


COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

SIGNALS NEWSLETTER

Volume 40 Issue 06

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

March 2019

RCARC
Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 March 2019
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
K1N DXpedition
By Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

(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.

Technician Privileges Expansion Proposed

(The ARRL has proposed an expansion of Technician privileges. I am against it for several reasons, including flaws in the ARRL's data and arguments and the negative effect it would have on CW and Digital Traffic operations, but the club members might want to be informed. Here is info, which I believe came from the ARRL website. There is still time to comment to the FCC (which I am doing). (73, Steve)

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors' Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

"This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service," ARRL said in its Petition. "It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills."

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. *(Continued on page 3)*

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

At the next general membership meeting those present will finalize the selection of the new club call sign and newsletter logo necessitated by the Rockwell Collins-United Technologies merger. This month Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, will give a program about the K1N DXpedition.

RCARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The March test was performed on 6 March 2019. The majority of the sirens worked satisfactorily, however an alarming number had serious malfunctions. Hopefully they will be repaired before spring storm season arrives. 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

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President and VP Messages

Spring Has sprung! Or is trying at least. This month we have Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, giving us a program about the K1N DXpedition. I have seen this program and it is quite good, so let's all show up and enjoy a video on this effort.

Well I have finally put up an antenna for 80 Meters. Nothing extravagant, but it does get me on the band. It is a 75/80 meter Hamstick that I discovered in my garage when we moved back to Texas. Not sure when and why I bought it, but it is now mounted on my metal car port. It has restricted bandwidth, but until I get my Murch antenna tuner rejuvenated, it will do. So far, the best distance is Mississippi, which is pretty good (at least to me for such an inefficient antenna) for a first contact on the band.

I have been operating quite a bit on 20 & 40 Meters the past month. However, the bands have been pretty crappy this past week—something about a solar flare causing disruptions. Daytime operating has been pretty dismal, but it does pick up in the early evening.

I am going to be presenting my FlexRadio program to the Garland club this month. I have revised it a bit, and I will be doing a Video demonstration, if it works correctly. The Garland club meets the Day before our meeting, so Monday the 25th.

Access to the club station for Retirees has been a problem ever since the company's new owners have taken over. Right now, you must have a current employee escort you to the station, and stay with you while you are there. We need an accurate club roster, which the company wants, before they will consider issuing badges for retiree access. Joe, can you print one up or send me a copy? It needs to be legible, which is not the case with the one I currently have. I am not sure how current it is either.

Hope to see you all at the meeting and 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 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

Secretary's Report

26 February 2019

President Gene Duprey K1GD called the meeting to order at 1732.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN
John McFadden	K5TIP
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Rohan Thomas	KG5RCN
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

Officers and Committee Reports:

The Treasurer's Report was circulated at the meeting. There were no additional formal reports other than the Secretary's Report, which is contained in this newsletter.

Old Business:

Gene Duprey reported that unescorted visitor badges for the Collins Richardson facility, previously used for ham shack access by retired members, were no longer being issued following the Rockwell Collins - United Technologies merger. Gene is in contact with Facilities Security, and alternative approaches are being explored. Until the issue is resolved all non-employee members will require a full-time escort by a current employee when in Collins facilities.

Bob Kirby K3NT announced that paperwork to change the club name from Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) to Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC) has been prepared for submittal to the ARRL. Final signing of the document was accomplished at the meeting.

Members were encouraged to submit suggestions for a new callsign and a new logo. Bob will explore available callsign options and their ease of use for CW communications.

New Business:

Kerry Weeks K5WKS proposed that ham license test sessions be scheduled following some or all club meetings as a service to new members and the local community in general. This will require participation by at least three members with Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) certification to satisfy FCC rules. There were no objections to the

proposal, and Bob Kirby moved to appoint Kerry Weeks to organize the activity; this was unanimously approved by members present.

Bob Kirby suggested that former club members be copied on club newsletters, to the extent that email addresses are known, in an attempt to boost membership attendance. Jim Skinner WB0UNI agreed to review the existing club member database and implement this as feasible.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1901. The planned program, a demonstration of the FlexRadio FLEX-6500 with Maestro remote control unit by Gene Duprey, was deferred to the next meeting.

Technician Privileges Expansion Proposed

(Continued from page 1) The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League's proposal.

ARRL's petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a "periodic rebalancing" between those two objectives, the League maintains.

"There has not been such a rebalancing in many years," ARRL said in its petition. "It is time to do that now." The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

"The Committee's analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago," ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it's urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education "that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service," ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting

overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

“ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges,” the petition concluded.

(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

Getting on 10 Meters

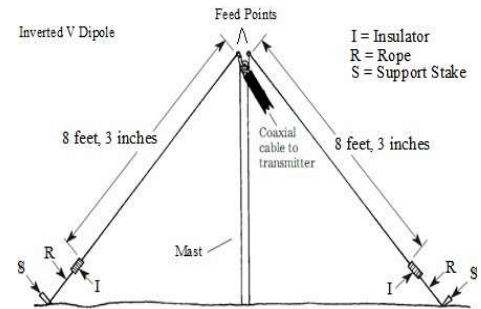
10 Meters... sometimes referred to as *“The Forgotten Band”* consists of frequencies stretching from 28.000 to 29.700 MHz. Novice and Technician Class licensees were granted segments on the 10-Meter Band as of March 21, 1987, from 28.300 to 28.500 MHz, operating with up to 200 watts PEP. For Extra, Advanced and General Class licensees, the privileges extend across the entire band.

Upper Side Band voice communications take place between 28.300 to 29.300, but for this article, we’ll concentrate on that part of the band from 28.300 to 28.500, where any class licensee can have voice communications privileges.

Due to its unique spot in the spectrum, 10 Meters can occasionally be challenging to work. At peak times of the solar cycle when many sunspots appear on the Sun’s surface, 10 Meters can be alive with extremely long-distance signals. Even in times of solar minimum, 10 Meters still has some long distance possibilities which can bring in signals from a hundred to many thousands of miles away. Seasonally speaking, late spring and early summer can be a prime time, with a shorter, less-intense period during mid-winter. Other, off-peak openings may be seen almost anytime.

There are several options when considering an antenna for 10 Meters. One of the easiest and least expensive, is the “Inverted V Dipole”. At first glance, it may appear to be a more or less, directional antenna. But with the radials dropping away from the mast at approximately 45 degrees, the Inverted V has very omni - directional properties.

Another aspect of this type of antenna design, is that it can be conveniently hid inside an attic if you happen to live in an area with antenna restrictions.

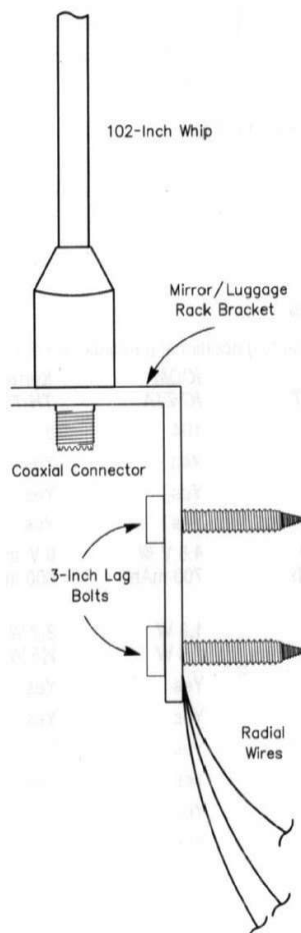


You could also easily build your own vertical antenna, having a radiating element of 8 feet, 3 inches of wire which would be soldered to the center conductor of an SO-238 chassis mount in a 3/4" PVC cap, and then mount it inside a length of PVC pipe. This could be then clamped to a vent pipe atop your roof, as illustrated in the photo at left. Solder three or four radials to the outer points on the SO-238 chassis mount of 102" out of 12 AWG wire (they should be a little longer than the radiator anyway).

This type of antenna is easy to erect; durable, of one piece construction; low cost; no more than about 8-1/2 feet in length; is completely weather protected and can be constructed with basic tools and with materials that cost under \$5.00.

A similar approach was done by Brian Smithson - N8WRL, where he used an old 102" CB whip antenna (cut to the appropriate length), a luggage rack bracket and some scrap wire to construct his own vertical 10 Meter antenna. The design for this antenna and his construction procedures, were published in the July 1995 edition of QST and can be viewed here: <http://www.arrl.org/files/file/10M-Vertical-1995-07-QST.pdf> A depiction of his antenna design, is at the left on page 5.





Another contributor posted, build the antenna out of two pieces of telescoping aluminum poles, available from any hardware store. Have the overall length of the radiating element and radials cut to 108 inches. You can tune the antenna to perform the best for your current use by cutting slots in the top of the larger tube and clamping it at the appropriate length with a stainless-steel hose clamp.

By doing this you will end up with an antenna that will perform well on both 10 & 12 meters with a low SWR. Your needs may change over time; you can have an antenna that will cover both bands with no increase in price!

There are LOTS of vertical antenna designs and dimensions that will work. A vertical antenna for mobile use may not be optimum for roof mounting, for example.

With the understanding that not everyone is a builder, there are commercially made 10 Meter vertical antennas out there, such as - *and I don't mean to advertise* - the Cushcraft AR10, which runs about \$125.00.

What works best FOR YOU will depend on the supports and materials you have available, where you want to mount it, how much money you want to spend, etc.

Start checking 10 Meters for activity. Go to the band and call CQ - you might just get some great contacts.

Here locally, a local group of ham operators started talking on 28.385 USB most every night about 7:30 PM. The group is not a net, but rather just a chat group, that call themselves *The Rag Chew Bunch*. There are usually three to eight people on each night, who use vertical antennas for the local chat group. When the band is open they have talked to several states and some foreign countries, and they invite all area hams to join in. You may find a lot of familiar call signs there.

As a final note, 28.400 is the designated "calling & listening" frequency on 10 Meters. While not required to do so, if you happen to engage in a QSO on 28.400, out of courtesy you should move up or down to free up the frequency.

(Reprinted courtesy of February CTARC Wavelength Newsletter)

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
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

APRIL

- 14** **Rookie Roundup—Phone** Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person.

Objective: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read [“HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions.”](#)

The event runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/rookie-roundup>.

JUNE

- 8-10** **June 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. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. All legal modes are permitted. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/june-vhf>.

- 15** **Kids Day** Twice a year, ARRL offers an event designed to promote Amateur Radio to our youth. Share the excitement with your kids or grandkids, a Scout troop, a church or the general public! Kids Day is designed to give on-the-air experience to young people and hopefully foster interest in getting a license of their own. It is also intended to give older hams a chance to share their station and love for Amateur Radio with their children. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/kids-day>.



**Mail Station 461-290
 P.O. Box 833807
 Richardson, TX 75083-3807**

TO:



Richardson, Texas

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

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

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 12 April 2019 ←←←