
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 37 Issue 11

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

August 2016

RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 23 August 2016
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
Show-n-Tell
by Everybody who wants to participate

2016 Field Day Recap

The Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club operated in the 2016 ARRL Field Day. Those operating the station in the event were: AF5MA, K3NT, K5LIZ, K5TIP, W4FTD, WA8ZBT and also Vicky. The rundown of W5ROK contacts and pictures are below.

Band (Mhz)	Mode	QSO's	Points
3.5	CW	26	52
7.0	CW	179	328
7.0	LSB	13	13
14.0	CW	324	548
14.0	USB	165	152
21.0	CW	141	242
21.0	USB	158	128
50.0	USB	6	5
Totals		1012	1468
		Contacts	Points

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

This month's program will be a show-n-tell. We haven't done that in a long time. Bring your latest project, installation, gear acquisition etc. It can be actual equipment, paper photos or soft media. If you are proud, show it off. If it's a problem, hams always have "solutions." Should be fun!

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 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, 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.



John K5TIP, Bob K3NT and Dennis WA8ZBT

(Continued on page 3)

RCARC OFFICERS

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MEMBERSHIP Joe Wolf 214.202.2757 n5uic@arrl.net	N5UIC	W5ROK CLUB STATION 972.705.1349 461-290	

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 17th 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.

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.

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President and VP Messages

It is August, and not the August we had expected, as the weather is living up to this year's craziness. It is raining and in the 70's, not HOT and DRY and 100+. This is supposed to be the time to repair and install antennas, but so far this rain is not helping with that effort. I have purchased my Off-Center-Fed dipole antenna, and of course the weather is not co-operating. I still have to buy a couple of push up masts to put it up into the air, but that will take only a drive to Home Depot or one of the local radio stores.

It is also time for various charity bike and other events. We just had one in the past couple of weeks; unfortunately I was not able to help due to other commitments, but there will be more. This is a chance to help out and also to show what Ham radio is all about and maybe generate interest in the hobby.

We are also looking into upgrades to the club station. We are currently looking into a Flex system, and possibly other radio upgrades. We would like to find something that will add to our capabilities and not just another HF/6Meter radio. So if you have any suggestions, contact one of the officers, or better yet, come to this month's meeting and bring your ideas with you.

See you at the meeting, 73's

Gene, K1GD

Secretary's Report

26 July 2016

The meeting was called to order by Bob Kirby K3NT at 1748.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI

Officers and Committee Reports:

There were no formal reports other than the Secretary's Report, which is contained in this newsletter.

Old Business:

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT provided a detailed report on equipment prices for potential club acquisitions, along with specifications for many units. This was followed by a lengthy discussion of various radio options, possible interconnect scenarios, and expected usage of new capabilities. Remoting capability was addressed and its potential uses discussed.

The list of acquisition candidates was narrowed significantly, and plans discussed for further investigation, including demonstrations and evaluation of vendor repair practices and policies. Discussion will continue at subsequent meetings as further data is acquired.

New Business:

There was no new business.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1904. Due to the lengthy discussion, the program was deferred to the next meeting.

RCARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The testing on 3 August 2016 was successful with the possible exception of one siren that was not monitored. 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. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater.

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.

2016 Field Day Recap



Liz K5LIZ, Bob K3NT, Bob W4FTD and Dennis WA8ZBT



Dennis WA8ZBT, Bob K3NT and Vicky.

Plano Balloon Festival 23-25 September

The 2016 Plano Balloon Festival Volunteer registration is now open.

Welcome back if you've joined us before; if not, what's holding you back?

As in the past, the Yahoo Group {click underlined link} will be used for general announcements and Q&A. If you are a new volunteer, please join this Yahoo group.

The 2016 Plano Balloon Festival webpage <https://sites.google.com/site/pbfcommssupp/> is the collection point for most everything you need to know and where you will be able to register. There is a large amount of information contained within the website. It is not intended to over-

whelm you or prohibit this from being a fun event by having so many "rules". With any event, you need some procedures and the "best practice". New volunteers and seasoned individuals are encouraged to look over the information and ask questions about anything that might not seem clear or is confusing.

Be sure to sign up early, particularly if you wish to work the field. There are a limited number of positions available each shift. Only select the "Staff" option in the registration if you have already been designated so. Yes, you do need to select a value for each option, with a choice or the optional value "None".

Sign up only once. If you feel you have made an error or need to make a change, a link will be provided to you at the end of the sign up process that says "Edit my responses". Please keep that link just in case you do have to make changes. If you don't know how to 'save' that link, you can right click on "Edit my responses" and save the link as a file for later use. Of course if all else fails, feel free to contact the Volunteer Liaison (click link).

We thank you for your time and resources in advance!

73, PBF Comms Team

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 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".

Old-Timer's Bar

Four retired men are walking down a street in Yuma, Arizona. They turn a corner and see a sign that says, "Old Timers Bar - ALL drinks 10 cents." They look at each other and then go in, thinking this is too good to be true.

The old bartender says in a voice that carries across the room, "Come on in and let me pour one for you! What'll it be, gentlemen?"

There's a fully stocked bar, so each of the men orders a martini. In no time the bartender serves up four iced martinis shaken, not stirred and says, "That's 10 cents each, please."

The four guys stare at the bartender for a moment, then at each other. They can't believe their good luck. They pay the 40 cents, finish their martinis, and order another round. Again, four excellent martinis are produced, with the bartender again saying, "That's 40 cents, please."

They pay the 40 cents, but their curiosity gets the better of them. They've each had two martinis and haven't even spent a dollar yet.

Finally, one of them says, "How can you afford to serve martinis as good as these for a dime apiece?"

"I'm a retired tailor from Phoenix," the bartender says, "and I always wanted to own a bar. Last year I hit the Lottery Jackpot for \$125 million and decided to open this place. Every drink costs a dime. Wine, liquor, beer it's all the same."

"Wow! That's some story!" one of the men says.

As the four of them sip their martinis, they can't help noticing seven other people at the end of the bar who don't have any drinks in front of them and haven't ordered anything the whole time they've been there.

Nodding at the seven at the end of the bar, one of the men asks the Bartender, "What's with them?"

The bartender says, "They're retired people from Florida. They're waiting for Happy Hour when drinks are half-price, plus they all have coupons."

Amateur Radio Volunteers Still Needed in Louisiana

The Red Cross continues to request Amateur Radio volunteers to support communication at shelters housing evacuees from flooding of historic proportions in Louisiana. The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) in Louisiana has activated, and Section Emergency Coordinator Adam Tamplain, KD5LEH, has put out a call for additional volunteers, reaching out to neighboring states. The federal government declared Louisiana a major disaster area, states of emergency remain in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the Louisiana Emergency Operations Center is at full activation. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, visited the stricken region on August 16. While some residents are being allowed to return home, about 7000 remain in shelters.

"While we have had an increase in response from the Southeastern area, it's still not quite enough," Tamplain said on August 16. "Alabama ARES is attempting to put together a team for us. We have seen support from Southwest Mississippi as well. We had operators at Red Cross New Orleans, Lafayette, and Baton Rouge today." Tamplain said a dozen or so operators were staffing eight shelters; nearly 40 shelters remain open. He asked additional volunteers to check in at Red Cross Headquarters in Baton Rouge (4655 Sherwood Common Boulevard).

Red Cross Vice President of Disaster Services, Operations, and Logistics Brad Kieserman called the Louisiana flooding the worst natural disaster to strike the US since Hurricane Sandy in 2012. With some 40,000 homes affected, thousands of residents were displaced, and nearly a dozen people have died. Roads, including parts of Interstates 10 and 12, had to be closed, stranding many motorists. Most conventional telecommunication systems remain operational. Area waterways reached record flood levels, and some roadways remain impassable.

"Significant river flooding will persist this week across portions of southern Louisiana," FEMA said in its August 17 Daily Operations Briefing. "Major to record flooding will continue along portions of the Amite, Vermilion, Mermentau and Calcasieu rivers."

Noting the "desperate need" for ham radio volunteers in Louisiana, ARES volunteers in Mississippi have been asked to provide assistance. Mississippi Prospective Mississippi should not self-deploy to Louisiana, but coordinate through Mississippi Section Manager Malcolm Keown, W5XX.

Primary operating frequencies at this time are 444.950 MHz (107.2 Hz), 146.940 MHz (107.2 Hz), and 146.790 MHz (107.2 Hz). Louisiana ARES HF Frequencies now designated for use are 7.255 MHz and 3.873 MHz LSB. Digital operation is on 3.595MHz. These frequencies should be kept clear of non-emergency traffic. More repeaters may need to be designated, and the frequencies will be posted when they become available. (Reprinted courtesy of <http://www.arl.org/news/>)

Upcoming Events

AUGUST

- 20-21 10 GHz & Up – Round 1** The objective is for North American amateurs to 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. Operations may take place for 24 hours total on contest weekend. The weekend begins at 6:00 AM local Saturday though 12:00 midnight local Sunday. Details at <http://www.arl.org/10-ghz-up>.
- 21 Rookie Roundup – RTTY** Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators ("Rookies") to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are encouraged to help new operators – either on air or in person. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read "HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions." Operation is from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at <http://www.arl.org/rookie-roundup>.

SEPTEMBER

- 10-12 September VHF** – Objective is 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 US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in US (and its possessions) and Canada. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arl.org/september-vhf>.
- 17-19 10 GHz & Up Round 2** – The objective is for 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. Operations may take place for 24 hours total. Weekend begins at 6:00 AM local Saturday though 12:00 midnight local Sunday. Details at <http://www.arl.org/10-ghz-up>.

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 at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
- 1st Wednesday** Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
- 2nd 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 23 August 2016

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Conference Room A in Hospital Building

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 16 September 2016 ←←←