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# SIGNALS

**Rockwell  
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

**Amateur Radio Club**

Volume 39 Issue 05

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

February 2018

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 February 2018  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

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

**Subject:**

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

**Crime Watch Patrol** Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in Richardson Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP). CWP members, after successful completion of Richardson Police Department Training, patrol their neighborhoods and report all suspicious activities to the Police Department.

### New Ham has New Vanity Call

Just last month my son Andy got his Technician license, with call sign KE0PRW. Then he immediately applied for and got a vanity call: WA0UNI. It was issued on my birthday (in honor of his "old man"). Notice the similarity to the call sign of anyone else you know?

### Skinner, James A, WA0UNI

Previous call sign: KE0PRW  
Licensee ID: L02155348  
License Class: Technician  
FRN: 0027141852  
Radio Service: HV  
Issue Date: 01/30/2018  
Expire Date: 01/30/2028  
Date of Last Change: 01/30/2018 (License Issued)

*(Contributed by Jim Skinner WB0UNI)*

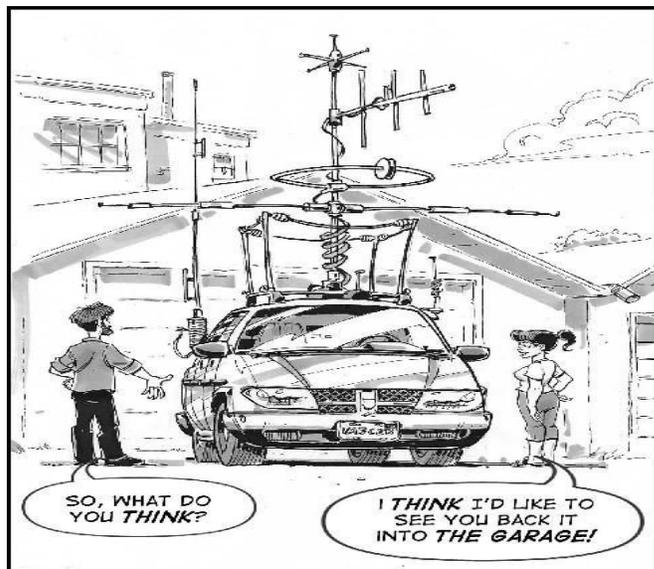
## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

The program for the February meeting was not finalized at the time of the newsletter publication. Come to the meeting on 27 February and enjoy whatever it is. And be sure to wear your club shirt or if you don't have a shirt, the meeting will be a great time to order yours.

### RCARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 7 February 2018. At least 8 of the 25 sirens malfunctioned, including all UTD antennas. Most of those that were operational were late starting. The siren testing is performed at 12:00 on the first Wednesday of each month. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater.



**RCARC OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Gene Duprey 319.270.8159 <a href="mailto:geneduprey2015@gmail.com">geneduprey2015@gmail.com</a>	K1GD	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> <b>AVAILABLE</b>	
<b>SECRETARY</b> Jim Brown 972.495.2209 <a href="mailto:jhksbrown@verizon.net">jhksbrown@verizon.net</a>	AF5MA	<b>TREASURER</b> Mike Montgomery 972.705.1498 <a href="mailto:dmmontgo@rockwellcol-">dmmontgo@rockwellcol-</a>	WD5TX
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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**

I hope everyone had a great month. I just got back from a trip to Iowa and photographing bald eagles. Not much else for me, except at last month's meeting we held a quick election vote which resulted in my being elected as the RCARC President. We are actively looking for a club treasurer. This job is not really hard, so if you would like to help out, please let us know so we can fill this position. That is all I have for now, but I hope to see you all at this month's 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

23 Jan 2018

Vice President Gene Duprey K1GD called the meeting to order at 1739.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Bob Coulbourne	W4FTD
Gene Duprey	K1GD
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
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:

None.

### New Business:

Gene Duprey K1GD advised that Rockwell Collins (Cedar Rapids) has requested a club budget for the current fiscal year, along with a request for needed funding. It was agreed that this would be a topic for next month's meeting; members were encouraged to come with recommendations for needed refurbishment or enhancements to the club facilities.

It was announced that Ham-Com 2018 will be held in Plano from 8 to 10 June.

Mike Schmitt WA9WCC, last year's club president, who has continued on in an acting capacity, announced his retirement from Rockwell Collins. This prompted a brief discussion on election of officers for the current year. John McFadden K5TIP nominated Gene Duprey to serve as president. This was seconded by Jim Brown AF5MA, and approved by unanimous vote of the members present. Remaining officer positions, all currently filled in an acting capacity, will be addressed at the next meeting.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1817.

## The Old Man and the Paper Boy, Part 3

Copyright 2009 by Scott B. Laughlin/n7net

*This is the last in a three-part series submitted by Scott, N7NET. Thank you, Scott...*

Jack was not impressed with the Secret Code Ring. And Jim sensed that winning Jack's confidence would not be easy. He would have to try harder.

He knew fewer Morse characters than he'd thought. But Jack's teaching method made it come easy. Theory, however, was difficult. There were frequencies and band plans

he had to memorize, and some of the math was beyond his comprehension.

"Jim, you're going to be ready for your novice test next week, and I have every reason to believe you'll pass it with flying colors." "Really?" "Absolutely. You've done well and I think the two of us should have a small celebration. Ask your mother if she would object to the two of us going to a donut shop Saturday morning before you begin your paper route." "She wouldn't care," said Jim, his eyes gleaming. "Well, I don't know that for sure. I don't want to get us into trouble. You ask her anyway." That evening Jim stopped by on his way home from school for code practice. Before they began he said, "Mom wants to know which donut shop." "Tell her we'll go to Nancy's Bakery a few blocks from your house. I'll pick you a half hour before you have to start your paper delivery."

"I spoke with Jim's mother at the book club meeting yesterday," said Millie at breakfast. "She said that since this radio business started she seldom sees her son. If he's not doing homework, he's at school, on his paper route, or on the radio. "Do you suppose we're becoming too involved?" "I don't think so. What would you do different?" "We're not strapped, you know. We could find a way to help financially so he wouldn't have to deliver papers." Jack shook his head. "No. He needs the paper route. "It's not easy for his mother to make ends meet, you know." "I don't suppose it is, but a polished apple is sweeter," said Jack. Millie didn't argue, but Jack could see that she wasn't totally convinced.

That evening two radio operators arrived and administered Jim's novice test. When it was finished, Jim had only to await the arrival of his license before he could start operating with his own call.

"Had you thought about how you could give back for the amateur radio privileges you now enjoy?" "I don't have anything to give." "Yes, you do. You have time. One evening each week you could give an hour to a traffic net, maybe even become a net control operator." Jim listened but made no comment, so Jack didn't press the issue.

Saturday morning Jim was alone in the radio room when Millie called up the stairway announcing that she and Jack would be out for a time checking on a rental house they owned. They'd left him unsupervised several times before and everyone was comfortable with it, but she called up the stairway with a reminder, just the same: "If you decide to leave be sure to turn the power off and lock the front door behind you." "Okay."

The house was quiet and Jim began tuning across the novice portion of the 40-meter band when he came across someone sending a weak distress signal. SOS SOS SOS DE SALLY DEE SOS SOS SOS. Rotating his antenna, he determined that the signal was originating in the north, but he had no idea how far away. He brought the transmitter on frequency and adjusted the maximum power his novice license allowed. When the station paused Jim responded with his call, but after he stopped sending he discovered

they had not heard him. He'd watched Jack adjust the power. But doing so would exceed his power limitations. He knew that would be okay if he were the one in trouble, but he wasn't sure if answering the call justified boosting the power. He decided to take a chance and increased his output another twenty watts. But it did no good. Then he remembered a list of telephone numbers taped to the side of the desk. He found a number for the Coast Guard and dialed it. "United States Coast Guard," said a voice over the phone "Is this where I report a SOS signal?" "Standby." While Jim waited he could hear voices in the background and then footsteps. "This is Ensign Bradley. Give me your name and the phone number from which you're calling and then tell me about the signal you monitored. After Jim reported what he knew, Ensign Bradley assured him that someone was already on the frequency. When their conversation was concluded Jim turned his attention back to the radio and tried to copy the exchange, but the code was much too fast and he recognized only a few characters. Eventually, he shut down the power and went home.

"Hello," said Jack, pressing the telephone receiver to his ear the following afternoon. "Hi, this is Ensign Bradley of the United States Coast Guard." After he'd verified the number he asked if Jim Cornwell was in. "No, I imagine he's still in school. Is there something I can help you with?" "Well, I thought he might like to know the outcome of yesterday's episode." "What episode are you referring to?" "Oh. I thought you knew about the distress signal he reported to us yesterday. His prompt action may have saved the lives of three men in a disabled fishing boat off the coast of Alaska." "Let me get this straight. You're talking about young Jim Cornwell, the amateur radio operator?"

"Yes, I am. The boat initiating the call had lost power and it was dead in the water. They were on battery power and who knows how long that might have lasted?" "And Jim notified you folks?" "That he did. You should be proud of your son?" "Actually, he's my paperboy." "Oh, well, however he fits in there, he did a superb job." "Would you mind calling again about a quarter after five and speaking to him personally? He'll be here by then and I want him to hear this from you," said Jack. "I'll be glad to do that." Jack headed into the kitchen to bring Millie up to date. She smiled. "Last week I mentioned that he should consider some sort of public service as payback for his privilege of using the bands. But he was reluctant, so I let it drop." "Maybe he's a little overwhelmed and feels unqualified," suggested Millie. "That might be the case, but he certainly handled this situation like a pro." A knock at the door sounded and Millie went through the living room to let Jim in. He joined them at the table and Jack could see by his somber expression that something on his mind. Before Jim could speak the telephone rang. "Hello," said Jack. "Yes, he's right here. It's for you, Jim." "Me?" "It's the Coast Guard."

Jim froze. Who had told them that he had violated the conditions of his license by exceeding his power limit, he wondered? Reluctantly, he took the phone. While he was on the

phone Jack and Millie went to their bedroom and fetched a key. Then they moved to the living room and took a seat on the sofa. After a few minutes Jim appeared in the doorway. "Yesterday, while you were both gone I heard a SOS on 40-meters. It was coming from a boat called the Sally Dee." "We heard. You did well." "Really?" "Absolutely. You conducted yourself in the true spirit of amateur radio. We think you've earned the privileges that would ordinarily be extended only to a grandson," Jack said, reaching into his shirt pocket. "This key is to the front door. Anytime your mother says it's okay, let yourself in whether we're home or not." "Are you serious?" "Absolutely."

*(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)*

## Texas State Parks on the Air (TSPOTA)

*(From an email from Ken Rainey AC5EZ)*

My name is Ken and my call sign is AC5EZ, a member of the Lake Area Amateur Radio Klub, LAARK (<https://www.k5lrk.com/>), in The Colony, Texas. Club call is K5LRK. LAARK is, once again, sponsoring the Texas State Parks on the Air contest this year. If you are not familiar with the TSPOTA contest I invite you to visit <http://www.TSPOTA.org> for complete rules and park activation information. But first, let me give you a brief overview of TSPOTA.

TSPOTA is an annual event that takes place on the second full weekend in April, *(except when Easter falls on the second weekend, then the contest is moved to the first weekend of April)*. This year it will be April 7-8, 2018. TSPOTA is a low pressure, fun contest, designed to give Texas hams that have been house bound during the winter, a chance to go to a local state park and make a few contacts. It is a great opportunity to check out your radio gear and enjoy a little sunshine in the park.

The purpose of this email is twofold. First is to familiarize you with TSPOTA, and second to try to encourage your club to join us in this event. And maybe, convince your club to activate a park.

Thanks for your time and I hope to hear you on TSPOTA. If you don't mind, [please] forward this email to your club members.

You may contact any one of these TSPOTA committee members if you need more information.

73, Ken, AC5EZ

Contact Information:

TSPOTA Information [info@tspota.org](mailto:info@tspota.org)

Ken Rainey, AC5EZ [ac5ez.tx@arrl.net](mailto:ac5ez.tx@arrl.net)

Ken Mitchell, KD2KW [kd2kw@yahoo.com](mailto:kd2kw@yahoo.com)

Tim Curtiss, KC5DCT [kc5dct@arrl.net](mailto:kc5dct@arrl.net)

*(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)*

## 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

### MARCH

**3-4 International DX—Phone** Objective: To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations.

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

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

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

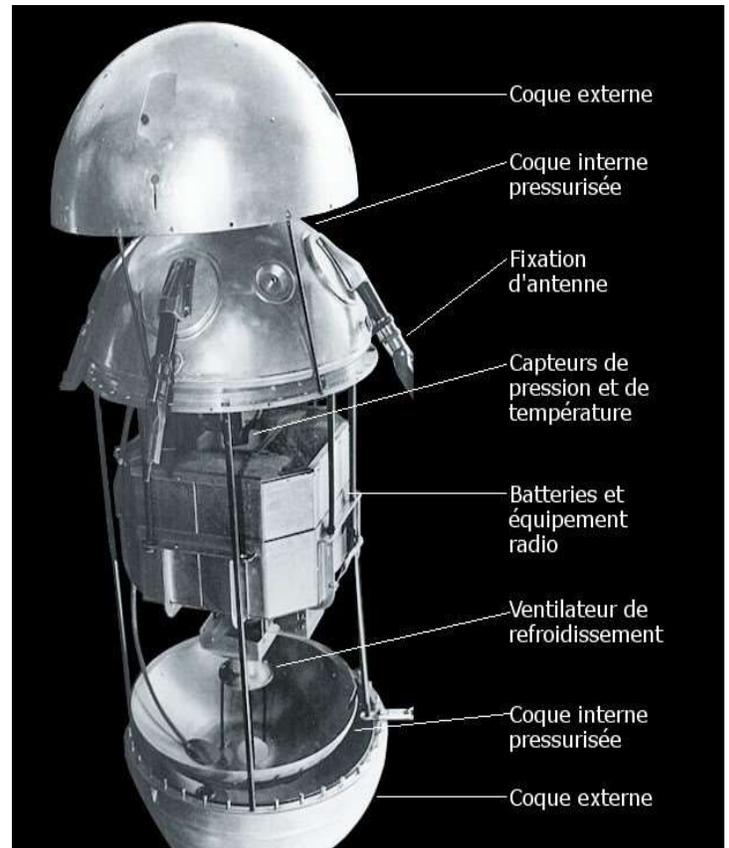
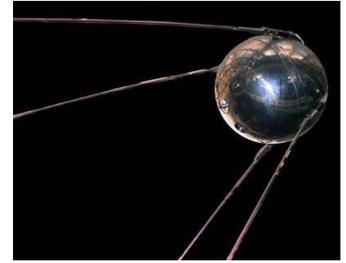
### APRIL

**15 Rookie Roundup—Phone** Mission: 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.

Objective: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read “[HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions.](#)”

The event runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at <http://www.arri.org/rookie-roundup>.

is traveling, perhaps by accident or coincidence, on a long voyage or journey. Sputnik 1 contained a simple radio transmitter that broadcast a beeping signal. The spacecraft marked the dawn of space utilization and exploration. Sputnik 1 weighed 184 pounds.



The Soviet Union launched it into an elliptical low earth orbit on 4 October 1957. It was a 58cm (23in) diameter polished metal sphere, with four external radio antennas to broadcast radio pulses. Its radio signal was easily detectable even by radio amateurs, and the 65° inclination and duration of its orbit made its flight path cover virtually the entire inhabited Earth. This surprise success precipitated the American Sputnik crisis and triggered the space race, a part of the Cold War. The launch ushered in new political, military, technological, and scientific developments.

Tracking and studying Sputnik 1 from Earth provided scientists with valuable information, even though the satellite wasn't equipped with sensors. The density of the upper atmosphere could be deduced from its drag on the orbit, and the propagation of its radio signals gave data about the ionosphere.

*(Reprinted courtesy of the Sachse Amateur Radio Association newsletter)*

## SPUTNIK TURNS 60

60 years ago, the Soviet Union launched Sputnik 1, Earth's first artificial satellite. The word "sputnik" is a Russian term for a "fellow traveler." It refers to a person with whom one

# Rockwell-Collins

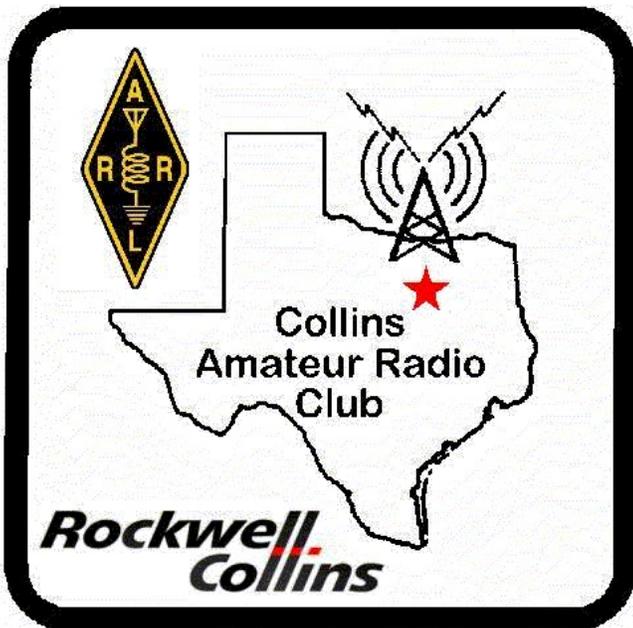
Amateur Radio Club

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 27 February 2018**  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting

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

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