
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins

Monthly Newsletter of the

Amateur Radio Club

Volume 38 Issue 09

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

June 2017

RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 June 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 RECAP

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)

Gene Duprey K1GD is Back on the Air!

Be sure to read Gene's Vice President's Message



Local Club News

Meeting Notice

The program for this month's meeting will be a recap of Field Day.

RCARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The testing on 7 June 2017 was mostly successful with only one siren reported as non-functional. 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.

RCARC OFFICERS

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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

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

Will wonders never cease? K1GD is now officially on the air with three, count them, three radio stations!!! I finally got my OCF-4010 dipole antenna up about 3 weeks ago, and this week I have everything wired up and tested on the air. Well, with one exception—the amplifier has no power source yet. But, it is in-line and ready to go as soon as I get a dedicated AC line input installed. The station is now on all bands from 40M to 6M, limited primarily by the antenna coverage. The three stations are: #1: Collins S-Line, consisting of 32S-3 transmitter (after some minor surgery to find an errant loose press-nut that was rattling around inside, along with new rubber feet), 75S-3B receiver, 312B-4 station console, 30L-1 amplifier, Shure 55H microphone, D-104 alternate microphone, Heil FS-3 foot switch; #2: ICOM 775DSP transceiver, ICOM SP-20 (used also for Station #3), Heil HM-i Pro Line microphone, Daiwa CN-101 wattmeter, Vibroplex Vibro-Keyer paddle; Station #3: ICOM 7000 transceiver, ICOM HM-151 hand microphone. And I finally found a decent pair of headphones (Sennheiser HD558) that did not cost a fortune, and are also very comfortable, for use with all three stations. No, I did not buy all this at one time, but over the past 25 years. So, keep an ear out for me on the bands. I have already worked South Cook Island and Catalonia, Spain as my farthest DX.

I hope everyone had a good time at HamCom this month. I can honestly say I got away without any purchases, other than a hot dog, fries and a bottle of water. There were some really interesting offerings this time with the SDR's really taking off. A new player is Expert Electronics MB-1 HF/6M/VHF standalone SDR Transceiver, a really interesting unit that even looks like a transceiver, not just a box with inputs. Flex Systems also had a standalone series of SDR Transceivers, their FLEX-6600/6400 units. However I was not very impressed, as they had few controls that seemed familiar, more like a computer than a radio. They also had a new offering—their Power Genius XL amplifier. Next was ICOM, with their IC-7300 SDR transceiver, which is really killing the competition, performance and price wise. They have the IC-7610 coming this fall with two receivers and even more features than the 7300. Also from Expert were two solid state amplifiers, the 1.3K-FA, and the 2K-FA amplifiers, and reasonable pricing. Both Kenwood and Yaesu

seemed to be there just so you would not forget them. Not much in the line of equipment news, and I could not even get the Yaesu people to talk to me. Overall it was a fair show this year.



The big thing this month for the club is Field Day. I hope to see some good activity by members and also on the bands.

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

Secretary's Report

23 May 2017

President Mike Schmitt WA9WCC called the meeting to order at 1741.

The following were present at the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
John McFadden	K5TIP
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
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. The club will staff the ham shack as support is available, and all participants are asked to bring their own food as needed. Per Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, the plan is to have the new Elecraft K3s installed and operational, but this is dependent on availability of Bob Kirby K3NT to complete transfer from its current test site.

Steve Phillips K6JT reported that the club packet server is back in operation.

New Business:

Dennis Cobb provided a treasurer's report that reflected financial stability.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1818.

Answers to Top Ten Field Day Questions

If you can't come up with the questions to the answers shown below, review this list again immediately after Field Day — it's amazing how 24 hours in the outdoors under less than ideal conditions will expand your knowledge.

by Anthony K3NG

15. Snakes.
14. Yes, I still hear the interference.
13. Behind that tree over there.
12. Because he knows his callsign and you don't have to tell it to him three times.
11. Hit Return.
10. Hot.
9. Try rebooting it.
8. It doesn't matter. It's not up high enough to have any directivity.
7. Just say QSL.
6. Rain.
5. Yes, this frequency is in use.
4. It's on the sign right above the rig.
3. I filled it up an hour ago. It's good.
2. Yes, it's done in the middle.
1. Hamburger.

This article was originally posted on Radio Artisan by a team of laptop-equipped squirrels.

Anthony, K3NG, is a regular contributor to AmateurRadio.com.

(Contributed by Frank KR1ZAN, who wrote "I received this from AmateurRadio.com.")

Military Exchange Shopping

The Army, Air Force and Navy exchange will start allowing all honorably discharged veterans to shop online (think Amazon, but cheaper and with no taxes.) The target start date is Veterans Day, November 11, 2017, but you must register first. Registration begins June 1, 2017. You can call 1-844-868-8672, or go to the web site www.vetverify.org after June 1 to register.

A better explanation is available in an article in Stars and Stripes: <https://www.stripes.com/millions-more-vets-to-be-able-to-shop-at-exchanges-online-1.448664#.WTB3UsbMzdc>.

Once you complete the simple form at VetVerify, you'll receive immediate confirmation of your ability to begin using the online exchange starting Nov. 11th. If your records don't match, expect to have to submit paper evidence of your service.

Now, if we can just get them to carry ham equipment!

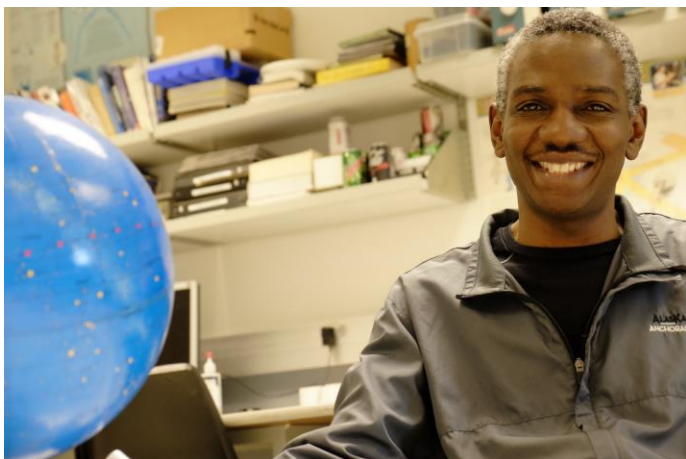
(Contributed by Frank KR1ZAN)

BSC Professor followed the Path of Science

His journey has led him from Kenya to Bismarck

By [Kelly Hagen, NDU Communications](#)

For Tony Musumba, assistant professor of physics at Bismarck State College, the classroom feels a lot like home.



Tony Musumba is an assistant professor of physics at Bismarck State College.

"My parents were teachers," Musumba said. "My dad just fell into the profession after he had done a couple of managerial jobs, so he was a high school teacher. My mom was more the inspiration for teaching. She started off teaching grade school, and she was a good teacher for a long while. She actually taught me, too, in grade four. There was a time when she wasn't feeling well that I substituted for her class, when I was in high school."

Musumba grew up in Kenya at a time when the country's education system was being reformed. "Our president in

Kenya thought, well, the American system looks pretty good, so let's go the American way," Musumba said. "We used to have seven years in grade school, four years in secondary school, and then you go to two years in high school. We changed that to eight years in grade school and four years in high school, and then you go to university."

Students were tested at each level, and you had to pass the exams to move on to the next tier of education. "They just keep sieving people," Musumba said. "You get a couple people who can't make it, and sometimes, that's it for them. And then you go to high school. If you can't make it beyond high school to the university, maybe you'll get some other colleges, but it's just a sieving process."

"You already have some knowledge. You just need to fine-tune that knowledge to interrogate parts of the universe, and understand how the universe works. It's a journey, because they have all this stuff they've heard about how physics is tough, or they say, I can't do this stuff. And you're constantly encouraging them, to say, you can do this stuff. It's not hard. It's just a different way of looking at things."

He said he found his passion for education in helping a fellow student pass his exams. "There was a guy who was studying for his grade-school exams to go to high school, and I remember helping him to study," Musumba said. "I was really glad when he made it and moved on to high school. I guess that started way back then, tutoring and helping people to succeed. It was a fulfilling thing for me."

Musumba would receive his Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees in physics from Moi University, in Eldoret, Kenya.

Though he admits a preference for the humanities, he was driven to pursue physics because it challenged him. "I had to choose which way to go, and I ended up doing physics, biology, chemistry and math," he said. "So I whittled things down based on what I liked. I liked biology more than physics, but somehow physics seemed to be more challenging. And I didn't have to deal with chemicals!"

After finishing graduate school in Kenya, and teaching high school for a short time, he made the decision to move to the United States to pursue his Ph.D., at the University of Texas in Dallas.

And in 2008, he moved to Bismarck, where his wife, Alice, had accepted a job at the North Dakota Department of Health.

"We had a softer landing than most people because we knew a couple of people here," he said. "We lived in someone's basement for almost a year before we moved into our house, here. But it was the right move, because you can't just stay in Dallas and you don't have a job. My stipend was almost done by August, and we had a young baby. It was a lot going on. I was still finishing up writing my dissertation, but this was the right place to be. It was cold, and good for me to study and write up. In fact, I used to come in here to the BSC library, and write."

He also put out feelers at BSC in the physics department, about whether there might be a job opening soon. "I had come in and checked if there were any opportunities for physics, and I talked to the physics professor, but he said there was maybe a possibility but there wasn't anything definitive," Musumba said. "I was just about to go defend my dissertation when I saw this assistant professor of physics job opening at BSC. So, I said, wow, I've got to apply for this! I basically applied for it, went to Dallas, did my defense and came back for the interview."

This school year is Musumba's ninth at Bismarck State College. He keeps a full course load, typically teaching three courses each semester, plus labs. His goal in teaching, he said, is to show his students that physics isn't nearly as difficult as they may think it is.

"You already have some knowledge," he tells his students. "You just need to fine-tune that knowledge to interrogate parts of the universe, and understand how the universe works. It's a journey, because they have all this stuff they've heard about how physics is tough, or they say, I can't do this stuff. And you're constantly encouraging them, to say, you can do this stuff. It's not hard. It's just a different way of looking at things."

He stays active in the communities that surround him: in physics, at BSC and in the city and state he lives in. He participates in the North Dakota Space Grant Program, and is the North Dakota section representative for the American Association of Physics Teachers. He also works with the BSC STEM club with a project in which they launch high-altitude balloon up to altitudes as high as 20 miles above the surface of the earth.

"We will launch these balloons, and we can predict where it's going to land," Musumba said. "So we're going to go out there, to a small town and go recover that balloon. One of the things we like to do is, once we've recovered that balloon, let's go to one of the restaurants right there and have some food. I still like to learn about the history and go to places that I haven't gone to."

In the scientific process, Musumba teaches physics by encouraging the study of how objects behave within our physical world. And so he likes to study the history of the institutions in which he works and lives, to better understand the processes by which he and his colleagues and neighbors behave.

"I like the history of the institution," he said. "And I am one of those guys who looks into that, and finds out, how did this come about? Who taught physics before me? Who taught physics even before that person? You're trying to see why things become what they are. Did we deal with this stuff before? Well, we dealt with it that way, but maybe this time around we should go this way?"

His respect for process, his profession and his place within the institutions that surround him, is what compelled him to join North Dakota United. "I think what triggered me to join

was basically just feeling like these are guys that have my back," he said.

"You have to be active in sometimes fighting for change. The way things are going in the U.S., you can't just sit back and let things disappear. I don't think there's anybody else who's going to be fighting for our kids and our neighbors and our friends ... and that's what NDU stands for. We want our students to have good careers. We want them to live in places where they are not fearful, and they are safe. And that's what America has been: a welcoming community that helps people flourish."

(Editor's note: Tony Musumba's extra class call sign is KE0JWL. He was a UTD PhD student in Physics, and his wife Alice went to Southwestern Medical Center. He was active in the Dallas County HHS Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) and they worked with international students through ICF at The University of Texas at Dallas. He's worked several balloon launches with a group of hams in his area.)

(Contributed by John Anderson N50PY of the Richardson Wireless Klub)

Upcoming Events

JUNE	
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.arrl.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.arrl.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

Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



CLUB STATIONS

(972) 705-1349

W5ROR REPEATER

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

W5ROR-1 PACKET BBS ROR Node

145.05 MHz

W5ROR-N1, W5ROR-N2 & W5ROR-N3 HSMM-
MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Tuesday 27 June 2017

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Conference Room A in Hospital Building

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 14 July 2017 ←←←