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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 33 Issue 07

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

April 2012

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 26 April 2012  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

Methodist Richardson Medical Center  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection  
Second Floor Conference Room 200

Subject:  
*Advanced EMI Troubleshooting  
Techniques*  
by Mike Hollingsworth - W5QH

The format provides club and local announcements of interest to Amateur Radio, a swap net time as well as personal updates from net participants regarding their experiences in the hobby. All suggestions for content and format are welcomed. *(Written by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)*

**New Members Welcome** Please welcome the following members to our club:

- Larry Creech KC5LOP, has just renewed his membership
- James (Jim) H. Brown is a new member, and has signed up for 2 years.
- William (Bill) H. Ransom, is also a new member and has signed up for 3 years.

**RCARC supports Severe Weather Drill** On Thursday, 29 March, as required by RC-ESH-P-220 and OHSAS 18001, the Rockwell Collins Richardson facility conducted its annual severe weather "take cover" drill at 3:30 p.m. at all Richardson buildings.

The RCARC station was activated beginning at 3:15 PM to support the severe weather drill. RCARC's weather station, local area radar, club repeater (441.875 MHz) and Plano NWS support (147.180 MHz) were monitored during this drill. All equipment was fully operational and functioned properly.

The following personnel were at the station:  
Michael J Kertis, Sr. Facilities Engineer, ES&H  
Michael A Schmit, WA9WCC  
Dennis D Cobb, WA8ZBT  
Robert J. Kirby, K3NT

Radio check was provided by one of our retired members, Charles R. Beis, K5UWD

Michael Kertis thanked the Radio Club for the use of its equipment and expertise, "Through their available technology we were able to make much more informed decisions to help ensure everyone's safety." Michael also asked for recommendations for the future. In response, the club suggested: *(Cont. on page 3)*

## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice** Plan to come to the April meeting of the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, as we hear from Mike Hollingsworth as he presents a program that will prove to be valuable to any Ham in helping to pinpoint and resolve the most persistent of interference problems.

**Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club Information Net Tuesday 24 April 2012** The W5ROK NET meets each month. The particulars are:

**WHAT** Information Net - **RCARCIN**  
**WHEN** Tuesday of the week of the regular club meeting at 19:00 CST  
**WHERE** W5ROK Repeater 441.875+ PL 131.8Hz  
**WHO** Everyone and anyone.  
**FORMAT** (a) announcements  
 (b) Swap  
 (c) Check-in plus updates.

## RCARC OFFICERS

### PRESIDENT

Michael Ketchum K5MDK  
972.408.6573  
[k5mdk@arrl.net](mailto:k5mdk@arrl.net)

### VICE-PRESIDENT

IRA Blum K5IRA  
972.705.1228  
[iblum1@yahoo.com](mailto:iblum1@yahoo.com)

### SECRETARY

Mike Schmit WA9WCC  
972.705.1394  
[maschmi2@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:maschmi2@rockwellcollins.com)

### TREASURER

Andrew Robinson K5VRA  
972.705.1467  
[avrobins@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:avrobins@rockwellcollins.com)

### ACTIVITIES CHAIR-

Paul Veenstra KC0TEG  
972-705-1426  
[peveenstra@gmail.com](mailto:peveenstra@gmail.com)

### WEBSITE MANAGER

Wayne Hughes WA0TGH  
972.705.1406 461-258  
[wa0tgh@arrl.net](mailto:wa0tgh@arrl.net)

### STATION TRUSTEE

Steve Phillips K6JT  
972.517.3332  
[k6jt@arrl.net](mailto:k6jt@arrl.net)

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Skinner WB0UNI  
214.535.5264  
[wb0uni@arrl.net](mailto:wb0uni@arrl.net)

### DATABASE MGR

Joe Wolf N5UIC  
972.705.1388  
[n5uic@arrl.net](mailto:n5uic@arrl.net)

### W5ROK CLUB STATION

972.705.1349  
461-290

## VE SESSIONS

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 10:00. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

**Irving** tests are held 3<sup>rd</sup> Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 14:30, ending no later than 16:45. **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, 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.

**Greenville** testing is on the Saturday after 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

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## President's Message

Being employed is a good thing, short of retirement. The new life change was not as difficult as I thought it would be. I enjoy the commute and have talked with a few of our club members. One time, I spoke to KC4UAI – Bob, K5UWD – Charlie, and K5TIP – John. Charlie and I have the most QSOs. If you are heading home between 5:30 and 6:30pm, give a shout out to the W5ROK repeater and I should be there. I am hitting the W5ROK repeater fairly strong around Royce City, even from Caddo Mills, at times. I've even got a signal report from Bob Kirby – K3NT from within the Greenville city limits.

The ARBONET-8 high altitude balloon launch was held on Saturday, April 7<sup>th</sup>, at the Hillsboro Municipal Airport. It was a great success with the payloads being lifted to over 86,000 feet! Ruthie and I had a chance to participate with the launch and recovery. She enjoyed it more than I did, I think. From the launch, to the chase, to the recovery, and finally to lunch, we had a great time. You can see pictures on my website: [www.ketchums.info](http://www.ketchums.info) Also, if you search for "ARBONET-8" on YouTube, you can see some of the on-board stills and video collected.

I WANT YOU! I need some volunteers to help with the preparation for the parking lot sale. We need to go through the cabinets and separate stuff into two piles for the sale. The plans are Saturday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:00am at the club station to start the separation work. Once that is done, we will have the parking lot sale on May 26<sup>th</sup> to all members of the RCARC. So, mark your calendars and join us for some ham picking good time.

Fun Days is coming up and I need someone to head up the effort on what we will do as a club for this two day lunch-hour event. If you can help, please contact me or Paul Veenstra – KC0TEG.

Also, don't forget about the Richardson WILD RIDE!, coming up on May 19<sup>th</sup>. If you have not signed up with Doug Kilgore – KD5OUG, please do so at <http://www.tinyurl.com/8xnqzng> or contact Doug at [kd5oug@arrl.net](mailto:kd5oug@arrl.net) or Ph 214-770-2394.

Finally, before we can blink, Field Day will be upon us. I am looking for someone who can head up a Field Day committee. If nobody steps forward, we may consider other options. So, please let me know if you are interested in helping out this year.

Thanks to everyone who has participated with the club this last month.

73,  
Michael Ketchum  
K5MDK  
RCARC President

## Secretary's Report

22 March 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Michael Ketchum at 5:34 PM March 22, 2012 with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Michael introduced a visitor Wes Connolly – N5TVB, chaplain of Methodist Richard, Campbell Road Campus.

The following were present at the meeting:

Charlie Beis	K5UWD
Wes Connolly	N5TVB
Hernando Garcia	KC5FDW
Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Doug Kilgore	KD5OUG
Andrew Robinson	K5VRA
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
James Skinner	WB0UNI
Paul Veenstra	KC0TEG
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

### General Business:

Saturday April 7 ARBONET balloon launch is scheduled at Hillsboro Airport.

Andrew Robinson – K5VRA gave the treasurer's report.

Paul Veenstra – KC0TEG gave a report on future activities. The B-29 project will resume with the return of FIFI on April 9, from its Florida tour.

### Old Business:

*Surplus Materials:* May 12 work detail on surplus material followed by a surplus sale for members on May 26 in the parking lot.

*Antennas:* Facilities will provide safety signs for club antenna structures.

### New Business:

*Fun Days:* Club will have to decide if it wants to have a Fun Days activity station.

*Field Day:* Michael asked for a field day activity chairman.

*Other Clubs:* Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) is planning a balloon launch in June.

Doug Kilgore KD5OUG, of the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK), asked for volunteers for the Richardson Wild Ride. Digital communication will use NBEMS using MT63 2K (Narrow Band Emergency Messaging System).

Volunteers are also required for the MS-150 Bike Tour.

*Adjournment:* The meeting closed at 6:08.

The program was provided by Fernando Garcia-Vasquez – KC5FDW titled "Small Hydroelectric Plant Control"

### RCARC supports Weather Drill *(Cont from page 1)*

1. Add a handout folder outside the plant radio club with current useful safety information, club newsletter and RCARC applications.
2. IP based camera, remote controlled mounted on the east tower (a PC and ethernet line already is there) so that you and the radio club can see our local WX conditions. Suggest the camera be remotely turned so we can focus on the desired location. John Martin has offered to plan the IP based video system.
3. Add a remote screen outside the plant radio room connected to the RCARC local weather station showing local conditions.

The club has started a Severe Weather file folder that has been placed in the W5ROK station. Currently this folder includes the plant maps and the correspondence of our participation.

Club officers believe that we can expand the documentation to include NWS information, radio frequencies and procedures that would be handy during a severe weather event. Perhaps a folder on each PC desktop of emergency procedures may be helpful. The VHF/UHF radios are already programmed with emergency frequencies and we could add some common emergency frequencies to the memory in each of the club's HF transceiver(s).

**Wes Schum, W9DYV, Radio Pioneer** Wes Schum is one of the last of the radio manufacturing pioneers. Art Collins, Leo Meyerson, Lloyd Hammarlund, Bill Halligan, etc., have all gone to the great radio shack and left us their legacy of the radio equipment produced in the USA.

Wes founded Central Electronics in Chicago, Illinois, in the 1950s. Central Electronics produced a line of high quality, high performance equipment not equaled elsewhere. The 100V and 200V transmitters are without equals when a discussion turns to vintage equipment. Both transmitters were designed by Wes and his lead engineer, Joe Batchelor, and these transmitters were decades ahead of their competitors and remain landmark designs to this day.

Wes Schum, turned 90 years this past December 7th. To celebrate a wonderful man's lifetime of achievements there will be a Central Electronics conference and tailgate meet, to be held on June 16th, 2012. The event is being organized by John and Diane (Schum) Vogt and Nick Tusa at Storybrook Farm (Jonesboro, TN).



Marge Schum K9EMP and Wes Schum W9DYV

Storybrook Farm is Diane's B&B that is located on Wes Schum's 24 acre QTH (see [www.storybrookfarmtn.com](http://www.storybrookfarmtn.com)). There are 20 manicured acres available for tailgating and a wide range of presentations can be accommodated on-site. Wes and his XYL, Marge, will be on hand to share memories and are hoping to see many CE enthusiasts on hand to share stories and restoration sagas.

For those interested in participating in equipment restoration, historical aspects of early amateur SSB or equipment modification discussions, please contact K5EF at [nick.tusa@ce-multiphase.com](mailto:nick.tusa@ce-multiphase.com). More information and details (inclusive of nearby lodging information) will soon be posted at the Central Electronics website [www.ce-multiphase.com](http://www.ce-multiphase.com). (Article adapted from *Electric Radio*, Number 274, March 2012, Editor Ray Osterwald, NØDMS)

### **ARBONET-8 Launch** April 7, 2012 - Hillsboro, Texas

The Plano Amateur Radio Club (PARK) was invited by the ARBONET (Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas), to participate in the ARBONET-8 launch, set for Saturday, April 7, 2012. The ARBONET group invited the PARK group to build a payload under 2 lbs for this launch. We had a presentation by Doug Loughmiller – W5BL, who went over how we build a payload and launch it into near space atmosphere. After the presentation, there were several planning meetings, where the payload was designed and built by several members of the club. There was planning meetings on the roles that each of us would play during the launch, in order to shadow the ARBONET team to carry on our own launch in the future. I had volunteered to participate as a Mission Data Manager, who was responsible for insuring that the payloads that transmit data, are working correctly and ground systems are receiving that data before the launch.

The day of the launch arrived. I started off the early morning by trying to get myself up as well as my daughter, Ruthie, who wanted to join me as a partner. It was about

5:00am and Ruthie always sleeps in. Once we got on the road, we had a drive-by breakfast and headed South, towards Hillsboro. Along the way, we noticed the full moon and how it was so bright in the western sky, a wonderful sight indeed. Finally, after an hour and a half of driving, we made it to Hillsboro Municipal Airport, right in the junction of where I-35 splits East and West.

Once we found a parking spot at the small airport, we met up with everyone and had our briefing. There was a bank of clouds moving in from the southwest and the winds were manageable for our launch. So, we proceeded to the hangar to get started. It took a while to get all of the payloads prepped for the launch. First, the payload boxes had to be fitted with the Dacron rope that would be used for the payload string. Each payload had to be tied together in one long string, with about 10 feet of space between each payload, to prevent any tangle-ups. Next, we had to prepare a place on the hangar floor to inflate the balloon. A cloth was laid down to protect the balloon. Other tools and materials are used to handle the balloon, such as latex gloves, surgical tunicate straps and an apparatus made from PVC pipe and hose material that will connect the balloon to the helium tanks for inflation.

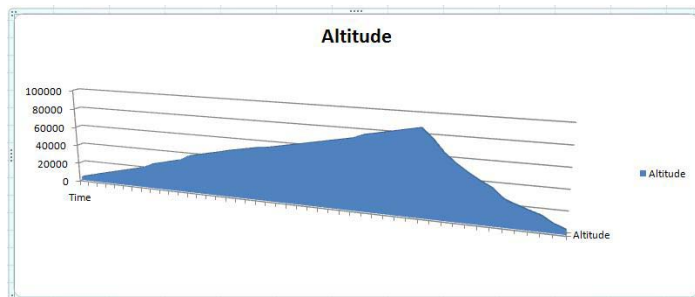


Once everything was prepped, inflation began. It took about 20 minutes to fully inflate the balloon. Part of the process was to attach a pull scale that measured the amount of lift the balloon had. This helped us to determine when we were done filling the balloon. All of the figures, from the weight of the payload, parachute and balloon were all factored with the weather data, winds aloft and other data to calculate the amount of lift we will need. With that done, it was time to tie the string of payloads to the balloon and walk out to the runway to launch our balloon. From all of the data that we had, we had a projected landing site of Trinidad, TX, which is in line with a path just North of Corsicana and in line with Athens, TX. The projected landing site is usually correct within 5 miles of the actual landing track.

There was a Manager in charge of filling the balloon. Also, during this time and throughout the launch, there was a manager in charge of making the series of communications with the FAA in order to coordinate air traffic in the area. There was also a manager that monitored the weather. With the payloads attached and all the systems checked out, we walked the balloon and payload string out to the runway for launch. It was a simple matter of releasing each object in stages until the final payload was released.



With one of our ground monitoring stations, Dan Brookshire – KE5LHC, was receiving slow scan TV pictures as the balloon started off. We were able to see images up until it got to around 10,000 feet, before losing the signal. In the mean time, Ruthie and I helped with the cleanup and then converted over to recovery.



We had a good APRS beacon reception on one of the three APRS units on board. With the maps that I had created for UIVIEW, we were able to pinpoint the position of the balloon as we drove our car underneath it. My Kenwood TM-D710 also received the APRS packets, which provided us altitude, direction and distance. To my amazement, the distance did not include altitude, only ground distance. This made tracking a lot of fun. Ruthie did a great job giving me directions and providing me names of farm roads or highways to travel upon. We were able to maintain a good track, along with the rest of the recovery team.

We were starting to get close to Corsicana, when I noticed that the altitude had started to drop. This means that the balloon had popped and had started a rapid descent towards Earth. We continued to stay under it as best as we could, until we noticed the altitude had dropped to around 800 feet. That was our last reported position directly from the balloon itself. APRS I-gate stations picked up the balloon's last beacon at a much higher altitude of over 4000 feet. Ruthie and I had a pretty good idea where the balloon was. But then we noticed that everyone else also had a good idea as well, since the cars started to show up. Some had brought directional antennas in order to pinpoint the location. We estimated it was about less than a quarter mile from the dirt road on a particular property.



The ARBONET team leader, Doug Loughmiller – W5BL, made contact with the property owner, who was very cooperative. A small group of the ARBONET team went in to retrieve the payloads. A half an hour later, the property owner drove up to the waiting group on the road side with some of the ARBONET team, along with most of the payload. Doug had to walk out with the last two payloads because there was not enough room in the 4WD ATV for him to ride with everyone else.

With the payloads retrieved, it was time for photos and a few congratulatory remarks. After this, we decided to get lunch in downtown Corsicana, since it was 1:00pm. We wound up following each other to the Cotton Patch restaurant for lunch, where we got a sneak peek at the still pictures and video from the onboard cameras.



If you want to see some of the still pictures and video, simply go to YouTube and search for ARBONET-8 and you can see two videos: the ASCENT and the DESCENT. A lot of the video did not record well because of moisture that built up on the payload window. Since there was a temperature difference between the payload and the atmosphere as well as clouds, moisture attached to the window. Then, when the balloon got to high altitudes, the moisture froze up, causing a visual blur on the video. We found out later that we should not have used the window, but let the camera lens make direct contact with the outside air. This allows for better moisture control. Hand warmer packets were placed inside of the payload in order to heat up the electronics during the -60 degrees temps near space. I have also put up additional pictures on my web site at [www.ketchums.info](http://www.ketchums.info)

The PARK group will be planning its own first launch around June or July of this year. If you are interested in participating, please join the PARKBalloon yahoo group or go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PARKBalloon/join> to join. If you have ideas for joining someone's payload or building a payload of your own, now would be a good time to start the planning and development in order to get in on this launch. To find out more about ARBONET, go to [www.arbonet.net](http://www.arbonet.net) for more information as well as links to the stills and videos. To see the track of ARBONET-8, you can view it on APRS.fi at <http://aprs.fi/?call=k5arb-10%2Ck5arb-11&mt=roadmap&z=11&timerange=604800> (Article written by Michael Ketchum, K5MDK)

### On March 29, 2102, a Kansas man was struck by lightning hours after buying lottery tickets

A Kansas ham radio operator was struck by lightning hours after buying three lottery tickets on Thursday, proving in real life the old saying that a gambler is more likely to be struck down from the sky than win the jackpot.

On the way to his car the man commented to a friend, "I've got a better chance of getting struck by lightning", than winning the lottery. Later at about 9:30 p.m., he was standing in the back yard of his Wichita duplex, when he saw a flash and heard a boom.

"It threw me to the ground quivering," Isles said in a telephone interview on Saturday. "It kind of scrambled my brain and gave me an irregular heartbeat."

He is a volunteer weather spotter and had his ham radio with him checking the skies for storm activity. He crawled on the ground to get the radio, which had been thrown from his hand.

He suffered no burns or other physical effects from the strike, which could have been worse because his yard has a power line pole and wires overhead.

"But for the grace of God, I would have been dead," he said. "It was not a direct strike."

Officials of the lottery said that the odds of winning lottery were about 176 million to one.

Americans have a much higher chance of being struck by lightning, at 775,000 to one over the course of a year, depending on the part of the country and the season, according to the National Weather Service.

He said, "The next time I will use the radio while sitting in the car." (The Faraday cage of the car is not necessarily a better solution)

For those of you that want a better understanding of proper tower/antenna grounding, please attend my presentation at HamCom on "Proper Tower & Antenna Installations". (Provided by Larry Essary, K5XG at [larry@pulse.net](mailto:larry@pulse.net))



Photo of the Fair Park tower in Dallas taking a direct lightning hit.

(Article submitted by Steve Phillips, K6JT)

### New Richardson Communications System

Richardson just recently completed the replacement of its 19-year-old, one-site, single-vendor analog radio communication system with a four-site digital system. The system connects roughly 200 law enforcement officers, 120 firefighters, and other agencies such as parks and recreation.

The new system is based on open standards—hand-selecting individual components that provide customized solutions and optimal value without be locked into a single supplier.

As a Crime Watch Patroller, reporting to the Richardson Police Department, I have had the opportunity to tour the facility at the 991 center on Greenville Ave. The capabilities of the system are beyond impressive, especially the situational awareness features. You DON'T want to be a bad guy in Richardson!

They also have a small Ham station set-up and are interested in greater involvement of Amateur Radio, especially at fire stations, particularly in relation to storm tracking. This might be something we could consider, maybe teamed with the RWK.

BTW, the past president of RWK, Brian Davis KT3X, was reportedly very involved in the procurement process.

More information can be found at the following websites: [http://www.cor.net/FlipPage/Richardson\\_Today/January2012/Jan2012RToday/pageflip.html](http://www.cor.net/FlipPage/Richardson_Today/January2012/Jan2012RToday/pageflip.html),

<http://www.emergencymgmt.com/safety/Hand-Selected-Components-Create-Unique-Radio-System.html>.

(Article contributed by Jim Skinner, WB0UNI)

### Monday Ham Lunch in Plano—Back to El Fenix

**WHEN:** Each Monday at 11:30 AM.

**WHERE:** Starting Monday, April 16, 2012, they will be moving back to El Fenix. No additional people are attending and El Fenix is still preferred by most.

**WHO:** Lots of new and long time hams from the DFW area. Sometimes visitors from other call districts

**Frognot Special Event** The McKinney Amateur Radio Club will operate a SPECIAL EVENT Station on April 28 & 29 2012 in celebration of the 4th Annual International Save the Frog Day. The club operate from the CSU on April 28 from 9am til 6pm. The station will operate as K5F from Frognot, Texas on the following frequencies:

SSB Hours of Operation: April 28 1500Z- April 30 0600Z

2 meter - 144.210

6 meter - 50.130

10 meter - 28.450

15 meter - 21.300

17 meter - 18.140

20 meter - 14.227

40 meter - 7.230

80 meter - 3.830

(Do not use 18.140 and 7.230 between 0900-1700 on April 28. The frequencies are reserved for CSU use only.)

CW Mode

April 28th 40 meter - 7.060 1500Z-1700Z

April 30th 20 meter - 14.060 1500Z-1700Z

Digital Modes - (as available)

The CSU will be located at the Blue Ridge Fire Department parking lot on Saturday, April 28 only. Operators are welcome to operate out of the CSU during the event. The CSU can support only two (2) operators at a time. MARC will be providing one (1) HF radio as well as power supply in the CSU during the event. Operators wishing to bring their own radio are welcome to do so, however, to take advantage of the provided power supply in the CSU, your radio must have Anderson Power Pole connectors. If your radio is not so equipped, be sure to bring your personal power supply. The CSU does provide connections for ICOM radios.

Those wishing to operate from the CSU should contact Gary, K5GRY, at [secretary@mckinneyarc.org](mailto:secretary@mckinneyarc.org) with the time frame they wish to operate. (Continued on page 9)



**W5ROK Contacts LeTourneau University (LETU) EE students at N0CXX**

One of this year's Rockwell Collins current mentor projects is to support a LeTourneau University Electrical Engineering senior level student design team with a goal to design a high end, high frequency (HF) antenna coupler that is cost effective and highly efficient. This team recently visited our corporate headquarters and 35<sup>th</sup> Street plant N0CXX station. The opportunity to communicate with these students using our W5ROK station in Richardson was a true blessing. Strong N0CXX signals were found at 14.288 MHz USB on 4/12/2012 at 21:45 UTC.



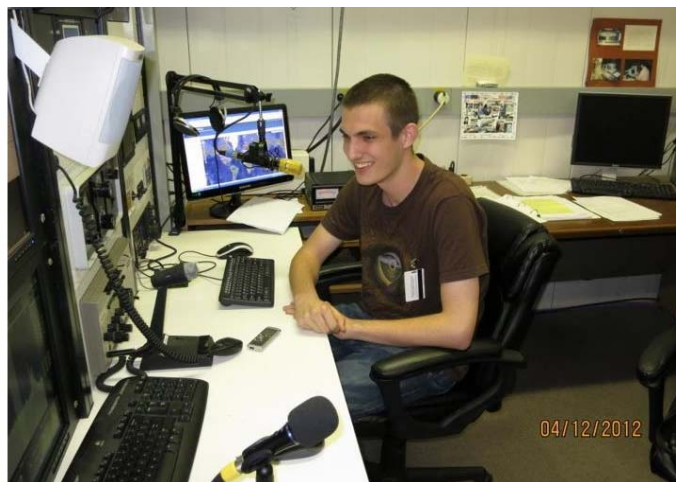
*The LeTourneau University Automatic HF Antenna Tuner design team. Heather, Jeffery, Zack and Justin*

The students were a bit microphone shy at first as we all are but that all changed when I asked senior project team lead Jeffery, who is working on his computer degree, about the biggest challenges the team faced on this automatic HF antenna tuner project. Jeffery noted issues with stray impedance in the switching components. Asked about their design software Jeffery indicated that while that framed the design, hardware prototyping, hand wired inductors and work on the input directional coupler provided the most fun. Hey, three cheers for "solder-smoke" was my thought.



*Jeffery*

Zack, an EE major, focused on the mechanical relays and the microcontroller using Darlington pairs for the drivers. When asked about publishing their design in "QST" or "CQ", Zack noted that the team may present an "abstract" at Boston this coming September.



*Zack*

Heather, also an EE, held the team position of test and integration. She was not sure if she liked the radio but that appears to have changed a bit by the end of our QSO.



*Charley KC0CD, Lawrence KC0ODK and Heather*



*Charlie KC0CD and Zack (Justin?) Operating N0CXX*



Randy, LeTourneau University representative and photographer, had high praise for the Collins-to-Collins station hookup. Randy also went on to describe his marketing role and the fast track program called "GAP" that replaced "LEAP". These are LeTourneau University fast track accelerated graduate programs. I know firsthand that these programs work as I hold two fast track degrees from LeTourneau: a Bachelor of Science in Business Management and a Master's in Business Administration.



*Jeffery, Justin and Zack check out the COLLINS HF Amplifier at N0CXX*

During the QSO Michael N5VEZ in Houston, Mississippi checked in with a very strong signal. We all learned that Michael was using only 8 watts of power into his homemade 750' horizontal loop up about 45 feet in the air. We also heard KY0R on the frequency ID in CW.

Control operators at the N0CXX Cedar Rapids, Iowa end were: Lawrence Robinson KC0OKD, Charlie Snodgrass KC0CD and Joe Spinks AA0KW. They did a great job. And the fun did not stop there. I spoke to both Joe and Lawrence in their cars using their mobile HF radios after our QSO while they were in route to a delicious dinner with the students. Here is a note I received from Joe the following Monday.

04/16/2012 10:55 AM

Hey Bob, I wanted to thank you for the fantastic job coaxing the LeTourneau students to talk on the radio. I was initially afraid the conversations were going to be very short, you turned that completely around. You even coaxed the shy one to talk!

The topping of the cake was the QSO from our mobile. I had two students in my vehicle, your signal was so clear, it was like you were riding with us.

I'll send you a couple of photos from the N0CXX contact, so you will see our end of the QSO. I hope to work you again.



*Joe Spinks AA0KW at the Rockwell Collins N0CXX 35<sup>th</sup> street station, Cedar Rapids Iowa in QSO with W5ROK Richardson Texas.*

73's

Joe Spinks AA0KW

AA0KW/M

(This article provided by Bob Kirby K3NT)

### **Frognot Special Event** (Continued from page 7)

Operators are welcome to operate from home during the times posted. Operators will need to supply the club with their logs after the event,. All logs must be submitted in ADIF format. We are not limited to the frequencies posted.

This is a fun opportunity for all to support and participate in MARC activities. The more operators we have, the more enjoyable the experience will be. Those operators wanting to operate at 9am will be asked to arrive 1 hour early to aid in set up and vice versa for those ending at 6pm.

Many of you have asked for instructions on setting up the CSU. This would be a great opportunity to learn. Don't forget—the deadline for the QSL card design is April 1, 2012.

A special website for the event has been established at: [www.mckinneyarc.org/frognot](http://www.mckinneyarc.org/frognot).

Directions to Blueridge Fire Dept.

From McKinney – take Hwy 380 East to Hwy 78. Go North on Hwy 78 and take Hwy 78 business. Turn left on RD-545

North of McKinney: Take Hwy 121 East. Proceed approx. 14 miles to 160. (Exxon station on left). Turn right on 160 and proceed South. Take Hwy 78 business, will take you to the town of Blue Ridge. Turn right on RD-545

Those requesting a QSL card should send a #10 SASE to:  
McKinney Amateur Radio Club  
c/o QSL Manager  
PO Box 267  
McKinney, Texas 75069

# 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

145.01 MHz

W5ROK-N1, W5ROK-N2 & W5ROK-N3 HSMM-  
MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Thursday, 26 April 2012

1700 Social      1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection  
*Second Floor Conference Room 200*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 13 May 2012 ←←←**