
SIGNALS

**Rockwell
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Amateur Radio Club

Volume 38 Issue 08

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

May 2017

RCARC Membership Meeting

**Tuesday 23 May 2017
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program**

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

**Subject:
FIELD DAY PLANNING**

W5ROK ARRL Field Day 2017

Time for more radio fun. Last weekend in June. This year you can operate the club's new Elecraft K3s station.

Want to participate?

Field day level of participation is entirely up to each individual's ability and time available. An FCC amateur radio license is NOT required to participate.

To get the ball rolling, please answer the questions below, and send your response to k3nt@arrl.net and wa8zbt@arrl.net.

1. Can you help with set up or operations on Saturday 24 June?
2. Would you like to operate?
3. What is your call sign, class and cell number?
4. How much of the 27 hours would you like participate? (All - Day time - Night Time - Just a few hours)
5. Will you be bringing any radio equipment, (new/old toys for show n' tell)?
6. Can you help with tear down on Sunday, 25 June?

(Bob Kirby has provided a great article on the status of the new Elecraft K3s transceiver on page 3 of this newsletter.)

(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

UPCOMING EVENTS Vietnam War Memorial Moving Wall

The Moving Wall will be at the Sachse Municipal Complex 26-29 May 2017. Most of us know of someone who gave their lives in Vietnam and this is an opportunity to pay your respects. Viewing it is a humbling, emotional and somber experience. More information is on page 4 of this newsletter.

Ham-Com 2017

Ham-Com 2017 will be held again this year at the Irving Convention Center on 9 and 10 June. More information can be found on page 5 of this newsletter, and complete event details are available at the Ham-Com website <http://www.hamcom.org/>.

Local Club News

Meeting Notice

The program time for this month's meeting will be dedicated to planning for Field Day.

RCARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP, Frank Krizan KR1ZAN and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The testing on 3 May 2017 was cancelled due to the overcast skies and predicted thunderstorms. The siren testing is performed at 12:00 on the first Wednesday of each month. 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.

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church building. For further information contact Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail warhog4@tx,rr.com.

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President and VP Messages

THIS SPACE RESERVED FOR
PRESIDENT OR VICE PRESIDENT
MESSAGES

See you at the meeting & 73's,
Gene, K1GD
RCARC Vice President

VE SESSIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Secretary's Report

25 Apr 2017

President Mike Schmit WA9WCC called the meeting to order at 1734.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Frank Krizan	K5HS
John McFadden	K5TIP
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Rohan Thomas	KG5RCN
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

Officers and Committee Reports:

There were no formal reports other than the Secretary's Report, which is contained in this newsletter.

Old Business:

Mike Schmit WA9WCC reminded that Field Day would be held on 24-25 June 2017. He encouraged advanced planning to assure club success.

New Business:

Mike Schmit mentioned Rockwell Collins Fun Days on 25 and 26 April, an opportunity to demonstrate and discuss club benefits in the quest of new members.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1742, followed by a very informative presentation on the Outernet by guest Frank Krizan K5HS.

W5ROK Elecraft K3s Status

The K3s, P3, and SP3's have continued to perform almost flawlessly, passing all operations tests. The equipment will be moved to the W5ROK station shortly.

One member took advantage of our offer of K3s training. Mike WA9WCC even brought along his K3 for comparison. While at the K3NT station, Mike's K3 was checked and the latest software updates were installed.

We noticed that a few of his knobs were missing or needed replacements. A quick call to Elecraft was done and the parts were on the way to Mike.

A follow up with Mike confirmed the parts were received and Mike has two of the new knobs already installed.

Mike liked the new K3s so much he indicated that he may be upgrading soon. Mike mostly operates the digital modes

and was impressed with the ease of connectivity to a computer. Only one USB cable is required as the K3s has a built-in USB hub and sound card.

This radio is truly plug-and-play for CW, Voice and Digital modes. The operating desk can remain uncluttered. No longer are PTT, line audio input, line audio output and interface boxes like the rigblaster required.

I found the radio to be a real pleasure to operate after the required learning curve. Some may have no issues as the layout and menus are rather intuitive if you are used to operating the last decade of menu-driven radios. The club purchased a large detailed K3s Detail Operation / Tips n' Tricks book; this useful for operators like myself that may need a little more guidance or may be curious about setting up and operating a specific mode.

The K3s has a low noise receiver which is very sensitive. I found zero need for the radio's pre-amp on the 160, 80, 60, or 40 meter bands. In fact, the RF-gain control was nearly always backed off, resulting in low or nearly noise-free listening.

The upper bands offer two pre-amps if required but even on 6 meters, I noticed that I seldom had to use them.

The K3s is a "ready to play when you are" type of radio. If I received a text to QSO on 7.237.5 MHz in LSB the radio was quickly set up and ready to go. If that request was for WSPR JT-65 operating, then by just switching on the laptop loading WSPR-X and selecting the band, whoosh ... the K3s responded via the USB cable, and the radio automatically reset to 'data mode' with the proper filters, power reset to 15 watts and the radiostarted receiving the JT-65 signals, ready to operate.

Likewise, if I decided to snag a DX station on CW or SSB and needed to pull in the Elecraft HF amplifier—it was plug n' play with the KPA-500. As soon as I clicked the KPA-500 Amp on and pushed 'operate' the radio recognized the change and reset my power to 21 watts of RF drive power. After the DX QSO, returning to 90 watts is simply done by pushing the 'standby' button on the amplifier. Again, all the Elecraft units communicate and play well together.

You may have read about my enjoyment using the on-line SDR (software defined radios) and their waterfall software that lets you see the whole, a portion, or just about 20 kilocycles of the band. The Elecraft P3 is the panadapter/band-scope that does that locally for the K3/K3s. I used this unit a lot.

The P3 makes for a great operator aid to apply a set of eyes to the band of choice. If I noticed squelch breaking on my 2 meter scanner and skip was heard, I would flip on the K3s and select 6 or 10 meters and be able to visually look at any band activity.

It gets better. Let's say I do see waterfall activity on 28.425 MHz. With a push of a P3 switch, the K3s is now tuned to that frequency. Wow.

So far, I have barely touched on all that this W5ROK Elecraft K3s can do. I do hope you are now convinced it is a joy and a lot of fun to operate.

So, will I be buying a K3s, P3, SP3, KPA500 & KAT500 to replace the radios at K3NT?

I wish I could. However, things like household, medical, transportation, insurance and other bills do not have this dream in today's budget.

However—as a member of W5ROK Amateur Radio Club I am able to operate this new K3s, P3, SP3s at our club station. And SO CAN YOU! 🙏

I hope you do decide to learn and enjoy our club's new Elecraft radios. They are fun to operate, and you will learn about some of the new radio DSP technology.

(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

The Sachse Historical Society is honored to host
The Vietnam Combat Veterans Wall Memorial
 On Display for the Memorial Day weekend at the
 Sachse City Hall Complex continuously May 26 – 29, 2017



**A special Memorial Day Ceremony presented on
 May 29th at 11:30 am**
 Sachse Municipal Complex, 3815 Sachse Rd., Sachse Texas

Donations to help fund this event can be mailed or made online:
 Sachse Historical Society, 3033 6th St., Sachse Tx 75048
www.SachseHistoricalSociety.org

Sponsored by the Sachse Historical Society and these local businesses:




Join the motorcycle escort to bring the
 Memorial to town
May 25, 2017 – 8:30 AM
 Meet at Comfort Inn and Suites
 2301 E Bush Frwy at Jupiter Rd.
 Call Bryan Tillman for details 214-702-2473

Upcoming Events

JUNE

- 10-12 June VHF Contest**—For amateurs in the US and Canada to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations for contest credit. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, runs through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/june-vhf>.
- 18 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. Kids Day always runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Operate as much or as little as you like. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/kids-day>.

- 24-25 Field Day**—Objective: to work as many stations as possible on any and all amateur bands (excluding the 60, 30, 17, and 12-meter bands) and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Field Day is open to all amateurs in the areas covered by the ARRL/RAC Field Organizations and countries within IARU Region 2. DX stations residing in other regions may be contacted for credit, but are not eligible to submit entries. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/field-day>.

JULY

- 8-9 IARU HF World Championship**—Objective: to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>.
- 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



HAM-COM 2017

Irving Convention Center | June 9th - 10th



News & Information

Swap Meet Sold Out! It's Gonna Be Big!

The Ham-Com 2017 Indoor Swap Meet has completely sold out so you know it's going to be a great event this year. How Big... you'll just have to attend and find out. So no matter if you are looking for a piece of equipment, just browsing, or hope to find a diamond in the 'junk'... get your [admission tickets RIGHT NOW!](#)

2017 ARRL Convention Host West Gulf Division

Ham-Com is proud to announce that we are the host to the 2017 ARRL West Gulf Division Convention. Stay tuned as we announce upcoming activities, prizes, guests, and forums. The ARRL Convention brings with it a treasure trove of events and activities from ARRL... all at Ham-Com 2017!

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 23 May 2017

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Conference Room A in Hospital Building

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 16 June 2017 ←←←