
SIGNALS

Rockwell
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 34 Issue 06

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

March 2013

RCARC
Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 March 2013
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
**"HF Communications with FIFI - the only
flying B-29"**
by Rod Blocksome, KØDAS

- Primary operating modes: Voice and CW.
- Primary operating bands: Non-WARC HF and 6 meters.
- We'll provide the primary operating information to various ham media outlets – July is the QST Special Event announcement deadline.
- Additional operating dates, times, bands and modes are possible if operators are available. The final decision will be made by July after operators have had a chance to identify their availability (additional band candidates include 2 meters and D-Star).
- There is also the option to announce additional info on the air or on the CARC website.
- QSL cards will follow a specific design per station: Each station will have a unique Collins radio pictured on the front. Printing of cards will be just-in-time based on the requests received.

The following topics will require more work to resolve.

- Computerized station logging: Bob Lee WØGXA will research possible software. Please contact Bob at WØGXA@arrl.net with any recommendations.
- QSL handling: Lots of discussion revolved around properly handling incoming QSLs and corresponding outbound QSL cards. Suggestions included centralizing incoming QSL handling, temporarily renting a P.O. Box, use of OQRS in addition to SASE, uploading logs to LOTW and clublog.org, etc. Someone is needed to take leadership on this topic.

Here are other requests. Please volunteer by contacting either ADØAK@arrl.net or charley468@juno.com

- Charley, KCØCD is looking into developing a web based operator signup sheet to be published via something like Google Docs – looking for anyone who has expertise in that area.

(Continued on page 3)

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

Sounds like a great program this month, so you don't want to miss this one! The program will be presented by Rod Blocksome KØDAS. Rod's presentation will update folks in the club on FIFI communications and will cover: a short history of restoration of the radio operator position on FIFI; tips on making successful QSO with FIFI and; a 1kW AM ground station to work FIFI.

Collins Radio Company 80th Anniversary Special Event Planning Kickoff

The planning for the Collins Radio Company 80th Anniversary special event was kicked off during the third week of February. Consensus was reached on the following:

- Primary operating dates: 21, 22, 28 and 29 September – the weekend before and the weekend after the actual September 25th anniversary date.
- Primary hours of operation: 0900 – 2359 Local time each day.

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VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held 4th Sat of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat 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 3rd 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's Message

There is no President's Message this month.

73,
Michael Schmit
WA9WCC
RCARC President

Secretary's Report

26 February 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Schmit WA9WCC at 1734.

The following members were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	TBA
Dennis Cobb	WA82BT
Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Bob Kirby	K3NT
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

Officers and Committee Reports:

President's Report: There was no formal President's Report.

Vice-President's Report: We currently have no Vice-President.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report is in this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report.

Website Manager's Report: There was no Website Manager's Report.

Station Trustee's Report: There was no Station Trustee's Report.

Database Manager's Report: There was no Database Manager's Report.

Old Business:

President Mike Schmit confirmed that club funding was

available for purchase of equipment as proposed at last month's meeting. Based on available funding, all proposed purchases were reviewed and voted on. Results were as follows:

- Elecraft KPA500 - Jim Skinner WB0UNI moved for approval; Bob Kirby K3NT seconded; approval by those present was unanimous. Dennis Cobb WA82BT pointed out that the club's triplexer would not be usable with the KPA500, since it is rated for only 150 watts.
- Elecraft KAT500 - Mike Ketchum K5MDK moved for approval; Bob Kirby K3NT seconded; approval by those present was unanimous.
- Bencher BY-1 Key - Bob Kirby K3NT moved for approval; Mike Ketchum K5MDK seconded; approval by those present was unanimous.
- Heil HM-12 Microphone - Jim Brown moved for approval; Jim Skinner WB0UNI seconded; approval by those present was unanimous. It was agreed that the microphone, cable and stand would not exceed \$250 total.
- Replacement Earpads - Bob Kirby K3NT moved for approval; Mike Ketchum K5MDK seconded; approval by those present was unanimous.
- K-30 Idiom Press Logikey K-3 Keyer (qty 2) - Jim Brown moved for approval; Dennis Cobb WA82BT seconded; approval by those present was unanimous.

New Business:

Discussion addressed the donation of equipment and funding for operation of the B-29 / B-24 squadron. Current needs include two cross-hair wattmeters (one for the aircraft and one for the ground station) and two dummy loads. It was proposed that the club allocate \$500 for squadron radio activities for the current fiscal year, with Bob Kirby K3NT designated to manage expenditures. Mike Ketchum K5MDK moved to make commitments as above; Jim Brown seconded; approval by those present was unanimous.

Bob Kirby K3NT described the need for an UPS and power supply for the club's weather station. Dennis Cobb WA82BT estimated costs at about \$270 and recommended approval of \$350. Bob Kirby K3NT moved for approval; Mike Ketchum K5MDK seconded; approval by those present was unanimous.

It was noted that an antenna for Steve Phillips K6JT has already been approved for \$500 but no action taken as yet. Bob Kirby K3NT and Dennis Cobb W82B agreed to check with Steve and schedule a work party in the next month if practical.

Jim Skinner WB0UNI stressed the importance of reporting all information on public service and other activities for inclusion in the monthly newsletter, which serves as the document of record for club activities. All information

should be e-mailed to Jim with a copy to Jim Brown at addresses shown in the newsletter. Mike Schmit WA9WCC agreed to send out a broadcast on the need for public service activities.

It was noted that we will need a Field Day chairman for this year's field day.

Mike Schmit also noted that we need to plan for Rockwell Collins Fun Days, usually scheduled in early May. John McFadden K5TIP suggested buying a portable antenna with buddy pole for Fun Days; John agreed to investigate a simple approach, preferably for less than \$200.

Bob Kirby K3NT presented a brief overview of activities planned for the 80th anniversary of Collins Radio this fall. It is planned that ham operations will continue from 0900 to midnight during the event, including weekends before and after. Rod Blocksome is planning an announcement for QST. Volunteers will be needed to support the event.

Joe Wolf N5UIC offered a moment of prayer for deceased member Bob Ashby.

Adjournment:

The business meeting was adjourned at 1851. There was no program scheduled.

Collins Radio Company 80th Anniversary

Special Event Planning Kickoff *(Continued from page 1)*

- Given the stature of our company's amateur radio legacy, we would like to maximize the number of possible QSOs during this event. It would be appreciated if anyone with expertise in contest level planning would volunteer to create our time and band plans to achieve this goal.
- A volunteer is needed to determine appropriate frequencies to publish in our Special Event announcements. Consistent with the maximum QSO goal, we would like to publish at least two frequencies per HF band (one CW and one phone) within the General (or Technician where permitted) areas appropriate for all ITU zones. Voice modes of AM, SSB and FM are possible, but select the primary frequencies that the lowest operator class can use, e.g., SSB for 10 meter Technicians.
- Jeff, AD0AK will attempt to convince Corporate Communications to help design the QSL cards. However, if anyone has expertise with photo editing and tools (i.e., Photoshop), we would appreciate your help.

The following are the individual station point of contact names so far. Please send any corrections to AD0AK@gmail.com.

- N0CXX in building 112: Bryan McCoy, KA0YSQ, desk phone: 319.295.5575, station phone: 319.295.8490
- W0CXX at main plant: Hynek, Michael J, AC0PB, desk phone: 319.295.0627, station phone: 319.295.9627

- W4CRC in Melbourne: Chris Meehan, AC9N
- W6CXX Southern California (Tustin): Paul Sapp, KB7V
- NA7CR Kirkland, WA: Lothar Taylor, N0GD
- W5ROK Richardson, TX: Steve Phillips, K6JT

The aim is to call monthly status meetings until September as needed. An attempt will be made to set these for the middle of the month, schedules permitting. Any emails that have ideas for this event are welcome, and certainly any that cover areas that may have been missed.

(From an email by Jeff Howington AD0AK)

Dayton Hamvention® 2013 "DX Hamvention" May 17-19 2013

If you are not going would you like to see live-from-Dayton some of the events or booths?

Joe Wolf N5UIC would like to have you participate by way of the Internet.

Joe needs to know how many would be interested; this will determine the method for relaying video/audio from Dayton. For a small group it may be Skype; for a large group, UStream can be used.

Those interested can talk to Joe Wolf before the start of the meeting or send an email to n5uic@arrl.net for more information on this event. There is a planned fixed time of 30 minutes on Friday, May 17th and Saturday, May 18th from 1130 to 1200 hrs Central Daylight Time. There are no plans for Sunday; that may be Joe's free day. However plans could change.

Joe also needs some suggestions on what location you would like for these live events; Bob Kirby K3NT has already made some suggestions. You may want to look at the Dayton Hamvention 2013 web site and check out the map and the booths, etc. We still have some time and hope to have this all planned out by the April Club Meeting. (Contributed by Joe Wolf N5UIC)

Bob Ashby, K5JHR (SK), Ham Radio Stuff

Bob's son Todd called me and asked if the club or its members are interested in looking at Bob's ham radio stuff and gleaning what he hasn't already taken. Todd has returned home to Georgia, but will return, probably next month. Maybe we can get a small group together next month. If you are interested, contact me (see page 2 of this newsletter) and I will alert you when Todd returns. (Contributed by Jim Skinner WBOUN1)

Wings of Freedom Coming to Frontiers of Flight Museum at Love Field

Wings of Freedom Tour
★ COLLINGS FOUNDATION ★

Special Appearances: Messerschmitt Me 262 and Bell UH-1E Huey Helicopter

Come on out people!
'An Keep 'Em Flying

P-51 Mustang

B-17 Flying Fortress

B-24 Liberator

The Ultimate Living History Experience!
Explore these majestic bomber aircraft inside and out. Feel the engines power up and take to the skies in an amazing 30-Minute Flight Experience!
Walk-through tours are \$12 for adults and \$7 for children 12 yrs and younger. "Flight Experiences" are \$425 in the B-17 or B-24. Get some "stick time" in the worlds greatest fighter! P-51 Mustang Flights (World's Only Dual Control P-51C) are \$2200 for a half hour or \$3200 for full hour.

LOVE FIELD / FRONTIERS OF FLIGHT MUSEUM
MARCH 20th to MARCH 24th
No reservations needed for walk-through tours. Walk-through tour times: 3/20 2:00 PM to 4:30 PM, 3/21 - 3/24 10:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Flight experiences are scheduled before and after walk-through tours.

FRONTIERS OF FLIGHT MUSEUM
DALLAS LOVE FIELD

For FLIGHT RESERVATIONS or questions call: 800-568-8924 or go to www.cfdn.org

The Collings Foundation is a non-profit, Educational Foundation (501c-3), founded in 1979. The purpose of the Foundation is to organize and support "living history" events that enable Americans to learn more about their heritage through direct participation. Since 1989, a major focus of the Foundation has been the "Wings of Freedom Tour" of WWII aircraft. This tour showcases two fully restored bomber aircraft: a B-24 Liberator and B-17 Flying Fortress. The newest addition to the Wings of Freedom Tour is a WWII P-51C Mustang dual-control fighter aircraft.

Software Defined Receivers (SDR) Presentation from Fort Worth Cowtown Hamfest

By Mark J Culross KD5RXT

Fellow hams:

For anyone who might be interested, the presentation that I made on Software Defined Receivers (SDR) at the 2013 Fort Worth Cowtown Hamfest is now available on Google Docs . . . see access instructions below. Please feel free to share this (links and presentation) with anyone else that might be interested. Also feel free to contact me at kd5rxt@arrl.net with any questions and/or comments. Good luck & have fun !!

A copy of the PowerPoint (PPS) and narration script (PDF) has been uploaded to a folder on Google Docs. The link to the folder, as well as direct links to the files, are included below.

The PPS file includes the presentation audio, and is over 35MB. It may take a while to download. The method I use to download the large file was to open the folder link to list the files, select the check box for the file on the left side, click on the "more" drop down menu that appears above, and select download. Click "download anyway" from the unable to scan large files warning on next screen, and wait for the download to complete. Navigate to the file location on your computer and open with PowerPoint, or get the [free Microsoft PowerPoint viewer](#).

[KD5RXT Cowtown Hamfest presentation on SDR](#) (Google folder)

[Narration Script for Cowtown Hamfest presentation on SDR - 20130119.pdf](#)

[SDR - a hardware and software primer - FW HamFest - 20130119.pps](#) (+35MB)

(Contributed by Mark Culross KD5RXT)

The Green Thing

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized and explained, "We didn't have this green thing back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."

She was right -- our generation didn't have the green thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the green thing back in our day. Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags, that we

reused for numerous things; most memorable besides household garbage bags, was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our schoolbooks. This was to ensure that public property, (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags.

But too bad we didn't do the green thing back then. We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But she was right. We didn't have the green thing in our day. Back then, we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throwaway kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts -- wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young lady is right; we didn't have the green thing back in our day. Back then, we had one TV or radio in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana . In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But she's right; we didn't have the green thing back then. We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the green thing back then. Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service. We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad that the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the green thing back then?

Rockwell-Collins

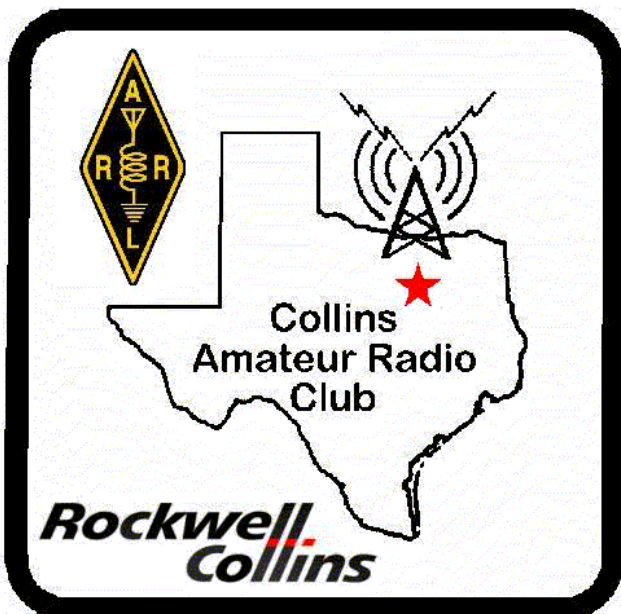
Amateur Radio Club

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 26 March 2013

1700 Social

1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Second Floor Conference Room 200

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 12 April 2013 ←←←