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# SIGNALS

**Rockwell  
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

**Amateur Radio Club**

Volume 40 Issue 04

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

January 2019

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 22 January 2019  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

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

**Subject:**

**Gene Duprey, K1GD, will talk about  
his newest ham radio acquisition**

Department Training, patrol their neighborhoods and report all suspicious activities to the Police Department.

### January 2019 VHF Contest

*(An email from Bob K3NT)*

This past weekend Ross K5SRT and I worked to prepare the K5SRT/R (rover) for next weekend's Saturday and Sunday January VHF contest. Two full days were spent installing a mobile power buss, operating positions and of course antennas.

So, how does one design and safely fit mobile FM, SSB, CW and Digital modes for 50 MHz, 144 MHz, 220 MHz, 440 MHz, 900 MHz and 1.2 GHz into a Ford F-150 truck?

See: [okrover.info](http://okrover.info) for more details. C U in the contest.

73, Bob K3NT & Ross K5SRT *(See following pictures)*



*(Continued on page 3)*

## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

The next general membership meeting will be on 22 January. Our club President, Gene Duprey, K1GD, will be presenting a program on his newest ham radio toy. Be sure to attend so you can drool.

### RCARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The test scheduled for 2 January 2019 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

### RCARC OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b> Gene Duprey 319.270.8159 <a href="mailto:geneduprey2015@gmail.com">geneduprey2015@gmail.com</a>	K1GD	<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b> <b>AVAILABLE</b>	
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<b>MEMBERSHIP</b> <b>AVAILABLE</b>		<b>W5ROK CLUB STATION</b> 972.705.1349 461-290	

church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail [rwkhamtest@gmail.com](mailto:rwkhamtest@gmail.com).

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### President and VP Messages

Happy New Year everyone! I hope everybody had a great holiday season, I know I did. As some of you know I bought myself a FlexRadio 6500 and a Maestro control head. Both were CPO (Certified Pre-Owned) units, so I saved a bit doing so. I have been really satisfied with the purchase, and have used it remotely several times now, going to San Antonio, at a local restaurant with some lunch buddies, at my granddaughter's, and recently to Socorro, NM. I will say Flex has done a great job with the firmware, as everything has worked just as advertised. My one problem has been operating using a hot spot with my cell phone. It seems our Loyalty Program, which saves us money on our Verizon bill, limits the hot spot data rate to 600kbps, which is WAY too slow to operate the Flex. And I don't want to pay another \$80+ bucks a month to be able to use it. I have been on the air quite a bit using the Flex, and have enjoyed getting it set up the way I want. I will be doing a program on it this month, but I need someone to bring a cell phone with a good hot spot data rate, and let me use it for the demo.



There have been some neat special event stations on this past month. I hope you were able to work some of them. Also, some fun DX stations were on the air and were easily worked, so get out there and do some operating.

Hope to see you all at the meeting and 73's,  
Gene, K1GD  
RCARC President

### VE SESSIONS

**Dallas** tests are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

**Irving** tests are held on the third Saturday of each month at 0900. Fifth and Main St. Contact Bill Revis, KF5BL 252-8015

**McKinney** VE test sessions are held at the Heard Museum the first Sunday of the month. The address is 1 Nature Place, McKinney TX. The time of the testing is 1430, ending no later than 1645. **Note: no tests given on holiday weekends.**

**Garland** testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH at 972.302.9992.

**Plano** testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 17<sup>th</sup> St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

**Richardson** The Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) VE team hold license testing on the third Thursday of each month at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Beltline Rd. Testing begins at 1900 hrs in room 12. Enter through the Northern most door on the east side of the



## Secretary's Report

The December meeting was a Christmas dinner; there are no minutes since no business was conducted.

## January 2019 VHF Contest

(Continued from page 1)







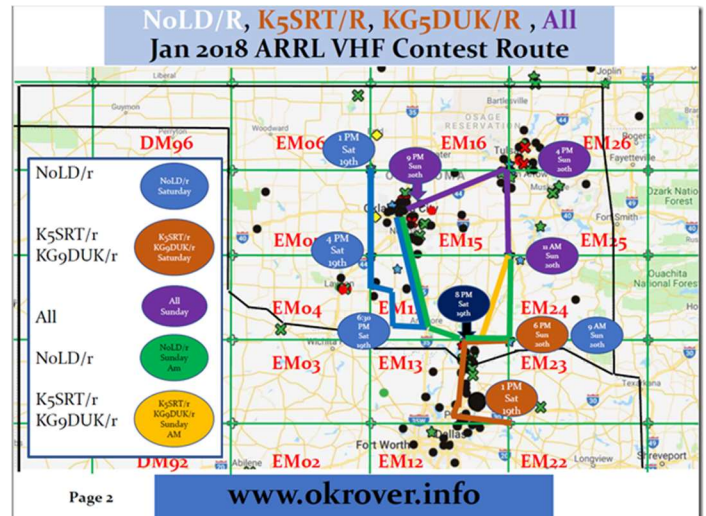
**OKRover Itineraries for Jan 2019 ARRL VHF Contest**

I am happy to announce that three OKRovers will be active in the January 19-20th VHF Contest!

I encourage you to follow us at [www.okrover.info](http://www.okrover.info). We will have all three of our rovers positions visible on the website "live" starting on Saturday. All three rovers will be on 6m, 2m, 1.25m, 70cm, 33cm, and 23cm.

Our route will take us within range of most of Oklahoma, north eastern Texas, and southern Kansas. We intentionally took a more southerly route to avoid winter weather. Take heart, we will probably traverse farther north in the June and September VHF contests. As you can tell from the picture below, we will divide and conquer at the begin-

ning of the contest and then join forces in eastern Oklahoma. We will probably arrive in Tulsa at around 3 PM on Sunday. We will take a loop around the Oklahoma City metroplex around 7-9 PM on Sunday. Our full itinerary is attached. Feel free to contact us enroute if you would like an update on our location.



Our rover teams will consist of:

NoLD/r

- Randy Wing, N0LD
- Samantha Wing, KC0MTM (Saturday)
- Marcus Sutliff, N5ZY (Sunday)

K5SRT/r

- Ross Terry, K5SRT
- Harvey Jones, W0HGJ
- Bob Kirby, K3NT (Saturday)

KG9DUK/r

- Alex Naas, KG9DUK
- Nick Farlow, KB0YHT

More information on the OKRover team is available at: [www.okrover.info](http://www.okrover.info) - select the "About Us" tab. If you would like to follow our pictures and preparations and general rover information (dynamically) please follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1766056970371203>

(Randy Wing, N0LD, n0ld@arrl.net)

**Rose Chapter 2 of 20**

Charlie was working beneath the hood of Ned's car when the postman entered the shop with a certified letter. It was from the Federal Communications Commission. After wiping his hands on a shop towel, he tore the envelope open and read that the amateur radio frequencies were now released for normal amateur use, effective immediately.

He felt a certain satisfaction. Things were returning to normal. After finishing with Ned's tune up, Charlie unlocked the

door of his radio shack and pushed it open. Inside, on the desk, sat both his transmitter and receiver. They were home brew rigs, projects from four issues of prewar QSTs, that brought the world to his shack. After using a feather duster to fan away the accumulated dust, Charlie switched on the power. Leaving them both on standby, he leaned back in his wooden office chair to watch the filaments glow. Somehow it reminded him of his first assignment after finishing radio school. He was to locate and destroy a clandestine radio station in Europe.

He'd been chosen for the task because of his gifted ability to mimic other people's fists. In this case, he'd been chosen to locate a station operating on the coast of Spain. The station's regular contact had been silenced and Charlie had substituted for more than a week.

From an aging fishing boat, he maintained the scheduled contacts until he had established its general location. Then under the cover of darkness, he went ashore in a rubber raft and made his way inland, carrying some explosives. Using an R6 spy radio he maintained contact and by dawn, spotted the station in question, a shack built of weather-beaten driftwood slabs.

Working his way closer, he tried to determine if only one person occupied the station. At last a man stepped from the doorway to relieve himself. Charlie recognized his photo on a QSL card. He was an Italian ham he'd worked many times before the war. He couldn't recall his name, but he distinctly remembered his call sign. Now he had to find a way to destroy the station without getting himself killed.

Taking a chance, he transmitted the man's ham call sign, and then followed it with random Spanish call. The man's head spun around and he stared at his shack, but he made no move to respond.

Charlie repeated the call, and then, using what little Spanish he knew, he added: "if you can copy this meet me on the beach where a creek feeds into the sea. I have supplies". The operator did not respond. Instead, he headed for the beach. Moving in quickly, Charlie set his charges and headed for his rubber raft. Moments later, he heard the explosion.

**An Email from John Somers KC3YB—A Really Old SWL Report**

Joel, ex WB2EQI:

Your old call just crossed my mind while listening to some 40 meter SSB and I googled it, finding your bio on the RCARC newsletter from September 2012. No, I never worked you; I think I did something even better.

Back in 1964 plus or minus, while listening to some 75 meter AM, I heard the callsign WB2EQI. I don't recall who you were having your QSO with, but something about your call struck my 14 year old fancy - perhaps how it rolled off the tongue. 😊 I was so enthralled by it that I wrote it on the

label inside my 9 transistor Sears Silvertone three band portable radio, where it still resides. And I remembered it for 55 years.

I want to thank you and the many other AM operators (I couldn't copy SSB) I listened to throughout my formative years for making ham radio interesting. For hooking me so firmly that I eventually became a ham myself.

I often wonder what would have happened if Mom and Dad hadn't given me the radio for Christmas. Or if everybody was using side band. I would have missed out on many years of tinkering with electronics, my first good job - at a Lafayette Radio store - and thirty some years of being a ham.

Thanks, and good DX.

Oh - your sigs were 59.

John Somers, KC3YB

Crisfield, MD

*(Editor's note: following is that Bio from Joel in the September 2012 issue of SIGNALS and the announcement of the program he presented to the club at the 27 September 2012 meeting)*

*My ham radio BIO: I was first licensed in 1962 or 63 (I can't remember when) as WN2EQI. I upgraded to general as WB2EQI. I dropped out of amateur radio when I went to college. I got re-interested in 1978 and passed my Advanced license test and was assigned KA5ATY which I only held for a short time and then upgraded to Extra as KA5W. I held that call until 1997 when I was able to acquire the vanity call N5JR.*

**Wildlife in Krueger National Park and DX-ing in Botswana**  
**By Joel Rubenstein, N5JR**

*(Does anyone remember Joel? would He stated that he would appreciate it if someone would be so kind as to forward his message to Joel Rubinstein.)*

**HF J-PoleBy Mike Higgins – K6AER**



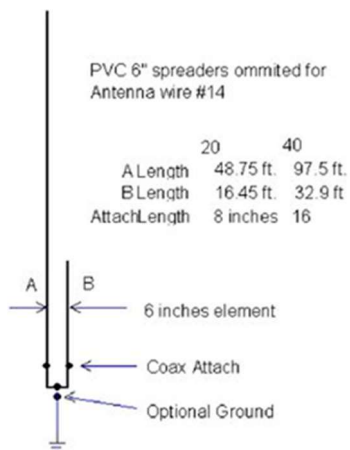
I left my Colorado QTH and until I could erect a tower and beam at my new home, I decided to use the very tall trees at my new QTH. I placed a dipole up at 40 feet and it works well. I miss the DX that the beam would bring in and with the Sun Spot cycle heading to the bottom, 20 and 40 meters are the new, DX money bands. I decided to put up a wire J pole for twenty. I used one made from metal pipe back in 2001 and it worked very well.

There is nothing special about a J pole, it is an end fed 1/2 wavelength vertical radiator that needs no radials. Just like its 2-meter brother but on 20 meters it is ten times larger. The bottom 1/4 matching section is fed with 50-ohm coax. Bottom of the antenna is shorted and the coax attaches at the 50 ohm point in the matching transformer. The higher the attach point attachment, the higher the feed impedance. The antenna is shorted at DC and thus, P static is never an issue. I ran a nylon line over the top of the tree and the antenna is held vertically by the tree limbs. Leaves seem to have no effect on the radiation at HF. The long side is 3/4 wavelength and the matching side is 1/4 wavelengths

The 6 inch spreaders are made from 1/2 inch PVC and spaced about every 2 feet for the parallel matching section. Drill the spreader and feed the wire through the holes on each end. Spreaders are held in place on the wire with good old vinyl electrical tape. The top of the matching section is tied to the radiator with parachute cord to hold up the matching section. Fifty-ohm coax is attached about 8 inches from the bottom with the center conductor connected to the long side and the shield attached to the short matching side. 2:1 VSWR is about 4 % of the Frequency. Also, the antenna can be grounded at the center of the shorting section for a lightning ground.

To tune the antenna just move the attach point up and down for lowest VSWR. Match should be 1.0:1 with ease. I used THHN 14 gage wire to build the antenna. I don't have \$10 into the whole project. The antenna will handle 2KW easily. Mind you if you are running power the voltage at the top will be very high. Try to keep the last 10% in the clear and away from anything conductive.

In typical operation, I find the antenna to be 1-2 "S" units better on overseas DX. On stations, closer than 1500 miles the dipole generally works better. I was so impressed with the operation on 20 meters I built one for 40 meters. Now that antenna is almost 100 feet long and my tree is only 80 feet high. So, the last 20 feet bends over the tree top. No problem. The VSWR is flat and it too is terrific for DX.



Dimensions for the 20 and 40 meter antennas are shown in the figure. (Reprinted with permission from [eham.net](http://www.aham.net))

## Upcoming Events

<b>Daily</b>	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz <a href="http://www.k6jt.com">www.k6jt.com</a>
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday</b>	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm
<b>JANUARY</b>	
<b>19-21</b>	<b>JANUARY VHF</b> Objective: For amateurs in the US and Canada to work as many stations in as many 2 x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada may only work stations in the US and Canada. Operation is from 1900 Saturday thru 0359 UTC Monday. Details at <a href="http://www.arrrl.org/january-vhf">http://www.arrrl.org/january-vhf</a> .
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	
<b>11-15</b>	<b>School Club Roundup</b> Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate. Sponsored by the ARRL, its Hudson Division Education Task Force and the Long Island Mobile Amateur Radio Club (LIMARC). The event runs from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event. Details at <a href="http://www.arrrl.org/school-club-roundup">http://www.arrrl.org/school-club-roundup</a> .
<b>16-17</b>	<b>International DX—CW</b> Objective: To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. W/VE amateurs: Work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. DX stations: Work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible. The event runs 48 hours, from 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC



# Texas Legislature SB 43

Date: December 28, 2018 Author: PanhandleAmateurRadioClub



## Attention Amateur Radio Operators!

Legislation is pending in the Texas Senate that will affect your right to operate your mobile amateur radio while in motion. Below are some clips from the actual document:

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 43

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the use of a wireless communication device while  
3 operating a motor vehicle.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Section 543.004(a), Transportation Code, is  
6 amended to read as follows:

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18 Sec. 545.4251. USE OF PORTABLE WIRELESS COMMUNICATION  
19 DEVICE WHILE OPERATING MOTOR VEHICLE [~~FOR ELECTRONIC MESSAGING~~];  
20 OFFENSE.

21 SECTION 3. Section 545.4251, Transportation Code, is  
22 amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), (c), (d), (h), and (j) and  
23 adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

24 (a) In this section:

\*\*\*\*\*

24 (d) Subsection (b) does not apply to:

25 (1) an operator of an authorized emergency or law  
26 enforcement vehicle using a portable wireless communication device  
27 while acting in an official capacity; or

S.B. No. 43

1 (2) an operator of a commercial motor vehicle, other  
2 than a school bus with a minor passenger on the bus, who uses a  
3 portable wireless communication device while acting in the scope of  
4 the operator's employment and the use is allowed under federal  
5 motor carrier safety regulations, as defined by Section 644.001 [~~an~~  
6 ~~operator who is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission~~  
7 ~~while operating a radio frequency device other than a portable~~  
8 ~~wireless communication device~~].

As you can see in the last clip (line 6-8), the exemption for FCC licensees is removed. This revision to current law will treat amateur radios like cell phones in regard to operation while in motion. If you are concerned about your right to operate your mobile radio on the amateur bands while in motion, please contact your Texas State Senator and respectfully request that he or she vote "NO" to protect your FCC amateur radio operator rights.

# Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



**CLUB STATIONS**  
 (972) 705-1349

**W5ROK REPEATER**  
 441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input  
 131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

**W5ROK-1 PACKET BBS ROK Node**  
 145.05 MHz

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

**Tuesday 22 January 2019**  
 1700 Social      1730 Meeting

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

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 15 February 2019 ←←←**