
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 31 Issue 2

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

November 2009

RCARC
Membership Meeting
Thursday, 19 November 2009
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
Rockwell Collins Building 462
Dallas Conference Room

Subject: "Portable Slinky Antenna Designs and Experiments", by Matt Johnson, N5MTJ

Clubs in the area listed below. I am also including the meeting dates of these clubs.

Dallas Amateur Radio Club
Brookhaven Church, 13000 Marsh Ln, Dallas TX
Meetings 1st Tuesday each Month at 7:00 p.m.

Richardson Wireless Klub
St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1222 W Belt Line Rd, Richardson TX
Meetings 2nd Monday each Month at 7:00 p.m.

McKinney Amateur Radio Club
American Red Cross, 1450 North Redbud Blvd, McKinney TX
Meetings 2nd Tuesday each Month at 7:00 p.m.

Plano Amateur Radio Klub
Grace Presbyterian Church, 4300 W Park Boulevard Plano TX
Meeting 3rd Monday each Month at 7:30 p.m.

Rockwall Amateur Radio Club
Community Bank, 201 E. Kaufman St., Rockwall TX 75087
Meetings 3rd Tuesday each Month at 7:30 p.m.

Garland Amateur Radio Club
Garland Women's Activity Bldg, 713 W Austin St., Garland TX
Meeting 4th Monday each Month at 7:30 p.m.

And do not forget our club meeting
Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club
Rockwell Collins, 3200 E Renner Rd, Richardson TX,
Normally meets the 4th Thursday of the Month with exception at Thanksgiving and Christmas.

(Joe Wolf - N5UIC, RCARC Membership Data Base Manager)

3 Invitations for Amateur Radio Clubs. I hope you have found the recent emails about our amateur radio webinars helpful to your club members. We've been overwhelmed by the positive response from hundreds of amateur radio operators from around the country. That's why we're pleased to be offering both an introductory and advanced webinar to Amateur Radio Operators as a continuing series every Thursday. Our next webinar is this Thursday at 1 PM EST/10 AM PST.

If you are able and willing, we would love it if you could put information in your club newsletter about these webinars. Here's a quick blurb you can just drop in: *(Cont. on page 3)*

Local Club News

Meeting Notice We have a special speaker lined up for our re-scheduled November meeting. He is Matt Johnson, N5MTJ. He will speak about "Portable Slinky Antenna Designs and Experiments".

Club Meeting Talk-In Each month, on the night of the membership meeting we have a Talk-In on the club repeater. The Talk-In this month is 1630 to 1700 hours, prior to the meeting.

RCARC Holiday Dinner Party. For the December 12th RCARC Holiday Dinner Party we have invited an ARRL official (TBD) to be our dinner speaker.

- **Place:** Golden Corral Party Room, corner of Campbell and Plano Roads (972-437-2470).
- **Date:** Saturday, December 12th (please reserve the date on your calendar).
- **Time:** 5 p.m. until 9 pm (bring your YLI!).
- **Cost:** \$13 each for the buffet + 15% gratuity (inquire about senior discounts at entrance register).
- **Speaker:** TBD
- **RSVP:** Joe Wolf res0wapq@verizon.net.

W5ROC Made it into QST. W5ROK made it in QST this month on page 78 (Under 3E) and page 82 (Midwest Region). *Contributed by Dennis Cobb*

North Texas Area Club Meetings. Let us give support to the North Texas Area. I have just a few of the Major

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W5ROK

461-290

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

It is very important to remember that, like an automobile license, our amateur radio licenses are a privilege with no guarantees or rights other than those granted by law. And those laws can be changed by political winds at any time.

The best way to assure the future of amateur radio is to make ourselves visible in our communities and to renew our ranks with a new generation of radio amateurs.

Community visibility can be enhanced by amateur radio participation in public service events. To this end I encourage RCARC member participation in the White Rock Marathon on Dec. 13. Believe me, participation in these events is a lot of fun, and you will have a great feeling of accomplishment in a job well done.

The Rockwell Collins community has no shortage of highly educated engineers and technicians that is fertile ground for new radio amateurs. In order to attract new members in RCARC we must become more visible within Rockwell Collins. To this end, in the coming year, RCARC will sponsor some Pop Corn Wednesdays. Other activities include having an operating station as an exhibit during May Fun Days.

Please feel free to suggest other activities for improved RCARC visibility within the Rockwell Collins community and the greater community at large.

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC

wa9wcc@arrl.net

Vice-President's Message

For our "Popcorn Wednesday" support RCARC has received permission from Maty Weinberg, KB1EIB ARRL Production Coordinator to convert our copy of "Amateur Radio Today" from MPEG to DVD format for this promotion. Thanks to Joe, N5UIC and Bob, KC4UNI for working this so that our club can now play this video as part of our display.

Member John, K5TIP, had a visit from David Kennedy, son of Chuck Kennedy (sk) Chuck was retired from Rockwell. David wants to get a ham ticket so he can get his dad's old call, W5BAW. Do you know of any ham classes scheduled nearby? David also wants to sell some of the Collins gear that belonged to his dad. Contact John via email at K5TIP@arrl.net.

On October 29, 2009 I attended an officer's meeting called by our president Mike, WA9WCC. The subject was 'Popcorn Wednesday' RCARC support. Contact Mike, WA9WCC for details.

Member Jon, K5XRF, is looking for the club's missing QST 1995-1999 CDs and others from the 1980's. If you have borrowed these please contact Jon and let him know when you will be finished with them.

Ross - K5SRT, John - K5TIP and Bob - K3NT attended the Ardmore, OK Hamfest last month. There we purchased the hardbound ARRL 2010 handbook and a USB to parallel converter for the club.

Ken, W9ZMR sent in the following saying it's really neat. "Build your own DTV antenna". Even you or your child could build it. Go to www.youtube.com/watch?v=YaYDtOqpTOI and watch.

Our W5ROK Repeater on 441.875 PL 138.1 is working well. Last Saturday afternoon W5ROK had a very enjoyable conversation with the 1st annual Rockwall ARC in the park. Joe – N5UIC and Bert – KC5HWX were on site at the event. Bob – K3NT contacted them on HF 20 meters SSB from the station W5ROK. Be sure to see article and pictures about this event in this newsletter.

Enjoy your Radio Hobby, support your club & Best Regards (73),

Bob Kirby, K3NT
k3nt@arrl.net
<http://w5rok.us>

Secretary's Report

There was no Secretary's Report this month.

Events and Public Service Ops

21-22 November 2009: ARRL November Sweepstakes (Phone). The object of this event is for stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. **Date and Contest Period:** Third full weekend in November (November 21-23, 2009). **Contest Period:** Begins 2100 UTC Saturday, ends 0300 UTC Monday. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html>.

13 December 2009 (Sunday): Dallas White Rock Marathon. Contact: Bob Jones, w5bj@arrl.net. This is a world class event. As many as 20,000 participants are expected. Please consider helping out, we need all the help we can get. If you have not worked an event before, you will be teamed up with another operator who has.

Richardson Industrial Campus getting a Makeover. *By STEVE BROWN / The Dallas Morning News*
 A Richardson industrial campus is getting a makeover that will turn it into one of the region's largest data and telecommunications complexes.

Digital Realty Trust – a San Francisco company that builds and owns technology-related real estate – plans to redevelop the 70-acre former Collins Technology Park in Richardson. The conversion of the seven buildings into a data center park will be done in partnership with Dallas-based Skyrise Properties, which has owned the project for several years.

The data center project just east of North Central Expressway is in the midst of the Telecom Corridor – home to many of North Texas' high-tech firms. More than 15,000 computer professionals work within a 30-mile radius of the planned data center, the developer said.

"We think this is an ideal market from a corporate data center perspective," said Chris Crosby, Digital Realty Trust's senior vice president of corporate development. "We have already had quite a few clients going through the property.

"We plan on having our first facilities available at the start of next year."

The buildings, which were recently remodeled, will be further upgraded to accommodate equipment for telecommunications and data processing.

"These things are the infrastructure for the information age," Crosby said. "It's where companies are doing business now."

75 properties

Digital Realty Trust has 75 properties in the U.S. and abroad with about 13 million square feet.

Its current local facilities are in downtown Dallas, North Dallas and Carrollton, Crosby said.

The Richardson property – which previously housed operations for Collins Radio, Rockwell International and Alcatel – has its own power substation that can provide large amounts of affordable electricity, he said.

"The power piece is a huge driver because oftentimes the power is more than the rent" for companies that use data center space, Crosby said. "We are able to offer power at prices you can't get anywhere else."

Postwar origins

The property on East Collins Boulevard at Alma Road was where Richardson's Telecom Corridor got its start after [World War II](#).

"It was Collins Radio back in the 1950s," said Richardson City Manager Bill Keffler. "Those buildings were built strong enough to take an atom bomb – a big concern at that time with defense contractors. "It's a unique campus because it's so secure."

Keffler said Richardson officials have been eager to see the property redeveloped since Alcatel moved out several years ago.

"There shouldn't be anything stopping it from becoming the largest single data center complex in the country," he said. "It's not a huge employment generator but an unbelievable tax base."

The Richardson high-tech project is the latest in a series of recent data centers announced in North Texas. "It's one of the bright spots in Dallas real estate right now," Crosby said. *(Reprinted courtesy of Dallas Morning News)*

3 Invitations for Amateur Radio Clubs. *(Cont. from page 1)* Depiction, Inc., makers of the Depiction mapping software that was featured in the November QST, is offering free webinars for Amateur Radio Operators every Thursday. The webinars are hosted by David Friedman, KE7GOY, and Depiction's Kim Buike, a retired U.S. Navy Captain and active Red Cross volunteer. David and Kim will show how to employ Depiction before and during emergencies to enhance planning and response capabilities, and demonstrate David's use of the software in response to disasters around the country. For more information, visit www.depiction.com/webinars/amateur-radio.

Also, we are looking to do a limited number of custom regional webinars for ARRL clubs, using local maps and data to show

how the software can be used in your community to prepare for—and respond to—specific disaster risks. If you are interested, please just respond to this email and let me know.

Finally, if your club is hosting a Hamfest, exercise or other event, and is looking for a corporate sponsor, please contact me. We are always looking for ways we can support the Amateur Radio community.

*Timothy Goddard, Marketing Manager
Depiction, Inc., Depiction.com*

Ham Radio in the Park. *By A W Schmiesing, KC5HWX*
Did you ever go to an outing that you were not too sure of what to expect? Well this is one of these events. At Harry Meyers Park in Rockwall on Saturday November 7, 2009, the Rockwall club sponsored an idea that is a copy from the Mesquite amateur radio club in having a more or less free for all, outside in the open, to all and every one. The event was from 12 noon till 5: 00 PM, the weather was great. Now on to the main course.

Did you ever see an antenna made from a “slinky”? Well it works and on many different bands. This is made up with PVC pipe and slinkys and can be tuned to different frequencies. This also can be transported in a mid size car. WOW! OK what was next?

How about an antenna, an inverted “V”, flying from a kite? Bad part was that the wind died down. Did you ever see a “Buddy Pole in action, well it works great. I worked a Michigan station from the “buddy Pole”.

Another person showed up, built an antenna there on the ground, then put up a fiber glass pole with a pulley on the top, hoisted up the new built antenna and started sending CW. The code came in loud and clear, one of the stations heard was Croatia. I did not hear if contact was made back. The Croatia station was in great demand, a pile up if you please.

Another ham was working on a direction finding station that could operate from a mobile station.

I saw an APRS station up and running for other hams to find the place we were at. This, so far, did not include the uhf/vhf stations up and running making local contacts.



The amount of talent was incredible. If you had a problem or question, you could find an answer or someone who knows where to find the answer. The attendance was around 35 that signed in.

signed in. More may have not signed in. There were some visitors that came so one of the purposes of this was to get an area that had good visibility and introduce ham radio to others.

This was the first for the Rockwall club but I do not think it will be the last. The talk was “in January, let’s do this again”.



NCTECH 2009**North Central Texas Emergency Communicators' Ham-festival***(A Great Texas Hamfest since 1997!)***November 14, 2009****8:00 AM to 1:00 PM**

Contact Vic Bell KC5WEN at (817)444-5872.

NCTECH is hosted and sponsored by Tri-County Amateur Radio Club WC5C, and is always the second Saturday in November. The Hamfest is located in the Azle Community Center, 404 W. Main Street, in historic Azle, Texas.

Vendors are welcomed: One of the features of our hamfest is the Swap Meet area, a veritable Ham Radio and High Tech flea market, with new and used Amateur Radio bargains. Indoor tables are \$10 each. *Outdoor flea market space is free.*

Presentations: Presentations are made by Disaster and Emergency Communications organizations and by Ham Radio clubs and experts. Sign up early to make your presentation!

Exam Sessions: A W5YI and/or ARRL Volunteer Examiner Exam Session starts at **9am**, be sure to bring your photo ID, pencil and non-programmable calculator. Get prepared by taking a class in advance or self study!

[Click here for class information.](#)

Organization Outreach: For Amateur Radio clubs and for Disaster Relief agencies wishing to set up a **non-sales** table to display information about your organization and achievements, or to conduct volunteer and membership drives, **Indoor Tables are Free (limit 1 per organization)!**

Parking: Parking is FREE!

Directions: [Area maps to NCTECH](#) <= click to load maps

Talk-In: 147.160 CTCSS 110.9 as WC5C



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 19 November 2009

1700 Fellowship

1730 Meeting

Rockwell Collins Building 462

Dallas Conference Room

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

→→→ 7 December 2009 ←←←