
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 31 Issue 4

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

January 2010

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 28 January 2010
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
Methodist Richardson Medical Center
At Bush/RennerShiloh Intersection
Second Floor East Conference Room

Subject: "VSWR and Reflected Power" by Forest Cummings, W5LQU and Dave Russell, W2DMR

ture when needed. We were then put in touch with the hospitals Facilities Assistant Manager Jeremy Hersom who is a licensed Radio Operator himself (KE5RNM). Jeremy has been working with us since to get things ready for our January 2010 meeting.

As you know we have been trying to locate good options for meeting locations that would allow for both guest speakers and options to allow other Amateur Radio groups to meet with us for some joint meetings while maintaining our limited budget as much as possible for Radio related equipment. Security changes several times over the past year at Rockwell Collins placed some of our meetings or guests at risk of having to be canceled or denied access on short notice. Based on agreements and availability they have offered us the use of their main conference room just off the 2nd floor elevator to the East. We've offered the hospital our assistance if needed as well.

The new conference room (East off the 2nd floor Elevator of the tallest building) appears larger than the Dallas Conference room and has nice views to the South and East including views of our repeater 441.875 + (131.8). The conference room has a marker board, projector, internet, analog service and nearby pop machine. We have signed a damages agreement and will need to provide our own PC, video cable, speakers, coffee pot, supplies, and video cable when needed. The outside entrance hospital doors are locked after 7:00 PM and we could get bumped from the conference room when the hospital has other demands. Our planned meeting time will be the standard 4th Thursday of the month from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM time frame unless other advance arrangements are made. As in the past, continue to watch the newsletter and web site (<http://w5rok.us>) for details about each meetings topic and location.

Local Club News

Meeting Notice Dave Russell, W2DMR, and Forest Cummings, W5LQU, will present their program "VSWR and Reflected Power" for this month's RCARC meeting. This month's meeting will be our first time to meet in our new location. See the article on this page for more info. See page 6 for details on the location.

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.

Methodist Richardson Medical Center Our New 2nd Floor Meeting Room. Join us at Rockwell Collins newest and closet neighbor/partner Methodist Richardson Medical Center during our January Meeting. They are located right by our current location taking up the block between the George Bush Sr. and Shiloh Road on the South side of Renner Road (look for the tallest building in the area). Please park on the South side of the building. The outside entrance doors are locked after 7:00 PM and we could get bumped from the conference room depending on future demands. Our planned meeting time will be that standard 4th Thursday of the month from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM unless other arrangements are made

We approached Edward V. Kelly the Executive of the Richardson Hospital Authority in December about the possible use of conference room for our Amateur Radio meetings starting in 2010. He was very helpful and asked that we check with facilities and clear any paper work needed and asked that we assist them in the fu-

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) Part of AA Meeting. The Radio Club was part of Jackson Anderson's Accelerated Acclimation (AA) meeting for new hires on the evening of 13 January 2010. A collection of Amateur Radio club pictures, information and "Hello" video were put together by Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS and Ross Terry, K5SRT and then presented by Dwight during a ten minute time slot ahead of schedule. The meeting was designed to make new employees become aware of various options that exist to network with others at Rockwell Collins. Jackson Anderson commented to Ross after the meeting that he thought the Radio Club's presentation was one of the best because it incorporated additional media. The Hello video and power point will be made available to members in the members section of the web site should a similar presentation be needed in future Rockwell Collins AA meetings.

RCARC OFFICERS

<p>PRESIDENT Mike Schmit WA9WCC wa9wcc@arrl.net</p> <p>SECRETARY Open</p> <p>ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN John Champa K8OCL 972.333.9478 k8ocl@arrl.net</p> <p>STATION TRUSTEE Steve Phillips K6JT 972.517.3332 k6jt@arrl.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">CLUB STATION 972.705.1349</p>	<p>VICE-PRESIDENT Bob Kirby K3NT 319.360.0500 k3nt@arrl.net</p> <p>TREASURER Bob Diepenbrock KC4UAI 972.705.1461 Kc4uai@gmail.com</p> <p>WEBSITE MANAGER Wayne Hughes WA0TGH 972.705.1406 461-258 wa0tgh@arrl.net</p> <p>NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jim Skinner WB0UNI 214.535.5264 wb0uni@arrl.net</p> <p style="text-align: center;">W5ROK 461-290</p>
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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 Bill Reynolds, K8DNE, 972-475-3854.

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.

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President's Message

Welcome to 2010. I hope you all have had a blessed holiday season, and I wish all a happy and prosperous new year.

One of my goals this year is to increase the visibility of RCARC within the Rockwell Collins Community. I believe the best opportunity for this is at Fun Days In May.

What I propose is setting up an operational digital station as an exhibit in order to demonstrate amateur radio. This might attract non member amateurs to join the club, and maybe attract non-amateurs within the Rockwell Collins community to get their ticket. At any rate it should be fun.

During the next couple of months, we will need to check out club resources for the best equipment and antenna structures for quick set up and tear down.

Finally I would like to thank Ross Terry K5SRT for some real good work in support of the 2009 White Rock Marathon. Also thanks to John Champa for a fine program for the January meeting. And a special thanks to Bob Kirby K3NT for going above and beyond in locating a first class meeting room for our monthly meetings.

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC
wa9wcc@arrl.net

Vice-President's Message

Late Breaking News: We had a meeting with Facilities to demonstrate the RFI Tuesday, January 19th. The DMU display of the club's FT-2000 was very useful in showing the wideband effects of the noise. While viewing and listening to this RFI, facilities remotely disabled the energy efficient air handler in the penthouse closest to our antennas. The effect was immediate and dramatic as the RFI noise fell away and then even at 2 PM in the afternoon, we could copy signals on 80 meters. Facilities indicated that they would be reviewing the issue and may ask us to help in resolving this RFI issue. They have our full support. – RJK, K3NT

Happy New Year. While our club station still suffers from increased local RFI from the energy efficient air handlers rendering the HF bands and radios nearly unusable, I can report some VHF & UHF activity. During the Christmas holiday break, I worked James KC5AXN/M5 from NYC who was traveling through the DFW area. He responded to a general monitoring call I had placed on our 441.875 Mhz W5ROK repeater. After a nice visit with James, I received a call from Dan, call KE5EEO ? who is a local ham retired from Rockwell Collins. Dan was using a FT7900 transceiver and also stated that he lived close to our member Frank, KR1ZAN. Dan expressed an interest in joining RCARC and so we passed along the club's website address so he could grab an application. Both of these contacts were made from the clubroom so if you are in the station, be sure to turn on our UHF radio and put out a few calls to let folks know that W5ROK is active. As some use scanners, it may be a while before they can get to a transceiver and return your call.

Members, family and guests that were able to attend our December meeting / Christmas party sure had a grand time. It was nice to fellowship with all the folks that attended. There was little

technical talk as many of us caught up on family activities. See the activities chairman's report for details on our speaker. Member Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT was presented with a well-deserved LIFETIME membership to RCARC. Be sure to congratulate Dennis when you can.

Afterwards, Mr. & Mrs. Skinner invited us to a Christmas concert at UTD that was outstanding. As continuing supporters the Skinner's had reserved front row seats and we were able to share in this great gift.

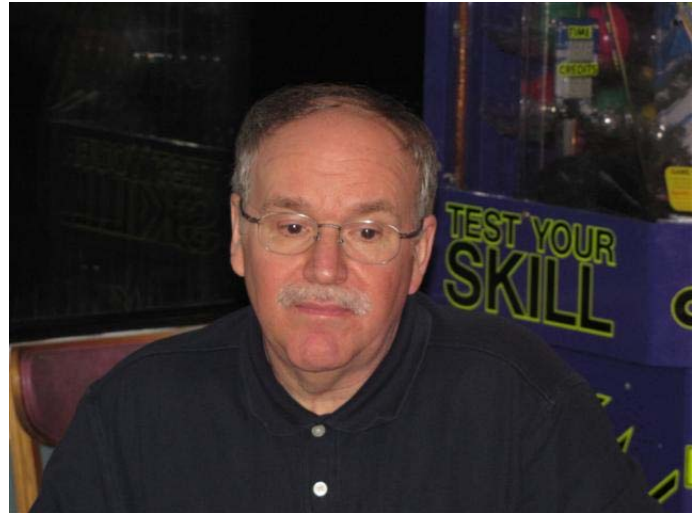
Ross, K5SRT, and I attended the Cowtown hamfest on January 15 & 16th. There is much to report, perhaps in a later article. For now I will just write that we made contacts on both VHF & HF, toured the Lockheed Martin club radio station, made some solder smoke in their clubhouse, and bought a few goodies that we were able to put to use right away.

Our president, Mike, WA9WCC, has created a great roadmap for 2010 RCARC activities. Please give some thought to supporting Mike and our activities chairman, John, K8OCL, and your RCARC in 2010. Till next month, 73 from Bob, K3NT
Bob Kirby, K3NT
k3nt@arrl.net
<http://w5rok.us>

Secretary's Report

There are no minutes for the December 2009 meeting since it was the RCARC holiday party. Everyone enjoyed the abundant food and the opportunity to fellowship with fellow Hams and spouses. Our special speaker was Jay Urish, W5GM, our ARRL North Texas Section Manager. Check out the pictures below, taken by Dwight, KE5SAS (except one).





Cow Town Ham Fest 2009. The Friday January 15 and 16 Cow Town Ham Fest 2009 was a great success put on by a great group who assisted RCARC during the event both days. Pictures (on page 6) include:

- Bob, W4FTD and his wife Carol at the 2010 Cow Town Ham Fest (regulars at many hamfests).
- Bob K3NT making contacts on HF, VHF, and UHF.

- Ross K5SRT new HF antenna purchase at Cow Town operational with K3NT contacts.
- Solder Smoke and the success on new Regen Radio Receiver
- Cow Town club shack with Great host and voice during Saturday session.

February 2010 Technician Classes Announced.

The next Technician Class sponsored by the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club was announced in December 2009 and further details were recently given at a meeting on 13 January 2010 for new hires. This set of classes will be focused on helping those with interest to pass the FCC Technician Class license. The planned schedule has been outlined below but final location and times are to be announced later. Those wishing to attend should contact Dwight Ramsey or Ross Terry. It was recommended those interested might want to get the ARRL Technician Class Book but it will not be required (if you have an extra book that could be loaned or given away please let us know).

Feb 2, 2010 Class 1

- FCC rules and station license responsibilities
- Emergency and public service communications

Feb 4, 2010 Class 2

- Control operator duties
- Operating practices

Feb 9, 2010 Class 3

- Electrical and RF safety
- Station setup and operation

Feb 11, 2010 Class 4

- Special operations
- Communication modes and methods

Feb 16, 2010 Class 5

- Radio waves, propagation, and antennas

Feb 18, 2010 Class 6

- Radio and electronic fundamentals

Feb 23, 2010 Test

2009 White Rock Lake Marathon. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) again supported the running of the White Rock Lake Marathon December 12, 2009 through Amateur Radio assistance to the event. The event this year only allowed for 20,000 runners but was attended by well more than that number cheering on the runners. Mike Schmit (WA9WCC) was teamed again this year with one of several Amateur assisted Police Officers Squad Cars and covered the half marathon. Ross Terry (K5SRT) was assigned a new tactical position with the Traffic cones coordinator Gary Wright (Cones). Gary Wright a marathon runner himself acts as cones coordinator during the running of the White Rock Lake Marathon event. For more information on the event see <http://www.runtherock.com>.

Traffic cones are placed or picked up to protect runners from obstacles, direct traffic elsewhere, or to mark the course for runners who may become disoriented during the running of the Marathon. During the event traffic patterns change as loved ones try to position themselves at one or more spots along the race course. The Police along the route would contact the net operator and the radio assisted cones coordinator to place out additional cones or open up areas as needed. It was very interesting to see the race from this perspective because you may need to place cones on both sides of the course but can not directly cross the race course leading you to the use of over passes several miles out of the way. Gary Wright working with three of his crews and several trucks of cones brought in from many sources work hours ahead of time and after the event to protect and assist in the running of the Marathon event.

Radio support existed all along the route and several nets were setup and used during the event. The event takes quite some time to coordinate and Yahoo Groups have been setup over the past few years to help get information out before the event and to accept recommendations after the event. Several area repeaters and backup repeaters were setup for the running of this year's event.

Events and Public Service Ops

23 January 2010: SKYWARN Training. Spotter training for Collin County. To be held at the Spring Creek Campus of Collin College. Basic Course: 8:30am to 11:40am and Advanced Course: 1:05pm to 4pm

23-25 January 2010: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes.

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 third weekend in January. **Contest Period:** Begins 1900 UTC Saturday, ends 0359 UTC Monday. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/jan-vhf-ss.html>

20-21 February 2010: ARRL International DX Contest (CW).

The object of this event is for W/VE amateurs to work as many amateur stations in as many DXCC countries of the world as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands, and foreign amateurs (also including KH6, KL7, CY9, and CYØ) work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible. **Date and Contest Period:** The Third full weekend in February. **Contest Period:** 48 hours—Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; ends 2400 UTC Sunday. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2010/intldx.html>

13 March 2010: Hamfest. Irving Amateur Radio Club Hamfest <http://www.irvingarc.org>. Talk-In: 146.72 (PL: 110.9)

4-5 June 2010: Ham-Com 2010. Ham-Com, Inc. <http://www.hamcom.org> Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 107.2)

You May Be Returning From Hamfest If You

1. Have a rear bumper dragging
2. Receive 3 cell calls from irate hams who recently bought your "Works Fine" gear
3. Dream up a story to tell your nephew why you are keeping the TS-50 instead of giving it to him
4. Stop at an ATM on the NORTH side of town
5. Stop at an ATM on the SOUTH side of town also
6. Have several pieces of aluminum sprouting from your roof
7. You feel an overwhelming desire to write to "Dear Abby"
8. Consume 3 rolls of Tums as a result of a recent bad meal
9. Call your spouse and suggest her/his mother come for a month long visit
10. Get a ticket for driving with your lights off on the block where you live

(Reprinted courtesy eHam.net, by Glenn C. Peck, KE5GK)



Methodist Richardson Medical Center
Bush/Renner

2831 E. President George Bush
Turnpike
Richardson, Texas 75082

Radio Club Meetings will be on the second
floor. The conference room is at the East end
of this floor.

Fourth Thursdays of the Month.

Web Address: www.w5rok.us

**Rockwell/Collins
Plant Location**

Cow Town Ham Fest 2009 Pictures



14th International EME Conference Announcement.

It is with great pleasure that W5LUA, VE4MA, WA8RJF and the North Texas Microwave Society officially announce the 14th International EME Conference. We cordially invite you and your family to Dallas, Texas on the 12th, 13th and 14th of August 2010 for the premier technical and social EME event of the year. Whether you are an experienced EMEer or new to the lunatic fringe, the conference will offer a wide range of technical, social and site-seeing activities for everyone.

The Conference Hotel is The Westin at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport which is just a short shuttle ride from DFW Airport and offers first class conference amenities at an excellent conference price of \$89 USD per night plus taxes. Their address is 4545 West John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 75063. We have guest rooms booked for Wednesday night through Saturday night. The conference rate is only good for Wednesday through Saturday for either a single bed or double beds. Please book your room directly with this hotel as it helps the conference organizers meet our hotel commitment and help offset the price of conference meeting rooms and other amenities. We expect a large turnout and strongly recommend that you book early to avoid disappointment. The hotel block will be held until July 12, 2010. After July 12th, it will be difficult to get the same conference rate. Hotel registration is now available online at

<http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/StarGroupsWeb/res?id=0902108016&key=7BF3D>.

If you have any difficulties in using the on-line Westin hotel registration, please call reservations at 888-627-8617 and reference the "EME Conference" to get the conference rate. If all else fails please drop Al a note at w5lua@sbcglobal.net.

The Dallas-Fort Worth area offers a wide range of holiday/vacation activities. Plan on arriving at the conference hotel Wednesday afternoon or evening. We will have a hospitality suite and registration on Wednesday evening so we can get acquainted and prepare for a full day of family activities on Thursday. The Thursday family activities will include air conditioned bus tours in the Dallas Ft.Worth area. Yes it will be hot in the Texas in August but we do have well air conditioned buses, hotels and buildings! We are working with two local tour companies at present to find the best activities and best deal for our group. Once the details are known (which should be within a few weeks) we will go forth with the conference registration and fees. While the technical sessions are going on during the day on both Friday and Saturday, we plan two full days of family activities. On Friday evening we have planned a fun filled evening in Ft.Worth. We will have a Saturday night banquet at the hotel with a special guest speaker planned. We will have a short session on Sunday morning to wrap things up and then you are free to continue your travels. We hope that you can make the Dallas Ft.Worth area the center of your 2010 vacation or just a stopping point as you tour other parts of North America. The Dallas Fort Worth area is served by DFW International Airport making international travel easy while still a convenient jumping off point to other destinations within the U.S.A. or Canada.

The hallmark of past EME conferences has been the excellent technical presentations and the 14th EME Conference promises to live up to everyone's expectations with an outstanding technical program. To date presentations on the following topics by an international cast of EMERs include:

- Low Noise Amplifiers
- Tracking the Moon and other celestial bodies
- SSPAs/Tube Power Amplifier/TWT Workshop
- Receiving with Software Defined Radios
- Big Dish EME
- Highlights from several DXpeditions.
- Getting started with a small dish on 1296 EME
- Feed design and construction
- EME Propagation
- Software
- Live EME demo on 1296 MHz by WA5WCP/5

Of course no technical portion of a Conference is complete without the Technical Proceedings and the 14th EME Conference Proceedings will be second to none. If you would like to present or submit a technical article for inclusion in the Proceedings please contact a committee member as soon as possible.

We also have several electronic vendors signed up to showcase their goodies. The vendor rooms will be open all day Friday and Saturday. If you are interested in obtaining a vendor table, please contact us as soon as possible before the start of the conference.

We will also have noise figure measurement equipment on hand to showcase your newest low noise amplifier or to help you troubleshoot a troubled LNA.

A special request: Most EMERs would argue that EME is the most interesting, challenging and rewarding aspect of Amateur Radio. The EME Conference presents not only an opportunity to swap lies with old friends or make new friends but it also presents each of us with an opportunity to share our passion for that unique aspect of Amateur Radio called EME with others. We encourage you to invite any and all who may have an interest in EME. Whether you are a seasoned EMEer or just someone wishing to see what all the fun is about on the higher frequencies, this conference is for you.

Whether this will be your 1st EME Conference or your 14th we are looking forward to seeing you in Dallas in August 2010.

73 and GUD DX (via the Moon)

Al Ward W5LUA
Barry Malowanchuk VE4MA
Tony Emanuele WA8RJF

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 28 January 2010

1730

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

➔ *Second Floor Conference Room* ←

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

➔➔➔ **15 February 2010** ←←←