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# SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 29 Issue 05

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

February 2008

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## RCARC Membership Meeting

**\*Thursday\***  
**\*28 February 2008\***  
**1700 in**  
**Rockwell Collins**  
**Cafeteria**

*Subject: DXing from a City Lot, by R. Dean Straw, N6BV*

five (5) hours in the thirty three (33) hour 2008 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes. Operating in the low power category. W5ROK completed a total of 104 contacts. We operated on the following bands of 6 Meters, 2 Meters, 70cm and 23cm. Notable, is that these contacts were made under marginal propagation conditions.

**Welcome New Members** The following Amateurs have recently joined RCARC:

Ian DiFranco	KE5FOM
Randy Dunning	KC5QHH
Romeo Riojas	KE5SAL
Andrew Robinson	KE5SAK

**HSMW Working Group** Below is the new home for the HSMW Working Group veterans. It is hosted by the North Texas Microwave Society. There are at least two other 802.11 groups (TAPR and a yahoo.com group) but this is by far the most active. That fact is mentioned in the new *ARRL VHF Digital Handbook* currently scheduled release ~ March 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. [ntms-hsmw@yahoogroups.com](mailto:ntms-hsmw@yahoogroups.com)

**RCARC YL Mentor** It is with great pride that RCARC asks each of you to join us in a very warm and heartfelt welcome to Stephanie Keese—AC5NF, who has graciously accepted the position of RCARC YL (young lady) Mentor. Your radio club is determined to provide guidance and direction to all members and her role as RCARC YL Mentor is critical to that goal. Stephanie will provide any special assistance needed by the YLs in the radio classes to prepare for their test and to help find their niche in Amateur Radio. A new W5ROK YL page has been added to the RCARC homepage. <http://www.w5rok.us/>. This page can also be accessed

directly at [http://www.w5rok.us/yl/w5rok\\_yl\\_page.htm](http://www.w5rok.us/yl/w5rok_yl_page.htm). Welcome Aboard Stephanie

**RCARC YL Mentor**  
Stephanie Keese  
AC5NF  
972-705-3122  
[kskeese@gmail.com](mailto:kskeese@gmail.com)

## Upcoming Events and Public Service Ops

### 16-17 February 2008: ARRL International DX Contest (CW)

The object of this event is for W/VE amateurs to work as many amateur stations in as many DXCC countries of the world as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Foreign amateurs (also including KH6, KL7, CY9, and CY0) work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible. The event duration is 48 hours, and starts at 0000 UTC Saturday and ends at 2400 UTC Sunday. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/intldx.html>

### 1-2 March 2008: ARRL International DX Contest (Phone)

The object of this event is for W/VE amateurs to work as many amateur stations in as many DXCC countries of the world as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. Foreign amateurs (also including KH6, KL7, CY9, and CY0) work as many W/VE stations in as many of the 48 contiguous states and provinces as possible. The event duration is 48 hours, and starts at 0000 UTC Saturday and ends at 2400 UTC Sunday. More info at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/intldx.html>

## Local Club News

**Meeting Notice** In month's program, Dean Straw, N6BV, one of the world's top antenna experts, will discuss mainly antennas, but also explore briefly how different antennas affect coverage of areas around the world. Dean is also an enthusiastic contester so he will close his talk with some practical DX antennas for a small city lot. See more detail in the Activities Corner article in this newsletter.

**Club Meeting Talk-In** Each month, we have a Talk-In on the club repeater before the membership meeting on the night of the meeting. The Talk-In is from 1700 to 1730 hours, just prior to the meeting.

**RCARC Vice President Election** The winner is: Dennis Cobb - WA8ZBT. Congratulations Dennis! We look forward to your guidance and support of our Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club.

**2008 ARRL January VHF Sweepstakes** The weekend of January 19<sup>th</sup>, RCARC participated for a total of

**R-CARC OFFICERS****PRESIDENT**

**Bob Kirby** **K3NT**  
**319.360.0500**  
 k3nt@arrl.net

**VICE PRESIDENT**

**Dennis Cobb** **WA8ZBT**  
**972.705.1464**  
 ddcobb@rockwellcollins.com

**SECRETARY**

**Jim Gaston** **KD5GYD**  
**X3369**  
 jrgaston@rockwellcollins.com

**TREASURER**

**Jim Skinner** **WB0UNI**  
**214.535.5264**  
 wb0uni@arrl.net

**ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN**

**John Champa** **K8OCL**  
**X1531**  
 k8ocl@arrl.net

**WEBSITE MANAGER**

**Wayne Hughes** **WA0TGH**  
**461-258** **1406**  
 wa0tgh@arrl.net

**STATION TRUSTEE**

**Steve Phillips** **K6JT**  
**972.517.3332**  
 k6jt@arrl.net

**CLUB STATION**

**972.705.1349** **W5ROK**  
**461-290**

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

**Jim Skinner** **WB0UNI**  
**972.690.9612**  
 wb0uni@arrl.net

**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**

Greetings my fellow RCARC members. The past month has been one of increased growth and activity for our club with help from those both inside and outside the club. I am very proud and thank each and every one of you for your active participation.

- New RCARC YL Mentor - Stephanie Keese, AC5NF
- First edition W5ROK Station Operators Manual - Robert Diepenbrock, KC4UAI
- Second Amateur Radio Class Complete – John Champa, K8OCL; Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH; Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH; Ian DiFranco, KE5FOM
- RCARC Marketing – Joe Wolf, N5UIC; Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH
- Second FCC Exam Complete - John Champa, K8OCL; Dawn Reyes, HR Manager; VEC's \*RCARC Members John McFadden – K5TIP; Liz McFadden – K5LIZ; *Outside* Bill Reynolds, K8DNE; (See John, K8OCL, for other attending VECs)
- New Members – Romeo Riojas, KE5SAL; Ian DiFranco, KE5FOM; Andrew Robinson, KE5SAK, Randall Dunning, KC5QHH
- Individuals Passing Their Technician Class: Kenneth Crowder, Bruce Ferris, Kenneth Hess, Brian Linder, Derek Maney, Stephen Ross, Steven Schmitt, Sidney 'Ross' Terry, Trinidad Vasquez
- Individuals Upgrading to General Class: Claude Farley, Sean Lee, KE5SAN
- Individuals Upgrading to Extra (Highest) Class: Jon Jacobson, K5XRF, \*RCARC Member! Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS
- New Vice President Elected – Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT
- New Member Station Tour - Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT; Robert Diepenbrock, KC4UAI
- Acting Facility ERT Coordinator - John Champa, K8OCL
- Updated W5 QSL Bureau for W5ROK Scott Armstrong, AA5AM
- Updated ARRL Affiliated Club Information - W5ROK

- ARRL Education Assistance - Rose-Anne Lawrence, KB1DMW
- Started Activities Corner - John Champa, K8OCL
- Yet Another Great SIGNALS Newsletter – Jim Skinner, WB0UNI
- Treasurers Report - – Jim Skinner, WB0UNI
- Website Updates - Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH
- RCARC Membership Applications & Database - Joe Wolf, N5UIC
- Secretary Reports – Jim Gaston, KD5GYD
- Station Trustee – Steve Phillips, K6JT
- Member Profile Responders – Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN; Bill Overacker, W4TJN; Louis Svach, N5VFO;
- Special Member Support – Kathy Cobb: Bill Swan-K5MWC
- PDF File Conversion – Cindy Kirby

The RCARC vice president position was put to a vote at last month meeting. Thanks to Bill Swan, K5MWC, for coordinating this election. Please join me in congratulating and supporting our winner, Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT.

Your club is an American Radio Relay League affiliated. The ARRL is a great national organization with many benefits. Please consider joining and noting RCARC membership before you send in your application to the ARRL. As RCARC is an ARRL affiliated club we will benefit if you note you are a member. RCARC membership applications go to Joe Wolf, N5UIC, res0wapq@verizon.net Help with the ARRL application is available from Bill Fell, KK5PB, kk5pb@arrl.net

RCARC has learned that the ARRL will publish the first ever “VHF Digital Handbook” as early as March 2008. According to Steve Ford, WB8IMY, “Without complicated “owners manual” jargon—**ARRL’s VHF Digital Handbook** presents the material through a unique how-to approach and friendly, conversational style. Readers will understand how to setup and operate their equipment and software, and make the best use of their VHF digital station.” Our own RCARC member John Champa, K8OCL wrote the chapter on High Speed Multimedia: “Discover how you can set up your own wireless Ama-

teur Radio data network by modifying over-the-counter gear such as routers and access points. It’s ham WiFi consumers can only dream about!” Congratulations John!

Please note that starting this month **we will be meeting at 5PM**. Mr. Champa tells me there will be some refreshments. Please plan to arrive early to meet and greet RCARC members and guests. Our business meeting will start promptly at 5:30 PM with the USA pledge of allegiance. New at this month’s meeting, we will be starting a 50-50 raffle. Tickets are \$2 each, 3 for \$5 and 7 for \$10. The proceeds will be used to support club activities such as refreshments at our meetings.

Thank You RCARC Members from One Proud RCARC President!

Best Regards (73),  
Bob Kirby, K3NT  
[K3nt@arrl.net](mailto:K3nt@arrl.net)  
<http://w5rok.us>

## Secretary's Report

Bob Kirby, K3NT, opened the January RCARC meeting at 1730 (Jan. 24th 2008) with the USA pledge of allegiance, in the RCI Cafeteria. Present at the meeting were:

Charlie Beis	K5UWD
Jim Gaston	KD5GYD
Wayne Hughes	WA0TGH
Larry Kerns	KA5TGP
Doug Kilgore	KD5OUG
Bob Kirby	K3NT
John McFadden	K5TIP
Liz McFadden	K5LIZ
Dwight Ramsey	KE5SAS
Andrew Robinson	KE5SAK
Jim Sturges	KC5QGK
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Joe Wolf	N5UIC

The following business was conducted:

### 1. Officer Reports

- President's Report:* Bob Kirby, K3NT, reported The major agenda item is the Vice President Election.
- Vice-President's Report:* The Vice-President's position was vacant at the time of this meeting.
- Treasurers Report:* Jim Skinner, WB0UNI, was not able to attend. Bob reviewed the treasurer's report.

The treasurer's report was accepted.

- Station Trustee's Report:* Steve Phillips, K6JT, was not able to attend.

### 2. Old Business

- Special Vice-President Election:* Bill Swan, K5MWC, reviewed the requirements for Officer Candidacy: any member of the club can run for office (active employee or retiree). Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, has decided to seek the Vice President position. There were no stand-in candidates identified during the meeting. A motion was raised to elect Dennis Cobb by acclamation. The motion passed. Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, was elected to the club's Vice President Position effective January 24<sup>th</sup> 2008 through September 2008.

### 3. New Business

- Club Web Site:* Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH, has been managing the club's website, W5ROK.us. The site is a great source of HAM radio information. It contains: Previous Newsletters, Membership Rosters, Club Bylaws, Previous Meeting Presentations, an Operations Manual for the Club's Station, Annual Statements, and more. A suggestion was made to add a swap list to the website which might help facilitate equipment exchange and sale amongst club members.
- Other Club Related News:* A 1000 VA (670 watts maximum load) UPS has been donated by John Champa, K8OCL, for use with the club's repeater. John is also working to get the repeater attached to the company's emergency backup power.

Bob Kirby, K3NT, closed the business meeting at 1800. Doug Kilgore, KD5OUG, presented his experiences with HAM Radio in supporting local events (Plano Balloon Festival / Wild Ride Bike Rally) and most recently his journey to Alaska.

**Activities Corner** *By John Champa, K8OCL, RCARC Activities Chairman*

**W5ROK 2008 Field Day Chairman Needed Now!** ARRL Field Day, June 28-29, 2008 is a great way to learn to operate under increased radio traffic conditions. If you operate, you will increase your skills. If you participate, you will learn valuable tips that you will be able to apply to your home or mobile station. See: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/fd-2008-packet.pdf>

In order for RCARC to have a 2008 Field Day station/activity this year, we must identify a Field Day Chairman ASAP! This person manages W5ROK FD activities of Field Day status, station power (generator), security access, setup & securing, station operators, evening meal, etc. If you can fill this lead position, please contact our president Bob Kirby, K3NT [k3nt@arrl.net](mailto:k3nt@arrl.net) or 972-612-4094.

So far, three members have stepped forward and volunteered to help with RCARC 2008 Field Day: Bob Diepenbrock, KC4UAI (operator) Gene Duprey, K1GD (operator) and Jim Sturges, KC5QGK (help with evening meal). Please consider joining the 2008 W5ROK Field Day team in your area of interest. Thank you.

**Our New YL Mentor!** RCARC identified a need with our new operator classes of special assistance for female (YL) students. Let's face it, Amateur Radio operators are predominately male. However, we know that YLs have played a significant role in Amateur Radio for over a century! To more effectively communicate that vital message to new students and members, we have sought the assistance of an experienced YL in our own ranks. Fortunately, one has stepped forward. She is

Stephanie Keese, AC5NF  
 CARC YL Mentor  
 972-705-3122  
[kskeese@gmail.com](mailto:kskeese@gmail.com)

If you know of any YL who is interested in getting her FCC License or if you are a licensed YL and would like to help and support Stephanie, please give her a call or send her an e-mail today! Thanks.

**Volunteer Instructors Needed** As all of you probably know, our club has been

providing free classes to help employees, both retired and active, achieve their Radio Amateur license. What you may not know is that we continue to need more volunteer instructors! With the few teaching volunteers that we have received one would think it was a difficult task, when in reality is loads of FUN! All instructor materials are provided. All you have to do is talk to the topics on the slides provided and enter your radio observations, comments and experiences along the way to the enthusiastic students. That's it!

What are you waiting for? Call John Champa, K8OCL (972-333-9478) to volunteer today ([k8ocl@arrl.net](mailto:k8ocl@arrl.net)). Thanks!

**A Very Special 10 Minutes** We are very fortunate to have a new club member, Randall "Randy" Dunning, KC5QHH. However, there is something even more special about Randy. He is a former City Councilman and a Republican Candidate for Texas State Representative for District 112. Regardless of your political party orientation, it is always a good thing to have one of our own in government. We should always encourage fellow Radio Amateurs to get involved in public service and look for opportunities to have those who do serve share their experiences with us. Randy will be speaking to us on this topic at our next meeting: 5 PM Thursday, February 28, in the employee cafeteria, Building 461, but please feel free to discuss with Randy before or after the meeting any issue of importance to you. Most importantly, get out and VOTE! It is your duty as a citizen of this great nation.

**Entertaining and educational program for our February Club Meeting!** Our guest speaker for our February meeting is the top antenna expert for the ARRL: R. Dean Straw, N6BV. Dean has been licensed for 48 years, starting with WH6DKD in 1959. He has held six call signs. You will not want to miss Dean's fascinating presentation!

Dean was trained as an electronics engineer at Yale University. His first job out of college was at the National Radio Company, where he designed SSB and VHF radios. He was in the marine electronics industry for 25 years, eventually ending up in technical marketing.

He has been working for ARRL HQ for 14 years, specializing in antennas, transmission lines and propagation. He is the editor of The ARRL Antenna Book and other books dealing with antennas. He is still having an absolute ball! Except for radio amateurs here at Rockwell Collins, few folks are so blessed by the Good Lord to combine their work and hobby together.

The title of Dean's presentation at our meeting is DXing from a City Lot. In his talk he will discuss mainly antennas, but also explore briefly how different antennas affect coverage of areas around the world. Dean is also an enthusiastic con-tester so he will close his talk with some practical DX antennas for a small city lot. See you at 5:00 PM on February 28. Refreshments will be served.

**What is ahead?** The March 2008 Club Program will be an exciting presentation by yet another new member and active employee: Ian DiFranco, KE5FOM, on the very important topic of RACES. Did you know that the RCARC has an MOU with Rockwell Collins to support the facility Emergency Response Team (ERT)? You do not want to miss this one! All members should attend.

April or May RCARC program may be on Radio Controlled Aircraft.

Have a program for the club? Please let me know. Thanks, John, K8OCL.

**W5ROK RCARC to Do List** Here is a list of radio club items that require our attention. Please consider helping where you can. Just let any of the club officers know when/where you can help.

- Inventory
- Workcrew for Damaged Antennas
- Adding UPS to Club Repeater
- Adding Computer Logging & ARRL LOTW to W5ROK Station
- Linking the W5ROK Computers (2)
- Listing the Current RCARC Books & Training Aids
- Listing Member Loan Items (Radio's, Antennas, Tuner, MFJ 269B Antenna Analyzer, etc)
- Planning For a RCARC 1.2 GHz Repeater (coordination, repeater layout, controller, hard-line, antenna, installation etc.)

Well, that's about all for this month. 73, John-K8OCL.

## W5ROK Station Operators

**Manual** Ever wonder what to do after you enter the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club room? How do I find and turn on the power? How do I find and select the proper antenna? What is each radio used for? How do I reset all this stuff when it is time for me to leave this station?

Member Robert Diepenbrock—KC4UAI, has taken the lead and authored the first edition of the "W5ROK Station Operators Manual!

The best part is that you can enjoy it right now. Just go to the "Members Only" area of <http://www.w5rok.us/> and click on W5ROK Station Operators Manual.

Do you have suggestions, comments or corrections? Please send them to Bob at [kc4uai@arrl.net](mailto:kc4uai@arrl.net) or to Bob Kirby at [k3nt@arrl.net](mailto:k3nt@arrl.net)

## ARRL Membership Benefits

There are "fringe" benefits for RCARC when our members join or renew through the following process.

**Renewing By Check**—After filling out the form, return it to RCARC with your check. Note the definition of New or Renewing Member at the top of the form. If you have previously been a member of ARRL but have let that membership lapse for 2 or more years then you are considered a new member and the club would get a \$15 commission. If you are renewing a current membership or one lapsed for less than 2 years, you are considered a renewing membership and would get a \$2 commission. Do not deduct the \$15 or \$2 commission—make the check out to RCARC for the full renewal amount.

**Renewing By Credit Card**—If you wish to CHARGE the renewal to a credit card note the special instructions (Box on right side of form) which indicate that you would then pay the \$15 or \$2 directly to RCARC. Your credit card would be charged for the full amount minus the appropriate commission. In this instance the check should be made out to the RCARC for the appropriate commission amount.

In both cases, return the application to RCARC regardless of payment method in order for RCARC to get credit. *The ap-*

*plication is now available on the RCARC website!* Mail to the following address:

RC Amateur Radio Club  
Attn: Treasurer  
MS 461-290  
PO Box 833807  
Richardson TX 75083-3807

**Days are numbered for stick antenna.** *Why the once-ubiquitous stick antenna is now an endangered species*  
Toronto Star Jan 26, 2008

*(Contributor's comment: This story is in the Toronto Star but one wonders if perhaps reports of the death of this antenna are not a bit premature)*

DETROIT—An automotive appendage that often goes unnoticed on the road —unless it loses a battle with the automatic car wash — is disappearing as it succumbs to changing technology, tastes and economics.

The stalwart stick, pole or fixed-mast antenna, mounted on the fender of nearly every vehicle two decades ago, is now on about half of all new models and its ranks continue to dwindle. When trucks are removed from the equation, it's around 25 per cent. Its vanishing act is notable on many new vehicles. The 2008 Ford Taurus, for example, has a hidden, in-glass antenna and optional small, roof-mounted satellite radio antenna.

"There's an industrywide push to move away from a metal mast antenna," said Alan Hall, a spokesperson for Ford Motor Co. "Within the next few years, all (Ford) cars and crossovers will have transitioned to the smaller antenna." The stick antenna faces interference on several fronts. Designers seek to erase anything that detracts from sleek lines, engineers want to eliminate drag that increases noise and decreases gas mileage, and consumers desire signals for their cellphones, satellite radios and global-positioning system devices.

And auto executives are trying to cut costs of commodities such as steel and reduce threats to quality — even before cars reach consumers. Stick antennas are removed when the carriers deliver the cars to dealers so they aren't damaged. Toyota Motor Corp. is mostly free of the traditional long stick antenna, except on single-cab pickup

trucks and convertibles, which aren't well suited for in-glass antennas. One Toyota executive said the change began in 2001. Quality, fuel economy and cost of operation, drive Toyota's decision-making, said Paul Williamsen, the national manager of Lexus College, a training school for U.S. dealers. "Both are what come out of the customer's pocketbook. And an antenna is going to lose on both."

The change has challenged antenna suppliers. Some have gone out of business or been acquired by larger suppliers as auto makers have sought to squeeze costs. "You have to provide what they want or else you lose their business," said Jan Boring, president of Global Products Inc. and sales representative for the U.S. subsidiary of Japan-based Harada Industry Co. Ltd., one of the world's major mobile antenna makers. "There's been a demand by the industry for increased technological improvements for hidden types of antennas." Boring said Harada still makes stick antennas, but has moved toward roof-mounted and in-glass models that accommodate GPS, cellular and other frequencies. The old stick probably would have vanished by now — but for one nagging thing: **It has provided better reception than its offspring. "For really good reception for low and high frequency, boy, it's hard to beat a good stick on a large field of metal,"** Williamsen said. He said automakers have worked for 25 years on a "diversity antenna," a field of antennas that can be embedded in the side and rear glass of the vehicles to pull in signals. It's a way of achieving similar results from the stick.

General Motors Corp. tried putting antennas in windshields in the 1970s, but they didn't offer good reception. And the standard stick also was threatened in the 1980s and '90s by power mast antennas, electronically controlled by drivers. Problem was, the power antenna was even more likely to be damaged in car washes if it wasn't lowered. Boring said the evolution of the antenna — and demise of the stick — is positive. "You have abilities to have navigation systems in your vehicle, cellular phones and telematics, capability of having satellite radio and others," he said. "You have these conveniences without having extra antenna masts protruding from the vehicle."

**RCARC Member Profile—Louis Svach, N5VFO** This month we are pleased to profile member Louis A. Svach, N5VFO. Louis is a retired member that lives over 100 miles away in Morgan, Texas.

***How did you get started in Amateur Radio?***

I got started in Amateur Radio in 1991 when I started attending Technician level classes with Frank Krizan at the north end of Bldg. 401 on the old Collins campus on Bowser and Arapaho in Richardson. I took and passed my Technician class rating at the Ham-Com Convention in Arlington, TX in the summer of 1991. Later, I took my General Class tests (code and written) at a testing session sponsored by the Garland ARC. Then, Rockwell-Collins sponsored a special upgrade test session where Bill Fell and I both passed our Advanced Class license exam.

***What are some of the most interesting memories or QSO's***

Well, Bob, the most recent and interesting QSO was not via radio frequency but by digital means: I have been using Echolink (VOIP) to communicate with other hams around the world and about 3-4 years ago, came across a gentleman who had been a British Navy electronic technician (I was an ET in the US Navy during the Korean War) during WWII. His home is in Nailsea, England which is located in the southwestern part of England, near Bristol. We established a weekly schedule on Echolink and have conversed with each other for nearly 4 years. Sadly, he has dementia and is in failing health for many other reasons and our contacts are few and far between in the last 6 months.

***Have you been a builder? If so, what were your projects?***

Not really. Although, 2 years ago I designed and built my own center-fed dipole antenna system. It stretches across the top of my house and over to the north end of my carport. I used ladder wire to come down, through the wall of my bedroom, and to my new MFJ 974 Balanced Line Tuner. My radio equipment consists of a Kenwood TS-850S transceiver with microphone (no key!) Although I passed the 13 WPM code test for my General, I have not used it since.

***Do you belong to the ARRL?***

Yes.

***Read any other Ham magazines, like CQ?***

No.

***What are your current Ham Radio interests?***

Sadly, few. I have joined various clubs in my travels since retiring from Rockwell-Collins and none have been as active or motivating. I have joined two local clubs here in the area where I live but membership is small and declining. Newsletters were published monthly back 3 years ago but have ceased entirely in the past year. One of the clubs still participates in Field Day exercises but not the other club.

***What are your other hobbies?***

Computers and Genealogy. I have been very interested in computers since my first contact with them at University of Illinois (ILLIAC) in 1954. In 1981 I bought my first personal computer, the IBM-PC, when Collins Radio allowed engineers to buy one with no money down and 12-months no-interest deductions from our paychecks. Since then I have probably owned a dozen or more computers, upgrading every couple of years. My interest in genealogy surged when my mother passed away in 1989 and I have been working ever since to collect information about my ancestors.

Echolink on the Internet has been a real boon to me; I know the purists think CW on RF bands is the only way to go! Hi Hi One of my other contacts on Echolink is a retired bank president from Kansas City who had been a US Navy radioman during WWII. He claims he could do 65-70 WPM on morse back then. Today, he still dabbles in a net on 40 meters with some of his old friends, but most have died. Another one of my contacts on Echolink is an older gentleman who has been a licensed ham operator for about 55 years and has held an Extra Class license for many years. He is also a licensed examiner and participates in licensing sessions regularly. He gave up on Morse code some time ago and enjoys dabbling in new digital techniques with slo-scan TV, Echolink, etc.

***Are you active on any of the HF or VHF bands, Nets?***

No.

Well, Bob, that's about all that I can add for today. Thanks again for your interest and response to my original e-mail. I can only wish we lived closer so I could become more active in the club activities up there.

73,

Lou Svach, N5VFO

If you enjoyed reading this Member Profile, please consider sending in your answers to these questions. Sure others would enjoy learning a little about you. Bob, K3NT, [k3nt@arrl.net](mailto:k3nt@arrl.net)

**The Meaning of HAM** Ever wonder what the meaning of the term "Ham" and how it came to be the nickname for Amateur Radio operators? This question came up in one of the recent Amateur Radio training classes. All who are curious might check out the following web sites.

***"Ham"***

<http://earlyradiohistory.us/sec022.htm>,

***And for all the rest of radio history:***

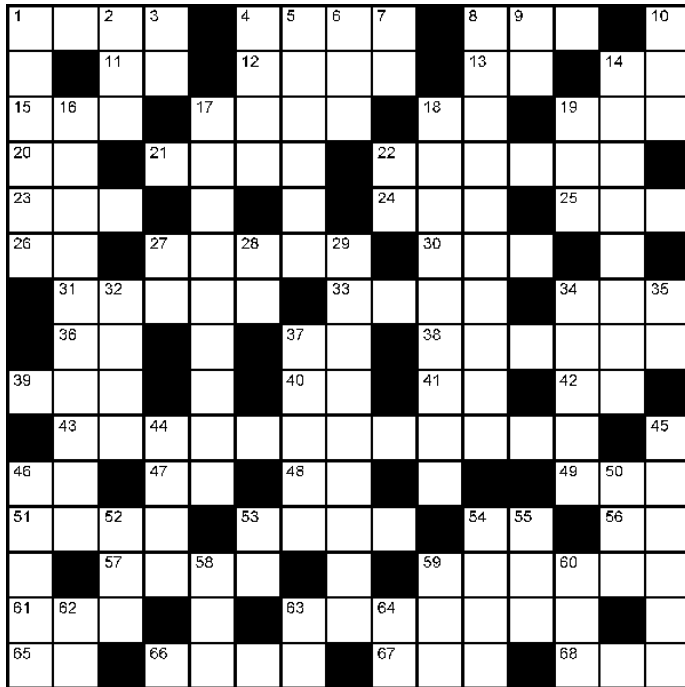
Radio Pioneers & Core Technologies (source- FCC) <http://www.fcc.gov/omd/history/radio/>

The Ideas that Made Radio Possible <http://www.fcc.gov/omd/history/radio/ideas.html>

The Power that Made Radio Realistic <http://www.fcc.gov/omd/history/radio/power.html>

The Quality that Made Radio Popular <http://www.fcc.gov/omd/history/radio/quality.html>

**The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler**



**Across**

- 1. Tries to turn the antennas
- 4. Protocol used by mobile phones
- 8. Radio service interleaved with GMRS
- 11. Greenland's prefix
- 12. Must be exhausted
- 13. Another label for the volume knob
- 14. Beam heading to Bouvet from Boston
- 15. An echo that made it home (abbr)
- 17. Attempt to contact
- 18. Invisible light
- 19. Keying speed (abbr)
- 20. Pacific possession prefix
- 21. Uncoated wire
- 22. Heat to temper
- 23. Shortest 1-by-3 suffix
- 24. Complementary RS232 signal to RTS
- 25. The magic band
- 26. Holder of an advanced degree
- 27. Threaded fastener
- 30. Rectangular receive antenna design
- 31. Boredom from poor propagation
- 33. Mobile from the air
- 34. Hamfest financial friend
- 36. Tokyo prefix
- 37. A clockwise turn (abbr)
- 38. Staffed for a competition
- 39. C will do on CW
- 40. Popular Web browser (abbr)
- 41. Little alien
- 42. Prosign for end of message

- 63. Protective tubes for cables or wires
- 65. CD drive able to both read and write (abbr)
- 66. Transistor's current gain
- 67. Manufacturer of replacment semiconductors
- 68. Drag home

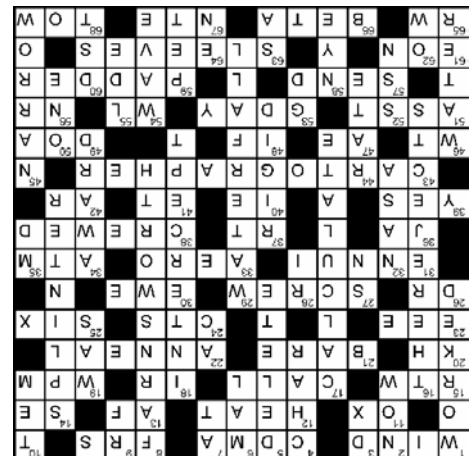
**Down**

- 1. Made a contact
- 2. Between past and future
- 3. Long distance contacts
- 4. Burn to a crisp
- 5. Remove or erase
- 6. A hostile type of software
- 7. Device that matches impedance (abbr)
- 8. Method for teaching the code
- 9. Higher frequency than audio
- 10. Form of waveguide signals
- 14. Thin sliver of wood
- 16. Items that don't pass the test (two words)
- 17. Compute the answer
- 18. Overhear a conversation
- 19. Award for all fifty
- 22. Complement to dc
- 27. One component of solder (chemical symbol)
- 28. Smallest New England state (postal code)
- 29. Display that shows scans of spectrum

- 43. Map maker
- 46. Weight (abbr)
- 47. Suffix that means you passed your Extra
- 48. Where a superhet's gain is found
- 49. Didn't work when purchased (abbr)
- 51. A helper (abbr)
- 53. Greeting from Down Under
- 54. Length of radio signals (abbr)
- 56. Number (abbr)
- 57. Transmit
- 59. Another name for a variable capacitor
- 61. A very long time

- 32. ARISS agency
- 34. Prize for achievement
- 35. A doctor or a state (postal code)
- 37. Cable that doesn't bend
- 44. Number of contacts per unit of time
- 45. Opposite of wide
- 46. Good to have near antennas
- 50. Unity
- 52. Measure of solar activity (abbr)
- 53. Good (CW abbr)
- 54. Form of radio energy
- 55. An echo that took a while
- 58. Makes the Viking antenna tuners
- 59. Animal friend
- 60. Time during the summer (abbr)
- 62. Hit your thumb with the hammer
- 63. Continental home to ZP, 8R, P4
- 64. English (abbr)

**Solution to this month's Puzzler**



# Rockwell-Collins

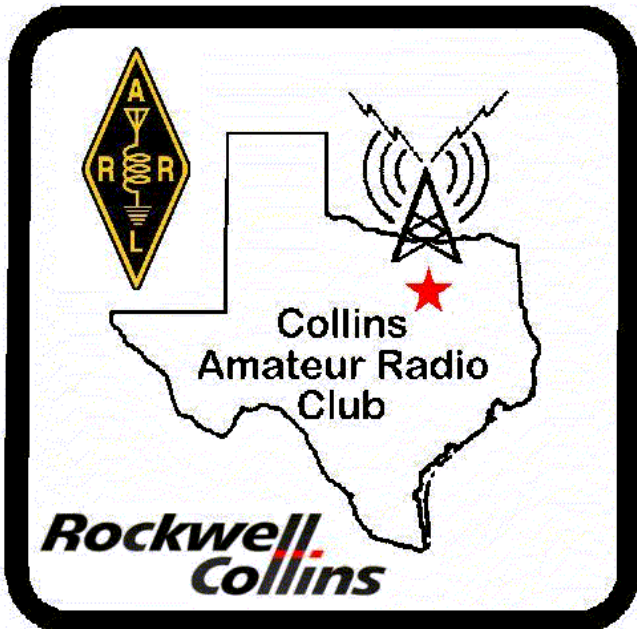
Amateur Radio Club

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

Thursday 28 February 2008

**1700**

Rockwell Collins Cafeteria

**NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:  
12 March 2008**