
SIGNALS

**Rockwell
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Amateur Radio Club

Volume 39 Issue 08

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

May 2018

RCARC Membership Meeting

**Tuesday 22 May 2018
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program**

**Methodist Richardson Medical Center
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection
Conference Room A in Hospital Building**

**Subject:
Ham Radio on your Smart Phone
By Michael Ketchum K5MDK**

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. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater.

Crime Watch Patrol Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in Richardson Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP). CWP members, after successful completion of Richardson Police Department Training, patrol their neighborhoods and report all suspicious activities to the Police Department.

Ham Com 8-10 June

The largest amateur radio and electronics show in Texas has returned to the Plano Event Center! Ham-Com showcases the latest in ham radio and related gear. Enjoy three days of classes, lectures, vendor sales, a swap meet, and more! See page 5 for more details.



Field Day 23-24 June

Be prepared to talk about what the club will be doing for Field Day this year. This meeting will be the last before the annual event.

Harvey Houses on the Air Special Event Stations

Hi to All Amateur Radio Clubs in the Vicinity of Historic Harvey Houses.

Harvey Houses on the Air Special Event Stations will activate many of the 84 historic Harvey Houses each year on the second Saturday of September (in 2018, this is September 8). It would be appreciated if you would bring HHOTA to the attention of your members with the objective of getting a HHOTA Special Event Station operating at each of these Harvey Houses. Last year there were seven HHOTA activations and this year *(Continued on page 3)*

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

Smart phones are a common staple in society today. Many believe they permanently solve the problem of communications. Although still not the most reliable devices on earth, smart phones will be around us and evolve more and more into our daily function. So, in this age of communications technology, how can ham radio fit in? One way is to embrace this new technology, just as long as we don't become too dependent upon it. Michael, K5MDK, will be presenting just some of the ways a smart phone can be used for ham radio activity. Be prepared for a fast-paced and information-packed look into capabilities that can turn a smart phone into a ham radio or a nifty tool for the shack.

RCARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 2 May 2018. The testing was cancelled at the last minute due to cloudy weather. The siren testing is performed at 12:00 on the first Wednesday

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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 and VP Messages

See you at the meeting & 73's,
Gene, K1GD
RCARC Vice President

VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held on the third Saturday 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.

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

Secretary's Report

24 Apr 2018

President Gene Duprey K1GD called the meeting to order at 1746.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Bob Lewis	WA5ONL
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Rohan Thomas	KG5RCN

Officers and Committee Reports:

There were no formal reports other than the Secretary's Report, which is contained in this newsletter.

Old Business:

President Gene Duprey K1GD reported that annual funding requirements for the club were submitted as requested to the oversight group in Cedar Rapids. Requirements were developed by the club officers in a separate meeting. Funds requested addressed replacement or refurbishment of multiple items of equipment in the ham shack. It is expected that the review and approval process will require a few months to complete.

New Business:

Gene Duprey mentioned the upcoming ham convention in Dayton, Ohio, an annual event.

Bob Kirby K3NT reminded all that the Garland Mentor Fest was scheduled for the upcoming weekend.

John McFadden K5TIP noted that the McKinney club was planning a celebration of their 50th anniversary with the ARRL soon. He also reported that the Plano club was offering license classes in Allen over the weekend.

Gene Duprey reminded all that Field day was coming up, and planning was needed to be ready to participate effectively.

Bob Kirby reported that all club equipment was currently in operating order.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1845.

Harvey Houses on the Air Special Event Stations *(Continued from page1)* we are expecting 15.

You probably know Fred Harvey built and operated Harvey House Hotels and Restaurants (both commonly referred to as Harvey Houses) along western railroads. Texas apparently had the most Harvey Houses with 16: Amarillo, Brownwood, Canadian, Cleburne, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Gainesville, Galveston, Houston, Rosenberg, Silsbee, Slaton, Somerville, Sweetwater and Temple. There are several Oklahoma Harvey Houses just across the border that Texas Hams may consider activating. HHOTA information is at www.qsl.net/vcara which includes links to more information about Harvey Houses and the famous Harvey Girls recruited as staff.

Thank you and 73,

Andrew Eldridge, AE5NM

HHOTA Coordinator

New Mexico's Valencia County Amateur Radio Association is sponsoring HHOTA.

(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

“Alexa, help me with ham radio”

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

I have had an [Amazon Alexa](#) for nearly a year now. Mostly, I just use it to listen to internet radio stations or tell me a joke, but I think it has more potential than that. For example, I've written before about how [I'd like to develop an Alexa skill](#) to control my IC-7300. I haven't gotten around to that yet, but, Joe, N3HEE, has just published an Alexa skill called [Continuous Wave](#). It's designed to help you learn Morse Code.

To use this skill, you have to first enable it. Once enabled, say, “Alexa, open Continuous Wave.” This opens the skill at the main menu. You can then say any of the following at any voice prompt...

- Learn
- Practice
- Alphabet
- Common words
- Random words
- Words
- Sentences
- Call signs
- Contest
- Quick Brown Fox
- QSO
- Help

- Stop – To end your session.

I've just played around with this app for a short time, but I've found it to be quite entertaining. It does, however, have one big drawback. You can't set the speed. It's currently limited to sending at 20 words per minute only.

Also, the learn function could use a little refining. When you give the command "learn," it asks you for a character, sends that character three times, and then asks you for another. If you could set the speed at which the skill sends characters, it could teach a character like the K7QO Code Course, first sending the character slowly, then ramping up the speed.

Overall, though, I think this is a great first shot at a usable Alexa skill for teaching Morse Code. I hope this is the first of many versions of this skill.

Other ham radio skills

While I was poking around on Amazon, I decided to see what other amateur radio skills might be available. Here are a few that I found:

- [Ham Exam](#). Ask Alexa to ask you questions from the Technician Class question pool.
- [Ham Lookup](#). Allows you to look up amateurs by call sign. Information is provided from the callbook.info database.
- [Ham Radio Propagation Forecast](#). Reports the latest forecasts directly from HamQSL (run by N0NBH).
- [ARRL Audio News](#). Adds ARRL Audio News to your Alexa flash briefing.

Building your own voice app

The Continuous Wave Alexa skill was developed using tools found at [VoiceApps.Com](#). Two other websites—[Pullstring](#) and [StoryLine](#)—also have tools to help you build voice apps. And, Amazon has an [online tutorial](#) that will teach you how to build an Alexa app. I'm just getting started with these tools, so I can't recommend one over the others, but they do look like they'll make developing voice apps easier.

Since I'm currently in the process of updating my [No Non-sense Technician Class License Study Guide](#), it occurs to me that I should also develop an Alexa skill for drilling students on test questions. I guess you could call them audio flashcards. Stay tuned for that.

When he's not trying to figure out how to build voice apps, Dan blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, teaches ham radio classes, and operates CW on the HF bands. Look for him on 30m, 40m, and 80m. You can email him about the voice apps that you like at cwgeek@kb6nu.com.

Upcoming Events

Daily	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz 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 8:30 pm—9:30pm
JUNE	
8-9	Ham-Comm 2018 has returned to the Plano Event Center! Get the details about this event at https://sites.google.com/view/hamcom .
9-11	June VHF For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. All legal modes are permitted. Details at http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf .
16	Kids Day Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public! Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children. Details at http://www.arrl.org/kids-day .
23-24	Field Day —Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. Details at http://www.arrl.org/field-day .
JULY	
14-15	IARU HF World Championship —Objective: to contact as many other amateurs around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Begins 1200 UTC Saturday and ends 1159 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship .



JUNE 8TH - 10TH

Plano Event Center

Plano, Texas

HOURS OF OPERATION

Friday: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm

LOCATION

Plano Event Center

2000 E. Spring Creek Parkway | Plano, TX 75074

The beautifully landscaped Plano Event Center is a 86,400 square foot facility providing flexible function space accommodating as many as 5,000 people. The exhibition hall offers 21,600 square feet of column-free, completely carpeted space, a professional master stage, and high dock and street level move in access. In addition, there are 14 different break-out rooms.

More information about the event available at <https://sites.google.com/view/hamcom>.

ONLINE TICKET SALES ENDS MAY 31!

PURCHASE YOUR DISCOUNTED TICKETS ONLINE NOW FOR A CHANCE TO WIN THE PRE-REGISTRATION PRIZE! [DETAILS HERE](#)

Tickets will be available on-site the days of the event. One ticket is good for the whole weekend!

TALK-IN FREQUENCY

Handled by local clubs & other volunteers

147.18 pl 107.2

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 22 May 2018

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Conference Room A in Hospital Building

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 15 June 2018 ←←←