
SIGNALS

Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club

Monthly Newsletter of the

Volume 32 Issue 1

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

October 2010

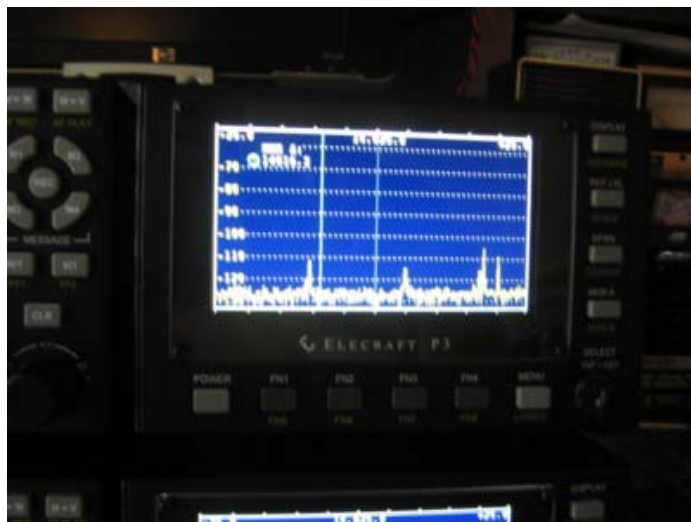
RCARC Membership Meeting

Thursday, 28 October 2010
1700 Social 1730 Meeting

→→Rockwell Collins Building 462←←
Dallas Conference Room

Subject: Top 10 EMC Problems & EMC Troubleshooting with EMI Mythbusters by Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH

P3 Assembled and Functional Here are pictures of the Radio Club's Elecraft K3 and P3 on top of Dennis Cobb's K3 and P3. The pictures were made shortly after the clubs P3 was assembled. Note that the 7.040 and 14.060 MHz frequencies on the K3 displays are the QRP calling frequencies for 40 and 20 meters respectively.



Local Club News

Meeting Notice. Please plan to attend the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club monthly meeting this month for an especially spooky Halloween "treat." This month's presentation will be by our very own Mike Hollingsworth - W5QH, who will be presenting, "Top 10 EMC Problems & EMC - Troubleshooting with the bonus subject: EMI Mythbusters" around 17:30. Please be aware that the meeting place has been moved to the DALLAS CONFERENCE ROOM, for this one meeting only, in order to partake in this special presentation. Please see the [program announcement on page 7](#) for more information about this presentation. Don't miss this treat—after all, what could be spookier than EMI? Learn the "tricks" of dealing with this devilish problem.

Club Meeting Talk-In. Each month, on the night of the membership meeting we have a Talk-In on the club repeater. The Talk-In this month is 1630 to 1700 hours, prior to the meeting.

FY 2011 RCARC Officers Election The ballots are cast, the election is over and our officers for the 2011 Fiscal Year have been selected. Please welcome the following new officers and provide them your full support as they lead the club.

President	Sidney Ross Terry	K5SRT
Vice President	Dwight Ramsey	KE5SAS
Secretary	Michael Ketchum	K5MDK
Treasurer	Robert Diepenbrock	KC4UAI
Activities Mgr	Mark Harris	KC5FDX

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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

There is no President's Message this month. Please watch this spot for a word from our president next month.

Ross Terry, K5SRT
k5srt@arrl.net

Vice-President's Message

There is no Vice-President's Message this month. Please watch this spot for a word from our VP next month.

Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS
dwr Ramsey@rockwellcollins.com

Secretary's Report-23 Sep 2010 Meeting Minutes

Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, opened the meeting at 1730 on 23 September 2010, in the Methodist Richardson Medical Center Conference Room with the Pledge of Allegiance. There were 2 life members, 3 retired members, 9 active members and 1 associate member present at the meeting as follows:

- Charles "Charlie" Beis - K5UWD
- Ira Blum - K5IRA
- Robert "Bob" Diepenbrock - KC4UAI
- Kenneth Keese - KD5EVW
- Michael Ketchum - K5MDK
- Robert "Bob" Kirby - K3NT
- John McFadden - K5TIP
- Steve Phillips - K6JT
- Dwight Ramsey - KE5SAS
- Juan "Romeo" Riojas - KE5SAL
- Charles "Chuck" Samuel - K7NWM
- Michael "Mike" Schmit - WA9WCC
- James "Jim" Skinner - WB0UNI
- Sidney "Ross" Terry - K5SRT
- Joseph "Joe" Wolf - N5UIC

1. Elections

a. Club Elections: An election was held to select next year's officers. All positions were filled. The elections were done in two rounds, since there were no nominees for President, Vice President and Activities Manager and some of the write-in nominations were people already on the ballot for other offices from the nomination committee. In the first round, the following officers were elected:

Treasurer Bob Diepenbrock, KC4UAI
Secretary Michael Ketchum, K5MDK

After this initial round, new nominations were added from the write-in ballots and a second round of elections was held. In this second round, the following officers were elected:

President Ross Terry, K5SRT
Vice-President Dwight Ramsey, KE5SAS
Activity Chair Mark Harris, KC5FDX

2. Officer Reports (Not solicited during the meeting)

- a. President's Report:** There was no President's report.
- b. Vice-President's Report:** There was no Vice-President's report.

c. Secretary's Report: There was no Secretary's report, since the post is currently unmanned.

d. Treasurers Report: There was no Treasurers report.

e. Station Trustee's Report: There was no Station Trustees report.

f. Activities Chairman Report: There was no Activities Chairman report.

3. Miscellaneous Business

a. Pizza Ross Terry, K5SRT, had brought pizza for the club. Once elections were over, he gave a blessing for the food and the club took a break to consume the meal, which was gladly received.

4. Old Business

a. Work Party Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, announced a work party for Saturday, October 9th at 09:00, which will address the erection of the Hy Gain HF Antenna. If the work is not completed in one day, a subsequent date(s) can be arranged at that time. Joe Wolf, N5UIC, will send out an email announcement regarding this work day.

b. Annual Report Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, started discussion regarding the items to be requested in the annual report. Discussion was made regarding the following items:

1) Remote Station Operation – this will provide the capability for the station, or a single radio at the station, to be operated remotely via the internet by members of the club. Since no concrete information was provided by any member, more research will have to be done in order to make a proposal. General interest seemed favorable to all members in attendance. Part of this discussion included the need for a static IP internet address at the shack.

2) Static IP internet at the shack – which will support the Remote Operations item above. Discussion included three avenues of research as follows: (a) Bob Diepenbrock, KC4UAI, will continue to see if he can get an 802.11 wireless link from his home to the ham shack. (b) Bob Kirby, K3NT, will check with the Cedar Rapids club to see how they get static IP at their shack when he travels to Cedar Rapids in the near future. (c) A third avenue to be researched is to negotiate with the Methodist Richardson Medical Center to see if they can run a wireless link to our building. No one was assigned to this task. There was also some discussion about the feasibility of a "Clear" wireless Internet connection, but cost appeared prohibitive.

3) Solar Power system – Discussion was made for providing battery charge for at least one station running 25 watts in the shack using solar power. Mike Schmit, WA9WCC, indicated his research indicated \$1000 should provide a basic system. Bob Kirby, K3NT, suggested selling the Kenwood TS-50 to provide additional funding. No further action was taken.

5. New Business

a. Next Months Meeting A special presentation will be given at next month's meeting, which requires a change in meeting location. October's meeting will be held in the Dallas Conference room in building 462 at the regular time. Mike Hollingsworth, W5QH, will be making a special presentation on "Top 10 EMC Problems & EMC Troubleshooting / EMI Myth busters" Discussion was made to open this meeting to the general employee population. Michael Ketchum,

K5MDK, offered to make posters for the facilities. An announcement to the Richardson Employees will be made. Also, several will volunteer to serve Popcorn at the RRFT Popcorn Wednesday prior to the meeting in order to promote the event. A suggestion by Bob Kirby, K3NT, was to ask Alicia Gladney to create the email to send to the Richardson employees, since she is so good at doing those emails.

b. Texas QSO Party This weekend, September 25-26, is the Texas QSO Party. Members are encouraged to participate. More information can be found at the web site: www.txqp.net

c. CW Classes The Dallas Amateur Radio Club has announced that it will be holding net meetings to teach CW to participants wishing to learn CW. Classes begin October 4th. More information can be obtained at www.w5fc.org.

The business meeting adjourned at 18:47 for an informal presentation by Joe Wolf, N5UIC and Bob Kirby, K3NT, on "How to Use the W5ROK Web Site" A live review of the site was given with practical instruction on how to use a web browser to navigate through a web site as well as all of the benefits and resources of the W5ROK web site.

During the presentation, a few members voiced that the EZNEC antenna software, like the one Loney Duncan used at the August presentation, would sure be useful to RCARC. So a motion was made by Bob Kirby, K3NT, to purchase the EZNEC Antenna Modeling software, the version that is around \$100.00. The motion was seconded by Kenneth Keese, KD5EVW and carried by an informal voice vote unanimously. There were no objections. This was done in an effort to finalize agreement of the remaining FY2010 funding for an item that would be most useful to the greatest number of club members. Treasurer Bob, KC4UAI was assigned the task to make the purchase.

The meeting was dismissed at the end of the presentation when all questions were answered.

JDRF Walk, Plano, Texas – September 25, 2010

I'm walk'n in the rain, as the JDRF Walk was held at Granite Park this year in order to support fund raising efforts to find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes. This year, the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club participated with this event to provide communications and safety to the general public during this public service event. Radio Operators Andrew Robinson – KE5SAK, and Michael Ketchum – K5MDK, donned their rain gear and held their posts, providing valuable communications between the organizers of the event.



This year, Andrew – KE5SAK, was assigned to the Food Tent. This position has got to be one of the best positions in the world. Where else can you get all the food you can eat and operate radios at the same time? Well, Andrew was not that hungry that day, as he worked hard to make sure food requests were delivered to the various aid stations. Michael – K5MDK, was assigned to work in the Kidsville children’s venue where several bouncy inflatables were erected for the children. Also, the Kidsville venue had a large tent for games, face painting, hair designs and tattoos (the washable kind). Children could exchange prize tickets for toys at the store, next door to the Kidsville tent. Communications was needed to keep volunteer shifts in order and to help with ancillary responsibilities that fell on the organizer of the kidsville venue.



Colin Sledge - KA5PZH Net Control Operator

Although it rained off and on during this walk event, nobody got hurt and a lot of money was raised for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Good job! Submitted by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK



Plano Balloon Festival, Plano, Texas – September 18, 2010

Up, Up and away in my beautiful balloon! This year’s Plano Balloon festival was spectacular with color and lots of participating balloons. The three day event required a lot of operators to volunteer, and there was always a shortage. However, the Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club participated in this event by providing public service communications in two

areas: Field and Recovery. There is also a Refueling Operation that is conducted in order to record the balloon operators refueling their balloons for safety records. Participating this year was Andrew Robinson – KE5SAK and Michael Ketchum – K5MDK.



Field operations takes place on its own directed net on the balloon launch field. The field is divided into a grid with numeric rows and alphabet columns. Each field operator is given a row to cover. The Field Operator will notify net control for each balloon that lifts off. A Ramp operator also reports ground crews as they arrive or leave the field, for safety records. At night, Field Operations also expands its duties to cover safety of the public as well as notification of when a balloon participates in the glow, where the balloon stays on the ground and flames illuminate the balloon envelope to reveal the colorful glow in the dark. Later on in the event, the public is allowed to cross the barricades and get an up-close view of the glowing giants of the sky. After the public was ushered off of the field, the balloons were packed up and the field cleared for a wonderful fireworks show. That’s when this radio operator escaped the scene before the crowds did.





Recovery involves mobile operation under a directed net to track balloons as they fly and land. This is important, as recovery ground crews often get disconnected from their balloon during flight. Ham operators performing recovery can help reconnect as well as provide emergency communications if a situation erupts.

Andrew – KE5SAK and Michael – K5MDK, had a great time together in recovery, as they spotted five balloon landings on Saturday morning. Assigned to one balloon that just took off for the sky, the two had to chase it to Lucas, where it landed amongst some houses. Andrew stated that he had a great time and wanted to get involved in more public service events. That would actually happen the following weekend at the JDRF Walk event. (Submitted by Michael Ketchum – K5MDK. Photos provided, courtesy of Rev. Greg Kelley)





amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Contest duration is a full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday) See the detailed rules for more information at <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>.

6-8 November 2010—November Sweepstakes, CW

The object of this event is for stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Contest Period: Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. All stations may operate no more than 24 of the 30 hours. See the detailed rules for more information at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.

20-22 November 2010—November Sweepstakes, Phone

The object of this event is for stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Contest Period: Begins 2100 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. All stations may operate no more than 24 of the 30 hours. See the detailed rules for more information at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.

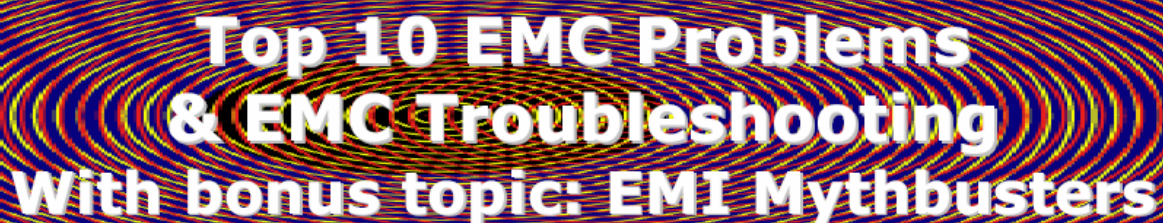
3-5 December 2010—ARRL 160 Meter Contest

The object of this event is for Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on the 160-meter band CW only. DX-to-DX QSOs do not count for contest credit. Stations located in overseas and non-contiguous U.S. Territories may be worked by DX stations. This includes Alaska KL7, the Caribbean US possessions KP1-KP5, and all of the Pacific Ocean territories KH0-KH9, including Hawaii KH6. These stations can work BOTH domestic stations (US and VE) as well as DX stations around the world. Check your software before the contest to be sure it will accept these QSOs. Contest Period: Begins 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday (December 3 - December 5, 2010). This is a forty-two hour period with no time limitation. See the detailed rules for more information at <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>.



Events and Public Service Ops

30-31 October 2010—EME Contest, 50-1296 MHz (round 2). The object of this event is to work as many



Top 10 EMC Problems & EMC Troubleshooting With bonus topic: EMI Mythbusters

The Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club is pleased to invite you to this special presentation by our very own Mike Hollingsworth – W5QH.

When: October 28, 2010 at 5:30pm

Where: Dallas Conference Room – building 462 - 2nd floor

Topics: Common Electromagnetic compatibility problems and their solutions will be discussed.

Find out if those EMI myths such as "*we always have used pigtailed for shield terminations*" or "*we have always floated circuit board ground planes from chassis*" are true or are they really a myth.

Various staged EMI situations.

Demonstration of a method for relative chassis shielding effectiveness.

Sponsors: Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club – www.w5rok.us

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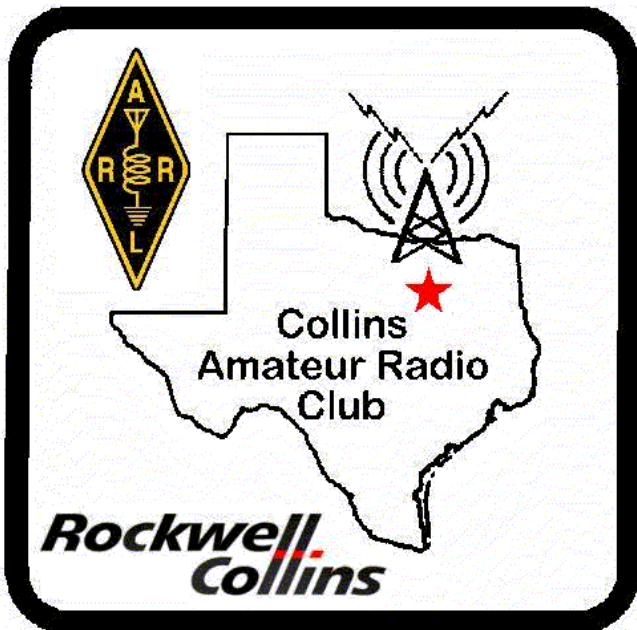
Amateur Radio Club

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

Thursday 28 October 2010

1730

Rockwell Collins Building 462

Dallas Conference Room

NEXT SIGNALS DEADLINE:

→→→ 8 November 2010 ←←←