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# SIGNALS

**Rockwell  
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

**Amateur Radio Club**

**Volume 39 Issue 10**

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

**July 2018**

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## **RCARC Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday 24 July 2018  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program**

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

**Subject:  
Headphone and Software-Defined  
Radios (SDR)  
Gene Duprey K1GD**

**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.

### **State of the Shack from Bob K3NT**

Hot days of summer are here. I have upgraded K3NT to the latest version of WSJT-X (V9) and have worked over 100 stations total on 6 meters, 10 meters, 12 meters, 17 meters, 15 meters, 20 meters, and 40 meters. The interface to eQSL, QRZ log, and LOTW are working well. I tried to set up the latest HRD that I have had for almost a year. I upgraded my N1MM+ and I am now thinking of trying out the DXLabs software.

My antennas remain in poor shape and I remain banned from the roof as well as the trees as I am still healing.

I heard from our new RCARC treasurer, Rohan Thomas KG5RCN, that the transfer and bank paperwork is now complete. I am still awaiting word of when checks can be issued for a number of RCARC station projects just simmering on the back burner. New, requested items for W5ROK operations and items required for the W5ROK remote HF operation project are also in cue.

(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

### **Changing a Light Bulb**

Wife: "So, what did you do today?"

Wife: "That's all? I did the laundry, vacuumed the house, cooked three meals, and more... and you changed a light bulb?"

Husband: "Yeah, but I filmed it."

Click here to see how he changed a light bulb [https://www.youtube.com/embed/f1BgZlZRfT8?feature=player\\_embedded](https://www.youtube.com/embed/f1BgZlZRfT8?feature=player_embedded).

(Contributed by Jim Skinner WB0UNI)

## **Local Club News**

### **Meeting Notice**

In addition to the monthly business meeting, this month's meeting will include a presentation by Gene Deprey on headsets and Software Defined Radios.

### **RCARC Community Service Activities**

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate each month in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The test on 4 July 2018 was performed but not monitored by radio operators because of the holiday. No report was available as to the functionality of the sirens. The siren testing is performed at 12:00 on the first Wednesday of each month. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater.

**RCARC OFFICERS**

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Gene Duprey 319.270.8159 <a href="mailto:geneduprey2015@gmail.com">geneduprey2015@gmail.com</a>	K1GD	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> <b>AVAILABLE</b>	
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church building. For further information contact Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail [warhog4@tx.rr.com](mailto:warhog4@tx.rr.com).

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**President and VP Messages**

I hope everyone is enjoying the July weather this year; it is a real Texas Summer. I hope everyone has been on the air, as there have been some great events and Special Event Stations on this month. I got in on the 13 Colonies Special Event and worked quite a few of the stations from the 13 colonies. There's lots more to get involved in also, so check the ARRL Bulletin and also those local events coming up.

I'm looking for headphones for the club station and finding a fair selection out there, and I will have an update at the meeting. I have also been looking into a software-defined radio (SDR) for my own station, and I have pretty much decided on the Flex 6400M. Now I just have to figure out how I'm going to pay for it!

Well, that's all I have this time. I hope to see everyone at the meeting next Tuesday.

See you at the meeting & 73's,  
Gene, K1GD  
RCARC 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

26 June 2018

President Gene Duprey K1GD called the meeting to order at 1733.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
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:

Paperwork has been signed to grant signature authority for the club bank account to Rohan Thomas KG5RCN and Bob Kirby K3NT.

No status has yet been received from Rockwell Collins (Cedar Rapids) on annual club funding.

### New Business:

Gene Duprey K1GD gave an overview of Field Day activities from the previous weekend. The club station had five operators over the duration of the event and achieved a total score of 3850. There was a general discussion of "lessons learned" and ideas for next year's event.

There was a general discussion of future equipment needs, including adjustable microphone stands and UPS batteries.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1815.

## K5RG's Trip to 9N Land

In my past trips to Nepal and specifically Namche Bazaar, the Sherpa capitol in the Everest region, I've looked at a single tea house/hotel off in the distance from Namche located on a distant mountain top. This location had to have a commanding view of the entire Mt. Everest valley. I thought about visiting the location named Kongde in 2014 with the XYL Camille but my outfitter said that the only viable plan would be to fly to the tea house via helicopter. Not letting go of the plan, this year I decided to trek by myself to the location against the better advice of my outfitter. The

trek to Namche Bazaar took 3 days and it would take another 3 days of trekking to keep the daily altitude gain to Kongde within safe limits (1000 feet per day).



The last day would be the crux of the trip since there is no civilization except at the end points of the path. With my guide Sonam Sherpa, my porter Phuna, I left Thame (3800 meters) at 5 AM heading to Kongde pulling in 12 hours later. It was harder than expected since the path initially went to 4000 meters but then dropped down to 3200 meters before reaching Kongde at 4250 meters/14,000 feet. By the end of the long day, I felt like I had actually climbed it 3 times. The 3 days spent at the tea house were well worth the effort even with the daily cloud cover not allowing a completely clear day but typical for the pre-monsoon period. It is exciting watching the clouds roll in at your feet. The trek down was a more direct path, only taking 4 hours but with an altitude loss of 1640 meters/5280 feet. I then returned back to Kathmandu and took a quick 3-day trip to Nepal's vacation spot Pokhara before returning to W/K land, a 20-hour flight with a time difference of 11 hours and 45 minutes, almost exactly on the opposite side of the world from Texas. It is good to be back with the high temperatures, high humidity and high QRN but home nonetheless.

My favorite picture of the trek is shown above. Everest is off of my left shoulder with the peak just in the clouds.

73, Ken, K5RG

*(Reprinted courtesy of the Texan Newsletter, article by Ken Goodwin K5RG)*

## Old vs New Environmentalism

Checking out at the store, the young cashier suggested to the much older lady that she should bring her own grocery bags, because plastic bags are not good for the environment.

The woman apologized to the young girl and explained, "We didn't have this 'green thing' back in my earlier days."

The young clerk responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment for future generations."



The older lady said that she was right—our generation didn't have the "green thing" in its day. The older lady went on to explain:

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So, they really were recycled. But we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Grocery stores bagged our groceries in brown paper bags that we reused for numerous things. Most memorable besides household garbage bags was the use of brown paper bags as book covers for our school books. This was to ensure that public property (the books provided for our use by the school) was not defaced by our scribbles. Then we were able to personalize our books on the brown paper bags. But, too bad we didn't do the "green thing" back then.

We walked up stairs because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks. But she was right. We didn't have the "green thing" in our day.

Back then we washed the baby's diapers because we didn't have the throw away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy-gobbling machine burning up 220 volts. Wind and solar power really did dry our clothes back in our early days. Kids got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing. But that young lady is right; we didn't have the "green thing" back in our day.

Back then we had one TV, or radio, in the house -- not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Montana. In the kitchen we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us. When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used wadded-up old newspapers to cushion it, not Styrofoam or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't fire up an engine and burn gasoline just to cut the lawn. We used a push mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club

to run on treadmills that operate on electricity. But she's right; we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water. We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blade in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull. But we didn't have the "green thing" back then.

Back then, people took the streetcar or a bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their moms into a 24-hour taxi service in the family's \$45,000 SUV or van, which cost what a whole house did before the "green thing." We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerized gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 23,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest burger joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the "green thing" back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smart ass young person.

We don't like being old in the first place, so it doesn't take much to piss us off... Especially from a tattooed, multiple pierced smartass who can't make change without the cash register telling them how much.

*(Contributed by Jim Skinner WBOUN)*

## The First Field Day - 1933

*by Don Murray W9VE*

In its June 1933 issue, QST magazine announced the start of the first International Field Day activity. The author, F.E. Handy, W1BDI wrote, "the real object of this contest is to test 'portables' wherever they may be available. If successful, we want to make it an annual affair."

The winner of this contest was a non-club group signing W4PAW. Club members made 62 QSOs.

For the second Field Day of 1934, the multiplier for sections and countries was removed, emphasizing the total number of stations contacted.



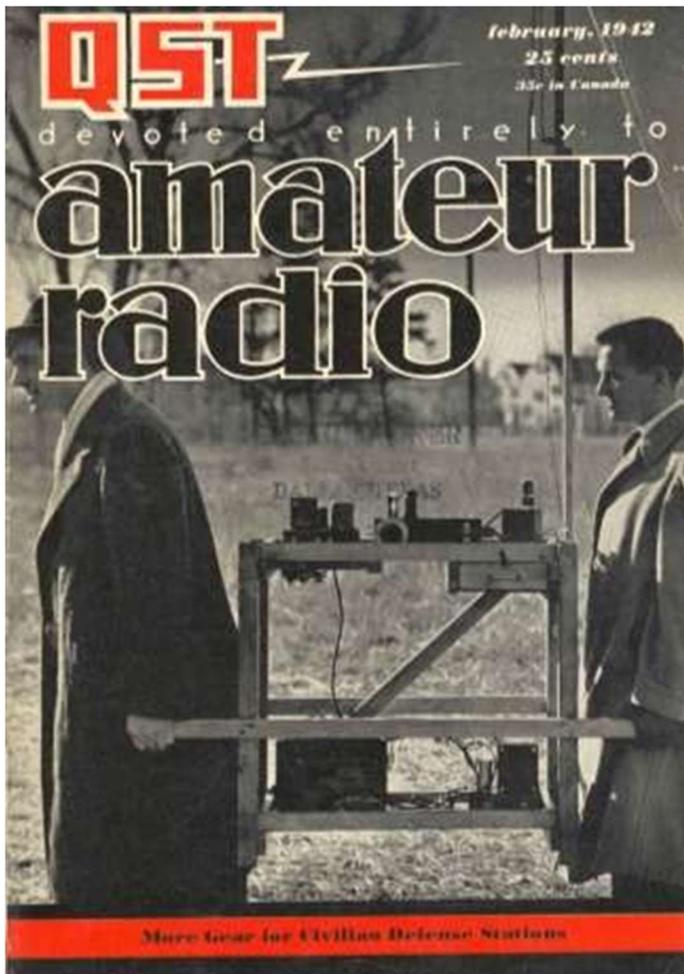
*1933 Field Day at W9OAR*

The scoring system began to resemble Field Day as we now know it, with 3-, 2-, or 1-point multiplier per QSO depending on power output. The breakpoints were set at 20 Watts and 60 Watts!

In 1937 the "Field Day message" was born. This bonus gave 10 points (before multiplier) and was awarded for a single properly formed and serviced message to ARRL HQ stating the number of ops, location, "conditions", and power. For the first time, the winning QSO total reached 204, with a breathtaking average rate of 7.5 QSOs per hour.



Quick Set-Up, Eh!



1942 Four-Handy Talkie

(Reprinted courtesy of The Arclite – monthly newsletter of the Garland Amateur Radio Club)

## Upcoming Events

<b>Daily</b>	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz <a href="http://www.k6jt.com">www.k6jt.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday</b>	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm

### AUGUST

- 4-5** **222 MHz and up Distance**—Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 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. Begins at 1800 UTC Saturday and ends at 1800 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>.
- 18-19** **10 GHz and up – Round One**—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. Begins at 6:00 AM local Saturday though 12:00 midnight local Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/10-ghz-up>.
- 19** **Rookie Roundup – RTTY**—To encourage newly-licensed operators in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive operating. on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. From 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup>.

### SEPTEMBER

- 8-10** **September VHF**—For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/sep-tember-vhf>.
- 15-16** **10 GHz and up – Round Two**—See **10 GHz and up – Round One** above.
- 29-30** **EME – 2.3 GHz and Up**—Work as many amateur stations as possible via earth-moon-earth path on authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. From 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/eme-contest>.

# Rockwell-Collins

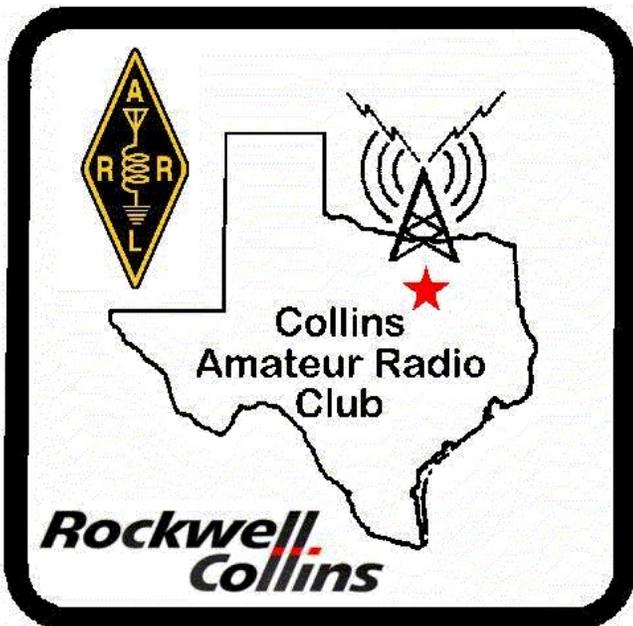
Amateur Radio Club

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 24 July 2018**  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting

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

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 17 August 2018 ←←←**