

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 January 2021 7:00 PM
NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

**THE January 2021 MEETING WILL BE
CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE!**

Annual Show and Tell

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT - JANUARY 2021

The January 26, 2021 meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club will be "Show & Tell" Night. Several of our members (and a guest) will present short poster sessions describing a gadget, document, resource or tip that they've found useful in ham radio. There's still space for one or two more presenters, so if you have a tip or trick or some new device or software, let Kerry Weeks know ASAP at weeks.kerry@gmail.com.



The CARC January meeting will once again be held via Zoom from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Zoom "doors" will open around 6:30 p.m. for attendees to socialize and adjust audio and video settings. Zoom login info will be sent via email the weekend prior to the meeting. Meeting announcements are sent from our Ham Club Online account, so if you have tight spam filtering set, please add hamclubonline.net to your authorized list of emails or add @hamclubonline.net to your address book so Club announcements get through.

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The January test was cancelled due to "unstable" weather. 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. Bob Jones, W5BJ, and Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, were on tap to help with the City of Garland

siren test on Wednesday, January 6th, but the test was called off due to weather. The Garland Siren Tests are coordinated on the K5QHD, 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.



We're trying to finalize our order to the Sign Man of Baton Rouge for the new CARC Badges (see sample above). The badges are a benefit of being a CARC Member.

If you haven't responded to the email sent recently, please send an email as soon as possible to krizan@arrl.net and include the following:

- 1. Desired Name for the Badge**
- 2. Your full Name**
- 3. Your Call Sign**
- 4. Your mailing address**

If you've already responded, then, you're all set. We hope to have the badges in hand in early 2021. The badges will be mailed to each member.

CARC OFFICERS	
PRESIDENT Frank Krizan KR1ZAN 214-563-6679 kr1zan@arrl.net	VICE-PRESIDENT Bill Swan K5MWC 972-529-3906 bill@swanshome.net
SECRETARY Jim Brown AF5MA 972.495.2209 jhsbrown@verizon.net	TREASURER Rohan Thomas KG5RCN 972.697.3512 Rohan7066@yahoo.com
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN Kerry Weeks K5WKS 214-478-3230 weeks.kerry@gmail.com	WEBSITE MANAGER Mike Hollingsworth W5QH 972.571.6060 w5qh@arrl.net
STATION TRUSTEE Bob Kirby K3NT 214.478.3230 k3nt@arrl.net	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jim Skinner WB0UNI 214.535.5264 wb0uni@arrl.net
MEMBERSHIP Bill Swan K5MWC 972-529-3906 bill@swanshome.net	N5CXX CLUB STATION 972.705.1349 461-290

VE SESSIONS

Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC) Test sessions take place on fourth Tuesdays, immediately following the regular CARC monthly membership meeting (about 7:30 p.m.). The test sessions are held in Conference Room A of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center, at the Bush/Renner/Shiloh intersection in Richardson. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's best to register with the lead examiner, Kerry Weeks, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com or by phone at (214) 478-3230. **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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 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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The Prez Sez

with KR1ZAN

Welcome to 2021! I fully expect this will be a transitional year for our club. We will continue to meet via Zoom, but I anticipate that sometime during the year we'll return to in-person meetings and gatherings. We're somewhat at the mercy of the company regarding our routine access to the Club station in building 461, but it would seem natural that such access could resume mid-year.



This is YOUR CLUB. What programs and activities would you like to see conducted? The officers of the Club aren't mind-readers (thank goodness), so I once again issue an appeal to make your opinions known. The list of club officers and their email addresses is shown on the Club's web site (www.n5cxx.us). Send your thoughts, comments and criticisms to whichever officer you are most comfortable talking with.

Special Zoom sessions will be announced during January and February to which all members are invited as a forum to give your opinions and ask questions about the future of the Club. Join in whenever you can, if even for a few minutes to express your views.

The CARC Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on January 12, 2021 with all members of the board in attendance. There were no others in attendance. Here's a summary of the board meeting:

1. The progress of the new club badge order was discussed. Five members have not responded to numerous requests for confirmation of their badge name and mailing address. Assignments were given to officers to attempt contact in person and via phone to confirm this information. As soon as this is accomplished, Jim Brown, AF5MA, will place

the order. Once the badges are received from the Sign Man of Baton Rouge, Jim will arrange to mail the badges to members.

2. The CARC operating and major projects budgets were approved in November 2020. "Champions" are needed to handle the various tasks. Officers were asked if they wanted to act as project leaders for any of the projects. Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, volunteered to handle the generator/power distribution project. This project is pending funding approval from the Collins Aerospace Clubs and Leagues Board (CACLB). Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, volunteered to handle the PBBS transceiver replacement project in conjunction with Steve Phillips, K6JT.
3. The projects associated with the Club station (KPA-500 amp repair, power meter for K3 and additional lightning arrester) were designated as deferred until the Covid restrictions at the plant are lifted.
4. Suggestions were made for members who should be approached to lead the two major portable station projects: The HF go kit with associated antennas and VHF/UHF go kit with associated antennas. Leadership will involve documentation of the go-kit/EmCom design philosophy, design of the go kit, ordering equipment and materials, assembling and testing the go kit, and preparing standard operating procedures for storage, maintenance, use and training.
5. If you are interested in being champion of a particular project or working on a team, contact kr1zan@arrl.net to discuss.
6. The CACLB Funding Request for 2021 was submitted in mid-December and was the same as discussed at the Annual Meeting in November. The status of the funding approval is unknown as of January 12, 2021.
7. Inventory of the Club station and repeater equipment was discussed. Because of the Covid restrictions at the plant, Jim and Frank will defer attempting to conduct this inventory until access is permitted. This inventory will allow a committee to review club-owned equipment and make recommendations for disposition of such.
8. There was also a discussion on how to dispose of obsolete/unwanted gear in the club station. A number of options were suggested which will be pursued when the inventory is scheduled.
9. Since the club station and now the planned HF and V/UHF go kits are created to support emergency communications, the question was raised about how CARC would actually support such communications on behalf of "served agencies." Bill Swan, K5MWC, volunteered to initiate development of an EMCOM Standard Operating Procedure and Plan

that addresses how CARC would become a recognizable and viable element of EMCOM at the company, county, section and state level. This plan would tie in with a decision tree for quickly determining use and deployment of CARC equipment and volunteer operators.

10. The board discussed activities and programs for 2021. Winter Field Day will be promoted via a general emailing recommending that as many members as possible get on the air and give it a try. Unless someone steps up and organizes this event, we are not planning a Club entry.
11. Field Day in June 2021 is somewhat up in the air. The consensus of the board was that if a handful of members want to operate the Club station as in previous years, we would encourage that. Since we don't know the impact of Covid restrictions, the board felt that a combination of involvements in Field Day would be recommended: 1) Encourage members to operate from home, and, if the ARRL allows combining scores like in 2020, we would do that; and 2) Contact area clubs to determine if they would be interested in CARC staffing a shift (or two) at their stations, and/or CARC "championing" a complete station and crew to join in with their Field Day effort.
12. Also, if the Company holds its Annual Employee Fun Day in June (or another month), CARC would be in a better position to set up an HF and V/UHF station with our own generators for demonstrating ham radio.
13. There was quite a bit of discussion on the idea of creating and running a Special Event Station in conjunction with the other Collins locations. Perhaps this event could be associated with the anniversary of Collins Radio Company or the first moon landing in which Collins communications equipment was utilized. Frank will pursue setting up a Zoom session in the near future with as many other locations as possible to discuss such a plan.
14. Members are encouraged to suggest on-the-air activities, programs and other events which the entire Club could participate in. Send your ideas to our Activities Manager, Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com.

We're looking forward to a great year, with the hopes that in-person meetings can resume sooner rather than later. It's hoped that we can have some in-person activities, such as radio-in-the-park during the summer months.

Remember, the CARC Board meetings are open to all members. When you see the announcement for the meetings, if you wish to attend just click on the RSVP link and the Zoom login info will be sent to you.

73, Frank KR1ZAN

Vice President/Membership Chairman Report

The CARC did not add any new members during this reporting period. CARC did acknowledge the renewal of several members. It is important for the overall plans of the CARC to be accomplished that our members stay current by renewing their membership. If you have any question regarding your status and/or current expiration date, please get in touch with me and I will be happy to help.

Current Membership - 57

Full Members - 36

Associate Members - 13

Life Members - 8

The most current roster is posted on the Members Only portion of our Web site. If you need a Member ID and password for the Members Only portion you can contact Mike Hollingsworth at (C) 972-571-6060.

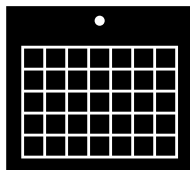
Secretary's Report

There is no Secretary's Report this month since there was no general membership meeting in December. The meeting was the annual Christmas dinner.

Activity Manager's Report

by Kerry Weeks, K5WKS

We kick off 2021 with our Annual "Show and Tell" program on Tuesday, January 26, 2021. The meeting will be held via Zoom with the login info being sent out prior to the meeting. We've already got several folks lined up to give 5- to 10-minute presentations on a product, something they've built, or a hint or trick. If you have something you'd like to share, send me a note to weeks.kerry@gmail.com or call me at (214) 478-3230 and we'll get you on the program. No formal presentation or slides are required, but, it's nice to show some photos. We can help you with the details of showing slides or photos via Zoom.



If you'd like to do a program in 2021 or have a suggestion for a program (either a topic or the name of a speaker), let me know. How about Operating Events — which ones do you think the Club should take part in? And, don't be shy about stepping up to organize our Club's involvement.

We've got a great group of presenters coming up in the new year including programs on microwave, DMR, station controls/automation and more. The Board of Directors has been discussing options for Field Day, and of course we hope things are somewhat back-to-normal so we can enjoy our annual Ice Cream Social in July.

New Collins Building Access Restrictions

Per Security, all "non-essential" access to Collins Aerospace facilities (including employee recreation activities) is shut-down until the Covid-19 pandemic is resolved. Anyone needing access to the Club Station must submit an email request to Security with an explanation of who, when and why access is needed, and the Security team will review, and if approved, the person will only be allowed access via the North Gate. For contact information, send an email to kr1zan@arri.net asking for Security contact information.

FYI—Until further notice, masks are now required inside all Collins buildings. Also, a temperature check is required before entering the property. During busy hours there is a manned tent near the north gate where the temperature check is performed. During off hours, there is a place at the north gate for a self-check.

Drive Home Net Report - JAN 2021

The Collins ARC Drive Home Net continues on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on the N5CXX Repeater 441.875 MHz, +5 MHz, PL=131.8 Hz. The Net is not held on the 4th Tuesday due to the monthly membership meeting (the exception is December when Net schedules work around the Christmas Dinner and Christmas Eve/Day).



All stations are invited to check-in, whether a member of CARC or not. The Net is informal, operating as a roundtable. Here's the log since last month:

December 15 - [6] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5MWC Bill; K5WKS Kerry; WB0UNI Jim; KA4CDC Greg; K5YO Clarence.

December 22 - [5] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5MWC Bill; K5CMO Brad; K5ANE Kane; WB0UNI Jim.

December 29 - [6] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5WKS Kerry; WB0UNI Jim; W5BJ Bob; K5MWC Bill; K5ANE Kane.

January 5 - [6] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; WB0UNI Jim; K5MWC Bill; K5YO Clarence; WB4GHY Steve; N1NEC Paul.

January 12 - [5] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; WB0UNI Jim; W5BJ Bob; KC5MVE Paul; AC5BC Bill.

The Drive Home Net is intended for comments on amateur radio topics, listing items for buy/trade/sell, asking questions or contacting others on frequency. We hope you'll give it a try soon. We've had some great conversations of late.

FCC Issues Enforcement Advisory: Radio Users Reminded Not to Use Radios in Crimes

On Sunday, January 17, 2021, those of us who are ARRL members received an interesting message from the League which left most folks wondering what prompted this. The message read:

ARRL on the Purpose of Amateur Radio

01/17/2021

For over 100 years amateur radio and [ARRL - the National Association for Amateur Radio®](#) - have stood for the development of the science and art of communications, public service, and the enhancement of international goodwill. Amateur Radio's long history and service to the public has solidified the well-earned reputation that "Amateur Radio saves lives."

Amateur Radio Operators, due to their history of public service, their training, and the requirement that they be licensed by the FCC have earned their status as a component of critical communications infrastructure and as a reliable resource "when all else fails."

Amateur Radio is about development of communications and responsible public service. Its misuse is inconsistent with its history of service and its statutory charter. ARRL does not support its misuse for purposes inconsistent with these values and purposes.

Looking at the ARRL web news, another news item cleared up the matter. It contained the full text of an advisory issued by the FCC.

FCC Issues Enforcement Advisory: Radio Users Reminded Not to Use Radios in Crimes

01/17/2021

The FCC has released an Enforcement Advisory for licensees and operators across radio services.

[Complete text of FCC Enforcement Advisory follows.]

FCC ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY

DA 21-73

Released: January 17, 2021

WARNING: AMATEUR AND PERSONAL RADIO SERVICES LICENSEES AND OPERATORS MAY NOT USE RADIO EQUIPMENT TO COMMIT OR FACILITATE CRIMINAL ACTS

The Enforcement Bureau (Bureau) of the Federal Communications Commission issues this Enforcement Advisory to remind licensees in the Amateur Radio Service, as well as licensees and operators in the Personal Radio Services, that the Commission prohibits the use of radios in those services to commit or facilitate criminal acts.

The Bureau has become aware of discussions on social media platforms suggesting that certain radio services regulated by the Commission may be an alternative to social media platforms for groups to communicate and coordinate future activities. The Bureau recognizes that these services can be used for a wide range of permitted purposes, including speech that is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. **Amateur and Personal Radio Services, however, may not be used to commit or facilitate crimes.**

Specifically, the Bureau reminds amateur licensees that they are prohibited from transmitting "communications intended to facilitate a criminal act" or "messages encoded for the purpose of obscuring their meaning." 47 CFR § 97.113(a)(4).

Likewise, individuals operating radios in the Personal Radio Services, a category that includes Citizens Band radios, Family Radio Service walkie-talkies, and General Mobile Radio Service, are prohibited from using those radios "in connection with any activity which is against Federal, State or local law." 47 CFR § 95.333(a).

Individuals using radios in the Amateur or Personal Radio Services in this manner may be subject to severe penalties, including significant fines, seizure of the offending equipment, and, in some cases, criminal prosecution. 47 U.S.C. §§ 401, 501, 503, 510.

Media inquiries should be directed to 202-418-0500 or MediaRelations@fcc.gov.

To file a complaint with the FCC, visit <https://consumercomplaints.fcc.gov> or call 1-888-CALL-FCC. To report a crime, contact your local law enforcement office or the FBI.

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to fcc504@fcc.gov or call the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice), (202) 418-0432 (TTY).



Issued by: Chief, Enforcement Bureau

Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK, the Section Manager of the ARRL North Texas Section, has recommended that if you intercept any illegal communications on amateur radio or other Personal Radio Services to send the information to him at kg5vk@arrl.org and he will expedite the info to the Director of the Volunteer monitoring service, Riley Hollingsworth. If the intercept includes anything of an urgent nature, the FCC recommends you contact your local police at 911 or contact the FBI (see <https://www.fbi.gov/contact-us/> for phone numbers and online forms).



Sporadic SIGNALS

...captured by

Frank KRIZAN

Greater Houston HamFest 2021 Cancelled--“With the current rise in COVID-19 infections over the last few weeks, the Board of Directors of Brazos Valley Amateur Radio Club, the sponsor of GHHF, have decided to cancel the 2021 event. The demographics of the amateur radio community is extremely vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19, and even if the event were held in an outside venue members of the amateur radio community could still be exposed. With this in mind, the Board of Directors cannot in good conscience hold an event that might expose anyone to the virus. The event will be rescheduled for March 4 and 5, 2022 so mark your calendars.”

The Board of Directors-Brazos Valley ARC

Unfortunately, several setbacks in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic make necessary the difficult decision to cancel Hamvention 2021. Hundreds of volunteers have been working to do everything necessary to bring this Hamvention to the many amateur radio enthusiasts and vendors who support the Dayton Hamvention.

Stay tuned for information about a QSO party for the 2021 Hamvention weekend. We are looking forward to the 2022 Hamvention!!! Executive Committee, Dayton Hamvention 2021 (www.hamvention.org)

And, while I'm on the subject of hamfests, most everyone has heard by now that HamCom announced it is closing up for good. BUT the embers in the fire-pit haven't gone out yet ... the Board of Directors of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub have been discussing the situation with the HamCom Board, and potentially hams and clubs in North Texas may be able to breathe new life into HamCom 2.0. HamCom 2021 is definitely off, but this “treasure” we have in NTX (as PARK referred to it) is something we shouldn't throw away. Stay tuned!

Everything you want to know about soldering — some links from Jeff KA5RNR via the Austin ARC SwapNet newsletter:

“I just thought I would chip in since I saw the email traffic. Since we are in the business of selling electronic test equipment and electronic lab supplies, I asked my counterpart Steven Baker about videos regarding soldering since he sells a lot of soldering equipment. I have put his contact information below in case you had any questions.

Here is the link he sent me:

https://www.google.com/search?rlz=1C1GCEB_enUS864US865&sxsrf=ALeKk03mPCMjzop9g60zbrEz0wFpl2wtw:1607452552263&q=pacer+soldering+training+video&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwixufuyg7_tA-hUMPk0KHcVrA9sQ1QIoA-HoECAgQAQ&biw=1920&bih=937.

It is a series of YouTube videos done by Pace, who is a major soldering manufacturer.

This is the first in the series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIT4ra6Mo0s>

Here is the entire 1-9 series:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vIT4ra6Mo0s&list=PL926EC0F1F93C1837>.

Jeff's friend Steven is Account Manager-South Texas for Techni-Tool.

And, from the AARC SwapNet newsletter, Tim KC5QFG mentions a useful book on radio propagation, especially with the sunspot cycle on the upswing. The book is 'The Fast Track to Understanding Ham Radio Propagation' by Michael Burnette, AF7KB.

<https://www.amazon.com/Fast-Track-Understanding-Radio-Propagation/dp/1794054065/>

I downloaded the Kindle version and it's well worth the \$10.

For you weather enthusiasts, Keith White of the National Weather Service in Austin sent this note recently:

Thanks to everyone who joined us 14 Dec for the climate outlook webinar. There's been high interest in sharing the recording, however the sound wasn't fantastic yesterday. My apologies for that. I have recorded a cleaner version available here, and the slides are also attached.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dc5VHul2eUU&ab_channel=NWSSanAntonio.

In summary, La Nina is expected to continue this winter and will contribute to a continuation of warmer and drier than normal conditions on average. Drought expansion and degradation is possible, although would be slower than in the fall when it is normally wetter. The warm, dry conditions could lead to above normal winter fire weather impacts and potentially an active spring wildland fire season.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me at keith.white@noaa.gov if you have any questions.

If you're a user of the NWS forecast pages, you've probably already noticed the new radar viewer webpage for access to NEXRAD and TDWR weather radar data. The new radar webpage (currently found at preview-radar.weather.gov) replaced the current page in mid-December 2020.

The radar page was redesigned to improve radar services based on feedback received from many users. The upgrade will also move the agency off the soon-to-be-obsolete Adobe Flash technology used in the current pages for radar loops. Among the new features are:

- 1) The new webpage is a GIS-based webpage for easy integration into GIS applications used for situational awareness.
- 2) It will provide radar images more frequently and at four times higher resolution than currently provided.
- 3) The new mobile friendly format allows you to monitor the weather while you are on the go.

To learn about the other new features, please read the Aware Report, the second article in the news-letter.

(<https://www.weather.gov/media/publications/Aware/20oct-aware.pdf>)

The NWS has been developing a FAQ document and producing video tutorials on how to access local radar, overlaying warning information, exporting data and much more. Let me know if you have questions or comments.

Shades of Bert and Ernie! ... take a look at <https://rubber-duckdebugging.com>. It's a programming tool, but could easily be used to solve ham radio problems - Insights are often found by simply describing the problem aloud. More details at: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rubber_duck_debugging.

Plano Emergency Trail Marker System
<https://www.plano.gov/946/Trail-System>.

To improve trail safety and emergency access, the City of Plano is implementing a trail marker system that will aid first responders in case of emergency. Emergency response teams will now be able to determine exactly where on a trail they need to respond and how to best access that location. Signs will be posted alongside the trail approximately every 1/3 mile with a unique location identifier to ensure that trail users are always near an emergency marker. A pilot program to test the system's effectiveness is being implemented along Chisholm Trail. Once the pilot program is evaluated, the system will then be expanded to other Plano trails.

Chris WX7V shared this cool reference site on the RWK reflector. It includes schematics for over 400 different amateur radio antenna designs courtesy of VA3IUL.

https://www.qsl.net/va3iul/Antenna/Wire%20Antennas%20for%20Ham%20Radio/Wire_antennas_for_ham_radio.htm

WSJT-X version 2.4.0 has introduced a new digital protocol called Q65, which is designed for "minimal two-way QSOs over especially difficult propagation paths," the quick-start guide says. "On paths with Doppler spread more than a few hertz, the weak-signal performance of Q65 is the best among all WSJT-X modes. Q65 is particularly effective for tropospheric scatter, ionospheric scatter, and

EME on VHF and higher bands, as well as other types of fast-fading signals."

The QSO Today Virtual Ham Expo will return March 13 – 14 for a full 48 hours, QSO Today host Eric Guth, 4Z1UG/WA6IGR, announced this week. ARRL is a QSO Today Expo Partner. Guth said the inaugural QSO Today Expo last August attracted more than 16,000 attendees, and he anticipates that the March 2021 event will be even more successful. For more details, see the article at <http://www.arrl.org/news/qso-today-virtual-ham-expo-re-turning-in-march>. The 2021 event won't be free like the inaugural Expo last year. Ticket prices are suggested in the \$10 range.

Congratulations to Steve Phillips, K6JT, who (once again) qualified for the NTS Public Service Honor Roll in December 2020. Steve and 7 others were recognized in the ARRL NTX STM report Dec 2020.

For those who frequent the 2M simplex frequencies, a new North America Adventure Frequency has been announced. Some key points:

- The NAAF is 146.58 MHz.
- This frequency is in addition to, not a replacement for, the National Simplex Calling Frequency 146.52 MHz.
- Local usage will likely vary depending on needs.
- Program 146.58 MHz as "The Other Simplex Frequency" in your radio.

Thanks to the K0NR Radio Blog for this info.

And, Chris, WX7V, writes on the RWK reflector:

For those of you who are chasing DX through FT8 but want a look under the covers and understand the coding/ encoding protocol: <https://medium.com/dev-genius/ft8-digital-radio-protocol-how-does-it-work-745bceae11f0>.

... until next month, 73 de KR1ZAN

HCOL - Part 4



This month, we'll discuss your Membership Profile in Ham Club Online (www.hamclubonline.com). But in order for any of it to make sense, you need to be a registered user of HCOL.

As of January 18th, a total of 17 of our members have accessed their account on HCOL - 3 prior to 2020 (which probably means access associated with another club), 11 in 2020 (of which 7 accessed after SIGNALS articles began) and 3 in 2021. That means that 41 CARC members have never accessed Ham Club Online. A description of how to set up an account (it's FREE) was detailed in the October 2020 issues of SIGNALS (go to www.n5cxx.us, scroll down the page to find the SIGNALS archive and click on the October 2020 issue).

Once you login, you'll see a list of options (described last month), the first of which is Manage Your Club Profile. Clicking on that link brings up some of your personal facts. Your callsign, class of license and expiration date, and your name and address are shown first; all of this info is derived from the FCC database. If you or the administrator has added a nickname, that will be shown also. You cannot change this information (except for the nickname) without correcting it on the FCC-ULS database.

The email associated with your account is shown next. This email is HCOL global - so if you change it here, it changes your email for all clubs you belong to that use Ham Club Online. You can click on the "E-Mail Published" or "E-Mail Not Published" button to toggle your email address being available to other members. Your contact phone numbers are next. You'll notice the Update button to the right of any number and the Add New Phone Number button at the bottom of the list. These allow you to add/change your phone numbers and decide if you want them published in the roster.

The next section is entitled "Roster Information". Your member number is a universal reference within the HCOL system. Your Roster Status should be Active. If not, contact a Club officer. There's a box showing when you joined the Club. Because we don't have these records, the date shown is probably when we added names onto the HCOL Roster for CARC. If you remember the actual date or as close as possible (month-year or just year) send that info to kr1zan@arrl.net and we'll update it. Next, you'll see your Membership Expiration Date. If it's already passed, consider paying your dues ASAP.

Club Rank and Club Position relate to whether you're a full or associate member. There are some special titles that will be used from time to time related to administrators and officers. Club officers also have their elected title listed.

You may add a name and phone number of an Emergency Contact, and, below that a Nickname. If you make any changes in Roster Information, be certain to click on the "Save Roster Changes".

Your Membership History will show a list of membership periods; the top line is the current one. Below that is Transaction History, which typically shows payments for dues. In the future, when donations are accepted and when we are able to offer items through a Club store, you'll find those payments listed. If we conduct activities in which fees are charged, you'll find a list of those payments here also.

Depending on your device, three other items appear: a map of your FCC address, a list of pertinent skills (this includes ARRL membership, ARES/RACES member, training, and possibly some other Club related activities), and a Relationship table showing other family members who are also members of CARC.

Do you have some specific questions about Ham Club Online? Send your questions to kr1zan@arrl.net or use the "Send Message to Club Management" feature.

HAM EXAM 101 - JAN 2021

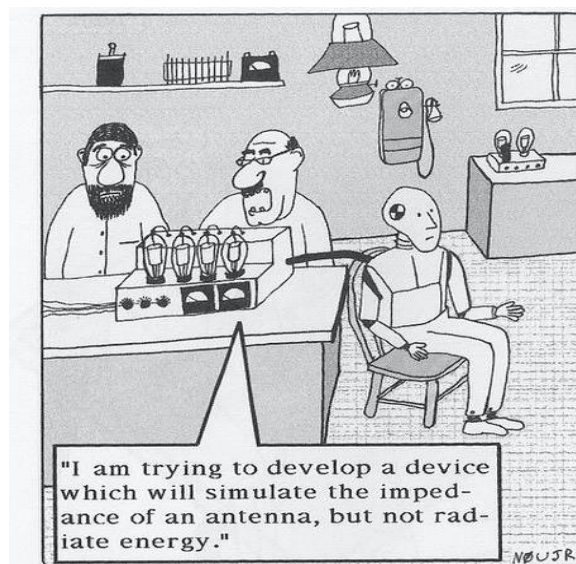
It may have been a while since you took your ham exams or it may have been just a few weeks ago. Each month, we'll review one question from each of the pools (Tech, General and Extra) to test your Ham Knowledge. The correct answers are shown (upside down) elsewhere in this issue of SIGNALS.



1. How is a simple ammeter connected to a circuit?
 - A. In phase with the circuit
 - B. In quadrature with the circuit
 - C. In parallel with the circuit
 - D. In series with the circuit

2. Which of the following components should be added to a capacitor to increase the capacitance?
 - A. A capacitor in parallel
 - B. A resistor in series
 - C. An inductor in series
 - D. A capacitor in series

3. Which of the following is a technique for providing highly accurate and stable oscillators needed for microwave transmission and reception?
 - A. Use a GPS signal reference
 - B. Use a rubidium stabilized reference oscillator
 - C. Use a temperature-controlled high Q dielectric resonator
 - D. All these choices are correct



"NOUJR and His Friends" Cartoons used by Permission from Greg Trook, NOUJR

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. 441.875 (+5) MHz, PL=131.8 Hz, 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

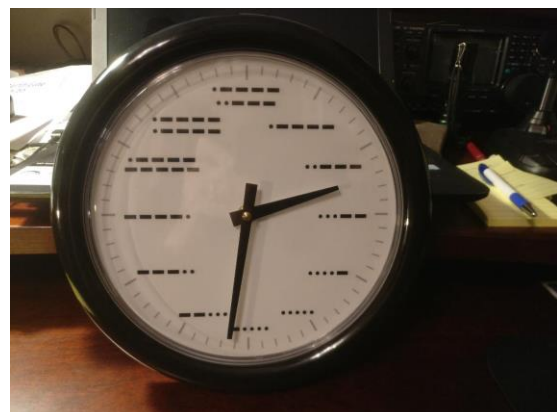
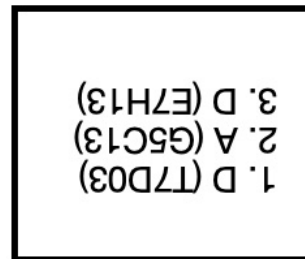
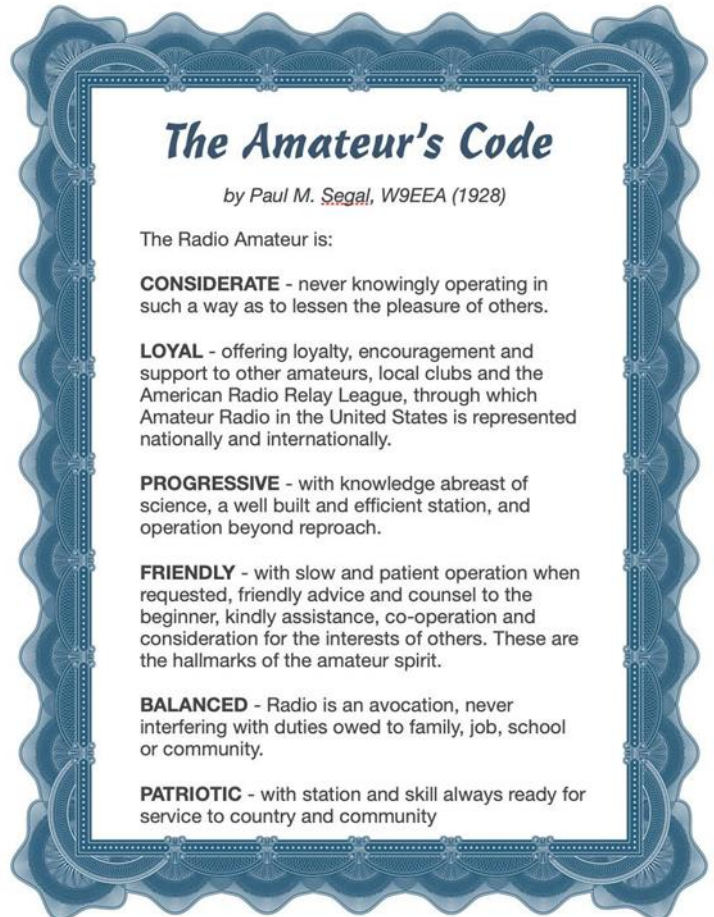
FEBRUARY

8-12 School Club Roundup Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC). The event runs from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. 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.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>.

20-21 International DX—CW 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. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>.

MARCH

6-7 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. The event runs 48 hours, from 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>



James Skinner WB0UNI received this Christmas gift from James Skinner WA0UNI.

Hobo Trip to Houston

By Vic, W7VSE (SK)

Although this story from Vic does not have anything to do with Radio, it is entertaining and does include Houston, a major city in TEX.

This trip occurred in 1938. I was 16 years old and a junior in Waurika High School in Oklahoma where I grew up. My parents were divorced when I was an infant, and my mother died when I was four years old. My maternal grandmother and grandfather raised me and I used their name (Layton) until I got out of High School. My grandmother was "Mama" to me and she gave me all the love and care that anyone could ever want. But she was still angry with my father, who lived in Houston, Texas, and blamed him for the divorce. Much later in life I learned that my mother was to blame for the breakup. Mama did not ever have anything to do with my father's family, and I don't remember her ever saying a kind word about them. My dad passed away when I was 13, and I never got to see him.

The great depression was in full bloom about this time and hitchhiking and riding freight trains were a way of life back then. Nobody had money for bus or train tickets and when you wanted to travel you hitchhiked or caught a freight train.

My friend and neighbor, Skinny Cutler, (Henry David Sullivan) and I got the chance to buy a 1928 Chevy coupe for \$25. It was ten years old and looked like it had hardly been used and was in beautiful condition. Skinny had dropped out of school and was working at his grandfather's gas station and he had half the money to buy the car. Mama convinced my grandpa that he should let me have \$12.50, which he did. I had already been driving for several years, but Skinny hadn't driven a car yet. He learned to drive that '28 Chevy in a hurry. He worked the night shift at the gas station, and many nights I could hear him roaring around the block in our car.

My family went on a vacation that summer. When we got back, I found that Skinny had wrecked our car and had stripped it down to practically nothing. He took the body and fenders completely off, and it really looked like a hot rod. I was disappointed, but what could I do?

It was summer vacation time, so, we decided we would drive that car down to see my grandmother Seeberger in Houston Texas, that I had never seen before. Houston was about 250 miles, or more, but we figured we could make it. We drove down to Ft Worth, Texas, about 120 miles, and visited my great uncle and aunt Gibbs and Maggie Layton. The car had started to knock quite badly and I wasn't sure it was capable of taking us to Houston. So, we decided to hit the rails. We parked that car at Uncle Gibbs house and caught a freight train down to Houston overnight. The yards in Houston were huge, many tracks and lots of boxcars, etc. We found a gas station near the yards and looked at a city map. I saw the street where grandma lived was only a mile or so away, so we walked over there, found her house

number and knocked on the door. She was slow to answer and when she did I saw she was pushing a walker. I told her who I was, and I thought she was going to pass out, but she didn't. She told us to come on in, and asked if we were hungry. We said yes, of course, and she fixed us a fine meal. And she got on the phone and called a couple of numbers. Before I knew it there were about 10 Seebergers there to see me--Aunts and kinfolk I'd never seen. We had baths and stayed overnight, and the next afternoon, I told grandma that we were going home. She offered to buy us bus or train tickets, but I assured her we were skilled at catching freight trains. She asked if there was anything she could do and I told her we would appreciate a ride over to the railroad yards. Someone of the family hauled us over there, and we waved goodbye. This was the only time in my life that I saw any of these relatives.

We wandered around those many tracks and found a workman putting stove oil in a signal light. I asked him if he knew which one of the many tracks should we catch the train to Ft Worth? He told me which one, and we waited many hours and finally a steam train came chugging along on that track. We didn't have a chance to look it over, so we caught the first flatcar in a long line of them and had some shelter behind the boxcar ahead of us. There was another hobo on this flatcar. After we got out of town, I asked him if he was going to Ft Worth, and he said no, that he was going to Shreveport, Louisiana. I asked him if he was going by way of Ft Worth? He laughed and said no, and if you kids are going to Ft Worth, you are on the wrong train. I had visions of our going all the way to Shreveport and having to catch another train back to Houston and adding a couple of days more on to our trip. I then asked him if this train stopped anywhere before it got to Shreveport so we could get off. He told us that the train will slow down in (I've forgotten the name of the town) and that we should get off there and wait for a train on the railroad that crossed this one and catch a train that would take us over to (another forgotten name) where we could get off and wait for the Ft Worth train on another crossing track. This sounded better than going to Shreveport. (That workman back at Houston, who told us to catch this train, was probably laughing all the way home.)

We got off where he told us to, and waited about half a day for a train and finally one came by. We caught it and rode it through several small towns. Finally, I figured we had gone far enough and Skinny and I got off when the train slowed down in the next town. We were walking beside the train and finally I saw the name of the town on a building, and it was the WRONG name! I told Skinny we had to catch that train again and we started running. That train was picking up speed and when I caught the metal ladder on a boxcar it felt like it was going to jerk my arms out of their sockets, but I made it. I stood on that ladder and looked back at Skinny running as hard as he could about 2 cars back. The train was going faster. I didn't think he was going to make it, but he grabbed a ladder and it gave him such a hard jerk that he missed the bottom rung with his foot and was hanging by both arms and he slipped down a little and his legs

dragged on the ground and I just knew he was a goner. Skinny didn't weigh very much, and was very strong in his upper body, and I think it scared him so badly, that he actually pulled himself up by his arms until he got that foot on the bottom rung. But both his pant legs were torn from about the crotch from dragging on the ground and they fluttered in the breeze, showing his bare and slightly bloody legs. But he was safely aboard. We got off in the correct town and finally caught a train going to Ft Worth.

I firmly believe that we had a little help from someone up above that day. Years later Skinny was a glider pilot during the Normandy Invasion. Maybe this was why he was being saved, to be one of those that helped us defeat the Nazis and save this country during WW2. (See part two next issue for the rest of the story).

Vic Seeberger

PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS

Start Day (UTC) → 1
Start Time (UTC) → 0000Z

Contest Name →

3 → End Day (UTC)
2300Z → End Time (UTC)

Major Contest of weekend

2021

Multimode

off-the-air

CW

SSB

Digital

VHF/UHF

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	3 2400Z 7 0000Z NA Sprint CW	6 0400Z 7 0000Z ARRL DX SSB	3 2400Z 1500Z SP Polish DX	4 1500Z 1500Z varies 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	1 varies 2 1200Z SEANET Contest	5 1200Z 6 1400Z Marconi Memorial HF	4 1800Z 7 0600Z NAQP CW	8 0600Z 4 0000Z CWops CW Open	2 2358Z 4 1800Z California QSO Party	3 2158Z 6 2100Z ARRL SS CW	8 0300Z 3 2200Z ARRL 160
9 1800Z NAQP CW	10 0600Z 13 0000Z WPX RTTY	14 2400Z 14 0000Z NA Sprint RTTY	10 0700Z 11 1300Z JIDX CW	8 1200Z 9 1158Z CQ-M DX	12 1800Z 14 0300Z ARRL June VHF	10 1200Z 11 1200Z IARU HF	14 0000Z 15 2358Z WAE CW	11 0000Z 12 2358Z WAE SSB	9 0800Z 10 0800Z Oceania CW	13 0000Z 14 2358Z WAE RTTY	11 0000Z 12 2358Z ARRL 10
16 1800Z NAQP SSB	17 0600Z 20 0000Z ARRL DX CW	21 1200Z 20 1200Z Russian DX	17 0900Z 18 2358Z CQMM DX	15 1200Z 16 1200Z King of Spain	19 0000Z 20 2400Z All Asian CW	17 1800Z 18 2100Z CQ VHF	21 1800Z 22 0600Z NAQP SSB	18 1800Z 19 varies WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties	16 1500Z 17 1458Z Worked All Germany	20 2100Z 22 0300Z ARRL SS SSB	18 0000Z 18 2358Z RAC Winter
16 1800Z ARRL January VHF	18 0358Z 26 2200Z CQ 160 SSB	27 0800Z 28 2400Z WPX SSB	24 1800Z 25 2158Z Florida QSO Party	20 1100Z 23 1700Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	26 1800Z 27 2100Z ARRL Field Day	24 1200Z 25 1200Z RSGB IOTA	28 1200Z 29 1200Z WW Digi	25 0000Z 26 2400Z CQWW RTTY	23 0000Z 24 2400Z	27 0000Z 28 2400Z CQWW CW	24 0000Z 25 2358Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS
29 2200Z 31 2158Z CQ 160 CW				29 0000Z 30 2400Z WPX CW					30 0000Z 31 2400Z CQWW SSB		

A contribution from EA3O.



Richardson, Texas

PO Box 830766

Richardson, TX 75083-0766

TO:



Richardson, Texas

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 January 2021 **7:00 PM**

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

THE JANUARY 2021 MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE!

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 12 February 2021 ←←←