



COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Richardson, Texas

SIGNALS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 47 Issue 08

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

May 2026

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 May 2026 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at

Woodcreek Church

3400 E. Renner Rd, Richardson TX

(and via Zoom)

**"Grounding and Bonding for
Home HF Stations",
presented by Ward Silver,
NOAX**

Following the business meeting, Ward Silver, N0AX, will educate us on "Grounding and Bonding for Home HF Stations." We all know that proper station grounding is imperative and so is bonding within the station. The program will give an overview of how important it is to install an effective and safe system for an HF station, whether fixed or portable.



Important terms and concepts will be reviewed from the perspective of ham radio along with basic techniques that address safety, lightning protection and RF management. A set of references is provided for more information.

Ms Electra is Ward's constant companion and supervisor. She was Miss May and Miss December in the ARRL's Station Cat Calendar in 2022 as well.

Ward was first licensed in 1972, holds an Extra Class license, and is a degreed electrical engineer. After more than 20 years in product development, Ward shifted his focus to technical writing and teaching.

In the ham radio area, he authored several titles in the "For Dummies" series, including *Ham Radio for Dummies* (now in its 4th edition). He wrote the Hands-On Radio column in QST and was the lead editor for several editions of the *ARRL Handbook*, *Antenna Book* and all three ARRL licensing manuals.

His book *Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur* has become a widely used reference text, both by amateurs and professionals.

A PDF copy of Ward's presentation will be posted on the [n5cxx.us](http://www.n5cxx.us) website following the May meeting.

May Meeting Features Grounding & Bonding

The monthly membership meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, May 26th, at 5:30pm, at Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Rd., Richardson. The meeting will also be streamed via Zoom. Login instructions are emailed to members prior to the meeting and are included in a link shown below the meeting announcement on the Club's website: [n5cxx.us](http://www.n5cxx.us)

Two major items will be addressed at this month's business meeting: Approval of a procedure governing the disposition of obsolete/unwanted Club equipment, and, a call for volunteers to handle CARC's participation in Field Day. A copy of the proposed procedure was emailed to members last month and will be emailed again prior to this meeting.

CARC LEADERSHIP			
PRESIDENT		VICE-PRESIDENT	
Mike Montgomery	WD5TX	Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN
president@n5cxx.us		vp@n5cxx.us	
SECRETARY		TREASURER	
Jim Brown	AF5MA	Mark Dempsy	N5MD
secretary@n5cxx.us		treasurer@n5cxx.us	
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN		IMMED PAST PRESIDENT	
OPEN		Bill Swan	K5MWC
activities@n5cxx.us		Director@n5cxx.us	
STATION TRUSTEE		NEWSLETTER EDITOR	
Mike Montgomery	WD5TX	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
trustee@n5cxx.us		newsletter@n5cxx.us	
MEMBERSHIP		WEBSITE MANAGER	
Frank Krizan	KR1ZA	Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
membership@n5cxx.us		webmaster@n5cxx.us	

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 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 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 church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail 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 © 2026 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.

Greetings to all,

As we move into the spring season, I encourage everyone to check antennas, power supplies, and emergency kits in preparation for summer weather. Regular station maintenance helps ensure readiness during severe weather and emergency communications situations.

Whether you are a newly licensed operator or a longtime amateur, consider joining local nets, practicing simplex communication, or mentoring new hams in the hobby. Every contact and every exercise improves our operating skills.

Field day is approaching fast and I hope that everyone is able to participate.

Thank you to all who continue to support emergency communications, technical education, and public service through amateur radio.

73 and good operating,

Mike Montgomery
WD5TX

Vice President's Report

A severe thunderstorm warning on April 28th caused the cancellation of our monthly meeting at Woodcreek Church. The Church follows a protocol to cease all activities when the Plano ISD issues event cancellations due to weather. Fortunately we got the word early enough to scramble to communicate via email to our members that the meeting was cancelled. I hope no one missed the message and drove to the Church.

Our membership management system has the capability to send SMS messages to members. The CARC Board will discuss using this tool for use only in emergencies, such as sudden meeting cancellations. If you have thoughts on this matter, send your comments to me at vp@n5cxx.us We will also be asking for input at a couple of meetings.

The program we had lined up in April, "Mobilizing Over the Years", by David Cheek, WA5MWD, is tentatively re-scheduled for our June meeting. David has extensive experience with amateur radio mobilizing. He will discuss mobilizing in the 'Good Ol' Days', as well as current trends and his personal installations.

At this month's meeting, we'll be asking membership to approve a Procedure for Disposition of obsolete and unwanted Club equipment. The procedure incorporates an auction method which allows our members first option at purchasing equipment that has been determined to be no longer needed by the Club's Equipment Committee and the Board. If no member submits at least a minimum bid, the equipment will be offered to the community at large.

Another topic to be discussed this month is the need for a Field Day Chairman. There's been no feedback to appeals for interest in our Club's participation in Field Day this year. If someone wishes to operate from the Club station, we need a "champion" to coordinate that effort. If a team wishes to organize to conduct a true "field" operation, we need to hear from such a team.

We are very fortunate to have Ward Silver, N0AX, as our guest speaker this month. Ward wrote the book on Grounding and Bonding for the Radio Amateur, published by the ARRL. It's now in its second revision. I hope everyone has the opportunity to attend his presentation, either in person or via Zoom. You'll learn a lot and have the chance to ask Ward questions about this important topic.

And a final note: A survey request was sent out this past month asking if you are a member of the ARRL, asking for a simple YES or NO response. We have heard from about half of our members. If you didn't respond, please take a moment to send a short email to vp@n5cxx.us indicating YES or NO regarding your ARRL membership. Please include your name and call on your email message.

Thanks and 73, Frank KR1ZAN

Secretary's Report

27 April 2026

There are no minutes for the April meeting since it was cancelled due to the meeting place being locked because of stormy weather.

Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting

12 May 2026

The CARC Board did not convene for the May session due to multiple conflicts for directors' time and a lack of issues requiring immediate attention.

The Board will convene again on 9 June.



Tues. May 26 - 5:30pm - Membership Meeting at Woodcreek Church

Tues. June 2 - 5:30pm - Drive Home Net (441.875)

Tues. June 2 - 7:00pm - First Tuesday Elmer Night via Zoom

Tues. June 9 - 5:30pm - Drive Home Net (441.875)

Tues. June 9 - 7:00pm - CARC Board of Directors via Zoom

Fri/Sat June 12/13 - DFW Ham Expo, Lewisville, TX

Tues. June 16 - 5:30pm - Drive Home Net (441.875)

Tues. June 16 - 7:00pm - Third Tuesday Elmer Net (441.875)

Tues. June 23 - 5:30pm - Membership Meeting at Woodcreek Church

Sat/Sun June 27/28 - ARRL Field Day

Tues. June 30 - 5:30pm - Drive Home Net (441.875)

***CARC Membership
Now Open to Raytheon***

The CARC Board of Directors determined at its July meeting that Full memberships will be extended to Raytheon employees and retirees. The CARC Constitution states this implicitly.

We invite all Raytheon employees, contractors, and retirees to join the Collins Amateur Radio Club by submitting a membership application, which can be found on the Club

website ([n5cxx.us](https://www.n5cxx.us)) or directly at: [https://www.n5cxx.us/Club Membership Form.pdf](https://www.n5cxx.us/Club%20Membership%20Form.pdf)

All current members who may know Raytheon employees or retirees who are hams or interested in amateur radio should let them know about our Club and encourage them to join. New members get the remainder of 2025 and all of 2026 for one annual fee.



The following is a press release from [Rhizomatica](https://www.rhizomatica.org):

May 2026 - Rhizomatica is pleased to officially launch Mercury, a completely open-source digital radio OFDM protocol for HF broadcast and peer-to-peer ARQ connections with compatible TCP interfaces, built for reliable store-and-forward email and file transfer over HF radio links. Mercury is the newest element of the HERMES software suite, actively developed by Rhizomatica since 2017, with generous funding from ARDC and others.

Mercury is written in C, released under a GPL-3.0 license, and features a modular architecture with per-direction mode selection, hybrid SNR + delivery feedback-based gear-shifting, split control/data channel design, and uses field-proven FreeDV digital data modes, with each mode kept resident in a pool, eliminating codec re-initialization overhead. Pre-built binaries are available for Windows and Debian operating systems, and Mercury is suitable for use with most HF transceivers and completely compliant for amateur use.

In early tests, compared to the commercial alternative, Mercury has performed well and is nearly at parity in optimal SNR conditions and outperforms the alternative in poor SNR conditions.

Not only has Rhizomatica developed a fully open-source software modem, they have done so to empower communities in need of their own communication infrastructure. We are proud to have supported Rhizomatica in this work, and very excited to see it now available to the amateur community and others around the world using HF for critical communication. -Rosy Schechter (KJ7RYV), Executive Director of ARDC.

"I am very pleased to see Rhizomatica using the FreeDV data modes combined with their own custom ARQ protocol to send data over low SNR HF channels. It is great to see Rhizomatica embracing those waveforms and spreading the use of open-source in HF Data." -David Rowe (VK5DGR), inventor of Codec 2 and FreeDV.

More information can be found from the following sources, or by contacting Rhizomatica directly using the Contact information provided below.

- MAILING LIST <https://lists.riseup.net/www/info/hermes-general>
- SOURCE CODE <https://github.com/Rhizomatica/mercury>

- YOUTUBE DEMOS https://www.youtube.com/@rhizomatica_communications/playlists

CONTACT

- Peter Bloom - General Coordinator of Rhizomatica. peter@rhizomatica.org
- Dr. Rafael Diniz (PU2UIT) - HERMES Lead Developer and Project Coordinator. rafael@rhizomatica.org

Rhizomatica Communications is a US-based non-profit with the mission to support communities to build and maintain self-governed and owned communication and energy infrastructure. <https://www.rhizomatica.org>



ARISS Prepares for Lunar Based Amateur Radio Communications

During their Saturday [Hamvention](#) (2026) forum presentation, ARISS: Celebrating 25 Years on ISS and Pioneering New Spaceflight Opportunities for Hams and Youth, [ARISS](#) announced the formation of Amateur Radio Exploration (AREX) and their relationship with NASA that could potentially put an amateur radio presence on the moon as part of future lunar missions. AREX is a joint consortium between [AMSAT](#) and ARISS.

While nothing is set in stone at this stage, ARISS did speculate on the type of radio setup that could empower amateur radio operators to communicate via the Moon:

- A project titled CAVIAR: Communications, Audio, Video, and Imaging using Amateur Radio
- Cameras for earth, moon and vehicle imaging
- Voice, digital and video supported
- 10GHz and 5GHz links supported by ground station network
- Scalable: change power output and supply for mission profile

Keep an eye on the [ARISS website](#) and their other channels for details.

[This article courtesy Amateur Radio Daily, May 17, 2026 - <https://daily.hamweekly.com/2026/05/ariss-announces-arex-amateur-radio-exploration-lunar-moon/>]

How Parks on the Air Changed Ham Radio

Inside the Volunteer Team Building the Future of Parks on the Air

[K Thomas W1DED](#)

May 10, 2026



James VE7UVL Activating CA-3948 Peace Arch Provincial Park, British Columbia

Just after sunrise, a portable antenna rises beside a picnic table somewhere in America. A coax connector tightens. A radio face lights up. A callsign cuts through the noise floor. Within seconds, operators from across the country, and increasingly across the world, begin calling back.

For many amateur radio operators, this ritual has become as familiar as morning coffee. A folding table. A wire in a tree. A radio powered by a lithium battery. Sometimes snow on the ground. Sometimes blistering summer heat. Sometimes a rare national park. Sometimes a small state wildlife area miles from the nearest town.

Ten years ago, Parks on the Air was little more than an idea shared among a handful of operators disappointed to see the ARRL's wildly successful National Parks on the Air (NPOTA) event come to an end. Today, it has become one of the largest grassroots movements in amateur radio, with nearly 50 million QSOs logged, more than 85,000 registered parks, and operators active across 236 entities.

This spring, as Parks on the Air prepares for another massive showing at the Dayton Hamvention, the organization finds itself at a turning point, not because activity is slowing down, but because it continues to grow far beyond what anyone imagined when it began.



Kody K3KLB with a Winter POTA Activation

Over the past several months, Q5 interviewed four voices deeply connected to that future: board members Mark Torigian K8MST, John Ford AB0O, Mike Case W8MSC, and, in an unusual reversal, this writer himself, interviewed by Jim Davis N8JRD. Taken together, the conversations reveal something larger than a successful operating program. They tell the story of a hobby rediscovering momentum.

The Accidental Revolution

Like many of amateur radio's best ideas, Parks on the Air wasn't created inside a conference room or built from a strategic business plan. It emerged because a group of operators didn't want something fun to disappear.

In 2016, the ARRL launched National Parks on the Air, a yearlong event celebrating the centennial of the National Park Service. Portable operators flooded parks across the United States. Hunters chased activators from home stations. For thousands of operators, it was their first real exposure to modern portable HF operating.

Then NPOTA ended.

For operators like Mike Case, W8MSC, the end of the program created an obvious question: what came next? Case had already fallen in love with portable operating through Field Day. "I love the outdoors," he said. "I camp, I hike. So the idea of combining ham radio and my love of the outdoors was, to me, it was a no-brainer."



POTA Board Member Mike Case W8MSC

As NPOTA wound down, conversations began among a small group of operators that included Jason Johnston W3AAX, Thom Martin W8TAM, and Case himself. They weren't trying to build a global organization. They were trying to preserve the excitement they had just experienced.

The earliest version of Parks on the Air ran, quite literally, on a server sitting in a basement. "We thought if maybe a thousand people from the NPOTA community bought into our little program, we would consider that a success," Case recalled.

Instead, it exploded.

The Growth Nobody Expected

If there's one theme repeated across every interview with the board, it's that no one expected Parks on the Air to become this large.

When Mark Torigian K8MST joined amateur radio during the COVID years, he heard the same refrain many newcomers heard at the time: ham radio was supposedly fading away. Then he discovered Parks on the Air.

"Everybody was saying ham radio is a dying hobby," he said. "But POTA was there."



POTA Board Member Mark Torigian K8MST

The numbers now tell a very different story. In 2025 alone, activators generated more than 15 million QSOs. During peak weekends, spotting pages scroll continuously with activations from parks around the world. POTA activity now rivals major contests in both scale and energy.

One statistic still surprises even longtime operators: Parks on the Air regularly processes more than a million QSOs in a single month. Torigian compares that to Field Day. "Field Day in the United States gets 1.5 million QSOs in a three-day event," he said. "POTA does it in one month. Every month."

What makes the accomplishment even more remarkable is that the entire system is still powered entirely by volunteers. Over 200 people worldwide maintain the infrastructure, handle mapping, support activators, review parks, process data, and keep the organization functioning day after day.

That reality shapes nearly every challenge the organization now faces.

The Hidden Work Behind the Spots

To activators, Parks on the Air can feel wonderfully simple. Drive to a park. Set up an antenna. Get spotted. Make contacts. Upload a log.

Behind the scenes, however, sits a surprisingly complicated global infrastructure.

John Ford AB0O understands that complexity better than almost anyone. Ford oversees North American mapping for Parks on the Air, coordinating roughly 60 volunteer mapping representatives responsible for maintaining park databases across the United States, Canada, and surrounding regions.



POTA Board Member John Ford AB0O

That means dealing with hundreds of government agencies, constantly changing land designations, and wildly different park systems spread across multiple countries. "In North America, we have over 200 different agencies at the federal and state level looking after parks," Ford explained. "Now go worldwide."

The challenge isn't simply adding more parks. It's building rules and systems that work internationally. Early versions of Parks on the Air were heavily American in structure, focused primarily on federal and state park systems. As participation spread globally, the organization had to rethink how parks were defined and qualified across countries with completely different governmental structures.

At the same time, another major effort has quietly unfolded behind the scenes: a complete overhaul of the aging software infrastructure that powers POTA itself.



Kevin W1DED Activating US-2397 Mount Blue State Park, Maine

The original system survived years of explosive growth, something many of the people closest to it still describe with

a mixture of pride and disbelief. "It's amazing that it's still working," Torigian said of the original architecture.

Now, under the leadership of developer James Linden VE3JLN and a growing volunteer team, Parks on the Air is building what board members jokingly refer to as "POTA 3.0" or "4.0"—a fundamentally redesigned platform intended to support the next decade of growth.

The goals sound deceptively simple: faster award processing, improved mapping, better administrative tools, more scalable databases, and stronger volunteer support. But beneath all of those technical objectives lies something more important: stability.

The board repeatedly returns to the same phrase—program integrity.

Integrity, Transparency, and the Next Phase of POTA

As Parks on the Air grew, it inherited something every successful radio sport eventually faces: controversy.

Questions emerged about multi-park activations (n-fers), park boundaries, operating standards, and interpretations of the rules. To longtime board members like Ford and Torigian, the issue is clarity.

"If everybody can't read a rule and say, 'I understand what that means,' then you need to work on it," Torigian said.

Ford described what he calls "crowdsourced rules"—informal interpretations that spread online and slowly begin replacing official guidance. The board's response is not to radically reinvent Parks on the Air, but instead to make the existing rules clearer, simpler, and easier to understand internationally.

That emphasis on transparency appears repeatedly across all four interviews.

For years, Parks on the Air functioned more like a startup than a traditional organization. Decisions were often informal. Documentation was scattered. Governance structures were minimal because the system simply grew faster than anyone anticipated.

The newly formed board is now trying to build the framework necessary for the next chapter. That includes bylaws, officer roles, financial systems, volunteer training, and long-term planning. Most operators will never notice any of it—which is exactly the point.

Why POTA Matters

Spend enough time around Parks on the Air and a pattern begins to emerge. The operators arriving at parks are not all seasoned DXers or contest veterans. Many are brand new hams. Others are returning after decades away from the hobby. Some simply wanted an excuse to get outside with a radio.

That last group includes this writer.

After a 40-year absence from amateur radio, it was portable operating—and specifically Parks on the Air—that pulled me fully back into the hobby. That story turns out not to be unusual.



POTA Board Member Kevin Thomas W1DED

POTA has become an entry point, a training ground, a social network, and a reason for thousands of operators to finally try HF radio. It has also become something deeper for many participants: practical field experience disguised as recreation.

"We're training ourselves," Torigian said. "If there's floods or earthquakes or rainstorms and hurricanes, we can mobilize very fast."

Portable operators learn to improvise power systems, deploy antennas quickly, troubleshoot RF problems in the field, and communicate under imperfect conditions, not because they have to, but because it's enjoyable.

That may be the most important thing Parks on the Air accidentally rediscovered. For years, amateur radio often struggled to explain itself to newcomers in practical terms. POTA solved that problem almost unintentionally.

It gave people a reason to get on the air.

Dayton

Later this month, many of the voices behind Parks on the Air will gather at the Dayton Hamvention. Two POTA forums are planned: one featuring the board answering questions directly from operators, and another focused on the future software platform currently under development.

2026 Forums Overall Schedule table with columns for Friday, May 15, 2026; Saturday, May 16, 2026; and Sunday, May 17, 2026. Rows list various sessions and speakers across four rooms.

The organization will also maintain a large flea market presence staffed entirely by volunteers. For many operators, it will be the first opportunity to meet the people quietly maintaining one of amateur radio's fastest-growing movements.



Sandy KE8UTX, Craig KE8QJV, Ray KC3RW, Kerri KB3WAV, Parks on the Air | Dayton Hamvention

And maybe that's the real story of Parks on the Air. Not awards. Not statistics. Not software.

It's volunteers building something together—one activation, one contact, and one park at a time.

Interviews with the remaining **Parks on the Air** board members coming soon.

Rick Parent W0ZAP, Thom Martin W8TAM and Tom Suggs N4MTE

If you'd like more **Parks on the Air** content, watch these:

[Florida QSO Party from the Everglades | N3QE, Tina & POTA](#)

[Parks on the Air Meets Contesting: Dean N6DE](#)

[Parks on the Air's Explosive Growth and the Next Chapter](#)

[Young Gun of POTA: Si WD5JR's Ham Radio Journey](#)

[Black Swamp Radio Club Is Changing the Game: Sandy KE8UTX and Craig KE8QJV](#)

[POTA Legend in the Making: Les KI5GTR on Activating, Contesting, and Going All-In](#)

[1,000 Contacts in a Frozen Tent: K3KLB's Winter Field Day](#)

[Georgia State Parks on the Air: Claude AC4SH](#)

[Your Next POTA Antenna: Mike W5REZ and the REZ Antenna Startup](#)

[General KQ4IGV: Annabel Hiraldo Charges Ahead with Parks on the Air](#)

[POTA Activations, Ham Radio Meetups & Dayton Hamvention: KB3WAV & KC3RW](#)

[A Story of Ham Radio Camaraderie: Fran Kelly KC1NDQ](#)

[Back to Ham Radio via Parks on the Air: Dan Muntz WD4DAN](#)

[US Navy \(Ret.\) Beau Turner KH7FC is POTA Active](#)

[Cross-Country Ham Radio Road Trip: Parks on the Air Dev Team Volunteer Gets on the Air](#)

[Volunteer POTA Developers Create a World Class System: Thom Martin W8TAM](#)

[Ham Radio Activation of Barbados for Parks on the Air: Chris Billings 8P9CB](#)

[Papa POTA Promotes Ham Radio in the Dominican Republic: David Lama HI8D](#)

[J8NKI Ham Radio Holiday DXpedition to St Vincent & the Grenadines](#)

[Volunteerism in Ham Radio: K4NYM and his Parks on the Air Story](#)

[Activate Parks on the Air \(POTA\) in Scotland with Ham Radio Operator Iliyas MM0MMN](#)

[Teaching the Next Generation of Ham Radio Operators: Vicki AD3I](#)

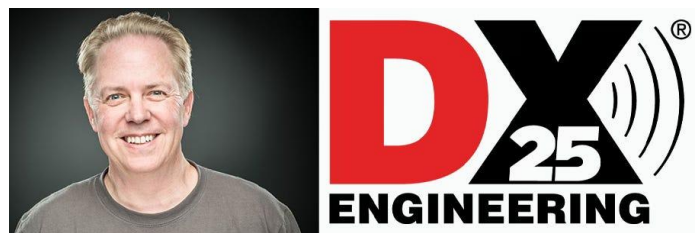
[The Parks on the Air Activator We All Hoped For: Add Hawaii to your POTA Worked All States Award](#)

[Parks on the Air at St. John in the US Virgin Islands with Ham Radio Operator NJ4Z](#)

[POTA Activating Every Day Without Fail: Meet WC1N](#)

[Ham Radio Operator W6ZD Has Activated More Parks on the Air \(POTA\) Than Anyone in 2022](#)

Q5 Worldwide Ham Radio is brought to you by [DX Engineering](#), supporting amateur radio operators worldwide with the gear, antennas, and expertise to help you get on the air and stay there. Whether you're activating a park, chasing DX, building a contest station, or just getting started, DX Engineering has become a trusted resource for operators across every corner of the hobby.



This article is used by permission of the author, Kevin Thomas W1DED, who is creator and regular contributor to Q5 Magazine - <https://q5hamradio.substack.com> Also known as Q5 Worldwide Ham Radio, Q5 Magazine is supported by DX Engineering (<https://www.dxengineering.com>). Checkout the Q5 blog' (<https://q5hamradio.substack.com>) for many more interesting and insightful articles. [Editor]

Need another Badge or Coffee Mug?



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

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson outdoor warning siren testing. The May 2026 test was cancelled due to potential cloudy weather. 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. Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, was scheduled to assist with the monthly Garland Siren Test; however, the test was also cancelled. The Garland Siren Test is held at Noon on the first Wednesday monthly with hams reporting on the Garland ARC 146.66 MHz repeater.

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 all suspicious activities to the police department.

**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 website**

Friday & Saturday, June 12 & 13
 NTX Arena at Vista Mall, Lewisville, TX



More information at:
www.dfwhamexpo.com

ARRL Student Membership

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

Join Now



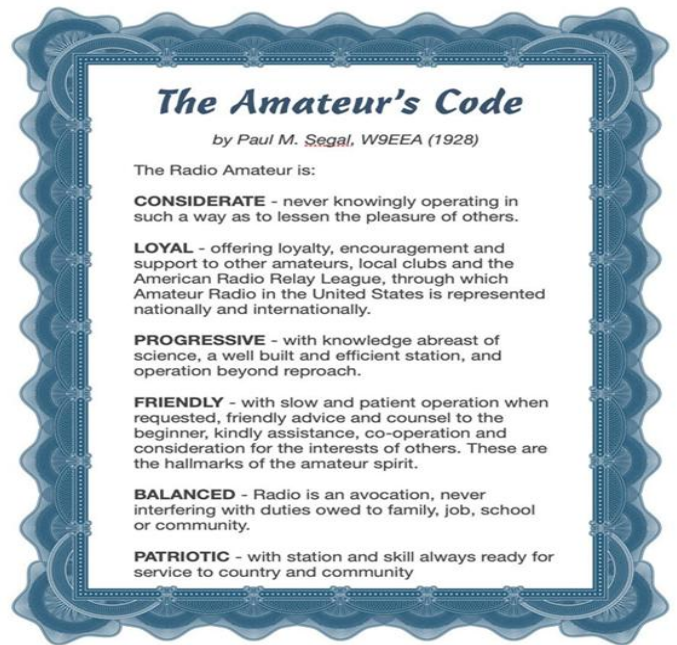
www.arrl.org/join



*Additional restrictions apply.

Upcoming Events

	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 7106 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
Tuesdays	Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 441.875 (+5) MHz, PL=131.8 Hz (N5CXX repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 th Tuesday.)
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
MAY	
30-31	CQ WPX CW. The WPX Contest is based on an award offered by CQ Magazine for working all prefixes. Held on the next-to-last weekend of May, the contest draws thousands of entries from around the world. Starts: 0000 UTC Saturday, Ends: 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at https://www.cqwpw.com/
JUNE	
6-7	International Digital Contest —Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information using any digital mode (excluding RTTY) that supports the 4-digit Grid Square exchange — attended operation only -- on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands Stations may only be worked once per band. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2359 UTC Sunday, Details at http://www.arrrl.org/arrrl-digital-contest
13-15	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 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. Details at http://www.arrrl.org/june-vhf
20	Kid's Day 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/contest-calendar .
27-28	Field Day Objective: To contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20,15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Details at http://www.arrrl.org/field-day



Texarkana's Tailgate Mini-Fest



Sponsored by the
Four States Amateur Radio Club

WHERE: PAVILION AT TRAILHEAD PARK
117 SE Front St. New Boston. TX 75570

WHEN: MAY 30, 2026 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM

RADIOS GIVEN AWAY EVERY HALF HOUR!

- RAFFLE TICKETS MAY BE PURCHASED UP TO THE TIME OF DRAWING.
- **FREE DOOR PRIZE TICKET FOR ADULTS.**
- MUST BE PRESENT TO WIN.
- RAFFLE PRIZES GIVEN AWAY ON THE HOUR.
- DOOR PRIZES GIVEN AWAY ON THE HALF-HOUR.
- 10'X10' SPACE FOR RENT UNDER PAVILION: \$5.00 EA
- LIMITED NUMBER OF TABLES FOR RENT FOR ABOVE SPACES: \$5.00 EA
- FREE TAILGATE SET UP OUTSIDE OF PAVILION.

**HAMBURGERS, HOT DOGS AND ALL THE TRIMMINGS
WILL BE SERVED. DONATIONS APPRECIATED.**

TALK IN: 146.620/100 OR 147.200/100

FOR MORE INFORMATION...

Phone or Text: 903-276-0552

Email: 4SARCEvents@gmail.com



Calendar of Select Amateur Radio Contests for 2026

JAN		FEB		MAR		APR		MAY		JUN		JUL		AUG		SEP		OCT		NOV		DEC	
3	4	1	1	7	8	4	5	2	3	6	7	1	1	1	2	5	5	10	11	1	1	4	6
ARRL RTTY Roundup	NA Sprint SSB	ARRL INT'L DX SSB	SP Polish DX CW & SSB	ARI Int'l DX	IARU Region 1 Fieldday CW	RAC Canada Day CW & PH	10-10 INT'L Summer SSB	CW OPS OPEN	OCEANIA DX CW	NA Sprint SSB	ARRL 160m CW	10	11	7	8	14	14	11	12	9	10	7	7
NAQP CW	10-10 INT'L Winter Phone	YB DX RTTY	JIDX CW	VOLTA WW RTTY	ARRL INT'L DIGITAL (No RTTY)	Marconi Memorial Contest HF CW	NAQP CW	DARC WAE SSB	10-10 INT'L Sprint	ARRL SS CW	FT Challenge	17	18	8	8	14	15	11	12	9	10	13	13
NAQP SSB	NA Sprint CW	Stew Perry Top Band CW Challenge	IG-RY WW RTTY	CQ-M INT'L DX Contest CW & SSB	ARRL June VHF	CQ WW VHF CW & PH	DARC WAE CW	ARRL September	JARTS WW RTTY	DARC WAE RTTY	ARRL 10M CW & PH	17	19	14	15	14	15	18	19	14	14	20	21
ARRL January VHF	CQ WW WPX RTTY	South America 10m CW & PH	CQMM DX CW	Contest University Dayton	ALL ASIAN DX CW	IARU HF World CW & PH	SARTG WW RTTY	NA Sprint CW	Worked All Germany CW & PH	CQ WE (Western Electric)	OK DX RTTY	23	25	21	22	15	15	25	26	16	16	20	21
CQ 160m CW	ARRL INT'L DX CW	NA Sprint RTTY	10-10 INT'L Spring Digital	NZART Sangster Shield CW	Stew Perry Top Band CW Challenge	NAQP RTTY	NAQP SSB	NA Sprint RTTY	Stew Perry Top Band CW Challenge	JIDX Phone	ARRL Rookie Roundup CW	24	25	27	28	21	23	25	26	18	17	20	20
BARTG RTTY Sprint	CQ 180m SSB	BARTG HF RTTY	SP DX RTTY	EU PSK63 DX	ARRL Kids Day SSB	CQ WW VHF Digital	ARRL Rookie Roundup RTTY	BARTG PSK63 Sprint	ARRL School Club Roundup	ARRL SS Phone	RAC Winter CW & PH	24	25	28	29	26	26	30	31	27	28	25	26
Winter Field Day	NAQP RTTY	CQ WW WPX SSB	BARTG Sprint RTTY (75 Baud)	CQ WW WPX CW	ARRL Field Day	RSGB IOTA CW & SSB	World Wide Digi DX	CQ WW DX RTTY	CQ WW SSB	CQ WW CW	Stew Perry Top Band CW Challenge	28	29	26	27	24	25	28	29	26	27	24	25

CW
Phone
CW & PH
RTTY
FT4/FT8
Digital
All Modes
VHF/UHF

Start Date: 27 28 End Date: 27 28
 Start Time: 1800 Z 1800 Z
 All Modes: ARRL Contest Name: Field Day

Some Contests allow AM and FM with SSB as operating modes for Phone. All Modes does include CW, Phone and some digital modes but not all. Links to Contest Rules may be found at WATBNM's Contest Calendar website: www.contestcalendar.com

Calendar of Select Amateur Radio State & Area QSO Parties for 2026

JAN	FEB	MAR	APRIL		MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPTEMBER			OCTOBER		NOV	DEC
7 8	1 2	4 5	18 19	2 3	6 7	25 26	8 9	6 7	19 20	3 4	17 18				
Vermont QSO Party	North Carolina QSO Party	Louisiana QSO Party	Michigan QSO Party	7th Cal Area QSO Party	Kentucky QSO Party	Alabama QSO Party	Maryland DC QSO Party	Tennessee QSO Party	New Hampshire QSO Party	California QSO Party	New York QSO Party				
7 7	14 15	4 5	25 26	2 3	20 21		22 23	12 13	19 20	10 11	19 20				
Minnesota QSO Party	Oklahoma QSO Party	Mississippi QSO Party	Florida QSO Party	Indiana QSO Party	West Virginia QSO Party		Hawaii QSO Party	Colorado QSO Party	Washington State Salmon Run QSO Party	Nevada QSO Party	Illinois QSO Party				
28	14 15	11 12	11 12	2 3			22 23	19 20	26 27	10 11					
South Carolina QSO Party	Idaho QSO Party	Missouri QSO Party	North Dakota QSO Party	Delaware QSO Party			Ohio QSO Party	Iowa QSO Party	Maine QSO Party	Arizona QSO Party					
	15 16	11 12	17 18	2 3			29 30	19 20		10 11					
	Wisconsin QSO Party	New Mexico QSO Party	Nebraska QSO Party	New England QSO Party			Kansas QSO Party	Texas QSO Party		Pennsylvania QSO Party					
	21 22	11 12		16 17				19 20		10 11					
	Virginia QSO Party	Georgia QSO Party		Arkansas QSO Party				New Jersey QSO Party		South Dakota QSO Party					
7 8	1 1	18 19		9 10	6 7										
British Columbia QSO Party	Nova Scotia QSO Party (80m Only)	Ontario QSO Party		Canadian Parties QSO Party	Atlantic Canada QSO Party										
		19 19													
		Quebec QSO Party													

CW & PH
All Modes

Start Date: 30 31 End Date: 30 31
 Start Time: 1800 Z 1800 Z
 All Modes: Kansas Contest Name: QSO Party

Some States allow AM and FM with SSB as operating modes for Phone. All Modes does include CW, Phone and some digital modes but not all. Check individual QSO Party Rules. **** Dates and times in Red Background are estimated and not official. **** Links to QSO Party Rules may be found at WATBNM's Contest Calendar website: www.contestcalendar.com

Calendars contributed by Brad Wick, W0CO, the author of the Contest Calendar and the State QSO Party Calendar.



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.

CLUB STATION PHONE

TBD

N5CXX REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input
131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS COL Node

145.05 MHz

N5CXX-N1, N5CXX-N2 & N5CXX-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Membership Meeting

Tuesday 28 May 2026 5:30 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE AT

Woodcreek Church Richardson TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 15 May 2026 ←←←