTIN AMATEUR RADIO SUPPLY, CLEAR SIGNAL PRODUCTS, AND MORE !!!**

**CHECK OUT THE WEBSITE FOR THE LATEST INFO**

[www.paristexasradio.com/hamfest](http://www.paristexasradio.com/hamfest)

**OR CONTACT FOR MORE INFO**

**RICHARD KI5DX OR CHRISTY LENOIR N5RDJ**

**903-783-0968, 903-737-0773, 903-517-4483**

# 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

145.01 MHz

Thursday 26 August 2010

1730

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection  
*Second Floor Conference Room 200*

### NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

→→→ 12 September 2010 ←←←