
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 33 Issue 05

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

February 2012

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 23 February 2012
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
Understanding HF Propagation
Part 2
By Dave Jaksa WOVX

The format provides club and local announcements of interest to Amateur Radio, a swap net time as well as personal updates from net participants regarding their experiences in the hobby. All suggestions for content and format are welcomed. (Written by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)

B-29 WART (WWII Airborne Radio Team) Activities Several RCARC members, including Loney Duncan W0GZV, Bob Kirby K3NT, Mike Schmit WA9WCC, Ross Terry K5SRT and to a tiny extent so far, Jim Skinner WB0UNI, have been working on the Collins radio equipment on Fifi. Come to the meeting for a progress update.



Local Club News

Meeting Notice Last month Dave presented a very informing program about the ionosphere, sunspots, solar cycles, MUFs, LUFs, convoluted propagation paths and more. If you enjoyed last month's program, then you won't want to miss the continuation at this month's meeting.

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club Information Net **Tuesday 21 February 2012** The W5ROK NET meets each month. The particulars are:

- WHAT** Information Net - **RCARCIN**
- WHEN** Tuesday of the week of the regular club meeting at 19:00 CST
- WHERE** W5ROK Repeater 441.875+ PL 131.8Hz
- WHO** Everyone and anyone.
- FORMAT** (a) announcements
(b) Swap
(c) Check-in plus updates.

The Commemorative Air Force publishes a newsletter called "The Flyer". The February 2012 edition can be found on the web at <http://www.cafb29b24.org/images/stories/FLYER-2012/february%202012.pdf>. This month's edition on page 9 has an article about the Rockwell Collins Radio Club and its involvement with new radios for "FIFI" (part of the B-29 Radio Restoration effort). It also contains a few pictures including one of Bob Kirby - K3NT.

Check out the following website for a documentary on B-29 missions over Japan. View full Screen with sound On. <http://www.archive.org/details/TheLastBomb1945>.

RCARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Michael Ketchum K5MDK
972.705.1286
k5mdk@arrl.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

IRA Blum K5IRA
972.705.1228
iblum1@yahoo.com

SECRETARY

Mike Schmit WA9WCC
972.705.1394
maschmi2@rockwellcollins.com

TREASURER

Andrew Robinson K5VRA
972.705.1467
avrobins@rockwellcollins.com

ACTIVITIES CHAIR-

Paul Veenstra KC0TEG
972-705-1426
peveenstra@gmail.com

WEBSITE MANAGER

Wayne Hughes WA0TGH
972.705.1406 461-258
wa0tgh@arrl.net

STATION TRUSTEE

Steve Phillips K6JT
972.517.3332
k6jt@arrl.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Skinner WB0UNI
214.535.5264
wb0uni@arrl.net

DATABASE MGR

Joe Wolf N5UIC
972.705.1388
n5uic@arrl.net

W5ROK CLUB STATION

972.705.1349
461-290

VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held 4th Sat of each month at 10:00. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5th 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 Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH, 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 3rd Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

SIGNALS is the monthly newsletter of the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, published by and for its members. The entire contents of this newsletter are copyright © 2012 by the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club. Permission is hereby granted to any not for profit Amateur Radio Publication to reprint any portion of this newsletter provided both the author and Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club are credited.

President's Message

I am pleased to report that our Treasurer, Andrew Robinson – K5VRA, has been established with our club's bank account and has also received all of the books and the checkbook as well. Thanks to Bob Diepenbrock – KC4UAI for helping with this transition. I also want to thank Ross Terry – K5SRT and Bob Kirby – K3NT for their assistance in getting our bank accounts up to date.

I wanted to remind everyone to check into the NET this Tuesday. On Tuesday night, February 21st, we will be holding our second RCARC Information net on the W5ROK repeater. Please check in and let us know what you are up to.

Many of us are ARRL members. Can you guess how much money our club gets from the ARRL when you renew your membership on your own? That's right, we get nothing! I would like to tell you about a way you can contribute to our club without any additional monies out of your pocket. By renewing your ARRL membership through our club, \$2.00 of those dues goes right to our club. If you are not an ARRL member and would like to consider joining, \$15.00 would go to our club. The Club Commission program of the ARRL provides a means for a club to earn money for handling membership renewals and new memberships as well.

The way this program works is on this wise: Simply fill out a renewal form and submit it, along with your dues, to our club Treasurer, Andrew Robinson – K5VRA. You can also mail your membership form and dues to our club PO Box. Andrew will collect them and submit them in a timely manner to the ARRL, less our club commission. Make all checks payable to the RCARC.

For those of you who are not members of the ARRL, here is what you are missing:

- QST magazine, issued monthly, is simply *the* source for news and information on any topic that's part of, or relates to, Amateur Radio. Each month, you will get product reviews, convention calendar, hamfest calendar, contest calendar, Public Service articles and various technology articles. There are many good articles and projects in this monthly magazine, a must have.
- Members-Only web services, which include an ARRL email address forwarder.
- Access to Ham Radio Insurance
- Outgoing QSL service
- Continuing Education
- Regulatory Information and advocacy with the FCC and other agencies.
- And much, much more.

Look for the official ARRL membership form on our club website: www.w5rok.us. This one form can be used for

new or renewing members. Please also note that this only applies to the REGULAR membership and does not apply to Family, Blind or 21 and under membership levels.

Thank you for your club participation. I hope to hear you all on the NET and see you at the club meeting this month. Thanks again,

73,
Michael Ketchum
K5MDK
RCARC President

Secretary's Report

26 January 2012

Michael Ketchum K5MDK, President, called the business meeting to order, at 5:30 PM, with the pledge of allegiance with introductions following. The following were present at the meeting

- | | |
|-------------------|--------|
| Dennis Cobb | WA8ZBT |
| Dwayne Harris | AF5BJ |
| C. Havenridge | KF5GUN |
| Havenridge Son 1 | TBD |
| Havenridge Son 2 | TBD |
| Havenridge Son 3 | TBD |
| Wayne Hughes | WA0TGH |
| Dave Jaksa | W0VX |
| Judi Jaksa | W0JJ |
| Michael Ketchum | K5MDK |
| Bob Kirby | K3NT |
| John McFadden | K5TIP |
| Steve Phillips | K6JT |
| Andrew Robinson | K5VRA |
| Mike Schmit | WA9WCC |
| Jim Skinner | WB0UNI |
| Bill Swan | K5MWC |
| Sidney Ross Terry | K5SRT |
| Paul Veenstra | KC0TEG |
| Joe Wolf | N5UIC |

In the President's report, Michael indicated the RCARC was late getting information in for club funding for 2011 so funding for 2012 will be a priority. Michael and Andy Robinson K5VRA will concentrate on acquiring funding for 2012.

The executive board has asked Michael to continue as president .

Newsletter editor Jim Skinner WB0UNI asked the membership for articles for publication in the SIGNALS newsletter.

Michael informed the membership that the B-29 project would be handled under the auspices of the Commemorative Air Force.

Paul Veenstra KC0TEG provided a summary of activity on the B-29 project both in Richardson and Cedar Rapids. Cedar came through with a replacement transponder antenna.

IN TOLERANCE, an aeronautical vender in Cedar Rapids, agreed to donate a critical part for antenna mounting on the aircraft.

Old Business:

Station noise issues: Our EMI problem stems from a mismatch between controller and motors. The air handler is still a problem. A 40 HP controller is being used where a 20 HP controller should be used. Mike WA9WCC will need some help with some HF noise reduction experiments. Dennis WA8ZBT believes an optional controller EMI filter will be required.

Repeater Power Backup: A resolution on repeater backup power battery requirements is still in process. John, K5TIP is looking for a battery source and best pricing.

Surplus Materials: Discussions of the disposition of surplus material included a work party to inventory and possibly purchase of a table at Ham-Com for material sale.

New Business:

Expenses: The club owes Sidney Ross Terry – K5SRT \$35 for a silent key's West Mountain Radio Power Crimp Tool (<http://www.eham.net/reviews/detail/4627>) purchased at the Oct. 2011 Texoma Hamarama <http://www.texoma.hamarama.org>.

Antennas: Safety plaques were recommended for the antenna structures on the roof.

Club Room: Dennis announced the successful installation of the antenna switch in the radio shack.

Repeater Announcements: The repeater is capable of announcements. But due to programming problems it was decided not to try to get it working.

Adjournment: A motion to adjourn the business meeting was made by Dave Jackson W0VX, and seconded by Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT. All were in favor.

Program: Following the adjournment, a presentation on Understanding HF Propagation was provided by Dave Jaksa, W0VX.

New Rules for 5 MHz (60 Meters) To Go Into Effect March 5

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the February 3 edition of the Federal Regis-

ter, the FCC announced that these new rules will go into effect at 12:01 AM (EST) on March 5, 2012.

In summarizing the new rules, the FCC explained that the new rules amend the current rules to facilitate more efficient and effective use by the Amateur Radio Service of five channels in the 5330.5-5406.4 kHz band (the 60 meter band): "Specifically, and consistent with our proposals in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in this proceeding, the Commission replaces one of the channels with a less encumbered one, increases the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorizes amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators. The Commission also adopts an additional operational rule that prohibits the use of automatically controlled digital stations and makes editorial revisions to the relevant portions of the Table of Frequency Allocations and our service rules."

The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to -- and must accept interference from -- stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries. Full details of this Report and Order can be read at <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-02-03/pdf/2012-2477.pdf>. (Article courtesy of www.arrl.org website)

Home and Office Emergency Preparedness

I am an independent software developer from San Diego who has developed a new software application program for home and business emergency preparedness - or what to do and what to have on hand in the case of a fire, flood, earthquake, hurricane, or other emergency. The program includes HAM and CB radio and other communication management features.

The program is called "Home and Office Emergency Preparedness (HOEP)" and the suggested retail price is \$159.00. The program is designed to run on the Windows XP®, Windows Vista®, and Windows 7® computer Operating Systems.

I am looking for qualified people who would like to participate in the Beta program for HOEP (no charge) and try out the program prior to general software release, and then give me their feedback. Beta participants receive a free copy of the software, email technical support, and free software upgrades.

In return, I ask that Beta participants tell me what they do and do not like about HOEP, and advise me on any additional modifications and features that they would like to see in the program.

Please reply to this message with the remark "Please send additional info on HOEP Beta program" and I will forward you additional information on HOEP. You can then review the documentation and decide if you would like to participate in the Beta program and download the HOEP software application program.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Tim Gillis, Master Developer
Chrysanthemum Software

P.S. You may redistribute this message to others in your organization who you think may also be interested in the Beta project.

Timothy J. Gillis
Phone/Mobile/Message: 858-735-9341
Email: tjgillis@san.rr.com
(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

Phil Salas Articles in February 2012 QST Just in case you haven't noticed, Phil Salas, AD5X, has 2 articles in the February QST. As always, they are outstanding and I encourage you to read the articles and congratulate him on yet another enjoyable and informative contribution to our hobby. With enough encouragement, he just might agree to speak to our club about some of his really interesting recent activities.

AARA Hamfest The Acadiana Amateur Radio Association, Inc. will hold their 52nd Annual Hamfest in Rayne, Louisiana on March 9 & 10, 2012. It is the ARRL Louisiana State Convention. We are looking forward to see many of you there. This will be one of our best!

Norm Helms K5SAC will be heading up the Texas Ham Playboys along with Roland Ledet K5EUO and others for the Cajun Band Fais-Do-Do. The Rayne Lion's Club will again cater the Crawfish Boil and provide refreshments Friday & Saturday.

Special ARRL Guest Mark Spencer WA8SME (ARRL Education and Technology Program Coordinator) will do a talk and demo to local Teachers and Students Friday at 5:00 PM. On Saturday following the VE Testing, he will give a talk on the subject: "I have my License.....Now What!".

To get a preview of what will be going on this year, visit our website at: <http://www.w5ddl.org/hamfest/>.

You will need to Pre-register as soon as possible for Crawfish Boil and Swap / Dealer Tables as everything is based on a "first-come-first-served" basis.

At the website, you can download the Pre-registration form in Adobe Acrobat .PDF format or MS Word .DOC formats.

You may see this announcement several times before our Hamfest. I would suggest you check our website for additional updates and mark your calendars.

(Article submitted by email from Herman Campbell, KN5GRK, AARA President, AARA Hamfest Chairperson)

Monday Ham Lunch in Plano

WHEN: Each Monday at 11:30 AM.

WHERE: El Fenix in Plano on the north bound service road of US 75 just a few hundred feet north of Plano Parkway.

WHO: Lots of new and long time hams from the DFW area. Sometimes visitors from other call districts

We sit at a large table in a back room that is better for those arriving at different times. We normally stay from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM or later, so if you can't get there at 11:30 you can arrive late and we will still be there.

Irving Hamfest is 3/10/2012 The 10th Annual Irving Amateur Radio Club Hamfest is coming up on 3/10/2012. Don't overlook area Hamfest, you might just find a great treasure. I picked up a Walt Williams W5YUO power supply last year during the closing minutes of the event. YES, it was heavy for its size and looked like it had been pulled around by its power cord (not recommended or labeled on the case). I happen to see Walt Williams W5YUO at the same Hamfest and asked him if he would look it over. He confirmed that he had built the unit in the past, probably just needed a power cord or worse case it would be easily fixed. I purchased the unit and Walt Williams W5YUO agreed to sign it (see picture below). During an R & R session (Rest & Relaxation Radio) event in September of 2011 Bob Kirby - K3NT and I finished the supply tune up and coupled it with an antenna I had installed a few weekends earlier from a side walk sale. As expected the repair came at the slight cost of sleep once we got the coax into the room via an open window approach to getting on the air (what a great use of water pipe insulation). (by Sidney Ross Terry – K5SRT)



Shakespeare on Valentines Day

Happy Valentine's Day!

Who ever loved that loved not at first sight?

-As You Like It

*This bud of love, by summer's ripening breath,
May prove a beauteous flower when next we
meet.*

-Romeo and Juliet

*Love looks not with the eyes, but with the
mind,*

And therefore is winged Cupid painted blind.

-A Midsummer Night's Dream

*Such is my love, to thee I so belong, That for
thy right myself will bear all wrong.*

-Sonnet 88

*One half of me is yours, the other half yours
Mine own, I would say; but if mine, then yours,
And so all yours.*

-The Merchant of Venice

Love sought is good, but given unsought better.

-Twelfth Night

Love is a smoke made with the fumes of sighs;

-Romeo and Juliet

Love is a spirit all compact of fire.

-Venus and Adonis

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

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

Thursday, 23 February 2012

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Second Floor Conference Room 200

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 11 March 2012 ←←←