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# SIGNALS

Rockwell  
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 37 Issue 06

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

March 2016

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 22 March 2016  
1700 Social      1730 Meeting  
1800 Program

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

**Subject:**

**B-29 Superfortress FIFI Walkaround**  
*By Bob Kirby K3NT*

made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.

### MARS Presentation at February Meeting

Bill Swan, K5MWC, presented the February program on Texas Army MARS. The program consists of licensed amateur radio operators who provide auxiliary or emergency communications on a local, national, and international basis as an adjunct to normal communications. There really was information on that screen.



## Local Club News

### Meeting Notice

At the March program Bob Kirby, K3NT, will present a program on FIFI, the only flying B-29 Superfortress, WW2 era bomber aircraft. As part of the program, Bob will narrate a video entitled, "B-29 Superfortress FIFI Walkaround."

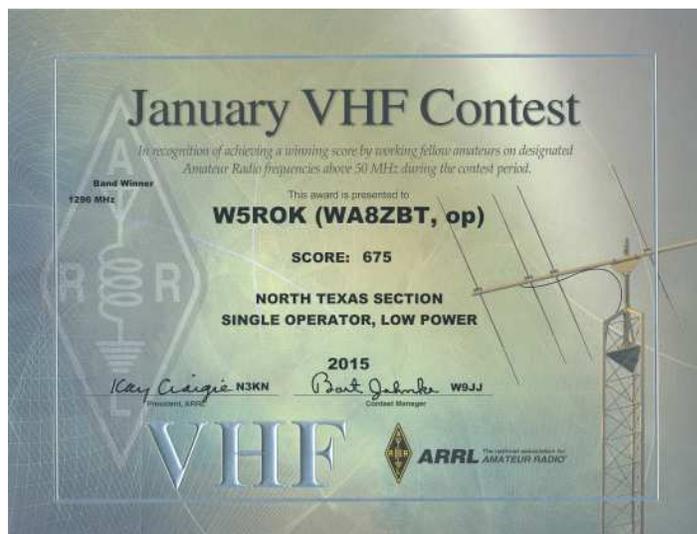
### RCARC Community Service Activities

**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.

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, Chris Havenridge KF5GUN, Frank Krizan K5HS, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participated in the Richardson emergency siren testing on 2 March 2016. All sirens reportedly functioned normally. 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

### ARRL January VHF Contest

Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, worked the ARRL January VHF contest. His score was 675, making him the 1296 MHz band winner. See the cool award certificate below.



**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 17<sup>th</sup> St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

**Greenville** testing is on the Saturday after the third 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](mailto:warhog4@tx,rr.com).

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**President and VP Messages**

I hope everyone has had a great year so far. With the weather being so nice and warm these past few weeks, we have had some time for thinking about antennas, and other HAM related activities. I personally, have just completed re-installing my dual-band radio into my VW Touareg, after getting it back from the body shop. They did a pretty good job, but there remain some niggly problems. But I can now operate from both of my cars. Next is the Home station. I have a G5RV antenna, which I am thinking of putting up, If I can get it up high enough. I suspect there are those of you who will also be doing some maintenance to the station, or planning a new antenna or tow. This looks like a great time to get it done.

As many of you may have heard, Chris our President has resigned, although we hope he still makes some of the meetings. I am sorry to see him give up the position, but he has other matters that are of greater importance at this time. I wish him well.

See all of you at the meeting.

73's  
Gene, K1GD

## Secretary's Report

23 February 2016

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Gene Duprey W1GD at 1740.

The following were present at the meeting:

Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Kathy Cobb	Guest
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Mike Schmit	WA9WCC
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

### Officers and Committee Reports:

*Vice President:* RCARC Vice President Gene Duprey, K1GD, reported that President Chris Havenridge, KF5GUN, has resigned, but will continue as a club member. Gene also asked whether anyone had attended the Skywarn class.

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

There were no other formal reports.

### Old Business:

Bob Kirby, K3NT, reported that he has purchased the antenna launcher and been reimbursed. It is ready for use but does need a reel and spider wire. Bob agreed purchase the items.

### New Business:

RG-6U quality coax was approved to be bought and Bob agreed to make the purchase.

A rotor was also approved and will be purchased.

Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, reported that he worked the ARRL January VHF contest. His score was 675, making him the 1296 MHz band winner.

The company has notified the club that they require the use of the tent on the east side of Building 461 where the club has been storing surplus equipment and material. A meeting was set for 10:00 on Saturday 27 February to sort and move the contents.

It was announced that the Midland Hamfest will occur on 19 March.

Joe Wolf announced that there are currently five direct employee members in the club. All others are either retirees or associate members.

There was a short discussion about purchasing a new radio, but no decision or proposal made for a specific purchase.

A proposal was made to purchase test equipment that could be used by the club and made available for loan to the members. Members are encouraged to make recommendations to Bob, K3NT.

The purchase of two K5 memory keyers was approved. Bob, K3NT, will make the purchase.

The purchase of a high quality VNA (Vector Network Analyzer), possibly from Array Solutions, was approved. The approval was not to exceed \$800.

Kathy Cobb recommended that the club make handouts, etc, to promote the club. They could possibly be placed in the cafeteria and handed out at social activities, such as Fun Days.

### Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned at 1832 and followed by an interesting program on Texas Army MARS, presented by Bill Swan, K5MWC. Bill is the Texas MARS region 6 Plans Officer. His MARS call sign is AAR6KF/AAA6R5.

## Presentations for Monthly RCARC Meetings

RCARC has an urgent need for presenters to present a short topic on Ham Radio at our monthly club meetings. 45-60 minute Presentations may include, but are not limited to:

- Set-up, Building or Modifying Station Equipment (Antennas, Audio, Dummy Loads, Desks, Lights, ...)
- Operating a Radio Station (Listening & Transmission tips, Ham Logo decrypted, Popular Frequencies, ...)
- My Radio Broke (Possible Alternatives before using the Sledge Hammer, ...)
- Different types of Digital Operation (APRS, Packet, PSK 31-64, RTTY, ...)
- Software Defined Radios (Commercial, Kits, Remote, Internet, ...)
- Software used for Ham Radios (WSPR, PSK-31, ...)
- Emergency Radio Equipment (Go Kits, Batteries, Solar power, Easy-Up Antennas, ...)
- Ham Radio Activities (MARS, RACES, MARC, Contests, Satellites, Mobile, Portable, Remote, Field Day, SWL, ...)
- Radio Reference (On-line manuals, theory, how to books & Videos, ...)
- Social Mingle (With light snacks? Ham & Cheese crackers? ...)

If you would like more information on a particular topic, and would like someone to do a presentation on it, you may suggest it as a topic. Please email Bob Kirby K3NT, Jim Skinner WB0UNI, Chris Havenridge KF5GUN, or Gene Duprey K1GD to present a topic or to suggest a topic for presentation.

*(Contributed by Bob Kirby, K3NT)*

## Logikey K-5 Electronic Keyer



RCARC has enjoyed using our Idiom Press Logikey K-3 keyer and looked forward to adding two new K-5 units that were approved for purchase some time ago. Unfortunately, the old Idiom Press Company ran into hard times and the K5 was not available until a new company took over.

“Ham Supply” (HamSupply.com) commenced business in November, 2015 upon the finalization of the asset purchase of Idiom Press.

Idiom Press was founded by Bob Locher (W9KNI). In Bob’s own words, “I founded Idiom Press in 1982. The original purpose of the company was to publish my book, *The Complete DX’er*. I had written a number of articles that had been published in Ham Radio Horizons and later in Ham Radio Magazine. The articles were well received and encouraged me to write *The Complete DX’er*.

“When the book was nearing completion, I was trying to figure out a name for the business. One night doodling around on a piece of scrap paper I came up with ‘Idiom Press’, which was derived from ‘I Did It On My Own’, the capitalized letters giving ‘idiomo’. Of course ‘idiomo’ is a meaningless word and not likely to stick in memory. On the other hand, ‘Idiom’, made by dropping the ‘o’ off ‘Idiomo,’ is a perfectly good English word. An idiom, as it is defined, is ‘a method of expression,’ which makes perfect sense for the name of a publishing house, especially for ham radio, itself a method of expression. Later, when I began to offer other products, I decided to keep using the name of Idiom Press since I believe it has always had a good reputation.”

**Ham Supply** founded by Wayne Ordakowski (N0UN) purchased the assets of Idiom Press in November of 2015 with the intent of continuing to manufacture the fine electronic keyer, noise filter and other ham radio related products that Idiom Press built their reputation on, as well as debuting new Amateur Radio related products moving forward. Ham Supply targeted January 1st, 2016 to start filling orders with their “product on the shelf” policy. The K5 has recently become available, and RCARC was able to make our purchase. Dealing with Wayne and his new company was a pleasure.

### Logikey K-5 Morse Keyer

The new Logikey K-5 keyer replaces the classic K-3 keyer, of which thousands have been sold. The K-5 uses the identical firmware – all operating features of the K3 remain

unchanged. The K-5 features a new, lower height chassis/cabinet with improved fit and finish. The K-5 includes a built-in battery holder that accepts three AAA cells, which will run the keyer for many months or even years of normal operating. The K-5 will also run off 12 volts DC, and when powered with 12 volts DC the batteries, if installed, do not drain.

### Logikey K-5 Morse Keyer Specifications:

- Fully iambic keyer; can emulate most other keyers including Curtis “A” timing and Accukeyer
- Works perfectly with single-lever, non-iambic paddles
- Six active messages plus 12 “banked” messages, 1530 characters total
- Messages may “call” others and contain programmed functions
- Messages can loop for continuous replay
- Messages can allow break-in for paddle-inserted text with automatic resumption
- Message editing capability of existing messages
- Ultra Speed mode allows messages at speeds to 990 WPM!
- Contest serial number: 001 to 9999, with push-button decrements if needed
- Linear speed control: 5 to 60 WPM, speed range can be easily customized
- Adjustable weighting: 25% to 75%
- Adjustable frequency sidetone monitor, 500 – 900 Hz, internal monitor level control
- Tune function for transmitter adjustment, hand key mode from paddle
- Operator selectable automatic character spacing
- Full beacon capability
- Messages and keyer configuration saved if power is lost
- Variable compensation for QSK transmitter character shortening
- Keyer offers precise speed read-out
- Keys all solid state and most tube rigs (virtually everything made since 1964)
- No paddle “buffering” or “debouncing” required with any paddle
- Comes complete with printed manual (English)
- Runs on 12 volts DC, less than .1 amp, or on 3 AAA batteries when installed in internal battery pack

- Size: 4.25" (107mm) W X 1 7/8" (48mm) H X 5 5/8" (143 mm) D
- Stainless steel Fasteners
- 90-day limited warranty

The K-5 also includes some circuit refinements, designed to offer improved protection for the CPU from lightning and static discharges.

Fasteners used in the K-5 are all 18-8 stainless steel.

OK. You look at the specs and the features. Pretty spectacular. But you weren't born yesterday. How the heck do you control all those functions without a keyboard? How do you get the speed readout without a digital display? So how do you talk to it, and it to you?

Simple! Via Morse Code! After all, that's what this keyer is all about. Want to know the exact speed? Press the right-most two buttons down together and release them. This puts you temporarily into the "Inquiry" mode. The keyer will send a "?" as in "di-di-da-da-di-di" in perfect Morse Code. Now, through your paddle, you send the letter "S" (as in Speed). The keyer responds by sending the exact speed in Morse Code. As soon as it finishes answering the question, it automatically goes back to normal operating.

OK. You want to program the speed range? Easy. Press the left-most two buttons down together and release. That puts you in the "Function", or control mode. The keyer will send, in flawless Morse Code, "F", indicating it is now in Function mode. You send "R0825" through your paddle. That sets the Range to run from 8 to 25 words per minute, instantly. That's how it's done – all queries and commands are entered or played back through Morse Code, using simple instructions. And as soon as you finish sending the command, it is implemented, and the keyer instantly and automatically returns to normal operating mode.

Loading messages is a snap. Press any button for two seconds – the keyer will send a "C". Enter the first word of your message. The keyer responds with a high-pitched "didi" indicating acceptance, and that it is entering a word space after that first word. Send another word. It gives the "didi" again. Now, go get a cup of coffee and come back, then send the third word. Pretty intense, huh? And when you are finished, press the same button down again to close the message. For playback, just press the same button briefly and release. Out it comes! If you want to change something later, there is an "Edit" capability too.

And that's how it is done – you and the keyer communicate via Morse Code through paddle and speaker. Commands are intuitive and simple. Learning everything about your Logikey K-5 will take an hour or so, (though you will be up and running in ten minutes) but the comprehensive tutorial makes it easier than you can imagine. And once learned, you will be set for a lifetime of CW pleasure. Many modern transceivers offer built in keyers – most are simplistic and unsophisticated, and not user-friendly. The K-5 feature list is unmatched in any transceiver!

**Product Reviews** Have a look at the eHam.net product reviews of the K-5.

Also, read the QST magazine product review for Logikey K-3 in the February 2001 issue, in Adobe pdf format

**RCARC anticipates our members will enjoy using our new Logikey K-5 Morse Keyer's.**

Source: <http://www.hamsupply.com/>

(Contributed by Bob Kirby, K3NT)

## Upcoming Events

### MARCH

- 19 Midland Hamfest** 61st Annual St. Patrick's Day Hamfest and ARRL West Texas Convention. Grand Texan Hotel and Convention Center 4300 W. Wall Street Midland, Texas. Details at <http://hamfest.w5qgg.org/>.

### APRIL

- 17 Rookie Roundup—Phone** Objective: to encourage newly-licensed operators ("Rookies") in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands to experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read "HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions." Operation 1800 through 2359 UTC. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>.

### JUNE

- 11-13 June VHF Contest** Objective: for amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and possessions) and Canada. Stations in KH0-9, KL7 & KP1-KP5, CY9 and CY0 count as W/VE stations and can be worked by DX stations. Operations 1800 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>.

### REGULAR ACTIVITIES

- 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 (NTS) at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz [www.k6jt.com](http://www.k6jt.com)
- 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday** Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday** ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm

## Amateur Radio Station Equipment Sale

9 AM until 12 Noon this Saturday, March 19, 2016

K5XG - 21 Pecan Grove Circle / Lucas, Texas 75002

**2nd** house on the **LEFT**. American Flag flying on pole in front of house. 972-742-2053 cell /  
CASH ONLY - All sales final

We have downsized and have moved into a non-radio community. I'm selling 50 years worth of radio items. There is most everything that you can imagine. HF radios, amps, antennas, towers (Rohn, Universal, HDX), tower accessories, rotators, coax, heliax, rotor cables, Bird watt meters and elements and loads, VHF/UHF radios, amps, antennas, repeater hardware, digital items, accessories, related items such as solar cells, computers, cameras, monitors, as well as some house hold items like central vac, 20' utility trailer, etc. And way too many more to list.

### **Towers**

Rohn 25 - straights, tops (sleeve and flat), EHS guy wire, Phillystran, turnbuckles, thimbles, cable clamps, guy gripes, guy assembles, etc

Universal 60 foot aluminum freestanding tower.

48 foot HDBX tower

W51 50 foot manual crank-up tower with coax guys

Tri-Ex LM470 motorized 70 foot crank-up with coax guys with tilt over fixture and work platform.

### **HF Radios**

Yaesu FT2000

Kenwood 940

Kenwood 450

Kenwood 440 (loaded)

Kenwood SM220 monitor console

Drake C-line with AC4 and SP4

Drake TC2 2 meter transmitting converter

Drake TC6 6 meter transmitting converter

Drake CC1 Convertor console with 2 and 6 meter converters installed

Drake WV-4 VHF (20 to 200 mHz) watt meter

Drake W-4 HF watt meter

### **HF Amps**

Amp Supply LK800 (3 each 3CX800 tubes) with internal and external supplies.

Ameritron AL1500 (uses 1 each 8877 tube)

Henry SS-750 12 VDC mobile (speced at 750 watts with provided small power cable, will put out 1000 watts with larger power cable) **HF antennas**

Hy-Gain 205CA 5 element 20

Hy-Gain 155CA 5 element 15

### **VHF/UHF amps**

Hy-Gain 105CA 5 element 10

Cushcraft 402CD 2 element 40

Cushcraft 6 element 6 meter

KLM KT-34 4 element for 10/15/20

Butternut 10 - 160 meter vertical

homebrewed 34 foot 40 meter vertical (no loading)

homebrewed 43 foot 80 meter vertical (no loading / with top hat)

### **Rotators**

Ham4s and Tail Twisters

### **HF mobile antennas**

Henry Garret bug catcher (includes 40 meter and 160 meter wide diameter coils) Hustler parts and coils

Ham Stick for several bands

Screwdrivers

**VHF antennas**

Force 12 2 meter SSB on 30 foot boom

M Squared stacked (2) 2M9SSB/FM with stacking kit and harness.

**VHF/UHF mobiles**

Icom 2720 VHF/UHF Kenwood VHF Alinco 220

**VHF/UHF mobile antennas**

Many including Decibel, Larson, Comet, Diamond, Antenna Specialist mounts - holes lip, magnets KLM 2 meter KLM 220

TPL repeater amps 120 and 250 watts

misc amps

**Repeater items**

Motorola / Wacom / Sinclair / Phelps Dodge duplexers and cavities.

Decibel antennas

Motorola SpectraTac Receivers both VHF and UHF

Antenna RX combiners

GE Mastril, GE Exec, Motorola Micor, EFJ PPL/559, RCA radios and accessories.

**Misc items**

Thousands of feet of LMR coax and Andrews Heliac. Rotor cable 8 conductor (small and large conductor size).

Bird watt meters, elements, loads, etc.

Alpha Delta/ Polyphaser lightning protection WX proof enclosures for above.

MFJ and Rig-Expert antenna analyzers.

Many, many pieces of 12 foot long aluminum tubing from .188 to 2.125 diameter.

19 inch aluminum racks, rack shelves, etc. Solar panels

20 foot utility trailer. 5 new wheels and 5 new tires

B&W HF Antenna switches

Coils, roller inductors, fiberglass rods & channel, and many other antenna home brew parts Many, many items collected over 50 years too numerous to try to list.

**Household items**

Propane blast area heater, ladders ("A" and extension - aluminum and fiberglass) , GE side by side refrigerator, stainless steel bread racks, Husqvarna 54 inch Zero turn mower

# Rockwell-Collins

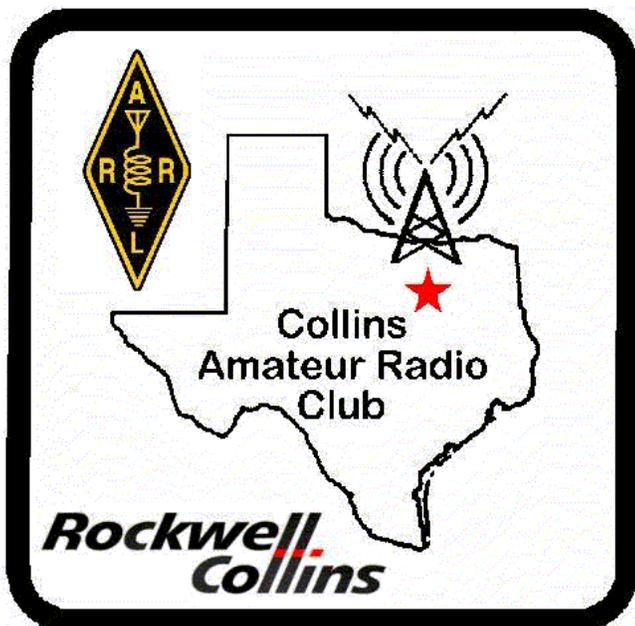
Amateur Radio Club

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 22 March 2016

1700 Social      1730 Meeting

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

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 15 April 2016 ←←←**