
SIGNALS

Rockwell
Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 31 Issue 6

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

March 2010

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 25 March 2010
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
Methodist Richardson Medical Center
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection
Second Floor East Conference Room

Subject: "OPERATING HF—THE PRACTICAL THINGS
YOU DIDN'T LEARN WHEN YOU GOT YOUR HAM
TICKET BY Carl Solomon, W5SU

Methodist Richardson Medical Center Our New 2nd Floor Meeting Room. Join us at Rockwell Collins' newest and closest neighbor/partner Methodist Richardson Medical Center for our monthly Meeting. They are located right by our current location taking up the block between the George Bush Sr. and Shiloh Road on the South side of Renner Road (look for the tallest building in the area). Please park on the South side of the building. The outside entrance doors are locked after 7:00 PM. Our meeting time will be the standard 4th Thursday of the month from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM unless other arrangements are made

We Have New Amateurs! Congratulations to following twelve new Amateurs who completed the February 2010 Amateur Radio class.

New Amateur Name	Call Sign	License Class
Larry T Bolen	KF5FFX	Technician
Leroy Custer	KD0KNX	Technician
Joseph F Farron	KF5FFW	Technician
William P Hepting	KF5FFV	Technician
William D Hulse	KF5FFU	Technician
Kerlin Josephat	KF5FFY	Technician
Michael D Ketchum	KF5FFT	Technician
Nathaniel P Morris	KF5FFS	Technician
Shauna K Pierce	KF5FFR	Technician
Dereck A Schoonmaker	KF5FFQ	Technician
Herbert F Watson	KF5FFP	Technician
Paul H Whiteman	KF5FFZ	General

Local Club News

Meeting Notice This month's RCARC meeting will feature a very important program that was scheduled for last months meeting, but, due to an unfortunate time misunderstanding, was not presented. Here is a synopsis of the program.

- Dispelling myths about the need for expensive and elaborate equipment
- Differences in behavior of HF vs VHF/UHF signals
- Propagation and skip
- Antennas
- Examples and sounds of various hf modes
- Q-signals, signal reporting
- How to engage in a CW QSO
- Working DX
- Traffic nets
- Equipment and accessories
- Pro's and Con's of vintage vs. modern equipment
- Sources of new and used equipment
- Recommendations for getting into HF

Carl Solomon's original QTH was St Louis MO. He was licensed in 1961 as KN0FWG (novice) then K0FWG, W5SXU when he moved to Dallas in 1970, followed by his current vanity call W5SU

Let's encourage each one to become a member of our growing Amateur Radio club. BTW, there will probably be another class in April, so encourage your fellow employee in the cube next door to take advantage of the upcoming opportunity.

Accelerated Acclimation Presentation. In the competitive business world today companies feel they may loose employees that don't get plugged in or acclimated socially with others in the company. The Radio Club took the opportunity again on 9 March to present a Power Point presentation and ARRL Hello video to new employees to make them aware of our club and Amateur Radio in general. We had between 8-10 min. to introduce the Radio club, tell them what we do, and answer any questions. Those that attend see presentations by several clubs in an evening event. The presented overview and Hello Video are in the members only section of our web site if others need this type of presentation. *Ross Terry K5SRT*

Club Meeting Talk-In Each month, on the night of the membership meeting we have a Talk-In on the club repeater. The Talk-In this month is 1630 to 1700 hours, prior to the meeting.

RCARC OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Mike Schmit WA9WCC wa9wcc@arrl.net	VICE-PRESIDENT Bob Kirby 319.360.0500 k3nt@arrl.net K3NT
SECRETARY Open	TREASURER Bob Diepenbrock 972.705.1461 Kc4uai@gmail.com KC4UAI
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN John Champa 972.333.9478 k8ocl@arrl.net K8OCL	WEBSITE MANAGER Wayne Hughes 972.705.1406 wa0tgh@arrl.net WA0TGH 461-258
STATION TRUSTEE Steve Phillips 972.517.3332 k6jt@arrl.net K6JT	NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jim Skinner 214.535.5264 wb0uni@arrl.net WB0UNI
CLUB STATION 972.705.1349	W5ROK 461-290

VE SESSIONS

Dallas tests are held 4th Sat of each month at 10:00. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD (972) 917-6362

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5th 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 14:30, ending no later than 16:45. **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 Bill Reynolds, K8DNE, 972-475-3854.

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.

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President's Message

I am pleased and honored to welcome some new members to the Amateur Radio Community. They have successfully completed their studies and received their amateur radio license. To all on behalf of the members of the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club may I wish you congratulations. You have entered an international community of radio amateurs, that like radio communications itself, knows no boundaries. I look forward to hearing you on the bands.

Also I would like to thank Dwight Ramsey and Ross Terry for their fine efforts to make this happen. Excellent job!

The spring is public service season. With the improving weather come opportunities to use our radio equipment and expertise in service to the community. These events serve a real purpose and are also a lot of fun.

I especially like to point out the Richardson Wild Ride in May, sponsored by Methodist Richardson Cancer Center. Methodist has graciously allowed us to use their facility for our meetings and it would be real good if we could get as many RCARC members to participate as possible.

If you have never worked a public service event before, May I suggest the March of Dimes Walk at White Rock Lake as a first event. It only takes about 4 to 5 hours out of your Saturday morning and is great fun.

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC
wa9wcc@arrl.net

Vice-President's Message

Congratulations: We have twelve new hams from our RCARC radio class. See page one for the list.

Thanks to those who helped with the introductory W5ROK station tours and also provided many with their first official licensed radio contact (QSO).

Welcome to our newest RCARC members: Paul Veenstra, KC0TEG, who as of March 13th is now a GENERAL class. Way to go Paul. Very FB. Paul is interested in building antennas, radio control software and now HF operating.

Michael Ketchum, KF5FFT, is also welcomed to RCARC.

John, K5TIP, is rebuilding an old 1950's vintage Hallicrafters HT-20 transmitter. Look for him on 80 meters using high fidelity amplitude modulation (AM) soon. By way of the grapevine, I heard that John, K5TIP, is also interested in RCARC field day radio operation in June. Can you help John get a W5ROK FD operation together? If so, please contact him here: k5tip@arrl.net



W5ROK continues HSMM activity with the bench setup and testing of three modified COTS 802.11 wireless routers. Bob, KC4UAI, John, K8OCL and Bob, K3NT are working the learning curve. The routers were donated to the club by RCARC member John, K8OCL. For those interested in 802.11N, here are some resources:

https://www.cwnp.com/cwna/wiley_sg_80211n.pdf

http://linuxwireless.org/en/developers/Documentation/ieee_80211/802.11n

<http://rfcommunity.org/radio/k0gg-raytown-amateur-radio-club/#comments>

Member Randy Dunning, KC5QHH, presented a very interesting lunch time presentation on packet based IP networking at Rockwell Collins on March 04, 2010. FB Randy.

Saturday, March 6, Ross, K5SRT and I met for a little Ham radio R&R. We started with a great early breakfast close to Fry's. Ross & I made good use of KC0TEG's DFW Area Repeater Printout to help program my mobile FT-100D radio.

We finally put that PL-259 coax connector onto a RG-58U cable Ross had in his mobile. We then identified and tuned a number of K5SRT's Hamstick mobile antennas using the club's MFJ antenna analyzer.

After a great lunch, Ross worked two DX stations on 15 meters using the repaired coax and hamstick mobile antenna. Ross logged these DX contacts into his iPhone logbook.

We worked on the ICOM AH-4 tuner that previously got waterlogged. It still needs more smoke put back into it as it still is not working. We then removed a RG-11 spade lugs - Coax - PL259 to his Hustler HF mount and replaced it with PL259 - PL259 Coax. This was followed by building a gasket and sealing the hole for this coax.



Ross then became K5SRT/M (mobile) and headed north. I noticed it was after 4 PM by the time I got all the tools, Antenna Analyzer, SWR Bridge and 50 Ohm load put away. Bottom line is we had FUN and both learned a few new radio related skills.

John, K5TIP, Ross, K5SRT, Bob, KC4UAI, Michael, KF5FFT, and I attended the Irving hamfest on March 13th. John ended up with a new VHF antenna and Ross did his victory dance after scoring a box full of valuable antenna parts. I found some small parts for my continuing solder smoke projects.

Check this out! Diana Eng KC2UHB visually shows how a Yagi Antenna works in a video found here:

http://blog.makezine.com/archive/2010/02/seeing_radio_waves_with_a_light_bulb.html

Using a low power amateur radio transmitter and a simple light bulb receiver circuit, we see how radio waves and electromagnetic induction transmit energy and signals wirelessly through the air. We also see how dipole and Yagi antennas radiate their energy in different patterns. This is rather easy to understand when you can visualize it this way.

Bob Kirby, K3NT
k3nt@arri.net
<http://w5rok.us>

Secretary's Report

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, opened the meeting at 1735 on 25 February 2010, in the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Conference Room with the Pledge of Allegiance. Present at the meeting were:

Randy Aschbrenner	KD0ION	Charles Beis	K5UWD
Loney Duncan	W0GZV	Michael Ketchum	KF5FFT
John McFadden	K5TIP	Steve Phillips	K6JT
Steve Phillips Sr.		Dwight Ramsey	KE5SAS
Michael Schmit	WA9WCC	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Ross Terry	K5SRT	Paul Whiteman	KF5FFZ
Joseph Wolf	N5UIC		

1. Officer Reports

- President's Report:** Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, starting the meeting, made comments about Rockwell Fun Days (prepare, need to review what we have, possibility that we might have to consolidate our skids); Field Day, Wild Ride—need to support the public; tips for support in the field (HT, Batteries, Mag-Mount, Pizza Pan, Duct Tape, Amp); suggestions for new HAMs on first time purchases; upcoming Irving Ham Fest. There was also some discussion about the air handler noise problem and the effort to get it resolved since others are now impacted as well. Mike introduced our visitor from the Cedar Rapids club, Randy Aschbrenner, KD0ION.
- Vice-President's Report:** Ross Terry, K5SRT reported that Bob Kirby could not make tonight's meeting because of a conflict and also congratulated the twelve new HAMs and recognized those that came to the meeting. John McFadden, K5TIP further explained why Bob could not be present.
- Secretary's Report:** The Secretary's report is in the newsletter.
- Treasurers Report:** There was no Treasurers report.
- Station Trustee's Report:** Steve Phillips, K6JT, reported that the repeater is working well.
- Activities Chairman Report:** There was no Activities Chairman report.

2. Old Business

- Amateur Radio License Classes:** Ross Terry, K5SRT, reported that twelve people successfully passed the Technician exam and one also passed the General exam. The graduating class of Feb. 2010 will be posted on the club's web site <http://w5rok.us> under Ham Radio Classes. Two additional class participants had a conflict with the test session time and plan to take the exam at a later time. (See the special Thank You article on page 5 of this newsletter.)

3. New Business

- a. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, provided a web based American Flag for our opening pledge. Joe also commented that he had labeled the RCARC containers which we leave on site at the Methodist Richardson Medical Center.
- b. There was discussion about funding for the club and how we might receive the company yearly allocation in a different manner (as reimbursement rather than allocation).

The business meeting adjourned at 1800 for the program. The scheduled program did not occur due to a time misunderstanding Steve Phillips, K6JT, volunteered to give an impromptu dissertation about operating HF and did an outstanding job. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, assisted by locating diagrams on the Internet as Steve spoke about different areas, such as propagation. Carl Solomon K5SU arrived at 1900 and had difficulty getting into the building. Carl offered to present at a future meeting.

Events and Public Service Ops

20 March 2010: Ham Radio in the Park. There will be another Ham Radio in the Park March 20, 2010 from 12-5pm. It will be at the same place as last time which is at Harry Myers Park in Rockwall. Some RCARC members came out last time. There is a new website and it has more info about the event as well www.rockwall-arc.org.

17 April 2010: March of Dimes. White Rock Lake, Saturday 9:00 AM. Contact: John Galvin n5tim@arrl.net. Typical equipment required: 5 watt 2 meter handheld. Magnet mount antenna helpful.

1-2 May 2010: MS- 150 Bike Tour. Saturday and Sunday. Contact: James Marple j.marple@verizon.net. Register: www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/sam-club/index.aspx. Operators required for one or both days. Required equipment: 2 meter mobile, 30 watts and mag mount antenna. Must be able to move operation to tour official vehicle.

15 May 2010: Richardson Wild Ride Bike Rally, Benefiting Methodist Richardson Cancer Center. Saturday. Contact: Doug Kilgore kd5ouq@arrl.net. Required equipment : 2 meter mobile capable of operating from a rally official vehicle.

4-5 June 2010: Ham-Com 2010. Ham-Com, Inc. <http://www.hamcom.org/> Talk-In: 147.18 (PL 107.2)

Man Hospitalized with Anxiety over Ham Radio.

Southland County Morning News

Southland -- A ham radio enthusiast was admitted to County Hospital today suffering from anxiety over what he perceived as serious problems with his new radio, authorities reported Tuesday.

Irv Stumpo, 55, of East Pharsalia, checked into the emergency room "in distress," according to the nurse on watch just before midnight Tuesday. "He was perspiring profusely and moaning over and over, 'My K-3 is no good, no good,'" said Paula Stevens, a nurse at County. "He had enormous headphones clamped tightly on his head which we had a ton of difficulty re-

moving, and he was also wearing ear buds," she said. "Isn't that strange? He was half incoherent but kept mumbling something about dynamic range and audio artifacts. I have no idea what that means."

Randy LaHood, a fifteen year emergency room veteran, said that during an examination Mr. Stumpo went into considerable technical detail about a radio he had recently purchased from Elecraft, a company that makes high-end ham radios. "He began by explaining that his radio had 'noisy receiver' and 'mushy signals'," explained Dr. LaHood. "From what I could gather, he had just spent a lot of money on a radio and hadn't actually noticed any of these problems himself, but others in a internet group kept putting the ideas into his head," he said. Over a course of weeks, Stumpo became distraught over various imperfections in what Dr. LaHood said was a classic case of the power of suggestion.

The hospital records also said that Stumpo drew mathematical figures he labeled "AGC slope", and filled four pages by writing "AGC off", "Ear Isolation" and "K3" repeatedly. Hospital officials could not explain the cryptic scribbles.

Dr. LaHood said that Stumpo repeated the phrase "mushy AGC" for at least four hours while he waited for treatment. Other patients who were in the waiting room at the time moved to the other side of the room for fear he might endanger them. J. B. Archer was one of those in the waiting room at the time who had brought in his twelve-year-old son with a basketball injury. "Good ol' boy was pretty upset, I just told him it would be alright, but he wouldn't let up with 'I can't pick out the pileups'. I thought he had been involved in a big accident on the highway. Then he said other things like 'the impedance of my headphones' and 'ride the R. F. gain'. Then he started with 'diversity problem' and I thought maybe he was having trouble with racial relations. He was in terrible shape, I'll tell you that."

Rick Culver, president of a local ham radio club, told the Morning News in a telephone interview, "A lot of these guys spend five or ten thousand dollars on a radio they think is going to be absolutely perfect in every conceivable way. When it's not, they go into a panic buying lots of other accessories which promise to fix the issue they think they're having. This is followed by a deep buyer's remorse." He went on to recount a recent case which epitomized this effect. "We had one guy who had a radio that put out 95 watts instead of 100. He went berserk and ended up smashing his radio with a baseball bat. Not everyone gets that violent, but he never would have worried about it if it hadn't been for an internet forum that drummed it into his head twenty four seven that his radio was broken."

Hospital officials said that Stumpo was treated with sedatives and is being kept for observation.

Don't let this happen to you! – Try Ten Tec – Steve Phillips K6JT

Special Thanks To February Amateur License Class Volunteer Examiners. Thank You!!!! William (Bill) Reynolds K8DNE and your crew of Volunteer Examiners (VE's listed in no particular order below) for administering a successful formal exam on February 23, 2010 at Methodist Richardson Medical Center. The VE's crew picture (which includes Dwight Ramsey KE5SAS - Class Elmer) was taken by Ross Terry K5SRT after

the Exam which lead to twelve (12) new Technician Licenses and one (1) General License (see Graduating Class of Feb 2010 on <http://w5rok.us> under Ham Radio Classes). The VE's are active at many area Amateur Radio Ham Fests or monthly supporting the HAM Association of Mesquite VE Testing [http://www.mesquiteham.org/Ham Association of Mesquite/VE Testing.html](http://www.mesquiteham.org/Ham_Association_of_Mesquite/VE_Testing.html). Give these VE's a Special Thank You for supporting Amateur Radio if you see them in the field or on the air waves. They work before the event preparing for the official test, administer the exam based on <http://ARRL.org> guidelines and then officially file the paperwork used in the FCC



<http://www.fcc.gov> licensing process.

VE's for the Feb. 2010 RCARC Exam

Volunteer Examiner	Call Sign	License Class
William H. Reynolds	K8DNE	Extra (Liaison)
Andrew Carstarphen	WY5V	Extra
Janet Crenshaw	WB9ZPH	Extra
John A. Donaldson	AB8YZ	Extra
William S. Hammon, Jr	KA5SOT	Extra
Garland G. Newman	W5IDN	Extra
Edward J. Prasifka	W5EJP	Extra
Wayne Williams	WT5J	Extra

Congratulations to Paul Whiteman - KF5FFZ a recent graduate of our February 2010 class who passed both the Technician Test and General Test on Feb. 23, 2010. Talking in the parking lot after leaving the test site Paul joined Ross and made his first 2M assisted contact using a mobile ICOM 207H. Paul (now KF5FFZ) talked to one of the VE's (from the HAM Association of Mesquite) who had assisted in the actual test given that day and was on his way home and heard and responded to the call.

Another Antenna Mount. *By Kent Powell, KD5UPA*
 I wanted to mount a weighty antenna on the roof of my Honda Element and be able to enter the garage. Mag mounting would be a hassle and motorized units expensive and might not hold the weight in the wind. Starting with the roof I used a bolt on location normally reserved for a cargo rack. Customized a 3/16" aluminum bracket for attachment of the ratchet locking unit topped with a PVC coupling.

The ratchet mechanism is a Shakespeare Rail mount #4190 used for marine antennas up to 8'. This stainless steel unit affords two mounting screws on the back (discard the rail strap) and a " NPT on top complete with slot for the coax. There are several models of this unit available from Shakespeare. (Approx \$30+, Google it for best prices. Next, I used a " sch 80 PVC coupling with a HF connector epoxied in the top for antenna mount.



With a 90-degree movement of the handle, the ratchet teeth allow raising of the antenna. It will definitely handle the weight and wind and in about 15 seconds you're mobile. (Reprinted courtesy eHam.net)

Rockwell-Collins

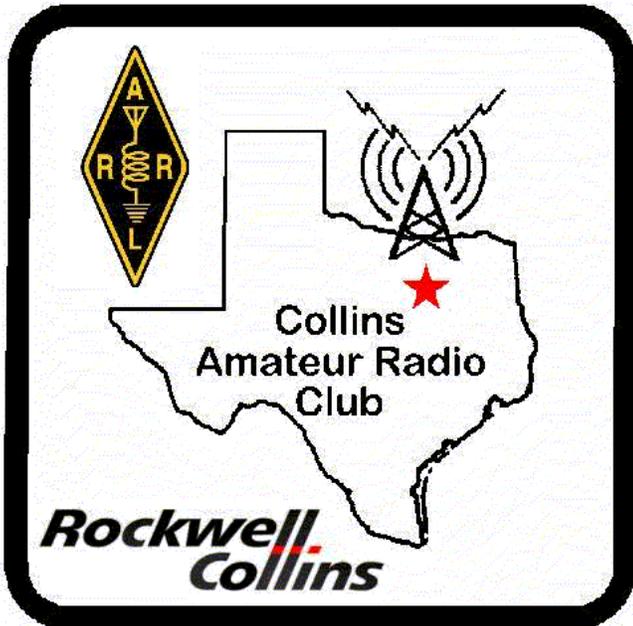
Amateur Radio Club

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

145.01 MHz

Thursday 25 March 2010

1730

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

➔ *Second Floor Conference Room* ←

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

➔➔➔ 11 April 2010 ←←←