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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 32 Issue 11

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

August 2011

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**RCARC**  
**Membership Meeting**

**Thursday, 25 August 2011**  
**1700 Social      1730 Meeting**  
**Program 1800**

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

*Subject:*  
**The "INs and OUTs" of APRS**  
*by John Galvin N5TIM*

room is located in the center building, the second floor on the East side of the building. Just walk straight out of the elevator on the second floor and you are there. We meet at 5:00pm, start our business meeting at 5:30pm and the presentation usually starts after that around 6:00pm.

Everyone is invited. See you there!

**August VHF Contest Results** W5ROK worked in this contest on 432 Mhz and 1296 Mhz. W5ROK had a total of 12 Q's: 11 on 432 Mhz and 1 on 1296 Mhz.

Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT said "I gave this contest a good effort. Enhanced propagation was non-existent and there just weren't a lot of folks on. I really missed the usual rovers not being on. I'm going to give the September VHF contest a good go - maybe more folks will be on then." (Submitted by Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT)

## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice** Please plan to attend the RCARC membership meeting this month, as we have been having a good turn out at the meetings this year. This month, the RCARC will be presenting John Galvin - N5TIM, who will be presenting some incredible facts about APRS. John has extensive experience with Public Service events and EMCOM, where APRS is used extensively.

A lot of folks think APRS stands for Automatic Position Report System, but the reality is that APRS is used for more than just position reports, hence APRS stands for Automatic Packet Reporting System. APRS is used for EMAIL, Short Messaging, and Weather Data. APRS can also be used for tracking hot air balloons, Skywarn Nets, Public Service events, Fox Hunts and making new contacts while traveling cross-country. There is always something to learn, so please consider joining us this month.

The RCARC meets at the Methodist Richardson Medical Center (MRMC) - Bush/Renner campus. The MRMC Bush/Renner campus is located between George Bush Turnpike, Renner Road, and Shiloh Road. The conference

**Announcing the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club Information Net** The W5ROK NET started on Thursday, August 4th. The following are the particulars:

- |               |   |
|---------------|---|
| <b>WHAT</b>   | Information Net - <b>RCARCIN</b>                            |
| <b>WHEN</b>   | Each Thursday night at 19:00 CST                            |
| <b>WHERE</b>  | W5ROK Repeater 441.875+ PL 131.8Hz                          |
| <b>WHO</b>    | Everyone and anyone.  |
| <b>FORMAT</b> | (a) announcements<br>(b) Swap<br>(c) Check-in plus updates. |

We wanted to try a format that provides club and local announcements that are of interest to Amateur Radio, a swap net time as well as personal updates from all net participants regarding their experiences in the hobby. All suggestions for content and format are welcomed. (Submitted by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)

**Web Page Updated** Occasionally the web page gets edited by too many tools making it non-responsive to the edit tool being used at present. (Cont. on page 4)

### RCARC OFFICERS

<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	
Ross Terry 972.705.3667 <a href="mailto:k5srt@arrl.net">k5srt@arrl.net</a>	K5SRT	Dwight Ramsey 972.705.1841 <a href="mailto:dwr Ramsey@rockwellcollins.com">dwr Ramsey@rockwellcollins.com</a>	KE5SAS
<b>SECRETARY</b>		<b>TREASURER</b>	
Michael Ketchum 972.705.1286 <a href="mailto:k5mdk@arrl.net">k5mdk@arrl.net</a>	K5MDK	Bob Diepenbrock 972.705.1461 <a href="mailto:Kc4uai@gmail.com">Kc4uai@gmail.com</a>	KC4UAI
<b>ACTIVITIES CHAIR-</b>		<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	
Mark Harris 972.705.6109 <a href="mailto:markharris1@verizon.net">markharris1@verizon.net</a>	KC5FDX	Wayne Hughes 972.705.1406 <a href="mailto:wa0tqh@arrl.net">wa0tqh@arrl.net</a>	WA0TGH 461-258
<b>STATION TRUSTEE</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	
Steve Phillips 972.517.3332 <a href="mailto:k6jt@arrl.net">k6jt@arrl.net</a>	K6JT	Jim Skinner 214.535.5264 <a href="mailto:wb0uni@arrl.net">wb0uni@arrl.net</a>	WB0UNI
<b>CLUB STATION</b> 972.705.1349		<b>W5ROK</b> 461-290	

### VE SESSIONS

**Dallas** tests are held 4<sup>th</sup> Sat of each month at 10:00. 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 09:00. 5<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

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### President's Message

**The Heat of Summer** – I know you've not been missing the heat if you're here in Texas but more importantly, don't let us miss hearing you on the repeater on the "Club Info Net". We meet on the club repeater at 441.875(+) PL 131.8. We get on the air weekly each Thursday Night at 7:00 PM with announcements, check-in, swap talk, and we just share what's been going on. It's easy and we'd love to have you meet with us on the Rockwell Collins Club Info Net. It's a great way to beat the heat while being on the air. How many places can you call into the net from? I've attended from the shack at W5ROK and mobile in McKinney, my QTH. I'd like to take this time to say a big THANK YOU to Michael K5MDK for his excellent job getting the Club Info Net going.

What's on the calendar is a good question you can check via the web by going to our club site at <http://w5rok.us>. There is a new link to the RCARC Calendar which includes not only our RCARC events but other employee club events. You can make updates via the Member's Only Section.

Beat-the-Heat this summer and make some comfortable QSOs in the shack or be sure to use the Repeater any time you are mobile. As a radio club we feel its important to just get on the air and we'd love to hear from you! You can check our main web site for updates and reminders such as the time for the Club Info Net—just visit <http://w5rok.us>.



**August Station Improvements** – W5ROK's club station's K3 and P3 have some new updates due to efforts by Denis – WA8ZBT. Elecraft (<http://www.elecraft.com/K3/K3.htm>) and its support groups have put out several new tools to keep your Elecraft or, in our case, the clubs K3 and P3, in the K-Line like new and updated. The P3 updates, along with memory modules, are some of the more noticeable changes. The updates will now make it quick and easy to switch to phone, CW or other saved modes on the various bands. The PC's new application makes it easy to visualize quickly on all the various memories that have settings saved, but you don't need the PC to make use of them. Many of you will quickly notice the updates to the P3, which I like as well, since it now shows additional bandwidth information when you use it. In addition to the frequency span showing activity near you, the display now has a way to show your current bandwidth in respect to what is near you. The K-Line shows you the power of both

a good interface and software updates which will improve your unit and effectiveness over time. Hey Dennis – WA8ZBT: thanks for your improvements on the clubs Elecraft equipment.

**APRS and Weather Station** – Don't miss this month's presentation by John Galvin – N5TIM. I'm hoping he will also be able to give us some ideas about expanding our Weather Station's reporting capability by hooking it into APRS without having to hook it directly to the internet. Sure the internet is great, but it seems like a good idea to put out our weather station information using radio waves. Again don't miss this month's program when we learn more about Automatic Packet Reporting Systems. For more information on where and when we meet see the club's web site at <http://w5rok.us> and feel free to invite others to attend with you.

Hey, make sure you bring your HT or mobile rigs and tune them to the club repeater before and after the monthly meeting on Thursday Aug. 25<sup>th</sup>. It might seem a little late for those leaving after the APRS talk, but we can still have an informal chat on the club repeater 441.875(+) PL 131.8.

Hope to hear you on the air!  
73 for now Ross - K5SRT  
[k5srt@arrl.net](mailto:k5srt@arrl.net)

## Secretary's Report July 27, 2011

A regular monthly membership meeting was held on July 27<sup>th</sup> at the Richardson Methodist Medical Center Bush Renner campus in the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor conference room. Those in attendance were as follows:

1. Bob Ashby - K5JHR
2. Charlie Beis - K5UWD
3. Ira Blum - K5IRA
4. Dennis Cobb - WA8ZBT
5. Robert Diepenbrock - KC4UAI – Club Treasurer
6. Joe Henchal - KF5G
7. Michael Ketchum - K5MDK – Club Secretary
8. Doug Kilgore - WD5OUG
9. John McFadden - K5TIP
10. Kipton Moravec - AE5IB
11. Keith Parris - WB5RBA
12. Steve Phillips - K6JT – Station Trustee
13. Dwight Ramsey - KE5SAS – Vice President
14. Mary Ramsey - KF5BYB
15. Mike Schmit - WA9WCC
16. Jim Skinner - WB0UNI – Newsletter Editor
17. Bill Swan - K5MWC
18. Ross Terry - K5SRT – Club President
19. Paul Veenstra - KC0TEG
20. Joe Wolf - N5UIC – Membership

This represents 13 regular members, 3 Life members, 1 Family member, and 3 visitors.

### A. OPENING

Ross Terry – K5SRT, the club President, opened the meeting at 17:25 with a flag pledge.

### B. VARIOUS ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Joe Wolf – N5UIC, our club membership manager, made an announcement regarding membership updates. If you have had any changes in your address, telephone, email or otherwise, please update your membership form, regardless of whether you need to renew or not.

2. Ross Terry – K5SRT, our club President, made a LIFE MEMBERSHIP and PLAQUE presentation, which states: The Rockwell-Collins Amateur Radio Club is pleased to present this Lifetime Member Award to Joseph P. Wolf III, N5UIC in recognition and appreciation for his longtime contributions, leadership and support of the W5ROK Rockwell-Collins Amateur Radio Club Awarded this 27th day of July, 2011.



3. Mike Schmit – WA9WCC, made a LIFE PLAQUE presentation, which states: The Rockwell-Collins Amateur Radio Club is pleased to present this Lifetime Member Award to Dennis D. Cobb, WA8ZBT in recognition and appreciation for his longtime contributions, leadership and support of the W5ROK Rockwell-Collins Amateur Radio Club Awarded this 12th day of December 2009.



4. Keith Parris – WB5RBA, who is the moderator of the Telecom Corridor Information Group. Keith reported that two months ago, the TC Info reflector had been turned off. So, Keith started a Yahoo Group for the Telecom Corridor Information Group. The URL was given. Keith demonstrated some of the statistics of the new group within its first weeks of operation, including the number of members, messages, calendar and files. The URL is

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tcinfo\\_amateur\\_radio](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tcinfo_amateur_radio)

### C. OFFICER REPORTS

1. **VICE PRESIDENT** – Dwight Ramsey – KE5SAS had nothing new to report.
2. **TREASURER** – Bob Diepenbrock – KC4UAI reported that Field Day captured 6180 points. The financial report was given.
3. **SECRETARY** – Michael Ketchum – K5MDK presented the meeting minutes from the last business meeting in an abbreviated format. Ira Blum – K5IRA moved to accept the Secretary's Report. Dwight Ramsey seconded it and it was accepted with hand vote.
4. **STATION TRUSTEE** – Steve Phillips – K6JT thanked Bob Kirby – K3NT, Ross Terry – K5SRT and Dennis Cobb – WA8ZBT for their work on fixing the power issue of the club repeater. Once that was fixed, along with a connector, everything works great now. Currently, there is no UPS for the repeater.
5. **NEWSLETTER EDITOR** – Jim Skinner – WB0UNI had nothing new to report.

### D. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Collins Linear Amp** – A Maintenance Work Request was pushed through facilities by Bob Kirby and we now have 200v service in the shack. Bob will be part of a crew to bring up the amp slowly and safely.
2. **Repeater Power** – Bob Diepenbrock presented a document that he drafted that presents a solution for UPS power for the repeater and BBS stations. The solution totals \$600. Proposal for emergency power was discussed. Michael Ketchum made a motion to accept the proposal less the batteries for now. Mike Schmit – WA9WCC seconded this motion. There was a question by Bill Swan – K5MWC asking why not get it all now with the General Funds money. Dennis Cobb stated that the emergency power for the building would be different voltage and would require different solution. Bob Diepenbrock amended that we submit the entire solution now and submit the rest of the expenses a month later. This addendum to the motion was approved and was carried by unanimous hand vote.
3. **Bring Your Child To Work Day** – Ross Terry reported on the results of the "Bring Your Child To Work Day". Ross continued by thanking those who helped with the communications assistance with the children, which included Charlie Beis – K5UWD, John McFadden – K5TIP, Bill Ray, Michael Ketchum – K5MDK.
4. **Collins Linear Amp** – Ross thanked Bob Kirby for following up on the Maintenance

Work Request providing power for the Collins S-Line Amplifier. Work will continue to bring up the amp.

5. **Air Handler Noise** – Ross mentioned that the air handlers are causing a lot of noise on various HF bands in the club station again.
6. **Skywave Vertical Antenna** – Ross mentioned that the long vertical "Skywave" antenna was used for Field Day for a short period of time.
7. **Surplus Equipment** – Ross announced the need to remove excess equipment that is no longer needed in order to reduce our equipment footprint.

### E. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Constitutional Amendment** – Michael Ketchum, the club Secretary, presented a proposed change to the club constitution. The details of the change was briefly described. Each member shall be receiving a copy of the proposed change and are asked to review it before the next club business meeting, where a Quorum vote will be taken on these changes.
2. **Kenwood SM230 Scope** – An announcement was made for a silent auction of the club's Kenwood SM230 scope. Sealed bids will be accepted up through August 24<sup>th</sup> by the club Secretary, Michael Ketchum. The winner will be announced at the next business meeting.

### F. EVENTS CALENDAR

1. **CALENDAR** – Various events were announced, including the Central States VHM/FM society meeting, which starts tonight near the DFW airport. The Digital Tuesday's meetings were also included in the announcements.

### G. PRESENTATION

At 6:05pm, Ross Terry introduced Bill Swan – K5MWC, who spoke to the club on Emergency Communications.

**Web Page Updated** *(Cont. from page 1)* Wayne Hughes WA0TGH said "I reworked the webpage with the same layout as before. However, there is a possibility of error when performing such tasks. When you get a chance, checkout the page and let me know if you find errors." *(Submitted by Wayne Hughes WA0TGH)*

**Silent Auction** RCARC is currently holding a silent auction, announced, at the July regular business meeting, in order to sell the Kenwood SM230 scope. Sealed bids are being accepted by the club Secretary, Michael Ketchum - K5MDK until and including August 24th. After this time, the winning sealed bid will be announced at the August 25th regular business meeting. If you have any questions regarding this auction, please contact Michael. *(Submitted by Michael Ketchum K5MDK)*

### Advanced Technology Center to host session on Next-Gen Power Amplifier Technologies

August 18, 2011 Scott Patten, a senior electrical engineer in our Advanced Technology Center (ATC), will speak about Next-Gen Power Amplifier technologies during a learning session from 2 to 3 p.m., Thursday, Aug. 25, in the 106 Auditorium in Cedar Rapids. All employees are welcome to participate in person or via NetMeeting.

According to Patten, work done in the ATC over the past two years has led to solutions that could overcome common amplifier performance constraints such as bandwidth and efficiency.

"We're integrating optical switching with electronic devices, and using them to create new amplifier topologies," said Patten. "These technologies have a broad range of applicability to our company's communications and EW products."

The presentation will include Magnetically Powered Optically Isolated Amplifiers (MOSISE), High Power DACs, and 500 MHz Modulation Bandwidth Amplifiers. Those not able to attend this session in person may join via NetMeeting by dialing VPN 295.6789, participant code 3267.

For more information, contact Scott Patten at VPN 295.5094 or [spatten@rockwellcollins.com](mailto:spatten@rockwellcollins.com).

Source: Rockwell Collins Online (Submitted by Bob Kirby, K3NT)

### Events and Public Service Ops

**Blackland Triathlon:** Monday, September 05, 2011, 5:30AM - 12:00PM Oak Point Amphitheater in Plano. Time again for the Blackland Triathlon. This event requires about 24-30 operators as shadows, course monitors, and net control. This is a good event to get started in public service events as it is a medium sized event but not hard to do. It gives you a chance to practice in a controlled net, which is the same format as in an emergency. <http://www.blacklandtri.com/partners/partners.htm> shows they have PARK listed as a partner.

Location : Start at Oak Point Recreation Center end at Oak Point Park Amphitheater

Contact: Kipton Moravec [ae5ib@arrl.net](mailto:ae5ib@arrl.net).

**Plano Balloon Festival Training:** Saturday, September 10, 2011 8:00am Oak Point Park in Plano

In preparation for the Plano Balloon Festival the next weekend we will have a Balloon Training. Keith Berry will bring out his balloon, we will help him unpack it, inflate it, and then deflate it, and pack it up. This will get you familiar with being around balloons and to know what to do safely. I recommend it for anyone working Field or Recovery at the Plano Balloon Festival. In addition it is fun!

**ARRL September VHF QSO Party:** Saturday, September 10, 2011 1:00pm CST ~ 10:00pm CST. Work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Foreign stations work W/VE amateurs only. All authorized frequencies above 50 MHz.

**Plano Balloon Festival:** Friday, September 16 4:00pm ~ Sunday 9:00pm Oak Point Park in Plano and beyond. The balloons will be spectacular and we anticipate a wonderful weekend of flight and color. The PBF committee has met and a group of ham operators who involved in the PBF are starting the planning process for this year's event. So, now is the time to prepare to support this event.

There will be three areas that Ham operators will be involved in: (a) Refueling: Each time a balloon goes up, it is required by the PBF committee and FAA to top-off their propane tank before the next flight. Ham operators will watch and record this work and coordinate with a central information control operator when each balloon refuels. (b) Field: On the launch field, Ham operators will be assigned to a row of balloons. The Field operator will report to net control the status of any balloon as well as report when a balloon launches, so the time can be recorded. (c) Recovery: After launch, a recover operator with spotter in a vehicle will be assigned to recover a balloon. If a chase team cannot locate their balloon, ham operators can provide directions through net control to guide the chase team. Also, if assistance is requested by the balloon pilot, a recovery operator will be trained to help deflate and pack a balloon.

If you would like to get close to this action and feel the heat of a hot-air balloon, then sign up to help in this year's PBF. For more information, please visit the web link: <http://www.w5adc.com/PBF/PBF.html>. This link will provide links to training, signup web site, and other materials for operating and supporting PBF 2011. If you would like to simply watch, you can find out more information at <http://www.planoballoonfest.org/>. If you are not sure how you can help, please consider reading the volunteer info sheet at [http://www.w5adc.com/PBF/2011\\_PBF\\_Volunteer\\_Info\\_Sheet\\_Rev\\_1\\_1.pdf](http://www.w5adc.com/PBF/2011_PBF_Volunteer_Info_Sheet_Rev_1_1.pdf).

Andrew Robinson – K5VRA and Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, both participated in this event last year. It was a spectacular and memorable time for both. Please read the Signals article on October 2010 for some of the highlights at : <http://www.w5rok.us/Newsletters/SignalsOct2010.pdf>

**JDRF Walk For The Cure:** Saturday , September 24th 6:00am ~ 1:00pm 121 Tollway & Dallas North Tollway Granite Park business park. <http://www.jdrfdallas.org/walk.html>. Same as last year. Good fun, easy net operations and loads of food. I hope it doesn't rain this year. (Contributed by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK)

# 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

W5ROK-N1, W5ROK-N2 & W5ROK-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Thursday, 25 August 2011

1700 Social

1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr  
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

*Second Floor Conference Room 200*

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**

**→→→ 11 September 2011 ←←←**