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# SIGNALS

Rockwell  
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 32 Issue 3

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

December 2010

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Saturday, 18 December 2010

1900 (7pm)

*At the Home of the Ross Terry's*

**Subject: RCARC Christmas Party and  
Cookie Exchange**

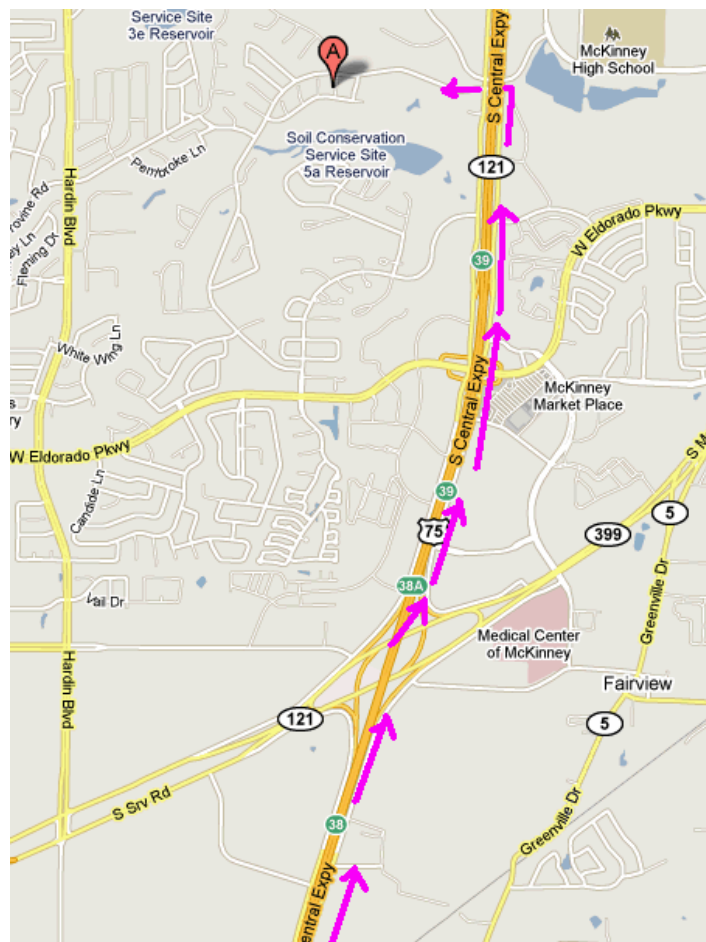
NOTE: if you pass over the creek to the North you will need to come back to the South side so you're on Valley Creek Trail by use of the South bound access road of HWY 75.

6. After traveling West on Valley Creek Trail Turn left on Fairway Vista Dr (at the start of housing edition on the left past a wooded area, it should be the 2nd left you can make once on Valley Creek)

7. Turn right on Sunny Meadow (first right at the end of the street).

8. Turn right on Torrey Pines Way (2104 should be the 2nd house on left with Snoopy out front).

If you need help call Simplex 146.520 MHz or 972-562-4266.



## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice.** Make plans to attend the RCARC party of the year! This year, the RCARC will be having a Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange. It will be located at the home of our President, Ross Terry - K5SRT. The Terry's have begun decorating their home for this year's RCARC Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange planned for Saturday, December 18th starting at 7 PM. It is rumored that the Terry Family go all out each year in decorating their home. Please bring three dozen festive cookies (two dozen for exchange to take home and one dozen to share that evening with friends present). The Terry's plan to have Coffee, and Cider and a few snacks but if you would like to bring other food items or drinks, feel free to bring and share. Don't forget to bring your radio in case you need final approach instructions, as the Terry's will be monitoring 146.520 MHz simplex.

### Directions to Ross Terry's QTH

1. Travel North towards McKinney TX
2. When you get near the HWY 121 overpass be in the right lane on HWY 75 North.
3. Take the access road exit for Eldorado Parkway (Its now under the HWY 121 overpass)
4. Stay on the access road traveling North passing under Eldorado Parkway.
5. Turn left at the very first (1st) of two (2) stop lights on each side of a bridge on the access road. You should now be on Valley Creek Trail (both Valley Creek Trail and Park View Ave. go under HWY 75 at this point and are both two lane roads on each side of a creek between them).

## RCARC OFFICERS

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### W5ROK

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

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!  
FRÖHLICHE WEINACHTEN GOD JULE JOYEUX NOEL  
BUON NATALE FELIZ NAVIDAD GESEËNDE KERS-  
FEES VROLIJK KERSTFEEST SUNG TAN CHUK HA**

Ross Terry, K5SRT  
[k5srt@arrl.net](mailto:k5srt@arrl.net)

## Secretary's Report

November 18 2010.

### 1. Opening

**a. Introductions** Before the meeting began, Ken Piletic – W9ZMR checked into the meeting on the teleconference. A word of appreciation was given for Ken's work in recording the meetings audio. The Club President, Ross Terry – K5SRT, opened the meeting at 17:30 on the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2010, in the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Conference room, by having everyone in the room introduce themselves. Those in attendance were as follows:

Ross Terry – K5SRT  
Bob Kirby – K3NT  
Mike Schmit – WA9WCC  
Ira Blum – K5IRA  
Chuck Samuel – K7NWM  
John McFadden – K5TIP

Joe Henchal – KF5G  
Mark Harris – KC5FDX  
Michael Ketchum – K5MDK  
Joe Wolf – N5UIC  
Charla Harris  
Dwight Ramsey – KE5SAS

This represented 8 (M)embers, 1 (A)ssociate member, 2 (L)ife members and 1 (N)on-members.

**b. Tribute to John Champa – K8OCL (SK)** After introducing himself, Ross announced the passing of John Champa – K8OCL, who passed away on Friday due to complications from cancer. Bob Kirby – K3NT was asked to lead in a moment of silence. Ross continued to testify the impact that John had in his life, including teaching his License Class.

Introductions around the room continued, including Mark Harris – KC5FDX, who introduced his wife of ten years, Charla Harris.

**c. Pledge of Allegiance** Ross gave a special mention and slide depicting Veterans Day flags for honoring those who have served our country. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Ross. After the pledge, John McFadden – K5TIP made the comment that we should consider purchasing a real flag for the use in the hospital conference room.

**2. Reports** Ross announced that Jim Skinner – WB0UNI could not make tonight's meeting. Jim's work as **Signals** Newsletter Editor was recognized. Comments were made about how our **Signals** newsletter holds up against all other news letters we're aware of. Requests were made for membership to write up articles or notes on topics or subjects they are working on for use in future **Signals** Newsletters. If anyone is interested, please forward their notes or article entries to either Jim Skinner – WB0UNI the editor, or Michael Ketchum – K5MDK.

Ross continued to announce that Bob Diepenbrock – KC4UAI could not make it as well and recognized his work as Club Treasurer. Bob reported to Ross of the balance on hand was approximately \$2000.

**3. Calendar** Ross brought up slides indicating various calendar events that are coming up. These events are as follows:

**a. RCARC Monthly Meeting for November** – November 18<sup>th</sup> (tonight) at 17:00.

**b. City of Richardson Siren Test for December** – December 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:45. Please encourage some of our new club members and recent graduates by including them in the siren test, even if it is to simply ride along.

**c. White Rock Marathon** – December 9<sup>th</sup> Mike Schmit – WA9WCC was asked to comment about the great need at the White Rock Marathon, coming this December 9<sup>th</sup>. The Yahoo Group ID is d-WRM to get more information or to sign-up.

**d. RCARC Christmas Party** – Tentatively scheduled for December 18<sup>th</sup> at 18:00.

**e. Straight Key Night** – January 1<sup>st</sup> 00:00 UTC – 23:59 UTC. Straight Key Night (SKN) is an annual event, not a contest, that promotes the use of CW using old fashioned means, such as vintage radios and the use of a Straight Key.

**f. City of Richardson Siren Test for January** – January 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:45. Please encourage some of our new club members and recent graduates by including them in the siren test, even if it is to simply ride along.

**g. Cowtown Hamfest in Fort Worth** – January 14<sup>th</sup> 12:00.

**h. RCARC Monthly Meeting for January** – January 27<sup>th</sup> 17:00.

#### 4. Old Business

**a. Weather Station** Prices for Peet Brothers Model 800 and Model 2100 was presented. Facilities does not have funds to purchase this station for the club, but will help with wiring effort. Discussion was made regarding the APRS-Ready capability of the Model 800, along with the barometric pressure capabilities. After a brief discussion about these features and the \$100 difference in price, a motion was made by Bob Kirby, which was seconded by Mark Harris to purchase the Model 2100 with club funds. An informal voice vote was used to ratify the motion, with no dissenting votes. This unit will cost approx \$399 plus cables, for an additional \$100 approximately.

#### b. MFJ “IT” Antenna

#### 5. New Business

**a. John Champa – K8OCL** Bob Kirby – K3NT presented a tribute to John Champa – K8OCL for his career and accomplishments in Ham Radio and technology as a pioneer in various fields. It was also announced that a sympathy card was being passed around for those in attendance to sign. This card will be delivered to Karen along with monies collected to be presented to her in the card.

**b. Upcoming Events** The following events were presented as future events being considered:

**1. MFJ “IT” Antenna project** Ross gave special Thank You to everyone who has helped so far on the MFJ “IT” Antenna project. Ross also gave special “Thank You” to Andrew Robinson – KE5SAK for his many pictures (approx. 100), which presented itself as almost a documentary that can be made into a future presentation. Also, appreciation was given to Armando Rodriguez – KM5ROD, along with comments about his big stick (a piece of wood used to prop up the mast for the antenna to the proper height). Finally, Michael Ketchum – K5MDK was given thanks for doing a great job keeping us all informed, which was following by a round of applause. Discussion was made about

another work day and a request was made for someone to head up organizing that effort after a few comments by those in attendance about the holiday. At this point, the topic was tabled.

**2. Repeater Antenna Maintenance** The Repeater Antenna Maintenance is done for now. However some cable routing could be improved at some point in order to provide a maintenance isle and shore up loose cables to protect our equipment.

#### 3. TH-7 PM versus Replacement

#### 4. BBS Antenna needs.

#### 5. Scope Command Tour

**6. Christmas Party** Ross presented three plan options for the Christmas Party:

**Plan A** – Progressive Dinner Format

**Plan B** – Just show up at the Ross’s QTH for dessert.

**Plan C** – Dickey’s BBQ.

Afterwards, Ross opened it up to the floor for any additional ideas. When no new ideas were presented, Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, called for a count of those willing to go with Plan A. This received 3 votes. Ross polled for Plan B, which received 6 votes. Ross announced that the Executive Board will consider and present plans for the Christmas Party very soon.

**7. Featured Presentation** Tonight, we had Mark Harris – KC5FDX give a presentation as an introduction to future presentations on the subject of audio integrity. Mark presented basic terminologies and concepts of measuring the quality of audio. He also presented many of the problems faced with audio in many different applications, not just radio. Mark also introduced concepts that will lead into identifying and dealing with audio issues. The presentation was concluded with a healthy question answer session. Much interest was generated into future presentations on this topic as there are a lot of areas to cover on such a topic that cuts to the heart of Ham radio performance and practice.

**8. Closing** Once Mark finished his presentation and the question and answer session, there was a very big response by those in attendance through a round of applause. Ross attempted to close the meeting with some resistance initially. Eventually, Ross was able to get a motion from Chuck Samuel – K7NWM to close the meeting, with a second by John McFadden – K5TIP. A unanimous voice vote closed the meeting.

## Events and Public Service Ops

**1 January 2011—ARRL Straight Key Night.** This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners. Straight Key Night is held every January 1 from 0000 UTC through 2359 UTC. All authorized Amateur frequencies, but activity has traditionally been centered on the HF bands. More information at <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>.

**29 January 2011—Collin County Skywarn And Hazardous Weather Conference.** “Quad C” Spring Creek Campus. Detailed Information available next month.

# Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

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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

Saturday 18 December 2010

1900 (7pm)

RCARC Christmas Party and Cookie Exchange at the Home of Ross Terry

**NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 16 January 2011 ←←←**