
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 29 Issue 02

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

November 2007

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday
29 November 2007
1730 in
Rockwell Collins
Cafeteria

Subject: 2008 RCARC Activities Planning and New Amateur Class Preview

- 1) Provide a notice to all members that a Special Election will be held - **Complete**
- 2) Invite any full member in good standing to either submit their name for election as President for FY2008 or agree to be placed in nomination if the nomination is from a third party - **Complete**
- 3) Establish a deadline of 18 November 2007 for submitting your name if you wish to stand for election - **Complete**
- 4) Provide a short biography in addition to your notice of intent to stand for election by 18 November. This biography would be included in the newsletter that is due to be published on or about the 20th of November. - **Complete for nomination received**

- RCARC Life Member
- Member ARRL
- CQ Life Member
- Past President, YMCA ARC, Gulf Oil ARC, BreezeShooters ARC
- Active extra class operator on HF through UHF bands; home, mobile & portable
- Active homebrew builder and radio/electronic repair
- Former fireman & emergency communications officer/engineer
- Degrees in Engineering, Business Management and Masters of Business Administration
- A Ham for over 45 years

Local Club News

Meeting Notice The program for this months meeting will consist of Planning for 2008 RCARC Activities and a preview of the planned New Amateur Class. John Champa, K8OCL, will present the slides that he has prepared for the first session of the class. This will provide the members present an opportunity to see what is planned.

Club Meeting Talk-In Each month, we have a Talk-In on the club repeater before the membership meeting on the night of the meeting. The Talk-In is from 1700 to 1730 hours, just prior to the meeting.

SPECIAL Election Report This report provides an update on the SPECIAL Election that is to be held at the 29 November meeting. Two previous messages were sent to all RCARC members of record that outlined the process which had been developed. That process is reproduced here for the record.

5) Voting and election of the new President would take place at the 29 November meeting.

6) President Elect would take office and the duties of the office in January of 2008 as we generally do not have a formal December meeting.

Note that in item 2) above that ANY full member in good standing is eligible to stand for election. Any full member includes those on either Active or Retired status

As of the 18 November deadline one person has submitted their name for consideration.

K3NT, Bob Kirby

- RCARC president principal goal: *Lead the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club in support of the members to have fun, foster fellowship and education*
- Vice President, RCARC past and present

His name will be included on the ballot for the Special Election on the 29th of November. As stated in the President's Message, nominations will be accepted from members present at the meeting.

New Amateur Class Plans are complete for the New Amateur Class. The course is planning on a 27 November start. John Champa, K8OCL, Activity Chairman will be the Lead Instructor. He needs club members to volunteer to teach a session. The dates are as follows: 11/27, 11/29, 12/6, 12/11, 12/13, 12/18, 1/3, 1/8. Please VOLUNTEER.

Welcome New Members The following Amateurs and spouses have recently joined the RCARC:

Robert Diepenbrock	KC4UAI
Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
Kenneth Keese	KD5EVW
Cindy Kirby	
Robert Lewis	WA5ONL
Charles Williams	WD5IRX

(Cont. on Page 4)

R-CARC OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Bill Swan **K5MWC**
462-300 **X3441**
hswan@rockwellcollins.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Bob Kirby **K3NT**
319.360.0500
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SECRETARY

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K8ocl@arrl.net

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CLUB STATION

972.705.1349 **W5ROK**
461-290

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Skinner **WB0UNI**
972.690.9612
wb0uni@arrl.net

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

The October 07 President's Message contained an announcement about a Special Election to fill the Office of President. A recent message sent to our membership outlined the process used to conduct this Special Election. Elsewhere in this newsletter the results of that process are reported as of the date of this article. At the 29 November meeting nominations from the floor will still be accepted but if you do nominate someone please be sure and check with that person to obtain their permission to put their name in nomination.

The RCARC Annual Report was prepared and submitted to corporate as required by Rockwell Collins for those organizations that receive company financial support. The report which included a request for funding in the FY08 period has been approved at the local level and should be finally approved at the corporate level. A copy of the FY07 final report has been loaded to the RCARC web site under the Members Only area. Should you not be able to access that location just send me an email and I will forward a copy to you.

Have you seen the announcement about the upcoming FCC Licensing course? The course is planning on a 27 November start. John Champa (K8OCL) the recently elected Activity Chairman will be serving as the Lead Instructor. This is an exciting project that the RCARC supports. Please be prepared to support John and his team as may be requested to help make this course a real success.

Do you know someone that you work with that is an amateur radio operator or has expressed an interest in amateur radio? If so I hope that you will take a moment and let them know about the RCARC. Invite them to a meeting, take them down to the station and show them our web site. With the influx of new employees this should be an opportunity for us to grow the active employee membership base of the RCARC.

ARRL membership up for renewal or new application? See information elsewhere in this edition to get more information on how your membership application can be made through the club. Your club receives

a commission for all renewals or new memberships that we process.

Just a final note before I QRT as your President. You have honored me by electing me to be your President over the past two years. I thank you for that privilege. This newsletter is being prepared before Thanksgiving so I would like to take this opportunity to wish each of you and your family the very best as we pause to give thanks for our great nation and the bounty that we enjoy.

Well it is time to say 73s.

— · — · · · · — — · — — — · — ·
Bill Swan,
K5MWC, President

Secretary's Report eBoard Meeting Minutes

Bill Swan, K5MWC, opened the E-Board meeting at 1640 (Oct. 24th 2007), in the RCI Cafeteria. Present at the meeting were:

John Champa	K8OCL
Jim Gaston	KD5GYD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

The following business was conducted:

1. *Possible Donation to Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas (ARBONET)*: Bill Swan, K5MWC, and John Champa, K8OCL, opened a discussion concerning the opportunity to donate some money to tomorrow's guest speaker, the Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas (ARBONET). This organization provides educational opportunities and research events. The club would be supporting a worthwhile cause and gain some publicity for the club and the company. Any amount donated would come from club membership dues or special donations from members. No portion of the donation would come from the company's support. The E-Board unanimously agreed to put a \$300 (or less) donation to a vote by general membership at the next general membership meeting. This amount should come close to sponsoring a single balloon launch.

2. *Annual Report*: The club's annual report to the company needs to include a list of equipment that the club would like to purchase. A list of desired equipment was discussed during the August meeting. The E-Board decided to add these items to last years list and include it in this years annual report.
3. *Constitution Update*: Bill Swan, K5MWC, noted that the constitution needs to be updated to reflect the way the club operates. Several issues remain open such as: How the club disposes of club assets? Who can approve expenditures? Does the club's president need to be a full-time employee?
4. *Special Election for the Club's President*: The constitution does not require that officers be active employees but the club has always tried to elect full-time employees to this position. A special election will be needed in the near future to address the president's office.

Bill Swan, K5MWC, closed the E-Board Meeting at 1740. The next general membership meeting will be tomorrow at 1730 in the RCI cafeteria.

General Membership Meeting Minutes

Bob Kirby, K3NT, opened the meeting at 1730 (October 25th 2007), in the RCI Cafeteria. Present at the meeting were:

Bob Ashby	K5JHR
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Hernando Garcia	KC5FDW
Jim Gaston	KD5GYD
Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Bob Kmak	K5WO
Doug Loughmiller	W5BL
John McFadden	K5TIP
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Dave Russell	W2DMR
Mike Schmit	WA9WCL
Carl Solomon	W5SU
Mike Thorp	
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

The following business was conducted:

1. *Officer Reports*
 - a. *Vice-President's Report*: Welcome and Introduction.

- b. *Treasurers Report*: Treasurer's statement was circulated and accepted.
2. *Old Business*
There was no old business to conduct.
 3. *New Business*
 - a. *Donation to Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas (ARBONET)*: Bob Kirby, K3NT, reviewed the E-Board's decision to present the opportunity to donate to Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas (ARBONET). This organization provides educational opportunities and research events. Any donated amount would come from dues and not the company's contribution to the club. There was a discussion concerning what other expenses must come exclusively from membership dues (such as Field-Day meals) and how much in dues had been collected for FY2008. A motion was then raised to make a \$100 donation to ARBONET. The motion was voted on and passed. An additional \$60 was collected from individual members for a total donation of \$160.

Bob Kirby, K3NT, closed the business meeting at 1800. The meeting's program was *ARBONET-2, A Look at the Poor Man's Space Program*, presented by Doug Loughmiller, W5BL. Doug described ARBONET's recent use of balloons to take amateur radio equipment to the edge of space.

Upcoming Events and Public Service Ops

24-25 November 2007: ARRL International EME Competition

The object of this event is two-way communications via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. The event consists of a full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). The authorized frequencies for this event are 50 MHz through 1296 MHz. Analog (CW, Phone) and Digital modes may be used. A station may be worked once for contest credit on each band regardless of mode. Assisted operation is allowed for all operating categories. Operating categories include single and multi-operators.

More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/eme.html>

24 November 2007: Turkey Trot

The first annual NTMS "Turkey Trot" will be held Saturday morning November 24th starting at 8:30 AM and ending at 10:00 AM CST. Bands of operation will be 2 meters and up. Suggested frequencies of operation:

144.200,
222.100,
432.100,
902.100,
1296.100 (higher bands use standard calling frequencies)

Get on the air and make some noise!

73,
Eric NM5M

30 November-02 December 2007:

ARRL 160 Meter Contest The object of this event is for Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on the 160-meter band CW only. DX-to-DX QSOs do not count for contest credit. The event starts at 2200 UTC Friday, and ends at 1600 UTC Sunday (**November 30 - December 2, 2007**). This is a forty-two hour period with no time limitation. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/160-meters.html>

01 December 2007: Richardson Annual Christmas Parade

The Richardson Christmas Parade will be held on Saturday, Dec. 1. This year the parade will stage on the East side from the Sears parking lot in Richardson Square Mall. Due to construction, the parade will enter on Beltline, then turn North onto Plano road. The judges stand will be on Plano Road next to Huffines Park. Ham radio operators with 2 meter HTs are needed to provide communications along the route. Time required will be from about 6:30am to 11:30am. To volunteer, please send an email to Doug Kilgore KD5OUG kd5oug@ARRL.net or phone 972-231-8539

08-09 December 2007: ARRL 10 Meter Contest

The object of this event is for Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10-meter band.. The event is the second full weekend of December. It starts at 0000 UTC Satur-

day; ends 2359 UTC Sunday (**December 8 - 9, 2007**). All stations operate no more than 36 hours out of the 48-hour period. Listening time counts as operating time. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/10-meters.html>

ARRL Membership Benefits

There are "fringe" benefits for RCARC when our members join or renew through the following process.

Renewing By Check—After filling out the form, return it to RCARC with your check. Note the definition of New or Renewing Member at the top of the form. If you have previously been a member of ARRL but have let that membership lapse for 2 or more years then you are considered a new member and the club would get a \$15 commission. If you are renewing a current membership or one lapsed for less than 2 years, you are considered a renewing membership and would get a \$2 commission. Do not deduct the \$15 or \$2 commission—make the check out to RCARC for the full renewal amount.

Renewing By Credit Card—If you wish to CHARGE the renewal to a credit card note the special instructions (Box on right side of form) which indicate that you would then pay the \$15 or \$2 directly to RCARC. Your credit card would be charged for the full amount minus the appropriate commission. In this instance the check should be made out to the RCARC for the appropriate commission amount.

In both cases, return the application to RCARC regardless of payment method in order for RCARC to get credit. ***The application is now available on the RCARC website!*** Mail to the following address:

RC Amateur Radio Club
Attn: Treasurer
MS 461-290
PO Box 833807
Richardson TX 75083-3807

German Amateur Cracks WWII Mega-Code in 46 Seconds

By Luke Baker Fri Nov 16, 7:54 AM ET

LONDON (Reuters) - British computer experts acknowledged defeat on Friday after a German amateur radio enthusiast won a challenge to crack secret messages encoded by a World War Two cipher.

Joachim Schueth, from the German city of Bonn, managed to intercept a special radio transmission and decipher a super-

complex code in less than two hours using software he wrote for the challenge.

Britain's Colossus computer, built in the 1940s to break secret German transmissions during the war and painstakingly rebuilt over the past 14 years, was still racing through its computations to come up with a solution.

Schueth's computer program actually managed to crack the hardest part of the challenge—deciphering the code of a Lorenz SZ42 encryptor, which has approximately 16 million million permutations—in just 46 seconds.

"It's a brilliant piece of work, really, really impressive," said Andrew Clark, director of Britain's National Museum of Computing, which designed the challenge and is overseeing the running of Colossus, based at Bletchley Park outside London.

"He's used a program that is highly optimized for this task and he's designed it very well.

"We're really pleased and very impressed. It highlights the strength of the international community working together."

Schueth was not immediately reachable for comment, but on his Web site he explained in a very low-key way how he had gone about defeating a machine that in its day was the most powerful calculator in the world and the forerunner of modern computing.

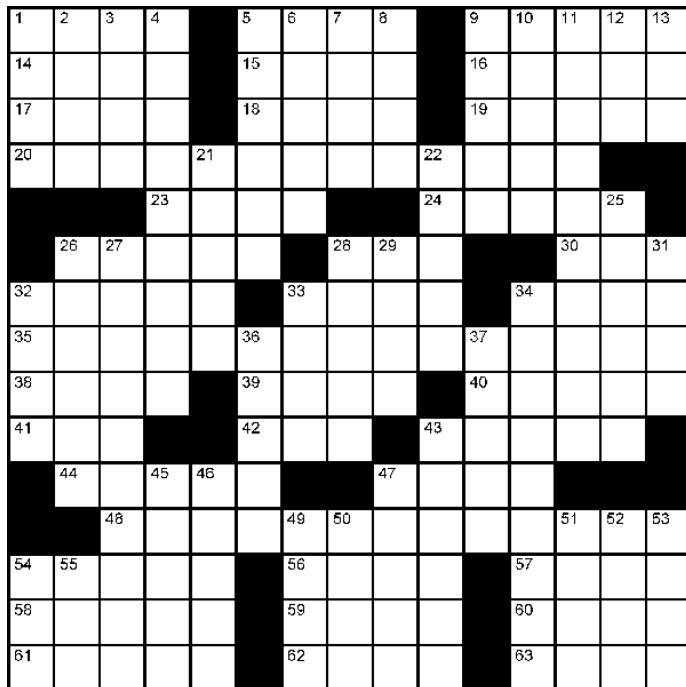
"Putting Colossus in a competition with modern computers may be a bit unfair," he wrote.

"Colossus was an ingenious construction and a landmark in the history of computing. But technology has very much evolved since: When fed with a usable ciphertext, the quick-setting program found the setting of all 12 wheels within 46 seconds."

The Lorenz cipher is based on wheels that can have an almost infinite range of settings.

Colossus, a truck-sized computer built in 1943-4 with the help of mathematicians such as Enigma code breaker Alan Turing, has worked out five of the wheel settings so far and is expected to complete the task in about six hours. (*Cont on page 5*)

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler



- 54. Do this on your meter to measure line voltage
- 56. Board here, for going /MM
- 57. Capacitor dielectric material
- 58. CW predecessor
- 59. Medical breakthrough
- 60. Vy much
- 61. DC power sources, briefly
- 62. Cluster item
- 63. Maine prefix, possibly

- 46. Freezes a digital VFO
- 47. Prefix with chip or wave
- 49. They feed DSP ckts, usually
- 50. Arrange, as hair
- 51. Prefix with watt
- 52. Clickable image
- 53. Gourmet cracker spread
- 54. Particularly slim type of AM
- 55. 3-land ARRL section

Solution to this month's Puzzler



Across

- 1. "WRTC grand ___" - working all 1x1 calls
- 5. Parts supplier McMaster-___
- 9. Sword handles
- 14. Digital music std.
- 15. Silent Key article, briefly
- 16. Fill with joy
- 17. Antenna restrictions might be on this
- 18. A craving for that last multiplier, say
- 19. Northern city with F call prefix
- 20. DXers' mood swings?
- 23. Decades over S9
- 24. Sharpens
- 26. Early term for static crash (1920's)
- 28. Nothing more, on CW
- 30. Ocean
- 32. "Air" for an early ham
- 33. ___ gum - a thickening agent
- 34. Hams xmit and rcv with them
- 35. The way, for signals
- 38. A non-radio bug
- 39. A hamfest of the Internet
- 40. Type of eel
- 41. Code inventor, for short
- 42. A comfortable ham shack might be here
- 43. Law school course
- 44. VK animal
- 47. Baseball glove
- 48. A six or ten meter DXer's hope

Down

- 1. Tiny parts (abbr.)
- 2. In ___ of (instead of)
- 3. Gulf of ___, off the 70 coast
- 4. Where not to change horses
- 5. VK was once a British one
- 6. Borders on
- 7. A microprocessor type, briefly
- 8. Non-military RATT
- 9. "___ radio" (testing, sometimes)
- 10. SETI call answerer
- 11. Calling CQ TEST one minute before the contest begins
- 12. Kind of logic ckt
- 13. You can do it with ATV
- 21. Lively
- 22. Boorish sort
- 25. Told someone to wait, on CW
- 26. Winning several contests in a row
- 27. It might increase your amplifier's blower speed
- 28. Holy book, in HZ-land
- 29. R-rated, maybe
- 31. Grayish
- 32. Oval insulators
- 33. Jeer
- 34. A contester, in a broader sense
- 36. Fragrant wood
- 37. Ham it up, in a way
- 43. FCC license, slangily
- 45. Like an untouched Heathkit

German Amateur Cracks WWII Mega-Code in 46 Seconds

(Cont from page 4) Clark was full of praise for Schueth, who German scientists who helped design the challenge said they had never heard of. He hopes Schueth will visit Bletchley Park to receive a reward.

Colossus was a top-secret project during World War Two—it only came to light in the 1970s—that helped crack secret German commands on troop movements and supplies. Winston Churchill, Britain's war-time prime minister, credited it with helping to shorten the war by up to 18 months.

(Editing by Elizabeth Piper)

Classified Ads

Radio Repair, Kit Building, Antenna and Computer Help. Free Estimates; Contact Bob Kirby K3NT at k3nt@arrl.net

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

MEETING

Thursday 29 November 2007

17:30

Rockwell Collins Cafeteria

**NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:
17 December 2007**