
SIGNALS

Rockwell
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 35 Issue 06

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

March 2014

RCARC
Membership Meeting

Tuesday 25 March 2014
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
Program TBD

crew duties, and availability of a Commemorative Air Force licensed operator all factor into when we can operate.

Please take a look at www.airpoersquadron.org for additional information about our current tour schedule.

Best Regards,

Bob Kirby - K3NT/B-29
CAF Maintenance crew, Radio Operator
B-29/B-24 Squadron
Texas, USA

On Feb 22, 2014, at 1:45 AM, SV3AQR JOHN <sv3aqr@hotmail.com> wrote:

Dear Robert Yesterday i heard you K3NT/AM i try hard to work you but the pile up was HUGE! I could hear the noise o the aircraft engine on your mike! I am an airplane fanatic & /AM chaser!

I need badly this QSO with this legend! I am QRV only on 17m - 12m with 3 element beam and 500W. Any possible activity or sked? Please help me to make this QSO!

73 de SV3AQR John , Patras, Greece, Europe.
(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

Good News from Gene Duprey, K1GD

According to an email from Gene: "If all goes well, we should be moving back to Texas sometime this summer. So I will be looking forward to attending meetings and working with the club again."

(Contributed by Gene Duprey, K1GD)

Collins Radio 1971

Here's something that might interest other club members. It's an "Industrial" film, done by a famous Dallas firm for Collins. I think some of the shots are from Iowa and Dallas.

http://www.texasarchive.org/library/index.php?title=2013_00626.

(Contributed by Ken Bateman, W5ISE)

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

The program for this month was not finalized when the newsletter was ready for publication, but the meetings are always great, so see you on the 25th.

K3NT/AM – B-29 Contact

(The following is an email exchange between Bob Kirby K3NT and John SV3AQR of Patras, Greece, concerning a QSO from "FIFI")

Greetings fellow aircraft fanatic John,

Thank you for taking the time to write. Very pleased to read of your reception of "FIFI" the worlds only flying B-29 bomber, yesterday on 18.150 MHz at your station in Patras, Greece, Europe. We were on a training flight in North Texas during this time. As you heard, the stations calling me were tremendous and yes, it is very noisy in this WWII aircraft.

We hope to have additional future HF operations from "FIFI" however scheduled operations are difficult as a number of factors such as weather, maintenance, flight

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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

Another month has passed. Outside the Radio Club room, Maintenance has taken down all of our displays. They are painting the walls a different color. It remains to be seen how much will be put back up on the wall. W1AW/X (X = what call area they are in) is active in two different states each week. This is your chance to work some of the states that you don't have. On the ARRL web site you can find the schedule for W1AW. This past week I worked W1AW/8 in Ohio and W1AW/7 in Arizona.

I hope you can attend the meeting for March.

73,
Dennis Cobb
WA8ZBT
RCARC President

Secretary's Report

25 February 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Cobb WA82BT at 1745.

The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA82BT
Al Helfrick	K2BLA
Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Cindy Kirby	
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Leonard Schmitt	W5ZSV
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Richard Strnad	AA6DV
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

Officers and Committee Reports:

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

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

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

Treasurer's Report: In the absence of the Treasurer, President Dennis Cobb stated that the RCARC treasury was currently at \$7,767.51.

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.

The meeting was begun with a minute of silence to honor longtime RCRA member Hernando Garcia-Vasquez KC5FDW, who passed away on 31 December 2013.

Old Business:

Dennis Cobb WA82NT stated that he and Bob Kirby K3NT installed the new 2-meter antenna on the Rockwell Collins facility with good results, and it is now operational.

New Business:

Joe Wolf N5UIC announced that several members were late on their dues payments. He will contact the members involved directly.

President Dennis Cobb stated the need to update all shack computers to Windows 7 to allow continued access to the Rockwell Collins network. The upgrades must be completed by 8 April to ensure continued compatibility, since Rockwell Collins will no longer support Windows XP. Joe Wolf agreed to investigate options for the upgrade. Jim Brown moved to allocate not more than \$350 of club funds to purchase the required three copies of Windows 7. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Mike Schmit WA9WCC moved to purchase a weather display for the shack for approximately \$500. This unit will allow display of data from the existing weather station at a location outside the shack for publicity purposes. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership.

Dennis Cobb proposed the addition of a baseband loop antenna to be mounted at the edge of the roof of the Rockwell Collins facility and connected with quad-shielded coax. It is expected that this antenna will significantly reduce pickup of noise from the facility's air handlers, an on-going source of radio interference. Bob Kirby moved to purchase a Pixel RF Pro 1B antenna and RF coax as required to connect it. The motion was seconded and approved by the membership. It was agreed that Dennis Cobb would install his own antenna temporarily at the shack to verify the expected performance before purchasing the new antenna.

Bob Kirby announced that FiFi's new HF antenna has been connected and tested, with HF contacts logged with Greece, South America, Canada and Barcelona, Spain.

Adjournment:

Mike Hollingsworth W5QH moved to adjourn the meeting at 1822. The meeting was followed by a program from Dr. Al Helfrick K2BLA, with Emory-Riddle University in Daytona, Florida.

The next meeting will be at 1730 on Tuesday, 25 March 2014.

RCARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing. Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 5 March 2014. The testing went well except for a couple of anomalies at two sites. The siren testing is performed on the first Wednesday of each month. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.

Michael Ketchum, K5MDK News

Michael Ketchum – K5MDK is still working on his Winlink RMS Gateway. He has built a TNC kit and got it functioning. Michael has been working with an old Pentium 4 PC by installing Ubuntu and Debian in order to figure out which works best with the RMS Gateway software and AX.25. He was able to connect to his new gateway, but has much

further to go. Version 2.0 will focus on converting the whole thing to run on a Raspberry Pi Model B board.

Michael also has plans to operate an HF / VHF station out at Cooper Lake State Park – Doctors Creek Unit on April 5 & 6th for the Texas State Parks on the Air event. For more information, go to www.tspota.com. Other folks from the Greenville area are planning to setup at Lake Tawakoni State Park. Some folks from the Allen/Wylie/Lucas area are heading up to Eisenhower State Park near Dennison. For a complete list of “activated” state parks, go to www.tspota.com/site/activated. Right now, Michael is checking out his camping equipment and making his HF station ready for the event.

(Contributed by Michael Ketchum, K5MDK)

More Collins Radio Nostalgia

Here's another Collins History link. http://www.americanradiohistory.com/Archive-Catalogs/Equipment_Catalogs_Collins.htm. (I would love to have one of those 1kw AM broadcast xmitters shown here!)

Here is a little sample of the Collins Collector's net on Sunday afternoons at 2000 GMT on 14.263 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y48d_8vRHxQ. (Preview)

(Contributed by Ken Bateman, W5ISE)

Learning Morse Code

By Thomas Atchison W5TV

Several people have expressed an interest in learning more about receiving and sending Morse code (CW) on the amateur bands. I know this is a little risky and everyone has his/her own idea about how it should be done, however, I would like to give my opinion about how to get started.

First, there are several books available both in print and on the web that discuss learning Morse code. I believe one of the better ones is a book called *The Art and Skill of Radio-Telegraph* by William G. Pierpont, N0HFF. In my mind this is one of the most comprehensive books on the subject. The author died in 2001, however, he left us some excellent information regarding the art and skill of telegraphy.

In the **July 1923** issue of **QST** there was an article that stated the following:

“The first step in learning the code is to memorize the dot and dash combinations representing the letters. They must not be visualized as dots and dashes, however, but rather should be ‘auralized’ as sounds. There is no such word as auralized, but if there were it would express the correct method of grasping the code. The sound dit-dah (meaning a dot followed by a dash) in the head telephones must impress your mind directly as being the letter ‘A’ for instance, without causing black dots and dashes to float before your eyes for an instant. This is a point that always troubles beginners, but if you learn from the first to recognize the sounds as letters immediately without reverting to dots and dashes, you will make much better progress...”

When I started learning the code in 1951-1952, I don't really recall whether I learned it by ‘auralizing’ or not, however, it wasn't long before the process, for me, was aural. After you learn the code by hearing then you need to hear the characters sent fast enough that you do not analyze each one into dits and dahs. That is, when you hear ‘dit dah’ your mind should immediately produce ‘A’. Let me go further than that. First, the dits and dahs should bring to mind letters associated with the patterns of dits and dahs. Later, you should be able to hear words, not letters, and still later you should be able to hear phrases rather than words. In this sense, you are learning a new language.

People who learn a second language do not stop to translate each word in their minds, but rather, they learn to think in that language. Code is very similar.

To continue, every code letter, number, and symbol is a unique pattern of sound. When you hear the pattern ‘dahditditdit’ you should immediately recognize it as ‘B’. Since the purpose of code is to communicate you move from letters to words, therefore, even while you are learning to hear letters you can begin to recognize short words like ‘**the**’ and ‘**of**’. Hearing code becomes easier and faster when you learn to recognize words instead of spelling them out as strings of letters.

The plan as described by Pierpont is as follows:

1. Learn the alphabet of sound patterns so well that you recognize each letter instantly,
2. Learn to recognize most of the words you hear as words, not a string of letters, and
3. Learn to listen to the stream of code as you would listen to someone speak in words and ideas.

Your goal should be to learn to use the code so that it becomes easy and natural, like the way you read and talk. I must say, your attitude toward learning is important to your success. Always try to create a relaxed atmosphere, free of tension, pressure, any sense of hurry and anxiety. Enjoy yourself! You should get your first impression of code characters by **listening** to them.

You can find help learning code at the ARRL web site. In particular, there are several MP3 files for code at various speeds starting at 5 WPM. The URL for the ARRL site that contains the MP3 files is as follows: <http://www.arrl.org/code-practice-files>.

You may also be interested in listening to the W1AW code practice sessions. These are on-the-air code practice sessions at various speeds, depending on the day. The current schedule for code practice can be found at the following URL: <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw-operating-schedule>.

Learning code can be fun so I urge you to give it a try. Just don't rush it. The main idea is to practice, practice, practice.

(Contributed by Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, reprinted by permission of Nacogdoches Amateur Radio Club)

WildRide Bike Rally

The WildRide Against Cancer Bike Rally will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2014. This rally benefits the Richardson Methodist Hospital's Cancer Center.

Please mark this date on your calendar and plan to volunteer for communications again this year. More information will come later as plans are finalized.

The planning committee is looking for corporate sponsors for this year's rally. There are several levels of sponsorship. The sponsorship can be money or in-kind donations.

If you know of a company that would help sponsor the rally, please email me with the name of a contact person. kilgore1317@sbcglobal.net

(By Doug Kilgore KD5OUG, WildRide Communications Coordinator)

(Submitted by Bob Kirby K3NT)

Radio Telegraphy

(This article is an excerpt from the WS1SM Radio Club in Maine's webpage. The club has a CW Resources page at <http://www.qsl.net/ws1sm/cw.html>.)

Until recently, morse code proficiency was a mandatory part of every license examination, but since it was dropped as a requirement by the FCC in 2007, this mode of radio communication has taken on a new life. Many thought it would simply disappear, but morse code, now that it's being taken up out of interest instead of being a burdensome requirement, is steadily gaining new fans.

In a communique dated 23 February 2007, the ARRL stated that a "new Amateur Radio Service regime now is in place. The requirement to demonstrate Morse code proficiency to gain HF privileges officially disappeared from the FCC's Part 97 rules today at 12:01 AM Eastern Time. At the same time, some 200,000 Technician licensees without Morse code exam credit acquired HF privileges equivalent to those available to Novice licensees."

To the uninitiated it may seem awkward to communicate by spelling out your words with dits and dahs, but to the practiced code operator it isn't even necessary to write down the messages. They can decode the individual letters as well as entire words in their heads as they hear them. Using short hand and Q-signals to speed things up, some can transmit and receive code at 20-30 words a minute.

(Contributed by Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN and reprinted courtesy of the Wireless Society of Southern Maine)

FIFI Radio Visitor in FL

Visited the aircraft in Vero Beach, Fl today. Great experience and was impressed with the radios. Great job by all involved, the station looked great. I recognized all but the ART13. I should have, in my early days as a ham I had

them in the shack. It would have been even better if one of your club members had been there operating.

Great club website also. Thanks for the link from your QRZ page.

Even though my mother in law (a WASP - RIP) never flew the B-29, my wife met the daughter of one of the two WASPs that did fly them. She happened to be visiting at the same time. They had a nice chat.

73, Terry WA4AMG

(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

Upcoming Events

APRIL	
5-6	Texas State Parks on the Air. Saturday & Sunday. See http://www.tspota.com
20	Rookie Roundup-Phone. Details at http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup .
MAY	
17	WildRide Against Cancer Bike Rally. See article in this newsletter. Details at http://www.methodisthealthsystem.org/WildRide .
REGULAR ACTIVITIES	
Daily	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 8:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	DFW CW Traffic Net (NTS) at 7:00pm and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
1st Wednesday	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
2nd Wednesday	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month— 3860 KHz at 830 pm—930pm
Thursday	Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz

Items for Sale

1. ICOM IC-765: HF transceiver excellent condition with box, Instruction Manual and Service Manual. One owner. Fully functional. Garland area. \$700.
2. Kenwood TS-570S G HF + 6 Meters: Likewise, excellent condition with power cord, no box or Instruction Manual. One owner. Fully functional. Garland area. \$600.
3. Icom IC-706 MKII G: Very clean, excellent condition. Fully functional with mic, separation kit and mounting bracket. No Instruction Manual or power cord. \$600

If interested, contact Bob Jones, W5BJ at 972-495-8573 or email w5bj@arrl.net. Will deliver up to 25 miles.

Rockwell-Collins

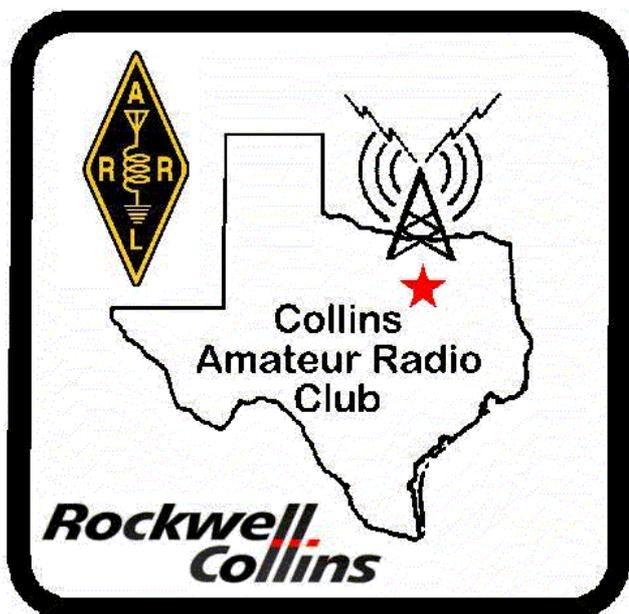
Amateur Radio Club

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 25 March 2014

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

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

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 12 April 2014 ←←←