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# SIGNALS

Rockwell  
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 35 Issue 09

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

June 2014

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**RCARC**  
**Membership Meeting**

**Tuesday 24 June 2014**  
**1700 Social      1730 Meeting**  
**1800 Program**

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

**Subject:**  
***Final Planning for 2014 Field Day***

California and Salinas, with Sacramento and Napa next up before the plane heads to the Seattle area.

Fifi basically is the same type of plane as the Enola Gay and exactly the same as the Bockscar, the B-29s that dropped atomic bombs on Japan in August 1945 to end World War II. Delivered to the Army Air Corps in July 1945, Fifi never saw combat, and survived being scrapped only because it was used as a training plane for B-29 crews during the Korean War, pilot Mark Novak said.

The Commemorative Air Force had been trying to get hold of one of virtually every type of military plane, but tried for nearly two decades to secure a Boeing B-29A. The Enola Gay went to the Smithsonian's Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C. (I saw the nose of it there in 1998), and the restored plane is now a museum piece in Chantilly, Va. The Bockscar went on display in 1961 at the National Museum of the United States Air Force in Dayton, Ohio. Other B-29s went either to museums – Atwater's Castle Air Museum displays a B-29 – or to the scrap heaps.

## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

This month's meeting will provide an opportunity to participate in final planning for the club's Field Day activities. Remember that Field Day is 28-29 June this year.

### Jeff Jardine: Only flying B-29 in Modesto for Tours, Flights

BY JEFF JARDINE

[jjardine@modbee.com](mailto:jjardine@modbee.com) June 2, 2014

There are opportunities, and then there are really rare opportunities.

The latter is going on Tuesday and Wednesday on Modesto Airport's general aviation side where Fifi – the only B-29 Superfortress still flying – is visiting Modesto and is open to the public for tours and rides as part of the Commemorative Air Force's [Airpower History Tour](#).

Modesto's Central California Valley Squadron invited the Texas-based World War II-era bomber crew to stop in Modesto during a trip that included visits to Arizona, Southern



*WWII B-29 Superfortress "Fifi" lands in Modesto as part of the Commemorative Air Force Central Valley Squadron AirPower History tour. Retired Air Force pilot Mark Novak who pilots the plane talks about it. **MODESTO BEE***

See the video at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u40e4VIAGoo>

So it appeared the Commemorative Air Force folks were out of luck. But they continued to contact Air Force officials anyway, and one day got their big break. (Cont. on page 3)

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461-290

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](mailto:warhog4@tx.rr.com).

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**President's Message**

Another month has passed by. Did everyone make it to Ham Com? I saw a lot of members there but it is easy to miss someone. If you went I hope you had a good time. I purchased the Pixel Antenna for the club and also the SVGA Adapter for the Elecraft P3 at Ham Com. On another note: the Elecraft station in the shack is up and running with the linear amp and auto tuner. I have also loaded N1MM software and it appears to be working OK. It should be ready for Field Day. 73,

Dennis Cobb  
WA8ZBT  
RCARC President

**VE SESSIONS**

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 1000 hrs. 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 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.

**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.

**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

## Secretary's Report

27 May 2014

The meeting was called to order by President Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT at 1735.

The following members and guests were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Kathy Cobb	
John McFadden	K5TIP
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

### Officers and Committee Reports:

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

*Vice-President's Report:* There was no formal Vice President's Report.

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

*Treasurer's Report:* In the absence of the Treasurer, President Dennis Cobb reported the current RCARC balance. The balance as reported was accepted by a vote of members present.

*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 Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT stressed the need for program ideas for future meetings.

Paul Veenstra has contact information signs for mounting on the club towers.

Approval has been received from Rockwell Collins to mount a weather display outside the radio shack. The display is on order and due in tomorrow. When received it will be installed.

Dennis Cobb announced that the KAT-500 antenna tuner and KPA-500 power amplifier have been installed in the club shack and are now operational. First contact on the new equipment was established to a station in Crete, with good signal quality.

A DVD player, donated by Dennis Cobb, has also been installed in the shack.

### New Business:

Dennis Cobb indicated that air handler noise continues to be a problem affecting radio communications. He proposed installation of a Pixel Technologies Model RF Pro-1B shielded magnetic receive loop antenna to mitigate noise problems. The new antenna would be installed on the east side of the building near the tower. Steve Phillips K6JT moved to commit \$600 of club funds for purchase of the antenna; Jim Brown AF5MA seconded the motion, which was approved by vote of the members.

Dennis also proposed purchase of a P3 SVGA board for the Elecraft K3/P3 transceiver. Mike Schmit WA9WCC moved to allocate \$350 in club funds for the purchase; Jim Brown seconded the motion, which was approved by a vote of members present.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1816 and followed by a discussion of plans for Field Day next month.

The next meeting will be at 1730 on Tuesday, 24 June 2014.

## RCARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 4 June 2014. The testing was successful at all reporting sites, with one site unreported due to late arrival of the observer. 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.

## Jeff Jardine: Only flying B-29 in Modesto for Tours, Flights *(Continued from page 1)*

"They said, 'We don't have any,'" Novak said. "They belong to the Navy."

A call to the Navy turned up one. It sat baking at the edge of the naval weapons air station at China Lake in the Mojave Desert, used as a marker denoting the border of the gunnery range. It took Commemorative Air Force volunteers roughly two months to get Fifi airworthy again. The plane is named for the wife of the man who spearheaded the acquisition. It has never been completely restored, Novak said, just repaired, maintained and made available to Commemorative Air Force groups all over the country. The plane is a piece of American military history that brings the roaring engines to life and enables people of this generation to see firsthand the kinds of machines that won the war.

"That's why we do it," Novak said. "Exhibit, remembrance and education. We fly the plane because otherwise it would sit in a museum. Ten percent of the people would

get to see it. And we give 100 rides a year, 10 passengers at a time, meaning that 1,000 people get to ride and enjoy the experience.”

Thousands upon thousands of others get to tour the plane on tarmacs across the country. The Norden bombsight – the device that gave American planes unrivaled accuracy during daytime bombing runs – is still mounted and visible in the nose of the plane, and the bomb bays contain 20 500-pound bombs the plane was built to drop. (Don’t worry: They don’t have warheads.) And the plane was the first bomber with pressurized compartments and a tunnel connecting the front and rear areas of the plane above the bomb bay.

Fifi tours with a crew of more than a dozen people, not including advance man and grounds crew member Rocky Smith, who drives ahead to each site to set up the traveling concession shop that generates revenue to help keep the bomber flying.

Bob Kirby, one of the maintenance crew members, flew in the plane the day that Dutch Van Kirk, navigator on the Enola Gay, came aboard for a ride a few years ago in Oshkosh, Wis.

“It was an honor to have him aboard,” Kirby said. “And Paul Tibbets (the Enola Gay’s pilot, who died in 2007) also has flown this plane. He was a great supporter of the CAF.”

Novak, Fifi’s pilot, said another B-29 also escaped the Mojave Desert sun and is under restoration in Wichita, Kan. Dubbed “Doc,” it could be airworthy by the summer’s end. But for now, Fifi is the only one flying.

Modesto got the opportunity to host the plane after an official from a new chapter in Sacramento called the Central California Valley Squadron’s Glenn Mount to ask if the Modesto squadron could send a plane north when Fifi visited Sacramento on its West Coast swing. Mount couldn’t believe that Modesto, with Northern California’s largest squadron membership (56), also wasn’t on the tour itinerary.

“What are we?” he joked. “Chopped liver?”

So he emailed his Commemorative Air Force cohorts in Texas. The next morning, Mount received a reply. Modesto joined the tour, and Fifi pulled up at the tarmac shortly before noon Monday.

The rest, you might say, is history – and a very rare opportunity.

Bee columnist Jeff Jardine can be reached at [jjardine@modbee.com](mailto:jjardine@modbee.com) or (209) 578-2383. Follow him on Twitter [@JeffJardine57](https://twitter.com/JeffJardine57).

Read more here: <http://www.modbee.com/2014/06/02/3370133/jeff-jardine-only-flying-b-29.html#storylink=cpy>



(Reprinted with permission of Jeff Jardine and the Modesto Bee)

(Editor’s Note: Jeff Jardine commented, “I enjoyed the cockpit tour with Bob. We were in there when they cranked up Engine No. 3 to check for an oil leak. What a roar, and just one of the engines. I can only imagine the sound with all four going full bore. It was a great experience.”)

**Bob, K3NT, and Cindy Kirby on “FIFI” Tour A**

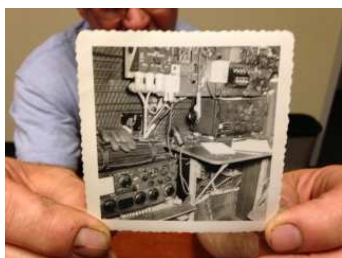
Bob and Cindy Kirby participated in the Commemorative Air Force (CAF) Airpower History B-29 “FIFI” Tour in June

2014, which included the stop in Modesto CA described in the above **Modesto Bee** article written by columnist Jeff Jardine.

"FIFI" was joined by various other historic aircraft of the Commemorative Air Force and other museums and partner organizations at each stop

In addition, Bob operated "FIFI" amateur radio station KM4RC while in the air from Fort Worth TX to Prescott AZ.

The following pictures are from the tour.



WWII Vet displays his B-29 crew position



Large crowds wait to peek inside "FIFI" Bombay and cockpit.



Cindy in FIFI Bombardier position



P-51 Mustang Man-O War



K3NT working on P-51 Mustang Man O War



"FIFI" KM4RC station was on air from FW to Prescott, AZ

## You Might Be a Real Ham If...

By Don Keith N4KC

- If you ever flagged down a local utility bucket truck and tried to bribe the guy to hang some ropes and pulleys in the trees in the backyard...you might be a "REAL HAM!"
- If you have ever attempted to use a gutter downspout, the hubcap from a '93 Buick, your dog's food dish, your neighbor's rose trellis, the vent hose from a clothes dryer, a wicket from your mom's croquet set, or a one-quart metal Thermos bottle (with or without coffee) as an antenna...you might be a "REAL HAM!"

(Reprinted with permission of [eHam.net](http://eHam.net))

## Upcoming Events

### JUNE

- 28-29 Field Day.** Field Day is part educational event, part operating event, part public relations event – and ALL about FUN! Details at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

### JULY

- 12-13 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. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-championship>.

### AUGUST

- 2-3 August UHF Contest.** Objective: To work as many amateur stations in as many 2 degrees by 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized amateur frequencies above 222 MHz and all authorized modes of emission. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/august-uhf>.
- 16-17 10 GHz and up Contest.** The objective of 10 GHz and Up is for North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. See the detailed rules for restrictions. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>.

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- Daily** DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
- Daily** DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 8:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
- Daily** DFW CW Traffic Net (NTS) at 7:00pm and at 10pm on 3541 KHz [www.k6jt.com](http://www.k6jt.com)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednes day** Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednes day** ARES North Texas HF Net Every month— 3860 KHz at 830 pm—930pm
- Thurs day** Sabine Valley Amateur Radio Association Net Every Thursday night at 7:00pm on the K5GVL/R 146.780 MHz (+) PL 114.8Hz

# Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

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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 June 2014

1700 Social

1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

*Second Floor Conference Room 200*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 11 July 2014 ←←←**