
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 32 Issue 10

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

July 2011

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 28 July 2011
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
Program 1800

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

Subject:
"Amateur Radio - The Last Line of Defense"
by Bill Swan, K5MWC

Field Day 2011 Final Report RCARC participated in the ARRL field day event on June 25 and 26, 2011. Setup started at about 10:30 AM on June 25th and the cleanup effort ended about 4 PM on Sunday afternoon. In between, a lot of folks had a lot of fun, some of us learned some new things and we logged contacts on 6 bands using all three modes allowed by the rules. The triplexer worked very well and although I don't believe we ever used all three bands at the same time on the beam, it sure allowed us to operate more effectively.

I believe that we were successful in our three goals for Field Day 2011.

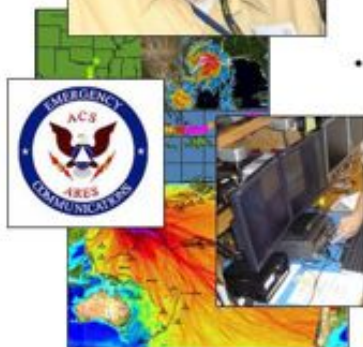
Have Fun! I saw a lot of folks having fun from the time we started the setup process to the end of the cleanup. We had a fairly large crowd for dinner which was enjoyed by all. I think a lot of folks had fun.

Learn Something New! I know I learned (Cont. on page 4)

Local Club News

Meeting Notice Please plan to attend the RCARC membership meeting this month, as we have been having a good turn out at the meetings this year. The program this month will be presented by our special guest speaker, Bill Swan, K5MWC. Bill plans to share some thoughts on Emergency Communications and the challenges facing Amateur Radio. He is calling his presentation "Amateur Radio - The Last Line of Defense" It will cover EMCOM in general and the challenges facing Amateur Radio. He looks forward to sharing his thoughts on this subject and encourages all attendees to come prepared to participate in a discussion following the presentation.

Amateur Radio – The Last Line of Defense



- **Bill Swan – K5MWC** will be the guest speaker at RCARC - Thursday July 28, 2011 talking on Emergency Communications
- **Methodist Richardson Medical Center**
Next door to Rockwell Collins (462)
2nd Floor Conference Room (RM200)
Richardson, Texas (Renner & George Bush)
- Meeting at 5:30 PM with speaker at 6:00 PM followed by general discussion
... Visitors & Guest Welcome (Don't Miss It).
– See the newsletter or <http://W5ROK.US> for more details on up coming club events and news.

W5ROK
Rockwell Collins
Amateur Radio Club

www.w5rok.us



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W5ROK

461-290

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
Kids Day—Out Of This World

Each Year around the July time frame, normally too close to field day for my liking, Rockwell Collins sponsors a "Bring Your Kids To Work Day". I like to call it simply "Kids Day" and it brings lots of great memories to mind.

It gives kids and grandchildren a way to see what parents and grandparents do at work. It also exposes them to some technical jobs and equipment to help them gain understanding why some of their school activities are important—a great program all around. We had more visitors in a shorter period of time this year in what I now call "Kids Day - Out Of This World".

Club Member Bill Rey brought in a meteorite to show kids, in addition to us having the club shack open. It was easy to get kids to light up and talk about things like meteorites, radio waves, and of course the space shuttle, making for a great event.

Lauren, KF5LJZ, my daughter, helped in the shack again this year, getting both new and some familiar faces to talk on the air once again. She did not get to make as many HF QSOs this year, because there were so many people coming by to visit.



We had comic books right outside the door and the Big Sign also pointed the way to the shack. I figure if some of those more familiar kids keep coming back, we may soon

give them an FCC test (they'll be technician class licensed in no time).

Thanks to everyone that helped make Field Day and Kids Day 2011 a success. I know summer time is a busy time and it's not possible to be this successful without a combined effort.

Till next month, 73 from Ross, K5SRT
k5srt@arrl.net

Secretary's Report

June 23, 2011

A regular monthly membership meeting was held on June 23rd at the Richardson Methodist Medical Center Bush Renner campus in the 2nd floor conference room. Those in attendance were as follows:

1. Ira Blum - K5IRA
2. Chad Chadwick – W5UYA
3. Pat Chadwick – N5TZX
4. Dennis Cobb – WA8ZBT
5. Bob Diepenbrock - KC4UAI – Club Treasurer
6. Hernando Garcia – KC5FDW
7. Dave Jakska – W0VX
8. Michael Ketchum - K5MDK – Club Secretary
9. Bob Kirby - K3NT
10. John McFadden - K5TIP
11. Keith Parris – WB5RBA
12. Steve Phillips – K6JT
13. Dwight Ramsey - KE5SAS – Club Vice President
14. Andrew Robinson - KE5SAK
15. Mike Schmit - WA9WCC
16. Jim Skinner – WB0UNI
17. Richard Strnad – AA6DB
18. Ross Terry – K5SRT – Club President
19. Joseph P Wolf – N5UIC

This represents 12 Regular, 3 Life, 1 Associate and 2 non-members.

1. OPENING

Ross Terry – K5SRT, the club President, opened the meeting at 17:34 with a flag pledge. A round of introductions by all of those in attendance was completed. Each attendee was asked to present their name and call sign.

2. OFFICER REPORTS

- a. President – Ross Terry – K5SRT. The Vice President had nothing to report.
- b. Vice President – Dwight Ramsey – KE5SAS. The Vice President had nothing to report.
- c. Secretary – Michael Ketchum – K5MDK. The Secretary presented the meeting minutes from the last membership meeting. Dwight Ramsey – KE5SAS, moved to accept the minutes as read. Hernando Garcia-Vasquez – KC5FDW

seconded the motion. The motion was approved by voice vote.

- d. Treasurer's Report – Bob Diepenbrock – KC4UAI. Field Day is close to being wrapped up and ready to go. The Triplexer is ready with the exception of a small issue that we can work around. The Dinner is planned for 5:00pm. Not many operators have RSVP to setup, operate or cleanup. PSK31 is working on two stations. Phone is working on all three stations. Station Manager – Steve Phillips – K6JT. Paper Operator Logging will be required for each station during Field Day this year. The repeater is up and working.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Club Task List – Ross Terry – K5SRT. Ross Terry, the club President, presented the list of outstanding club tasks from teamspace. Ross asked everyone assigned a task to please update it on teamspace.
- b. Weather Station Computer – Michael Ketchum – K5MDK. Michael gave a brief report that the serial connector from the weather station is disconnected from the Kenwood PC in order to facilitate Field Day. Furthermore, we may need a separate PC for uploading weather data to the internet.
- c. Triplexer – Dennis Cobb – WA8ZBT. Dennis reported the results of the tests on the new Triplexer. Initial losses amount to 1.2db. One set of filters; worse case is 15-10m 52db loss. Other than that, 80db down. There is another set of filters and the results were in the excess of 90db down. 2db of loss equates to 1/3 of your power. The only issue is who gets to decide where the beam points.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. Meeting with Plant Vice President – The Club President, Ross Terry – K5SRT, presented the results of a meeting with the new Vice President of the Richardson Plant, Glen T Dodson Jr. Ross discussed several issues including the following:
 - i. Field Day use of the Skywave vertical antenna. Some discussion regarding this antenna and need for a tuner. The AT300 tuner was discussed as planned for use.
 - ii. Bring Your Child to Work Day, July 15th, and the club's involvement. Ross also announced that we need help to operate the shack from 8:00am till 1:00pm. In his discussion with Glen, Ross made a formal request for a coax run to the cafeteria.
 - iii. Air Handler issues with noise was also discussed. There are also some issues with a LAB Air Flow Control.

- b. Repeater UPS – Ross reported that there was an issue with the W5ROK club repeater. The UPS batteries died, bringing the repeater down. There was some work done and the repeater is back up again. Some discussion was made by members regarding the desire to start a weekly net on the W5ROK repeater.
- 5. CALENDAR OF EVENTS
 - a. Upcoming Events – Ross showed a slid with all the future events for folks to be involved in.
 - b. Bill Swan – K5MWC – Bill Swan has agreed to bring us a presentation on Emergency Communications and the challenges for Amateur Radio at next month’s meeting.
- 6. PRESENTATION Bob Kirby - K3NT introduced our speaker Dave Jaksa –W0VX, who gave a presentation on Field Day, how to score BIG.

Field Day 2011 Final Report *(Cont. from page 1)* a lot from the “how to score big” training both the Thursday before the event, then I found the “on the job” training during the contest to be very helpful. I saw other folks, young and old, learning how to get contacts in to the logs. Yep, I’m sure most of us learned something new.

Improve our Score! Our operators managed to make nearly 2,000 contacts which generated a QSO score with power multiplier applied of 5,270. In addition we earned a total of 910 bonus points which means we earned a total score of 6,180 points. I’m sure this is an improvement over last year because the bands where much more active this year. Only time will tell if this score is enough to improve our standing in the E3 category over 2010.
(Contributed by Bob Diepenbrock KC4UAI)

Retiree Badges—Last Chance! In light of the success in obtaining new photo badges for some of our retirees in time for Field Day, with a couple of exceptions, I wanted to remind the rest of our retirees that this month’s meeting will be your last chance to get a photo badge before I submit the remaining applications. If you cannot make the July meeting and still want a badge, you must make an appointment to see the Facilities Security Officer (FSO), Connie Johansen, in order to get a picture taken and a badge made.



All photo badges are being kept in the guard shack. If you have a contractor badge, you can insure it is working with the FSO directly. When you want to make a visit to the club station, at any time, day or night, then check in at the guard shack and obtain your photo badge that is waiting there for

you. If you do not obtain a photo badge, and wish to use the club station, you will need to secure an escort with a Rockwell Collins employee and make arrangements to meet your escort at the guard shack, in order to get a “T” badge. A “T” badge will allow you limited access inside. However, with a “T” badge, you will need to be escorted the entire time you are in the facilities.

(Contributed by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK)

Reviving Wireless During Disasters *By Richard Quinnell*

Events such as Japan’s tsunami and Chile’s earthquakes remind us just how fragile our modern systems are. For wireless communications, though, there is a way to get back up and running when disaster strikes. You can now get a cell tower in a suitcase.

OK, maybe not a carry-on bag, but smaller than a steamer trunk.

AT&T is making available to governmental agencies a highly portable cellular system that can provide communications in areas where conventional cellular systems have been knocked out. Called the Remote Mobility Zone, this new system allows disaster response teams establish wireless service in virtually any location in about 30 minutes.

Three versions are available: fixed site systems that provide emergency backup, van-mounted mobile systems that can be driven to wherever needed, and, yes, systems that fit into a suitcase (except for the satellite dish). These “Fly-away” suitcase systems support both voice and data communications.

The systems are somewhat limited, of course. For the suitcase version the range is about half a mile and only 14 or so calls can be running simultaneously. They need power (a portable generator will do) and offer a satellite link for connection to the wide area network. Still, if the regular infrastructure fails it’s a whole lot better than nothing.

The systems allow the emergency personnel to control the priority of call handling so that critical communications don’t get bogged down by consumer calls. Given the trend toward using LTE for unified first responder communications, that ability is probably essential.

Most cellular providers have their own mobile systems on hand that can move into a disaster area to serve as temporary cell towers and restore communications. The advantage of the Remote Mobility Zone systems is that they give emergency services their own way of reviving wireless communications, so they can place it when and where they need it most without waiting.

The one fly in the ointment is that these systems work with existing AT&T handsets. That’s fine if those are the handsets emergency services actually use. Otherwise, you have

to distribute the special handsets to emergency personnel so that they can use the emergency cellular network.

Still, the technology exists. That means that someone should be able to create emergency cellular systems that work with LTE handsets and at frequencies that first responders have been given. Hopefully, those systems will then become part of the emergency services toolkits so that when disaster strikes the emergency services will not be crippled by damage to the normal power and networking infrastructure.

'Cause you never know when the big one will hit and have everything east of the San Andreas slide into the Atlantic.

(From Test Measurement World website, <http://www.lte.tmworl.com>, contributed by Warren Curry, WA9KZY)

Rockwell Collins Enters Uncharted Territory With Emergency Button A recent article in the Wall Street Journal explains how our company is navigating uncharted territory with a "panic button" for pilots – an emergency button to be integrated into aircraft equipped with Pro Line Fusion®.

The article describes the emergency button as a "digital parachute," a concept that evolved from our experience with unmanned aerial systems. The emergency button would take control of the plane if a pilot needed assistance or were incapacitated.

While some competitors and industry experts are skeptical of the technology, Dave Vos, senior director of Unmanned Systems and Rockwell Collins Control Technologies, said that in the future, emergency buttons also will likely be integrated into airliners.

"This level of automation, redundancy and ability to recover will become ubiquitous," said Vos in the article. "It's a lot closer than many people are willing to recognize." See: <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052702304791204576402083915084432.html>

(SOURCE: Tuesday, June 28, 2011 — Today at Rockwell Collins. Contributed by Bob Kirby K3NT)

Events and Public Service Ops

Plano Fun Ride: Saturday, August 6th 6:00am ~ 12:00pm Oak Point Park in Plano. <http://www.planofunride.org/index.html>. Plano Amateur Radio Klub will be supporting the Plano Fun Ride again this year. Stay tuned for more details.

Location : Oak Point Park across from Collin Creek Community College, Spring Creek campus.

Contact : tony@w5adc.com.

The 3rd annual Plano Fun Ride is both a ride for serious cyclists and a family friendly bicycle event that serves to incorporate the very individuals that the proceeds are meant to benefit. In this way, children and their parents / guardians can enjoy being together in a fun and structured environment, while learning about services that can benefit the health and welfare of their family.

Hot Rocks Bike Race: Saturday, August 13th 7:00am ~ 12:00pm Rockwall Texas.

Contacted Scott Hammond at shammond@airmail.net. Michael Ketchum worked it last year.

TNC-X Kit Build: Saturday, August 27th 9:00am ~ 12:00pm Lucas Fire Department. Kit build of a TNC-X box, which usually sells for \$130. The kit costs \$88 fully configured. All orders must be received by the August PARK club meeting night.

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

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

Contact: Kipton Moravec a5ib@arrl.net.

Plano Balloon Festival Training: Saturday, September 10, 2011 8:00am Oak Point Park in Plano
In preparation for the Plano Balloon Festival the next weekend we will have a Balloon Training. Keith Berry will bring out his balloon, we will help him unpack it, inflate it, and then deflate it, and pack it up. This will get you familiar with being around balloons and to know what to do safely. I recommend it for anyone working Field or Recovery at the Plano Balloon Festival. In addition it is fun!

ARRL September VHF QSO Party: Saturday, September 10, 2011 1:00pm CST ~ 10:00pm CST. 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 WVE amateurs only. All authorized frequencies above 50 MHz (6 Meters).

Plano Balloon Festival: Friday, September 16 4:00pm ~ Sunday 9:00pm Oak Point Park in Plano and beyond. The balloons will be spectacular and we anticipate a wonderful weekend of flight and color. The PBF committee has met and a group of ham operators who involved in the

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

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

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

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

Club Members Excess Inventory Sealed Bid Offering We continue to have a variety of tasks that take our volunteers' time and should be shared to reduce the load on everyone involved. A successful club requires its membership to be active and willing to help, and many appear to be helping more than others, or at least I keep seeing many of the same faces. Not all tasks can be planned, such as if the repeater goes down or needs immediate attention. In such a case, we want to make sure those capable of working the issue on short notice are not completely burned out. If you can help work some of the task list items please volunteer. They are listed on the Intranet RCARC Teamspace site in the lists section under the title

Tasks. If you have trouble viewing this list, ask one of the non-retired members with access to the internal network to assist you in getting a copy. The list will also be posted on the club's website in the members-only section so that all members, including those with no access to the company Intranet, will have access to it.

One of the top tasks on our list is the need to reduce our excess equipment and/or surplus parts. The consolidation of the storage container, followed by the loss of the overflow area outside our shack, we need to reduce our footprint of stored items. Having just a few cabinets outside of our shack will be much easier to move someplace than the current number of cabinets, storage shipper bins, and collection of loose donated items. We cannot expect to continue to use space borrowed from the company when they continue to deal with the space shortages of programs.

It is time once again to address the tough task of dealing with our accumulation of items. In order to spur some interest and put back funds for new club interests, we plan to bring back the Classified Ads section of our newsletter and offer some larger items of interest to club members in good standing using the sealed bid process. The process will be to select a few items each month and announce them in Signals. We will then allow members in good standing to submit a sealed bid before the next month's meeting. We need a committee to identify items and suggest a base price to be presented for leadership approval. Those items will then be announced in the Signals newsletter. Sealed bids will be accepted up to noon on the Wednesday before the next meeting. These will go to the club secretary and will remain sealed until they can be opened during a review at the next meeting. The bid reviewers should consist of two or three members, none of whom are bidding or have a vested interest in the items being bid on. If several items are being bid on, a sealed envelope with an offer for each individual item should be submitted. Please mark the outside of the envelope with: BID OFFER + Bid Number (the bid number will be in the prior month's Signals newsletter).

Watch for more details in club emails and next month's newsletter. If you have suggestions, would like to work on this, other club tasks, or our bylaws, please contact the leadership.

Classified Ads: send your items to the Signals Editor)

Excess Inventory Membership Offering for August meeting:
 BID #20110728-001

Item: Kenwood SM230 Scope

Offering Style: Club sealed bid process (due to club secretary by noon 8/24/2011)

Condition: Unknown and as-is. The unit currently powers on but fails to interface with the transceiver.

Starting Bid: \$60 minimum

(Contributed by Ross Terry K5SRT)



Joplin Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 2983
Joplin, Missouri 64803-2983



July 11, 2011

We would like for you and your friends to celebrate our 22th anniversary Hamfest!

The Joplin Hamfest was started in 1990, and this popular event has grown steadily from 20 to over 200 flea market tables. It now occupies over 20,000 square feet in the Holiday Inn Convention Center! It has gained notoriety as one of the best hamfests in the middle west, being centrally located from several major cities. It could quite possibly become *the largest hamfest in Missouri*, and we want you to experience our event - in person!

For those wishing to test, ARRL VEC exams are offered in two sessions. Friday evening and Saturday afternoon. The Friday session does require preregistration, which is on both the flyer and JARC website.

This event is held the **fourth weekend in August**. Not to worry, it is air-conditioned inside, and everyone likes the wide isles! In addition, we host an old fashioned cookout on Friday evening in conjunction with the hamfest. You are encouraged to invite your friends to join you here on Friday evening! If you are musically inclined and have an instrument, bring it along and join the fun.

Consider bringing the family too! We will have maps of several attractions in Joplin for the family to visit if hamfesting is not their thing. Area attractions include The Chocolate Factory, Sandstone Gardens, and the new Downstream Casino. The Spiva Art Center is located downtown, and on hamfest weekend, will be showing "Women Call For Peace", a collection of prints, paintings, and sculpture by 13 artists, who draw on firsthand experiences for their work. Also worth mentioning is the Tri-State Mineral Museum, part of the Joplin Museum Complex, which reflects on the rich history of the world's third largest lead and zinc mining area, the Route-66 Carousel Park, and the newly opened Wildcat Glades Conservation and Audubon Center. Links for all of these events are on the website.

Enclosed are flyers, **that when presented**, will get you into the event for free. We will also include some tickets for the drawings. The catch is that you need to be present to win! So, pack up that equipment to sell, and make Joplin your destination this year and hamfest with us! Help us establish this hamfest as one of the biggest events in the midwest. We want your support. Come Friday, meet old friends, have cheap burgers and brats, then hamfest all day Saturday! Did I mention that the Holiday Inn has a special \$74 rate (you have to ask), and is even offering a free breakfast for guests of the hamfest!

The May tornado has made finding rooms a little difficult. I do recommend you reserve your room before July 26, we have a block of rooms at the Holiday Inn, and at the La Quinta. After that date I cannot guarantee rooms.

73 from Joplin,

Jim Scott
WBØIYC
2011 Chairman
JARC Hamfest
<http://www.joplin-arc.org>

Rockwell-Collins

Amateur Radio Club

Mail Station 461-290

P.O. Box 833807

Richardson, TX 75083-3807

TO:



CLUB STATIONS

(972) 705-1349

W5ROK REPEATER

441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input

131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX

W5ROK-1 PACKET BBS ROK Node

145.01 MHz

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

Thursday, 28 July 2011

1700 Social

1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Second Floor Conference Room 200

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 14 August 2011 ←←←