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# SIGNALS

**Rockwell  
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

**Amateur Radio Club**

**Volume 38 Issue 09**

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

**July 2017**

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

**Tuesday 25 July 2017**  
**1700 Social      1730 Meeting**  
**1800 Program**

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

**Subject:**  
**To Be Announced**

Liz also reported that she has been studying CW again. She has all the letters and is working on the numbers. Liz is looking forward to operating CW in future W5ROK contests.

This is great news. Now we need to encourage Vickie, N5UIC's friend and past field day SSB assistant operator to work on her license. Below are the results of the event.

BAND	MODE	QSOs	POINTS
3.5	CW	40	70
7	CW	137	256
7	LSB	37	36
14	CW	274	454
14	USB	180	161
21	CW	197	344
21	USB	93	76
28	CW	109	176
28	USB	54	37
50	CW	15	18
50	USB	105	76
Totals		1241	1704
Raw Score			3408

## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

The program for this month's meeting was still being planned at the time of publication. So, come to the meeting on Tuesday, 25 July and expect to be surprised.

### W5ROK ARRL Field Day 2017 Report

Field Day 2017 is in the history books and W5ROK did quite well. The club operated class 1D because the gas powered generator was not functional. The operators were

- Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT
- Gene Duprey K1GD
- Bob Kirby K3NT
- John McFadden K5TIP
- Steve Phillips K6JT
- Jim Skinner WB0UNI

Visitors to the event included Jerry Dehoney KA0QIZ, Liz McFadden K5LIZ and Mike Schmit WA9WCC.

Liz surprised the W5ROK field day operators with a home-brew peach cobbler during the evening. Thank you, Liz! It was yummy!



Continued on page 3

RCARC OFFICERS			
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC	Gene Duprey	K1GD
214.862.4249		319.270.8159	
<a href="mailto:Wa9wcc@arrl.net">Wa9wcc@arrl.net</a>		<a href="mailto:geneduprey2015@gmail.com">geneduprey2015@gmail.com</a>	
<b>SECRETARY</b>		<b>TREASURER</b>	
Jim Brown	AF5MA	Mike Montgomery	WD5TX
972.495.2209		972.705.1498	
<a href="mailto:jhksbrown@verizon.net">jhksbrown@verizon.net</a>		<a href="mailto:dmmontgo@rockwellcol-">dmmontgo@rockwellcol-</a>	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	
<b>VACANT</b>		Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
		972.571.6060	
		<a href="mailto:w5qh@arrl.net">w5qh@arrl.net</a>	
<b>STATION TRUSTEE</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	
Bob Kirby	K3NT	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
319.360.0500		214.535.5264	
<a href="mailto:k3nt@arrl.net">k3nt@arrl.net</a>		<a href="mailto:wb0uni@arrl.net">wb0uni@arrl.net</a>	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>W5ROK CLUB STATION</b>	
Joe Wolf	N5UIC	972.705.1349	
214.202.2757		461-290	
<a href="mailto:n5uic@arrl.net">n5uic@arrl.net</a>			

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

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

27 Jun 2017

Vice President Gene Duprey K1GD called the meeting to order at 1731.

The following were present at the meeting:

Brian Belcher	WA5M
Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Larry Creech	KC5LOP
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
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:

Gene Duprey K1GD began the meeting with a review of Field Day activities over the previous weekend. The event was successful and enjoyable, although participation was somewhat limited. Field Day statistics are posted elsewhere in the current newsletter.

### New Business:

Jim Skinner WB0UNI was tasked to investigate options for purchasing club shirts.

An antenna erection party was proposed by Bob Kirby K3NT and tentatively scheduled for early July at Jim Skinner's place.

Gene Duprey requested a 4-to-6-month loan of the station's currently-unused S1 amplifier; this was approved by members present.

Bob Kirby noted that the club's lightning arrestors were in need of replacement due to long-term water damage and corrosion. Jim Skinner moved and Bob Kirby seconded authorization for up to \$450 for purchase of two replacements; this was approved by members present.

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT indicated that the station's Elecraft KP500 was inoperable due to as-yet-unknown causes. He will install a modification kit previously purchased and determine whether this will restore operation. If not, the unit will need to be returned to the manufacturer for repair. Gene Duprey moved and Jim Brown AF5MA seconded a proposal to authorize up to \$1,000 for repairs as needed; this was approved by members present.

Dennis Cobb provided a treasurer's report that reflected financial stability and sufficient funding for actions approved at the meeting.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1849.

## W5ROK ARRL Field Day 2017 Report



## RCARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The testing on 5 July 2017 was cancelled due to overcast skies. 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.

**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.

## How to Copy CW in Your Head

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

The second most common question that I get about CW is, "How do I learn to copy in my head?" When I get this question, I give what, to some, is a very unsatisfying answer. One day, I just went cold turkey. I put down the pencil and paper and never copied letter-by-letter ever again.

Carlo Consoli, IK0YGJ, author of *Zen and the Art of Radiotelegraphy* ([http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART\\_r20101008m.pdf](http://www.qsl.net/ik0ygi/enu/ZART_r20101008m.pdf)), says that what operators need to do is to program themselves to copy in their heads. He counsels operators to practice relaxation and visualization exercises. Visualize yourself as a high-speed operator, and maybe one day you will be one.

This approach seems to have worked for Consoli. He is a member of the Very High Speed Club (VHSC), First Class Operator's Club (FOC), and has been clocked at copying over 70 wpm. I'm not sure that this is really going to work for everyone, though.

Another approach is touted by Carl, N7AGK. On his website, Carl writes, "I have created a program to assist you in learning to copy Morse code in your head. Everything you need will be contained on a single USB flashdrive that I will provide to you. In the program there are audio Morse code presentations followed by a visual display. The visual display shows the information in large print and upper case letters. The visual display verifies that you have received the Morse code correctly." Carl's program costs \$20 and is available from [n7agk.com](http://n7agk.com).

Zeb, HB9FXW, has created a free web application called Seiuchy (<http://www.kb6nu.com/let-walrus-help-copy-head/>) to help people learn head copying. Seiuchy, which Zeb says is Japanese for walrus, simulates on-air contacts. The trick to using this app is that instead of copying exactly what's sent, you only copy the most important bit of information. The idea is that if you train yourself to do this, then

you can concentrate on what's important rather than getting bogged down in copying what's not important.

A different take on head copy was sent in by one of my blog readers, Bill, W3MSH. He wrote, "I was a CW op for many years and discovered something fascinating. I first began to hear "dots and dashes", then letters, words, sentences and at 35+ wpm, thoughts in my head."

I think Bill may have hit the nail on the head with this comment. I like the idea that copying code in your head is more akin to generating thoughts than it is to copying individual characters or words. Everybody talks about how getting faster is about moving from copying individual characters to copying words to copying entire sentences. I've never thought of it that way, although I was at a loss as to how to describe how I do it. I think the idea that when copying in your head, the code creates thoughts directly is a beautiful way to put it.

Isn't that what's happening when you talk to someone? When someone talks to me, I don't consciously parse the sentences and then analyze them to see what was just said. It's more of an unconscious process. The sounds being uttered are creating ideas in my head.

Shouldn't we approach head copy in the same way? Instead of thinking about head copy as the process of writing down the characters on an internal blackboard to be read later, it should be about translating the sound of the Morse Code directly into concepts. The sounds "dah di dit...dah dah dah...dah dah dit," should conjure up the image of a poodle or a pitbull, not the letters "D O G."

How that translates into a program or a method for learning to copy the code in one's head is another matter. It might be worth thinking about, though.

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Dan Romanchik, KB6NU, is the author of *The CW Geek's Guide to Having Fun with Morse Code* and the *No Non-sense* series of amateur radio study guides. When he's not head copying on 30m, he blogs about amateur radio at [KB6NU.Com](http://KB6NU.Com)

## Harvey Houses On-the-Air Special Event

Harvey Houses On-the-Air Special Event Stations will activate many of the 84 historic Harvey Houses each year on the second Saturday of September (in 2017, this is September 9). It would be appreciated if you would bring HHOTA to the attention of your members with the objective of getting a HHOTA Special Event Station operating at each of these Harvey Houses. Please mention HHOTA in your club newsletter and meetings.

You probably know Fred Harvey built and operated Harvey House Hotels and Restaurants (both commonly referred to as Harvey Houses) along western railroads. Texas apparently had the most Harvey Houses with 16: Amarillo, Brownwood, Canadian, Cleburne, Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth, Gainesville, Galveston, Houston, Rosenberg, Silsbee, Slaton, Somerville, Sweetwater and Temple. There

are several Oklahoma Harvey Houses just across the border that Texas Hams may consider activating. HHOTA information is at [www.qrz.net/vcara](http://www.qrz.net/vcara) which includes links to more information about Harvey Houses and the famous Harvey Girls recruited as staff.

Thank you and 73,  
Andrew Eldridge, AE5NM  
HHOTA Coordinator

New Mexico's Valencia County Amateur Radio Association is sponsoring HHOTA.

*(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)*

**Editorial: Be Civil and Respectful**

On the way home from the Spring 2017 West Central Florida Section ARES Meeting, I was running my handheld radio on APRS as a mobile tracker. I received the following text message from someone: "Hey dummy, program your radio correctly." Apparently someone did not like a parameter that was set on my radio and took exception to it. The question I asked myself after the comment had disturbed me was the following: What if I had been a new amateur licensee? If so, I might have become discouraged and bitter as a result of that comment. I might have quit.

There is a lesson to be learned from this incident. We in the amateur community should always be civil to one another. This does not mean you cannot disagree, but you can state your disagreement and remain respectful/civil about it. It does not offend me if someone does not agree with what I say or what I do, if it is in a civil manner. Lack of civility is sadly a sign of the times we live in. Far too often today when one states their viewpoint, even when they state it with civility, it is met with rudeness or even with a vitriolic response. In Amateur Radio we should be the exception to this trend and be civil to one another both on the air and in person, an example to our peers and the next generation.

Another lesson to be learned here is to be aware that sometimes operators have either technical issues with their equipment or procedures (AC hum on the microphone, cracking sounds, wrong parameters programmed on digital modes, improper operating procedure, etc.). It is okay to point an issue out to them if you know what the problem is, but remember to be civil about it, in a positive, helpful way. A new amateur may not have learned all of the proper procedures yet. Talk to them in a respectful manner, preferably off the air. In the case of most people, if you approach them with a modest and humble attitude, they will listen to what you have to say. If I have a problem, I would want someone to tell me, because I may not know about it.

One more lesson: We all have our favorite modes of operation and parts of the service we enjoy more than others. Don't put down or demean another amateur's interests. It's okay to invite other hams to join your part of the hobby but if they say no, don't feel slighted. They might on the other hand say yes, but you will not know until you ask. Also, if someone tells you about their favorite mode, take the time

to listen. You may decide it is not of interest to you and say "No thank you" and that is perfectly okay. But on the other hand you may say "yes."

The Amateur's Code was written by Paul Segal, W9EEA, in 1928 after another time in which Amateur Radio had a tumultuous period before regulations fully took effect in the mid 1920's. The Fourth point in the code says: "FRIENDLY with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit". For the full text of the code, please see <http://www.qcwa.org/amateur-code.htm> -- Darrell Davis, KT4WX, ARRL West Central Florida Section Manager, reprinted from The WCF Presser and West Central Florida Section News

Reprinted with permission from the ARRL ARES e-Letter, dated July 19, 2017. *(Contributed by Frank Krizan KR1ZAN)*

**Upcoming Events**

<b>AUGUST</b>	
<b>5-6</b>	<b>NEW "222 MHz and Up Distance Contest"</b> Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz thru 241 GHz bands using any allowable mode. A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest">http://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest</a> .
<b>19-20</b>	<b>10 GHz &amp; Up – Round 1</b> North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up">http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up</a> .
<b>20</b>	<b>Rookie Roundup—RTTY</b> To encourage newly-licensed operators ("Rookies") in North America to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup">http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup</a> .
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	
<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

# 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 25 July 2017**

**1700 Social      1730 Meeting**

**Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
 At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection**

*Conference Room A in Hospital Building*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 11 August 2017 ←←←**