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# SIGNALS

## Rockwell Collins

Monthly Newsletter of the

## Amateur Radio Club

Volume 39 Issue 07

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

April 2018

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### RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 24 April 2018  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

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

Subject:  
Program is TBD

**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.

### RRFT 26th Annual Fun Days

Fun Days are scheduled for April 24th and 25th - pending any inclement weather. RRFT members eat for free. Non-members eat for \$5.00. This is a company-wide two-day event held onsite on the west lawn. BBQ, snow cones, vendors, volleyball, bingo, corn hole, massages, and more.

## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

This month's meeting program was not finalized at the time of the newsletter publication, but be sure to attend and enjoy whatever informative program the club leadership comes up with. At a minimum the members will be discussing the preliminary planning for the annual Field Day in June. 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 4 April 2018. The sirens functioned better than last month, however several still had deficiencies. 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.

**RRFT 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun Days**  
YOU'RE INVITED

**Grill out and Chill out**  
April 24<sup>th</sup> and April 25<sup>th</sup>  
RRFT Members get FREE Lunch  
Non-members can enjoy lunch for \$5

Lunch: Burgers, Chip and a Drink  
Or Hot Dog or Sausage Link, Chips and a Drink  
~Bring money for the vendor booths~

|                       |  |
|-----------------------|--|
| Connect Entertainment | Kona Ice (shaved ice)                      |
| Home Depot            | Alliance Catering and Wellness (massagers) |
| Sam's Club            | Direct Cellars (no alcohol on premises)    |
| Costco                | Rodan and Fields                           |
| Springhill Suites     | ID Life                                    |
| Nothing Bundt Cakes   | Melaleuca                                  |

BINGO | VOLLEYBALL | BASKETBALL | MESSAGES | LOCAL VENDORS | SNO-CONES

We are still forming Volleyball Teams. Please contact Cristina Muro, Homer Birdine, or Corne "CJ" Jones, if you are interested in playing.

Thanks to RRFT Committee Members Felisha Standberry, Brenda Risedorf, Chris Mikoy, CJ Jones, Cristina Muro, Darrell Daniele, Homer Birdine, Jr., Lana Parker, Marcia Thompson, Mike Vasquez, Sergio Pinto, Jr., and Victor Maryoung.

(Contributed by Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT)

| RCARC OFFICERS  |       |  |        |
|---|-------|--|--------|
| <b>PRESIDENT</b><br>Gene Duprey<br>319.270.8159<br><a href="mailto:geneduprey2015@gmail.com">geneduprey2015@gmail.com</a> | K1GD  | <b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b><br><b>AVAILABLE</b>  |        |
| <b>SECRETARY</b><br>Jim Brown<br>972.495.2209<br><a href="mailto:jhksbrown@verizon.net">jhksbrown@verizon.net</a>         | AF5MA | <b>TREASURER</b><br>Rohan Thomas<br>972.697.3512<br><a href="mailto:Rohan7066@yahoo.com">Rohan7066@yahoo.com</a> | KG5RCN |
| <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br><b>AVAILABLE</b>   |       | <b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b><br>Mike Hollingsworth<br>972.571.6060<br><a href="mailto:w5qh@arrl.net">w5qh@arrl.net</a> | W5QH   |
| <b>STATION TRUSTEE</b><br>Bob Kirby<br>319.360.0500<br><a href="mailto:k3nt@arrl.net">k3nt@arrl.net</a>                   | K3NT  | <b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b><br>Jim Skinner<br>214.535.5264<br><a href="mailto:wb0uni@arrl.net">wb0uni@arrl.net</a>  | WB0UNI |
| <b>MEMBERSHIP</b><br>Joe Wolf<br>214.202.2757<br><a href="mailto:n5uic@arrl.net">n5uic@arrl.net</a>                       | N5UIC | <b>W5ROK CLUB STATION</b><br>972.705.1349<br>461-290   |        |

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

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

27 Mar 2018

President Gene Duprey K1GD called the meeting to order at 1735.

The following were present at the meeting:

|                |        |
|----------------|--------|
| Jim Brown      | AF5MA  |
| Dennis Cobb    | WA8ZBT |
| Bob Coulbourne | W4FTD  |
| Gene Duprey    | K1GD   |
| Bob Kirby      | K3NT   |
| John McFadden  | K5TIP  |
| Mike Schmit    | WA9WCC |
| Jim Skinner    | WB0UNI |
| Rohan Thomas   | KG5RCN |

### Officers and Committee Reports:

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

### Old Business:

Gene Duprey K1GD reminded the members that Rockwell Collins has requested a statement of current funding requirements for the RCARC. A meeting of the RCARC Board of Directors and other interested members was scheduled to discuss and recommend future acquisitions and upgrades to club equipment. These recommendations will be discussed and voted upon at the next RCARC meeting.

### New Business:

None.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1752 and followed by an excellent program on "Bald Eagles of Iowa" by Gene Duprey K1GD.

## Why ARRL is Recommending Enhanced HF Privileges for Technicians:

*from The ARRL Letter on March 15, 2018*

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for the entry-level Technician license to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, and 15 meters, where Technicians already have CW privileges. ARRL believes the additional digital privileges will attract younger people to Amateur Radio.

The proposed additional HF phone privileges are 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz. Technicians already have HF privileges on parts of 10 meters.

Some in the Amateur Radio community have questioned the need for expanded Technician privileges or to express other perspectives. ARRL has responded to point out some of the key advantages of its petition, <http://www.arrl.org/files/media/News/2018%20Entry%20Level%20License%20PRM%20FINAL.pdf>, which recognizes the tremendous technological advances and changes in Amateur Radio. Some key points:

- A thorough review of operating privileges available to the entry-level license has not taken place since the late 1970s, when the Novice-class license -- the entry-level license at that time, and no longer issued -- was modified to allow Novices access to a limited portion of 10 meters. This included the first HF phone privileges for Novices.
- The 2-year process that led to the development of ARRL's petition includes significant input from the Amateur Radio community. The two surveys that the ARRL board's Entry-Level License (ELL) Committee conducted on this issue drew more than 8,000 responses from ARRL members.
- The 378,000 Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population, yet the Technician-class license no longer serves its original purpose from 18 years ago. Many Technicians do not participate actively, pursue on-air and public service opportunities, renew their licenses, or upgrade. An uncomfortably large attrition rate exists among Technician licensees. Technician licenses are not upgrading, because they don't find their operating privileges interesting enough to keep them in the hobby.
- The proposed addition of 275 kilohertz of HF phone privileges, spread across 80, 40, and 15 meters, would allow Technicians the opportunity to develop and expand their understanding of HF propagation. In addition, this proposed change would allow Technician licensees to participate in public service-oriented, emergency, and Section traffic nets on 75 meters, from 3900 to 4000 kHz, where primary state/Section-wide public service activities often take place.
- Additional operating privileges for Technicians will not limit their incentive to upgrade. ARRL points out that Technicians now have access to 850 kilohertz of spectrum in four HF bands. ARRL proposes an additional 275 kilohertz on three of those bands, so the total under this proposal is 1,125 kilohertz on four bands -- 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters.

Compare that to current General-class HF privileges: 3150 kilohertz across nine HF bands -- 160, 80, 40, 30, 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters. In addition, Generals have access to the five 60-meter channels and to the two newest bands, 2200 and 630 meters. The incentive to upgrade from Technician to General is a tripling of the available HF spectrum; upgrading to General allows access to eight additional

bands, including the prime daytime bands of 20 and 17 meters. Also, Technicians upgrading to General or higher are permitted the maximum amateur power level of 1500 W PEP. Read more <http://www.arrl.org/technicianenhancement>.

## Dave the Traffic Handler

*Another story from Scott, N7NET for your reading pleasure. Thank you again, Scott*

More than two decades have passed since I met Dave, WB7VSN. It was a chance encounter. I was the new guy on the Oregon Section Net and everyone had to slow down. Before the net closed someone urged the group to move to another 80m frequency where the IdahoMontana Net was scheduled to begin at the next quarter-hour.

Without a doubt, my slow fist, and the hesitancy, I stood out in glaring contrast to those seasoned speedsters. Many of them had once represented the railroads. Others were former US Signal Corps people. Dave, discovering we were neighbors, radio-wise, called me on the phone. And from that moment a warm friendship developed.

Dave, a Native Son of Southern California was nine when his mother felt she could trust him to find his way round Los Angeles on his own. That was probably because she realized he would venture no farther than the Southern Pacific Depot. That was where he caught the fever for American Morse.

The dispatchers realized they had a budding telegrapher in their midst, so they encouraged him to seize an idle wire and send "HAM HAM": an invitation to any other "novice" who might be hanging out at a different dispatch office like San Diego, Bakersfield, Sacramento, or any other location in between. When someone responded with a like signal the two of them put their skills to work learning trains orders and Western Union traffic.

Dave, like others, found the code infectious. By the time he was old enough to hire on he'd already been handling Western Union traffic when the dispatcher was tied up with train orders.

Responding to his draft notice, Dave served with the Army Signal Corps as a telegrapher, handling International Morse traffic. He was now bilingual in code. His ability to handle either language with ease at 65 wpm was not to go unnoticed. He soon became General MacArthur's personal telegrapher while in the Philippines.

Dave is a modest person, not prone to bragging. Little more was said about his duties in connection with MacArthur other than it had happened. I assumed much of what he might have shared was still classified, so I didn't press him with questions.

Our friendship was still relatively young when he acquired permission from the American Morse Club to initiate a Eugene, Oregon Chapter (EUG). He approached me to be the

Secretary and Newsletter editor. Of course, learning American Morse was a rigid requirement. I was successful, after a fashion, though I doubt a less qualified traffic handler had not yet been located.

Up until this time I was often overwhelmed with the speeds these folks sent their traffic. But after I learned to copy American Morse I discovered part of this confusion was caused by their mixing a few American characters with International. They all did it from time to time and they called it "Box Car-ing". What a hoot that became sometimes.

Ace Holeman, a retired Pennsylvania railroad dispatcher, devised a home-brew appliance in his QTH and railroaders were encouraged to dial it up. As many as a dozen at a time, as I recall, could gather round-table fashion and hash over the old days.

The newsletter was published using my Commodore 64 and dot matrix printer. Nearly 30 members received the newsletter via USPS, including two women who had become railroad dispatchers after all the men in their two depots were drafted. One copy of the newsletter went to headquarters.



The EUG Chapter conducted several demonstrations. One occurred at the Brownville, Oregon Depot, the location of the first narrow-gauge in Oregon's Willamette Valley. Another demonstration took place at a model railroad show. Visitors were encouraged to write a radiogram message at the front desk. The message was then sent to a sounder in another room. One of the messages was for a man's daughter and featured a heart. Directions for drawing the heart were sent over the wire via American Morse and the receiver duplicated the heart in the other room. When the father picked up the message, he said: "This isn't my writing".



This experience is a bit removed from amateur radio. However, none of it would have occurred had it not been for the amateur radio CW Nets and the folks who lit up the airwaves with their bugs. In spite of the fact that I was winging it most of the time, it is a highlight of my radio hobby. I would do it again in a heartbeat.

Scott also wrote: "I forgot to explain the pictures. The group was taken at the Brownsville, Oregon Railroad Museum after a demo. Dave is the one in the striped shirt. Vic Seaburger, W7VSE, is sitting down."

The keys are Dave's collection at his home. Somewhere I have the photo of his railway agent look alike.

In the text of this story I've mentioned Holeman's landline setup for allowing up to a dozen operators to chat in round table fashion.

On Samuel Morse's 200th (?) birthday, Australia was awarded a free call day by their AT&T counterpart and they dialed the only US phone number they had, which was Dave's, so they could call the Blackstone Hotel in Chicago and join in the blowout. They began sending in International over the American line and caused a lot of confusion for Dave.

*(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)*

## 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 <a href="http://www.k6jt.com">www.k6jt.com</a> |
| <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  |

### JUNE

- 8-9** **Ham-Comm 2018** has returned to the Plano Event Center! Get the details about this event at <https://sites.google.com/view/hamcom>.
- 9-11** **June VHF** For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. All legal modes are permitted. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>.
- 16** **Kids Day** Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public! Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/kids-day>.
- 23-24** **Field Day**—Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933, and remains the most popular event in ham radio. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

### JULY

- 14-15** **IARU HF World Championship**—Objective: to contact as many other amateurs around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Begins 1200 UTC Saturday and ends 1159 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>.

# Rockwell-Collins

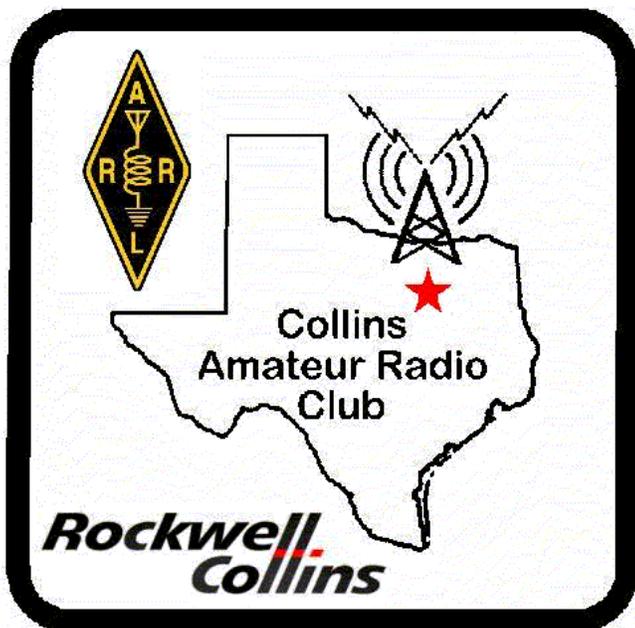
Amateur Radio Club

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 24 April 2018

1700 Social      1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

*Conference Room A in Hospital Building*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 11 May 2018 ←←←**