

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 September 2023 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at
Woodcreek Church Richardson TX
(and via Zoom)

**"Locating Power Line Noise
(and other RFI)."**

by Jeff Stuparits, W4DD

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The next meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Richardson, Texas, will be held on Tuesday, September 26th at 5:30 p.m. at Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Rd, Richardson. Following the business meeting, a technical program will begin about 6 p.m. The meeting will, also, be streamed via Zoom. The Zoom login instructions are emailed to members prior to the meeting and are available on the Club's website, n5cxx.us, via a link below the meeting announcement.

The program for September is Locating Power Line Noise (and other RFI). It will be presented by Jeff Stuparits, W4DD.

Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) can be generated from many different devices and can decrease or totally eliminate your ability to hear stations on your HF or VHF radio. In today's modern world of numerous electronic devices in and around our homes, it's not a matter of if you have RFI but how many devices are generating it and how significantly is it interfering with your Ham Radio receiving ability. It can also affect other services like AM radio, FM radio, Over-the-Air TV, DSL Internet, public safety communications, and even cellular telephones.

Our presenter is Jeff Stuparits, W4DD. Jeff became interested in RFI about ten years ago when RFI affected his ability to enjoy ham radio for contesting, weak signal work,

and rag chewing. In addition to providing information on locating RFI, he will also have a few pieces of hardware for show and tell. Jeff is retired from a large cellular company where he worked in the Advanced Technology Group on spectrum issues including cellular spectrum optimization and FCC spectrum auctions.

In addition to his 20 years in cellular, he also worked in Telephone Operations and Air Defense Communications. Jeff's background includes a EE, an MBA, and he is a licensed P.E. Additional information about Jeff can be found on his QRZ web page or page 13 of the August 2022 QST, Member Spotlight.

Volunteers needed for Plano Balloon Festival

21-24 September 2023

WHAT OUR TEAM DOES

- Manage the fleet of 150 portable radios
- Instruct the staff and volunteers in radio usage
- Track the check-out and check-in of each radio
- Monitor channel 16 for traffic
- Relay information between festival staff and public safety
- Monitor the weather for hazards
- Coordinate the emergency evacuation plan



Volunteers will receive a Staff pass for parking at the communications trailer. For more info or to sign up contact: Allan Batteiger WB5QNG arb@rtsi.com 972-672-0278

Raytheon On-The-Air Event This Friday (9/22)

Next On-The-Air event to be held Friday September 22, 2023 at 1700 Z. Net control will be the Raytheon Tucson W7SA station.

- 1700 Z – 20M Phone USB 14.270 : If the frequency is busy move up or down 5 kHz.
- 1720 Z – 15M Phone USB 21.305: If the frequency is busy move up in 5 kHz increments.
- 1740 Z – 10 M Phone USB 28.380 : If the frequency is busy move up in 5 kHz increments.
- 1800 Z – 20M Digital-USB. Mode - Olivia 8-500.

Dial Frequency USB 14071.5, 1500 HZ Offset (14073.00 Water-Fall Frequency).

WOCXX SPECIAL EVENTS ON PAGE 10

CARC OFFICERS			
PRESIDENT		VICE-PRESIDENT	
Bill Swan	K5MWC	Bill Fell	KK5PB
972-529-3906		972-424-0496	
president@n5cxx.us		vp@n5cxx.us	
SECRETARY		TREASURER	
Jim Stafford	W5DTG	Kerry Weeks	K5WKS
		214-478-3230	
secretary@n5cxx.us		treasurer@n5cxx.us	
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN		WEBSITE MANAGER	
Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN	Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
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director@n5cxx.us		webmaster@n5cxx.us	
STATION TRUSTEE		NEWSLETTER EDITOR	
Bob Kirby	K3NT	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
319.360.0500		214.535.5264	
k3nt@arrl.net		newsletter@n5cxx.us	
MEMBERSHIP		N5CXX CLUB STATION	
Bill Fell	KK5PB	Phone Number/Mail Station	
972-424-0496		Unavailable until further notice	
vp@n5cxx.us			

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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... de The Prez

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 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

Our September meeting is coming up on the 26th, and the subject will be "Locating Power Line Noise (and other RFI) presented by Jeff Stuparits, W4DD at Woodcreek Church, 1730 CDT. The presentation will be by Zoom. This is a most timely subject, and one that I expect will provide some solid approaches to addressing RFI especially from power lines.

If you have your calendar handy, mark December 5th down as the date of our Christmas Dinner. More details will be coming out soon, but I wanted our membership to have the opportunity to reserve that date in advance for our annual dinner.

Our challenge coins are here and will be available at the September meeting for purchase. The purchase price is \$5. Should you wish to receive yours by mail, a small handling and shipping fee will be added.

The radio station restoration team continues to make good progress in bringing the station back up. One of the items that was discussed at our August meeting was the need to get the Elecraft KPA500 PA repaired and back in operation. This was going to be a potentially costly item. The team, after consultation with Elecraft, has been able to get the PA operational and is now doing on-the-air tests to see if all is working as it should. Congratulations to the whole team as they work to complete each of the line items.

The annual meeting in November is one where we take some time to look back over the current year's activities and accomplishments and to look forward to 2024. An important part of that meeting is the election of officers to serve you as the Leadership Team. All officer positions are open, and if you would like to serve, please consider volunteering.

The Leadership Team is working to prepare a 2024 budget with the goal of having it ready for presentation to the membership at the annual meeting in November. If you have a project that you would like to see included in that budget please submit it to our Vice President, Bill Fell, as soon as you can. In your description of the project, include a statement of what you see the value of this project is and provide as complete of a cost estimate as you can.

Our Big Project is well underway and in the brainstorming phase. The Big Project is not intended to be a single project but rather it is to serve as a collection point for a number of projects. The Special Interest Group (SIG) understands that the focus is on growth: Growth in the service the club can provide, growth in membership especially in the attraction of younger members, and growth in providing avenues of interest to all of our members. It is a multi-year project. If you have suggestions for the Big Project, let Frank Krizan know as he serves as the lead in this effort.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at our September meeting.

You will see this in every President's article that I write as I sincerely want to serve you, our members:

As I close this newsletter entry, I commit to you that I will strive to continue the work of the CARC, a work focused on providing fellowship, transparency, and value. Let me know if you have suggestions or comments on how we can work together to make the CARC shine and grow.

73, Bill, K5MWC

Vice-President's Report

Vice President's Report

I finished researching our asset acquisition and disposition history since the 2006 inventory in order to update the listing of CARC's equipment assets. We now need to inventory the assets to confirm this list and the asset locations. The board adopted an expense plan for the remainder of this year that will be presented to the membership at our next general meeting (GMM). I am preparing a budget for FY2024 for the board's consideration and ultimately adoption by the CARC membership. If anyone would like to help in any of these tasks, please contact me. I plan to have challenge coins available for purchase at \$5 each at our next GMM. I will be taking nominations for potential FY2024 CARC officers starting at the September GMM. Officer elections will be held at the November GMM.

73, Bill, KK5PB

Membership Committee Report

Two new members joined and one inactive member was reactivated to CARC since our Ice Cream Social in July. An application was mailed to one potential new member (an

employee) this month, although I haven't heard back from him.

Current Active Membership = 56

Full Members = 40 (includes life and retiree members)

Associate Members = 16

Members moved to Inactive Status = 0

Continuing membership is important to the CARC. Through the skills and experiences of all our members, our club provides fellowship, education, and service opportunities. If you have questions about your membership status or other membership-related questions, please contact me. Thank you to all of our members for your support and contributions to the CARC.

Secretary's Report

22 August 2023

President Bill Swan K5MWC called the meeting to order at 1742 CDT. The meeting was in-person at our meeting site at Woodcreek Church. Zoom access was also provided for those not able to meet in person.

The following were present at the meeting site:

Bill Swan, K5MWC (President)

Bill Fell KK5PB (Vice President / Membership)

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN (Activities / Training)

Jim Stafford W5DTG (Secretary)

Kerry Weeks K5WKS (Treasurer)

Jim Skinner WB0UNI (Signals Editor)

Jim Brown AF5MA

Gene Duprey K1GD

Bob Kirby K3NT (N5CXX Trustee)

John McFadden K5TIP

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT

Jon Moon KA5HND

Mike Montgomery WD5TX

Clarence Sebesta K5YO

Brandon E. Bearden KG5EZZ

Larry Hall KI6LT (Visitor / New member)

Landon Eifenbein N5AET (Visitor / New member)

Wayne Collins KI5YOQ (Visitor / Woodcreek Church coordinator)

Chip Coker KD4C (Visitor / Presenter)

The following logged in via Zoom:

- Mark Dempsy N5MD
- Mike Hollingsworth W5QH
- Bob Jones W5BJ
- Bob Chandler KI5KRN
- Dave Jaksa W0VX
- Robert Coulbourne W4FTD
- Jeff Box WA5TCA (left early)
- Steve Phillips K6JT
- Paul Veenstra AA5PV

3. ICE Lightening arrestors	260
4. Climbing Harness	607
5. 500 QSL Cards	150
6. Hotspot to support PCs	300
7. N3FJP SW for logging	65
8. QRZ Subscription	36
9. UPS batteries	60
10. Stereo Adaptors	<u>24</u>
Total	\$2,512

Preliminaries

1. Welcome and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Member and Visitor Recognition: Chio Coker KD4C to-night's presenter, Landon Elfenbein N5AET new Member, Larry Hall new member
3. Officer Reports - Included in the July Newsletter.
 - A. Bill Fell asked that the Station Renovation Team update the Equipment Inventory List that he has provided.
 - B. Frank Krizan requested anyone familiar with the WordPress website application to contact him for assistance in the re-structuring of the N5CXX Webpage.
 - C. Kerry Weeks provided a verbal report on the bank account balance.
4. Announcements - 100 challenge coins are on order and projected to be here in time for purchase at the September meeting. Purchase price is \$5. An additional cost will be added for those having their coin delivered by mail.
5. **Old Business** - None
6. **New Business**

Jim Skinner presented a "near term" budget request for the CARC Station and Repeater Funding for total of \$2,707. A motion was made by Jim Skinner and seconded by Gene Duprey to fund one rotator repair, design and purchase 500 QSL card for N5CXX, and initiate the lease of a "hotspot" interconnection at \$50/mo. for six months. Before the vote, an amend-ment to the motion was made by Dave Jaksa (Zoom) and seconded by Gene Deprey that the following items be funded:

1. Recondition 3 rotators	\$500
2. Lightening Arrestors	510

A vote was called, and the motion passed by majority (not unanimous).

Another motion was made by Dave Jaksa and seconded by Gene Duprey to have the KPA linear amplifier repaired at a cost not to exceed \$1,000. This expense was approved in a previous year, but never was done.

A vote was called and the motion passed by majority (not unanimous).

Kerry Weeks stated that he voted for these actions but he reserved the right to address them again in the CARC September 26, 2023 meeting.

Adjourn Business Meeting at 1842 CDT.

Tonight's Program

The presenter was Chip Coker, KD4C. The topic was "Getting started with Fox Hunting." Chip presented a very interesting program regarding what fox hunting is, the equipment needed to be effective, and techniques to use to have a successful fox hunt.

Respectfully submitted

Jim Stafford. Secretary

Collins Amateur Radio Club

CARC Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 12 September 2023

Bill Swan, K5MWC, called the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Richardson, Texas Board of Directors meeting to order at 1905 CDT.

Board Members Present:

President: Bill Swan, K5MWC

Vice-President / Membership Director: Bill Fell, KK5PB

Secretary: Jim Stafford, W5DTG

Treasurer Kerry Weeks, K5WKS

Immediate Past President / Director at Large: Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

Visitors Present:

- Jim Brown, AF5MA
- Bob Chandler KI5KRN
- Bob Kirby K3NT
- John McFadden K5TIP
- Liz McFadden K5LIZ
- Jim Skinner WB0UNI

1. Welcome
2. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda
 - Item A: Minutes of the 22 August 2023 membership meeting, previously distributed
 - Item B: Minutes of the 8 August 2023 zoom Board Workshop meeting, previously distributed
 - Item C. Agenda for 12 September 2023 Board Meeting, previously distributed

Motion made by Bill Fell, seconded by Frank Krizan. Motion passed unanimously.
3. Remainder of 2023 Expense Plan for Project Planning Process
 - a. Motion to present an updated FY 2023 Expense Plan at the September general membership meeting. Following a review of the Expense Plan and proposed motion to be presented to the membership the Motion to submit the plan was made by Bill Fell and seconded by Frank Krizan, Passed unanimously.
 - b. Develop a Budget/Project Plan for FY2024
 - i. Special Planning Committee chaired by Bill Fell.
 - ii. Submitted projects to have justification coupled to CARC values and objectives along with cost estimates.
4. New FCC Registration Number (FRN)
 - a. A motion was made that the Board of Directors of the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Richardson, Texas direct the Club's call sign Trustee to file for a new FCC FRN associated with the club's Taxpayer ID, then to work with the FCC to replace the N5CXX FRN with the new FRN associated with the Club.

This motion made by Frank Krizan and seconded by Kerry Weeks,

During a discussion, another motion was made:

Motion was made to table the original motion until the October Board Meeting.

This motion was made by Bill Fell and seconded by Jim Stafford. (Tied vote).

Tie-breaking vote cast by the President, Bill Swan, motion passed. The initial motion will be researched and addressed in the October Board meeting.

5. Station Restoration Project Status – Reviewed the status report provided by Jim Skinner as revised to include a new item for maintenance and repair.
6. CARC Officer Transition Guide Review (Moved from the August Board meeting).
 - a. General Comments – Jim Brown asked for any final comments. Jim sent the current version to Board Members once again and asked for immediate input.
 - b. The final version of the guide will be available after all updates are complete, hopefully before the November election of new officers.
7. Challenge Coins
 - a. Jim Brown has received the challenge coins, and they will be available for purchase for \$5.00 each at the membership meetings. Jim Brown will prepare information to be published. Coin shipping arrangements can be made with Jim Brown.
 - b. Bill Swan thanked Jim Brown for the time and effort he expended in making this a successful project.
8. Items to Resolve
 - a. Action Plan development with timeline
 - I. Searchable Filing System - Stafford
 - II. Financial Reporting and Record Keeping – Weeks. Bill Fell is assisting with this effort.
 - III. Website update and revision – Krizan
9. Christmas Dinner Planning
 - a. Frank Krizan is making the plans and has set December 5, 2023 as the date and the location is Aboca's Italian Grill in Richardson.
 - b. Frank Krizan and Kerry Weeks will secure the door prizes at Ham Radio Outlet and at Aboca's.
10. Report on The Big Project
 - a. Frank Krizan suggested that the Big Project be considered as several smaller projects involving people who have similar interests.
 - b. Each project will consider using the values stated in the Club's purpose statement.
11. Election of Officers – Constitution Article VI, Section 2, and Article IX

- a. Initial notice and requests for nominees will begin at the September and October membership meetings as well as HCOL, and emails to club members.

Bill Fell, VP, will conduct the election process. There may be a nominating committee formed.

12. Other

- a. The permanent Zoom login has been implemented and will be the same until changed.
- b. Bill Fell reported that the initial go-kits are being used. Permanent storage space has not been determined yet.

13. Program Reminder – 26 September 2023 “Locating Power Line Noise (and other RFI) presented by Jeff Stuparits, W4DD at Woodcreek Church, 1730 CDT. The presentation will be via Zoom,

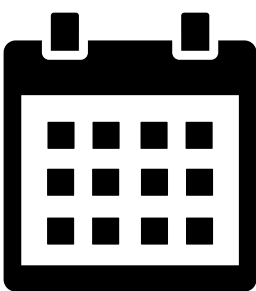
14. Board Meeting adjourned at 2025 CDT.

Minutes recorded by

Jim Stafford, W5DTG

CARC Secretary

Upcoming Meeting Programs



Here’s what’s coming up in the next few months at Collins ARC meetings:

Oct 24 - nanoVNA: A Primer - Shawn Prestridge, KI5PXG

Nov 14 - Annual Meeting/Elections

Dec 5 - CARC Christmas Dinner - Aboca's Italian Grill

*** NOTE: The November and December meeting dates are not the 4th Tuesday and are changed to accommodate the holidays. ***

Jan 23, 2024 - Show and Tell Night

Feb 27, 2024 - ARRL Night - Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK (ARRL NTX SM)



The space industry has a labor problem that could keep it from reaching its full potential. Space companies are hiring en force. Also, the existing workforce is aging. One study found that only 17% of NASA's workers are under age 35. Competition is ramping up at a time when the number of

people graduating with engineering degrees is dropping in the U.S.

Welders, machinists and other technical jobs that don't necessarily require advanced degrees are also in demand for companies building rockets and spacecraft. (ANS thanks Axios Space for the above information)

This article courtesy the AMSAT News Service Bulletin dated Sept. 17, 2023



by Michael Clemens, DK1M

03 Aug 2023

Right at the beginning of this post, I would like to give the impatient reader a highly condensed summary of why one wants to become a radio amateur:

With an amateur radio license one can build radios oneself, irradiate the moon with radio waves, communicate via satellites, chat with astronauts, flying pilots, engineers on oil tankers, researchers at Antarctica, compete with others, have a reason to go into nature, make friends worldwide, acquire and expand language skills, understand the world better, and find many ideas for various projects.

But first a few words about how I got into this hobby.

Introduction

It has been over four years since I took my amateur radio license exam. In the spring of 2019, I came across an article on the internet that was amateur radio related. I had always been interested in the topic of electronics, but didn't really feel that I had a firm grasp on it. After some research, I then realized that I could learn quite a bit in this subject area by studying for the amateur radio exam. A direct interest in the radio itself was not yet present at this time. The exam fees as well as the purchase of the study material turned out to be very affordable, so I decided to aim for a Class E exam in July 2019. Although I am actually a late riser, I scheduled about 2 hours every morning, even before the family got up, to study for the exam. While studying, the newly acquired Baofeng UV-5R was always on the table as motivation, so I could listen to the local relay traffic in between. Gradually, the interest in practical radio operation grew in me. On 12.7.2019 I passed my exam for the class E license. Still on site, an employee of the Bundesnetzagentur (similar to the FCC) told me that I should definitely continue learning directly and take the exam for Class A in a timely manner. Listening to this advice, I immediately registered for the

next exam in September of the same year and continued to study in the same style as before.

As a reward for passing the exam, I purchased a used Alinco DX-70 (shortwave radio), with which I then had my first radio contact on shortwave on 7/19/2019. At that time being still very microphone shy, I plunged into the world of digimodes, first of all mainly FT8. My very first QSO (radio contact) on 10m would be a connection to Portugal with Antonio, CS7ANU in FT8.

Then, after I had successfully passed the Class A exam in Nuremberg on 9/5/2019, I could finally play radio on the much more interesting bands. It took until October until I dared to make my first SSB contact (40m, GB0PPY).

Since the spring of 2019, practically not a day has gone by that I have not engaged in some form of amateur radio. Why this is so, I would like to try to explain following.

Hardware Tinkering

The amateur radio hobby is ideal for everyone who likes soldering, tinkering, developing and inventing. Starting with the construction of antenna cables over transceiver kits the projects go up to own developments. One always encounters problems (which one would not have without the hobby), which then have to be solved: Laziness makes one develop an automatic antenna switch, an interface between a transceiver, and a power amplifier is needed, or building simple wire antennas for the shortwave station. Especially with the last one you learn a lot of basics of high frequency technology, which help you to advance in the hobby.

This then leads to further rabbit holes like e.g. the housing construction and thus inevitably to 3D printing. With this one can manufacture plastic parts for antennas. The ramifications into further rabbit holes seem to be endless.

Software Development

Beside the hardware tinkering the inclined IT-person can also enjoy himself in the area of programming. I've already done a few amateur radio-related software projects, including simple command-line-based logging software, a microcontroller-based remote power meter, and many smaller scripts, such as for transmitting messages to a radio pager.

Many radio amateurs are dedicated to the open source idea, so you can find a lot of free software e.g. for station operation, which you can use yourself as well as actively participating in existing projects.

Geography

I have to admit that geography never really interested me before. The reason was probably the lack of necessity. But if one night, when one should already have been asleep, one manages to establish a radio contact to a station in Aruba, for example, one can't help but look up on the map where the communication partner is located. Most of the

time, however, I go further and inform myself on Wikipedia about the respective country and its people.

It is also interesting to communicate directly with the respective communication partners and to learn from them first hand about their country, their place of residence and their life.

Interesting Contacts

It will happen again and again that a seemingly ordinary radio contact becomes an experience that you will remember for a long time. Sometimes due to the environment or activity of the communication partner, because he/she is e.g. sitting as a co-pilot in an airliner, is a machinist on an oil tanker or was once a cosmonaut. Also very rare contacts to members of a research station at the South Pole or to an astronaut are possible, but unfortunately I did not have the chance so far.

But even conversations with "ordinary" people can be extraordinary, depending on their life situation and history, and sometimes lead to friendships.

I am always fascinated by the fact that it is possible to communicate with people all over the world without having to rely on man-made infrastructure (Internet, repeaters, etc.). This is especially true when your own station is powered by solar energy.

QSL Cards

Almost seamlessly following on from the previous topics of "Interesting Contacts" and "Geography" is the exchange of QSL cards. With the help of this wonderful tradition, radio amateurs confirm a radio contact to each other by sending a QSL card. This resembles a postcard and usually consists of a colorfully printed, individually designed front and a somewhat standardized back, which shows the data of the communication, sometimes also a personal greeting and a signature. These cards are sent either by mail or free of charge through the association. Throughout the world, clubs organized in their respective countries regularly collect the QSL cards of their members and send them to clubs in other countries, where they are then given back to their members.

Collecting such cards helps to remember special contacts, but also serve as proof for achieving awards (more on that later).

Space and Satellites

Of course, I had always been interested in space and satellites, but I never had a direct connection to it. But the fact that the amateur radio license enables one to talk to other people via various satellites or even the ISS is not only a great privilege, but also has a fascination of its own.

It is actually possible, with an inexpensive handheld radio, 5W transmit power and a Yagi antenna pointed at an Earth-

orbiting satellite in hand, to talk via that satellite to another person doing exactly the same at the same time but in a different location. This is also possible via the ISS and if you are very lucky, this other person can also be an astronaut on the ISS.

Meanwhile, there is also a geostationary satellite that can be reached from Europe, Africa and parts of Asia as well as South America. This intergalactic amateur radio relay allows radio experiments and communication in digital modes, voice and video telephony around the clock, all year round.

Away from satellite communication, the radio amateur learns a lot about the ionosphere, which surrounds our planet. This is enormously important in the shortwave range for the propagation of radio waves. Depending on solar activity, frequency band, time of year and time of day, no or sometimes very special radio communications are possible.

Another facet of amateur radio is Earth-Moon-Earth communication. Here, radio amateurs do not use man-made satellites to bounce their signal back to earth, but the moon. This is irradiated with high power and targeted antennas in such a way that part of the radio waves reach the earth again and can thus be heard and answered by another radio amateur.

POTA, SOTA and other outdoor activities

There are countless programs that encourage radio amateurs to get out into nature. For example, the Parks On The Air (POTA) program defines national parks around the world to activate and hunt. Radio amateurs who set up their station there are the activators. They are interested in combining outdoor activity and amateur radio and receive points as well as awards for their activation. Other stations (the hunters) try to hunt the activators, that is to perform successful communication with them. Their motivation is to collect worked parks, support the activators and many also try to get awards.

Awards

For those who don't necessarily care about personal contact or other aspects listed here, there is a wide selection of radio awards. These are earned, for example, by proving radio contacts with at least 100 countries or with all 50 US states. Depending on where you are on the planet, one can be significantly harder to achieve than the other.

The previously mentioned countries are actually so-called entities, since a country in the world of amateur radio can sometimes consist of two or more such entities. For example, many often unknown islands that politically belong to a much better known country are own entities. Some of these entities are not or only sparsely populated or have no active amateur radio community. In order to make these coveted entities accessible to others, adventurous radio amateurs

travel to the most remote places in the world as part of DX-peditions, set up camp there and do radio operations for a certain time. Thus, this hobby can also be an interesting additional component for an adventurer or globetrotter.

Contests

Radio contests are held on many weekends throughout the year. Depending on the contest, the goal is to make as many contacts as possible in a certain period of time, to get as far as possible with as little power as possible, or to work out certain parts of the world.

What is a thorn in the side for many, is for others a popular sport or a good way to make contacts with new countries/entities.

Community

The amateur radio community is a very special one. As in many communities, there are one or two special people with whom not everyone is compatible, but they all share the same technical affinity, wide-ranging interest, practical disposition and hobby-related joy of communication.

Unfortunately, the amateur radio community can be described as over-aged, so that even those in their mid-40s are among the young. This deters many interested people, especially when it comes to club activity, which can indeed be classified as problematic. Fortunately, radio amateurs are organizing themselves more and more virtually instead of just location-based, and they quickly find like-minded people this way.

When I meet a stranger and he tells me his callsign, a certain basic trust is immediately established.

Summary

There is certainly more that can be said about amateur radio. I myself have by no means explored all that the hobby has to offer and I hope that never will be the case. In summary, I can say that it is the perfect hobby for me, as it fascinates, motivates and gives me a lot of pleasure every day.

Used by permission of the author Michael Clemens, DK1MI. The original and other articles are available on his website <https://dk1mi.radio>

Been There, Done That, But It Seems I am Now Doing It Again!

by Mike VE9KK



In my quest to be frugal and when ham bucks are needed for a purchase, I have in the past taken a look around the shack and put up for sale items that I just were not using or felt I would no longer need. Way too often I have found this practice has bitten me more than one time. How many of you have sold a piece of equipment to later find you need it?!

I have done that with too many items and it can get very frustrating, but I do have to understand that in some cases the new piece of gear that was purchased would never had happened if I did not liquidate some gear.

Here are some of the items I have sold and turned around to only purchase the same item later on down the line: LG auto tuner, external SWR meter, noise cancelling unit, antenna switch, Asus Xonar U7 external sound card and the list goes on. Actually it goes on to my most recent purchase, the K1EL Winusb keyer — yup had one and sold it and now I need it.

How many of you out there have done the same thing? I have now learned my lesson as I am keeping on myself the external SWR meter, antenna switch and Astron power supply just in case I need them. I have become a ham hoarder.

Mike Weir, VE9KK, writes from New Brunswick, Canada. Contact him at ve9kk@hotmail.com.

Dubya...Dubya...Dubya

Web sites for Hams ...

We all have our favorite web sites for various amateur radio topics and resources. To help in the sharing of that info, we're starting a monthly collection of useful web sites on a different topic each month. This list isn't all inclusive ... and we're sure you have others that could benefit your fellow members.



So, we'd like to ask that you send along your URLs (web site addresses) along with a short description of what's important on the web site

to kr1zan@arrl.net. We'll publish your added links in the following month's SIGNALS.

Also, if you have a favorite web site that's not associated with this month's topic, send it along with a brief description to kr1zan@arrl.net and we'll include it in the ETC section of next month's Dubya-Dubya-Dubya.

This month, our focus is on "Digital"... our coverage is not comprehensive, so we hope you'll send in your favorite websites for the digital modes you enjoy. We'll print those next month in ETC below.



PSK-31 - PSK31 or "Phase Shift Keying, 31 Baud," also BPSK31 and QPSK31, is a popular computer sound-card-generated radioteletype mode, used to conduct real-time keyboard-to-keyboard chat.

<https://bpsk31.com/operation/>

fldigi - Fldigi is a free and open-source program which allows an ordinary computer's sound card to be used as a simple two-way data modem. Modes include PSK-31, MFSK, RTTY, Olivia, CW (Morse Code) and several others.

<http://www.w1hkj.com>

wsjt-x - Weak Signal Communication Software - Open-source programs designed for weak-signal digital communication by amateur radio. Normal usage requires a standard SSB transceiver and a personal computer with sound-card, or the equivalent. Modes include FT4, FT8, FST4, FST4S, JT4, JT9, JT65, Q65, MSK144, and WSPR.

<https://wsjt.sourceforge.io>

JS8 - JS8Call is software using the JS8 Digital Mode providing weak signal keyboard-to-keyboard messaging to Amateur Radio Operators.

<http://js8call.com>

mmtty - Baudot RTTY decoding and encoding software that allows a computer with a sound card to work with an amateur radio transceiver to receive and send Baudot RTTY signals.

<https://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmtty.php>

ARRL Morse Code Info

<https://www.arrl.org/learning-morse-code>

Intro to Digital Voice Modes

<https://www.hamradioschool.com/post/intro-to-dv>

freeDV - A digital voice mode for HF radio

<https://freedv.org>

ARRL Digital Modes Resources

<https://www.arrl.org/digital-modes>

<https://www.arrl.org/digital-data-modes>

List of amateur radio modes-Wikipedia

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_amateur_radio_modes

How to Go Digital with Your Ham Radio: MFSK, WLAN, Digital Voice, and APRS

<https://www.dummies.com/article/technology/digital-audio-radio/ham-radio/how-to-go-digital-with-your-ham-radio-mfsk-wlan-digital-voice-and-aprs-160432/>

Winlink - Winlink is an amateur radio network that supports wireless email communication to and from the internet, as well as radio-to-radio without the internet.

<https://www.winlink.org>

Here's a couple of useful sites I've run across in the past month:

Organic Maps - if you have a need for very detailed maps when you're off-grid (or just don't want to be tracked), take a look at this app, available for both iOS and Android - <https://organicmaps.app/>

U.S. Ground Conductivity Map - I had forgotten about this useful map courtesy the FCC, until a posting on the LSDXA discussion group. The map shows us why it's good to live in the DFW area - https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/am_m3_usa_medium.png.

CARC Challenge Coin

Challenge coins have long been a tradition in the military to indicate the holder's affiliation with and commitment to a specific unit or group. Over time, this tradition has moved into the civilian world, where public service organizations and even commercial enterprises have created identifying coins for distribution among members and associates.

The CARC Board of Directors has approved the issuance of a distinctive challenge coin to signify association with the Collins Amateur Radio Club and support of its traditions.

The coin shown below is the result of the collaborative efforts of the CARC Board to create a design that reflects both the historic origins of the Club and its guiding principles. The CARC call sign appears prominently on the back.

The Club now has 100 of these coins on hand, and they will go on sale starting at the 26 September CARC general meeting. Coins will be available for purchase by members at the meeting and subsequent meetings for \$5 each. A quantity will also be held in reserve for presentation to guest speakers and others as honoraria.



CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The September 2023 test was conducted on 6 September. 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. The following CARC members participated in the August City of Garland Siren Test: Bob Jones, W5BJ, Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN and Jim Stafford, W5DTG. The Garland test observations report on a Net conducted on the GARC 146.66 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.

W0CXX SPECIAL EVENTS

The Collins Amateur Radio Club station, W0CXX, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, is planning three special events to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Collins Radio. Arthur A. Collins (1909-1987) founded Collins Radio Company in 1933 and produced shortwave equipment before supplying equipment for the commercial broadcast industry.

The company also built radios for amateur use, including the KW-1, KWS-1, KWM-1, KWM-2/2A, and KWM-380, as well as the classic S line consisting of the 75S-3A, 32S-3, 51S-1, 30S-1, and 30L-1. After several mergers and acquisitions, the company began producing avionics for the aviation and aerospace industries and is now Collins Aerospace, a subsidiary of Raytheon Technologies.

On September 9, 2023, W0CXX was host to a special event station celebrating Arthur Collins' birthday. On October 14, 2023, a special event station will be in operation from 14:00 UTC to 20:00 UTC to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Collins Radio. On November 18, 2023, a third special event station will operate from 15:00 UTC to 21:00 UTC to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the club's charter. More information is available on the club's website (w0cxx.us) and on QRZ.COM (see W0CXX).

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

To Be Continued in a future edition of SIGNALS.

Upcoming Events

Daily	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 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
Tuesdays	Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 442.8 (+5) MHz, PL=110.9 Hz (K5QHD repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 th Tuesday.)
1st Wednesday	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
2nd Wednesday	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm

OCTOBER

7-8 Collegiate QSO Party focuses on amateur radio clubs at colleges and universities and event provides an opportunity for clubs to demonstrate amateur radio to new members, engage with alumni, and promote activity throughout college and university communities. Details at <https://collegiate-qso-party.com/>.

16-20 School Club Roundup—Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. 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.arl.org/school-club-roundup>

28-29 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz—Work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Details at <http://www.arl.org/eme-contest>.

NOVEMBER

4-6 Nov. Sweepstakes – CW--For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO November-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.. Details at <http://www.arl.org/sweepstakes>.

18-20 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone--For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO November-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Details at <http://www.arl.org/sweepstakes>

August 2023 Meeting Pictures



Need another Badge or Coffee Mug?



Order from The Sign Man of Baton Rouge at:
<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/collinsarccart.html>

Join Us On Tuesdays
for the Collins ARC
Drive Home Net
5:30pm 442.7 MHz
+5MHz, PL=110.9Hz
(No Nets on Meeting Nights)

Logs now available on n5cxx.us website

The Amateur's Code

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE - never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL - offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE - with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.

FRIENDLY - with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

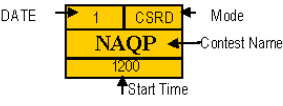
BALANCED - Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC - with station and skill always ready for service to country and community

CDXA Periodic Table of Contests - 2023

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
7 R RTTY Roundup 1800	4 CSRD VT QSO Party 0000	4 S ARRL DX - SSB 0000	1 CSRD LA QSO Party 1400	6 CSRD 7th Area QSO Party 1300	3 CSRD KY QSO Party 1300	1 CS RAC Canada Day 0000	5 C NAQP - CW 1800	2 C CWops Open 0000	7 CS CA QSO Party 1800	4 C Sweepstakes CW 2100	2 CS ARRL - 160M 2200
14 C NAQP - CW 1800	4 CSRD MN QSO Party 1400	11 CSRD OK QSO Party 1800	TBD CSRD MS QSO Party TBD	6 CS IN QSO Party 1800	3 D ARRL - INT. Digi 1800	IARU 1200	12 C WAE DX - CW 0000	2 CSRD CO QSO Party 1300	14 R Makrothen - RTTY 0000	11 R WAE DX - RTTY 0000	3 D FT Roundup 1800
21 S NAQP - SSB 1800	4 CSRD BC QSO Party 1800	11 C Stew Perry TBC 1500	1 CSRD MO QSO Party 1400	6 CSRD DE QSO Party 1700	10 CSRD ARRL - VHF 1800	16 CSRD CQWW - VHF 1800	12 CSRD MDC QSO Party 1400	3 CSRD TN QSO Party 1800	14 CSRD NV QSO Party 0300	18 S Sweepstakes SSB 2100	10 CS ARRL - 10M 0000
21 CSRD ARRL - VHF 1900	5 C NA Sprint - CW 0	11 CSRD ID QSO Party 1900	4 S NA Sprint - SSB 0000	6 CSRD New England QSO Party 2000	17 C Stew Perry TBC 1500	15 R NAQP - RTTY 1800	19 S NAQP - SSB 1800	9 S WAE DX - SSB 0000	14 CSRD AZ QSO Party 1500	25 C CQWW - CW 0000	17 CS RAC Winter 0000
27 C CQ - 160M CW 2200	11 R CQWW WPX - RTTY 0000	12 R NA Sprint - RTTY 0	8 CSRD NM QSO Party 1400	20 CSRD AR QSO Party 1400	17 CSRD WV QSO Party 1600	29 CS RSGB IOTA 1200	26 CSRD HI QSO Party 0400	9 CSRD ARRL - VHF 1800	14 CSRD PA QSO Party 1800	C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	23 C Stew Perry TBC 1900
28 R BARTG RTTY 1200	18 C ARRL DX - CW 0000	12 CSRD WI QSO Party 1800	8 CS GA QSO Party 1800	27 C CQWW WPX - CW 0000	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	26 D WW Digi DX 1200	TBD CP AL QSO Party 1800	14 CSRD SD QSO Party 1800		C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA
C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	24 S CQ - 160M SSB 2200	18 R BARTG RTTY 0200	TBD CSRD ND QSO Party TBD	C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA			26 CSRD KS QSO Party 1400	10 C NA Sprint - CW 0000	21 CSRD NY QSO Party 1400		
	25 CSRD SC QSO Party 1500	25 S CQWW WPX - SSB 0000	15 R CQMM DX 0900				27 CS OH QSO Party 1600	TBD CSRD IA QSO Party 1400	21 CS Worked All Germany 1500		
	25 R NAQP - RTTY 1800	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	15 CS MI QSO Party 1600				C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	16 CSRD NH QSO Party 1600	21 C Stew Perry TBC 1500		
	26 CSRD NC QSO Party 1500		15 CS ON QSO Party 1800					16 CSRD TX QSO Party 1400	22 CSRD IL QSO Party 1700		
	C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA		29 CS FL QSO Party 1800					16 CS NJ QSO Party 1800	28 S CQWW - SSB 0000		
			C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA					16 CSRD WA Salmon Run 1800	C All K1USN, ICWC & CWA		
								17 R NA Sprint - RTTY 0000			
								23 R CQWW - RTTY 0000			
								23 CS ME QSO 1200			
								C All K1USN,			

LEGEND
 GOLD = Major Contest = 10 points
 Blue = QSO Party = 7 points
 Pink = DX Contest = 5 points
 C = CW S = SSB
 R = RTTY D = Digital





Richardson, Texas
www.N5CXX.us

Mail Station 461-290
PO Box 830766
Richardson, TX 75083-0766

TO:



Richardson, Texas
www.N5CXX.us

CLUB STATION
 (972) 705-1349

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

Membership Meeting
 Tuesday 26 September 2023 5:30 PM
 THE MEETING WILL BE AT
Woodcreek Church Richardson TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 13 October 2023 ←←←