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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 31 Issue 1

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

October 2009

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**RCARC**  
**Membership Meeting**  
 Thursday, 22 October 2009  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
 Rockwell Collins Building 462  
 Dallas Conference Room

*Subject: TBD—Come and See*

Dennis for supporting this event! Also on display was various RCARC information, and pictures of flags from different areas along with short descriptions of those areas.

### Sweden Ham SM6KNE, Erik Nordin Visits RCARC Members in the United States.

SM6KNE (Erik Nordin) from Goteborg Sweden visited with Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) members K3NT (Bob Kirby), WA0TGH (Wayne Hughes) and K5SRT (Ross Terry) while on break in Richardson, TX during his visit to the United States. Wayne Hughes captured a picture of Erik (shown in the center) here meeting with Bob and Ross.

## 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 22nd.

**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.

**Return to Dallas Conference Room.** As previously decided, RCARC has returned to the Dallas conference room for our monthly meetings. Although it is more difficult to get to, it provides a larger and more comfortable meeting place, especially when we have large groups. See you there.

**Membership Renewal.** It's that time again. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, has provided a new membership signup form to most of our current members, either in person (paper) or by email by now. Please complete the form and renew you membership as promptly as possible. Did you know that you can also sign up your spouse as an associate member, as well as people outside the employee/retiree community? Let's support our club with membership renewals before the current fiscal year expires.

**Hispanic Heritage Month.** The RCARC participated in The Latino Employee Network's Dinner and Movie meeting on 7 October 2009. In honor of "Hispanic Heritage Month" Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, prepared a display consisting of some QSL cards related to Amateur Radio contacts in related countries. The display was placed near the sign-in table for the event. Some of the QSL cards that were displayed from the international locations are shown on page 5 of this newsletter. Many thanks to

Erik has been wanting to try different antenna designs and has even collected three of four telephone poles needed to build a large above ground square loop antenna. Wayne suggested that Erik might like to visit Texas Towers before his return trip to check out equipment and possibly some antenna books and Wayne also gave him a recent QST magazine.



Based on a recent email from Erik he did visit and purchased an Antenna Tuner as shown in a picture he returned of the new tuner on top of his rig. Notice his Radio is QRP running less

than five Watts and his preferred mode is CW.

He is now in the process of making a Dipole Antenna and has asked if any of us has made the simple (Cont. on page 3).

**RCARC OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	
Mike Schmit WA9WCC ?????????? wa9wcc@arrl.net		Bob Kirby K3NT 319.360.0500 k3nt@arrl.net	
<b>SECRETARY</b> Open		<b>TREASURER</b>	
		Bob Diepenbrock KC4UAI 972.705.1461 Kc4uai@gmail.com	
<b>ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN</b>		<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	
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<b>STATION TRUSTEE</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	
Steve Phillips K6JT 972.517.3332 k6jt@arrl.net		Jim Skinner WB0UNI 214.535.5264 wb0uni@arrl.net	
<b>CLUB STATION</b> 972.705.1349		<b>W5ROK</b> 461-290	

**VE SESSIONS**

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 10:00. 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 09:00. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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**President's Message**

As the new president of the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, I look forward to working with all RCARC members and Rockwell Collins community to make our workplace experience more interesting.

I received my novice and then my general class licenses in 1968. I had several mentors in my early radio years, especially a real radio pioneer, George Mathias W9IP, formally 9BQ. My family had three hams. My father John, formally WA9VNU, and my brother Greg, WA9SGF and myself.

My employment career also includes plenty of radio and RF experience. My first job after school was as a technician at Microwave Cavity Labs, then in La Grange Illinois. Then in the early eighties I worked at E.F. Johnson Co. then in Waseca Minnesota as an Engineering technician. Other career stops include E-Systems Garland Division, now Raytheon, Intellect Inc. and finally here at Rockwell Collins.

Most of my amateur activity in recent years has been on two meters in support of public service activities. In Minnesota I was active in Waseca County Civil Defense, and am now an appointee with City of Garland RACES.

I am back on the HF bands again and I now frequent twenty and thirty meters PSK 31and Olivia.

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC  
[wa9wcc@arrl.net](mailto:wa9wcc@arrl.net)

**Secretary's Report**

Bob Kirby (K3NT) opened the meeting at 5:35 PM in the Dallas Conference Room with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present at the meeting were:

Charlie Beis	K5UWD	John Champa	K8OCL
Bob Diepenbrock	KC4UAI	Loney Duncan	W0GZV
Bob Kirby	K3NT	Steve Phillips	K6JT
Dwight Ramsey	KE5SAS	Chuck Samuel	K7NVM
Michael Schmit	WA9WCC	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC	Joseph Wolf	N5UIC

**1. Officer Reports**

- a. **President's Report:** Bob Kirby, K3NT, referred the members to his article in the September Signals that was recently published. In summary he stressed the need for more participation by the current members and the need for additional members in general. Bob also stated that he was disappointed with the small amount of activity on our repeater. He is hoping also that the level of monitoring will increase.
- b. **Vice-President's Report:** In Ross Terry's absence, Bob, K3NT, reported that Ross was continuing his negotiation with the Vendor for a commemorative club shirt.
- c. **Secretary's Report:** Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS referred the members to the summary in the September Signals that was recently published.
- d. **Treasurers Report:** Robert Diepenbrock (KC4UAI) gave the treasurer report which was accepted by the members.

- e. **Station Trustee's Report:** Steve, K6JT, reported that the repeater is working well.
- f. **Activities Chairman Report:** There was no Activities Chairman report, as the office is currently unfilled.

## 2. Old Business

- a. **Club T-Shirts:** See Vice-Presidents Report above.
- b. **RFI in the Shack:** Bill Swan reported that he had discussed the issue with the facility manager. The facility manager is aware of the cost (approx \$1000), but due to work load is unable to schedule the repair at this time.
- c. **Annual Corporate Club Stipend:** Bob Kirby has reviewed with the Rockwell employee recreation manager the clubs concerns about the new and counterproductive procedures in obtaining funds. The manager indicated that he would continue to review our issues. Bill Swan will also talk with the manager in the near future.

## 3. New Business

- a. **Club Elections:** An election was held to elect next year's officers. All positions were filled except the secretary position. The president indicated that at each future meeting a person will be selected to write and submit the minutes to our news editor James Skinner. The results of the election were as follows:
 

President	Mike Schmit, WA9CC
Vice-President	Bob Kirby, K3NT
Treasurer	Bob Diepenbrock, KC4UAI
Activity Chair	John Champa, K8OCL
Secretary	Unfilled
- b. **New President Comments:** The new president indicated his plans for the upcoming year will focus on community participation.
- c. **Activity Chair Comments:** The new Activity chair will work hard to provide the quality programs for the club, but requires internal logistic support. Dwight Ramsey was assigned to provide the logistics support.
- d. **WEB Page Password:** Joe Wolf is compiling the membership lists for the New Year. Upon completion he will send the new Club WEB password to all the members. Joe stated that he preferred that any other requests for the new password be channeled through him to verify authenticity of the request.
- e. **Training:** Dwight Ramsey reported that he and Ross Terry will be working together to create a training program to help interested candidates obtain their amateur license. This will require promotion of Ham Radio and classes for students. Bill Swan suggested that planning for this activity should include techniques to keep successful candidates involved in our club.
- f. **U-Tube Video:** In an interest to promote amateur radio here at Rockwell, Joe Wolf will coordinate with security and create a real time video of operation at W5ROK. The video will be available on U-Tube by clicking on the Club's Rockwell web site.
- g. **Holiday Party:** John Champa volunteered to coordinate the December Holiday party.

The meeting concluded at 6:24 PM

**Sweden Ham SM6KNE, Erik Nordin Visits RCARC Members in the United States.** (Cont from page 1) balun described as being made by winding coax around plastic tube (6-8 turns) before connecting to the antenna

feed and how effective this is. RCARC members if you've done this type of balun or can offer Erik some pointers please do so and help out one of our International QRP friend [erik.b.nordin@combitech.se](mailto:erik.b.nordin@combitech.se).

**Update:** Steve, K6JT provided the requested balun info to Eric and here is Erik's response: "Thank you for the information. I read it in more detail in the weekend. The picture from your attic made it easy to understand what kind of setup you have. Last weekend when I read in my ARRL antenna book I was thinking of buying a G5RV next time I travel to the US + using a balun - exactly your solution!"

## RCARC President's Meeting

By Ross Terry, K5SRT & Bob Kirby, K3NT

Ross Terry, K5SRT and Bob Kirby, K3NT met with Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, our new FY2010 RCARC president recently to discuss turnover information and club ideas. Appears our new president has some interesting plans for leading RCARC this upcoming year.

### Major Points Discussed-

- **Contacts:** within the club and discussion on engagement of members going forward (different things work for different people, not everyone in the club has or regularly checks email; follow-up with a phone call, if directly asked most members will get involved)
- **More Community Service Events:** Refocus this year (be seen and take credit for events members take part in, making a point to capture those in the monthly news letter)
- **Pictures:** a good way to capture events and are useful for SIGNALS and the Annual report.
- **W5ROK station changes:** lights (now on 24/7!) and some other facilities or maintenance needs going forward.
- **Excess Inventory:** Quite a bit of effort was expended last year in making room in the club shack before field day but now inventory and possibly a lean event should be considered.
- **Marketing:** Yahoo groups, mailing lists, other Rockwell Collins and local area Amateur Club involvement.
- **Public Relations and Joint Events:** within other Rockwell Collins clubs/groups. Fun Days, Corporate Challenge, Kids Day, RCLA Speaker, and other public events provide awareness to the club as well as making sure RCARC information is provided to our new employees.
- **Thank You Letters and Follow Up:** needs to be encouraged.
- **RCARC Christmas Holiday Plans:** are moving forward (John Champa, K8OCL's return to activity chairman will be a boost to RCARC activities area in general).
- **Secretary Position:** remains to be filled.
- **Renewed Training Focus:** Lead is last years RCARC secretary Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS, supported by last years

vice president Ross Terry, K5SRT, who hope to engage new Amateur Radio candidates.

- Major RCARC Events: like Field Day benefit by having primary coordinators for such events. A strong need still exists to establish a more formal leadership point, sign-up and follow-up of events.
- Mike, WA9WCC is OPEN to IDEAS & Needs Your Help: contact mike at [wa9wcc@arrl.net](mailto:wa9wcc@arrl.net)

## Events and Public Service Ops

**7-8 November 2009: ARRL November Sweepstakes (CW).** 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:** First full weekend in November (November 7-9, 2009). **Contest Period:** Begins 2100 UTC Saturday, ends 0300 UTC Monday. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/novss.html>.

**7-8 November 2009: ARRL International EME Competition.** The object of this event is two-way communications via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency 2.3 GHz and Up. **Contest Period:** Full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday), November 7-8, 2009. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/eme.html>.

**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](mailto: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.

## A Radial Plate for Cheapskates *By Bill Savage K3AN*

A well-known ham antenna manufacturer sells a stainless steel plate that's designed to mount to a vertical antenna's support mast and provide connections for at least 60 ground radials. It appears to be a well-made product and has gotten good reviews here on eHam.

However it's rather expensive and considerable overkill for my Inverted-L installation, so I set out to look for something that could serve the same purpose at a lower cost. What I ultimately found is remarkably cheap, and should meet the needs of anyone who doesn't have the time, real estate, or inclination to put down more than 30 ground radials.

What is it? It's nothing more than a replacement kitchen sink strainer that you can buy at Home Depot or Lowe's for about \$2.00. It's made from stainless steel and is "pre-drilled" for 10-24 size screws. You can readily install ten screws and nuts in the outermost ring of holes, and another five in the next ring. Install two solder or crimp-type terminal lugs under each nut and there's your 30-radial capacity. Furthermore, as shown in the photo, the strainer's center hole is large enough to fit over a copper-clad ground rod. You just have to remove the rubber stopper and pull out the metal center stem.



In my installation, each screw is fastened to the strainer with a compression lockwasher and nut. Then the radial lugs are placed over the nut and secured by a second nut. To prevent "galling" or seizing up of the stainless hardware, I placed Noalox grease on the screw threads. I also placed some grease on the flat surfaces of the lugs. Home Depot and Lowe's carry Noalox in the electrical section.

Depending on how many sets of stainless hardware you buy, the total cost for the strainer, the stainless steel screws, nuts and washers, and a small tube of Noalox will be under \$10 to maybe as much as \$16. For that price there's no excuse for not sprucing up (and adding to) your vertical's radial system.

K3AN

*(Reprinted courtesy eham.net)*

Some of the QSL Cards Displayed at Hispanic Heritage Dinner and Movie Event

CQ 13 ITU 14

**REPUBLICA ARGENTINA**

**LU2CFC**

P. de. Central - 4500 - 1070 - 1070 - 1070

STATION	OPERATOR	DATE	TIME	MODE	CLASS	POWER	QTH	QSL BY
W5S Oak		25 to 28	1997	1677	28	SLY	800	939R

10X1006034

*Handwritten signature*

EDUARDO CARLOS ESCOBAR  
P.O. BOX 79 C.F. 1437  
BUENOS AIRES - ARGENTINA

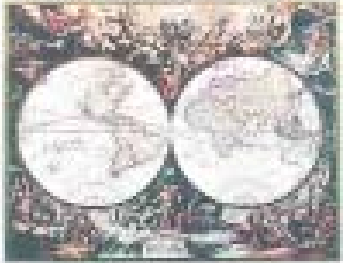
SURETY  P.O. BOX  
 AIRMAIL  TELETYPE

By Reg. 70 add to  
the Reg. 70 QSL

**PU2RUX** SÃO PAULO  
CORACÉ BRASIL  
MAZ II - ITU 15

Op. Alex

ALEXANDRE PILLARIN  
Po Box 21182  
04023-970  
SÃO PAULO - SP  
BRASIL  
pillarin@netnet.com.br



P.O. BOX  TELETYPE

Confirm QSL To ARG: W5ROE  
28-Oct-97 UTC 1805  
Band: 28 MHz Pwr: 50 W 24 000  
TX: QSO CORR 500 BT

Leon, Mexico



**XE1/W6EFR**

ORIG, WAG, WAS/WO, WAS/W6, ROC, OTC

Cte QSO With: W6PCPC  
2847:558 MHz:14.220  
04:27-Nov-98 1 +21:12 RT:58

THE QSO, PSE QSL, BILL, XE1/W6EFR

BILL GOTTRALT  
Circunvalacion Pta. 1215-2  
Jardines Del Moral  
Leon, Gto., MEXICO

SURETY  P.O. BOX  
 AIRMAIL  TELETYPE

QSL MAIL  
NOJT  
CPR 06 TX 13




PASADENA

SAN MARTIN

**BRASIL**



**PS7ZZ**

MEMBER  
QSL: 1000  
CQ: ITU 15

MEMBER

Francisco Eduardo P. de Brito  
Av. Rio Miguel dos Santos 31  
Complexo Aquil, Niterói RJ  
21096-700 - Niterói - Rio Grande do Norte - BRASIL

QSL 280W QSO with W5ROE

Date: 21-Feb-98 Time: 0228  
Mhz: 14.000 Pwr: 500 QSL: Pse

http://www.terra.com.br/brasil/ps7zz/ps7zz.html ps7zz@terra.com.br

# 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 23 October 2009

1700 Fellowship

1730 Meeting

Rockwell Collins Building 462

Dallas Conference Room

### NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

→→→ 9 November 2009 ←←←