



COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Richardson, Texas

SIGNALS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 42 Issue 1

Web Site <http://www.n5cxx.us>

October 2020

CARC

Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 October 2020 7:00 PM

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

THE October 2020 MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE!

Being the DX from Diego Garcia and Ascension Island

By Steve Coleman -

WB4GHY/VQ9SC/ZD8SC

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, John McFadden K5TIP and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The October test was conducted on 7 October. Of the twenty five sirens 20 were fully functional, one was partially functional, two were non-operational and two received no report. 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 participates 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.

New Collins Building Access Restrictions

Per Security, all "non-essential" access to Collins Aerospace facilities (which includes employee recreation activities) is shut-down until the Covid-19 pandemic is resolved. Anyone needing access to the Club Station needs to submit an email request to Security with an explanation of who, when and why access is needed, and the Security team will review, and if approved, the person will only be allowed access via the North Gate. For contact information, send an email to kr1zan@arrl.net asking for Security contact information.

FYI—Until further notice, masks are now required inside all Collins buildings. Also, a temperature check is required before entering the property. During busy hours there is a manned tent near the north gate where the temperature check is performed. During off hours, there is a place at the north gate for a self-check.

OCTOBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Collins Amateur Radio Club October meeting will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, Oct. 27th beginning at 7 p.m. Zoom credentials will be emailed to members the weekend prior to the meeting. Anyone else who wishes to join in is asked to send an email to kr1zan@arrl.net requesting login information.



Following a brief welcome, the CARC will hold a short business meeting, followed by a program "Being the DX from Diego Garcia and Ascension Island" presented by Steve Coleman - WB4GHY/VQ9SC/ZD8SC. Steve has worked for Long Wave, Inc. for the past 18 years and has had the opportunity to visit many far away places — and operate as DX while traveling. His presentation will focus on what it's like to be the DX and work the pile-ups.

Steve was first licensed as WN4GHY at the age of 15. He graduated from the University of Tennessee in 1975 and moved to Texas to work for Rockwell Collins. His first 14 years was spent on the defense side and the following 13 years on the commercial side of Rockwell Collins, which later became Alcatel Network Systems. (Continued on [page 4](#))

| | |
|---|---|
| CARC OFFICERS | |
| PRESIDENT Frank Krizan KR1ZAN 214-563-6679 kr1zan@arrl.net | VICE-PRESIDENT Bill Swan K5MWC 972-529-3906 bill@swanshome.net |
| SECRETARY Jim Brown AF5MA 972.495.2209 jhsbrown@verizon.net | TREASURER Rohan Thomas KG5RCN 972.697.3512 Rohan7066@yahoo.com |
| ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN Kerry Weeks K5WKS 214-478-3230 weeks.kerry@gmail.com | WEBSITE MANAGER Mike Hollingsworth W5QH 972.571.6060 w5qh@arrl.net |
| STATION TRUSTEE Bob Kirby K3NT 214.478.3230 k3nt@arrl.net | NEWSLETTER EDITOR Jim Skinner WB0UNI 214.535.5264 wb0uni@arrl.net |
| MEMBERSHIP Bill Swan K5MWC 972-529-3906 bill@swanshome.net | N5CXX CLUB STATION 972.705.1349 461-290 |

VE SESSIONS

Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC) Test sessions take place on fourth Tuesdays, immediately following the regular CARC monthly membership meeting (about 7:30 p.m.). The test sessions are held in Conference Room A of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center, at the Bush/Renner/Shiloh intersection in Richardson. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's best to register with the lead examiner, Kerry Weeks, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com or by phone at (214) 478-3230. **CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

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 Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail rwkhamtest@gmail.com.

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The Prez Sez

with KR1ZAN



Even though our in-person activities have ground to a halt, a great deal is going on in the background with the **Collins Amateur Radio Club**. The CARC Board of Directors has been meeting via Zoom on the second Tuesday monthly, plus, some extra workshop meetings.

The membership roster has been converted to the Ham Club Online Database (HCOL), which should help with management of memberships, emailing announcements and allowing Club officers and members access to appropriate sections of the roster online. At the suggestion of one of our members, we're publishing a series of "How To" articles on our use of Ham Club Online, which I hope you'll take the time to read.

At last month's meeting, the membership approved CARC moving forward with an application to become a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This won't impact you as a member, other than offering liability protection when we have meetings and club activities. This will make us a peer with other clubs in the area from the stand-point of accepting donations and being able to access certain venues and participate in revenue sharing.

There's a series of steps we're going through on the way to becoming a non-profit organization, which you'll read about in the Board minutes and hear about meetings and read in the Secretary's Report. It may seem complicated, but it's just a matter of logical steps. Rest assured, members will be kept informed as to our plans and progress.

The minutes of the Board of Directors are published separately. In those minutes, you'll note the motion to acquire a post office mailbox. The new mailing address is announced elsewhere in this newsletter. Over the next month, the official mailing address as listed on various Club documents

and electronic media will be changed. We'll keep monitoring the old mail station at Collins Aerospace and other officer addresses over the next year before shutting down the mail station.

November is our annual meeting and election of officers. Two positions are in need of candidates: Secretary and Treasurer. Of course, all positions are open for nominations. We'll be asking for nominations from the floor at the October meeting, and once again, at the November meeting. Club leadership is a great way to repay the efforts of all our club leaders from years gone by. I hope you'll consider stepping up to help out.

Until next month, 73, Frank KR1ZAN

Vice President/Membership Chairman Report

The CARC is pleased to welcome Steve Scully, KI5HNR, to the club membership. Steve holds a Technician class license and has interests in Packet communication. He is an ARRL member and a current employee of Collins Aerospace.

Welcome Steve

Current Membership - 54

Full Members - 33

Associate Members - 13

Life Members - 8

The most current roster is posted on the Members Only portion of our web site. If you need a Member ID and Password for the Members Only portion you can contact Mike Hollingsworth at (C) 972-571-6060.

Secretary's Report

22 September 2020

President Frank Krizan KR1ZAN called the meeting to order on-line via Zoom at 1846.

The following logged into the meeting:

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Brian Belcher | WA5M |
| Jim Brown | AF5MA |
| Bob Coulbourne | W4FTD |
| Bill Fell | KK5PB |
| Bob Kirby | K3NT |
| Frank Krizan | KR1ZAN |
| Tom McDermott | N5EG |
| John McFadden | K5TIP |
| Liz McFadden | K5LIZ |
| Randy Parker | K5GLD |

| | |
|----------------|--------|
| Mike Schmit | WA9WCC |
| John Schroeder | K5ZMJ |
| Steve Scully | KI5HNR |
| Jim Skinner | WB0UNI |
| Bill Swan | K5MWC |
| Rohan Thomas | KG5RCN |
| Kerry Weeks | K5WKS |
| Milton Withers | AD5XD |

Program

After the meeting was called to order, business actions were placed on hold until after the program. This was done to accommodate presenter Tom McDermott N5EG, who was participating from Oregon and had additional commitments later in the evening.

The program, titled "SDR - DC to Daylight," covered a wide range of software-defined radio applications for amateur radio.

Officer and Committee Reports

The President's Report, Vice President's Report, Activity Manager's Report and Secretary's Report were referenced as they appeared in the September newsletter, and no changes were noted. Treasurer Rohan Thomas KG5RCN presented his report at the meeting.

Old Business

None.

New Business

New member Brian Belcher WA5M and member-in-processing Steve Scully KI5HNR were recognized.

Jim Brown AF5MA presented a group of four variations for the CARC logo, all incorporating the traditional Collins "meatball." His motion to adopt all as the official Club emblem was seconded by Kerry Weeks and approved unanimously by the members present.

Bill Swan K5MWC proposed a change to the CARC Statement of Purpose currently incorporated in the CARC Constitution. The new text as proposed was:

"It shall be our purpose to further the exchange of information and cooperation between members, promote radio knowledge, goodwill and individual operating skills, and to conduct Club programs and activities to advance the general interest and welfare of amateur radio among our members, the Company and the community."

Bill's motion was seconded by Kerry Weeks and approved unanimously by the members present.

Bill also moved that the Club apply for status as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization; this will include changes to Club or-

ganizational documents as needed for governmental compliance. The motion was seconded by Kerry Weeks and approved unanimously by the members present. Necessary updates to Club documentation will be developed by the Board and presented to the membership in the future for approval.

Announcements / Discussion

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN announced that the inventory of Club assets planned to start this month has been delayed indefinitely by access restrictions imposed by Collins Aerospace due to the Covid virus.

Frank also mentioned that there are no Club training plans at the moment due to Covid restrictions, but offered a contact for on-line courses at the Technician and General levels if anyone is interested.

Kerry Weeks K5WKS announced that next month's speaker would be Steve Coleman WB4GHY, describing his travels and DX experiences in such remote locations as Diego Garcia and Ascension Island.

After some discussion, it was informally agreed that the Club should plan to continue its Christmas tradition of dinner at Aboca's Italian Grill in Richardson this December. Frank Krizan will contact Aboca's to discuss options for assuring a Covid-safe experience for all.

John McFadden K5TIP announced his 60th wedding anniversary with Liz K5LIZ on 1 October. Congratulation, Liz and John.

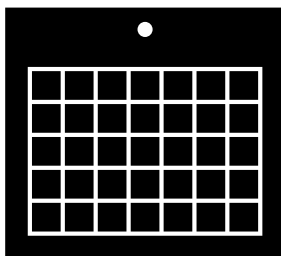
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2033.

Activity Manager's Report

... by Kerry Weeks, K5WKS

Our program this month is being given by Steve Coleman, WB4GHY, on what it's like to be the "DX". Steve travels worldwide for his company, Long Wave, and gets to use some of those big antennas his company is involved with. Should be an interesting meeting.



Our November meeting is our annual business meeting and election of officers, again via Zoom. We will not have a technical program that night. Instead, we will have a presentation by the Board of Directors on the status of our non-profit organization (501(c)(3)) application, a "question and answer" period on Ham Club Online, and a review of a draft budget and operating plan for 2021. This will be an excellent opportunity for our members to ask questions and contribute ideas for the planning process for our Club.

We won't have a regular meeting in December, but we are having our traditional Christmas dinner on Tuesday, December 8th, at Aboca's Italian Grill, 100 S Central Expy Unit 63, Richardson TX 75080. We've arranged to have seating available starting at 5:30 p.m. and order off the regular menu starting around 6:00 p.m. The CARC Board has approved some great door prizes (HRO gift certificates). Covid-19 guidelines are expected to still be in place: Social distancing, wearing of masks when walking through the restaurant and when in group discussions, and stay home if you have a fever or feel ill.

Just in case you've heard about a different date for the Christmas dinner, let me assure you that it's Dec. 8th. There was some confusion about our schedule and that of several other organizations wanting to dine at Aboca's. We were able to get our original planned date.

We're looking forward to a much better 2021, but unfortunately, we will still be meeting via Zoom for a while. The January meeting will include installation of new officers, approval of the 2021 Budget and Operating Plan, and we're planning to do another "Show and Tell" Night. So, if you have a new goody from Santa that you'd like to talk about, something you've built, some clever software or operating technique, let me know and we'll add you to the list. No formal program required. We'd like enough words and photos to fill 5 to 10 minutes. This should be fun. If you'd like to be a presenter, send me an email at weeks.kerry@gmail.com.

OCTOBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

(Cont. from page 1)

While at Long Wave, Steve has worked HF equipment, systems and antennas, and, performed HF receive site noise studies for the USAF and commercial HF customers.

He particularly enjoys operating mobile at home and around the world from rental cars. His DX mobile consists of an IC-7000, 200 watt amp and Little Tarheel HP antenna. His home station is an ICOM IC-7610 and Ameritron ALS-1300. WB4GHY's antennas are a Mosley PRO-96 for 40-10m and a 66-foot vertical for 30, 80 and 160m. His station is fully remotod. When at home, his mobile amp is 600 watts running into a 160-10m Hi-Q antenna.

Steve serves on the Board of the Texas Star Party (TSP), an annual gathering of amateur and professional astronomers held near Ft. Davis, TX. The TSP has installed a permanent ham station at Ft. Davis for use as a special events station (W5TSP) during the Star Party.

Minutes of the October Board of Directors Meeting

The Collins Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 13, 2020 beginning at 7:05 p.m. via Zoom. In attendance were: President-Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, Vice-President-Bill Swan, K5MWC, Secretary-Jim Brown, AF5MA, Treasurer-Rohan Thomas,

KG5RCN, and Activity Manager-Kerry Weeks, K5WKS. Attending as an observer was Jim Skinner, WB0UNI.

The Order of Business had been announced prior to the meeting and was re-arranged to follow a more logical flow.

1. The first order of business was a motion presented by Kerry and seconded by Bill: Moved that the Collins Amateur Radio Club contract for mailbox rental at the central Richardson post office for establishment of a permanent mailing address for the Club and that the President be empowered to set up this rental as an annual plan and that the Board review its use on an annual basis.

After a brief discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

2. On motion by Bill and seconded by Jim: Moved that the Board of Directors instruct the President to apply for an Employer Identification Number (EIN) under the Club's name, Collins Amateur Radio Club, for bank account and non-profit organization application purposes, after the new PO Box address has been obtained.

This matter has been discussed at previous Board workshops and meetings and was approved unanimously.

3. Regarding the Club's bank account: The following motion was presented by Kerry and seconded by Bill: Moved that the Board of Directors of the Collins Amateur Radio Club, in accordance with Articles VI and VII of the Club constitution, do herewith direct the President and Treasurer to establish a checking account in the name of the "Collins Amateur Radio Club" at Prosperity Bank and designate Frank J. Krizan, President, and, Rohan Thomas, Treasurer, as independent signatories on the account.

This motion is a formality, the wording of which is required by Prosperity Bank. The motion was approved unanimously.

4. Report on the new Constitution (Articles of Formation) and Bylaws. Frank reported that he hadn't had much time to rework the documents. He has done quite a bit of research on what is needed and had discussions with Glen Warnstaff, K5CPD, who is guiding us through the process of applying for non-profit organization status with the State of Texas and the IRS.

5. The election of officers for 2021 will be held at the November meeting. Frank reported that he has asked several members to run for Secretary or Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer are term limited; however, if no one can be found to run for those positions, our Constitution provides for suspension of this rule to allow the current officers to continue in their positions. As of the Board meeting, all current officers are willing to continue to serve another year.

In addition, Jim Skinner has agreed to continue to serve our Club as the Newsletter Editor, and, Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH, has agreed to continue to serve as our Webmaster.

6. The Board continued to support holding the annual Christmas dinner at Aboca's Italian Grill in Richardson. The

night we preferred (second Tuesday) is not available, but, Wednesday, December 9, 2020, is available. A reservation has been made for that night and this event will be promoted to our membership. (*Editors note: Since the Board meeting, the Tuesday, 8 December date for the Christmas dinner has become available—see Activity Manager's Report.*)

The subject of door prizes came up and the following motion was presented by Kerry and seconded by Jim: Moved that the Club provide Ham Radio Outlet gift certificates in the amounts of \$50, \$50, \$25 and \$25 for gift certificates at the Christmas dinner. The motion passed unanimously. The President was charged with obtaining the door prizes.

7. At the September Board meeting, the discussion of approving a new design for a Club name/call badge was set aside and reintroduced at this meeting. Jim has produced a design for the badge, based on the new Club logo, and this design was submitted to the Sign Man of Baton Rouge. The Sign Man will create an ordering page for badges and coffee mugs, and possibly some other items (with the Club logo).

The following motion was presented by Kerry and seconded by Rohan: Moved to present to Club membership a proposal to purchase Club badges for all current and future members at an initial cost not to exceed \$725. The motion passed unanimously. The motion will be presented at the October membership meeting.

The consensus of the Board was to order badges with a lanyard slot, provide a swivel clasp and mail badges to members. Having a common name/call badge will create a sense of community, especially when we start meeting in person once again. It will also serve to promote our Club when members attend other meetings and events.

8. The budget for 2021 was discussed. There has been no formal annual budget for several years, so we are starting from scratch. All Board members were asked to submit recommendations for expenses and sources of income to the President. The Board will conduct a budget workshop on Tuesday, November 3rd. This date is subject to change due to the national election. (*Editor's note: The date for the budget workshop has been changed to 2 November.*)

9. The Club's membership database has been converted to Ham Club Online. Bill and Frank are working out details on procedures to handle new and renewing memberships.

10. The Action Item Register (AIR) is taking longer than anticipated to reformat and place on the web site. Frank indicated that the AIR should be available by the October membership meeting.

11. The Tuesday CARC Drive Home Net has had an average of four stations participating. Those who check in have had some great conversations. Frank is planning to conduct an email survey to find out interest in the net and what days and times are best for our members.

12. Frank has been in contact with Plant Engineering at Collins Aerospace on how to arrange for Club announcements on the video monitors scattered throughout the facility. Frank and Jim are planning a promotional slide to encourage membership in the Club. In the future, we'll be able to announce other activities such as operating events, training, etc.

13. Our contact at the Methodist Richardson Medical Center has stated that our use of the conference rooms will not be available for the foreseeable future. A couple of suggestions were offered as possible alternatives for future in-person meetings and VE test sessions. Kerry and Frank are looking into these.

There being no further business, the Board of Directors meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Minutes reported by Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

HCOL - Part 1

Over the past year and a half, you've heard and read about our club's move to Ham Club Online (HCOL) as our membership database management tool. The move is complete, and will offer our Club officers and members a number of tools to help in not only roster management, but in communications regarding meetings, nets, surveys, etc.



The first thing you'll note in the Member's Only Section of the n5cxx.us web site, is that we now have two "Roster" links shown: "Legacy Roster" and "HCOL Roster". The Legacy Roster is a PDF of the former spreadsheet used by the Membership Chairman and will be produced through the end of 2020. The HCOL Roster is a dynamic display of our membership, produced by Ham Club Online. Over time, the HCOL Roster will change the variety of columns displayed, mainly based on inputs from members.

We want to keep the HCOL Roster as simple and as useful as possible. It's intended to be a quick resource to verify your membership status (i.e., type of membership and expiration date). On the left side of each entry is an icon which looks like a "list". Clicking on that icon will switch to a display of basic FCC data (i.e., mailing address, license class, license expiration, a locator map, etc.).

To examine a more detailed club roster, you will need to register as a user with Ham Club Online at www.hamclubonline.com. When you open the HCOL website, you'll note a "Register Now" just below the Username and Password blocks. Click on Register Now and follow the instructions. If you are a member of other clubs in the DFW area (RWK, MARC, PARK, DARC, and others), you may already be part of the HCOL system. It's important that you continue to use the same email address you are enrolled with for all clubs. Even though we all have unique call signs, Ham Club Online primarily tracks users by their email address.

Your mailing address is the one that is registered with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). HCOL will automatically use that address. If your mailing address isn't up to date, please correct it as soon as possible. If you need help, contact kr1zan@arri.net.

Once you are a registered user of HCOL, you can logon and select from any clubs you are a member of that use HCOL (world-wide). We're CARC - Collins Amateur Radio Club. As a member, you have several options to choose from. The two items at the top are: Manage Your Club Profile and Club Roster.

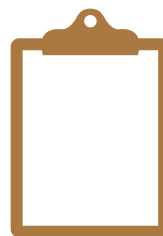
The Club Roster display is more detailed and similar to the Legacy Roster of the past. The nice thing about the HCOL Roster is that you can click on the column heading to cause a sort of any column. This can be handy if you're looking for a particular call sign, name or other members in your town. Selecting Manage Your Club Profile allows you to change your registered phone numbers, email address (remember it changes for every club you're a member of), emergency contacts and more.

And, when you're finished, scroll to the bottom of the screen and click "Logoff" to shut down your session properly.

This month, I'm encouraging you to register as a Ham Club Online User and verify you can log on to HCOL and CARC. Next month, I'll discuss the various areas of the Member's Profile. In the meantime, feel free to check out all the options available. If you have questions, send them to kr1zan@arri.net.

At this time, we don't have the ability to allow online membership extensions. Once we have PayPal set up, we'll let you know. This should prove handy for those who wish to renew electronically.

CARC Drive Home Net Report



The Collins ARC Drive Home Net continues on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 p.m. on the N5CXX Repeater 441.875 MHz, +5 MHz, PL=131.8 Hz. The Net is not held on the 4th Tuesday due to the monthly membership meeting.

All stations are invited to check in, whether a member of CARC or not. The Net is informal, operating as a roundtable.

Here's the log since last month:

SEPTEMBER 15 - [6] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5YO Clarence; WB0UNI Jim; KI5HYR Edward; K5GLD Randy; K5MWC Bill.

SEPTEMBER 22 - NO NET (MEMBERSHIP MEETING)

SEPTEMBER 29 - [3] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5GLD Randy; WB0UNI, Jim.

OCTOBER 6 - [4] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5MWC Bill; WB0UNI, Jim; K5GLD Randy.

OCTOBER 13 - [4] KR1ZAN (NCS) Frank; K5MWC Bill; WB0UNI Jim; KF5SGC Jack.

There's been discussion about changing the day and time of the Net to allow more stations to checkin. A survey is planned to be conducted soon asking for your interest in this Net and what schedule would be best for you. We can't accommodate everyone, but it's possible that a time change might help.

The Drive Home Net is intended for comments on amateur radio topics, listing items for buy/trade/sell, asking questions or contacting others on frequency. We hope you'll give it a try soon. We've had some great conversations of late.

Ham Exam 101

It may have been a while since you took your ham exams, or it may have been just a few weeks ago. Each month we'll review one question from each of the pools (Tech, General and Extra) to test your ham knowledge. The correct answers are shown (upside down) elsewhere in this issue of SIGNALS.



1. Electrical power is measured in which of the following units?
 - A. Watts
 - B. Amperes
 - C. Volts
 - D. Ohms

2. Which of the following is an effect of overmodulation?
 - A. Excessive bandwidth
 - B. Insufficient bandwidth
 - C. Frequency drift
 - D. Insufficient audio

3. How many different input levels can be encoded by an analog-to-digital converter with 8-bit resolution?
 - A. 256 divided by the gain of the input amplifier
 - B. 256
 - C. 8 multiplied by the gain of the input amplifier
 - D. 8



**Sporadic
SIGNALS
...captured by
Frank KRIZAN**

This announcement from the South Texas Hamfest is after-the-fact, but keep in mind the 2021 date: Unfortunately, like so many others, South Texas Hamfest has decided to cancel its annual Hamfest, (South Texas Hamfest & Electronics Expo) this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Since STH wasn't to be held until October 17th, we were hoping COVID-19 related conditions would have settled to a level that would permit us to have our event. Unfortunately, that can't happen.

We can only hope this pandemic will be behind us well before South Texas Hamfest & Electronics Expo for October 16, 2021 arrives. We will be using this time to prepare for a bigger and better Hamfest. 73 Gary KF5DZQ, southtex-ashamfest@gmail.com.

From Steve Franke, K9AN; Bill Somerville, G4WJS; and Joe Taylor, K1JT about new WSJT-X modes:

Quick-Start Guide to FST4. https://j11jvt.cocolog-nifty.com/blog/files/fst4_quick_start.pdf

Version 2.3 of WSJT-X introduces a new family of digital modes we designate as FST4. These modes have a wide range of capabilities and potential applications. Their fundamental sensitivities are better than most older modes in WSJT-X and are close to the theoretical limits for the same information throughput rates. Particular target applications include:

- WSPR-like, quasi-beacon transmissions on LF and MF bands
- QSOs with very weak signals on the LF and MF bands
- EME on VHF and UHF bands with T/R sequences both shorter and longer than 60 s

... but other uses will surely be found, as well. We expect that FST4 will serve some of its intended purposes better than older modes in WSJT-X, and without the strict time- and frequency-locking requirements of modes such as EbNaut.

From an unknown ham's sig line:

Amateurs built the ark.

Professionals built the Titanic.

A guide for beginner LOTW users has been released by Gary, ZL2IFB. Gary pulled together a team of contributors who assisted him on the project. The 33 page guide was written with the new user in mind, but contains many tips

and explanations that veteran users will find useful as well. The guide may be downloaded from: https://www.g4ifb.com/LoTW_New_User_Guide.pdf

Tower Safety

How can we drum up tower safety? Fall arrest harness/lanyards, helmet. The ham community has lost one ham a month (worldwide, on average) since the first of the year. This doesn't include serious injuries. Steve KG5VK, the ARRL NTX SM, would like to see clubs that can afford this to build a loaner kit with helmet, full body fall arrest harness, position lanyard, dual lanyard system with shock absorbing lanyards. Know when not to climb - 60 foot non-guyed tower is unsafe, as every 30 feet it should have guy wires.

Steve has supplied this list of useful videos:

The best safety presentation is this one hour and ten-minute presentation. I say it is the best because it provides why we need to better educate our fellow ham radio operators and it provides very solid statistics. https://youtu.be/1IW_oRMzACQ.

I encourage the first presentation be used to set the stage and change the lax mind-set that exists within our fraternity.

Next presentations worthy of any tower climbers time and those that are ground support personnel follow.

The following presentations are from our friends at DX Engineering. I applaud Tim Duffy K3LR and his crew for these excellent presentations that follow....(Most are less than ten minutes long.)

This 1st one is a good overview of safety <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qzn4MEOxVpl>.

This one is Part 2: "Is it Safe to Climb" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RxyxVZRfHNo>.

Part 3 "Rigging a Load on a Tower": https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GM84sHK_xt4.

Part 4 "Fall Arrest Gear": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyJ9ljhSt1o>.

Part 5 "Climbing with a Positioning Lanyard": <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Nml2ftl3XZc>.

I want to highlight he is using more than just "a lanyard" and note his comments about eight minutes into the presentation where he stresses to make sure you are tied into the proper connection on your belt, not a tool or something else.

Safe climbing is an attitude of safety, as much as it is the proper safety gear. It is NOT safe *without both*.

Several clubs have already started a tower safety education campaign, and I thank you all for helping with this.

Steven Lott Smith KG5VK

ARRL NTX Section Manager

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From **KE5GDB, Andrew Koenig via the K5RWK groups.io** discussion group (5Oct2020):

"We installed a 900MHz repeater on 927.025MHz with DPL532. The pair was commandeered from N5ERS (thanks Jay!) and is configured identically to the old Flowermound/N5ERS repeater. This repeater will be linked to the K5TRA 900MHz Allstar link most of the time, which tends to be a watering hole for 900 enthusiasts and a back-channel for VHF and up contest scheduling. The repeater is a Motorola Quantar. It, along with our 147.12MHz repeater, are GPS time referenced with assistance from the City. If you need to calibrate your RTL-SDRs to an accurate time source, I would recommend listening to the carrier on this repeater."

The new ARRL North Texas Website is now Live <https://arrlntx.org>

ARRL NTX Simulated Emergency Tests 2020:

NTX Section Traffic Net has their own exercise on November 7th. The ARRL North Texas Section and the DFW Metroplex Traffic Net(s) will hold an emergency communications exercise that Saturday. More details may be found at <http://bit.ly/2020ntsexercise>

The ARES side of the house will have a fall S.E.T. (Simulated Emergency Test) session on the 14th of November. Monitor the ARRL NTX website (above) for more details.

From HamCation in Florida comes this word: "As the world's second largest hamfest, we pride ourselves on delivering a high-quality event to our attendees and would not want to put on a show that is anything less than what the ham radio community deserves. After much deliberation, the difficult decision to postpone the 75th HamCation was made. It is with heavy hearts that we must make this decision. We had wished to see all of you next year in person, but the situation we face globally has made this challenging. Instead, HamCation will be moved to February 11-13, 2022. We are looking to host some unique webinars and a QSO Party for 2021. More information will be posted on our website soon."

... until next month, 73 de KR1ZAN

Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance

Stan Zawrotny, K4SBZ

(This article originally appeared in the August 2020 edition of *The Printed Circuit*, the newsletter of the Tallahassee Amateur Radio Society (FL) and is reprinted with permission of the author.)



Is your amateur radio equipment insured? Do you think you are covered by your homeowner's (or renters) policy? Maybe, maybe not.

Your homeowner's policy may not be enough ... Homeowner's contents coverage is usually not "All-Risk", replacement cost coverage. There is limited coverage at best for mobile equipment and inadequate coverage for antennas, rotors and towers can be a problem. Your homeowner's policy usually has a higher deductible (\$250, \$500 or more) and mechanical breakdown coverage just isn't available.

Or maybe you just want to chance it? Is that a wise decision in the state with the highest lightning strike rate (second highest in the world)? And then there are those pesky hurricanes and tornadoes. Both pack winds that are not friendly with towers and antennas. Water and rigs don't go together either. A fallen tree on your ham shack or car with a mobile rig can really hurt. Then you might simply do what I did 3-4 years ago. I dropped one of my HF transceivers and it landed square on the front panel. Total loss. Some losses are smaller and less disastrous. Recently the rear power jack developed an intermittent short and the power pole connectors melted. Small problem, but the repairs were \$250 plus over \$100 in shipping.

The ARRL insurance program is what first comes to mind. But, not advertised in QST, is Ham Radio Insurance Associates as an alternative choice. The two are described briefly below.

ARRL Amateur Radio Equipment Insurance

You can insure your Amateur Radio and related equipment through the ARRL programs. Equipment insurance also can be used to insure computers and other equipment used in your Amateur Radio installation.

ARRL Insurance Program coverage highlights:

- Property Covered: Ham radios and related equipment including computers!
- Deductible: Only a \$50.00 deductible applies!
- Competitive Rates: Minimum premium of only \$20.00!
- Computer Equipment: Computers, hard drives, printers.
- Theft from an Unattended Vehicle: Included with your premium.
- Coverage for towers & antennas up to \$15,000.00 replacement cost!
- A great rate of \$1.40 per \$100 of equipment covered! Details can be found at <https://www.arrlinsurance.com/>.

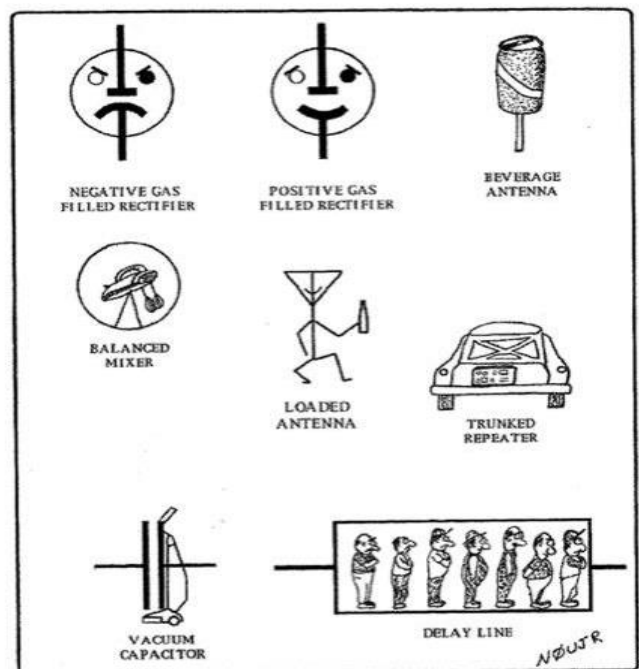
Ham Radio Insurance Associates (HRIA) The HRIA amateur radio equipment insurance plan is the economical, ef-

ficient way for you to protect your investment in commercially manufactured amateur radio equipment, computer equipment, software and even your antennas, rotors and towers. All of your ham equipment and more can be insured under one customized, well planned insurance policy. Even mechanical breakdown and electrical damage coverage is available through the HRIA plan. Ham Radio Insurance Associates program coverage highlights: No membership required

- Covers amateur radio equipment, computers, software, antennas, rotors and towers
- Optionally covers mechanical breakdown and electrical damage, including loss or damage from a short circuit or blowout (extra premium).
- Low \$50 deductible (*Ed. note: \$250 for towers and antennas*)
- Low cost (*Ed. note: minimum \$25 for \$1600 coverage*)

For more information, see <https://www.hamradioinsurance.com/>. Even after reading the glowing praises each provider has on their website, you should do your own research. Talk to other hams to hear their experiences. Check the various on-line amateur radio discussion groups. I find eHam <https://www.eham.net/reviews/view-category?id=63> to be a good source of comparisons. (*Ed. note: The review dates on eHam do not reflect current situations.*)

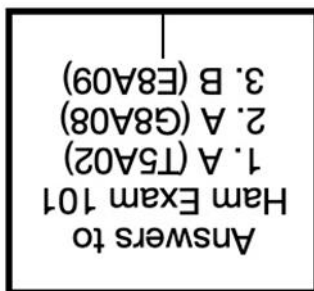
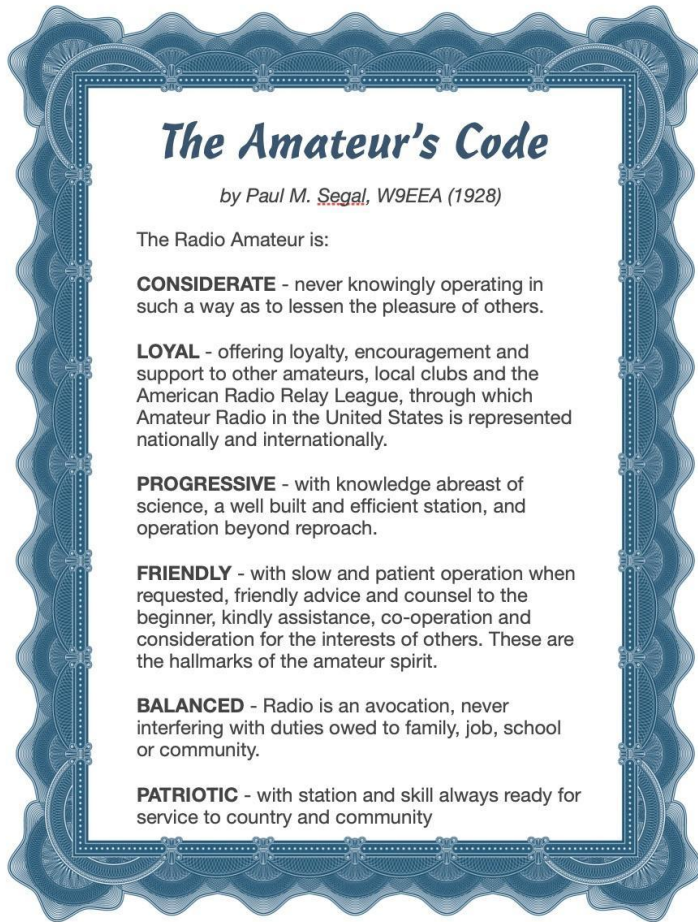
Like many discretionary expenditures, we all tend to put off buying insurance that is not required by law. Don't wait until it's too late!



More little known standard electronic symbols.

Reprinted with permission from Greg Trook from his book "NØUJR and His Friends"

Upcoming Events



| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| 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 |
| Tuesdays | Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 441.875 (+5) MHz, PL=131.8 Hz, 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 th Tuesday.) |
| 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 |

NOVEMBER

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 7-9 | Nov. Sweepstakes – CW --For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSONovember-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes . |
| 21-23 | Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone --For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSONovember-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at Details at http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes . |
| 28-29 | EME - 50 to 1296 MHz —Work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Details at http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest . |

DECEMBER

| | |
|--------------|---|
| 4-6 | 160 Meter --For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. Starts 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday: forty-two hour period with no time limitation. Details at http://www.arrl.org/160-meter |
| 12-13 | 10 Meter -- For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/10-meter |



Richardson, Texas

PO Box 830766

Richardson, TX 75083-0766

TO:



Richardson, Texas

CLUB STATION

(972) 705-1349

N5CXX REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input

131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS COL Node

145.05 MHz

N5CXX-N1, NRCXX-N2 & N5CXX-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 October 2020 **7:00 PM**

NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

THE October 2020 MEETING WILL BE CONDUCTED BY VIDEO CONFERENCE!

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 13 November 2020 ←←←