
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 34 Issue 10

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

August 2013

RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 August 2013
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
1800 Program

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

Subject:
**Small Hydroelectric Plant Control -
Basic Hydro Plant**
by Hernando Garcia-Vasquez – KC5FDW

Bring Your Child to Work Day 2013

This years Bring Your Child to Work Day was another success. These are children from the parents of Rockwell employees between the ages of 7 and 15. I described the hobby and how Arthur Collins started the company, how he made contact with Admiral Perry at the South Pole and how far that contact was on the map. I then told them about some of the contacts I have made and showed on the map how far they were. We tuned the radio to listen and identify the contacts QTH on the map.



I explained to them the different facets of the hobby and how they can get involved in it. I described, as well, our activity on the B-29 and how that relates to Collins. There was interest expressed by one young lady to get her Amateur Radio license. There were many adults present that said they were not aware of the history of our company and others that appeared interested in joining the hobby. We did not have as many visitors to the station as last year, however I believe it was a success. I would encourage others to support this activity and other activities throughout the year that promote the club and hobby.

(Contributed by Paul Venstra KC0TEG)

Local Club News Meeting Notice

Plan to come to the August meeting of the RCARC, as we hear from our own Hernando Garcia KC5FDW as he presents a unique approach to energy independence. Nando gave a very abbreviated version of this presentation a couple of years ago, but didn't have time to finish. By the way, we still need an Activities Chair.

Congratulations to our newest Ham, AF5MA

Has everyone met AF5MA? He is one of our newest RCARC members and almost certainly our newest Amateur Radio licensee. He has been around Collins since the earth cooled and recently retired and finally stopped resisting what he knew all along was the right thing to do, and joined the club. Now he has his ticket. And not just any ticket, he went all the way and passed the Extra test on the first try. Lets all congratulate the RCARC Secretary, Jim Brown, aka, AF5MA!

RCARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Mike Schmit WA9WCC 972.705.1394 maschmi2@rockwellcollins.com	VICE-PRESIDENT OPEN
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DATABASE MGR Joe Wolf N5UIC 972.705.1388 n5uic@arrl.net	W5ROK CLUB STATION 972.705.1349 461-290

VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held 4th Sat of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat 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.

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

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 Dave Russell W2DMR, at 972.690.9894 or E-mail warhog4@tx,rr.com.

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President's Message

No President's Message this month. Check this spot next month.

73,
Michael Schmit
WA9WCC
RCARC President

Secretary's Report

23 July 2013

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Schmitt WA9WCC at around 1730.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Robert Diepenbrock	KC4UAI
John McFadden	K5TIP
Keith Parris (visitor)	WB5RBA
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI

Officers and Committee Reports:

President's Report: There was no formal President's Report.

Vice-President's Report: We currently have no Vice-President.

Secretary's Report: The Secretary's Report is in this newsletter.

Treasurer's Report: There was no Treasurer's Report.

Website Manager's Report: There was no Website Manager's Report.

Station Trustee's Report: There was no Station Trustee's Report.

Database Manager's Report: There was no Database Manager's Report.

Old Business:

President Mike Schmit WA9WCC repeated the need for a work detail to install the newly-acquired packet antenna as announced at the last meeting. Mike plans to schedule this for the second week in August, and will send out an email requesting volunteers.

John McFadden K5TIP requested status on recent club equipment purchases. Mike indicated that Bob Kirby K3NT had all status and would be on vacation for two weeks.

New Business:

No new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 1825.

KM4RC makes First Transmissions from "FIFI" the world's only flying B-29 Super Fortress WWII Bomber to Amateurs in the USA

RCARC and CAF B-29/B-24 Squadron member Bob Kirby K3NT had the pleasure of putting the KM4RC call sign on the air for the first time in a flight on "FIFI" the world's only flying B-29 Super Fortress. On Friday 19 July 2013 KM4RC/B-29 was in operation from Addison, TX (KADS) to Marion, IL (KMWA). Then on Monday 22 July KM4RC/B-29 "FIFI" had radio operations from Marion, IL to Rockford, IL (KFRD). Finally on this tour, there was a short "FIFI" radio operations flight on Thursday 25 July from Rockford, IL to Madison, WI (KMSN). Hundreds of amateurs were heard calling "FIFI" and Bob contacted as many as possible.



"FIFI" radio operations usually take place on "FIFI's" longer transition and maintenance flights. The radio equipment consists of a full line of command set receivers and transmitters, a Collins designed ART-13 transmitter and a BC-348 receiver. All of this radio equipment is WWII vintage and has been restored to full operation with the help of the Rockwell Collins amateur radio clubs and a tremendous amount of support from around the USA, South America, Canada and Europe.

Though we understand that most of the WWII operations were via morse code, the above-listed KM4RC operations were all in the AM voice mode from the ART-13 transmitter

and the BC-348 receiver. The WWII BC-348 receiver is very broad (up to 16 KHz BW) and is often swamped by the strong SSB signals. This made operating with FIFI's four 2200-hp radial engines and hordes of SSB stations calling "FIFI" very challenging. Bob received a call after the third operation inquiring how it was possible for him to work anyone as the frequency on the ground sounded like a roaring sea of AM heterodynes mixed with hams calling on SSB. It seemed like everyone wanted to talk to "FIFI". To help "FIFI" hear better and work more stations CARC member Rod Blocksom K0DAS is working on selective filters along with a solid-state replacement for the receiver dynamotor. The dynamotors turn the aircraft's 24 VDC into the high voltages (275 to 1400 VDC) required for valve operations. A valve is also known here in the states as a vacuum tube. For some very interesting reading about the history of KM4RC, station dedication, current project status and the volunteers of the B-29 "FIFI" radio project see: <http://b29radio.com/>.

QSL (contact verification) cards and reception reports for the above operations are most welcomed and should be sent, along with a SASE, to:

W5ROK - QSL Manager for "FIFI" B-29 Super Fortress radio station KM4RC

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

P.O. Box 833807 @ mail station 461-290

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

Bob followed the radio operations with in-depth crew operations tour support at the 2013 EAA Airshow in Oshkosh with both "FIFI" and the squadrons B-24 Liberator "Diamond Lil". Bob's wife Cindy, also a dedicated CAF and squadron member, worked the Marion, Rockford, Madison and Oshkosh stops of the 18-day tour. They both talked about the history of our past wars and our freedoms with families and veterans from WWII through the current mid-east conflicts. Bob and Cindy were blessed to spend most of the week at Oshkosh with Charles Chauncey, a WWII pilot commander who flew "Going Jesse" a B-29 Super Fortress based in the Pacific. See Chauncey's video at the squadron's link below.



The CAF B-29 / B-24 Squadron is located in Addison, TX and is made up mostly of dedicated volunteers. To become a part of the crew on the squadron's War Birds requires attending a yearly ground school including detail flight safety instructions along with qualifying for specialized positions such as "Load Master" or "Scanner". Everyone starts out wiping oil and working various positions on the tours such as the ride desk, PX, cockpit tours and crew support.

The squadron's website can be viewed at <http://www.airpowersquadron.org/#!airplane-rides/c10on>. RCARC president Mike Schmit is also a member of the CAF and the B-29/B-24 Squadron.

For additional information or for a CAF squadron application please contact Bob Kirby K3NT at k3nt@arrl.net.

(Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

RCARC Community Service Activities

Michael Ketchum, K5MDK, helped out during the recent Rockwall Hot Rocks Bike Ride. Michael provided public safety communications and operated as a SAG operator.

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 7 August 2013. Fortunately most of the sirens functioned properly, although the test turned out to be an extended test with multiple rotations of each siren. Unfortunately WB0UNI had to observe his siren from his front porch since he broke his ankle the prior evening. The siren testing is performed 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.

Hot Rocks Bike Ride

10 August 2013 – Rockwall, Texas

Each year the Rotary Club of Rockwall sponsors a fund raising Bike Ride and Race centered in the city of Rockwall. The monies raised at this event fund the various charitable projects that the Rotary Club sponsors throughout the year. This is their only big fund raising event, so all the monies raised go to worthy causes, such as education, basic human needs and youth opportunities and community development. The Rotary Club's motto is "Service Above Self" and is made up of community leaders and business owners who want to give back to their communities.

This year the annual Hot Rocks Bike Ride lived up to its name. After suffering with triple-digit temperatures in the weeks prior to this event, a cool front, if you could call it one, lowered the temperature to the upper 90's. It was just enough to make it bearable for most riders and minimize the numbers of heat-related incidents.

Rockwell Collins club member Michael Ketchum K5MDK frequently participates in this bike ride in order to provide public safety communications and sharpen his radio skills. Led by the very organized and skilled planner Scott

Hammond KK5PP, the 28 amateur radio volunteers operated their own equipment alongside Rotary Cub members and other civic volunteers to provide a safe and healthy environment for the bike riders who participated in this event.



This year, Michael was designated as a SAG operator. The purpose of SAG is to provide vehicular support to the riders by patrolling the route for stranded riders and bringing them back to the start/finish line safely. In some cases, SAG volunteers will help a cyclist get in touch with resources to get them back on the road again. However, the task for a Radio Amateur operator is not to involve himself in the decision making or action of the SAG volunteer. Instead, it is the function of the radio operator to simply pass messages and information between the SAG volunteer driving the vehicle and Rotary Club decision makers at the command center. This point was raised at the start of the race when the Net Control operator started to provide instructions to a SAG driver. In most cases, the SAG driver can hear your radio and get the idea he is being directed by an Amateur Radio volunteer. In this case, the SAG driver, being a Rotarian, did not appreciate taking instructions from an Amateur Radio volunteer at Net Control. However, the Net Control operator was not conveying his own instructions, but rather that of the chief organizers of the event from the Rotary Club. It is easy to just blurt out messages as if they are coming from yourself.

When operating such events in close proximity to the volunteers who are in a more responsible role than your own, it is vital to establish the understanding that your messages are just that, messages and your role is to pass questions or information back to the command center volunteers in charge. The Amateur Radio operators do not make decisions or come up with new information on their own. Some of the event volunteers may not fully understand this and may have expectations such as asking you for leadership, when those queries should be directed through the net back to the folks in charge. Also, it is a good idea to ask permission from the SAG driver if you can report what you are both seeing. Asking permission provides the prompting to establish the proper relationship between you and your SAG driver.



Why is this relationship so important? The answer is because the event organizers are legally responsible and liable at these events. Public safety may be our goal, but we, as radio operators, do not bear the responsibility and liability of the entire event. Therefore, we perform our function in order to support the event and mitigate the liability for the event organizers by providing much needed communications support. When we, as radio operators, understand our role and cultivate this understanding with our counterparts, the effectiveness of both efforts is greatly increased through mutual partnership and understanding.

I am not advocating putting on blinders and ignoring possible observations for the sake of our own personal liability. As a partner with a specific role, we can go beyond to provide an extra set of eyes, ears and a set of helpful hands in volunteering for this event. That's what volunteers do. In my case this weekend, I also helped by jumping out of the truck and picking up directional signs that were used for the event when the event was over. This took an extra hour or so to complete, but helped the overall effort in a great way. While we were patrolling, I also checked the ditches for any downed riders or other hazards that might need to be brought to the driver's attention. So, it is always good practice to know your place and keep a watchful eye out to assist your SAG driver.



The event was a huge success, as they had over 900 bike riders participate. There were no major injuries either. The event organizers, being so impressed with the spirit and assistance of the Amateur Radio operators, immediately asked for our help again

next year. Not only was the Rotary Club impressed; there were plenty of happy riders as well. When you volunteer and perform your job well, everyone goes home safe and happy.

(Written by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)

The Yasme Foundation Supports Developer of VIEWPROP

The Board of Directors of The Yasme Foundation is pleased to announce that it has made a grant to support further development of ViewProp (z12ham.wikispaces.com), a new utility for propagation visualization developed by Rick Kiessig, ZL2HAM. ViewProp integrates information from the Reverse Beacon Network and worldwide spotting networks with station location information from QRZ.com and mapping through DXAtlas. The result is a real-time, worldwide view of amateur radio signals and operation. ViewProp also supports a "play-back" function to review historical data and provides the user with a number of options to configure both the input data stream and the way in which the information is displayed. Currently in beta testing by a global user's group (groups.yahoo.com/group/viewprop), the Yasme grant will enable ZL2HAM to complete development with appropriate networked software tools and release it for public use.

The Yasme Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation organized to conduct scientific and educational projects related to Amateur Radio, including DXing (long distance communication) and the introduction and promotion of Amateur Radio in developing countries. For additional information about The Yasme Foundation, visit our website at www.yasme.org.

Ward Silver, N0AX, President

The Yasme Foundation

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(For info TNX to Bernie McClenny, W3UR Editor of The Daily DX and The Weekly DX)

(Contributed by Frank Krizan KR1ZAN)

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 July 2013
 1700 Social 1730 Meeting

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

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 13 September 2013 ←←←