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# SIGNALS

**Rockwell  
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

**Amateur Radio Club**

**Volume 39 Issue 04**

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

**January 2018**

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## **RCARC Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday 23 January 2018  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program**

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

**Subject:**

**TBD: Come to the meeting and see**

**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.

### **New Ham, KE0PRW, in the Family**

My son Andy just announced that he just got his Technician license. I asked him how he got a "0" call since he is currently in California. His reply was: "I intentionally used my CO address to make sure my callsign was not linked to 'leftyland.'" (Contributed by Jim Skinner WB0UNI)

### **My Old Bug**

I am told this key was "sand casted" I verified it by the mold break (rectangle) on the bottom. I found an old machinist who is making me more weights to slow down the "dits."



I used it on Jan 1 on "bugout," after spending a good 45 minutes cleaning and adjusting it off the air. Worked some folks that clearly had theirs out of adjustment. Lots of stray "dits." 😊 (Continued on page 3)

## **Local Club News**

### **Meeting Notice**

The December meeting was a Christmas dinner at the Golden Corral in Plano. The program for the January meeting was not finalized at the time of the newsletter publication. Come to the meeting on 23 January and enjoy whatever it is. And be sure to wear your club shirt or if you don't have a shirt, the meeting will be a great time to order yours.

### **RCARC Community Service Activities**

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 3 January 2018. The test was a full three minutes test to check out the newest software upgrade. Many of the antennas performed flawlessly, however, several, including all UTD antennas were totally non-functional. The siren testing is performed at 12:00 on the first Wednesday 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.

RCARC OFFICERS			
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC	Gene Duprey	K1GD
214.862.4249		319.270.8159	
<a href="mailto:Wa9wcc@arrl.net">Wa9wcc@arrl.net</a>		<a href="mailto:geneduprey2015@gmail.com">geneduprey2015@gmail.com</a>	
<b>SECRETARY</b>		<b>TREASURER</b>	
Jim Brown	AF5MA	Mike Montgomery	WD5TX
972.495.2209		972.705.1498	
<a href="mailto:jhksbrown@verizon.net">jhksbrown@verizon.net</a>		<a href="mailto:dmmontgo@rockwellcol-">dmmontgo@rockwellcol-</a>	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	
<b>VACANT</b>		Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
		972.571.6060	
		<a href="mailto:w5qh@arrl.net">w5qh@arrl.net</a>	
<b>STATION TRUSTEE</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	
Bob Kirby	K3NT	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
319.360.0500		214.535.5264	
<a href="mailto:k3nt@arrl.net">k3nt@arrl.net</a>		<a href="mailto:wb0uni@arrl.net">wb0uni@arrl.net</a>	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>W5ROK CLUB STATION</b>	
Joe Wolf	N5UIC	972.705.1349	
214.202.2757		461-290	
<a href="mailto:n5uic@arrl.net">n5uic@arrl.net</a>			

church building. For further information contact Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail [warhog4@tx,rr.com](mailto:warhog4@tx,rr.com).

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## President and VP Messages

Happy New Year, and I hope all had a great holiday season. No new radios or accessories for me, but I did get a new set of lens implants for my eyes. So now no glasses, except for reading. It is great to not need glasses for general viewing, and for my photography. I did get on the air a bit, especially on 17 meters, which seems to be a better bet than 20 meters these days. It was also nice to see those who attended the Christmas Dinner, although we had a light turnout this year.

As was announced last month, the club now has an official club shirt. Several of our members have already purchased their club shirts. I have ordered mine, but not picked it up yet, as my time seems to be eaten up by first of the year tasks. If you have not yet ordered yours, I think you should take advantage of this opportunity as the shirts are very nice and of high quality.

I hope you have gotten your station upkeep/updates done for the outside tasks, as we seem to be in for some nice cold weather for the next month or so, although some of us seem to like this weather for such tasks. Not me, I'm a warm weather guy, with one exception—photographing bald eagles. I am planning a trip to the “frozen north” next month after my eyes have healed from surgery. I am looking forward to taking quite a few new photographs of our national bird.

I hope to see everyone at this month's meeting. Be sure to wear your club shirt if you have one.

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 17<sup>th</sup> St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

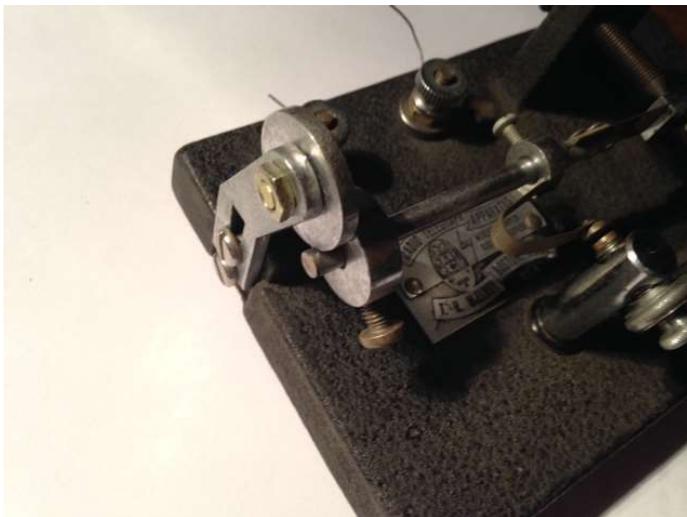
**Richardson** The Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) VE team hold license testing on the third Thursday of each month at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Beltline Rd. Testing begins at 1900 hrs in room 12. Enter through the Northern most door on the east side of the

## Secretary's Report

There are no December meeting minutes as the December meeting was a Christmas dinner at the Golden Corral in Plano.

### My Old Bug

The ones in adjustment sounded like “music” to me. Each one of them was a joy to copy and had individual personality. Kind of cool.



By the way. On my bug, there are slight finger indentations in the plastic handle from lots and lots of use. If only the key could talk and say interesting transmissions.

### The Old Man and the Paper Boy, Part 2

Copyright 2009 by Scott B. Laughlin/n7net

*This is the second in a three-part series submitted by Scott, N7NET, who has checked into TEX from time to time. Scott is a QRP enthusiast. I know you will enjoy reading his story. Thank you, Scott...*

The day the paperboy was to visit Jack's radio room came too quickly. After retrieving the morning paper, he sank into his recliner. As a rule, he first digested the editorial page, and then he scanned the entire newspaper front to back. This morning, however, Millie's remark about how much time had passed since he'd last been on the air was still nagging him. How long it had been? Why was she keeping track?

“Jim will be here this afternoon,” Millie called from the kitchen.

“You mean the paperboy?”

“Jack. You've got to start using his name.”

Jack grunted and dropped the paper in his lap. Pushing his recliner back, he closed his eyes and tried to recall his last visit to the radio room. Propagation was probably in the ditch that day. It had been for months. As if that wasn't

enough, a faulty transformer was creating havoc with the signals, driving the noise floor through the roof. He'd made two formal complaints to the utility company, but to no avail. Perhaps, during his hiatus the problem had been located and corrected.

Jack gazed up the narrow stairway to the radio room door. His shack had once been a portion of the attic. Today, however, he would be sharing his asylum with the paperboy.

Millie's ability for getting her way was phenomenal. And he thought about the sign hanging in a tobacco shop on Van Ness Avenue that read: HISTORIC LOCATION: A MAN WON AN ARGUMENT WITH HIS WIFE ON THIS SPOT ON FEBURARY 3, 1932.

Sighing, Jack remembered that the room needed a going over. Laying the newspaper aside, he pushed himself from his recliner and headed up the stairs. After reaching the landing he pushed the door open and reached inside to flip the light switch. That's when he caught a whiff of Millie's furniture polish. “So this is how she keeps tabs on my radio habits,” he muttered. He admired the scores of QSL cards and certificates he'd collected. Directly behind his desk hung a world map on which scores of colored hatpins marked significant locations he'd worked at one time or another—Pitcairn Island, Azores, a North Pole expedition, and a dozen small islands off Japan. A lone pin marked Marion Island, an icy chunk of real estate hugging the Antarctic Continent.

The leather protested as he settled into his high-backed chair and swung it into position at the desk. His radios were large and occupied much of the desk area. He'd purchased them prior to World War II, months before communications equipment became rationed items. To his right a J-38 was anchored on a heavy brass plate. On a separate table stood an ancient Underwood mill he used for copying high-speed CW traffic. At the back of the desk, in custom-built shelves, were four telegraph keys that had seen extraordinary service. Had they been capable of telling their stories, each might have startled the world with events of which they'd taken part—the sinking of the Titanic, World War I, the Scopes trial, the 1929 Crash, World War II, sinking of the Bismarck, and the Korean Conflict, not to mention the daily livestock and grain reports, Wall Street, and hundreds, if not thousands of baseball games transmitted to remote studios in Morse code.

After checking the cables and wires, Jack switched on the power and watched the tubes come to life. Their orange glow gave him comfort and he didn't object to the scent of hot dust. While the radios stabilized he recalled his stint in the Army. Drafted at forty-six, he was too old for combat, but as an electrical engineer and amateur radio operator he was a skilled Morse instructor.

The code school where he taught operated around the clock. Students assigned to night classes often fought sleep. Most of the code drills were prerecorded on 78-RPM records, so he was free to leave his desk and physically

shake students awake. However, he soon found an easier way. He could isolate any position he chose and plug his Vibroplex into that circuit. Then he would begin sending the Morse characters that resembled the rhythm of The Old Gray Mare—PE 777 PE7 JA. He couldn't recall ever finishing the first line before the snoozing person was jolted awake and back on the mill copying code.

The sound of the doorbell brought him back to the present. Then he heard Millie's footsteps in the kitchen.

"Remember, you've got to stop calling him the paperboy. His name is Jim." Millie said as she passed the foot of the stairway.

Moments later Jim appeared in the doorway, his eyes bright, his mouth gaping as he took in the radio room.

"Wow!" he finally said.

"You still want to become a ham radio operator?" Jack asked.

Before he could answer his mother was at his side. She was a tall, attractive redhead and he saw the boy's clear blue eyes and high cheekbones in her face.

"I'm concerned about what Jim's getting into here, the electricity and all," she said, before introducing herself.

"As you should be," said Jack, swinging his chair around to face her, "but let me assure you there's nothing in this room that's any more dangerous than turning on a table lamp. Everything is properly grounded. However, I shall watch over this boy as though he were my own flesh and blood, Mrs. ahh—"

"Mrs. Cornwell," she said, and for the first time she seemed to notice her surroundings. "This must be how a War Room looks."

"Well, I don't know about that, but there's been times that I've battled the elements—propagation, noise, and lightning," he said, rising from his chair and motioning Jim to take his place.

"I want you to watch this young man do the most dangerous thing he'll do while he's here." Reaching past Jim, Jack rotated the receiver dial until he tuned to a familiar voice. Then he adjusted the transmitter frequency, keyed the microphone, and transmitted his call.

"There you are, Jack. We were just talking about you...OVER."

"It was all words of praise, I'm sure. HI HI," he said, laughing. "George, I have some third-party traffic, a young man here in my shack wants to become a ham. His name is Jim and he wants to have a word with you. Standby."

Turning to Jim, he said, "When I push this button I'll be keying the microphone. That's when you say 'Hello. My name is Jim. Over. Got that?'"

"Got it."

Jim followed the instructions and he smiled at Jack, and then at his mother after he heard George say his name over the radio.

His mother seemed satisfied and followed Millie down the stairway.

"You have to learn Morse code," Jack said, after signing off on the radio.

"I already know code."

"Oh?"

"Yes sir. I learned it from the Secret Code Club. See?" explained Jim, holding his right hand up so Jack could see his ring.

Jack adjusted his glasses and squinted at the ring and watched with interest as Jim opened the top exposing a tiny magnifying glass.

"Where'd you get that?"

"I sent in twenty-five cents and a cereal box top to Battle Creek, Michigan for it."

"And you learned the code from that?"

"Most of it. Some of it."

Jack was stunned. It sounded like hogwash to him, but he tried not to show it. He'd witnessed some pretty wild notions in years past, but this one, in his opinion, took top honors. His first impulse was to terminate the ham radio scheme, but that would never be an option as long as Millie was still breathing. If he tried to back out now she'd hound him to his grave. He was boxed.

To be continued...

*(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)*

## CQ Magazine White Paper Follow Up

*The following email was received from Steve Phillips, K6JT*

Many folks are concerned about what appears to be a power grab by the ARRL President and the CEO with efforts to pack the board with unelected officers and their imposing what are essentially gag orders on the other board members. I should point out that our own director, David, K5RAV is one of the "good guys" who fights these unfair practices (there are really only three of them). The CQ Magazine editorial provides a lot of insight, and there is another website that gives more rationale. See <https://www.myarrlvoice.org/> for details.

CQ Magazine has published a follow up to its white paper titled ARRL-"We Have Met the Enemy.....and He is Us." It was published on Wednesday January 10<sup>th</sup>. You can review it here:

<http://cqnewsroom.blogspot.com/2018/01/cq-white-paper-follow-up-arrrl-we-have.html>

In this follow up, CQ Editor Rich Moseson W2VU comes out decidedly in support of the membership of the ARRL, supporting the individual members of the ARRL seeking greater transparency in what has always been a member based and member driven organization.

Hopefully some good will come out of this discussion. Note that I was a victim of the attempted takeover of control of the National Traffic System by the President and CEO in 2016. They dismissed all of the NTS staffs (I was central area chair) and abolished our governing documents, stating they would be solely in charge and we no longer had a say in the future of NTS. Mr. Roderick sent a scathing letter saying either cooperate or good bye to all of us. We chose the latter and henceforth formed a new upper level governing body, now incorporated as Radio Relay International, completely independent of the ARRL. The recent actions described in the CQ editorial are simply more of the same kind of dictatorial actions.

73, Steve K6JT

**You Might be a Real Ham if....**

- If you have a ham band antenna on all four fenders of your car, the roof, in the trunk lip, and another one clamped to the trailer hitch with an alligator clip and duct tape...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you have ever attempted to use a gutter downspout, the hubcap from a '93 Buick, your dog's food dish, your neighbor's rose trellis, the vent hose from a clothes dryer, a wicket from your mom's croquet set, or a one-quart metal Thermos bottle (with or without coffee) as an antenna...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you know the formulae for Ohm's Law and Kirchoff's Law and can read a Smith Chart from 100 feet but have no idea who Paris Hilton is...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you ever flagged down a local utility bucket truck and tried to bribe the guy to hang some ropes and pulleys in the trees in the backyard...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you have ever taken an HT to church or a scanner to the courthouse while on jury duty...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you painted the walls of the new playroom downstairs in the colors of the resistor color code...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you have ever tried to ker-chunk the repeater while riding in a funeral procession...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If your wife is overheard telling her girlfriends, "Oh, I don't need birth control pills, my husband has amateur radio," ...you might be a "REAL HAM!"

**Upcoming Events**

<b>Daily</b>	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday</b>	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm

**JANUARY**

**20-22 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>.

**FEBRUARY**

**12-16 School Club Roundup** Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate. Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC). The event runs from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>.

**17-18 International DX—CW** Objective: To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations.

W/VE amateurs: Work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.

DX stations: Work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible.

The event runs 48 hours, from 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>.

# 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 23 January 2018**  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting

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

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 16 February 2018 ←←←**