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# SIGNALS

**Rockwell  
Collins**

Monthly Newsletter of the

**Amateur Radio Club**

**Volume 39 Issue 01**

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

**September 2017**

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## **RCARC Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday 24 October 2017  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program**

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

**Subject:**

**Finalize RCARC Club Shirt Design**

**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.

### **Club Shirt Design**

Below is the draft of the logo for the club shirt design. This is the design agreed to at the last meeting. If you have any comments or suggestions please make them known at or before the next meeting on 24 October.



## **Local Club News**

### **Meeting Notice**

The event for this month's program will be the final design of the new club shirts. Every member who attends will have the last opportunity to help decide the type of shirt, material and other design details. So, come to the meeting on Tuesday, 24 October and participate in the design.

### **RCARC Community Service Activities**

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The testing was performed on 4 October 2017. Most sirens worked well, however, at least one siren was reported as totally nonfunctional. 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.

At the next meeting we will finalize the shirt design including shirt style, material etc. There will be an opportunity then to order the shirts. All club members are encouraged to order shirts and show their pride in the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club. *(Continued on page 3)*

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church building. For further information contact Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail [warhog4@tx,rr.com](mailto:warhog4@tx,rr.com).

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## President and VP 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 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

26 Sep 2017

President Mike Schmit WA9WCC called the meeting to order at 1740.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Bob Coulbourne	W4FTD
John McFadden	K5TIP
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:

Discussions continued with Bob Coulbourne W4FTD on options and artwork for club shirts. A tentative design was agreed upon, and Bob will develop a sample for further evaluation at the next meeting.

### New Business:

None.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1830.

## The Old Man and the Paper Boy, Part 1

*Copyright 2009 by Scott B. Laughlin/n7net*

The following 3 part series was submitted by Scott, N7NET, who has checked into TEX from time to time. Scott is a QRP enthusiast. I know you will enjoy reading his story. Thank you, Scott...

Jack awoke with a start. Had he had missed the paperboy for the third morning this week? Gently, he laid back the blankets, so as not to disturb Millie, then groped for his trousers. "What's the matter?" she asked, her voice thick with sleep. "Nothing. Go back to sleep," he said, tugging on his trousers. After cinching his belt he grabbed his robe and slippers and headed for the door. Fisherman's Wharf lay not far away. He sometimes heard waterfront activity—the shriek of boat whistles and the slow rhythm of ships. But this morning all sounds were muffled except for the throaty moan of a distant foghorn. The corner street lamp cast a grainy luster across the wet lawn. "What on earth are you doing, Jack?" Startled, he whirled about to find Millie on the porch, clutching her flowered robe tightly around her neck. "I'm waiting on the paperboy," he growled. "Go back to bed before you catch cold." The words hardly cleared his lips

before the young man appeared on a speeding bicycle. Before Jack could draw a breath to summon the fellow, his newspaper sailed toward him and slid to a halt a few yards from where he stood. 8 "Hey! I want a word with you," Jack shouted. He knew it was fruitless, this hollering business, because the speeding youngster had vanished as quickly as he'd appeared. Perhaps it was the curse of his old age that made hailing so futile. He stooped to retrieve his soggy Chronicle when the boy's voice sounded. "Mr. Wilcox, did you call me?" Jack straightened and found himself looking into the face of a short, thin boy. "I did. What's your name, young man?" "Jimmy, sir." "Do you see what's wrong here?" "No sir," answered Jimmy, his dark eyes searching the newspaper that Jack thrust toward him. "Can't you see that it's soaking wet?" "Well, everything's wet this morning, sir. It's the fog." "With a bit more force you might have sailed it onto my porch." "You want it on your porch?" "I do." "I can do that." "Good. For every morning I find it on my porch I'll add ten cents to your weekly fee." The boy smiled, but Jack could see that his mind was occupied elsewhere. "May I ask you a question?" "Like what?" growled Jack. "Is that a tri-bander on that tower?" Jack glanced toward the antenna, but it was not yet visible in the predawn light. "How'd you know about that?" "I saw it when Mom was showing me my paper route." "And what do you know about radio antennas?" "Not very much, only what I read in a magazine at the laundromat. Do you have a radio room?" "I do." "Can I see it?" "Absolutely not." Jack had no tolerance for children. They were noisy and unruly. He knew he'd frightened the boy by the way he'd grabbed his bike and fled, but it didn't matter. He didn't care. The little scamp had no business poking around and touching things in his radio room. "You shouldn't have been so short with him," Millie complained, as Jack started for the porch. "Well, maybe not, but I don't want a darn kid underfoot. He's a paperboy, for crying out loud. If I let him in one time he'll be back every day. I don't have time for such monkey business." "I suppose not, your being retired an all," Millie said sarcastically. "How long has it been since you've turned on your radio? Six months? A year?" He didn't answer, but held the door for her, instead. He watched Millie proceed toward the kitchen. By her stride it was obvious that this conversation was not finished. He opened the Chronicle and scanned the editorial page before placing the paper near the furnace to dry. Then he moved to his recliner, leaned back, and closed his eyes. If only Millie had stayed in bed, he thought to himself. The sun was not yet up and the situation was already out of control. "Breakfast." Jack pulled himself from his recliner and headed into the kitchen. 9 "One of the Chronicle editors thinks John Kennedy will be our next president," Jack said as he added milk the bowl of oatmeal she'd set before him. He knew she cared nothing for politics, so maybe a bit of Washington news would derail her crusade. "How do you feel about that?" she asked as she dried her hands on her apron and joined him at the table. Raising her hand, she swept back a few strands of gray hair that had escaped from her bun and waited for his response. "There's probably no difference between Kennedy and Nixon." "But isn't Nixon

a self-made man?" she asked. "So they say, but that's only because he found the incriminating Pumpkin Papers that put Alger Hiss in prison. John Kennedy is the son of a man who made his fortune bootlegging Scotch whiskey during Prohibition. How can one be better than the other? Where's a Roosevelt when we need one?" Millie's eyes glazed over and she nodded mechanically while she waited for Jack to run down. "The paperboy is interested in amateur radio. Did you not notice that?" she asked after he fell silent. "I did. But that's none of my affair. His father should help him, rather than me," he said while adding milk to his coffee. "Jimmy, is that his name?" "Yes, that's what he said." "I know his mother. She's in our book club. She told me two weeks ago he was taking over this paper route. She's fearful that he isn't old enough. She's so protective of him, being a single mother and all." "Divorced, I suppose," Jack mumbled between spoonfuls. "Actually, her husband was killed in Korea shortly before Jimmy's birth." Jack blinked, but he remained silent for a moment. "That's unfortunate, Millie, but that has no bearing on me. I'm much too old to be of any use to a ten-year-old. Have you forgotten that I'm seventy-five? What on earth would we ever find in common?" "Radio. It's the radio that you have in common, the same attraction that occurred between you and that old man you knew when you were a kid. What was his name?" "Wilson. Old Man Wilson." "It was radio that brought you two together, was it not?" "Well, it was his wire antennas that first caught my attention. That old man taught me so much." Jack's voice trailed off as he focused on the past. "How old were you?" "Twelve." "And Wilson?" "I'm not sure. Eighty-something, I think." "Eat your breakfast, Jack."

To be continued...

(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

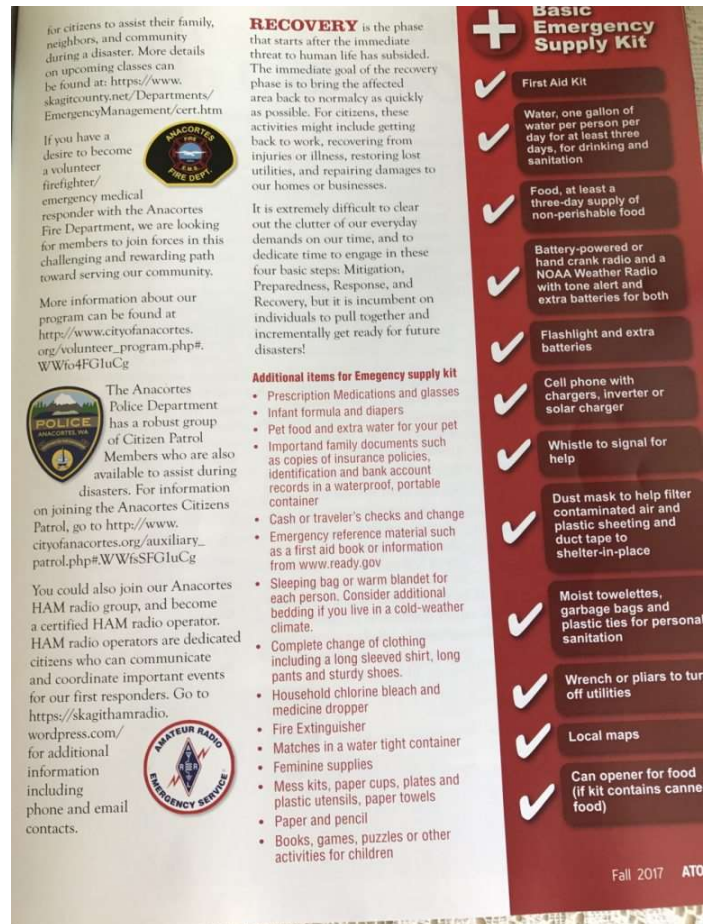
**HAM? HAM radio? ham radio? Amateur Radio? amateur radio!**

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

On the ARRL PR mailing list, we've been discussing the proper way to refer to amateur radio. What brought this up was an email from one list subscriber, Richard, WB6NAH, who was (rightfully) proud of the work that his club—the [Skagit Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Club](#)—was doing. He noted that they were even featured in the police department's emergency preparedness brochure.

As you can see, the brochure refers to "HAM radio" and "HAM radio operators."

Referring to amateur radio in this way just drives me crazy. "Ham radio" is just a nickname for amateur radio, and "HAM" is certainly not an acronym for anything. I congratulated Richard on getting his club included in the brochure, but noted, "...it's not HAM radio! It's either 'amateur radio' or 'ham radio' (ham is not an acronym). I hate to be nitpicky about this, but as a professional writer, this usage just drives me crazy." He replied, "I agree on Amateur Radio, that was the city's call."



That kicked off the discussion.

One ham replied to me privately, "Thank you...I am continually trying to explain that it is not an acronym or abbreviation."

Another replied to the list:

The most correct term is "amateur radio" or alternatively "ham radio", both written in normal case. If using "ham radio", it is a best practice to first write "amateur (ham) radio" in the first non-header/non-title occurrence.

Some will write "Amateur Radio" in proper noun format (first letters in caps) and while this may be acceptable to many and in certain venues, anyone using a style handbook will say it is incorrect. Less correct is to write "Ham Radio" in proper noun format as this is a slang term, albeit a popular one. Of course either term may be written as proper nouns when part of a title or name of an organization.

Least correct is to write "HAM" in all caps; as stated by others, ham is not an abbreviation or acronym. Writing it as "HAM" is completely wrong, will drive many people bonkers, and should be avoided at all costs.

Ward, N0AX, offered this explanation:

To clarify where the capitalization originated, there is a long-standing ARRL Board Directive, decades old, stipulating that the words "Amateur Radio" be capitalized in ARRL publications and documents. Most non-amateur publications return it to the lower-case style that is used for non-proper nouns.

One guy got a little miffed that we were wasting our time discussing this at all:

You know, I've been reading this thread and I think people are getting too hung up on very minor details. The bottom line they got PR. So something wasn't spelled right or capitalized, so what. The message got out and IMHO that's the bottom line. Let's not waste any more bandwidth on this.

I agreed that it was great that they were included in the brochure, and that we were probably beating this topic to death, but I don't think these are minor details. I said that PR professionals pride themselves on getting the details right. So should amateur radio PR people.

I'll give the final word to Dan, AI4GK. He wrote:

I don't think that standardizing what we call ourselves qualifies as getting hung up on minor details. If we don't have a standardized way of referring to us, how can we expect a public, who already is confused, to understand who we are?

I don't think that you can argue with this. Let's avoid confusion by using "amateur radio" when writing about our hobby/service. I'd even urge the ARRL to rethink their use of "Amateur Radio." Sometimes, it may be OK to use "ham radio," but it's just not correct to use "HAM radio" or just "HAM."

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Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com. When he's not picking nits about the name of our hobby, he teaches ham radio classes and operates CW on the HF bands. You can email him at [cwgeek@kb6nu.com](mailto:cwgeek@kb6nu.com).

*(Reprinted with permission)*

## Upcoming Events

### NOVEMBER

- 4-5**     **EME - 50 to 1296 MHz**--To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. 48-hour periods (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). More info at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>.
- 4-6**     **Nov. Sweepstakes – CW**--For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSONovember-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.
- 18-20**   **Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone**--For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSONovember-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.

### DECEMBER

- 1-3**     **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>.
- 9-10**   **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>.
- 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](http://www.k6jt.com)
- 1<sup>st</sup>**     Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
- Wednesday**
- 2<sup>nd</sup>**     ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm
- Wednesday**



# HAM LEARNING CENTER

## 2017 MENTORFEST

### ARRL North Texas Section

Amateur Radio in North Texas

### MENTOR PROGRAM



[www.arrlntx.org](http://www.arrlntx.org)

**Free Event!** - Hosted by the ARRL North Texas Section

When: October 21, 2017 Time: 7:30am - 4:00pm

Location: Betcha Bingo Hall, 2420 W Irving Blvd, Irving, TX 75061

The ARRL North Texas Section would like to invite all current and prospective Hams to attend Mentorfest! This event is a great way for Hams, especially those recently licensed, to meet and learn about a variety of subjects. Amateur radio operators have a great tradition of helping each other learn about and gain experience in the many facets of the hobby. Mentorfest is designed to build on this tradition by providing a place for Hams of all ages and experience levels to come together, exchange knowledge and make new friends while having fun and enjoying the great hobby of Amateur Radio.

#### Mentorfest will feature....

- Formal presentations on a number of topics.
- Local clubs providing information on their activities.
- "Elmers" (ham-speak for mentors) available for informal discussions on just about any topic.
- Tours of emergency communications vehicles.
- Representatives from the ARRL, ARES/RACES, REACT, National Weather Service and others showing how you can get involved.

#### Mentoring

In addition to the formal presentations, mentoring will be available on a large range of topics. Many amateur radio clubs, individual Hams and organizations with ties to amateur radio will be at Mentorfest to answer questions and provide demonstrations in a very informal setting.

If you have something amateur radio related that you would like to show and tell about, please consider attending Mentorfest. Your excitement about a favorite subject might be an inspiration to another Ham. Come share your knowledge and experience. Email [mentorfest@arrlntx.org](mailto:mentorfest@arrlntx.org) to be a mentor.

#### Participants & Volunteers

All ARRL affiliated clubs are encouraged to participate in Mentorfest by at least having an information table with club representatives. The ARRL will be promoting Mentorfest to new Hams so there should be opportunities for clubs to recruit new members. If your club or group is interested in participating in Mentorfest, please send E-mail to [mentorfest@arrlntx.org](mailto:mentorfest@arrlntx.org). This event is free for everyone!

Volunteers are needed to help with the following tasks.

Arranging tables and chairs before the event opens. Arranging tables and chairs after the event closes. Parking lot control for EmComm vehicle static displays. Greeters to help direct attendees to where to get the answers they seek. Email [mentorfest@arrlntx.org](mailto:mentorfest@arrlntx.org) to volunteer.

# 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 24 October 2017

1700 Social      1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

*Conference Room A in Hospital Building*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 17 November 2017 ←←←**