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# SIGNALS

Rockwell  
Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 31 Issue 3

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

December 2009

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**RCARC**  
**Membership Meeting**  
**RCARC Holiday Party**  
**Saturday, 12 December 2009**  
**1700--2100**  
**Golden Corral Party Room**  
**Richardson TX**

**Subject:** Special Speaker: Jay Urish, W5GM, North Texas ARRL Section Manager (SM)

**Attic Slinky Antenna Addiction.** A big Thank You! goes out to Matt Johnson, N5MTJ, for speaking to us on Slinky Antennas at our November 19, 2009 meeting. If you need more information visit his website at: <http://www.n5mtj.blogspot.com>. While on the site you can even post comments and view his kind remarks about our club. We know Matt had an impact because new member Paul Veenstra, KC0TEG, is reported as having purchased his very own set of Slinky's by YL-Jodie. We suspect others are Attic Slinky Antenna Addicted as well. Don't miss the video about Slinky at N5MTJ's website.

**Popcorn Wednesday a Huge Success.** Many RCARC members participated in the weekly popcorn event, sponsored by the company Recreational clubs. Several types of clubs, including the RCARC take turns preparing and serving popcorn to employees. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, did an outstanding job organizing the effort this time and also taking pictures of the event. Some of the pictures are featured below and on page 3.

## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice** This month's meeting will be our annual (re-instituted) Holiday Party. We will meet at the Golden Corral in Richardson at the corner of Campbell and Plano Roads. The telephone number is 972.437.2470. We have the party room in the NE corner of the restaurant reserved. The cost is \$13 per person plus a minimum 15% tip. A senior discount is available, but you gotta ask—at the entrance register. Look forward to a huge variety on the buffet, great fellowship and a very informative speaker. BTW—be sure to bring your YL or "significant other!"

**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.

**RCARC Holiday Dinner Party.** For the December 12th RCARC Holiday Dinner Party we have invited an ARRL official to be our dinner speaker.

- **Place:** Golden Corral Party Room, corner of Campbell and Plano Roads (972-437-2470).
- **Date:** Saturday, December 12th (please reserve the date on your calendar).
- **Time:** 5 p.m. until 9 pm (bring your YL!).
- **Cost:** \$13 each for the buffet + 15% gratuity (inquire about senior discounts at entrance register).
- **Speaker:** Jay Urish, W5GM, North Texas ARRL Section Manager (SM)



## RCARC OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Mike Schmit WA9WCC  wa9wcc@arrl.net	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> Bob Kirby 319.360.0500 k3nt@arrl.net  K3NT
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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

The Presidents Message is unavailable this month. Mike is currently under extreme pressure at work. He promises to catch up on his workload sufficiently next month to write the customary column.

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

## Vice-President's Message

MERRY CHRISTMAS  
A JOYOUS HOLIDAY  
SEASON TO ALL

A big thank you to all RCARC members who supported the "Popcorn Wednesday" event. The turn out was great followed by a good attendance at next night's club meeting where our guest speaker, Matt Johnson, N5MTJ, did an outstanding presentation on Slinky antennas. See: <http://www.n5mtj.blogspot.com>

I had a nice visit with member John, K5TIP, and we were able to work on his 160 and 80-meter antennas. John is again active on these HF bands and has been running AM phone in the mornings around 3880 kHz.

Ross, K5SRT, and I were able to finally remove my R4 HF vertical that we used at the club for field day from the tall east tower. We finished the job just before dark. We were both surprised how much the hardware had loosened up in just six months. Probably a good reminder to check our home and mobile station antennas.

QST 1995-1999 CDs are now available to check out from the club. Don't forget to check out all our other great training and reference material including the new hardbound ARRL 2010 handbook and CD.

Ken, W9ZMR, was at our QTH for Thanksgiving and a number of club members were able to follow his trip via his new APRS setup. You can see Ken's APRS routes here: <http://aprs.fi/W9ZMR-9>

Along with our party, do not forget the ARRL 10 meter contest on Saturday December 12, 2009. <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/10-meters.html>

Enjoy your Radio Hobby, support your club & please share what you know and learn what you don't. Best Regards (73),

Bob Kirby, K3NT  
[k3nt@arrl.net](mailto:k3nt@arrl.net)  
<http://w5rok.us>

## Secretary's Report

Bob Kirby K3NT opened the meeting at 1740 on 19 November 2009, in the Dallas Conference Room with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mike was busy escorting members in from the guard station. Present at the meeting were:

Charles Beis	K5UWD	John Champa	K8OCL
Bob Diepenbrock	KC4UAI	Hernando Garcia	KC5FDW
Richard Gorsuch	—	Joe Henshal	KF5G
Matt Johnson	N5MTG	Bob Kirby	K3NT
Ed Kucmierz	KB5SFE	John McFadden	K5TIP
Steve Phillips	K6JT	Chuck Samuel	K7NWM
Michael Schmit	WA9CC	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Ross Terry	K5SRT	Paul Veenstra	KC0TEG
Joseph Wolf	N5UIC		

1. Officer Reports

- a. **President's Report:** Mike Schmit, WA9CC, was busy escorting members in from the guard station, so his report was covered by Bob Kirby.
- b. **Vice-President's Report:** Bob Kirby (K3NT) reported that due to changes in security regulations, retired club members must now obtain a V-badge and be escorted.
- c. **Secretary's Report:** There was no Secretary's report, since the post is currently unmanned.
- d. **Treasurers Report:** Robert Diepenbrock, KC4UAI, reported that "we still have some money," but did not have a report available.
- e. **Station Trustee's Report:** Steve Phillips, K6JT, reported that the repeater is working well.
- f. **Activities Chairman Report:** John Champa, K8OCL, reported that the ARBONET balloon launch was successful, but the Cornell University record was not exceeded. All of the payloads worked well and were successfully recovered. John also encouraged members to attend the Holiday party on 12 December at the Golden Corral.

2. Old Business

- a. **Club T-Shirts:** No new information on the club t-shirts. However, Bob, K3NT, was sporting a new CARC (W0CXX) shirt. These are available through CARC for RCARC members. Cost is around \$30. Ross, K5SRT, is looking for a less expensive option for RCARC shirts.
- b. **RFI in the Shack:** Bob, K3NT, noted the level of interference on HF from the air handlers has increased making the lower HF bands unusable at times. The club is awaiting Facilities response on a RFI filter identified by the club.

3. New Business

- a. It was reported that the Popcorn Wednesday event, organized by Joe Wolf, N5UIC, went well. Many members participated and several contacts for club membership were made. There was also interest expressed in another Amateur Radio class, which may be set in January 2010.
- b. Joe also reported that he will assist in making more handouts such as were used at Popcorn Wednesday for upcoming events such as the Christmas Party and meeting announcements.

The business meeting adjourned for a fascinating program on antennas fabricated with "Slinkies," presented by Matt Johnson, N5MTJ. The meeting closed at 1915.

Events and Public Service Ops

**13 December 2009 (Sunday): Dallas White Rock Marathon.** Contact: Bob Jones, [w5bj@arrl.net](mailto:w5bj@arrl.net). This is a world class event. As many as 20,000 participants are expected. Please consider helping out, we need all the help we can get. If you have not worked an event before, you will be teamed up with another operator who has.



# Rockwell-Collins

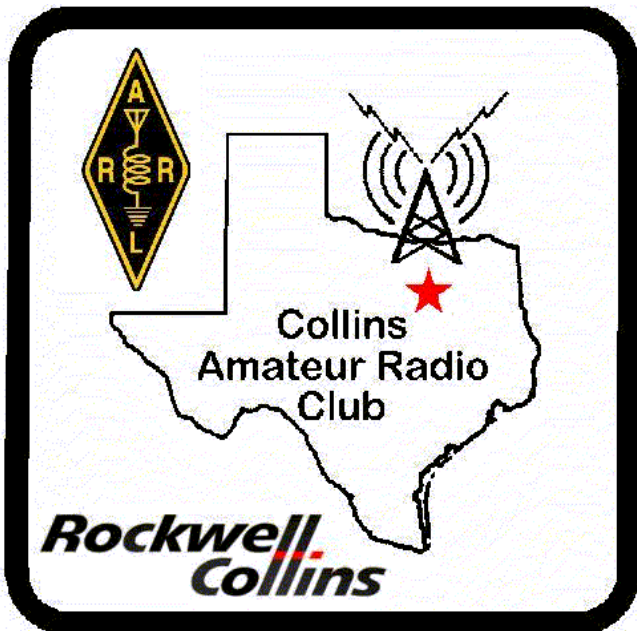
Amateur Radio Club

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

### RCARC Holiday Party

Saturday 12 December 2009

1700--2100

Golden Corral Restaurant  
*Corner of Campbell and Plano Roads*

*Richardson TX*

### NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

→→→ 18 January 2010 ←←←