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SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins

Monthly Newsletter of the

Amateur Radio Club

Volume 29 Issue 10 **Web Site** http://www.w5rok.us **July 2008**

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RCARC
Membership Meeting

Thursday
24 July 2008
1700 Fellowship
1730 Meeting
Rockwell Collins Cafeteria

***Subject:* Bullet-Proof Lightning Protection**
by Ron Block, NR2B (formerly KB2UYT), Lightning Protection Consultant for PolyPhaser Corporation

Local Club News

Meeting Notice All club members are strongly encouraged to attend this months meeting! We are honored to have Ron Block, NR2B, of the PolyPhaser corporation as our program speaker this month. Ron will speak on the subject of grounding and lightning protection. Ron is a PolyPhaser distributor and consultant. He is extremely knowledgeable in this area. His 2002 THREE-PART article in QST was a classic. Nobody with any outside antenna, or even an attic antenna, should miss this one. Just as Wayne, WA0TGH, posted on our webpage, Ron will show you how to do "bullet proof" protection so you don't end up as our unfortunate Director. Or as it has been said: "Try not to load up a cloud. It is really rough on the old antenna tuner!" Try to arrive at 1700 for the social time. There will be coffee and snacks available. The main meeting will start promptly at 1730.

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, prior to the meeting.

Upcoming Events and Public Service Ops

12-13 July 2008: IARU HF World Championships The object of this event is to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands **Date and Contest Period:** The second full weekend of July**, beginning 1200 UTC Saturday and ending 1200 UTC Sunday (July 12-13, 2008)**. Both Single and Multi operator stations may operate the entire 24-hour period. More info at http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/iaru.html

2-3 August 2008: ARRL UHF Contest The object of this event is to work as many amateur stations in as many 2 degrees by 1 degrees grid squares as possible using authorized amateur frequencies above 222 MHz and all authorized modes of emission. **Date and Contest Period:** First full weekend of August. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 1800 UTC Sunday (**August 2-3, 2008**). Entrants may use as much of this time as they wish. More info at http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html

16-17 August 2008: ARRL 10 GHz and Up Contest The object of this event is for North American amateurs to work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. **Date and Contest Period:** Third full weekend of August. The dates are **August 16-17, 2008**. Operations may take place for 24 hours total on each contest weekend. Each weekend begins at 6:00 AM local Saturday though 12:00 midnight local Sunday. Listening times counts as operating time. Times off must be clearly indicated in the log More info at http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html

Small Back Yard Antenna Politics *By Paul Veal N0AH*

Ever since I got into ham radio, I've had to live most of that time confined on typical sub-division lots. But in trying to bend covenants and peak performance, I have gone through a number of antennas that have exceeded expectations and some that have not. It has been an evolutionary process.

Going back over a decade, my first antenna was the AEA Isoloop covering 10-30 meters. It came with a tuner that moved a large covered LC network to tune the antenna. It was small and easy to hide. Problem was is that it had a huge high Q and was only resonant at a 2.5:1 bandwidth of around 10-20KHz.

It only took a warm day or a bit of rain and your resonant frequency was moved all around the place. I was very satisfied with performance but it was high maintenance. Too much retuning and neighbor RFI complaints gave it a short shelve life. In other words, it was a dud. I think the circular polarization had something to do with it, but who knows. AEA is out of business. So I moved on to the Cushcraft AP8A multi-band *(Cont. on page 5)*

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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.

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President's Message

Gee. June sure was a busy month for our club. Last months presentation on the ARRL was well attended both on-site and via teleconference. If you were not able to attend, you will find the presentation in the 'members only' presentation's section of our website: http://w5rok.us/. ARRL's Coy Day did a great job of answering members questions. His dedication to drive in from OK sure was appreciated. I understand he did not arrive back home until about midnight. Our third RCARC Amateur Radio Class testing happened on June 12th. Five students passed with one going from zero all the way to the Extra class license.

HamCom was great again this year. I started out by doing an early morning volunteer shift for HamCom security. Many of our club members attended and we had a great time discussing all the goodies and programs. Gene Duprey, K1GD, from Cedar Rapids was in the Plano area and while it was still somewhat cool we both spent the early morning Friday checking out the outside flea market . We found a great deal on a piece of Collins equipment however neither Gene nor I was successful in convincing his wife Kris of the value and need for said item. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, purchased some wireless cameras. Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT, got some new ARRL CD's. Not sure what Steve Phillips, K6JT; George Huling, K5GH; Bob Depenbrock, KC4UAI and Bob Ashby, K5JHR, purchased. Ross Terry, KE5SZJ, found a 40 meter receiver kit and a 2/440 antenna. Jim Skinner hit the deal of the day with a very nice VHF beam antenna. I found a professional test lead kit that I was able to put into service on my radio test bench. John McFadden, K5TIP bought a new hat and won the 1st prize at the Dave Jaksa's, W0VX, DX session. It is the biggest digital station clock that I have ever seen. Dave, W0VX, won one of the small hand held radios on Friday afternoon. Bill Swan, K5MWC, had a presentation on RACES.

Friday night, I attended the DX dinner and was blessed to sit with a group of folks from the Ft. Smith, AR area. Turns out I knew two of them from attending a few meetings at the Ft. Smith ARC. Their group is very active in low power (QRP) and home brewing equipment. The evening program on the DX Duci island op-

eration was excellent. I learn a few more operation tips both there and at Dave, W0VX Saturday presentation. We made a deal with Dave that if a number of club members would attend his session then he would attend and operate RCARC 2008 Field Day. You will need to speak to Dave directly, but I think he may have been impressed with our attendance. By the way, his understandable presentation on the tools and tips of operating DX applied directly to any operation of an amateur radio station.

We purchased some needed items for the club. Ten - Sony 2800 Mah batteries for the MFJ 269 antenna analyzer, mini-manuals for the MFJ-269, FT-2000 and TS-2000, along with the 1970-1974 ARRL QST series on CD ROM. K8OCL had a session on Amateur radio and encryption. Following the festivities on Saturday, a number of RCARC members met for dinner and lots of great fellowship.

After HamCom it was time to get ready for RCARC field day. A number of things had to happen for both this and the Collins special events in July and September to take place. After a discussion and station troubleshooting session with Dennis, WA8ZBT, Bob, KC4UAI, and Ross, KE8SZJ, I ordered the necessary parts to repair our HF T2X rotor. Bob, KC4UAI installed the new parts into our spare rotor and we tested to make sure it worked well while still on the ground. We scheduled a Saturday work session with Bob, KC4UAI, Dennis, WA8ZBT and myself attending. We proceeded to remove and replace the failed HF T2x rotor. Bob had also installed a break delay kit into our HF rotor control box and I am pleased to report that both units are working great. The delay circuit will help us maintain a good break system in the rotor as it has a five second delay before the break engages after the rotor has stopped turning. When you look at the huge size of our HF 10,15,20 meter beam you can appreciate why this is a great idea. Meanwhile, Bob Ashby, K5JHR was busy repairing the S-Line transmitter and making up some new patch cables so we could be ready for the Collins special events. Bob also printed off and bound a complete set of Collins S-Line operations manuals for our club station. You will find these in the clubroom.

While this activity was going on, a number of our FD volunteers were installing and testing the WriteLog program. This included Bob, KC4UAI, Ross, KE5SZJ, Dave, W0VX, Jim, WB0UNI, and myself. While RCARC will use WriteLog for the special events, we decided to use the N1MM logging for field day. It worked great. Now we had a program that interfaced directly to both the FT-2000 and the TS-2000 HF transceivers. No more worrying about having the wrong band in the log as the frequency and mode is filled in automatically. Since the serial port was used with CT program in the past for CW keying and was now dedicated to radio control I built up and tested two parallel port key units. John McFadden, K5TIP provided some cable from his private stock. Bob and Ross set up the PC's for networking, another first at W5ROK. Now both logs are blended together and each operator can see the contacts being made by the other station. When we got this all finally working just before 1PM start time.

Joe Wolf, N5UIC, arranged for the generator, gas, power cords needed to run on emergency power. Facilities, as usual, really took care of us as the equipment was in fine shape and ran without an issue the whole test. We did brake for dinner around 6 PM, also trying something new this year. We met at a local restaurant with RCARC participants and their families for some great fellowship and food. Lots of great stories and jokes were told and the operators were all tuned up for the night shift.

The others and myself had a great 2008 FD at RCARC. We all learned a bit and shared what we could. If I had to place just one thing at the top of the list it would have to be watching Ross Terry, KE5SZJ go from novice to a general class operator. I proudly watched as Ross ran many contacts on 40 meters during the early morning hours using the FT-2000. In a short period of time he had learned how to operate under difficult emergency conditions. He was sharpening some of the skills that veteran operator Dave, W0VX, had taught him just that afternoon. I know that we can now call on Ross if needed for emergency plant communication operations. This made my 2008 RCARC field day a great one.

What if we called upon you to help provide emergency communications for Rockwell Collins or the local community? Are you ready? Do you know how to properly select the antennas without damage to yourself or the equipment? Would you know the proper band to use? Would you have the skills required to receive the message and pass it along? Could your club and company count on you to provide effective communications in an emergency? Operating the station is the way you gain these skills and become a valuable communication asset to both Rockwell Collins and your community. There are several RCARC Special Events coming up where you too can learn to operate the W5ROK station. These include the weeklong 50th Anniversary of the Collins S-line starting July 12 and the 75th Anniversary of Collins Radio September 20-26. See the enclosed flyers in this issue for more details.

Late May / June RCARC Activities:

- Third Ham Radio Class, Testing – John Champa, K8OCL; Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH; Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH; John McFadden, K5TIP; VEC Team; Bob, K3NT
- June Program - John Champa, K8OCL; Coy Day
- Field Day – Joe Wolf, N5UIC; Ross Terry, KE5SZJ; Bob Ashby, K5JHR; Dave Jaksa, W0VX; Robert Diepenbrock, KC4UAI; Steve Phillips, K6JT; Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT; Kathy Cobb, YL; Jim Sturges KC5QGK: John McFadden, K5TIP; Charley Beis K5UWD; Bob, K3NT
- W5ROK Collins S-Line Station, Operating manuals, Cables – Bob Ashby, K5JHR
- RCARC Rotor Repair – Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT; Robert Diepenbrock, KC4UAI; Bob, K3NT
- CRARC (W0CXX) - WriteLog Program for our Special events operation
- W5ROK Telecommunications/LAN/WLAN/HSMM – Ross Terry, KE5SZJ; Robert Diepenbrock, KC4UAI; Bob, K3NT
- Install Writelog on W5ROK computers – Ross, KE5SZJ
- Install N1MM on W5ROK computers – Bob, K3NT
- Purchase QST on CD ROM Years 1970 through 1974 – Bob, K3NT
- Purchase MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer Mini-Manual – Bob, K3NT
- Purchase Replacement NiCad Batteries for MFJ-269 Antenna Analyzer – Jim, WB0UNI
- Purchase YAESU FT-2000 Mini-Manual – Bob, K3NT

- Purchase Kenwood TS-2000 Mini-Manual – Bob, K3NT
- Purchase Outboard keyboard for FT-2000 – Bob, KC4UAI
- Purchased parts to repair T2x rotors – Bob, K3NT
- June meeting 50/50 Prize donations – ARRL; John Champa, K8OCL
- Meeting Refreshments Setup Volunteer – John Champa, K8OCL (more helpers please)
- Submitted Newsletters Article- None this month
- RCARC Marketing – Joe Wolf, N5UIC; Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH
- New Member Station Tour - No report this month
- Yet Another Great SIGNALS Newsletter – Jim Skinner, WB0UNI
- Treasurers Report – Jim Skinner, WB0UNI
- Club Librarian - Stephanie Keese, AC5NF
- Website Updates - Wayne Hughes, WA0TGH
- RCARC Membership Applications & Database - Joe Wolf, N5UIC
- Secretary Report –Jim Gaston, KD5GYD; Kathy Cobb assisting (June meeting)
- Station Trustee – Steve Phillips, K6JT
- Member Profile Responder – No response this month
- Homemade cookies for FD – Cindy Kirby

RCARC July Meeting
For program details see activity chairman report in this issue.

All Rockwell Collins employees and guests are cordially invited to attend. RCARC membership is not required for this presentation and there is no admission fee. Per Rockwell Collins security policy, an active company employee or contractor must escort all guests.

Please note that again this month we will start gathering at 5PM. Mr. Champa advised there would be some snacks. Jim Skinner will again be making his world famous coffee. Additional potluck refreshments are encouraged and welcomed. 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. We will fire up the Tele- conference line around 5:15 PM for our remote members. Don't forget the 50-50 raffle. Tickets are $2 each, 3 for $5 and 7 for $10. The proceeds are used to help support club activities such as refreshments at our meetings. Last month, donated prizes were from the ARRL and John, K8OCL. Thanks to both!

Until next month,
Best Regards (73),
Bob Kirby, K3NT
K3nt@arrl.net
http://w5rok.us

Secretary's Report

The minutes of the June meeting of the RCARC were temporarily unavailable at the time of the newsletter publication. The minutes will be composed and distributed by email to the general membership prior to the July meeting. Patience, Y'ALL!

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

Loading Up A Cloud
Of the hundreds of Amateur Radio stations I have observed over the years the range of grounding systems has varied tremendously from zip to sophisticated.

Essentially lightening and electrical surges get into a house by three means:

1) Via the electrical mains.
2) Via the antenna system. (Even sometimes inside the attic!)
3) Common mode surges.

Installing a whole-house surge protector such as one made by the Industrial Communications Engineers (ICE) and distributed by Array Solutions, The Wireman, and others can usually prevent damage by way of surges through the electrical mains. They are not expensive and most Radio Amateurs can install them behind / within their electrical panels.

Gas discharge devices installed in coaxial cable lines, plus grounding the coaxial cable lead-ins when they are not in use, can prevent surges via the antenna system from causing serious damage. Approximately 80% of the surge energy comes down the coaxial cable shield; so grounding it before it enters the house is essential.

WARNING: The old business about disconnecting the coaxial cable and throwing it on the floor during a storm does not leave a safe escape route for surges from the antenna. The resulting corona at the end of the cable may not directly harm the radio, but instead burn down the house! You must provide a safe path for the surge out of the house.

But we are not done yet! Here comes the hard part. Common mode surges: These are caused by a differential resistance between the ground for your antenna system and the one for your house. So how are these dangerous surges prevented? ***You can do this by connecting the grounding system for your antenna to the grounding system for your house electrical mains***.

This is the area where most Radio Amateur stations are lacking. Yet this subject is covered very well in the ARRL Radio Communications Handbook, and is even mentioned in the National Electrical Code (NEC) for Transmitting Stations.

Usually a 10-gauge copper wire just under the surface of the ground is sufficient to connect the two systems and can thus prevent this type of surge.

An expert on the subject will cover this entire important area in much better detail at our meeting this month, July 24, For the safety of you, your family, your radio equipment, and your house, you should not miss this program!

July Meeting - Ron Block, NR2B, of RW Block and Associates, a PolyPhaser distributor and consultant, will be presenting to our club at the July meeting. Ron has donated two fine books on lightening protection for the 50/50 Drawing.

August Meeting – Keith Pugh will be addressing the club on the AMSAT high altitude (HEO) Phase 3, 4, and 5 OSCAR satellites and how they may change the nature of Amateur Radio for years to come.

September Meeting – Bonnie, the Leader of the HF Link Group will be talking with us about Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) and how it changes looking for a band opening.

October Meeting – A former Rockwell Collins executive will give us a history of the company along with some of the actual radio equipment produced.

November – The subjects are PropNET and CW Skimmer. Never heard of them? Better come to the meeting!

Until next time, get on the air and experiment with radios!

Vy 73,
John K8OCL

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 application 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

RCARC Member Profile

This month we are pleased to profile member Stephanie Keese, AC5NF. Stephanie is the RCARC YL Mentor and also our Club Librarian. Stephanie and her husband, Kenneth, KD5EVW, have made their home in Garland, TX.

How did you get started in Amateur Radio?
My stepfather, Phil Salas AD5X, is a ham radio operator and has been for a long time. When I was about 13 years old, he showed me his ham station and taught me a few things. I immediately became hooked!

What are some of the most interesting memories or QSO's
I remember my first contact. I've been calling CQ repeatedly on the Alcatel repeater the day I earned my Tech license. Finally, a woman returned my call. I was tickled.

Have you been a builder? If so, what were your projects?
I have not built anything. I have built a B2 bomber model before! (not related, I know!)

Do you belong to the ARRL?
Yes.

Read any other Ham magazines, like CQ?
My husband and I like to read QST.

What are your current Ham Radio interests?
I would just love to be the proud owner of the K3 Elecraft! The 100W kit would be nice.

What are your other hobbies?
I love to do anything outdoors, such as camping, rollerblading, and walking. Skydiving is fun too!

Are you active on any of the HF or VHF bands, Nets?
Not currently. My husband and I just moved into a house and we're looking for a nice antenna to put outside.

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

Small Back Yard Antenna Politics

(Cont from page 1) vertical covering 10-80 meters.

This was first real antenna that helped me snag stations in EU's morning grayline and I got hooked on the low bands. I took the antenna to Lord Howe Island (VK9LZ) in 1998 during terrible RF conditions yet worked over 2,000 contacts in 6 days. When Cushcraft discontinued the AP8A, I was in disbelief. This antenna proved itself time and time again. For its size and cost, and the fact you could run QRO, this antenna was a real winner.

But after getting complaints in my mail box and taped to my front door, I decided to get a Cushcraft R-7000 including 80 meter kit. It was more expense than the AP8A antenna, but it gave me more of a right to tell my neighbors what I thought about them. We've all been there, right? Too bad the R7000 also had issues with sensitivity to nearby objects. I mounted it 8 feet off the ground per the instructions, but no tomato.

My next try was a dipole ran across my roof. It did every thing but transmit, except into my neighbors big screen system. More neighbor complaints. The dipole ended up in the trash. So finally, I put out the big bucks for a 3 element Hy-gain TH3 Jr. My life changed as I learned about having a BEAM! But it was limited on QRO and only three bands. So I got a Tennadyne T-6 Log Periodic and had it all covering 10-20M. It was a real winner.

I think anyone can see the evolution here. Bigger is better and a Hustler 6BTV made my station complete with the lowbands. Now the neighbors were really upset and stoned my dogs when I was away. They tried to sue me but I had every angle covered. See in the state of Colorado, any covenant broken which last for more than one year, is grandfathered into the property. Case closed.

Now moving ahead 6 years and after my stint in Wyoming with my contest station, I'm back in Denver. Life with noise was awful but at-least I had no local restrictions on antennas. Fearing PRB 1, I had no plans to put a tower, yet anyway. But I put up both a Cushcraft MA5A vertical and a Cushcraft MA5B beam covering 10-20 meters. It was a lot smaller than the T-6 and was only using a tripod mount with 4 guy wires.

The MA5V is ok but it has rotten in a short amount of time exposed to the sun. For a really small lot, running less than 100 watts, it might be a good option however and I wound not rule anything out. It performed very well. But I don't see it lasting long. Mine is almost 4 years old and it looks more like ten. .

The MA5B is ok. But it is bipolar. Especially the dipole for 12 and 17 meters. It is a real art to tune the antenna and I have had to do a lot of adjusting over the year I have owned it. It is only 7.3 feet in boom length and the longest element is only 17 feet. So it fits a small rotator. But the profile is awful. You might as well hang out a used car on your roof. This really is a good antenna for small (Cont. on page 7)

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Special Events

50th Anniversary of the Collins S-Line

What: The various facilities of Rockwell Collins' amateur radio clubs announce a special event: The 50th Anniversary of the introduction of the Collins S-Line special event will take place in July 2008.

When: Commencing 0001z 12 July 2008 and running through 2359z Sunday, 20 July 2008

Who: Look for the following stations on the bands:

W0CXX: Cedar Rapids, IA – South Campus, HQ Station

N0CXX: Cedar Rapids, IA – North Campus

W5ROK: Richardson, TX

W4CRC: Melbourne, FL

W6CXX: Tustin, CA

F6KNZ: Toulouse, France

Where: (+/- QRM)

CW (kHz): 3550, 7050, 10115, 14055, 18085, 21050, 24900, 28050

SSB (kHz): 3885, 7285, 14285, 18155, 21385, 24955, 28455

How: Operators will announce when they are QRV via Packet Cluster.

QSL: Via www.qrz.com for each different facility station. Please include a large #10 envelope SASE with enough postage or funds for first class return of QSL. No eQSL's

Special Certificate: Collect four (4) or more QSL's from 4 different facilities and mail them to: W0CXX. Collins Amateur Radio Club ● 400 Collins Rd. NE ● Cedar Rapids, IA ● 52498

A special certificate and your QSL's will be returned to you.

Info: http://w0cxx.us/ http://w5rok.us/

Questions? Contact: w0cxx@rockwellcollins.com

75th Anniversary of Collins Radio

What: The various facilities of Rockwell Collins' amateur radio clubs announce a special event: The 75th Anniversary of the incorporation of Collins Radio. The special event will take place in September 2008.

When: Commencing 0001z 20 September 2008 and running through 2359z 26 September 2008

Who: Look for the following stations on the bands:

W0CXX: Cedar Rapids, IA – South Campus, HQ Station

N0CXX: Cedar Rapids, IA – North Campus

W5ROK: Richardson, TX

W4CRC: Melbourne, FL

W6CXX: Tustin, CA

F6KNZ: Toulouse, France

Where: (+/- QRM)

CW (kHz): 3550, 7050, 10115, 14055, 18085, 21050, 24900, 28050

SSB (kHz): 3885, 7285, 14285, 18155, 21385, 24955, 28455

How: Operators will announce when they are QRV via Packet Cluster.

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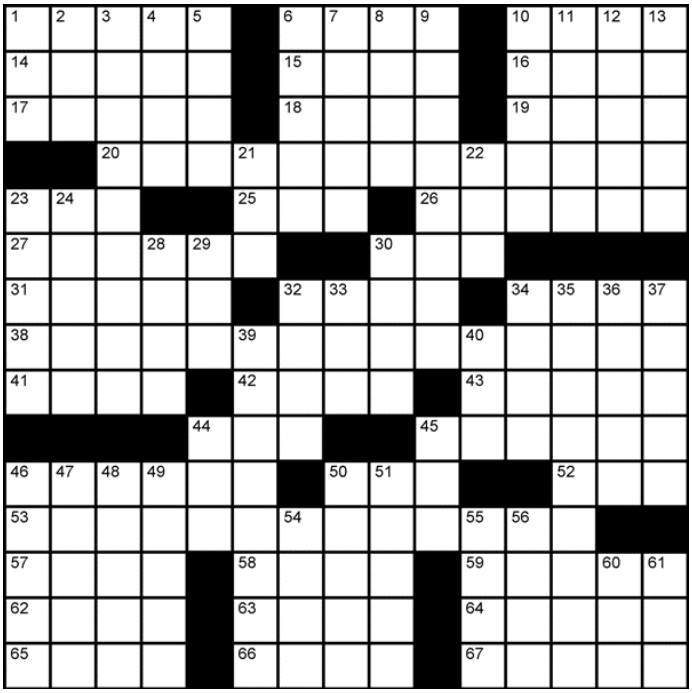
A special certificate and your QSL's will be returned to you.

Info: http://w0cxx.us/ http://w5rok.us/

Questions? Contact: w0cxx@rockwellcollins.com

The Amateur Radio Crossword Puzzler



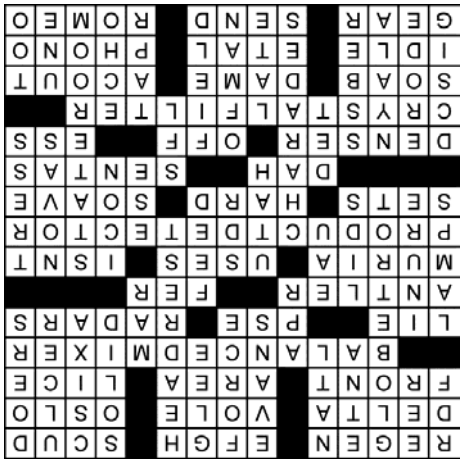
Across

1. Superhet preceder
6. BCD followers
10. UA missile made famous by YI
14. _____ loop
15. Meadow mouse
16. LA capital
17. ___ to back...
18. Part of LAN
19. Nit hatchlings
20. Teetering swizzle stick?
23. Golf ball position
25. Polite partner of TU
26. Sensors using RF
27. Antelope array element?
30. CW preposition
31. VS9H middle name
32. Employs
34. "___ that special?!"
38. Supermarket scanner?
41. What a non-ham might call rigs
42. Prefix with -line
43. I-land wine
44. CW T
45. Told to wait, on CW
46. Thicker
50. Function switch label
52. Double curve
53. Salt shaker?
57. Lone entry class
58. G-land YL title
59. Label on a PS, possibly
62. Like a xmtr in stby
63. And others, for short
64. RCA synonym
65. Rig
66. Pound brass, say
67. Next to Quebec

Down

1. Foxhunt activity (abbr.)
2. Ending, with engin-
3. Go on DXpeditions, far and wide
4. IT9 volcano
5. NCL-2000 mfgr.
6. Olympic swimmer Janet
7. ___-12 antennas
8. High spirits
9. Whiplash preventer
10. State with transistors
11. Possible Bahamas prefix
12. Worrier's worry
13. Action people
21. MI, MO and MT, QP mo.
22. ARRL DX test mo.
23. #44, #47 and others
24. Become accustomed (to)
28. Poor ops
29. F H2O
30. Word with line or point
32. W7 state
33. The Flex, e.g.
34. Desktop feature
35. /MM quarters
36. Big bangs
37. Lock of hair
39. Hand game
40. ZS dir. from W2
44. Stg. before AF amp.
45. W4 sect.
46. A series cap. blocks it
47. Eat away
48. African owner of 27-across
49. Upper or lower user
50. Isle ____ (GD)
51. _____ Day
54. Calling in after the sked
55. Pioneer digital comm. org.
56. EME sound
60. F-land one
61. "___ bad!"

Solution to this month's Puzzler



Small Back Yard Antenna Politics

(Cont from page 5) lots, but it is ugly and two of my neighbor's next door have for-sale signs up.

So where am I today? I am planning to remove the MA5B and replace it with a Cushcraft rotating dipole. Most likely the three band D3W covering the WARC bands. I have a Hustler 6BTV for 10, 15, 20, 30, 40 and 80 meters and a dual band array using WX0B equipment and two Cushcraft MA8040 verticals. I also have the AR270 on top of the mast I will use for rotating dipole for 2 meters and 70 cm.

The dipole is not too bad on the neighborhood anxiety. The array is removed for the spring and summer months, and the Hustler is there when I need it.

I was thinking about the R6000 replacing the Hustler 6BTV but we'll see. So there you have it. I cover all the HF bands except 160M, and a lot of the VHF/UHF frequencies. I'm planning to put up an M2 loop for 6 meters some day.

My journey in using small lot antennas has been good, bad and ugly.

Neighbors are the worst. You eliminate 90 percent of their problems, and the remaining 10 percent becomes 100 percent again in their minds.

The good has been the amazing amount of variety for these types of applications.

The bad has been the money spent on figuring everything out- Any one with the adventures of using small lot antennas?

Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

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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 24 July 2008

1700 Fellowship
1730 Meeting

Rockwell Collins Cafeteria

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:
18 August 2008