
SIGNALS

Rockwell
Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 28 Issue 03 Web Site <http://www.collinsclubs.com/rcarc/> December 2006

**RCARC
Membership Meeting**

**Due to the Christmas and
New Years Holidays, there
will be no meeting in De-
cember**

*Subject: Watch for the January 2007
meeting announcement*

EST 31 December 2006 and runs for 24 hours through 1900. EST 1 January 2007 (0000 -2400 UTC 1 January, 2007). More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/skn.html>

6-7 January 2007: ARRL RTTY Round-Up The object of this event is for Amateurs worldwide to contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using digital modes (Baudot RTTY, ASCII, AMTOR, PSK31, and Packet - attended operation only) on 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Any station may work any other station. **Date and Contest Period:** First full weekend of January, but never on January 1. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2400 UTC Sunday (6-7 January 2007). The rules allow operation of no more than 24 hours and the six hours of off time must be taken in no more than two blocks. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/rtty.html>

teurs only. The event begins 1900 UTC Saturday and ends 0400 UTC Monday (20-22 January 2007). More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2007/jan-vhf-ss.html>

7290 Traffic Net Training: The following email has been received offering traffic handling training opportunities.

My name is Jo Ann, KA5AZK, and I would like to invite you and your club members to join us on the 7290 Traffic Net for traffic handling training starting on 2 January 2007. We will start with the preamble of the message and work our way through an ARRL radiogram. The training will be on Tuesday and Saturday at 1100 during net time and will last from 15 to 30 minutes. There will also be training on net operation and check-in procedures. If propagation is not good the training will be postponed until the next Tuesday or Saturday.

The 7290 Traffic Net has been in operation since 1952 and is an independent net. We meet Monday thru Saturday from 1000-1200 and Monday thru Friday from 1300 to 1400. We also convene, at the discretion of the net manager, for emergencies or special events. We handle traffic for any location in the U S with members active in the National Traffic System.

We hope that you and your members will check in with us or just listen if they are interested in learning how to handle a message or brush up on their skills to be prepared for our next emergency.

Thanks and 73,
Jo Ann Keith, KA5AZK
7290 Traffic Net Manager
903.797.2353

Local Club News

W5ROK Membership Renewals!
It's time for club membership renewals. If you need an application form, please contact Joe Wolf, N5UIC, at 972.705.1388.

Website Manager Position Filled
The eBoard is delighted to announce that this very important position has been filled. Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH, has volunteered to assume this task. Wayne has experience performing such tasks for Incoast North Texas. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact Wayne. Welcome aboard Wayne.

Events and Public Service Opportunities

1 January 2007: Straight Key Night The object of this friendly event is to enjoy some good, old fashioned QSO fun, using straight keys. The emphasis is on rag-chewing rather than fast contest-type exchanges. *SKN 2007* begins at 1900

20-22 January 2007: ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes The object of this event is to 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 ama-



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Vacant

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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VE SESSIONS

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

Irving tests are held 3rd Sat. of each month at 09:00. 5th and Main St. Contact Bill Revis, KF5BL 252-8015

McKinney VE test sessions are held at the Heard Museum the first Sunday of the month. The address is 1 Nature Place, McKinney TX. The time of the testing is 14:30, ending no later than 16:45. *Note: no tests given on holiday weekends.*

Garland testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Bill Reynolds, K8DNE, 972-475-3854.

Plano testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 17th St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

Greenville testing is on the Saturday after 3rd Thursday, 1000 hrs at site TBA, contact N5KA, 903.364.5306. Sponsor is Sabine Valley ARA. Repeater 146.780(-) with 118.8 tone.

Wills Point Call Don W5QXK at 972-932-3595

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President's Message

The only really appropriate thing to say to all the members of the club this time of year is a heartfelt seasons greeting, so: I wish you

**A Joyous Christmas
and a
Happy, Healthy and
Prosperous New Year!**

And now it is time to say 73s til next year.

— · — · · · · — — · — — — · — ·
Bill Swan,
K5MWC, President

Secretary's Report

Bill Swan, K5MWC, opened the meeting at 1735 (12-07-06), in the RCI Cafeteria. Present at the meeting were:

Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Bob Coulbourne	W4FTD
Bill Fell	KK5PB
Jim Gaston	KD5GYD
Dave Jaksa	W0VX
Bob Kirby	K3NT
Steve Phillips	K6JT
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

The following business was conducted:

1. Officer Reports
 - a. Treasures' report was circulated and approved. There was no change in account balance. (no income and no expense)
 - b. The secretary's report for November, which appeared in the newsletter was accepted, without additions or modifications.
 - c. Steve Phillips, K6JT, the Repeater Trustee, reported that the time is now correct on the repeater.
 - d. Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, the Activities Chairman, reported that the recent contest results have been recorded in QST.
 - e. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, Membership Chairman, reported that there is a new membership form that doesn't ask for SSN. He will try to send the updated forms out this weekend.

2. Old Business

- a. TS950 Radio Problems: Bill Swan, K5MWC, outlined the clubs problems with the TS950 and reminded the group that several months back the club decided to finalize a decision on the TS950 in December. During their last meeting, the eBoard discussed the situation and has proposed that the TS950 be replaced at a cost less than \$3500. Once the new unit is installed the TS950 would then be auctioned for a minimum bid of \$500.00. Full disclosure of the units problems would be provided to prospective buyers. The official motion to replace the TS950 was raised by Jim Skinner, WB0UNI, and seconded by Steve Phillips, K6JT. The motion passed and it was decided that a committee would be formed to review possible candidate replacement transceivers. The findings of this committee would be reviewed and voted upon prior to the purchase of the new transceiver. The TS950 will be offered for auction to club members first and if it's not sold it will then be auctioned to the people outside the club.
- b. Website Manager: Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH, has expressed interest in taking over the website manager position. Originally the eBoard had decided to wait until January before making a decision but a motion was raised and approved to close the issue and allow Wayne to take over as Website manager.
- c. Computers for the Club Shack: The club shack currently has two aging Window98 generation PCs. Bill Swan, K5MWC, has investigated acquiring two company PC's for club use. Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, reported that we need a dual boot XP and DOS machine with a USB and RS-232 port. Currently there is no commitment from the company but the situation is hopeful.

3. New Business

- a. Clubs Year End Report: Bill Swan, K5MWC, reported that the clubs Year End report has been submitted to the company. A copy of the Year End Report will be sent to all club members.

- b. Omnibus: Bill Swan, K5MWC, reported that the new Omnibus requirements go into effect on Dec 15th. A new frequency allocation chart will be needed for the shack.
- c. New Radio Evaluation Committee: Denis Cobb, WA8ZBT, Dave Jaksa, W0VX. and Bill Fell, KK5PB, volunteered to form the committee responsible for recommending possible transceivers to replace the TS950.
- d. 30S1: During the last eBoard meeting the 30S1 was discussed. Currently this unit is not being used but does work. The club should consider how to best use this item.
- e. Telecom Corridor Meeting: The Telecom Corridor does not have any planned events for December.

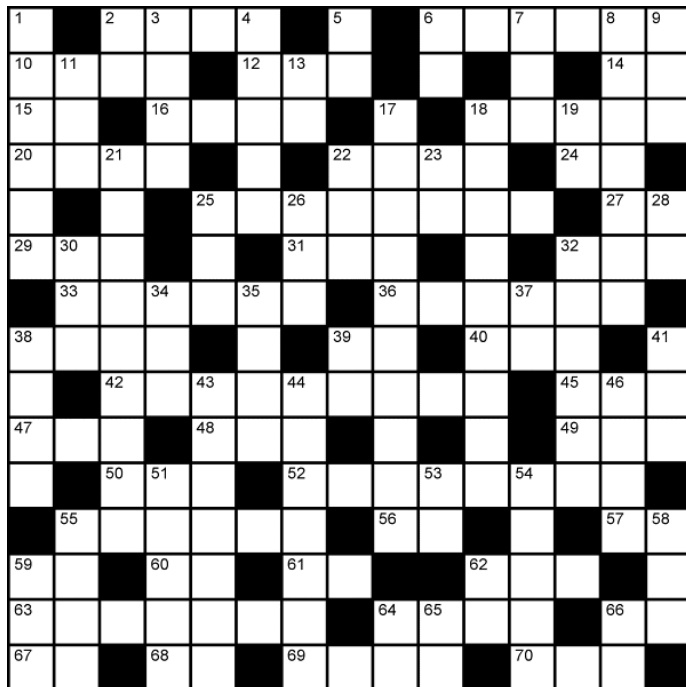
The meeting adjourned at 1815 and was followed by a brief presentation by Dave Jaksa, W0VX, on Elementary Contesting.

eBoard Meeting Minutes

- 1) Meeting opened at 1735 hours on 28 November 2006 with Bob Kirby (K3NT), Dennis Cobb (WA8ZBT) and Bill Swan (K5MWC) in attendance
- 2) The Board Meeting agenda was reviewed and adopted
- 3) The status and current condition of the TS950SDX was reviewed with the results that the members of the eBoard present felt it is time to replace it.
 - a) Intermittent problem continues to impact use of the unit especially during heavy usage times such as contesting.
 - b) Replacement parts harder to find and cost continues to increase
 - c) ACTION: eBoard to:
 - i) Review Status with membership on Thursday (30 November)
 - ii) Present a motion that the TS-950SDX be replaced at a cost of NTE \$3500.
 - iii) A small committee be formed to explore alternative Transceivers and to bring to the membership a recommendation for the purchase of the replacement.
- 4) Make the TS-950SDX available for sale by auction with a clear description of the condition so that one is informed about the intermittent problems. Minimum bid would be \$500

- 5) The Website Manager position is still open. Prior to the meeting no one had responded to the announcement that a replacement was needed. Bob Kirby confirmed that the web site is outside the Rockwell Collins Firewall with the implication being that someone who takes the position does not need to be an active Rockwell Collins employee.
 - a) ACTION: Dennis Cobb to send out an email message asking for volunteers to fill the vacant position. If no one responds by the eBoard meeting in January than Bob Kirby volunteered to take the position. (Current Update: On 29 November, a response has been received from Wayne Hughes who did volunteer to take the position. The eBoard will consider that note from Wayne and determine a recommended course of action. The membership will be advised of that decision.
- 6) The eBoard recognizes that as a result of the recent Omnibus Report and Order from the FCC that the new band allocations will go into effect on 15 December. A new band allocation chart will be obtained.
- 7) It was noted that the Year End Report has been delivered to HR and also distributed to all members via email. No comments or questions have been received to date from HR.
- 8) It was noted that the computers in the radio room are very old and running non supportable OS packages.
 - a) ACTION: Bill Swan to look into the possibility of getting two of the units being removed from service for RCARC's use.
- 9) The eBoard also asked Dennis Cobb to make sure that electronic copies of files used by program speakers be saved after receiving approval from the presenter to do so. This would make the program available to those that might wish to study it more closely; those that wish to retain it for their information and for those that could not make the meeting time.
- 10) Additional discussions included the need to put up for sale the 30S-1. In the interest of time at the meeting, it was determined that discussion on this item be considered optional.
- 11) There being no other business of record, meeting was adjourned.

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler



Across

- 2. A crafty antenna manufacturer
- 6. Type of bearing
- 10. Has the prefix A4
- 12. Digital response for "received OK"
- 14. Puts out a signal (abbr)
- 15. Output resistance (abbr)
- 16. To start up (abbr)
- 18. Contains water vapor, undesirable on Field Day
- 20. Give up
- 22. Field Day station for new hams
- 24. External tube dimension
- 25. Heats a tube
- 27. Runs an ARES team
- 29. December time zone at ARRL HQ
- 31. Big Blue computer company
- 32. Conclusion
- 33. What you do at your QTH
- 36. Flip over
- 38. Thin conductor
- 39. Handheld radio (abbr)
- 40. Equivalent loss component (abbr)
- 42. Stores electrical energy
- 45. Keeps an FM signal centered
- 47. Equal scores
- 48. Not working properly
- 49. Just a little
- 50. Forward and reflected (abbr)
- 52. Too much 50 Across
- 55. Strips that hold something on or to-

- 69. Take quickly
- 70. Acknowledge (abbr)

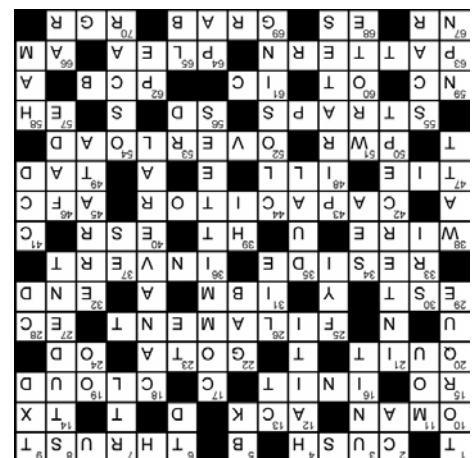
Down

- 1. Twisting force
- 2. State with its own call district
- 3. What something is measured in
- 4. North American country whose prefix is all dits
- 5. Pause (CW prosign)
- 6. Amount of delay (abbr)
- 7. Oldest logic family
- 8. One who studies
- 9. Packet TNC parameter for transmitter timing
- 11. Written agreement
- 13. Popular contest logging program by K1EA
- 17. Groups that administer or report
- 18. Launch facility
- 19. Band monitor
- 21. Unintended reception
- 22. Yak
- 23. Propagation across the equator (abbr)
- 25. Informative memo (abbr)
- 26. Fib
- 28. Non-volatile rotating memory media
- 30. CW abbreviation of regret
- 32. List of errors
- 34. Full of salt water
- 35. Duplicate installations
- 37. And (CW abbr)

- gether
- 56. Next to ND in tenth district
- 57. Fields in a radio wave
- 59. Station that runs the net
- 60. Long-term ham (abbr)
- 61. Collector current (abbr)
- 62. What circuits are built on (abbr)
- 63. Graph of radiation by direction
- 64. CQ for that last state
- 66. Oldest phone mode
- 67. Number (abbr)
- 68. Magic band propagation mode (abbr)

- 38. One joule per second
- 39. Telegrapher's laugh
- 41. Imaging chip
- 43. Bootleggers
- 44. What CL means about your station
- 46. Reduction in received signal strength
- 51. Written in the past
- 53. Read (abbr)
- 54. Amateur satellite
- 55. Unhealed or unrepaired damage
- 58. Our type of radio
- 59. Bipolar transistor type
- 62. Engineer that stamps building plans
- 64. Output stage of a transmitter (abbr)
- 65. Measure of weight (abbr)
- 66. End of message (CW prosign)

Solution to this month's Puzzler



January 2007 QST Cool Articles

There is an interesting article in the January 2007 QST about the Collins KWM-1, starting on page 42. On page 100 W5ROK made the list under the "Midwest Region" near the top of the page. For those of you who don't receive QST, we will attempt to include the article about the KWM-1 in a newsletter in the near future.

Classified Ads

Radio Repair, Kit Building, Antenna and Computer Help. Free Estimates; Contact Bob Kirby K3NT at k3nt@arrl.net

Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



CLUB STATIONS

(972) 705-1349

W5ROK REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input

131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

W5ROK-1 PACKET BBS ROK Node

145.01 MHz

MEETING

**Due to the Christmas
and New Years Holidays
there will be no meeting
in December**

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

15 January 2007

