
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 34 Issue 10

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

July 2013

RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 23 July 2013
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:

Program in Process—Come and See

tended operation was possible without undue stress. From a short check of 80 meters, it seemed to also be in the S4 noise level range. It appears the station is usable for all but weak-signal work now with the updates to the air handler filtering. That is good news. See below for miscellaneous "soapbox" comments

From K6JT: I enjoyed the traffic handling and also the CW contacts on 40. I did manage to work the band of all stations that I could hear (and some that were hard to dig out of that S5 noise level from the air handler controllers). I was getting a headache from the constant noise filtering I had to do in my head, though. I would have next called CQ to catch the hunters but I was afraid I would have trouble hearing responses in that noise and my head and ears were already hurting.

I must say that even with the air handlers, the station is usable on 40 and although I did not listen very much to 80, it sounded like it was OK for CW contacts, too. So the improvements they have made certainly helped. I could operate my traffic networks from there, I believe, even the west coast sked I have on Thursdays. I just might do that one of these weeks.

I checked my own noise level at home and found it to be about 1 S-unit lower than at the club station, which is what we saw when the air handler was turned down (in the test we did with facilities around 1:30 AM). Still pretty high, though, if you want to work weak DX.

From K3NT: This years RCARC field day was interesting. From the *hundreds* of volunteers to set up the station, the *crowded* breakfast group, the 2E CW operations, finally mastering the secret to make FLDGI work with N1MM and working the PSK contacts, the gourmet meal we enjoyed with Kathy Cobb, WA8ZBT's XYL, fun was had by all.

Also, in 2013, compared to 2012:

- W5ROK had a late start by 1 hour.
- W5ROK operated 2E not 3E. (2 vs 3 transmitters)
- W5ROK shutdown for about 1 hour for a group dinner.
- W5ROK closed 2013 FD operation early Sunday AM.
- W5ROK held a 4-5 hour teaching / troubleshooting session for PSK-31. During this time, only 1 station, operating CW, was on the air. (Continued on page 3)

Local Club News Meeting Notice

The July program is still being finalized as Signals is approaching publication. Whatever the program, it's always worth the trip. By the way, we still need an Activities Chair.

RCARC Field Day Results

Our total score for 2013 was 1580 + 550 = 2130. This was 8 points higher than our 2012 score of 2122. All but 34 QSO's were made on CW this year; there was no SSB operation. Primary CW operators were WA8ZBT (majority of QSOs), K6JT and K3NT. K3NT and WA9WCC also made 34 digital contacts using PSK-31. See page 3 for details.

This year's operation was quite low-key. We were there for learning and trying something new (the PSK-31 in particular) as well as just to have some fun operating the excellent station. Noteworthy is that the air handlers were NOT turned off this year. Updates had been made to those in closest proximity to our antennas such that their noise output was much reduced (but not completely eliminated). This resulted in a noise level of about S4 to S5 on 40 meters, which was usable although weak stations could not be heard very well. 20 meters was not quite as noisy, so ex-

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VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held 4th Sat of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat 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.

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

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 Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail warhog4@tx,rr.com.

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President's Message

No President's Message this month. Check this spot next month.

73,
Michael Schmit
WA9WCC
RCARC President

Secretary's Report

25 June 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Schmit WA9WCC at around 1730.

The following members were present at the meeting:

- | | |
|-----------------|--------|
| Jim Brown | TBA |
| Michael Ketchum | K5MDK |
| Bob Kirby | K3NT |
| John McFadden | K5TIP |
| Mike Schmit | WA9WCC |
| Jim Skinner | WB0UNI |

Officers and Committee Reports:

President's Report: There was no formal President's Report.

Vice-President's Report: We currently have no Vice-President.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report is in this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report.

Website Manager's Report: There was no Website Manager's Report.

Station Trustee's Report: There was no Station Trustee's Report.

Database Manager's Report: There was no Database Manager's Report.

Old Business:

Initial discussions included an impromptu but detailed tutorial on PSK-31 modulation by Bob Kirby K3NT.

SIGNALS**July 2013**

Bob also summarized his Field Day report, noting participation by Bob, Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, Steve Phillips K6JT and Joe Wolf N5UIC. The Field Day report is provided elsewhere in this newsletter.

New Business:

President Mike Schmit called for a work detail to install the club's new packet antenna. Mike and Bob Kirby agreed to determine a schedule for the work in the next three weeks or so.

The meeting was adjourned at about 1840.

RCARC Field Day Results *(Continued from page 1)*

Sure wish we could have had the 'King of PSK-31' K5MDK in attendance. Michael worked over 230 PSK-31 Q's this FD weekend. Had a fun time! Bob, K3NT

Band/Mode QSO Breakdown:

Band	CW		Digital		Phone	
	QSOs	Pwr	QSOs	Pwr	QSOs	Pwr
160m						
80m	9	100W				
40m	110	100W	8	40W		
20m	228	100W	11	40W		
15m	14	100W	15	40W		
10m						
6m						
2m						
1.25						
Other						
Satl						
GOTA						
Total	361		34		0	

(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

80th Anniversary of the Collins Radio Company Special Event Coming

The next big RCARC operating event will be the September Collins Radio history event.

ARRL has our special event information posted on their special event web page at <http://www.arrl.org/special-event-stations>. They have confirmed that the September issue of QST magazine will print our notice as well. The notice will read as follows:

Sept 21-Sep 23 and Sep 28-Sep 30, 1300Z-0500Z, W0CXX/N0CXX, Cedar Rapids, IA; W5ROK, Richardson, TX; W4CRC, Melbourne, FL; W6CXX, Tustin, CA. Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club. 80th Anniversary of the Collins Radio Company. HF and 6 m; CW AM SSB. Certificate & QSL. Steve Larson, N3SL, 22 N Hidden Acres Dr, Sioux City, IA 51108. Several stations participating. Primary operating hours 0900 to 2400 local time for each station as operators are available. Work 3 different stations for certificate. www.W0cxx.us

RCARC Community Service Activities

Mike Schmit WA9WCC and Michael Ketchum K5MDK, as Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, helped out during the recent Anna water main break. Although no radio communications work was required, they unloaded pallets of bottled water, bagged them and then assisted with the drive-through lanes where citizens can pick up a bag for their family. See the complete story on page 4.

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 3 July 2013. Unfortunately none of the sirens functioned properly. The siren testing is performed 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.

John McFadden K5TIP donated a set of batteries for the club's laser pointer.

Jim Skinner WB0UNI contributed about 100 hours (including sleeping time) in June with BSA troop 1191 at summer camp at Camp Constantin on Possum Kingdom Lake. In addition to the usual activities, time was spent demonstrating the operation of the mobile rig in his SUV.

Google Project Loon - 2400 / 5800 MHz

Project Loon is a research and development project being developed by Google with the mission of providing Internet access to rural and remote areas using High-Altitude Balloons (HAB) placed in the stratosphere at an altitude of about 20 km to create an aerial wireless network with up to 3G-like speeds.

The solar-powered balloons are expected to stay aloft for over 100 days at a time and support not only air-to-ground Internet communications but also balloon-to-balloon communications enabling the signal to be relayed, if required, by several balloons to a ground-based station connected to an ISP, then onto the global Internet.

Google plans to send up 300 balloons transmitting on 2400 MHz and 5800 MHz around the world at the southern fortieth parallel that would provide coverage to New Zealand, Australia, Chile, and Argentina. The company hopes to eventually have thousands of balloons flying in the stratosphere at an altitude of 20 km.

The first 30 balloons were launched June 15th from New Zealand see http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10890750.

Among those involved in the project is Erin King AK4JG, a student at MIT. She was winner of the 2012 Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award. See a video of her earlier balloon project while still at high school and a video of her presentation 'Launching Radios and Other Cool Stuff into the Stratosphere' at <http://amsat-uk.org/2012/07/03/arnewsline-ham-of-the-year-erin-king-ak4jg/>.

Google Project Loon <http://www.google.com/loon/>

(From AMSAT News Service, ANS Bulletin June 22, 2013)

(Contributed by Frank Krizan KR1ZAN)

RCARC Members assist in Anna Emergency

Anna, Texas - June 29, 2013

As city crews worked to repair a water main break that occurred on Wednesday, June 26th, the Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) of Collin County sprang into action with a weekend activation. On Friday around noon, a second water main break expanded the water outage to the 9,500 residents of the city of Anna, a small town just North of McKinney. Even with the water restored, the city ordered residents to boil their water for a period of time. Without drinkable water, the MRC, a citizens corps volunteer organization under the Department of Homeland Security in Collin County, opened their reserve stores of bottled water and distributed them to the citizens of Anna.



To help with this organized water distribution, MRC members and ham radio volunteers Mike Schmit WA9WCC and Michael Ketchum K5MDK answered the call and worked a couple of shifts. Although no radio communications work was required, helpful hands made light the work of unloading pallets of bottled water, bagging them and then assisting with the drive-through lanes where citizens can pick up a bag for their family. "We packed about 10 bottles per bag, with one or two bags going to each car", said Michael Ketchum K5MDK of Plano, TX. Volunteers came from as far away as Henderson County and Arlington, TX to help with this effort. The MRC usually activates for situations like this where there is a need for a point of distribution, or

POD, to hand out water or provide medications to an affected area. The MRC is made up of medical personnel, as well as other volunteers for the purposes of responding to a crisis that requires a POD to be established. The MRC can respond to a pandemic or radiological disaster with a controlled distribution point. The MRC can also provide less formal PODs, such as the one this weekend in Anna. The MRC stockpiles water and other medical supplies in a non-disclosed location for the purpose of providing needed medical or basic needs during a disaster. Much of the MRC's function is funded by the Department of Homeland Security, a department of the Federal Government that provides funding to municipalities and counties for disaster preparedness.

Michael Ketchum K5MDK worked the Saturday morning shift for four and a half hours, opening up the POD from the prior day. Mike Schmit WA9WCC continued efforts on Sunday morning, working a four hour shift. Both Mike and Michael are members of the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, which encourages its members to volunteer in various public service safety events to provide much-needed communications support utilizing their amateur radio equipment and skills. If the MRC were to deploy a fully functioning POD, that POD would include a POD's Communication Unit, or PCU. This involves ham radio equipment capable of voice, email and data communications being operated by licensed amateur radio volunteer members of the MRC. Such services like Winlink email are utilized to support communication efforts in a portable fashion where needed. No Internet is required, as messages and data can be transferred via amateur radio, without the need for telephone or Internet services.

With the water restored by Sunday, the MRC closed its water distribution POD. There was no official record disclosed as to how many residences were helped by this effort. However, more than one truck load of water containing about ten pallets each of bottled water were distributed during the weekend. For more information about Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, go to www.w5rok.us. For more information about the Medical Reserve Corps of Collin County, go to www.co.collin.tx.us/homeland_security/citizen/mrc.jsp. See page 5 for an additional article.

(Contributed by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)

Richardson Wireless Klub Conducts Ham Radio Demonstration

The Richardson Wireless Klub conducted a 24-hour ham radio demonstration from noon Saturday to noon Sunday at the pavilion in Cottonwood Park. Ham radio operators made contact with other operators across the U.S. during the event, which was part of the American Radio Relay League's nationwide Field Day. It demonstrated how ham radio can be used for emergency radio communications when other methods, such as cellphones and telephone lines, are unavailable.



Richardson Wireless Klub volunteers assist the city during the annual Christmas parade and help out at other events throughout the year. Wireless Klub volunteers also coordinate monthly emergency siren tests with the City of Richardson Office of Emergency Management, and members participate in the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES).

It meets at 6:30 p.m. the second Monday of each month at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 W. Belt Line Rd. For more information, visit k5rwx.org.

(Reprinted from Richardson Week in Review 28 June 2013 <http://www.cor.net/index.aspx?page=73&recordid=928&returnURL=%2findex.aspx%3fpage%3d73>)

(Editor's note: Seem like the RCARC should be able to get publicity like this. After all we are the *other* amateur radio club in Richardson.)

(Contributed by Jim Skinner WB0UNI)

Way To Go Collin MRC!!

On June 26th the city of Anna TX Had a major water main break that left the 10,000 residents of Anna without water for several hours and without drinking water for 5 days. The City of Anna started to distribute water bottles out to the residents on the evening of June 26th. On the following morning the Collin MRC was asked to deploy to Anna to help distribute water to the citizens. We had an amazing turn out of support from our MRC team. The first call out went to MRC volunteers that had recently attended trainings, or exercise with the MRC in the past 3 months (thinking we only needed a few volunteers and only would be out for the evening). I was blown away by the response of 14 volunteers, ready and deployed in just 2 hours!! We arrived in Anna by 1:30pm, were we found the cities resources to be exhausted. They had one volunteer firefighter and 2 Sheriff's Citizens on Patrol volunteers trying to bag, distribute and maintain the water distribution site on their own.

After we got through the first evening we were informed that we would be needed for another day. So the 2nd call

out went to all MRC volunteers that were 100% complete in the TDVR system. We staffed 4 shifts of volunteers for the following 3 days after a second water break occurred on Friday afternoon. We were so lucky to have made a recent partnership with the Victim Relief Ministry team; they helped to supplement MRC volunteers when we were short on staff, short on patience from the blistering sun, and supplied us with food, water and great friendships.

These are our statistics for the Anna deployment and pictures of our Awesome MRC team!!



83- MRC Volunteers! 533- Volunteer hours



Approx. 30,000 bottles of water distributed. Approx. 3,000 households received water



Rockwell-Collins

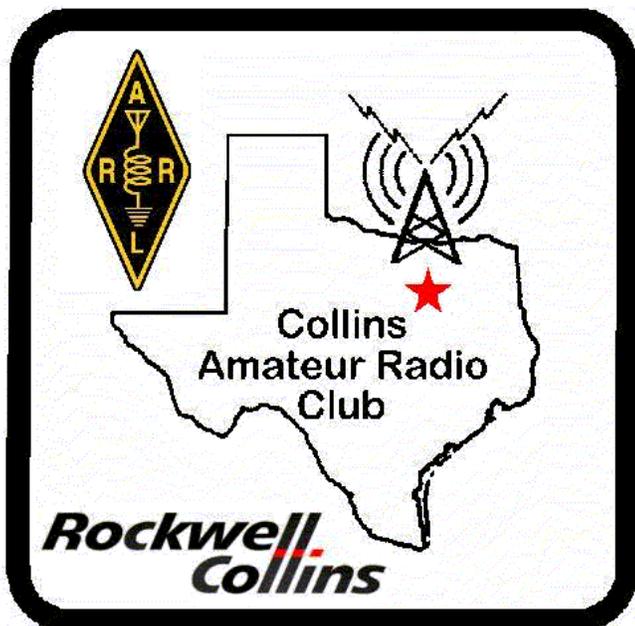
Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

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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 23 July 2013

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

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

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 16 August 2013 ←←←