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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 35 Issue 08

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

May 2014

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 May 2014  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

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

*Subject:*  
*Planning for 2014 Field Day Activities*

along with an HF station. Chris Havenridge KF5GUN joined him as a teammate. Mike Schmit also operated at Rest Stop 2. The preliminary report is that they had a blast! They got some pictures too, but they have not had time to write up anything. Watch for an article in the next edition of *SIGNALS*.

### Help for New Hams

*By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

In a box of stuff recently donated to WA2HOM, our amateur radio station at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum, there was a book W1FB's Help for New Hams by Doug DeMaw, W1FB. This book hits on just about all the topics that a new ham in the late 1980s would want to know about, and W1FB does a great job of walking the new ham through these topics.

Of course, being 25 years old, some of it is out-of-date, and it doesn't cover some questions that a new ham today would ask. For example, there's nothing in this book about digital modes or using a computer in the shack.

So, I'm thinking of writing my own Help for New Hams. Mine would probably be a little less HF-centric and include advice on joining clubs and how to use a computer in the shack. I am also thinking that maybe I should write two separate versions: an HF version and a VHF version.

At any rate, I've listed the chapters of the W1FB version below. If you have any comments about what I should include in my version, I'd love to hear from you.

*The Newly Licensed Amateur.* This chapter talks mainly about how to choose equipment, but also covers some of the modes that amateur radio operators can use.

*Your New Equipment—Getting Acquainted.* This chapter discusses how to use the features of modern transceivers, amplifiers, and antenna tuners. It also talks a little bit about antennas and SWR.

*Constructing and Using Antennas.* This chapter goes into greater depth on antennas. It discusses the different types of antennas, how to feed them, and how to bring feedlines into the shack. (Continued on page 4)

## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

This month meeting will provide an opportunity to participate in planning for the club's Field Day activities.

**HAM COM** is 13-14 June this year. See page 5 for more information.

### RCARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI were prepared to participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 7 May 2014. The testing was cancelled again by the City of Richardson shortly before it was scheduled to be performed, apparently due to cloudy weather. 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.

**Richardson Wild Ride** Three of our members participated in the Wild Ride last weekend. Michael Ketchum K5MDK setup his digital station, as he has the last couple of years,

**RCARC OFFICERS**

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**VE SESSIONS**

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 1000 hrs. 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 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 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.

**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](mailto:warhog4@tx.rr.com).

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**President's Message**

Greetings to everyone. Bob Kirby ( K3NT) has completed the KAT500 Antenna Tuner. Bob did a very nice job assembling this kit. Rockwell Collins has given the OK to put "The Weather Picture" on the wall outside the Radio Club room. I ordered it this week. That is about all I have for this month. See you at the Meeting.

73,  
Dennis Cobb  
WA8ZBT  
RCARC President

## Secretary's Report

22 April 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT at 1730.

The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
George Huling	K5GH
John Kliewer	AC5NB
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC
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 reported the current RCARC balance. The balance as reported was accepted by a vote of members present.

*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:

At the March 2014 meeting Mike Schmit WA9WCC proposed the purchase of a weather display for the shack; members approved approximately \$500 for this action. This unit would have allowed display of data from the existing weather station at a location outside the shack for publicity purposes. This month President Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT reported that Rockwell Collins management had not yet granted approval for placement of the display, so the purchase is on hold until this is resolved.

### New Business:

Dennis Cobb reported that Rockwell Collins has provided the club with three new computers for use in the radio

shack. This upgrades all network-connected computers to the Windows 7 operating system as required by new Rockwell Collins networking standards. A previously-approved purchase of upgrade software by the club will thus no longer be required.

A minute of silence was observed in memory of member Wayne Nickel W5W0, who passed away recently.

President Dennis Cobb mentioned the upcoming Rockwell Collins Fun Days, scheduled for mid-May, and suggested that it was an opportunity for club participation. No further action was taken.

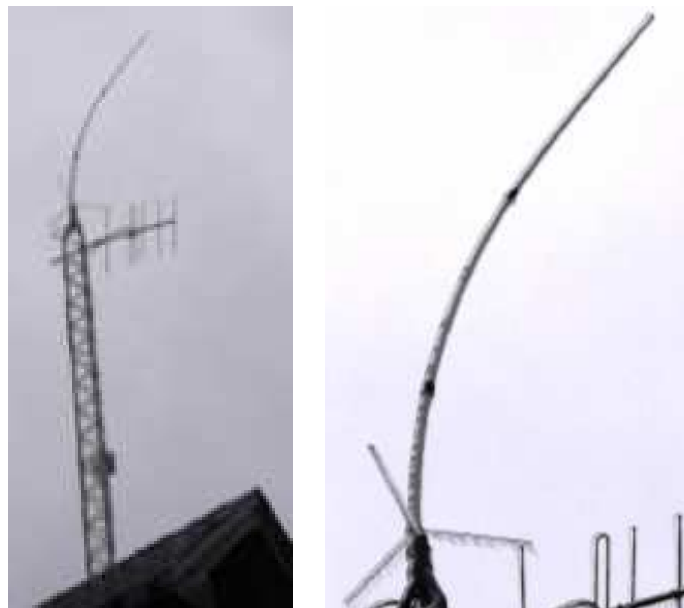
### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1754 and followed by a program from member Bill Swan K5MWC on the history of Rockwell Collins and its predecessor Collins Radio Company in Richardson.

The next meeting will be at 1730 on Tuesday, 27 May 2014.

## Frozen Antenna Points the way South

*Photo by Boyd Hudgens – N5TIJ*



This past winter's ice storm played much havoc with tree limbs as well as commuters. But imagine the kinds of trouble a sustained and strong North wind and freezing rain can cause to a VHF/UHF antenna!

Here is a cool picture of Boyd Hudgen's – N5TIJ south bending antenna, frozen in a bent position. Boyd says it's like an upside-down compass, pointing the way South.

*(Written by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK)*

## West Gulf Division (WGD) Awards Program

*(Editors note: I am derelict in forgetting to put this in the previous newsletter, but it is something to keep in mind*

next year. It's about the potential of having one of our own members recognized at the Division level.)

Club Presidents and Public Information Officials:

It is time to start considering your submissions for the WG 2014 Divisional Awards, which will be presented at the ARRL Regional Centennial Convention at HamCom in June. Nominations for 2014 Award Winners will be accepted until April 15, 2014. Nomination forms for each nominee (by category) must be supported by at least three ARRL members on the award nomination form, a minimum 150-word statement and any available supporting documentation. Other rules do apply and can be found on the nomination forms.

The Division Awards judging panel consists of four (4) ARRL members, selected by each of the Section Managers in North Texas, Oklahoma, South Texas and West Texas Sections. The Section Manager may opt to appoint his/herself to the committee. The fifth judge is selected by the Division Director and may reside anywhere within the West Gulf Division. Neither the Division Director nor the Vice Director will participate in the vote.

Nomination forms can be found at:  
<http://arrlwgq.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/WGD-Awards-Full-Nominating-Package.pdf>

David Woolweaver, K5RAV  
 Director West Gulf Division  
 (Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

**Help for New Hams**

(Continued from page 1)

*Station Layout and Safety.* This chapter covers the practical aspects of setting up an amateur radio station, including desk and chair selection and station wiring.

*TVI and RFI—Strange Bedfellows.* TVI and RFI are less of a problem these days than back in the 80s, but it's still something new hams need to know about.

*Operating Problems and Fears.* This chapter discusses some of the operating problems new hams face, including honesty in signal reporting, how to operate split and how to work DX.

*On-the-Air Conduct and Procedures.* This chapter discusses more operating procedures, including calling CQ, how to operate via a repeater, and how to ID.

*Station Accessories—What to Buy?* This chapter discusses a variety of station accessories including keys and keyers, microphones, antenna tuners, phone patches (!), and antenna switches.

*DX and Contest Operating.* This chapter not only discusses operating procedures, but how certain equipment features will help the new ham work more DX and score better in contests.

*Logging, QSL Cards, and Record Keeping.* This chapter discusses why it is important to keep logs and how to QSL.

*Obtaining Accurate Information.* This chapter is basically an ad for the ARRL, counseling the new ham to join the ARRL and buy ARRL books.

I am especially interested in hearing from new hams about these topics. What about amateur radio confused you at first? What information would have helped you have more fun with amateur radio? What do you know now that you wish you had known when you got started?

*When he's not writing about amateur radio, Dan, KB6NU enjoys Elmering new hams and working CW on the HF bands. For more information about his operating activities and his "No-Nonsense" series of amateur radio license study guides, go to KB6NU.Com or e-mail [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).*

(Reprinted with permission of Dan Romanchik, KB6NU)

**Upcoming Events**

JUNE	
13-14	Ham-Com at Plano Centre, Plano TX, Friday and Saturday. Details at website, <a href="http://www.hamcom.org/">http://www.hamcom.org/</a> See page 5
14	<b>Collin Classic Bike Rally.</b> Details at <a href="http://www.cityhouse.org/Collin_Classic/news/">http://www.cityhouse.org/Collin_Classic/news/</a>
28-29	<b>Field Day.</b> Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN! Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/field-day">http://www.arrl.org/field-day</a> .
JULY	
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 <a href="http://www.k6jt.com">www.k6jt.com</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
2 <sup>nd</sup> 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

## Current News & Information

### Ham-Com 2014 Brochure and Presentation Schedule Released!

The Ham-Com 2014 Brochure is now available for download. Inside you'll find information on all the great vendors, presentation schedules, and other valuable information. We continually update the brochure as we get closer to the event so follow us on Twitter to be informed when the latest release is published! [Download the 2014 Brochure here \(10MB PDF\)](#).

### Ham-Com 2014 Hosting the ARRL 100 Years Centennial Celebration



Join Ham-Com and the ARRL as we host the West Gulf and Delta Division's celebration of the ARRL 100 Year Centennial. In attendance will be representatives from ARRL along with special booths and guest speakers. We'll provide more information as we get closer to the event. So mark your calendar's and don't forget this once in a lifetime event!

#### Hours Of Operation:

Friday 8am to 6pm | Outdoor Flea Market Starts 7am  
Saturday 8am to 6pm | Outdoor Flea Market Starts 7am

#### Prizes, Prizes, and more Prizes

Ever year we give away some great prizes and this year is no exception. The online prize (for registering online before the event) is a TW-2010 Antenna system. The Friday grand prize is an ICOM ID-5100a. We also have a Kenwood TM-V71a to give away! On Saturday we will be giving away an ICOM ID-51A, an ICOM IC-5100A, and the Grand Prize is an ICOM IC-7100. More to come... so check back often!

#### LSDX Dinner Speaker Announced

If you miss this year's LSDX Dinner you are really going to be sorry! Bob Allphin (K4UEE) is the speaker. His bio lists 10 major DXpeditions, 38 contest DXpeditions, membership in the CQ DX Hall of Fame, and more. His list goes on and on! Get your [tickets here](#).

#### Twitter and Facebook

If you don't follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)... WHY NOT? We updated our pages and promise to provide you with the latest and greatest information about Ham-Com 2014 and amateur radio related events.

# Rockwell-Collins

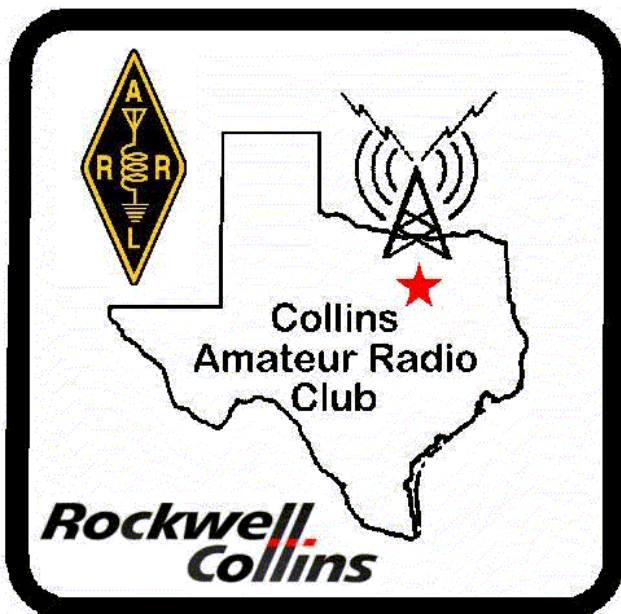
Amateur Radio Club

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 27 May 2014

1700 Social

1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

*Second Floor Conference Room 200*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 13 June 2014 ←←←**