

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 26 November 2019
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
"HF QRP Fox Hunt"
by Mike Dooley, N5BGZ

Immediately following the Annual Meeting and program, the CARC VE Team will conduct an ARRL VE Test Session.

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The November test was cancelled due to 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, 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.

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

The November meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club promises to be one of the busiest of the year. In addition to a regular business meeting, this is the Annual Meeting at which officers for 2020 will be elected. No candidates have been announced, so nominations will come from the floor.

We expect to have a discussion of the happenings of the past year by the current officers. A Member Interest Survey will be conducted (see companion article on page 4).

A program is also planned. Mike Dooley, N5BGZ, will give a program entitled "Fox Hunting on HF", which describes operating in a short, weekly HF Fox Hunt — which is not what you typically think of a 'fox hunt'.

Mike was first licensed in 1978 as N5BGZ, and held the call KE4PC in the 80s, before recovering his old call. He was in Aviation Electronics in the US Navy. His professional career began as an electronics tech and transitioned into engineering, working on VHF/UHF business band radios, analog and digital microwave and satellite radios, analog and digital multiplex, DEC computers, optical and electrical multiplex and carrier systems and mobility network systems.

He's worked at a variety of corporations including Western Union Telegraph Company, Rockwell Collins, Alcatel, Lucent/Bell Labs and, currently, Cisco Systems.

CARC Christmas Dinner December 10th

The CARC Christmas Dinner Party will take place on Tuesday, December 10th, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at Aboca's Italian Grill, 100 S. Central Expwy, Suite 63, in Richardson (southwest quadrant of Central Expressway & Beltline Road). Everyone attending will have their choice of items off the regular menu instead of a prescribed banquet menu. Whatever you're willing to pay for, you may order.



(Continued on page 3)

CARC OFFICERS			
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VE SESSIONS

Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC) Test sessions take place on fourth Tuesdays, immediately following the regular CARC monthly membership meeting (about 7:30 p.m.). The test sessions are held in Conference Room A of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center, at the Bush/Renner/Shiloh intersection in Richardson. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's best to register with the lead examiner, Kerry Weeks, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com or by phone at (214) 478-3230.

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 church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail rwkhamtest@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 © 2019 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 and VP Messages

This month we have a program on H F Fox Hunting. This is not what you may think, so come to the meeting for an interesting activity. Also, this month we are supposed to elect new officers, so we need a slate of candidates to vote on. I will not be returning as a candidate for President next year; it is time for new ideas from new officers. It would be nice if the new President was an employee and not a retiree.

Next month we will not have a regular meeting as it will be our annual Christmas Dinner meeting. So, come out for a fun evening and good food.

73's,
Gene, K1GD
CARC President



Secretary's Report

22 Oct 2019

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

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Bob Coulbourne	W4FTD
Mike Dooley	N5BGZ
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Dave Jaksa	W0VX
Judi Jaksa	W0JJ
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN
John McFadden	K5TIP
Daryl Morgeson	AF5QJ
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	5MWC
Rohan Thomas	KG5RCN
Mark Wells	K9MDI
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

Officers and Committee Reports:

The Secretary's Report is contained in this newsletter. The report by the Activities Chairman was presented and is summarized herein.

Old Business:

Bob Coulbourne W4FTD described his processes for producing personalized club shirts reflecting the new club callsign. After a brief discussion it was agreed to have Bob provide a more detailed description of options at next month's meeting. Jim Brown AF5MA agreed to bring samples of alternate artworks for member consideration.

New Business:

Gene indicated that the Collins Aerospace Activities Board has requested submittal of a form from all sponsored clubs, specifying activities done in the last year along with a justified request for funding for the coming year. This is consistent with previous years' practices. The deadline for submittal is 15 December 2019.

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN, Activities Chairman, reviewed the schedule for upcoming programs.

November: Election of officers and annual report from the officers, with an additional program by Mike Dooley N5BGZ on "HF Fox Hunting."

December: Christmas dinner at Aboca's Italian Grill at 5:30pm on Tuesday, December 10. Reservations have been made, and all will select their food from the regular Aboca's menu. The members present voted to fund \$150 for door prizes. A sign-up sheet was circulated, but individual reservations will continue to be accepted until the date of the dinner.

January: In addition to the installation of new officers, the program will include a "Show and Tell Night," with a few members giving short presentations on topics of interest (a home-brew project, a clever gadget, useful software or "tips and tricks").

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1802, followed by a program by Dave Jaksa W0VX on "Contesting for the Non-Contester."

CARC Christmas Dinner December 10th

(Cont. from page 1) **And, in case you haven't heard, the membership voted to have Door Prizes this year. \$150 was allocated for the prizes. This could be your lucky year!**

We need to know who's coming so we can let the restaurant know how many tables to reserve. Please send an email with names & call signs of who's attending, your email address and a telephone number. No advance money is required, but, if you find you can't make it, please let me know. Send your email to KR1ZAN@arrl.net. Cancellations to the same address but if you must cancel within 48 hours, send me a text or call 214-563-6679.

Many members signed up at the October meeting or have sent in RSVPs via email. For all that I have received signups, I have confirmed via email.

This is a great opportunity to get together with fellow members, their spouses, family and special friends in a casual setting to enjoy some wonderful food and fellowship. No formal meeting or program is planned for this event — just good food and conversation.

If you'd like to get an advanced look at Aboca's menu, check out their website at www.abocas.com, and, if you'd like to get there a little earlier, we have reservations beginning at 5 p.m.

Dress is casual. Seasonal attire is encouraged. After all, Santa is watching!

Member Interest Survey - 2020



Soon we will have a new group of Club officers and, in order for them to create programs and activities of most interest to our members, we are conducting a Member Interest Survey. This Survey will be conducted at the November meeting, but if you can't make the meeting o, come up with some other ideas, send your response via email to

Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, kr1zan@arrl.net

The easiest way to respond is to cut-and-paste the questions below into an email and add your responses — list as many as you like, preferably in the order of most importance on top. Or, write out your responses on a sheet of paper and mail to Frank Krizan, 1200 Gardengrove Ct, Plano, TX 75075.

Your name: _____
 Call Sign: _____

1. What topics would you like to have presented as programs at monthly meetings?
2. What operating/on-the-air activities/contests would you like CARC to participate in? (Specifically, those that you would participate in, and, indicate those you would be willing to 'champion'.)
3. If you are willing to provide a program for a CARC meeting, please list the subject/topic and the approximate month you would be willing to give each program.
4. If you could design your perfect Club meeting, what would it look like? (i.e., Business meeting, program, roundtable discussion, workshop/clinic, demonstration, etc., and approximately how much time for each segment?)
5. Thinking about the things that our Club must attend to, would you be willing to serve on a committee to make our Club the best it can be? If Yes, which ones? (i.e., Membership, Repeater, Activities, Programs, Training, Newsletter, Mentoring, Website, Club promotion, etc.)
6. Our Club meetings have traditionally begun at 5:30 p.m. on the 4th Tuesday of the month. If this is not a good day and time for you, please suggest alternatives. If the 4th Tues. at 5:30 p.m. is good for you, just say 'Yes'.
7. What is the best way to communicate with you about Club activities/announcements? (i.e., Newsletter, personalized email, Yahoo Group, groups.io, Mailman email reflector, text messages, Twitter, FaceBook, Club Repeater announcement/Net, etc.)
8. What should our Club focus on to make your membership more valuable? (i.e., Repeaters, Club Station, meeting

programs, operating activities, Public Service, training/workshops/clinics, Mentoring, community programs, etc.)



Sporadic SIGNALS ...

captured by Frank KR1ZAN

From: **The ARRL Contest Update** for October 30, 2019

Kirk, K4RO, posted a message to the new ARRL Contesting group (<https://groups.arrl.org/g/ARRL-Contesting>) noting that the "**Contesting 101**" columns he originally wrote for NCJ (National Contest Journal) aimed at beginning contesters are also available on the Tennessee Contest Group website (<http://k4tcg.org/contesting-101/>). Topics of the fifteen columns range from Searching and Pouncing to SO2R.

Got this tip from the Maine EMA on **staying safe during and after a winter storm**. Sure, it's a lot colder in Maine, but we've had some pretty rough winter storms in North Texas and lost power for several days. **Always good to be prepared**. This CDC site has lots of additional links for other natural disasters and severe weather. <https://www.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/duringstorm/in-doorsafety.html>

Read on the K5RWK Discussion Group: If your power is out and you switch over to generator, a good way to occasionally **test if power is back on** is to use your cell phone's wifi settings feature to **look for other SSIDs indicating that other wireless routers in your neighborhood** have come alive. TNX Michael, WT9V.

TX Factor program from UK. <http://www.txfilms.co.uk/txfactor/> Shared by Jon Suehiro, NN5T, of RWK. "TX Factor is a **series of high definition TV shows** covering all aspects of the hobby of amateur radio - a professionally produced program, now into its fifth year.

These programs are sponsored by ML&S Martin Lynch & Sons -a major ham store in the UK and The Radio Society of Great Britain

From SpaceWeather.com: **SIGNS OF LIFE FROM THE NEXT SOLAR CYCLE:** The sun is currently in the pits of a century-class Solar Minimum. However, the quiet won't last forever. In early November, a sunspot from new Solar Cycle 25 appeared on the sun and unleashed a minor solar flare. **These are signs that Solar Cycle 25 is sputtering to life**, heralding a new Solar Max in the years ahead ... and, it can't come soon enough.

Steve Coleman, WB4GHY, was active as **ZD8SC from Ascension Island** while on assignment with his company. Steve stayed in daily contact with **Dan Weddle, W5VMD**, using JS8CALL as an "order-wire channel". They would start out on 20M and progress through all bands (to 6M) to check propagation. Many of us were able to contact him on a regular basis. Steve was able to use some of the sophisticated HF antennas at the transmitter sites he was assessing. Steve had the advantage because his noise-floor was almost zero (except when the BBC shortwave transmitters were on the air).

There's been a lot of concern about **Fry's Electronics** going out of business, especially with the depleted shelves, reduced inventory and apparent fewer workers. But, an article in the Dallas Morning News shows promise for a brighter future (https://edition.pagesuite.com/popovers/dynamic_article_popover.aspx?artguid=00c50ba9-e34f-4c0a-aeb1-68ea768a08cf&appid=1125). The article indicates that **Fry's is moving toward a "consignment model"**, similar to Walmart, in which the supplier owns the merchandise. Let's keep our fingers crossed that Fry's will regain its status as an electronics superstore and help serve the needs of hams and experimenters.

This announcement has been floating around local email reflectors for a few weeks: "Here is a link to a **survey** designed to discern the **kinds of programs** the Lone Star DX Association should endeavor to present at **Ham Com 2020**. Please take some time to complete the survey. We would like to have the survey completed by November 30."

The LINK <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5CH6XK9>.

Even if you're not into DXing or Contesting, I would suggest adding your thoughts in the OTHER category and adding your comments at the end of the survey. Hopefully, the LSDXA folks will offer their summaries to the HamCom programs committee.

CARC VE Test Session Results for September and October 2019

by Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

The Collins Amateur Radio Club's VE testing session on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, had only one candidate testing.

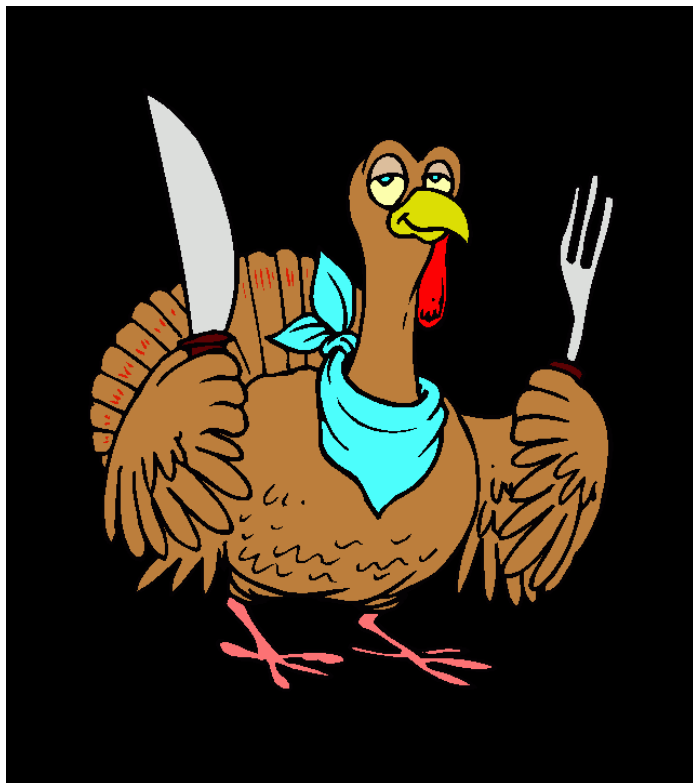
Only one exam element was taken with 1 credit given for a new Technician license. Donna of Murphy is now KI5GPI.

Congratulations Donna.

VEs assisting with this session were: Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, Daryl Morgeson, AF5QJ, and Mark Wells, K9MDF.

No candidates appeared for examination at the October 22, 2019 meeting, so the VEs got to go home early.

The next CARC VE Test Session will take place on Tuesday, November 26, 2019, immediately following the regular CARC monthly membership meeting (about 7:30 p.m.). This test sessions will be held in Conference Room B of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center, at the Bush/Renner/Shiloh intersection in Richardson. Walk-ins are welcome, but, it's best to register with the lead examiner, Kerry Weeks, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com or by phone at (214) 478-3230.



Story by Scott, N7NET

Sorry to report that Scott is unable to supply chapter 7 of his Rose story this month (he is writing it). Scott's wife is suffering from Alzheimer's disease and his hands are full caring for her at the present time. Perhaps in coming months his schedule will allow him to again continue his fine writing.

Meanwhile, here is a story that was written by Vic, W7VSE (now a SK) that I do not think has appeared in a previous newsletter. It is pretty long, so is broken into parts with the first one appearing this month.

The Army Air Corps, Part 1

By Vic, W7VSE

I learned the Morse code in the Boy Scouts in 1934, when I was 12 years old, to earn a Merit Badge to make 2nd class scout. A few of us kids were naive enough to think we were the only ones in the world who knew that code, and we

wrote messages to each other during school hours in Morse code with a pencil, using dots and dashes. At first, we had to refer to a copy of the code to spell the words we wanted, but after doing this for a while, it was the practice we needed, and we had the code memorized and did not have to look at the copy anymore. Little did I know, the Morse code had started to become a 2nd language for me and would drastically change my life.

When I graduated from High School in 1940, it was during the Great Depression. I had no idea of what I wanted to do for a living. There were no jobs to be had, so I enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), part of the New Deal that the government had at the time that would take young people off the streets and put them to work. They paid us thirty dollars a month. Of this, we only got to keep eight dollars, and the other twenty-two dollars were sent home to the family. Of course, we got room and board and clothes. We lived in barracks, had a latrine, a mess hall, a PX, a library and other things, similar to the military. This was in Oklahoma and we did pick-and-shovel work in the fields 5 days a week from 8AM to 5PM. It was called Soil Conservation. They had CCC camps all over the USA and they had a radio station at each camp.

When I walked into that radio station at CCC Camp 2816, in Duncan, Oklahoma, I saw and heard an operator using Morse code to send a message to another station. That single moment changed my life. I realized that I wanted to be a Morse code operator.

Another enrollee, Emmett Meeks, from Loco, Oklahoma, was also interested in learning to be a Morse code operator. Somehow we obtained a "buzzer" and a hand key and we spent many hours in the library sending and receiving code to each other. Some of the other guys did not share our feelings for Morse code, but we kept it up until we could send and receive about five words a minute. Several months later, we got permission from the camp Commander to take a "leave without pay" to join the army so we could go to communications school and then hitch-hiked to Fort Sill at Lawton, Okla.

They did not have any vacancies in the Signal Corps. We went back to Duncan CCC camp and later got another leave and hitch-hiked to Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Texas. We wanted to enlist in the Signal Corps and attend military schools and learn electronics and communications. The recruiting Sergeant at Ft Sam told us there were no openings in the Signal Corps and he thought we should join the U.S. Army Air Corps as they had better schools.

So, on June 6, 1941, six months and one day before Pearl Harbor, I enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps for a three-year hitch. I was now a BAP (Buck-Assed-Private) and my pay was reduced to twenty-one dollars a month. Next day saw me on a truck transferred from Ft Sam Houston to Kelly Field a few miles away. Checked in at Kelly Field and was

assigned a bunk in "Tent City," which had crushed rock for a floor, and I started to learn my left foot from my right foot and other things about marching on the parade ground, which was also crushed rock. It was quite hot in San Antonio and a few of the men were passing out from heat prostration. I had been doing pick-and-shovel work for 11 months in Oklahoma, so I had no problem with the heat or the marching. Sometimes they marched us into a building and we filled out questionnaires. A question on one of the forms asked if I knew the Morse code. Of course, I answered yes. In a few days a Captain showed up at the parade ground, where we were learning to march, and had a list of about 7 of us pulled out of ranks and we met with him near a specified building. He told us we had been selected to go into communications and we had 30 minutes to check in all our gear and catch a truck up to the fancy brick barracks. If we didn't get checked out in time, we would have to walk about a half mile to that building. We all made it in time.

When we reported into the fancy brick building, which resembled the Cadet barracks building, which was nearby, we were assigned rooms and bunks and more or less ignored for several days. But this was a far cry from living in Tent City with a crushed rock floor and little else. There was a bowling alley, a PX, a Movie house, a gym, good chow in the mess hall and many other nice things to see and do. We were happy. But after a few days, a Corporal showed up and told us to report to the NCOIC (Non-Commissioned-Officer-In Charge) of the Radio Station and told us how to get there. We found Tech Sergeant Guthrie's office and lined up for interviews. A Technical Sergeant in prewar days was a powerful force and could make or break you. I was about 4th in line for my interview and when I listened to the guy before me say he had a couple of years in the Signal Corps, and other things, I began to worry about whether I would be acceptable for this kind of duty.

When I went in to do my interview with Sgt Guthrie, I told him that all I knew was about words a minute with the Morse code, and maybe I didn't belong here. Sgt Guthrie knew how to handle men. He told me that the previous guy that I had overheard being interviewed would be a problem because he would have to unlearn all he had learned in the Signal Corps and then relearn how to operate in the Air Corps. And he said that I was exactly the type they were looking for as I could start learning much easier and faster. I left that interview feeling a lot better about myself than when I arrived. T/Sgt Guthrie would later rise to the rank of Colonel and I would see him as the Regional Control Officer in charge of the 10th Communications Squadron in India and China. He was well qualified and deserved it.

I was now in the Third Squadron, AACS (Army Airways Communications System.) I wanted to go to school, but they put me in the radio station there at WYG, Kelly Field, as a student operator, for OJT (on-the-job training). I

worked a shift with the qualified operators. I sat next to them and wore headphones and listened to them sending and receiving messages in Morse code. I asked questions and got instructions on how to use the equipment. The regular operators could send and receive the Morse code at 25 to 30 words-per-minute and I couldn't read any of it at first. And I could see that if I was going to be an operator, and remain in the AACCS, I was going to have to learn CW (code) at 25 to 30 words per minute or more.

(To be Continued)

(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)



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

DECEMBER

- 6-8 160 Meter**--For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. Starts 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday: forty-two hour period with no time limitation. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>
- 14-15 10 Meter**-- For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>
- 22 Rookie Roundup-CW**—To encourage newly-licensed operators to operate on HF bands and experience competitive operating. Experienced operators are strongly encouraged to participate: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Operation is from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>.

JANUARY

- 2-4 Straight Key Night** This event is dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send CW is preferred. No points are scored and all participants are winners. Operation is from 0000 through 2359 UTC. Details at www.arrl.org/straight-key-night.





Richardson, Texas

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

TO:



Richardson, Texas

CLUB STATIONS
 (972) 705-1349

N5CXX REPEATER
 441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input
 131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS ROK Node
 145.05 MHz

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

Tuesday 26 November 2019
1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Conference Room B in Hospital Building

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 13 December 2019 ←←←