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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 33 Issue 03

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

December 2011

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 26 January 2012  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

Methodist Richardson Medical Center  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection  
Second Floor Conference Room 200

**Subject:**  
To be announced  
in January 2012 Newsletter



## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice** The next meeting of the RCARC will be in January. Watch for information about the meeting in the January 2012 *Signals*.

**RCARC B-29 Project** The Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club has accepted a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to support installation of Collins ART-13/ATC Radio Equipment into the Commemorative Air Force B-29 "FiFi," stationed at the Cavanaugh flight Museum at Addison airport. Be sure to read the article starting on page 3 of this newsletter.

**RCARC Christmas Party Pictures** The RCARC had its annual Christmas Party on 10 December. Michael Ketchum, K5MDK, and his family graciously opened their home to the club for the party. It was a lot of fun, and was well attended. There was plenty of food, games and lots of fellowship and "war stories." Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS, took many impromptu snapshots of unsuspecting attendees as well as those boring posed photos. More details on the party are in the President's Message.

**RCARC OFFICERS**

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**VE SESSIONS**

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 10:00. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

**Irving** tests are held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14:30, ending no later than 16:45. **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, 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.

**Greenville** testing is on the Saturday after 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

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**President's Message**

And the election results are in! Congratulations to Paul Veenstra – KC0TEG for winning the election for Activities Manager for FY2012. I hope everyone will support Paul in this new role, as you would the other officers, as we proceed with club plans and activities to come.

The club has spoken! The Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club Information Net (RCARC Info Net) has been rebooted. Version 2.0 is scheduled to start on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. The restructure will change the net to meet monthly on the Tuesday before the regular business meeting of each month. I hope that with this more realistic approach, we will have more of you participating. Come on! Check in and tell us what's new with you.

Gadgets are always fun to have. The club has received some new gadgets from one of the IR&D programs here at Rockwell Collins in Richardson. A new Kenwood TH-D7A Handy Talkie as well as a Kenwood TM-D700A dual band mobile transceiver has been added to our club inventory. The executive board will have to decide what to do with them, but I have an idea that we can get our weather station online with the mobile rig, since it has a built-in TNC. Although the radios are in custodianship of our club for our use, the donators would like to keep the door open for future IR&D projects, if this equipment is needed.

The Meals on Wheels event was a success this Thanksgiving near downtown Dallas at the Visiting Nurses Association meals preparation building. We helped serve over 3000 meals by directing several hundred cars through the pick-up lanes to deliver those meals on Thanksgiving Day. We started around 7:30am and were heading home by 9:45am. There is another chance for you to come out and help on Monday, Dec 26<sup>th</sup>. My wife, Amy, and I will be out there on that day helping to direct traffic. To join us, contact Dave Patrick at [w7dav1@gmail.com](mailto:w7dav1@gmail.com) in order to get more information and sign up. You will need a safety vest. The Rockwell Collins Clubs and Leagues Board (RCCLB) held their FY2012 funds distribution meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:15pm. The teleconference covered the dissection of funds from RCI to the various clubs and leagues across the company, who are represented through the RCCLB. Our club has also been included in this meeting, of late. Much to my delight, we are told to expect a check for the \$6,400.00 we asked for in order to fund the projects for fiscal year 2012.

The RCARC Christmas Party was a lot of fun, as we had over 30 participants join in the festivities. We had some door prizes and a White Elephant gift exchange. The highlight of the party was looking at photos and hearing a discussion about the B-29 project, as several members were able to look over the equipment for a possible future club project. What was, for some, a highlight, was boring to

others; namely some of the ladies who gathered in the front living room to get away from all the B-29 chatter. There was plenty of food and fun, in any case. Thanks to everyone for coming out and sharing in the party.

Please read the article in this newsletter about the B-29 project. Our club has been asked to consider a role in this project. As a result, I have appointed Bob Kirby – K3NT, to be Chairman of a special committee of the club to address this project. This special committee will look into feasibility, resource planning and execution of the work that will be needed to install, maintain and operate a donated ART-13 / ATC HF radio system in the last flying Boeing B-29 Superfortress. This B-29, "FiFi", is operated by the Commemorative Air Force out of the Addison Airport, here in North Texas. This is a major project in joint cooperation with many entities, including those in Cedar Rapids, with the goal to preserve a piece of Collins history. Our club is fortunate to be asked to support this project. We could not pass up this opportunity. Because of his connections to the major entities involved, his experience with military radios and his past leadership in the club, I have asked Bob to head up this very important committee. I would ask everyone to fully cooperate with Bob in this endeavor, as you are able.

I would also like to welcome Louis Escobar to the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club. He is the newest member to join and has been interested in Ham Radio for many years, as well as involved in antenna design here at Rockwell Collins. He will be a great asset to our club. So, I would like to ask everyone, as they get a chance, to meet him and welcome him to the club.

I want to wish all of you and your family a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. As we head into this New Year, I hope we will make lots of new friends, have plenty of QSOs and have a great time together as a club. Remember our goals are to have FUN, SHARE KNOWLEDGE with each other and to participate together in SYNERGY to make bigger accomplishments in this wonderful hobby of ours.

Michael Ketchum  
K5MDK  
RCARC President

## Secretary's Report 27 October 2011

There is no Secretary's Report this month. The minutes from the November 2011 meeting will be in the January 2012 *Signals*.

**Work Party Cancelled** At the advice of the Richardson Facilities Team and some of our members, Paul Veenstra - KC0TEG, our Club Activities Manager, and I have

cancelled the Club Work Party this Tuesday, Dec 27th. The water will be turned off to the buildings for most of that day. We will try to schedule a new work party soon.

**Station Orientation Session** In place of the Work Party, I am pleased to announce a W5ROK Station Orientation session for Friday, December 30th 0900 till 1200 in order to provide an opportunity for club members to come and get instruction on the equipment in the W5ROK station. We will be covering the antenna switching system, HF radio operation, various modes of operation, such as Phone, CW and PSK-31 and administrative topics, such as logging and protocol for using the station equipment safely. Bob Kirby - K3NT and I will be leading this event.

If you are not comfortable or confident in using the club station, this is a great opportunity to change all of that. Please make plans to come out for this orientation.

**IMPORTANT: RSVP** will be needed in order to plan space and to customize the topics. If you are planning to attend this orientation, please respond to me with your intent to attend. Contact Michael Ketchum - K5MDK at (972) 408-6573 or via email at [k5mdk@arrl.net](mailto:k5mdk@arrl.net).

Thank you for your patience as we make these last minute changes to our activities. If you have other ideas for activities that you would be interested in, please feel free to write or call me. *(Written by Michael Ketchum, K5MDK)*

**Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club Information Net** The W5ROK NET meets each month. The following are the particulars:

<b>WHAT WHEN</b>	Information Net - <b>RCARCIN</b> Tuesday prior to regular club meeting at 19:00 CST <i>(Note that this is a change)</i>
<b>WHERE WHO</b>	W5ROK Repeater 441.875+ PL 131.8Hz Everyone and anyone.
<b>FORMAT</b>	(a) announcements (b) Swap (c) Check-in plus updates.

The format provides club and local announcements of interest to Amateur Radio, a swap net time as well as personal updates from net participants regarding their experiences in the hobby. All suggestions for content and format are welcomed. *(Written by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)*

**Meals on Wheels** Plano Amateur Radio Klub is assisting the Meals On Wheels in Dallas at the Visiting Nurses Association - 1414 Mockingbird Lane Dallas, TX. on Monday, **Dec 26th at 7:30am**. The event should be finished up by 10:15am or earlier. All you need is a safety vest (orange or yellow) and an HT for simplex operation. To get more info or to sign-up, send email to David Patrick at [w7dav1@gmail.com](mailto:w7dav1@gmail.com).

**Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club in Richardson, Texas to support B-29 historical project: Collins ART-13/ATC Radio Equipment installation into Commemorative Air Force B-29 "FiFi"** A group of volunteers from the Collins Amateur Radio Club in Cedar Rapids, IA, the Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club and the **Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club in Richardson, TX**, are combining efforts to preserve the legacy of the Collins ART-13 / ATC Radio Transmitter by installing a restored museum exhibit into a working B-29 in Addison, TX.

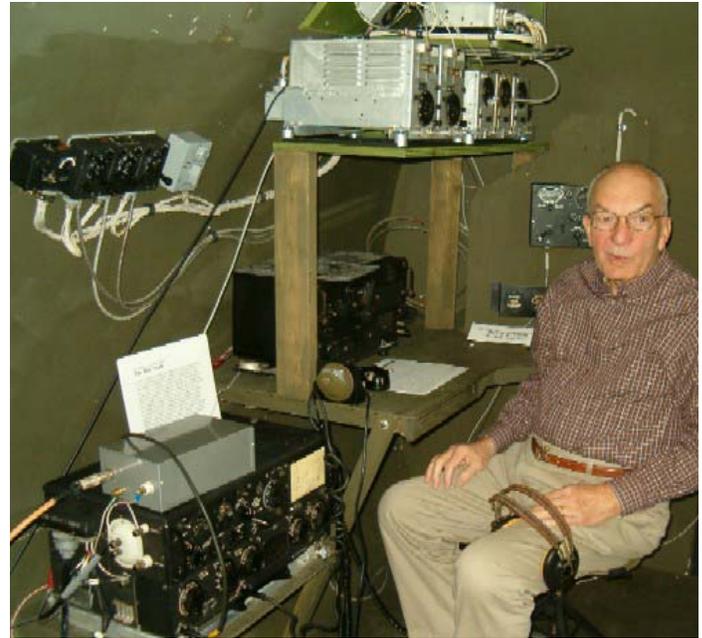
The story begins with members of Cedar Valley Amateur Radio Club and Collins Amateur Radio Club in Cedar Rapids, IA, along with many other volunteers who worked tirelessly to bring W0CXX/29 to life for the special event on Saturday, February 19, 2005. They were plagued by a continuous succession of small problems, the combined mass of which conspired against running a viable special event operation - at least this time. They had some of the smartest RF people trying to bring things to life, including Jules (KW0Y), Rod (K0DAS), Steve (WA6GFD), Bill (N4VMY), and Steve (KB4DMF). Problems included local RF noise, antenna difficulty, and minor equipment and interconnect difficulty.

From the local activity perspective, they had a successful and happy day, with many local operators coming over to lend a hand, visit with WWII B-29 Radio Man Clyde Hussey, and learn more about the B-29 bombers. The History Center reported about 100 people coming through the doors on Saturday.



*Figure 1 - KW0Y and N4VMY study the schematic with their combined 100+ years RF*

Since the museum piece has been used as a special events station in 2005, a new effort has been spawned to install this same radio system into a working B-29 Bomber.



*Figure 2 - Clyde, KM4RC, back in his old seat.*



*Figure 3 - Jules (KW0Y), Rod (K0DAS), Lee (WT0D), and Bruce (WA3AFS) do a quick checkup of the BC-348. They pronounce it healthy.*

America produced well over 100,000 aircraft during World War II, including many heavy bombers. In the years following the war, many of these aircraft were scrapped. In 1957, the Commemorative Air Force was founded to save these rare aircraft. In the over fifty years since the founding of the CAF, the organization has grown from one airplane and a handful of members to over 150 aircraft and 8,000 members around the world. One of the organization's heavy bombers is the Boeing B-29 Superfortress. The Superfortress "FiFi" is the only B-29 in the world that flies today.



Photo courtesy National Archives of the United States

Figure 4 - The B-29 is most well-known for two missions that occurred in August 1945, the missions flown over Hiroshima and Nagasaki that lead to the end of World War II.



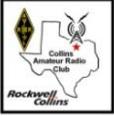
Photo courtesy National Museum of the U.S. Air Force

Figure 5 - The first flight of the B-29 occurred on 30 December 1942. Extensive changes and modifications were made during the development of the aircraft before it entered service in April of 1944.

**W5ROK**

**Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club**

[www.w5rok.us](http://www.w5rok.us)



Enter **Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club** in Richardson, TX. Since the CAF B-29 "FiFi" is stationed in nearby Addison, Texas, the RCARC has been asked to participate in the installation, operation, and regular maintenance of the radio gear being donated (including the Collins ART-13 / ATC) in cooperation with the Commemorative Air Force. This is a special honor that has been bestowed upon the club of 67 members. Stay tuned to the club events and news letter on their web site at [www.w5rok.us](http://www.w5rok.us) for more details as they develop on this special project.

**The voice of thousands of Navy fliers**



THE COLLINS ATC Autotune transmitter is regulation equipment for most two-place and larger types of Navy aircraft. It is the military successor of Collins airborne Autotune transmitters which were adopted by several of the great commercial airlines years before the war. Since Japan struck, the Navy has ordered many thousands. In advanced design and rugged construction, today's ATC reflects the lessons of war learned in every quarter of the world. It is a foretaste of the reliability and efficiency to be expected of Collins by commercial and private users after victory. Collins Radio Company, Cedar Rapids, Iowa; 11 West 42nd Street, New York 18, N. Y.

**SKYWARN Training** Please mark your calendars. The 2012 SKYWARN training session for Collin County is fast approaching.

When: January 21, 2012  
 Sign-In: 8:00 to 8:30  
 Program: 8:30-4:00 with a lunch break  
 Where: Collin College - Conference Center  
 2800 E Spring Creek Parkway  
 Plano, TX 75074  
<http://g.co/maps/a6tzk>.

See the flyer on page 7 of this newsletter.

**Monday Ham Lunch in Plano**

**WHEN:** Each Monday at 11:30 AM.  
**WHERE:** El Fenix in Plano on the north bound service road of US 75 just a few hundred feet north of Plano Parkway.  
**WHO:** Lots of new and long time hams from the DFW area. Sometimes visitors from other call districts

We sit at a large table in a back room that is better for those arriving at different times. We normally stay from 11:30 AM until 1:00 PM or later, so if you can't get there at 11:30 you can arrive late and we will still be there.

## Radio Days Are Back: Ham Radio Licenses at an All-Time High

By Michelle Macaluso Published November 22, 2011  
FoxNews.com



The newest trend in American communication isn't another smartphone from Apple or Google but one of the elder statesmen of communication: Ham radio licenses are at an all time high, with over 700,000 licenses in the US, according to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Ham radio first took the nation by storm nearly a hundred years ago. Last month the FCC logged 700,314 licenses, with nearly 40,000 new ones in the last five years. Compare that with 2005 when only 662,600 people hammed it up and you'll see why the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) -- the authority on all things ham -- is calling it a "golden age."



Nov. 16, 2011: Joe Carcia mans the mic at W1AW at the American Radio Relay League HQ in Newington, CT.

"Over the last five years we've had 20-25,000 new hams a year," Allen Pitts, a spokesman for the group, told FoxNews.com.

The unusual slang term -- a "ham" is more properly known as an amateur radio operator -- described a poor operator when the first wireless operators started out in the early 1900s. At that time, government and coastal ships would have to compete with amateurs for signal time, because stations all battled for the same radio wavelength. Frustrated commercial operators called the amateurs "hams" and complained that they jammed up the signal.

People like John Pritchett have used the slang term ever since. "It takes an inquisitive mind that wants the challenge to speak with the rest of the world," Pritchett told FoxNews.com. "I meet a lot of people as a result [of] amateur radio. It's a fascinating experience to meet somebody who you've talked to for years -- when you finally meet them and go, wow, that's you."

Pritchett has been a ham for over 35 years. He sits in his ham shack slowly turning the dial on his amateur radio and listening attentively for a voice through the high radio frequency. But he's not looking for aliens: Pritchett is dialing in to make contact with someone around the world.

"W6JWK, This is John in Fresno, California," he says. Pritchett can communicate with people around the globe or even astronauts in space by talking through his microphone or using Morse code.

With more people joining the hobby, local ham radio businesses are growing as well. Amateur Electronics Supply in Las Vegas sells everything to do with ham radios, from transceivers, amplifiers and antennas to handhelds.

"We have clientele from all walks of life," manager Luke Rohn told FoxNews.com. "We have church groups who are interested in ham radio for viable communication in times of natural disaster. We have young kids that find ham radio interesting. Maybe they've heard about it through their father and grandfather and it's a lot of fun for them."

According to the ARRL, retirees and emergency groups are among the main reasons for the nearly 30,000 new hams that pick up the hobby each year.

Ham is a boon for [public] safety as well as a fun pastime: When normal communications methods fail and cellphone towers are jammed, ham radios will still work and can help out in disaster situations, because they don't require towers to relay the signal.

"Amateur radio came into play very much during the major earthquake in the Bay Area in 1989. The only thing I had was a little handheld radio. Nothing else worked, telephones didn't work, cellphones didn't work, amateur radio just kept right on working," Pritchett said.

Looking to ham it up a bit with some friends? Try a fox hunt -- the radio equivalent of ham-to-ham combat. In a fox hunt, local amateur radio clubs search for a transmitter (called the fox) using their homemade antennas.

"The fox hunting is really fun -- the thrill of the chase, the competition of being the first to find the transmitter," said Rob Mavis, president of the Clovis Amateur Radio Pioneers club in Clovis, Calif.

Ham radio is inexpensive fun, as well: All you need is a couple hundred bucks to get started and a FCC license -- which is free, but requires a \$10 to \$12 fee for expenses.

So join the latest craze -- no iPhone app required.

*(Article courtesy of FoxNews.com. The link to this article was contributed by Don Bowen, K5LHO)*



## COLLIN COUNTY SKYWARN TRAINING SATURDAY JANUARY 21, 2012



Spotter training is conducted annually  
by the National Weather Service  
The conference is free; and open to the public

### Who are SKYWARN storm spotters?

Amateur radio operators make up the backbone of the SKYWARN spotter network. In some communities and counties, law enforcement and fire officials serve effectively as storm spotters. Public utilities workers, electric and telephone crews, and city/county/school employees may also serve as storm spotters, along with interested members of the general public. This is an excellent opportunity to have your law enforcement, fire, dispatchers, city/county workers, Community Emergency Response Teams, and interested citizens trained in how to spot severe weather in your community.

Collin College  
Spring Creek Campus  
Conference Center  
2800 E. Spring Creek Parkway  
Plano, TX 75074  
For information contact  
Collin.TX.ARES@gmail.com

Please pre-register at  
<http://tinvurl.com/Collin-County-TX-SKYWARN-2012>

Sign language Interpreters will be  
provided for the Deaf and Hard  
of Hearing

### Agenda

Subject to change

- |             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 8:00–8:30   | Sign in/Exhibits   |
| 8:30–8:35   | Welcome  |
| 8:35–9:00   | CBS–11   |
| 9:00–9:45   | Basic Spotter Talk Part 1                                    |
| 9:45–10:00  | Break  |
| 10:00–11:00 | Basic Spotter Talk Part 2                                    |
| 11:00–11:30 | Collin ARES/ Spotter Operations                              |
| 11:30–12:45 | Lunch on your own  |
| 12:45–2:00  | Importance of Effective<br>Communication during Weather Nets |
| 2:00–3:00   | Advanced Spotter Talk Part 1                                 |
| 3:00–3:15   | Break  |
| 3:15–4:30   | Advanced Spotter Talk Part 2                                 |



# Rockwell-Collins

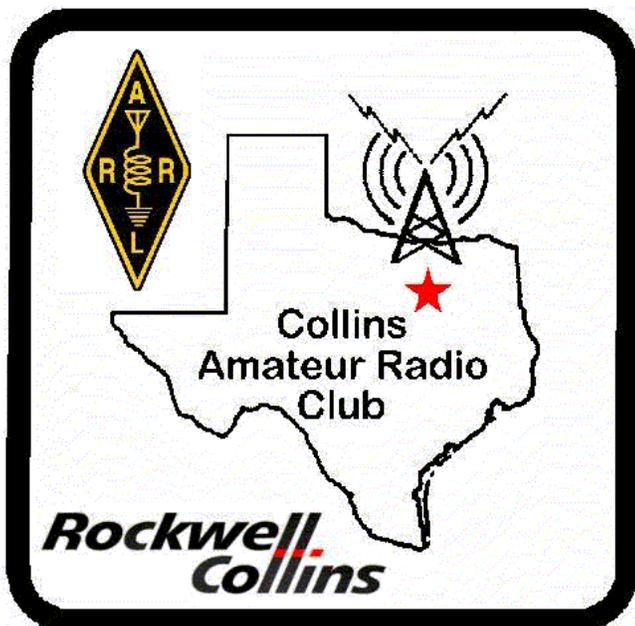
Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



### CLUB STATIONS

(972) 705-1349

#### W5ROR REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input

131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

#### W5ROR-1 PACKET BBS ROR Node

145.01 MHz

W5ROR-N1, W5ROR-N2 & W5ROR-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Thursday, 26 January 2012

1700 Social

1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

*Second Floor Conference Room 200*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 15 January 2012 ←←←**