# \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

|  |
| --- |
| *S I G N A L S* |
| RClogo_col_wordtemp |  |  Monthly Newsletter of the |
|  *Amateur Radio Club* |

Volume 38 Issue 01 **Web Site** [**http://www.w5rok.us**](http://www.w5rok.us)**October 2016**

 **\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\***

|  |
| --- |
| **RCARC** **Membership Meeting****Tuesday 25 October 2016****1700 Social 1730 Meeting****1800 Program****Methodist Richardson Medical Center****At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection*****Conference Room A in Hospital Building******Subject:******NTX – AREDN Overview******by Paul Newman, KA5TYW and Local AREND NETWORK Members*** |

**Local Club News**

**Meeting Notice**

This month’s program will be a presentation on the North Texas – Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network (NTX – AREDN). An article follows that provides an introduction.

***Location***: RCARC has RESERVED Methodist Richardson Medical Center Conference room A or B for the RCARC monthly meeting (fourth Tuesday of each month) from April, 2016 through August, 2017. Each reservation is for 5PM to 8PM. We are welcome to stay longer if the room has not been reserved for a later time.

***Directions***: The new meeting location is in the hospital. No longer will we be meeting in the Doctors Building; we now meet in the main hospital building. To find your way for the first time enter by the main entrance on the south side of the hospital. Stay on the first floor, turn left at the entrance and go down the hall to where it just turns to the right heading for the emergency room; do not continue. Turn left and go into Conference Room A.

**W5ROK Operated in the Texas QSO Party**

W5ROK operated in the Texas QSO Party with a total of 97 contacts. W5ROK was on the air for about 2 hours.

*(Contributed by Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT)*

**W5ROK Renewed:**

W5ROK’s station license has been renewed and the new trustee is Bob Kirby K3NT.

We thank Steve Philips K6JT for his past service to the club as W5ROK trustee.

***!!!!!!ELECTIONS!!!!!!***

[**Amateur Radio Emergency Data Network**](http://www.aredn.org/) **(AREDN)**

Our club is looking for a leader for the AREDN project. Duties include coordinating with the local AREDN group, ordering equipment and pulling a work party together. As W5ROK already has HSMM antennas, one or more of these locations will be used for the new AREDN radio/antenna unit(s). AREDN is looking to fill in the area to the east of US 75 and our club can be of service. Check out the [w5rwk.org](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CJames%5CDocuments%5CRCARC%5CSignalsArchives%5C201610%20Signals%5Cw5rwk.org) site and <http://www.aredn.org/> for information on AREDN.

**Elecraft K3S Transceiver QST Review**

The November 2016 QST has an outstanding review of the Elecraft K3S HF and 6 Meter Transceiver. WW1ME states "The K3S is the best-performing transceiver I've ever used - but *not* the easiest to learn." As W5ROK already has a K3, many of our operators are familiar with the radio. The QST article states "Bottom line: The Elecraft K3S is a performer par excellence in a compact, convenient form factor." Check out the review. (I vote we move to purchase the K3S & P5 for our club station.)

*(Submitted by Bob Kirby K3NT)*

 *(Continued on page 3)*

|  |
| --- |
| **RCARC OFFICERS** |
| **PRESIDENT** |  | **VICE-PRESIDENT** |
| **OPEN** |  |  | Gene Duprey | K1GD |
|  |  |  | 319.270.8159 |  |
|  |  | geneduprey2015@gmail.com  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **SECRETARY** |  | **TREASURER** |
| Jim Brown | AF5MA |  | Mike Montgomery | WD5TX |
| 972.495.2209 |  | 972.705.1498 |  |
| jhksbrown@verizon.net |  | [dmmontgo@rockwellcollins.com](file:///C%3A%5CAppData%5CRoaming%5CMicrosoft%5C201401%20Signals%5Cdmmontgo%40rockwellcollins.com). |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN** |  | **WEBSITE MANAGER** |
| Bob Kirby | K3NT |  | Mike Hollingsworth | W5QH |
| 319.360.0500 |  |  | 972.571.6060 |  |
| k3nt@arrl.net  |  | w5qh@arrl.net |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| **STATION TRUSTEE** |  | **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** |
| Steve Phillips | K6JT |  | Jim Skinner | WB0UNI |
| 972.517.3332 |  |  | 214.535.5264 |  |
| [k6jt@arrl.net](file:///C%3A%5CDownloads%5CJHB%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5CJames%20Skinner%5CBriefcase%5CRCARC%5CSignalsArchives%5C201010%20Signals%5Ck6jt%40arrl.net) |  | [wb0uni@arrl.net](file:///C%3A%5CDownloads%5CJHB%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5CJames%20Skinner%5CBriefcase%5CRCARC%5CSignalsArchives%5C201010%20Signals%5Cwb0uni%40arrl.net) |
|  |  |  |
| **MEMBERSHIP** |  | **W5ROK CLUB STATION** |
| Joe Wolf | N5UIC |  | 972.705.1349 |
| 214.202.2757 |  |  | 461-290 |
| [n5uic@arrl.net](file:///C%3A%5CDownloads%5CJHB%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5CJames%20Skinner%5CMy%20Documents%5CBriefcase%5CRCARC%5C201111%20Signals%5Cn5uic%40arrl.net) |  |  |

**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.

**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.

**SIGNALS** is the monthly newsletter of the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club, published by and for its members. The entire contents of this newsletter are copyright © 2016 by the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club. Permission is hereby granted to any not-for-profit amateur radio publication to reprint any portion of this newsletter provided both the author and Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club are credited.

**President and VP Messages**

Summer is coming to an end, Yea? Back in Iowa, this was nice, although fall was very short, and then the long winter would set in. That meant long cold hours where no outside activity, as far as antennas or other outside ham radio repairs, could be done. But it was also good, for hours of operating were in order. Here in Texas, it means we have cooler fall temps to do work on antennas, towers etc. For me this means I need to get my antenna masts ordered, so I can get my ODF dipole up. For others here, we still have chances to do special events, contests etc. For RCARC, we have officer elections, which gives our members the opportunity to put their stamp on the future of the club. So if you would like to have more input in what we are doing, please step forward and let’s make the club even more effective.

We are also looking to make some station changes, by updating/adding to the station capabilities. We need member opinions and experiences to make these updates, so come to the meetings and give us your input. We want to make the station more attractive, bring more of our members into the station and put W5ROK on the air more. On this note, we would like to see more participation by our retirees at the station and in club meetings. There is a list of retirees at the guard station, and you can sign in and get un-escorted badges, so you can go to the club station. This has been one of the perks our club has enjoyed for quite some time. Many of our sister clubs do not have this capability, so we need to take advantage of this.

I hope to see you at the meeting this month, and hope you have a great fall and maybe get up a new antenna.

See you at the meeting, 73's

Gene, K1GD

**Secretary's Report**

23 Aug 2016

The meeting was called to order by Gene Duprey K1GD at 1744.

The following were present at the meeting:

 Jim Brown AF5MA

 Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT

 Gene Duprey K1GD

 John McFadden K5TIP

 Mike Schmit WA9WCC

 Jim Skinner WB0UNI

**Officers and Committee Reports:**

There were no formal reports other than the Secretary's Report, which is contained in this newsletter.

**Old Business:**

The discussion begun at the last meeting on purchase of a new transceiver continued. The tradeoffs between K3 and Flex radio lines were expanded, but no decision was reached. It was agreed to table further discussion until a larger group could participate.

Discussion will continue at subsequent meetings as further data is acquired.

**New Business:**

There was no new business.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 1802, followed by brief "show and tell" presentations by Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT (CW transceiver) and Jim Skinner WB0UNI (transceiver vehicle installation).

**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 5 October 2016 was successful with the exception of a couple of anomalies. 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 SkinnerWB0UNI 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.

**Should U.S. Ham Tests be given Abroad?**

*By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU*

A couple of weeks ago, I received an e-mail from a reader who wanted my opinion about a thread on the HamRadioHelpGroup mailing list. The e-mail that started the discussion was a message from an American living in Italy who wanted to take the Technician Class exam. In her e-mail, she told of her troubles finding a test session, and then when she did find one, what she perceived as “irregularities” in the testing process. Reading the thread was a little disconcerting, and I blogged about this issue (http://www.kb6nu.com/u-s-amateur-radio-license-exams-given-outside-u-s/).

I understand why foreign national go to the trouble of taking the U.S. license exam. Some of them even buy my study guides. About a year ago, for example, I swapped some e-mail with a guy from Malaysia about why he purchased my study guide and why he wanted a U.S. license. He said that it was because a neighboring country offered reciprocal operating privileges to U.S. licensees, but not Malaysian licensees! He mentioned that he tested for the license in Thailand.

Basically, my Malaysian friend was using the U.S. licensing process to circumvent the Malaysian licensing process. Australians seem to do this, too. Apparently, according to one of the VKs who commented on the thread, getting a U.S. Tech license is easier than testing for an Australian Foundation license. So, some Australians get a U.S. Tech license first, then get the Australian government to issue them a VK Foundation license based on the reciprocal operating agreement between the U.S. and Australia.

Another reason that some outside the U.S. obtain U.S. amateur radio licenses is the challenge. That’s the reason Martin Butler, M0MRB/W9ICQ, of ICQPodcast fame, gave when I spoke to him about this recently.

Are these reasons "good enough" to continue this program of licensing non-U.S. citizens? My first reaction was that no, it's not good enough, and I questioned whether or not the ARRL VEC should sanction non-U.S. VEs and whether or not the FCC should even allow testing outside of the United States.

I didn't see the need for conducting these test sessions or the desirability (to the U.S.) of licensing foreign nationals. I reasoned that not only was there a greater possibility of test fraud, this program could lead to foreign authorities claiming that the U.S. was meddling in their affairs.

This post garnered a lot of comments. Several of them took me to task for voicing this opinion and were in favor keeping the current licensing program in place. There were a variety of reasons.

One of the reasons in favor of using the U.S. licensing process is that in many countries, amateur radio license exam sessions are not very frequent. Another is that they often are quite expensive. This creates an artificial barrier to getting an amateur radio license. Using the U.S. licensing system breaks through this barrier and allows many more to enjoy amateur radio.

Of course, for everything to be on the up and up, the foreign authorities would have to condone the use of U.S. license tests. Apparently, this is the case in Thailand and Australia. I don't know about Italy, but I'm guessing that the authorities there don't really care about Italians obtaining U.S. licenses.

Perhaps the best comment came from Thida, HS1ASC/KH6ASC. He noted that the tests in Thailand were administered very strictly, and says, "The U.S. may lose some callsigns, but what the U.S. and U.S. hams get from us is goodwill, very positive feeling. Everyone who gets U.S. license is so proud, and others look at them respectfully." Since Part 97.1(e) lists as one of the purposes of amateur radio, "Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill," I'm now all in favor of offering U.S. ham tests abroad.

==================================

Dan, KB6NU, is the author of the "No Nonsense" amateur radio license study guides, and blogs about amateur radio at KB6NU.Com, and you can contact him by e-mailing cwgeek@kb6nu.com. When he's not pondering the vagaries of the U.S. licensing system, you'll find him working CW on the HF bands.

**Blowin’ in the Wind**

Here's an interesting link showing worldwide wind speeds:

<https://www.ventusky.com/?p=44;116;2&l=wind&t=20161020/15&m=gfs&w=0tBdFPK3a>.

**AT&T might have just complicated the Future of Internet**

Sep 20, 2016, 4:34pm CDT

Shawn Shinneman

Staff Writer

Dallas Business Journal

Just when you finally learned what fiber internet is, AT&T (NYSE: T) says it has invented a new way to deliver high-speed connections without building out infrastructure.

The Dallas telco on Tuesday announced a new technology called “AirGig,” which the company says can deliver lower cost, multi-gig internet without burying wires in the ground or putting up towers. AT&T will begin field testing the service in 2017.



*A power line with an AirGig transmitter.*

The technology delivers over power lines, without tapping into their power, using a mounted plastic antenna. The company says AirGig will be easier to deploy and cheaper.

Chief Strategy Officer John Donovan said it has the ability to transform internet access globally.

“As we envision this thing in the long run, it can be as deployable in a big urban city as it is in a small rural town,” he said on a conference call after the announcement.

Donovan wouldn’t say when the service would be ready for commercial use but drew a parallel to the timeline for 5G wireless, which began field testing earlier this year. Fixed 5G wireless is expected out as soon as 2018 while mobile 5G is expected to land in 2019 or 2020.

AT&T hasn’t announced where the field testing will take place, but Donovan indicated it will likely happen both abroad – in regulatory-friendly markets – and domestically.

As for the timing of the announcement, the company has applied for or been granted more than 100 AirGig-related patents. Keeping the technology a secret became a challenge.

“We’ve had people start to look around at the patents and thought it was going to be hard to keep this under wraps much longer,” Donovan said.

Shawn Shinneman covers technology for the Dallas Business Journal.

*(Reprinted courtesy Dallas Business Journal)*

**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 and 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 or Gene Duprey K1GD to present a topic or to suggest a topic for presentation.

Let's try this out while supply lasts. Any RCARC member who presents a program or lines up and follows through with a speaker/presentation (including timely advanced bio and program description to Mr. Skinner) will receive a VHF (or UHF) commercial grade antenna along with a commercial grade magnetic mount with coax cable for each completed program. The speaker will also receive like antenna and magnetic mount/coax cable.

Please note: Simply passing along program prospects or leads, while highly appreciated by your radio club, does not count towards the antenna and magnetic mount with coax offer. However, you may be eligible for a hunk of pre-RF'ed feed line for your pet to chew on. In the absence of said pet, it just could become your "Pet Coax".

**Upcoming Events**

|  |
| --- |
| **OCTOBER** |
| **22-23** | **EME – 50-1296 MHz** Objective: To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz Full 48-hour period (0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Details at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest-1>.  |
| **31-1 Nov** | **Amateur Radio-Military Interoperability Exercise** Begins at 1200 UTC on October 31 and continues through 2359 UTC on November 1 on 60 meter channels 1-4 —5.3305 MHz, 5.3465 MHz, 5.357 MHz, and 5.3715 MHz, respectively. During this exercise, military stations will attempt to make radio contact with stations in as many of the 3143 US counties as possible. Radio amateurs providing “county status” information will receive a US Department of Defense “interoperability QSL card.” For more information, contact the Military Auxiliary Radio Service (MARS). |
| **NOVEMBER** |
| **5-7** | **November Sweepstakes—CW** Objective: For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.  |
| **19-21** | **November Sweepstakes—CW** Objective: For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.  |
| **19-20** | **EME - 50 to 1296 MHz** Objective**:** To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. 0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>.  |
| **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 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:** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| RCARC_with_Pilliars___color | **CLUB STATIONS**(972) 705-1349**W5ROK REPEATER**441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input131.8 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 25 October 2016****1700 Social 1730 Meeting****Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr****At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection*****Conference Room A in Hospital Building*** |
| **NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:****🡺🡺🡺 11 November 2016 🡸🡸🡸** |