
SIGNALS

Rockwell
Collins **Amateur Radio Club**

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 32 Issue 6

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

March 2011

RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 24 March 2011
1700 Social 1730 Meeting
Program 1800

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

Subject:
Remote Station Operation with a Ten-Tec
Omni VII by Steve Phillips, K6JT

W5ROK Field Day 2011 Planning Yes, it is time to start talking about and planning for field day 2011! This year, the primary goal is to have fun, learn or do something new and if we can, improve our score over last year. Suggestions are welcome, but HELP is really what we need now.

PLAN Description—Currently the plan is to operate E3 and do the normal meal for club members, operators, helpers etc. We would also like to build two “triplexer” modules as described in QST June 2010 to improve our utilization of our antenna farm.

Volunteers Needed—To make this a success, we are going to need a LOT of help. This will be our Field Day Committee for 2011. We'll be twisting arms to fill this list...

1. **Food and drink Coordinator** – To arrange for the meal and snacks for the operators.
2. **Radio Equipment Coordinator** – Responsible to make sure we have all our equipment in good repair, configured and operating. (Before the event)
3. **Station Computer/Automation Coordinator** – Responsible to setup, configure and test the Station computer equipment, logging software, macros, digital modes etc. (Before the Event)
4. **Training Coordinator** – Responsible to develop and deliver some quick training course on the radio equipment, computers, logging, macros, and how to raise our scores. (Target date is two weeks before the contest for training date.)
5. **Contest Operating Coordinator** – Responsible to publish sign up sheets for operating times, coordinate the field day setup and tear down crews. Also needs to designate a trained “chief” operator at all times during the contest.

Bob Kirby (K3NT) has already volunteered to serve as the Station Computer/Automation Coordinator so we are down to 4 folks that are needed. You can sign up for more than one slot, if you want, but this year the folks who operate for hours overnight should not be responsible for cleanup in the morning.

Local Club News

Meeting Notice Please plan to attend the RCARC membership meeting this month, as we have been having a good turn out and a great time at the meetings this year. We are pleased to announce a demonstration of Remote Radio Operation presented by Steve Phillips, K6JT, at around 6:00pm. He will operate his

Remote Station Operation

with a  **Omni VII**



Omni VII, located at his home in Plano, via an Internet link from the Hospital. A summary of the operating procedure that was described in the February Newsletter Article will first be presented along with a short description of the remote control program and how it operates. At least one SSB contact will then be made and one CW contact. He will also check into the Texas CW Net remotely at 7 PM. Note that operation is contingent upon no Thunderstorms being in the area. Please consider inviting a friend to hear this interesting presentation.

Maintenance Items Known

1. One of the Bencher CW keys is broken - needs repaired or replaced.
2. New pads are needed for some headphones. One set required is for the model YH-77sta Yaesu headphones
3. Spare batteries for the small MFJ clocks
4. One operating lamp needs to be found or if replaced, consider a small LED lamp
5. Get “IT” Tuned

(Continued on page 4)

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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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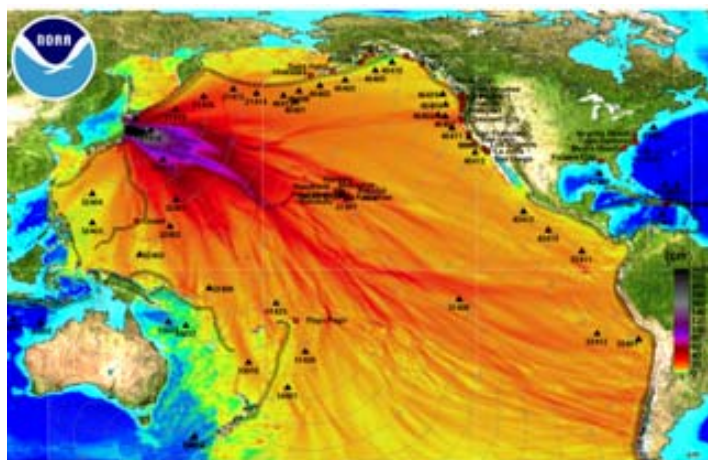
President's Message



CRISIS In Japan – I'm sure your prayers go out with mine for all those impacted by the CRISIS unfolding in Japan. We are still only aware of recent events as a result of Japan's 8.9 Earth Quake

followed by a major Tsunami last Friday which will impact all our lives here on earth.

I can only imagine this must have caused hundreds and thousands of other emergencies each of top priority to those involved. Most emergency recovery efforts are impacted by our ability to communicate. In watching videos and models this past week-end showing how fast the tsunami impacted all coast lines and many locations across the ocean http://nctr.pmel.noaa.gov/honshu20110311/Energy_plot20110311-1000.png makes you realize you need to have your emergency communications tools and skills ready to go (swinging by home or work might just not be possible when emergencies strike).



Communications providers in Japan will be attempting to recover in those areas for months. Many cell phones and major telecommunication centers are down currently due to damage or are impacted directly by lack of power as a result of one of the worst nuclear events in recent history.

I hope you join me in prayer for all those affected and then get prepared yourself for events which will occur in our life time. It's not too late for any of us to brush up on our skills. It's a good idea for us to invest in new skills and tool sets. We should respond and help others in a time of need and the skills you learn now may allow you to save the lives of others when put into use.

I can only assume that those closest to the event want to locate loved ones and recover their life styles as soon as possible. This will apply pressure on the government and markets around the world who will also realize we want those impacted to recover as quickly as well. This will probably result in new infrastructure designed to recover more quickly after future disasters. I suspect that Japan will recover stronger than the past based on new infrastructure. We need to learn to not become too complacent about

tomorrow and invest in new technology and in our skill sets as well.

Thanks To Club Members for stepping up - RCARC continues to change and improve as we deal with recent space downsizing and move on with a series of club lean events of our own.

Special THANKS goes out to the W5ROK Work Party of March 9 that included: Mike, WA9WCC, Ira, K5IRA, Bob, K3NT, Dennis, WA8ZBT, and Bob, KC4UAI. Working with facilities for several days in advance of this move the group was then able to collocate most of the RCARC stored equipment into a 12 x 12 foot area as we continue to reduce our equipment, surplus, and supplies storage foot print. You will now find the storage cabinets all together, many assets sorted into cabinets and secured. Skids of materials were gone through with items salvaged or consolidated into the new area. Each cabinet in the storage area was clearly marked ROCKWELL COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB in the shared common space to attempt to reduce item loss. The cabinets that had hasps were secured with the combination locks and we hope to finish adding hasps to the remaining cabinets.

Work continues in the Radio Shack in order to make the operation stations more comfortable. Two K2 shelf monitor mounts were secured and once installed will be evaluated for possible future purchases. These mounts should free up desktop space but still position the monitors near the primary radio, improving members' comfort during extended operations.

The improvement effort is not over and we have many possible areas and technologies to improve our skills or operational readiness. Please take action and plug into one of the many efforts underway. Please consider the impacts in Japan and view Field Day in a new light. The skills you develop and the participation in this event might be used to save lives in the future.

Hey don't miss out on all the action at this month's meeting and the program as Steve Phillips K6JT shares more on Remote Radio Operations via the live demo over the internet. Possibly you're not allowed to install antennas at your home location—if so, you could benefit from this technique. We would also like to consider moving forward with similar possibilities for the club.

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

Secretary's Report February 24, 2011

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

- 1 Bob Ashby - K5JHR
- 2 Charles Beis - K5UWD
- 3 Ira Blum - K5IRA
- 4 Chris Havenridge - KF5GUN
- 5 Amy Ketchum
- 6 Michael Ketchum - K5MDK - Club Secretary
- 7 Ruthie Ketchum
- 8 Bob Kirby - K3NT
- 9 Cindy Kirby
- 10 John McFadden - K5TIP

- 11 Chuck Samuel - K5NWM
- 12 Mike Schmit - WA9WCC
- 13 James Skinner - WB0UNI - Newsletter Editor
- 14 Ross Terry - K5SRT - Club President
- 15 Paul Veenstra - KC0TEG
- 16 Joe Wolf - N5UIC - Marketing

This represents 10 Regular, 1 Family, 2 Life, 1 Associate and 2 non-members.

a. Opening

Ross Terry – K5SRT, the club President, opened the meeting at 17:28 with a flag pledge.

b. Calendar of Events and Announcements

Several of the calendar events were announced. These events can also be found in the February 2011 edition of the **Signals** newsletter.

c. Old Business

There were several items discussed in OLD BUSINESS:

1. Weather Station

- a. Facilities will purchase the Solar Shield.
- b. Data Kit has not been installed yet.
- c. Quote for Solar Shield and Humidity sensor has been given to Facilities team.
- d. We may need another meeting with Michael Kurtis of Facilities to deal with the consolidation of the W5ROK material in the storage area.
- e. There was a request made to the membership by Ross Terry for someone to lead an effort to work with facilities to get our stuff consolidated and stored properly. Bob Kirby – K3NT, has volunteered to work with the others already working on this, which includes Dennis Cobb – WA8ZBT and Bob Diepenbrock – KC4UAI.
- f. An issue with intermittent power to the club station will affect the weather station. We need a UPS. There are UPS units; however their batteries need to be replaced. Discussion about facilities providing W5ROK station access to the emergency power was made. K3NT agreed to include the club's MOU with facilities to get a decision on this route. Otherwise, we will need to purchase batteries or a new UPS unit.

2. **Consolidation of W5ROK stuff** was further discussed with regards to stacks of PCs that were given to the club. However, all of these PCs have company asset tags on them and Windows OS that has the corporate policy installed. Someone is needed to lead an effort to unlock these OS, possibly by putting on a new OS. Ira Blum – K5IRA, agreed to consider this matter and see what it would take to reclaim these PCs.

3. **Projects Still Needed Effort** to complete are as follows:

- a. **"IT" MFJ antenna** needs to have another work day to finish tuning and installing this antenna. Mike Schmit – WA9WCC, said that he would lead this effort to organize a session if the club would decide on a date. Ross, the club President, accepted this offer and announced that a date will be set shortly.
- b. **Weather Station Phase 2** will need to be started that would address the installation of the new Solar Shield, possible new sensor and also to de-

velop the logging software and data transfer to a web site of some kind.

- c. **W5ROK LEAN effort.** It was announced that Joe Wolf – N5UIC has obtained five padlocks that will be used for the new cabinets to store the W5ROK stuff in the storage area. John McFadden – K5TIP suggested creating a MWR to install these locks, in order to avoid possible issues with Facilities team. Additionally, Bob Kirby – K3NT described how the cabinet on the factory floor was moved to the storage area by taking the items out of the cabinet onto a skid gondola and the empty cabinet moved by facilities. There was discussion about how the skid gondola was missing. Bob informed everyone that it is now located and in the general area of the cabinets at present. This effort took two days of work by Ross Terry, Dennis Cobb and Bob Kirby.

4. **Are You Still Learning?** It was announced that Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, achieved his General Class license. What are you learning about in the ham hobby?
5. **Field Day** was briefly brought up as a reminder.
6. **Inter-Club organization** Bob Kirby – K3NT was asked to describe a set of events that are happening with the club in Melbourne, Florida – W4CRC. The club is in the process of supporting Ham Radio demonstrations at a Strawberry Festival March 5th through the 6th. There will be a tent setup to show some of the Rockwell Collins products and the W4CRC club will be there to demonstrate ham radio as well. It is hoped that our club members can help by making contacts with the W4CRC station during the festival.

Additionally, Bob Kirby – K3NT, also reported that there is an effort to combine some of the club resources for representation to the company. It is hoped that some of the smaller clubs will be properly represented through such an effort. A multi-club conference is in the process of being scheduled. More information to come.

7. **Collins S-Line Club Station** Help is needed in setting up the Collins S-Line rig within the club station. A MWR will need to be submitted in order to get power to the rig. K3NT volunteered to lead the effort to get the rig up and running. Bob Ashby - K5JHR, also volunteered to help with this effort.
8. **Mark Harris** has been out of town and also has not received his equipment back in order to setup the continued presentation topic.

d. **Presentation**

At 18:00, Bob Kirby – K3NT was asked to begin his presentation, reporting on his recent trip to Kwajalein in the South Pacific.

The meeting ended at 19:10

W5ROK Field Day 2011 Planning *(Cont from pg 1)*

New Equipment to Purchase?

1. Build TWO Triplexers (Build from QST June 2010 Plans)
2. Additional set of Band Pass Filters
3. Building or purchase of dual headphone boxes with separate volume controls for each station. (Operator & logger/guest can have their own levels)

4. RigExpert Standard (for digital modes and radio control to match the one we have on loan)

Setup/Configuration

1. Computer, Network Setup
 - a. Three Workstations
 - b. Fully updated, Virus Signatures
 - c. Networked, with internet capacity
2. Logging Software – Suggesting N1MM like last year
 - a. Multi Station (3 operator setup)
 - b. Macros
 - i. CW
 - ii. Digital
 - iii. Voice (if possible)
 - c. Digital Modes – Integrated with N1MM
 - d. Field Day Contest Setup
3. Posters –
 - a. Call sign, Exchange
 - b. Voice Scripts
 - c. Macro Definitions
 - d. ARRL Sections (Alphabetical and regional)
 - e. Antennas
 - i. Connections/Bands available
 - ii. Safety procedures

Of course, we are going to need folks to operate during the contest too, but we're not yet twisting arms for that. (Give us some time). Step up folks! *(Article by Bob Diepenbrock, KC4UAI)*

Work Party Participants/Status A big thank you to everyone for their work and dedication at the March 15, 2011 W5ROK Work Party . Michael already had a table set up outside the club and most of the radios removed from the west desk when we arrived.

Andrew engineered how to install the sliders and filtered A/C iso-bar unit.

Paul went into super drive installing hasps on the storage cabinets and completing one of the K2 installs.

Dennis helped move equipment from the station to storage and tested the first K2 install (It passed!)

I learn some new things working with all of them and had fun. The station is a little bit more comfortable for members and guests to enjoy.

The new roll around station tool box is a big help. There is still a lot of work to be done.

March 15, 2011 W5ROK Work Party Participants:

Andrew Robinson KE5SAS
 Paul Veenstra, KC0TEG
 Michael Ketchum, K5MDK
 Ira Blum, K5IRA
 Dennis Cobb, WA8ZBT
 Bob Kirby , K3NT

Two more station items were found damaged. One was trashed. Also found a burn spot on top of the east operating desk.

Of interest is that this was in the same area where the damaged Bencher key CW paddle was found.

A new D-Link wireless card and antenna may be needed in PC RCARC #1 as the center SMA antenna pin is bent due the wrong antenna connector being screwed into it.

RCARC #1 PC will be off the internet until this can be repaired.

Suggest purchase of a small re-chargeable vacuum cleaner to be mounted on the station wall.

Updated status radio club inventory, station items.

- Move and arrange RCARC storage cabinets in the PACE lab - COMPLETE
- Clearly mark all RCARC storage cabinets - COMPLETE
- Install hasps/combination locks on cabinets - COMPLETE
- Move file cabinet from W5ROK station into the PACE lab RCARC storage area - COMPLETE
- Purchase and install replacement desk lamp - COMPLETE
- Purchase and install replacement B&K screwdriver battery - COMPLETE
- Purchase and install sliders under west side operating desk - COMPLETE
- Enlarge rear access holes behind top and bottom shelf of west operating desk - COMPLETE
- Move small rolling table from storage area to station - COMPLETE
- Move large hardware containers from the station to a locked cabinet - COMPLETE
- Move Green luggage with speakerphone/go kit from station to locked cabinet - COMPLETE
- Sort & Inventory items (Sell & Keep) - Started, 5% complete
- Install two K2 monitor brackets above the K3 operating position - Started, 50% complete
- Place items in cabinets -Started, 80% complete
- Install raceway on east and south walls - Started, 5% complete
- Hook-up FT-2000 - Started, 75% complete
- Hook-up Collins S-Line - Started, 35% complete
- Clearly mark RCARC small tool boxes #1 and #2 - Not Started
- Inventory tools in RCARC small tool boxes #1 and #2 with both copies in each toolbox -Not Started
- Move locked toolbox #1 to Penthouse #6 (base of HF tower/beam) -Not Started
- Move locked toolbox #2 to Penthouse #? (base of Repeater tower) -Not Started
- Place all completed inventory lists on desk in club station for processing -Not Started
- Install the large RCARC banner above door- outside of station - Not Started
- Install multi-document holder for radio manuals and log-books on station wall - Not Started
- Repair or replace the damaged Bencher CW paddle- Not Started
- Purchase and install a new PCI wireless card in RCARC #1 PC- Not Started

(Article by Bob Kirby, K3NT)

Data Link Solutions receives production award for MIDS Joint Tactical Radio System —

The Space and Naval Warfare Systems Command has awarded

Data Link Solutions (DLS) – a joint venture between our company and BAE Systems – an \$8.2 million contract for limited production of Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) terminals.

The MIDS JTRS is a four-channel terminal that includes Link 16 capability with the ability to incorporate additional networking waveforms as they become available. Link 16 provides real-time data communications, situational awareness and navigation and, in some cases, digital voice, all in a jam-resistant, crypto-secured package. *Source: Thursday, March 3, 2011 — Today at Rockwell Collins*

Blog includes Rockwell Collins perspective on Army's commitment to warfighter —

Our company's belief that the U.S. Army remains committed to networking the warfighter despite overall Department of Defense (DoD) budget cuts for FY'12 was the topic of a recent Military & Aerospace Electronics blog.

Sam Hubbard, senior director of Army and Defense Programs at Rockwell Collins, said in the Feb. 25 blog – posted by Military & Aerospace Electronics magazine executive editor John McHale – that our company has a positive outlook with regard to 2012 budget requests.

Hubbard said our company pays close attention to budget support for “bringing the network down to the individual,” an area in which we are “heavily invested” with technology such as our Global Positioning System (GPS) products and solutions like our Micro-Turnstile device. A cross domain solution for the CERDEC Tactical Army Cross Domain Information Solution (TACDIS) program, the MicroTurnstile can be worn by the warfighter and operates with Nett Warrior soldier equipment. *Source: Thursday, March 3, 2011 — Today at Rockwell Collins*

Events and Public Service Ops

26 March 2011: ARC of Parker County Hamfest.

This year's hamfest will be held at Couets Methodist Church, 802 North Elm Street, Weatherford, TX. The web site had more information at <http://www.w5pc.org/hamfest>. Plan on attending Saturday, March 26th from 7am till 1pm. There will be door prizes all day and a \$500.00 grand prize. Tickets are \$5.00 with the talk in on 147.04 PL 110.9 (Primary) and 146.90 PL 110.9 (Secondary). Free Parking. Food and drinks at the snack bar. Bake-sale cakes, pies and cookies. Visit with friends and make new ones. Many bargains, both old and new.

30 April – 1 May 2011: Sam's Club MS 150 Frisco to Fort Worth Bike Tour.

Mark the date. More info to come. Contact KB5ZDG, James Marple for more info at j.marple@verizon.net. For Amateur Radio Operators wanting to operate as SAG communicators contact Brett, N5ANM at n5anm@yahoo.com. Amateur Radio Volunteers need to sign up at Ham Radio Sign Up at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/sams-club/volunteer-information/amateur-radio-ham-operator/index.aspx>. This gets your information in the system and inputs your T-Shirt order. More information about this event can be found at <http://www.nationalmssociety.org/chapters/sams-club/index.aspx>.

Rockwell-Collins

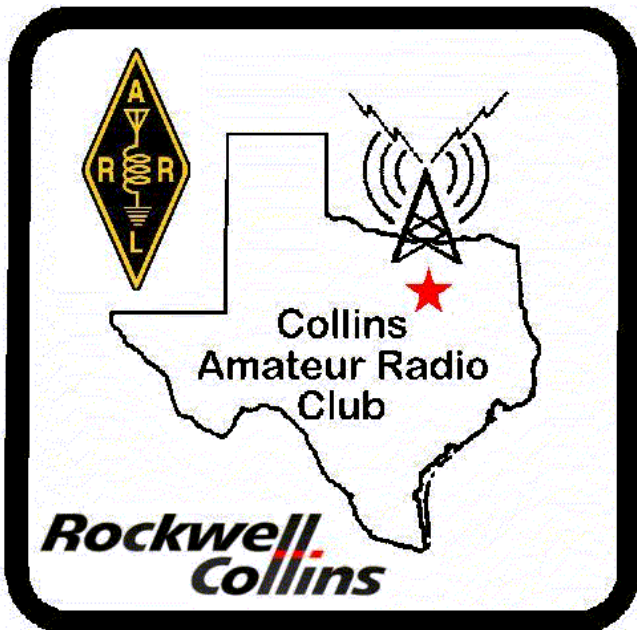
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TO:



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

Thursday, 24 March 2011

1700 Social 1730 Meeting

Methodist Richardson Medical Ctr
At Bush/Renner/Shiloh Intersection

Second Floor Conference Room 200

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

→→→ 17 April 2011 ←←←