

CARC Membership Meeting Tuesday 30 August 2022 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at
Poor Richards Café, Plano TX
Grounding and Bonding
By Tim Duffy K3LR

August General Meeting to Feature Tim Duffy, K3LR

The August General Meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, August 30th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Poor Richard's Cafe, 2442 K Avenue, Plano.

The meeting will also be streamed via Zoom. The Zoom login instructions will be emailed on Sunday before the meeting and are available in the Members Only section of the n5cxx.us web site.



PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE TO THE FIFTH TUESDAY. WE DID THIS TO ACCOMMODATE OUR SPEAKER.

The technical program will be on grounding and bonding presented by Tim Duffy, K3LR. He discusses the science behind grounding and bonding and shows examples of what not to do. Tim will show examples of proper installations and the how they are put together

Tim has been an active amateur radio operator for 48 years - starting as WN3SZX in 1972. He has hosted 145 different operators from around the world as part of the K3LR Multi

operator radio sport contest efforts since 1992. Tim has built a 13-tower station with 11 operating positions.

He was the ARRL Atlantic Division Technical Achievement award winner in 1998. Tim has been the moderator of the Hamvention Antenna forum for 35 years. K3LR serves as chairman of Contest University (14 years), the Dayton Contest Dinner (28 years), chairman of the Top Band Dinner – as well as coordinator of the Contest Super Suite (35 years) in Dayton during the yearly Hamvention.

He is founder and moderator of the popular RFI Reflector (RFI@contesting.com) since 1999. Tim serves on the board of directors of the World-Wide Radio Operators Foundation (WWROF) as Chairman and is President Emeritus of the Radio Club of America (RCA). Tim is multiyear President of the Mercer County Amateur Radio Club (W3LIF). K3LR serves as a Director on the ARRL Foundation board.

Tim was elected to the CQ Contest Hall of Fame in 2006. He was honored with the prestigious Barry Goldwater Amateur Radio service award by the RCA in 2010. Tim was honored in 2016 with the YASME Excellence award. K3LR was also honored as Hamvention Amateur of the Year in 2015 by the Dayton Amateur Radio Association.

Tim is the Chief Executive Officer of DX Engineering. He is a graduate of Pennsylvania State University.

CARC Member Heading for Diego Garcia

Fellow Club member Steve Coleman, WB4GHY, is heading to Diego Garcia on a work project and expects to operate as time permits on the HF bands.

He leaves on August 23rd and expects to be in Diego Garcia during September and most of October. Steve indicates he will mostly work FT8 and some SSB if the antenna and band conditions allow. Be on the lookout for a VQ9 call on FT8.

Steve's former call in Diego was VQ9SC and he hopes he'll be able to get this call again. If you need Diego Garcia for DXCC, contact Steve via email and hopefully something can be set up. His email is scoleman822@gmail.com.

Diego Garcia is a militarized atoll just south of the equator in the central Indian Ocean, and the largest of the 60 small islands of the Chagos Archipelago.

Drive Home Net Changes—See Page 4

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Unavailable until further notice

VE SESSIONS

Collins Amateur Radio Club (CARC) Test sessions take place on fourth Tuesdays, immediately following the regular CARC monthly membership meeting (about 7:30 p.m.). The test sessions are held at **Poor Richards Café Plano TX**. Walk-ins are welcome, but it's best to register with the lead examiner, Kerry Weeks, at weeks.kerry@gmail.com or by phone at (214) 478-3230.

Dallas tests are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1000 hrs. 13350 Floyd Rd. (Old Credit Union) Contact Bob West, WA8YCD 972.917.6362

Irving tests are held on the third Saturday of each month at 0900. Fifth 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 1430, ending no later than 1645. **Note: no tests given on holiday week-ends.**

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 Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH at 972.302.9992.

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.

Richardson The Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) VE team hold license testing on the third Thursday of each month at St. Barnabas Presbyterian Church, 1220 West Beltline Rd. Testing begins at 1900 hrs in room 12. Enter through the Northern most door on the east side of the church building. For further information contact Don Klick KG5CK. 972.464.2889 or E-mail rwkhamtest@gmail.com.

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The Prez Sez

with KR5N



I hope everyone has survived the summer heat. My age is catching up with me and I'm finding it's necessary to take things a bit slower. Our move back to Garland is almost complete, and we will be happy when that's all done. I look forward to getting several antennas up to enjoy the new solar cycle.

We have a great program lined up for this month. Tim Duffy, K3LR, CEO of DX Engineering will speak on grounding and bonding. Tell your friends about this meeting and invite them along. Remember too, to promote the CARC since we now allow the general public to be Associate Members.

The Board of Directors discussed a meeting format for the coming year at its August meeting. The idea is to make meeting planning a bit easier for future Club officers. We're considering a quarterly format which includes a formal presentation at one meeting, a roundtable or panel discussion of a topic of interest to members (could be a recent topic in QST or On-the-Air (OTA) mags) at another meeting, and a quarterly dinner at a local restaurant.

We're experimenting with this for the rest of this year. This quarter's "social" was our Annual Ice Cream Social. The next quarter will include our annual Christmas Dinner. Since we have a formal speaker for August, we'll try out a discussion of a ham radio-related topic at the September meeting. Using a topic from a recent QST or OTA allows members to read up prior to the meeting or have printed material as follow-up for concepts they heard about at the discussion.

Give some thought to being an officer for 2023. The Board is striving to make the efforts of all elected positions as easy as possible. AND, if an elected position isn't what you have

in mind, how about VOLUNTEERING in some way to support the Club - we need contributors to the newsletter, maintenance of repeaters and the radio room, maintenance of our transportable equipment, activities committee members, training, Volunteer Examiners, meeting greeters, marketers or ambassadors for the Club, and just about anything you see that needs to be done to help our club succeed. Want to discuss? Contact me at kr5n@arrl.net

The Board is also trying to get a handle on the future of our Club Radio Room, our repeaters, and antennas. We'll be discussing this at our September meeting. More info on this next month.

Many folks have asked about the conference rooms at the Methodist Richardson Medical Center, which we had the pleasure of using for many years. Due to Covid restrictions, the conference rooms remain closed to the general public. According to officials at the hospital, we don't expect to be able to use the conference rooms at all this year and, quite possibly, not even during 2023. Poor Richard's has indicated that we are welcome to continue meeting at their facility, and the Board feels that this is a good location. So we'll be continuing to meet at Poor Richard's, at least for the remainder of 2022.

73 de Frank KR5N

Vice President/Membership Chairman Report

Membership Chairman Report – One new member was added during the last reporting period.

Current Membership - 57

Full Members – 40 (Includes Life and Retiree Members)

Associate Members - 17

Updated Membership status – CARC welcomes its newest Associate member. Say hello to David Russell, W2DMR. David holds an Extra class license, he is a member of ARRL and also holds membership in the Richardson Amateur Radio Club, K5RWK. He enjoys HF rag chewing and operating on VHF. Welcome David, we are glad to have you as a member.

Continuing membership is important to the CARC. Through the skills and experiences of all of our members, our club provides fellowship, education and service opportunities. If you have questions about your membership status or other membership related questions, please contact me. Thank you to all of our members for their support and contributions to the CARC.

73s,

Bill K5MWC

Secretary's Report

26 July 2022

President Frank Krizan KR5N called the meeting to order at 1735. The meeting was in-person at our meeting site at Poor Richard's Café in Plano. Zoom access was also provided for those not able to meet in person.

The following were present at the meeting site:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
David Cheek	WA5MWD
Mark Dempsey	N5MD
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Bill Fell	KK5PB
Frank Krizan	KR5N
John McFadden	K5TIP
Liz McFadden	K5LIZ
Betty Russell	n/a
Dave Russell	W2DMR
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS
Mark Wells	K9MDI

The following logged in via Zoom:

Bob Chandler	K15KRN
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Officer and Committee Reports

The Vice President's and Secretary's reports were published in the June 2022 CARC Newsletter, and no clarifications or updates were offered at the meeting.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

A motion proposed by the CARC Board of Directors was presented for General Membership approval. The motion as follows was moved by Secretary Jim Brown AF5MA and seconded by Kerry Weeks K5WKS:

"It is moved that the Club's Groups.io platform be opened to the public with moderation."

The motion was passed unanimously.

Announcements

All members and guests present were asked to introduce themselves. New member Dave Russell W2DMR was recognized.

Bill Swan K5MWC reviewed status of the CARC repeater equipment, including preliminary diagnosis of current problems. Further testing is planned to confirm initial assessment, and results of this effort will be reported at a subsequent meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1752, followed by the annual Ice Cream Social.

Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting

9 August 2022

President Frank Krizan KR5N called the meeting to order on-line via Zoom at 1900.

The following logged into the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Bob Chandler	KI5KRN (Non-voting participant)
Bill Fell	KK5PB (Non-voting participant)
Frank Krizan	KR5N
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS

Pre-Meeting Workshop

Directors and other members present participated in a pre-meeting workshop beginning at 1900 to discuss a range of topics and to develop motions as needed for action by the Board at the formal meeting summarized below.

Topics covered in the workshop included the following:

- Discussion of possible upgrade to Club-owned portable generators by addition of propane adapters. Benefits and general costs were reviewed, and the Board agreed that further investigation was warranted. President Frank Krizan KR5N volunteered to develop a quote sufficient to support detailed review and possible approval at a future meeting.
- Election of CARC officers for 2023. All were encouraged to start the process well in advance of the November 2022 election to ensure that all interested and qualified candidates are identified. It was generally agreed that we need to widen the pool of candidates this year.
- Status of repair of the CARC repeater equipment. Bill Swan, K5MWC, reported that no progress has been made since the last meeting. The CARC thanks member and active employee, Jon Moon, KA5HND, for volunteering to do more detailed testing on the system. His work load has prevented him from doing any additional testing at this time. Initial testing results indicate that the antenna itself maybe the source of the problem. Until the testing and repair can be accomplished, the Garland ARC repeater is serving effectively in the interim.

- Availability of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center conference room used previously by the CARC. Frank Krizan reported that he had contacted the hospital staff, and it is probable that the facility will be unavailable until at least the end of 2022 due to Covid restrictions. Bill Fell KK5PB confirmed that Poor Richard's Café would continue to be available as long as needed.
- Discussion of future meeting activities. It was generally agreed that the formal programs that are the basis of most Club meetings be interspersed with less-formal events and possibly quarterly dinner meetings including families.
- Discussion of potential Club projects to be undertaken in 2023. Suggestions covered a broad spectrum, but no clear consensus was developed.

Board Actions

The formal Board meeting was declared at 2030.

There was no old business or new business arising from the pre-meeting workshop, and none was proposed by Board members present.

Adjournment

Moved at 2031 by Kerry Weeks K5WKS and seconded by Bill Swan K5MWC.

Drive Home Net Changes

The CARC 70cm repeater is simply not working and does not allow the Drive Home Net to be conducted. The Garland Amateur Radio Club is graciously allowing use of its 70cm repeater until the CARC is repaired. The repeater frequency is 442.700 MHz, plus 5 MHz, PL 110.9.

Drive Home Net Report - August 2022



The Collins ARC Drive Home Net continues on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 pm on the K5QHD Repeater 442.700 MHz, +5 MHz, PL=110.9 Hz. The Net is not held on the Tuesdays of the monthly membership meeting or on Tuesdays of social events and holidays. We gratefully thank the Garland ARC

for the use of their 70cm repeater while our repeater is being diagnosed.

All stations are invited to check-in, whether a member of CARC or not. The Net is informal, operating as a Roundtable.

THIS MONTH'S LOG:

- JUL 19 - [9] K5WKS Kerry (NCS); W5GUS Gus; KC5MVE Paul; KI5KRN Bob; WB0UNI Jim; KG5HCL RJ; N5JJC Mark; N8LB Larry; KD5ETX Bryan**
- JUL 26 - NO NET; GENERAL MEETING**

AUG 2 - [6] K5MWC Bill (NCS); K5WKS Kerry; WB0UNI Jim; KI5KRN Bob; KG5UFR Jacob ; K1LSB Mark.

AUG 9 - [5] K5MWC Bill (NCS); KI5VFI David; K5WKS Kerry; KI5KRN Bob. WB0UNI Jim

AUG 16 - [8] K5MWC (NCS); K5WKS; WB0UNI; KI5KRN; W5BJ; KD5TEO/M; KC5MVE; KI5PCM/M

Average participation for this period: 7

Average participation for the previous period: Not available-some logs were lost.

Net record for check-ins: 10

The Drive Home Net is intended for comments on amateur radio topics, listing items for buy/trade/sell, asking questions or contacting others on frequency. We hope you'll give it a try soon. We've had some great conversations of late.

August CARC VE Test Sessions Report

ARRL VE Test Sessions are held immediately following the monthly CARC Meeting at Poor Richard's Cafe, 2442 K Avenue, Plano TX 75074.

All levels of exams are being offered, BUT YOU MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE IN ORDER TO BE ASSURED A SEAT. We also need to know who's coming in case we have to cancel due to Covid-19 declarations.

Contact Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, at 214-478-3230 or via email: weeks.kerry@gmail.com to register. Kerry will discuss the exam fees, what you need to do prior to the exam and what to bring to the test session. More info is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

At our July meeting, one candidate tested and passed his Technician element. William Archer of Royse City is now KI5WQJ. Look for him to be upgrading soon. VEs at this test session included: Gene Duprey, K1GD, Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, and Mark Wells, K9MDI. Many thanks to these VEs for volunteering their time.

If you are an ARRL VE and would like to volunteer for future test sessions, contact Kerry at the email/phone shown above. If you are accredited through another VEC, Kerry can give you info on how to get accredited with the ARRL VEC.

Simultaneous Operations of APRS and Voice Repeater Now a Reality on ISS

ARISS is pleased to announce that starting yesterday, August 11, simultaneous operations of the ARISS Voice Repeater and digital APRS communications on the International Space Station (ISS) is now a reality. Current ARISS operations include voice repeater transmissions with the JVC Kenwood D710GA in the Columbus module and APRS packet operation from an identical radio in the Service Module (Zvezda). Packet operations are on 145.825 MHz.

The ARISS Russia and USA teams have been working for several weeks to prepare the Service Module radio for APRS operations. ARISS Russia team member Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, led the effort, working with Russian mission controllers and the on-board ISS cosmonauts to configure the Service Module radio for APRS ops. On August 11, final checkouts were completed and the APRS packet mode was switched on for amateur radio use.



ARISS-International Chair Frank Bauer, KA3HDO states, "Simultaneous operation of APRS and the voice repeater on ISS is transformative for ARISS and represents a key element of our ARISS 2.0 initiative, providing interactive capabilities 24/7 that inspire, engage and educate youth and lifelong learners-especially life-long learning in ham radio operations." Bauer continues, "Our heartfelt thanks to Sergey Samburov, RV3DR, for making this crucial ARISS 2.0 initiative become a reality."

The Columbus Module radio uses the callsign NA1SS and the new Service Module radio uses RS0ISS. Aside from the callsigns, the radios are identical and packet operations are the same as before. You can use RS0ISS, ARISS, or APRSAT as the packet path. Iso, both radios are expected to be on full time, except during educational contacts, EVAs, and dockings or undockings.

You can find operational status and expected downtimes of the ISS radios at <https://www.ariss.org/current-status-of-iss-stations>.

[ANS thanks Dave Jordan, AA4KN, ARISS PR, for the above information]

- Reprinted from the August 14, 2022 edition of the AMSAT News Service Bulletin.

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The August test was conducted on 3 August. Almost all sirens operated as designed. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater. Garland conducted their siren test also on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 on the Garland ARC 146.66 MHz repeater. John Galvin, N5TIM, was volunteer coordinator and Net Control. Also, helping from CARC were: Bob Jones, W5BJ; and, Jim Stafford, W5DTG.

Crime Watch Patrol Jim Skinner WBOUNI participates in Richardson Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP). CWP members, after successful completion of Richardson Police Department training, patrol their neighborhoods and report all suspicious activities to the police department.

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Jack gets to know Sue better and gets involved with helping her granddaughter.

I hadn't been in the public restroom. It was unisex with a door to the water closet. Later I went in there and saw there was also a small stainless sink and a bidet. The entry sinks were carved of the same granite monolith that made the top. In a corner was a shower. In the water closet the toilet and bidet were carved from a solid pale pink quartzite, about the color seen near Sioux Falls.

Back in the kitchen I sliced bread, found the toaster and lightly toasted the bread while she sliced ham and tomatoes. She got out some nice Dijon mustard, pickles, and mayonnaise, all in mason jars, so probably home-made. I piled on the tomatoes and mustard, a little lettuce, two thin slices of ham, got out the milk and poured myself a glass. I cut mine in half, not down the diagonal but dividing the sides 1 – 3, making 4 roughly congruent trapezoids. I was closer to the medium plates so I fetched two. She poured herself milk, and we sat to eat, not in the dining room. "Did you make the condiments?"

"Yes, from the garden. Of course, I didn't make the oil or vinegar. "You could." I told Sue I had a few questions. She said OK. "Mostly about the garden. How did you start? That would be something like 9 years ago, maybe ten. First I found a source, several sources, for coarse organic material: A company who took small shrubs, tree tops, all shredded by one of those big noisy machines and blown into a dump truck (this by a company who works along power lines trimming trees from the lines, plus clearing land, all the way from Baton Rouge to Orange). They were having to pay to put their stuff in a landfill. A lumber mill specializing in bald cypress who had to shred the bark off so the wood would dry, and who also had a sawdust problem. Neither would burn, just too wet. My company and a few more that never threw out papers before shredding them. I accumulate about three acre-feet of this stuff free every year, and initially piled it up where the greenhouse is now, making a pile roughly 200 feet long, ten feet wide at the base, and 6 feet high.

"I noticed the land slopes, not much but a little, toward the house and road, west higher than east. I staked off a 70 by 70 yard area on the east side, and got the guy with the front loader and backhoe to scrape off the top 2 inches and put that to the west. Then put all of the organic material on the bare ground. (He made no attempt to keep it even or mixed up.) Meanwhile I plowed the 70 by 70 square to the west to a depth of 4 inches, used the scraper to sort of level it, did

it again (both steps). Finally, the front loader moved 3 inches of the loosened stuff and put it on top of the organic material in rows determined by the distance between the tires of the front loader.

"The spring (starts January 15) crop was all beans, all kinds of beans. They thrived in the poor but well-drained soil. I picked all I needed and invited others to do the same, but there were far more than were eaten. This was by design.

"I (actually my company) hired Bert and his wife Celia. They had a one-year old boy. Bert had been brought up on a farm near Jackson, Mississippi, Celia in New York City, so between them they could do anything. I had already put plumbing, modern lighting and appliances, and central air conditioning/heating in the slave quarters. It was originally more or less a barracks, but the contractor suggested how to give it rooms, kitchens, and so on. It ended up with a good sized laundry room, with ironing machine and board and a sewing center, and two 400 square foot motel rooms, one 600 and one 1000 square-foot apartment. Each had separate outside entrances.

"Bert's family got the big one. From the looks of Celia and the age of Bert I was sure there would be more. They pay no rent and initially got \$7 an hour to help tend the garden and clean the office before or after everyone was there for the day. The arrangement was that their salary would increase by core inflation but not less than 4%, get a yearly bonus in company stock equal to their best week so far that year on the first of December, which they could convert to cash at any time, all or in part. He also had use of a company pickup truck, a small but reliable Toyota. Since they worked for the company they got medical benefits. All of this was in a simple easy to read contract. The only negative side was they had to pay taxes on the fair value of the apartment and the amount earned from selling produce, which in their case was the gross.

"I had purchased a rear tined Troy-Bilt cultivator, their biggest one, which was less expensive to use than the tractor and did a much better job. When all the beans were in, we let a 210 feet long row go to seed, tilled the rest of the garden, and started on the second square, done in almost exactly the same way. After a week, we planted summer crops, okra and black-eyed peas for example, and built the first section of the greenhouse. The garden needed tending now, and Burt was glad to have the work. His main chore was to keep the garden well mulched. That paid off in time saved from no weeding. No one told me but it was obvious that Celia was pregnant again. (She used to clean the office in the morning early, but changed to doing it after everyone had left.)"

I didn't comment in detail, just observed that she (Sue) was great. There was no reply required. Then I asked, "We never had a walk, and I wore you out with one question. We have time to try one?"

"OK, let me freshen up."

I had to pee as well, so we went. On the way I made a note to ask about laundry: I had some to do that might be OK with towels or other non-delicate stuff.

I was sitting on that couch by the door when Sue came down. She had changed into something that looked a lot less serious, even sexy. As a child she had large breasts, I remember her complaining about how it hurt her shoulders and back to hold them up. This was a light cotton blouse, perhaps a size too small, and a long gauzy dark cotton skirt that showed off her figure in those parts. She had also changed shoes. I don't know the names of shoes but these looked comfortable, and were worn with low socks that just barely cleared the shoe. You could catch a glimpse of her slender ankles now and then as she walked. The blouse was buttoned all the way, but there were no buttons over the top eight inches.

Sue asked, "Do you hold hands when walking?" What a question!

I said, "Constantly!" You can't let one like that throw you. My answer was so inclusive as to make her think, so if this is a game, I scored a point. I knew it wasn't a game, and I extended my hand, in this case right one, since she was on that side. I can't remember the last time I held hands with anyone over the age of five. She put her soft pretty hand in mine, and said, "Your hand feels like a man's hand. Firm, even hard. I can feel scars and extended calluses along the tendons."

"Next thing you'll be telling me I smell like a man. You did yesterday. Oh, I meant to ask: I have some, not much, laundry to do unless I am permitted to stink tomorrow. When you get time can you show me the laundry and explain how to use it? Is it locked?"

"Yes, everything but the small barn door is locked. You probably noticed. Your badge will open the laundry door."

"I lock everything too, but I have only one lock. I am protected by the wild west trespass law in Texas, especially at night. Then you can shoot anyone who trespasses, even a law officer who does not clearly display his badge with a light. In most states you have to prove you fear being attacked. How can you prove you felt fear sometime in the past? Just what constitutes trespass is a little complicated but it leaves out trick or treat and even knock on door and run away, which are no problem where I live."

"So you have a gun?"

"O yes, a riot gun, a single barrel pump action twelve gauge shotgun with a magazine of seven shells, but it is not loaded, and there are no shells anywhere near. That is, I never bought any bullets. I won the gun in a poker game. I thought about selling it, but it was probably stolen. It makes a loud sound when you pump the action to bring a shell into the chamber, designed to strike terror in the hearts of a potential attacker."

"Have you ever used it?"

"In a sense. One day I came home from work and noticed three seemingly Hispanic men cutting firewood on my property. I told them they can't do that, and they had to leave. They went on about how they didn't understand, in poor, broken Spanish. I calmly fetched the shotgun, pumped the action, and asked them in fairly good Spanish if they understood now.

Then in English, 'Stack the wood you have cut and leave your chain saw, then get the hell out of here. I'm giving you a break.' I had the gun at my waist but pointing right at the one who seemed to be the big brother. I'm sure they were not from Mexico or Latin America, for their Spanish would be good."

"We walk well together."

"Well you did ask. I can't think of anything I could have left out. And yes, this is rare, to walk so effortlessly with anyone, holding hands or not."

"Your hand is sweaty."

"Oh. OK, next time we can wear gloves. Isn't that Mae?" I released my hold on Sue's hand just a little. She countered by holding my hand more firmly. So it was acceptable that Mae knows. I'm just a man; women, even girls, know before I do, so Mae probably did.

"Yes, I believe it is. What happened to time?"

Mae sped by us, but slowed a little to wave. I sometimes don't know what happens to time, but it is mostly when I am deep into a math problem or, later, a computer program. I, too, had lost track of time. I thought I might as well tell her. "Yes, I lost track of time as well. Maybe we should go back and make dinner. What's good in the garden? The tomatoes were perfect."

She just said yes.

I had a thought. We had walked a while in silence since Mae passed, leaving room for one. The thought was simple, about holding hands. We never did that once when we were kids. Our only physical contact was incidental, as one might experience when leaving a concert or entering a crowded bus. When she had a heavy load (almost always) I would carry it for her, which seemed natural because I never took anything home from school, but that is not the same. I completed the thought by saying, "We never held hands when we were kids."

"Jack, if you had touched my hand I would have melted like a wicked witch in an Oz book. OK, probably not that, but I'm sure my legs would have given way. I'm surprised they didn't today."

I tried to remember a time holding hands that was anywhere near that. All I could come up with was holding Sharon Bullcock's hand during a propaganda film in the basement of her church against anything nuclear. She was fat and her hand

was plump and much wetter than anything today. I later saw Gone With the Wind with her in a drive-in with Charles something and Joyce Cox (they were in the back seat). I almost immediately fell sound asleep. Sharon told me after I took them home that they did it during the movie. I said, "They did what?" She told me I was impossible. I would have asked her that even if I knew what it meant, but since I didn't it was must have been more believable. It is a big improvement that today kids use plain English to describe events like that. It is also a little sad. She didn't say anything, so I guess I went off somewhere thinking, I forget about what, maybe things related to holding hands.

"You there?"

I said, "I'm sorry, I was trying to remember a time when holding hands was much of anything, other than today. I came up with only one, which was really nothing, juvenilia. There must be others. If there is one it was 35 years ago, a relationship so rich and complex I'm sure I would not remember holding hands, but that has nothing to do with now."

I instantly regretted having said that because I thought it likely that I was going to need to supply more, and my recollection, a male's view, even if as complete and accurate as I could manage, would never satisfy a woman. I didn't know Sue. Just as there is no generic wildflower, my stereotypical view of women and their thought processes must be fatally flawed.

We were in sight of her house. Obviously she had been thinking as well. I knew how good she was, even if diminished, from 9th grade.

She said, "Can we continue later? I have some vague concerns and a couple of definite questions, but first I want to bare myself by telling you what I assume. I may be way off-base. If you are now like you were then you are transparent. That's all I am counting on."

We were still holding hands. I sort of wondered if there were some kind of mysterious way a woman could read a man through his hand. Come on, I don't even believe in polygraphs. But when one doesn't understand something then reason is suspended. It is good, for all invention of value rises from a state of unreasonable confusion, with a belief that there is order and logical connections, and the courage to rewire.

We arrived. The last hundred yards, just slightly uphill, wore me out, and I think Sue was also sapped. Probably too much for one day. She asked if I would put the chickens up, started to tell me how but I said I knew, and left. Bert had seen to it that their water fountain was full to the top. My grandmother Mama B could call chickens but I always had to bribe them.

When I returned no one was in the front room, so I went to the kitchen. Mae was having half a ham sandwich with the last of the first loaf. I'm glad she used the left-over tomato.

I asked how was school, the silliest and most-asked question, and everyone knew no teenager would say anything.

"Grandma is upstairs. You are not a blabbermouth?" I just said never. "The assistant principal Mr. Wills tried to play Uncle Johnny with me today after school. He called me into his office and locked the door. I didn't see that but heard it."

"Did he? Play Uncle Johnny I mean. Of course not. He reminds me of a walrus. "Did you hurt him much? "Not really. Just a strong sharp jab to the solar plexus, which temporarily shuts down everything he needs to get hurt worse. I used my fist, but an elbow would have done it. He was still alive when I left, although unconscious."

"Lie low tomorrow. If you are questioned tell the exact truth to the school folks and ask for a lawyer for everyone else. Don't make anything up. And tell Grandma when you can."

"She'd kill him,"

"I know. If you can, wait until this has played out before you tell her any details. And don't try to decide whether he is a good man overall or not. Now, and this is not a request, go to your room and write down exactly what happened, including this conversation. I'm going to make some phone calls since I don't know how to handle a situation like this."

"I think Grandma still loves you. Is it OK for me to go to the library?"

"Yes. And do not include the last comment. For a while, nobody cares what you think, just what you know."

I now had something to do, that I can do, that I'm good at, and that is solving real problems that do not involve me. I got on the phone and called Jacob Perkinson in Houston and Joseph Jones in College Station. I got Jacob, a corporate lawyer who had worked for the DA earlier and was a partner in my corporation Applied Scientific Research, right away, outlined the situation, and asked about defense lawyers nearby, e.g., in Lafayette. He said he would call me back within the hour.

Joseph said more. He does real estate now but used to do family law and small time criminal law defense. He saw where I was calling from, and asked if I had met Sue Barber. I told him the subject was her granddaughter, but Sue didn't know yet. He said he'd get right on it, and to expect a call from the best man (who turned out to be a woman) in Lafayette this evening. He actually called back in ten minutes. I got her name and jotted it down in code. He said he had talked to her and she agreed to take the case. Joseph broached the subject of a civil action against Mr. Wills, but I said that was not now contemplated. He asked how Sue was, said he heard she was out of real estate, a pity since she was such a genius. I said I had no idea, but if I ran into her I would ask.

So far so good. I did have a problem, and that was keeping Sue out of the loop as long as it was hot. I came up with this: If she came in before the calls, I would tell her I was

expecting a couple of urgent business calls, that she could listen in if she liked, but it would be better if I answered. A thousand to one, more, that she would not listen. I wouldn't bet on it if I asked her to not listen. My side of the conversation would not mean much. The notes I took would be in a code that was easy to break only if you had a lot of copy. I believed Mae when she said Sue would kill him, yet I hated the deception as well.

Mae came down to the kitchen with her account of what happened. "May I read it?" She nodded, so I did while she got herself some milk. The phone rang. It was Jacob,

He gave me the names and phone numbers of two in Lafayette and one in Baton Rouge. The first on the Lafayette list was Connie Owens, the lawyer Jones had talked to. He told me she would be best. When she was assistant DA she had successfully prosecuted a sex-related case against the administration of a high school. It had gone beyond what had happened to Mae but started out the same way. Jacob told me this was probably a case of tip of the iceberg. If Mae was abused then there were surely others who were not so willing to defend themselves. He also said he didn't think we need to fear retaliation, but be prepared for it anyway. I thanked him.

A weird coincidence: I know Connie Owens fairly well from ham radio. Her call sign is WC5LAW, and she is a splendid high speed CW operator. She used to participate in low power contests (five watts power output). I would like to meet her, in person.

I finished reading Mae's account. It was written clearly with no apparent emotion. I gave it back to her and asked her to keep it somewhere safe. She walked into the dining room, moved a decorated pottery platter that was tilted on a tripod, revealing the door to a safe (which wasn't really hidden, just out of sight unless you looked for it) opened it, and put in her notes. "That good enough?" I told her it was better than good enough. Later I found an old envelope and asked her to hide her notes and place them on the bottom just in case Sue would look. She said that wouldn't be necessary because it was her safe and no one else knew the combination.

I didn't tell her that her three number safe may be fireproof but anyone with ten minutes could open it. Even though it looked like it had 60 numbers, it really only had 6, so there were only 216 possible combinations. If you were within 5 of any actual combination number that was good enough. Not only that, some owners never changed the initial combination, which was known to every small-time crook. NASA bought a warehouse full of these safes. Even so, against someone who thinks they are secure, they are. They would be a good place to stash your sack lunch provided you had gone to the trouble to change the default combination. I asked Mae, "Does Sue have one of these?"

"No, she has a big one in her office."

The phone rang. Mae picked it up, told me it was for me. I took it and asked her to stay. It was Connie. I told her who I was and asked if she wanted to talk to the subject, who was right here. She gave me her fax number first and then said yes, so I put Mae on.

I wasn't needed now, so I warmed some coffee and went into the front room.

Mae came in. "She will take my case pro bono, including a private investigator she uses from New Iberia. I told her you made me write my account of everything that happened right after I got back from school, not over five minutes after it happened. She wants me to fax that document. I can do that from the library. What's her number? Lafayette is a local call from here. We have extended area service." I told Mae the number but not that I have what amounts to an outgoing WATS line to North America and Europe.

"Good. Your account is well written and your penmanship is beautiful yet strong." She thanked me. No one except John had thanked me for anything since I had been here (in Louisiana) so that surprised me.

I thought about Sue, and decided she had settled on a nap, or perhaps retired for the night. The house was quiet, but then it always was. I noticed some of her people leaving work. I had never heard a sound from their office. Perhaps their work did not involve a lot of noise.

To Be Continued (Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

**You've heard of
the MLB ...
Now, welcome
the MBL ...** 
**"Muncha Buncha
Lunch" – every
Thursday, 1 p.m. at
Poor Richard's Cafe**

Upcoming Events

Daily	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
Tuesdays	Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 442.7 (+5) MHz, PL=110.9 Hz (K5QHD repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 th Tuesday.)
1st Wednesday	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
2nd Wednesday	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm
AUGUST	
20-21	10 GHz & Up – Round 1. The objective of 10 GHz and Up is for North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. See the detailed rules for restrictions. Operations may take place for 24 hours total beginning at 6:00 AM local Saturday though 12:00 midnight local Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up .
SEPTEMBER	
10-12	September VHF. Objective: amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) 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. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday and runs through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/september-vhf .
17-18	10 GHz & Up – Round 2. The objective is for North American amateurs work as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. Details at http://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up .
17-18	EME – 2.3 GHz and Up— Work as many amateur stations as possible via earth-moon-earth path on authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. From 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest

New Collins Building Access Restrictions
 Per Security, all "non-essential" access to Collins Aerospace facilities (including employee recreation activities) is shut-down until the Covid-19 pandemic is resolved. Anyone needing access to the Club Station must submit an email request to Security with an explanation of who, when and why access is needed, and the Security team will review, and if approved, the person will only be allowed access via the North Gate. For contact information, send an email to kr5n@arrl.net asking for Security contact information.

 FYI—Until further notice, masks are now required inside all Collins buildings. Also, a temperature check is required before entering the property. During busy hours there is a manned tent near the north gate where the temperature check is performed. During off hours, there is a place at the north gate for a self-check.

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THINGS I DO IN MY SPARE TIME

USE MY HAM RADIO LOOK AT HAM RADIOS RESEARCH HAM RADIOS

TALK ABOUT HAM RADIOS THINK ABOUT HAM RADIOS DREAM ABOUT HAM RADIOS

The Amateur's Code
 by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

The Radio Amateur is:

- CONSIDERATE** - never knowingly operating in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.
- LOYAL** - offering loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.
- PROGRESSIVE** - with knowledge abreast of science, a well built and efficient station, and operation beyond reproach.
- FRIENDLY** - with slow and patient operation when requested, friendly advice and counsel to the beginner, kindly assistance, co-operation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.
- BALANCED** - Radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.
- PATRIOTIC** - with station and skill always ready for service to country and community

PERIODIC TABLE OF SELECT AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS 2022

Start Day (UTC) → 1 → 2 → End Day (UTC)
 Start Time (UTC) → 1 → 2 → End Time (UTC)

Contest Name → Select Contest of weekend as chosen by NQGE

Multimode CW Digital
 off-the-air SSB VHF/UHF

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 0900Z Straight Key Night	15 2355Z NA Sprint CW	6 0300Z ARRL DX SSB	2 1300Z SP Polish DX	3 1300Z 7OP/IN/DE/ New England QSO Parties	4 1200Z Tisza Cup CW	5 1100Z Marconi Memorial HF	6 1400Z NAQP CW	7 0600Z CWops CW Open	8 2300Z California QSO Party	9 2100Z ARRL SS CW	10 0300Z ARRL 160
8 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	9 2400Z CQ WPX RTTY	13 2400Z NA Sprint RTTY	14 0900Z JIDX CW	15 1100Z CQ-M DX	11 1800Z ARRL June VHF	13 0300Z IARU HF	14 1200Z WAE CW	10 2300Z WAE SSB	11 0800Z Oceania CW	12 0900Z WAE RTTY	13 2300Z ARRL 10
15 1800Z NAQP CW	16 0500Z ARRL DX CW	19 1200Z Russian DX	20 0900Z CQMM DX	17 2300Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	18 1700Z All Asian CW	19 2400Z CQ WW VHF	17 1800Z NAQP SSB	21 0600Z WAN/JN/H/TX QSO Parties	18 varies Worked All Germany	19 0300Z ARRL SS SSB	17 2300Z RAC Winter
22 1800Z NAQP SSB	23 0500Z CQ 160 SSB	25 2100Z CQ WPX SSB	27 2400Z SP DX RTTY	24 1200Z CQ WPX CW	25 2400Z ARRL Field Day	23 3100Z ARRL Field Day	24 1200Z WW Digi	28 0000Z CQ WW RTTY	24 3400Z CQ WW RTTY	22 0000Z CQ WW CW	23 2400Z Happy Holidays
28 2200Z CQ 160 CW	30 2100Z CQ WW SSB		30 1600Z Florida QSO Party	1 2100Z RSGB IOTA					29 0900Z CQ WW SSB	30 2400Z CQ WW SSB	



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Membership Meeting
Tuesday 30 August 2022 5:30 PM
THE JULY MEETING WILL BE AT
Poor Richards Café Plano TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 16 September 2022 ←←←