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# SIGNALS

## Rockwell Collins

Monthly Newsletter of the

## Amateur Radio Club

Volume 39 Issue 02

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

November 2017

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### RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 28 November 2017  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

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

Subject:

*Pickup Shirts, Plan Christmas Party*

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.

**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.

### Hamarama and CQ WW Contest with Friends

As done each year, some of my old Rockwell Collins Ham buddies and I meet at the lake house of Ross Terry – K5SRT on the Northern banks of Lake Texoma near Kingston, OK for the October Hamarama Hamfest. This year, we made a concentrated effort to operate the CQ World Wide Phone contest, work on the golf cart and play with a Heathkit B-1 balun.



## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

At this month's meeting those who ordered club shirts can pick them up (and pay if you didn't prepay). If you didn't order one, the club has ordered several extra, which will be available for purchase. Also, we will make plans for the annual Christmas party. See you at the meeting on 28 November.



### RCARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The testing was performed on 1 November 2017. Almost all sirens were nonfunctional. 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



Normally, we have a tradition where we buy something for a few bucks at the Hamfest in Ardmore and see if we can make it radiate before the weekend is over. This year was no exception, as Bob Kirby - K3NT - purchased an old Heathkit B-1 1:4 balun. The large box with only posts on one side and a SO-239 connector (Continued on page 3)

**RCARC OFFICERS**

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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**

It has been several months since I last put out a letter to the club, so here goes. I've been doing a bit of traveling, so not too much activity, but I have been on 17 Meters for the most time and have found it is still one of the better bands as far as activity. I have worked DX and stateside stations on almost every attempt. So, if you are looking for activity, check this band out, it is small, but really good for making contacts.

Also, last month we made the big jump for club shirts, and have made an order for 12 shirts. Several have already been reserved, and paid for by club members. They will be available this month so if you want one then make it to the meeting. I will be purchasing mine at the meeting, and this will make to club shirts for me. I have one from the Cedar Rapids chapter also.

The really big news, Ham Com is back in Plano! Thanks to Dennis for this news. This should be good as no more parking fees and I think easier access for attendees.

I want to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving, and hope to see you at the meeting.

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

24 Oct 2017

President Mike Schmit WA9WCC called the meeting to order at 1740.

The following were present at the meeting:

Samuel Boren	N5TIP
Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Bob Coulbourne	W4FTD
Gene Duprey	K1GD
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

### Officers and Committee Reports:

There were no formal reports other than the Secretary's Report, which is contained in this newsletter.

### Old Business:

Discussions continued with Bob Coulbourne W4FTD to approve the final logo for the club shirts and to review and select options for shirt color, size and style.

In order to obtain favorable pricing it was necessary to commit to a 12-shirt minimum purchase. It was agreed that all members wanting a shirt would pay for their own, with the club purchasing an additional quantity of shirts to satisfy the minimum order. These additional shirts would be held by the club for future sale to members over time.

Gene Duprey K1GD moved that the club approve use of club funds not to exceed \$500 to facilitate the transaction. Jim Brown AF5MA seconded the motion, and it was approved by a majority of members present.

Five members present at the meeting purchased shirts, thus reducing the club commitment to purchase of an additional seven shirts, well within the funding limit of \$500.

Bob Coulbourne will deliver shirts to complete the orders placed at the meeting (five shirts) along with any additional orders submitted and paid for by members not present, then submit an invoice to the club for the remainder of the 12-shirt commitment at the next meeting. Shirts purchased by individual members as part of the initial order will be of various colors and styles as chosen by the purchasers, but club-purchased shirts will be all-cotton and forest green in color, drawn from Bob's inventory.

### New Business:

None.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1907.

## Hamcom is Coming Back to Plano!

Hey guys thought you would like to know: Hamcom is back at Plano which means tail gating and free parking is

back. The following is posted on the Hamcom website <https://www.hamcom.org/>.

Now a little crow pizza...

Ham-Com is pleased to announce our return to the Plano Event Center for Ham-Com 2018.

It wasn't an easy decision but the board of directors #1 concern is always providing the best location for the best show possible.

Our vendors, visitors, and social media followers all gave input and the decision to go back to the Plano Event Center was in the best interest of all!

*(Contributed by Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT)*

## Hamarama and CQ WW Contest with Friends

*(Continued from page 1)* on the other looked very clean, once we opened it up. According to the manual we found on-line, it could be configured for 1:1 or 4:1, depending upon which internal posts you solder together. This one was configured for 4:1, which was perfect for balancing ladder line to unbalanced coax. At his lake house, Ross Terry - K5SRT - prepared for us an 80m dipole with ladder line. The legs of this dipole were so long it would not fit within the property line. Good thing Ross has a good relationship with his neighbors, as we whisked one end up in the neighbor's tree. Performance on the 80-Meter dipole was dismal using the MFG-969 built-in balun. However, when we connected the Heathkit B-1, what a difference! We were able to tune much easier, even with an auto-tuner!

Therefore we all took turns operating the CQ WW contest as K5SRT. We had tried both Friday and Saturday to break through the pile on 20-Meters to get the attention of Victor Paul (WB0TEV), who was operating as V31VP in Belize throughout the contest. Finally, on Saturday night, we were able to break through the pile just as Victor was announcing his QSY down to a lower frequency. Bob yelled my call sign repeatedly, and Victor heard it and responded. For a brief moment we were able to exchange signal and call signs for both my call and K5SRT. Thanks to Victor for hanging out after finishing his QSY message.

Victor has taken advantage of a wonderful feature of the QRZ website by logging his audio online. You can hear the exchange between Victor, Bob and myself. Log into [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com), enter V31VP and scroll down until you see the "Enter callsign:" text box. Enter K5MDK and press "GO" button. You will see the audio file in black. Just click it and listen to the QSO audio.

Another part of our weekend was spending Saturday morning and afternoon at the Hamarama Hamfest. I had purchased two tables so that we could sell some stuff. I only had the T1/E1 Sage 930A analyzers and a VHF/UHF base antenna that I had won at the Main Trading Company festival a week or two prior. Altogether, I made enough money to purchase a new switching power supply.

This power supply can switch between 115VAC and 220VAC, which will be helpful if I travel out of country again. Remember my experiences in South Korea? I have got to stop letting the smoke out of perfectly good equipment!



Well, we did not just operate and do the Hamfest all weekend. We had to have some fun too. To scratch our itch to make solder smoke, we had to finish up on a project with the golf cart. The lake village folks like their golf carts just as much as L3 does. However, driving at night can be

treacherous if you do not have proper lighting. A new set of lights was installed. However, the lights were rated for 12 VDC, not 36 VDC that is available from the batteries. Therefore Ross picked out a DC-DC converter. The specs he had in mind were 30 amps! That is over kill for LED lights that draw less than an amp. So Ross, what are you planning to do with all that 12 Volt current? The answer: HAM RADIO! That is another project for another day. Besides, what kind of antenna do you install on a fiberglass golf cart? We will all have to find out next year. Until then, 73!

(Submitted by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK)

## Dictators and Amateur Radio

by Francisc (Fery) Grünberg, YO4PX on April 26, 2009

Website: <http://www.radioamator.ro/>

Amateur radio was always complicated by dictators with distrust and fear, as a suspect and potentially dangerous avocation.

The ability to transmit messages over the barbed wire of the "Iron Curtains" and across heavily guarded borders, where weapons are pointed more into the country than out, was associated in the Romanian People's Republic, and in the other former or current totalitarian régimes as well, with the activity of spies on the enemy's payroll.

In the dictators' paranoiac imagination these spies, disguised as radio amateurs, were trying to undermine the "heroic effort of the people for the construction of the new society": another name for the total control and submission of its citizens, the final endeavour of all régimes with socialist, communist, military, tribal or fundamentalist ideologies.

Risking the simplification inherent to any generalization, the degree of democracy present in a country is directly proportional to the number of its licensed radio amateurs, the liberties they enjoy and the administrative obstacles they may or may not confront. Today, an indication of such freedom is the absence of bureaucratic hindrances imposed on the importation of amateur radio rigs, getting a transceiver through customs at national frontiers, and the willingness to allow visitors' time-limited amateur radio activities.

Western democracies acknowledge radio amateurs' merit, as pioneers of the short waves to humanity's benefit and for the services they rendered and continue to render to their communities. Laws in these countries grant radio amateurs and their equipment freedom of movement and activity thanks to reciprocal agreements. The CEPT Convention provided a huge step forward as it simplified operation for amateurs of the signatory countries.

In Spain amateur radio is considered a form of art. In Güimar, Canary Islands, a statue was dedicated to amateur radio, with a syrinx (panpipes) representing the five (in 1974) amateur short wave bands. Many American presidents proclaimed amateur radio a national resource.

For whole decades BY1PK was the only workable station in China - until silenced by the infamous Cultural Revolution. Now we hear many BY calls and, on the VHF and LF bands, thousands of licensed QRP stations. No doubt the tenacious efforts of Martti Laine, OH2BH played a decisive role in this opening to the world.

After many years of silence in Saddam Hussein's Iraq, a single station, YI1BGD was licensed. This followed a demonstration by Erik Sjölund, SMOAGD, who made some 50 contacts before Iraqi officials who were amazed by the number of hams eager to contact a new country.

North Korea authorized only a few sporadic operations, the most productive being the activity of Ed Giordagze, 4L4FN. He made more than 16,000 QSO's before the authorities shut him down. KA2HTV's recent failure doesn't offer much hope the situation will soon change.

Myanmar's (Burma) military junta is quite reluctant to issue licenses to foreign operators. But they are occasionally heard, especially when intended to convince the generals that liberalizing amateur radio could boost the country's image to a world concerned by human rights violations.

Contact with an Albanian station was an unattainable dream during the Stalinist dictatorship of Enver Hodja. Now there are some active stations thanks to powerful associations that championed getting a ZA call sign on the air after many decades.

In Poland all amateurs were forced to hand over their equipment following the imposition of martial law, inspired by the Soviet Union, in December 1981. General Jaruzelski stifled in bloodshed the protests of the trade union Solidarnos?, and the SP prefix was absent from the bands for almost two years.

Turkey for many years was prominent on the Most Wanted Countries List, now a few local stations and occasional visitors can be worked from TA-land.

Under the Taliban régime licensing a YA station was hardly conceivable in a country where the most elementary human rights were violated. Now hams working for international organizations are sporadically active from Afghanistan.

But where tradition is shattered, short instruction courses and donated gear cannot replace the passion and knowledge transmitted from generation to generation, from mentor to disciple, which ensures the perpetuity and development of the hobby. Hopefully, the spirit will reignite in Libya, Yemen, Rwanda, Iran, Sudan, Mount Athos, Somalia, Congo, Cambodia, Laos, countries and entities where amateur radio activity is inexistent or drastically restricted...

There are cases when the oppressive régime feels itself impregnable and magnanimously allows the licensing of a few "reliable" residents, intimates of the power wielders, for propaganda's sake to defend itself from the international amateur radio community's disapproval. Some dictator-

ships, after lengthy negotiations, authorize time-limited activities for foreign operators present as United Nations officials, NGOs or peace-keeping forces.

In Romania the dictatorial régime branded amateur radio as well. For 45 years the state of one's "dossier" was decisive in obtaining a license. In the 1950s those applicants who hadn't a "healthy origine" (i.e., originated from a family of workers or peasants) could experience huge difficulties, and not only in the realm of amateur radio. Family members living in the West, unfavourable information from the schools' secretary of the Communist Party, from the college or employer's "cadres office" (today's personnel office) regarding the applicant's lack of enthusiasm and attachment to the "Party Line," denunciations, containing mostly mendacious and misinterpreted information - all were grounds for denial without explanation of the application or suspension of a previously issued license.

Truly impartial historians of Romanian amateur radio should record its decades-long constraints as subordinate to the army. This practice followed piously on the heels of the Russian pattern. The Securitate (the former Romanian secret police) exercised relentless control of the licensing procedure through the so-called Higher Radio Commission, overseeing the entire activity of the radio amateurs, beginning with the assignments in leading positions in the county clubs and in the Romanian Amateur Radio Federation and ending with the accurate inventory of the equipment owned.

In the 1980s the Radio Control Centres launched a series of residential inspections and license suspensions for varying periods of time. Was it merely coincidence that many holders of those suspended licenses were also members of reputable foreign clubs? This group included the most active and notable amateurs, authentic ambassadors of Romania on the air.

Yearly "informative materials" drawn up by the Securitate and presented with the force of "truth" cited "negative aspects," like "relations with foreigners" (regulated by notorious Law 23 requiring compulsory detailed reports about the nature of these relationships and their progress), the correspondence of amateurs, alike the correspondence of all other presumptive "unfaithful" citizens, was inspected and systematically censored. Receiving a transceiver from friends or relatives in Western countries was a terrible humiliation and a matter of suspicion - an opportunity for blackmail.

But not only amateur radio was subject to thorough supervision. The presidential couple Ceausescu deemed profoundly undesirable: computers, video recorders, TV antennas pointed towards Bulgaria, Serbia and Hungary, TV satellite dishes, books, magazines and newspapers from abroad, everything enabling the free circulation of ideas and information, not to mention the free movement of Romanian citizens.

We don't have yet sufficient and complete information about the Stalinist trial of George Craiu, YO3RF, and the

ordeal of his imprisonment. We don't know the truth about the conviction of YO7DZ. I don't think amateurs are aware of the fact that in the 1987 anticommunist uprising in Brasov, two years before the revolution and the régime's collapse, a ham was among the participants. He was charged during the inquiry with "subversive communication with the West," although he was a short wave listener and possessed only a receiver! After 1989 he also faced a defamation lawsuit, because he thought he recognised a member of Parliament on the TV screen as his torturer. We don't know how many persons abandoned hope after their failed attempts to obtain a license.

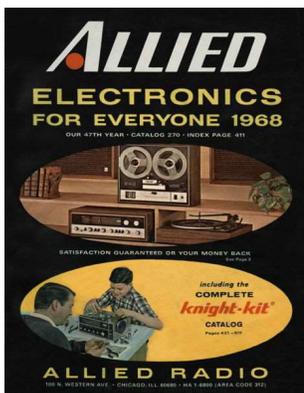
To understand the past a people must become acquainted with it and finally to admit it. With no hard feelings, no resentments, but fully aware of the truth. This truth must not be silenced and buried under the dust of archives. I think it's important to be uttered, recorded and known, in order to avoid all the tragic mistakes of the history.

*(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)*

### Catalogs are about Possibilities

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

When I was a kid, I used to regularly get catalogs, such as the Allied Radio and Lafayette Radio catalogs shown below, and pore over them for hours. Even if I couldn't afford to buy the latest Knight-Kit or Lafayette shortwave radio, I could imagine what it would be like. These catalogs were chock full of possibilities.



I spent many hours poring over the Allied and Lafayette catalogs as a kid. These two are from 1968, when I was 13 years old.

So, you can imagine how I felt when, last Thursday, I found both the Autumn/Winter 2017 DX Engineering catalog and the 2018-2019 Newark Electronics/element14 catalog in my mailbox.

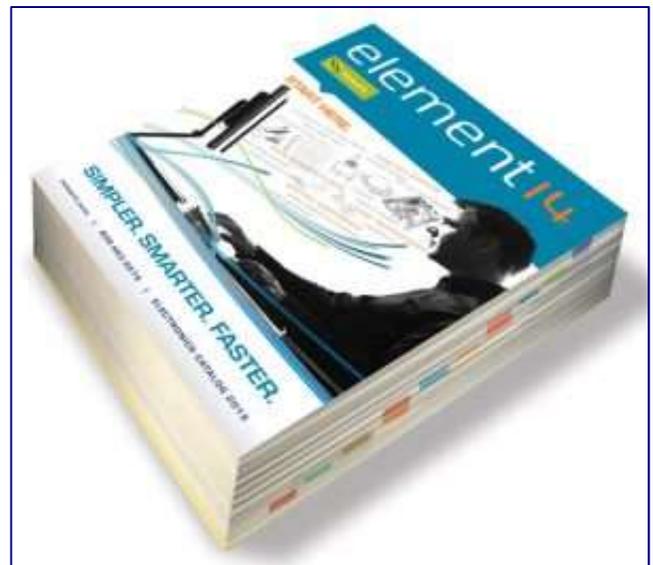
[DX Engineering](#) has really taken the amateur radio world by storm over the last ten years or so. I probably don't have to tell you about that. If you're an active amateur radio operator, I'm sure that you have heard about—and probably ordered from—DX Engineering.



I think that DX Engineering did a very smart thing by investing the money in a print catalog. There's something about browsing a print catalog that is just more satisfying than browsing online.

DX Engineering has just about everything you need to have fun with amateur radio. The one glaring omission? They still don't carry my study guides!

The [Newark/element14 2018-2019 catalog](#) is a completely different beast. Amateur radio operators are only a small part of Newark/element14's market, but one nonetheless. They have, for example, attended the Dayton Hamvention for many years.



As such, the catalog is not a “ham radio” catalog, but if you build stuff at all you’ll find something of interest in its 1,799 pages. It includes nearly any kind of electronic part that you might need.

The section that you might want to start with is the “makerspace” section. In this section, you’ll find Raspberry Pis, BeagleBones, and even micro:bits. They really have everything, though, including passive and active components, connectors, cable, and enclosures.

Like I say, these catalogs are all about possibilities. You can search each company’s website and find the parts they carry quickly and easily, but that experience is just not the same as browsing a print catalog and daydreaming about what you might find there.

So, get your own copies—they’re free—and page through them. I’d be surprised if you didn’t run across something that you didn’t know about before, and it gave you some ideas about your next amateur radio project.

73!

Dan KB6NU

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 CW Geek, Ham Radio Instructor

Author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides Read my ham radio blog at <http://www.kb6nu.com>

**Operating Features of the Audion**

In a 1914 paper entitled "Operating Features of the Audion" Armstrong published the 1st correct explanation for how the triode worked and provided experimental evidence to support his claim.

Interesting read.

Electrical World, December 12, 1914, pages 1149-1152. See: <http://earlyradiohistory.us/1914opr.htm>

**Upcoming Events**

**DECEMBER**

- 1-3**     **160 Meter**--For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. Starts 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday: forty-two hour period with no time limitation. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>.
- 9-10**    **10 Meter**-- For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>.
- 17**       **Rookie Roundup-CW**--To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>.

**JANUARY**

- 1**        **Straight Key Night** This event is dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, 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](http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night).
- 6-7**     **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>.
- 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](http://www.k6jt.com)
- 1<sup>st</sup>**        Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
- Wednesday**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**        ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm
- Wednesday**

# Rockwell-Collins

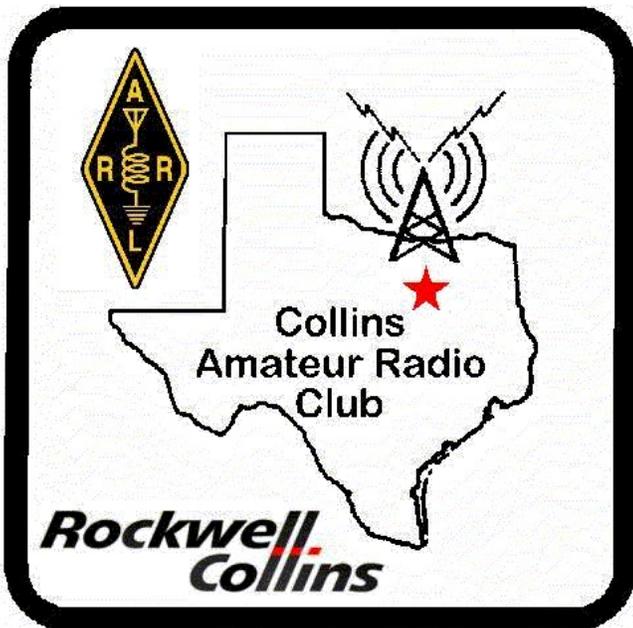
Amateur Radio Club

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 28 November 2017**  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting

**Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr**  
**At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection**

*Conference Room A in Hospital Building*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 8 December 2017 ←←←**