



COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Richardson, Texas

# SIGNALS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 46 Issue 04

Web Site <http://www.n5cxx.us>

January 2025

### CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 28 January 2025 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at

Woodcreek Church

3400 E. Renner Rd, Richardson TX

(and via Zoom)

**Show and Tell**

### DRIVE HOME NET CORE TOPIC RECAP

Each week on the Collins Amateur Radio Club's Drive Home Net (Tuesdays at 5:30pm on the N5CXX UHF Repeater), we suggest a "Core Topic" to stimulate discussion. Even though any topic of interest to hams is invited, sometimes there's little to discuss, so the Core Topic gives us all an opportunity to speak up. Here's a collection of responses to Core Topics in the past month. We invite all our members to take a break from 5:30 to 6pm on Tuesdays and join in to share your thoughts.

**12/31/24**

What's your wish for amateur radio in 2025?

- Get back on the HF bands
- Get the N5CXX repeater on the D-STAR network
- Wish ARRL would add printed QST back into regular membership
- Propagation continues as we had in 2024
- That a club or other organization would host a monthly flea market or ham gathering for local hams
- More club activities
- More licensing and technical classes
- More activity on the N5CXX repeater
- Get more activity on all DFW repeaters
- Kenwood releases new mobile VHF/UHF radio

**1/7/25**

Do you use Family Radio Service (FRS) radios, and, what do you use them for?

- Haven't used in years
- Have some but haven't used in a long time
- Have used in past when traveling with friends who aren't hams

*(Continued on page 3)*



Tuesday, January 28th, is our Annual Show 'n Tell Night at the Collins Amateur Radio Club. The meeting begins at 5:30pm at the Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Rd., Richardson.

Our meetings begin with a brief business meeting followed by our evening's program. Several of our members have stepped up to show a useful item that hams can benefit from in their shacks or

operations, whether at home or mobile/portable.

We hope you'll join us for our first meeting of the New Year. Bring a friend. Our meetings are, also, streamed via Zoom. Zoom instructions are emailed to all members prior to the meeting and are available via a link shown under the meeting announcement on the Club's website: [n5cxx.us](http://www.n5cxx.us)

CARC LEADERSHIP			
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	
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<a href="mailto:president@n5cxx.us">president@n5cxx.us</a>		<a href="mailto:vp@n5cxx.us">vp@n5cxx.us</a>	
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<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	
Bill Fell	KK5PB	Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
<a href="mailto:membership@n5cxx.us">membership@n5cxx.us</a>		<a href="mailto:webmaster@n5cxx.us">webmaster@n5cxx.us</a>	

**VE SESSIONS**

The Northeast Metro ARRL License Testing Group will hold testing sessions on the **first** Monday each month (except holidays) at the Garland Amateur Radio clubhouse in downtown Garland TX, 1027B Austin St., Garland TX 75040 beginning August 2023. Time 6-8pm. All who want to test for an amateur radio license are welcome. You will need **photo ID, FRN from FCC and \$15.00 correct cash.** All forms, etc., will be provided by testing group. You can reserve a seat by calling Kerry Weeks at 214.478.3230 or email at [weeks.kerry@gmail.com](mailto:weeks.kerry@gmail.com) in advance of the test.

**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 week-ends.**

**Garland** in-person testing is held on the first Saturday of each month and begins at 1000 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. \*\*\* Online video testing via Zoom is, also, offered on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays at 1900. See <https://sites.google.com/site/wb9zph>.\*\*\*

**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 church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail [rwxhamtest@gmail.com](mailto:rwxhamtest@gmail.com).

**SIGNALS** is the monthly newsletter of the Collins Amateur Radio Club, published by and for its members. The entire contents of this newsletter are copyright © 2025 by the Collins Amateur Radio Club. Permission is hereby granted to any not-for-profit amateur radio publication to reprint any portion of this newsletter provided both the author and Collins Amateur Radio Club are credited.

**President’s Message**

Another short message this month. I hope that everyone has settled into 2025. I was hoping that things would slow down for me, but it seems they have gotten busier. I was able to enjoy a little down time during the holiday, but I probably should have been a little more active in preparation for 2025. My wife and I are slowly inching closer to no more high school and club soccer as our son prepares to transition from a high school student to a college student. I did not anticipate the time and effort that college and recruiting would entail. I want to thank everyone for the work and support of the club.

Until next month,

Mike Montgomery  
WD5TX

**Vice-President’s Report**

One member paid renewal dues this month. We have 60 challenge coins in inventory currently. I will have challenge coins available for purchase at \$5 each at the January general membership meeting.

**Membership Status:**

- Current Active Memberships = 53
- Inactive Memberships = 22
- Full Members = 38 (includes life and retiree members)
- Associate Members = 15

New/renewed Members = 0

Members moved to Inactive Status = 0

Expired memberships awaiting renewal = 0

Continuing membership is important to the CARC. Through the skills and experiences of all our members, our club provides fellowship, education, and service opportunities. If you have questions about your membership status or other membership-related questions, please contact me. Thank you to all of our members for your support and contributions to the CARC.

73, Bill, KK5PB

## Secretary's Report

There is no formal report since the December meeting was the annual Club Christmas dinner. The dinner was reported with many pictures in the December SIGNALS. But let it suffice to say that "a good time was had by all."

## Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting

14 January 2025

The informal pre-meeting workshop began at 1902 via Zoom.

The following Board members logged into the meeting:

Mike Montgomery WD5TX, President

Bill Fell, KK5PB, Vice President

Jim Brown AF5MA, Secretary

Mark Dempsy N5MD, Treasurer

Bill Swan K5MWC, Immediate Past President

Two non-voting CARC members also logged in:

John Galvin N5TIM

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN

The pre-meeting workshop was a general discussion covering a number of subjects. Topics discussed included:

**ARRL Insurance Renewed.** Mike Montgomery WD5TX reported that renewal for the 2025 CARC insurance policy has been completed.

**Membership Renewals Delinquent.** Bill Fell KK5PB noted that, with the start of the new year, a number of Club memberships have expired. He will contact members affected to expedite renewals.

**Repeater Status.** Frank Krizan KR1ZAN reported that the CARC repeater has been operating reliably for the past month.

**Formal Board Meeting.** No formal meeting was declared.

The workshop was adjourned at 1918.

## DRIVE HOME NET CORE TOPIC RECAP

(Continued from page 1)

-Used in past for Boy Scout events, camping, traveling

-Yes; use now with family and friends when camping, fishing, hiking

**1/14/25**

Do you have any equipment or techniques for locating RF interference?

-HTs that allow for AM mode and small Yagi

-Radio in AM mode with Yagi or Loop

-Portable AM broadcast radio; built-in ferrite loop antenna works well (this was popular answer)

**1/21/25**

What's your favorite "hamspeak" term? Do you know what "807" refers to?

-Cold beer, especially on Field Day

-Slang for cold beer; an old glass vacuum tube

-Final amplifier tube, especially popular in Novice rigs

-other Hamspeak: 73, 88, QSL, QRZ, QTH, QRM, Roger, Clear

## Digital Library of Amateur Radio & Communications

Explore the amazing Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications (DLARC), an incredible resource packed with historical materials, technical guides, and fascinating content for all ham radio enthusiasts. Whether you're a beginner or a seasoned operator, you'll find something valuable here!

Check it out:

<https://archive.org/details/dlarc>

Dive into the past, learn something new, and connect with the rich legacy of amateur radio. Share this resource with your fellow hams!

**[Our thanks to Amado Pereira, KJ5DGS, for sharing this info]**

## New Activities Chairman Needed

Life situations change, and I must regrettably announce that I will not be able to continue as Activities Chairman in 2025.

The job of Activities Chairman primarily involves arranging for monthly speakers for our Club meetings and encouraging teams to participate in operating activities. I have handled the job of lining up speakers since 2018 and won't be able to continue in 2025, so it is time for someone to step in and accept this important task.

Programs are already lined up for most of 2025 (yes, there are a couple of TBDs, but I'm waiting for confirmations from potential presenters).

The sooner someone can step up and accept the job of Activities Chairman, the sooner I can work with that person in learning the ropes. It's not that hard and is very satisfying.

If you'd like to discuss the job with me, email me at [frank@krizan.org](mailto:frank@krizan.org) or call 214-563-6679.

## CARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson outdoor warning siren testing. [The December 2024 test was cancelled due to cloudy weathr.](#) 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, as backup. [The Garland Siren Tests were also cancelled.](#)

**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

# LOOKING AHEAD

Here are the meetings we have lined up for 2025. We have a number of open slots in 2025, so if you'd like to give a presentation or have a suggestion, send your ideas to [frank@krizan.org](mailto:frank@krizan.org).

Here's what we have so far in 2025:

Jan 25/26 - WINTER FIELD DAY

Jan 28 - Show & Tell Night

Feb 25 - ARRL Night

Mar 25 - "Is D-Star Proprietary?" - Cory Golob, KU1U

Apr 22 - "Working the EasySats on the Cheap!" - Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

May 27 - Field Day Overview

Jun 24 - Field Day Final Plans

Jun 28/29 - FIELD DAY

Jul 22 - Ice Cream Social / Field Day Results

Aug 26 - TBD

Sep 23 - TBD

Oct 28 - "fldigi - the Ham's Digital Toolbox" - Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

Nov 18 - Annual Meeting / Elections

Dec 9 - CARC Christmas Dinner - Aboca's Italian Grill

## HB9RG Trophy Celebrates First Amateur Radio Contact via Satellite

AMSAT Switzerland has announced a special event and contest that encourages hams to make extreme long-distance contacts via amateur satellite. The event recognizes Dr. Hans Rudolf Lauber (HB9RG) and his contribution to amateur radio. HB9RG and Alfons Häring (DL6EZA) conducted the first amateur radio contact via satellite on March 10th, 1965.

The event runs for 2 weeks, March 3-16. The 10 furthest contacts will be evaluated. The full set of rules is available here [PDF].

[Source: [AMSAT Switzerland - January 22, 2025](#)]

### ARRL Student Membership

**Free Student Membership**  
(aged 21 years or younger\*)  
**FREE**

**Join Now**



[www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join)



\*Additional restrictions apply.

### Antennas Made of Cloth [KD0ZEK]

Imagine taking the radio frequency properties of heavy antennas, like the dishes found on rooftops, and knitting them into a wearable garment like a sweater or a blanket that is ultralight, portable, easy to fold up and stow away. Not having to use heavy, bulky satellite antennas would make communications much easier for those who live or travel in remote locations -- a lightweight, flexible antenna that can send information over long distances would be a useful tool for both the public and private sectors.

On Nov 19, 2024 researchers at Columbia University reported using traditional flat-knitting techniques to fabricate flexible, lightweight meta-surfaces-- large-aperture antennas--that can easily be stowed and deployed for communications.

But they were not the first. Ham radio operators have been experimenting with cloth antennas for years. A recent example is Ben VE6SFX's implementation on a 2M J-pole using conductive fabric.

Why use fabric? Well wires tend to tangle, if you use foil, it tends to crumple and break. Back in WWII pilots had maps printed on silk to avoid crumpling and noise if they got shot down behind enemy lines.

It's a similar principle with cloth antennas that are easy to fold up to store and they don't weigh much.

Ben VE6SFX first got inspiration from KB9VBR's YouTube channel, which talked about Faraday cloth and a magic carpet -- a blanket like ground plane that can be laid under any antenna. So he started wondering if he can replace his copper tape with this Faraday fabric to make an antenna.

After some research, VE6SFX found out that they make rolls of Faraday tape. It comes in different thicknesses and can be ordered on-line. He first made an antenna from straight tape and then repeated the experiment by sewing the fabric tape onto a piece of fabric. And because the J-pole is made of Faraday cloth, he calls it the Fara-J.

The antenna works quite well, although the length of the fabric components do not exactly match the metal wire counterparts. VE6SFX suspects that it has to do with the difference in dielectric properties of the materials, but has not yet analyzed this aspect.

Here is the link of the full video that goes through the brainstorming and iterations and finally presents the final product. The video describes how to make one yourself and also shows where to buy a prebuilt cloth antenna by VE6SFX <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X7K6DNLD9Wo>

The video demonstrates that the antenna is performs as well as wire antennas when using a handheld radio to access repeaters.

Most of us carry roll up 2-Meter J-pole antennas for emergencies and now Ben VE6SFX has revolutionized this concept with a lighter-weight roll up cloth version.

(Article courtesy CARC, Cedar Rapids)

### Upcoming Events

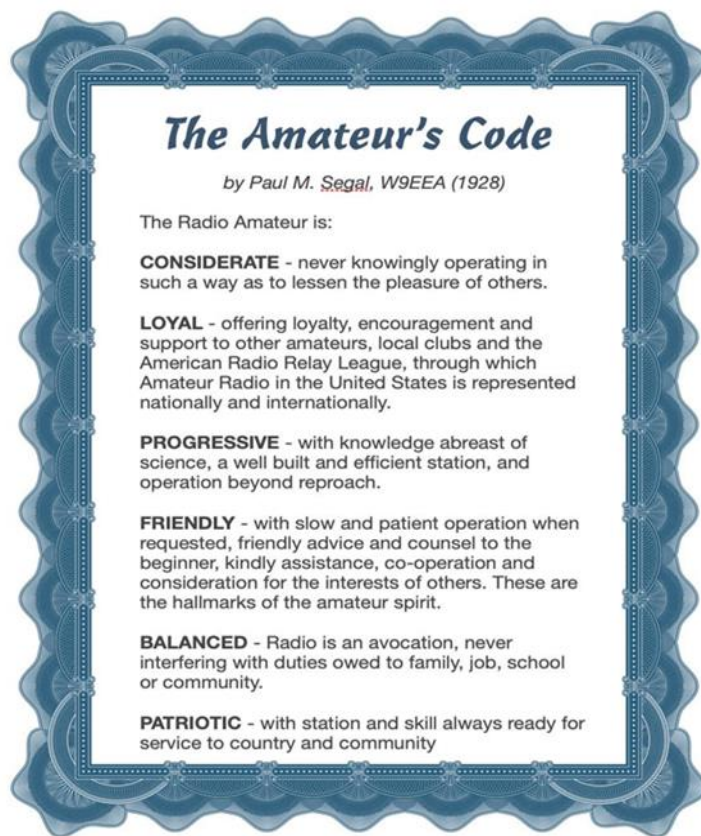
	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz <a href="http://www.k6jit.com">www.k6jit.com</a>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 442.8 (+5) MHz, PL=110.9 Hz (K5QHD repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday.)
<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
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>8-9</b>	<b>CQ WPX RTTY.</b> The CQ WPX attracts over 20,000 participants that take to the airwaves with the goal of making as many contacts with as many different callsign prefixes as possible. Details at <a href="https://cqwxprtty.com/">https://cqwxprtty.com/</a> .
<b>15-16</b>	<b>International DX—CW</b> : Work as many DX stations 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 <a href="http://www.arl.org/arl-dx">http://www.arl.org/arl-dx</a>
<b>MARCH</b>	
<b>1-2</b>	<b>International DX—Phone</b> 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 <a href="http://www.arl.org/arl-dx">http://www.arl.org/arl-dx</a>
<b>APRIL</b>	
<b>13</b>	<b>Rookie Roundup—Phone</b> Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. The event runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at <a href="http://www.arl.org/rookie-roundup">http://www.arl.org/rookie-roundup</a> .

**Need another Badge or Coffee Mug?**



Order from The Sign Man of Baton Rouge at:  
<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/collinsarccart.html>

**Join Us On Tuesdays  
 for the Collins ARC  
 Drive Home Net  
 5:30pm 441.875 MHz  
 +5MHz, PL=131.8Hz  
 (No Nets on Meeting Nights)  
 Logs now available on [n5cxx.us](http://n5cxx.us) website**



### Jack, W5TFB's Book

Excerpts from Jack's book will cease with this issue. Jack actually worked on his stories for several years (at least 3 or 4). There are about 1500 pages and the excerpts we have published only got up to about page 160. So there is really no chance to finish the excerpts at the current rate. Besides, he has strayed far from applicability to amateur radio. To finish up the main story, here are the major events he wrote about:

1. Jack and Sue finally got married and officially adopted Marie (May). May continued to excel in math, with Jack's tutoring (after all, Jack was really a full professor at Texas A&M at the head of the math department before he retired).
2. Sue and Jack sold the Louisiana property (and Sue's business) for several million dollars and purchased a new place in Texas near where Jack lived while he was teaching at A&M. They were very happy together there and developed their new home the way they wanted it to be.

3. May graduated with honors from high school (a year early) and set about investigating schools in the U.S. that had excellent math departments. She (and Jack) settled for the University of California at Berkeley, which had an outstanding math department and several esteemed professors that Jack personally knew. Naturally, she had no problem qualifying to attend there and Sue had set aside ample funds to pay her way.

4. Before May left for college, Sue became ill. It was a form of cancer that developed and spread very aggressively. In spite of all treatments, Sue died from the illness, just weeks after it was originally diagnosed. It was a big shock for Jack and May and had something to do with May choosing an out-of-state university to get away from sad memories.

# PERIODIC TABLE OF SELECT AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS

<https://Radiosport.World/>

# 2025



off-the-air SSB VHF/UHF  
Multimode CW Digital

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec												
4 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	5 2400Z NA Sprint CW	2 0000Z ARRL DX SSB	1 0359Z ARRL DX SSB	2 0000Z ARRL DX SSB	5 1500Z SP Polish DX	6 1500Z 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	3 varies varies	4 1800Z ARRL Digital	7 1400Z Marconi Memorial HF	2 1800Z NAQP CW	3 0600Z All Asian DX	6 0000Z All Asian DX	7 2400Z California QSO Party	4 1600Z ARRL SS CW	5 2100Z ARRL SS CW	1 2100Z ARRL SS CW	3 0300Z ARRL SS CW	5 2200Z ARRL 160	7 1600Z ARRL 160				
11 1800Z NAQP CW	12 0559Z CQ WPX RTTY	8 0000Z NA Sprint RTTY	9 2400Z NA Sprint RTTY	9 0000Z NA Sprint RTTY	12 0700Z JIDX CW	13 1300Z Volta WW RTTY	10 1200Z Volta WW RTTY	11 1200Z Volta WW RTTY	14 1800Z ARRL June VHF	16 0300Z ARRL June VHF	12 1200Z IARU HF	13 1200Z IARU HF	9 0000Z WAE CW	10 2359Z WAE CW	13 0000Z WAE SSB	14 2359Z WAE SSB	11 0600Z Oceania CW	12 0600Z Oceania CW	8 0000Z WAE RTTY	9 2359Z WAE RTTY	13 0000Z ARRL 10	14 2359Z ARRL 10	
18 1800Z NAQP SSB	19 0559Z ARRL DX CW	15 0000Z ARRL DX CW	16 2359Z ARRL DX CW	15 0200Z BARTG HF RTTY	17 0200Z BARTG HF RTTY	19 0700Z CQMM DX	20 0659Z CQMM DX	15 1100Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	18 2000Z All Asian DX CW	21 0000Z All Asian DX CW	22 2400Z NAQP RTTY	19 1800Z NAQP RTTY	20 0559Z NAQP SSB	16 1800Z NAQP SSB	17 0600Z SAC CW	20 1200Z SAC CW	21 1200Z SAC CW	18 1500Z Worked All Germany	19 1459Z Worked All Germany	15 2100Z ARRL SS SSB	17 0300Z ARRL SS SSB	20 1400Z Croatian DX	21 1400Z Croatian DX
24 2200Z CQ 160 CW	26 2200Z NAQP RTTY	22 1800Z NAQP RTTY	23 0559Z NAQP RTTY	23 0000Z NA Sprint SSB	23 0400Z NA Sprint SSB	26 1600Z Florida QSO Party	27 2159Z Florida QSO Party	24 0000Z CQ WPX CW	25 2400Z CQ WPX CW	28 1800Z ARRL Field Day	29 2100Z ARRL Field Day	26 1200Z RSGB IOTA	27 1200Z RSGB IOTA	23 varies KH6/OH QSO Parties	24 varies KH6/OH QSO Parties	27 0000Z CQ WW RTTY	28 2400Z CQ WW RTTY	25 0000Z CQ WW SSB	26 2400Z CQ WW SSB	22 1200Z LZ DX	23 1200Z LZ DX	27 0000Z RAC Winter	27 2359Z RAC Winter
		29 0000Z CQ WPX SSB	30 2400Z CQ WPX SSB					30 1200Z WW Digi	31 1200Z WW Digi							29 0000Z CQ WW CW	30 2400Z CQ WW CW						

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https://Radiosport.World/



Richardson, Texas  
www.N5CXX.us

**3200 E Renner Rd  
Mail Station 461-290  
Richardson, TX 75082**

**TO:**

**N5CXX D-STAR SETTINGS:**

441.875 MHz, PLUS OFFSET (5 MHz) -- DR mode  
Set for Local Mode -- CQCQCQ  
Set RPT1 as N5CXX.B (replace periods with spaces)  
RPT2 is NOT USED; some radios or software require something in this field, so use N5CXX.B or N5CXX.G (again, replace the periods with spaces)  
The N5CXX D-STAR repeater operates only in local mode at this time. There is no Gateway. We hope to have a connection to the D-STAR network in early 2025.  
The N5CXX Repeater is Mixed Mode. The incoming Mode determines if FM Analog or D-STAR.

<p><b>CLUB STATION PHONE</b> TBD</p> <p><b>N5CXX REPEATER</b> 441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input 131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX</p> <p><b>N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS COL Node</b> 145.05 MHz</p> <p><b>N5CXX-N1, N5CXX-N2 &amp; N5CXX-N3 HSM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz</b></p>
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<p align="center"><b>Membership Meeting</b> Tuesday 28 January 2025 5:30 PM THE MEETING WILL BE AT <b>Woodcreek Church Richardson TX</b></p>
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<p align="center"><b>NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:</b> <b>→→→ 14 February 2025 ←←←</b></p>
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