

SIGNALS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 47 Issue 03

Web Site http://www.n5cxx.us

December 2025

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 January 2026 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at Woodcreek Church 3400 E. Renner Rd, Richardson TX (and via Zoom)

Show 'n Tell

(No formal meeting in December)

January Meeting

There's no formal meeting in December - our Christmas Party on December 9th was our main activity. Plan to attend our annual Show 'n Tell meeting on Tuesday, January 27th, 5:30pm, at Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Rd., Richardson.

Several members have already stepped up to show some interesting electronic devices that are useful in the ham shack, along with some hints and tricks for use in the field and at home.

We would like to offer a few more, so if you have a neat device, homebrew project, software app, clever website or nifty operating gimmick, please offer to give a 5- to 10-minute talk about your subject. We can help prepare a slide deck of photos, screenshots and text, if you wish. Or just show your item and speak about it.

To be part of the agenda, send a brief description of your Show 'n Tell to vp@n5cxx.us as soon as possible. Together we can make this our best Show 'n Tell ever.



Attendance was a bit low, but conversation, fellowship and good food abounded at the Collins ARC Christmas Party, held on December 9th at Aboca's Italian Grill in Richardson.

Attending were: Jim Brown AF5MA, Debbie Dempsky, Mark Dempsky N5MD, Frank Krizan KR1ZAN, Nancy Krizan K5NCK, Lane Montgomery, Mike Montgomery WD5TX, Clarence Sebesta K5YO, Jim Skinner WB0UNI, Rose Skinner, Bettye Weeks K5BTY, Kerry Weeks K5WKS, and Milton Withers AD5XD.

Door Prize Winners were:

Clarence Sebesta K5YO - the new Baifeng UV-5R Mini Transceiver

Jim Skinner WB0UNI - Nelco Battery Powered Bluetooth Label Printer

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN - \$25 Aboca's Gift Certificate Nancy Krizan K5NCK - Raspberry Pi Zero 2WH









More pictures on page 4

CARC LEADERSHIP					
PRESIDENT		•	VICE-PRESIDENT		
Mike Montgomery	WD5TX		Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN	
president@n5cxx.us			vp@n5cxx.us		
SECRETARY			TREASURER		
Jim Brown	AF5MA		Mark Dempsky	N5MD	
secretary@n5cxx.us			treasurer@n5cxx.us		
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ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN			IMMED PAST PRESIDENT		
OPEN			Bill Swan	K5MWC	
activities@n5cxx.us		_	Director@n5cxx.us		
STATION TRUSTEE			NEWSLETTER EDITOR		
Mike Montgomery	WD5TX		Jim Skinner	WB0UNI	
trustee@n5cxx,us			newsletter@n5cxx.us		
MEMBERCHIR		-	WEDCITE MANACED		
MEMBERSHIP			WEBSITE MANAGER		
Frank Krizan	KR1ZA		Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH	
membership@n5cxx.us			webmaster@n5cxx.us		

VE SESSIONS

The Northeast Metro ARRL License Testing Group will hold testing sessions on the first Monday each month (except holidays) at the Garland Amateur Radio clubhouse in downtown Garland TX, 1027B Austin St., Garland TX 75040 beginning August 2023. Time 6-8pm. All who want to test for an amateur radio license are welcome. You will need photo ID, FRN from FCC and \$15.00 correct cash. All forms, etc., will be provided by testing group. You can reserve a seat by calling Kerry Weeks at 214.478.3230 or email at weeks.kerry@gmail.com in advance of the test.

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 in-person testing is held on the first Saturday of each month and begins at 1000 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. *** Online video testing via Zoom is, also, offered on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1900. See https://sites.google.com/site/wb9zph. ***

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 church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail rwkhamtest@gmail.com.

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President's Message.

I hope this message finds everyone well and enjoying time on the air. This past month has been another productive one for our club, and I want to thank all of you for your continued participation and support.

Our recent meetings have shown great interest with the project builds, and it's encouraging to see membership engagement. Whether it was helping with nets, sharing technical knowledge, or simply showing up to support club events, your contributions make a difference.

I'd like to extend special thanks to those who volunteered their time for club presentations and events. Amateur radio is built on service, learning, and fellowship, and our club continues to demonstrate all three.

As always, your ideas and feedback are welcome. If you have suggestions for programs, activities, or improvements, please feel free to reach out to me or any club officer.

As we approach this Christmas season, I wish for joy and happiness with family and friends and a renewed spirit as we begin the new year.

Mike Montgomery WD5TX

Vice-President's Report

As of December 1st, CARC membership stands at 52. Nine memberships will soon be expiring. Please renew your membership when you receive notification that dues are due.

39 members are Full Members and 13 are Associate Members. Fourteen are employees, 24 are retirees, nine are dependents and five are general public. Of all members, 14 have Honorary Life status.

We sadly remember that two of our members became Silent Keys in the past year. Robert "Bob" Chandler KR5BC passed away early in 2025 and Robert "Bob" Jones W5BJ passed away in June. Later in the year, we sadly report the passing of two former members: Bob Coelln KG5JL and Brian Belcher WA5M.

Please help us spread the word about CARC to employees, retirees and friends. Full membership is available to employees and retirees of Collins and Raytheon and related subsidiaries. The general public who accept the guiding principles of Collins Aerospace and its parent company (RTX) are invited to join as Associate Members.

RTX employees may apply for badge access to Collins Aerospace to allow unescorted access to the CARC radio room. Contact vp@n5cxx.us for more info.

Please plan to attend the January meeting for our annual Show 'n Tell Night, in person or via Zoom. We'll be asking for inputs on topics you'd like to see covered by presentations, projects and workshops in the coming year. Make your voice known - this is your club.

73. Frank KR1ZAN

Secretary's Report

18 November 2025

President Mike Montgomery WD5TX called the meeting to order at 1733.

The meeting was in-person at our meeting site at Woodcreek Church in Richardson, with Zoom access available.

The following were present:

Jim Brown AF5MA
Wayne Collins KI5YOQ
Mark Dempsky N5MD
Frank Krizan KR1ZAN
Mike Montgomery WD5TX
Mike Schmit WA9WCC
Jim Skinner WB0UNI

Kerry Weeks K5WKS

One member logged in via Zoom:

Bill Swan K5MWC

Officer and Committee Reports

The Vice President's and Secretary's reports were published in the November 2025 CARC Newsletter. The Treasurer's report is available on the Members Only page of the CARC website and was presented in the meeting by Treasurer Mark Dempsky N5MD. No clarifications or updates to these reports were offered at the meeting.

Old Business

The CARC President and Vice President summarized activities and accomplishments for the past year in accordance with Club practices for the Annual Meeting.

President's Message. President Mike Montgomery WD5TX summarized actions to place the Club's WSPR radio on the air and to get the Club repeater operational. He proposed goals for 2026 to include replacement of the Club's antenna rotor and beam, increasing membership, and installing a HamClock outside the Club hamshack.

Vice President's Message. Vice President Frank Krizan KR1ZAN addressed Club membership status, 2025 programs and activities, and goals for 2026.

Membership Status. The Club currently has 39 Full Members and 14 Associate Members, for a total of 53.

2025 Programs and Activities. Frank Krizan summarized the 12 monthly events conducted or planned for 2025. They were a mix of technical presentations, social events, and project construction sessions. Details were addressed in previous newsletters.

Goals and Activities for 2026. The list of goals approved by the membership for 2026 were reviewed; these were previously posted in the October 2025 newsletter. Proposed activities for 2026 include the North American QSO Party (NAQP) Phone Contest in January, the Collins Aerospace Fun Day in April or May, ARRL Field Day in June, Churches and Chapels On the Air (CCOTA) in September, and Jamboree On the Air (World Organization of the Scout Movement) in October.

Annual Treasury Review. Treasurer Mark Dempsky N5MD reviewed all Club financial activity for the 2025 Club year.

New Business

Consideration of Motions Proposed by the Board of Directors. There were three motions approved by the Board requiring ratification by the general membership.

Motion 1- Changes to the CARC Constitution: "It is moved that the CARC membership approves amendments to its Constitution as distributed to membership as Revision F dated 11 November 2025." Moved by Mike Montgomery, seconded by Frank Krizan, and approved by a vote of 7 to 1.

Motion 2 – Dues Increase: "It is moved that the CARC membership approve a dues increase to \$20 per year for all membership categories except Life Members." Moved by Mike Montgomery, seconded by Frank Krizan, and approved by a vote of 7 to 1.

Motion 3 – 2026 Club Budget: "It is moved to adopt the 2026 CARC budget as presented by the Board of Directors." Moved by Mike Montgomery, seconded by Frank Krizan, and approved by a vote of 7 to 1.

Election of Officers. The following slate of officer candidates for Club Year 2026 was prepared by the CARC Board of Directors:

President: Mike Montgomery WD5TX Vice President: Frank Krizan KR1ZAN

Secretary: Jim Brown AF5MA Treasurer: Mark Dempsky N5MD

Director-at-Large / Immediate Past President: Bill Swan K5MWC

No additional candidates were offered from the floor.

A quorum was confirmed. Kerry Weeks K5WKS moved to approve the slate by acclamation; Jim Brown AF5MA seconded. The slate was approved unanimously.

Announcements

CARC Christmas Dinner. Frank Krizan reviewed the schedule for the Christmas dinner at Aboca's Italian Grill and circulated a sign-up sheet for the event.

Show-and-Tell at the January Meeting. Frank Krizan requested volunteers to deliver brief presentations.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1808, followed by a presentation on advanced HamClock topics by Mark Dempsky N5MD.

Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting

There was no Board of Directors meeting in December.









CARC Membership Now Open to Raytheon

The CARC Board of Directors determined at its July meeting that Full memberships will be extended to Raytheon employees and retirees. The CARC Constitution states this implicitly.

We invite all Raytheon employees, contractors, and retirees to join the Collins Amateur Radio Club by submitting a membership application, which can be found on the Club website (n5cxx.us) or directly at: https://www.n5cxx.us/Club Membership Form.pdf

All current members who may know Raytheon employees or retirees who are hams or interested in amateur radio should let them know about our Club and encourage them to join. New members get the remainder of 2025 and all of 2026 for one annual fee.

Drive Home Net Core Topic Regap

Each week on the Collins Amateur Radio Club's Drive Home Net (Tuesdays at 5:30pm on the N5CXX UHF repeater), we suggest a "Core Topic" to stimulate discussion. Even though any topic of interest to hams is invited, sometimes there's little to discuss, so the Core Topic gives us all an opportunity to speak up. Here is a collection of responses to Core Topics in the past month. We invite all our members to take a break from 5:30 to 6pm on Tuesdays and join in to share your thoughts.

11/4/2025

Core Topic: Do you have a radio that can do cross-band repeat? If so, do you:

Know how to set it up? About half responded with having radios that can do cross-band repeating. One person indicated they had a rig setup for cross-band and used it occasionally. Others having cross-band rigs said they would have to refer to the manual to figure out how to set up cross-band. The other half either didn't have a cross-band rig or didn't know if their rig had that capability.

11/11/2025

Core Topic: What is your favorite HF band and why? Those active on HF all preferred 17M as their favorite band since it is a blend of high and low band segments in the HF band. 15M was also mentioned as another that has been very good in the peak of the sunspot cycle.

11/25/2025

Core Topic: What do you dream of under the Christmas tree for your ham radio interests? In no particular order, here were the "wishes": An Icom 7300 MK2, HF Log Periodic antenna on a 75-100 ft tower, nice HT that's D-STAR capable, state-of-the-art antenna analyzer, Kenwood TM-D750A transceiver, screwdriver antenna for car, Flex Radio Aurora AU-510M, and a new lightning arrestor.

And, here are the Net Logs for November:

NOV 4 - [6] KR1ZAN Frank NCS; K5WKS Kerry; K5MDK/m Michael; K5MWC Bill; WB0UNI Jim; N5MD Mark

NOV 11 - [6] K5WKS Kerry NCS: K5MDK/m Michael; KR1ZAN Frank; K5MWC Bill; N5MD Mark; WB0UNI Jim

NOV 18 - No Net; Annual Meeting

NOV 25 - [4] K5MWC Bill NCS; K5WKS Kerry; KR1ZAN Frank; WB0UNI Jim

November Average = 5; 3-Month Moving Average = 6

Complete logs for 2023, 2024 and 2025 are available on the <u>n5cxx.us</u> website.



The Quarterly Schema proposed this past year was moderately successful. In order to provide programs and projects that our members wish to see, hear and participate in, your Club leadership is requesting your inputs on topics.

Our January meeting will feature our annual Show 'n Tell Night. During the business segment, prior to Show 'n Tell, you'll be asked for your inputs on topics on what you'd like to see covered in upcoming meetings. Our plan is to project meeting topics for three months, and monthly ask far inputs on interests for the future. We want to keep topics interesting and timely.

For now we have planned the following:

Jan. 27 - Show 'n Tell Night

Feb. 24 - How to use the CARC Packet BBS

Mar. 24 - TBD

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson outdoor warning siren testing. The December 2025 test was conducted on 3 December. All but one of the twenty-six sirens were fully functional. 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, as backup. Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, helped with the Garland Siren Test on Wednesday December 3rd. Garland Siren Tests are conducted on the Garland ARC 146.66 MHz repeater.

Crime Watch Patrol Jim Skinner WB0UNI participates 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.



The Club's new quarterly meeting format, which includes a night to construct personal projects, doesn't provide sufficient time for troubleshooting, discussing issues, trying new things ... so, we've added something new to help those working on Club projects and for all members who may seek a place to ask questions or share interesting info related to amateur radio.

We call this "Elmer Night" and they take place via Zoom using the standard Zoom login that is available on the <u>n5cxx.us</u> website via a link just below the meeting announcement. Elmer Nights are the first and third Tuesdays of each month, starting at 7pm. Sessions tend to run from one hour to about an hour-and-a-half.

The primary focus is info related to the current project, followed by previous project issues or questions and then general amateur radio questions and findings.

We hope you'll consider joining us even if you're not currently working on a Club project. You may be the person with a solution to someone's question or problem.



Join Us On Tuesdays for the Collins ARC Drive Home Net 5:30pm 441.875 MHz +5MHz, PL=131.8Hz (No Nets on Meeting Nights)

Logs now available on n5cxx.us website





Since its introduction in 1907, the International Reply Coupon (IRC) has been a universal tool for sending international mail, used by people around the globe - including amateur radio operators, to cover the return postage of their coveted QSL cards.

However, during the 28th Universal Postal Congress in Dubai (September 2025), member countries of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) voted to discontinue the IRC, effective 31 December 2026. The UPU describes this decision as "a natural progression within the broader transformation of international postal services, in alignment with the digital practices and modern outlook of their customers".

Current 'Abidjan' IRCs already in circulation bearing the expiry date 31 December 2025 will now be valid for an additional year. It should be noted, however, that many countries have stopped selling or accepting IRCs for several years now.

[Article courtesy 425 DX News, issue #1807, 20 Dec 2025]

Upcoming Events

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 7106 KHz and

at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com

Tuesdays Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 441.875 (+5) MHz,

PL=131.8 Hz (N5CXX repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no

net 4th Tuesday.)

day

4-5

1st Wednes- Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at

147.120 MHz.

2nd ARES North Texas HF Net Every month-3860

Wednesday KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm

DECEMBER

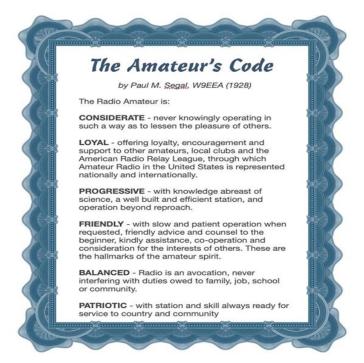
21 Rookie Roundup--CW. Mission is to encourage newly-licensed operators ("Rookies") in North America to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators ("Non-Rookies") strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators - either on the air or in person. Objective: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 meter HF bands. Details http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup

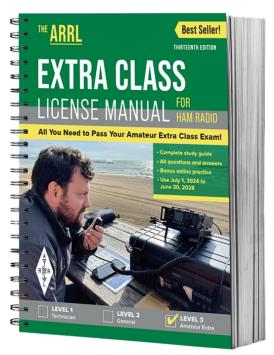
JANUARY

Straight Key Night This event is dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make eniovable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. No points are scored and all participants are winners. Operation is from 0000 through 2359 UTC. Details at www.arrl.org/straight-key-night

> RTTY Roundup Objective: Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using digital modes on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Any station may work any other station. Stations may be worked once per band, regardless of mode. Operation is from 1800 Saturday thru 2400 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup

18-20 JANUARY VHF Objective: For amateurs in the US and Canada to work as many stations in as many 2 x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada may only work stations in the US and Canada. Operation is from 1900 Saturday thru 0359 UTC Monday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf

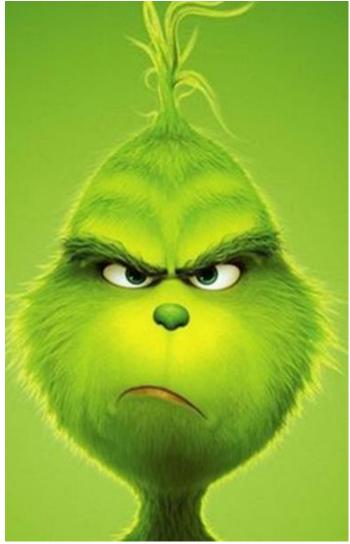






Free to any General class ham wanting to upgrade to Extra. I PASSED MY EXAM AND I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE!





CDXA Periodic Table of Contests - 2025





3200 E Renner Rd Mail Station 461-290 Richardson, TX 75082

www.N5CXX.us

TO:

N5CXX D-STAR SETTINGS:

441.875 MHz, PLUS OFFSET (5 MHz) -- DR mode Set for Local Mode -- CQCQCQ Set RPT1 as N5CXX..B (replace periods with spaces) RPT2 is NOT USED; some radios or software require something in this field, so use N5CXX..B or N5CXX..G (again, replace the periods with spaces)

The N5CXX D-STAR repeater operates only in local mode at this time. There is no Gateway. We hope to have a connection to the D-STAR network in early 2025.

The N5CXX Repeater is Mixed Mode. The incoming Mode determines if FM Analog or D-STAR.

CLUB STATION PHONE

TBD

N5CXX REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input 131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS COL Node 145.05 MHz

N5CXX-N1, N5CXX-N2 & N5CXX-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 January 2026 5:30 PM
THE MEETING WILL BE AT

Woodcreek Church Richardson TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→ → → 16 January 2026 ← ← ←