

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 February 2024 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at
Woodcreek Church Richardson TX
(and via Zoom)

ARRL Night

**ARRL North Texas Section Manager
Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK**

January Show & Tell

The January meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club was held at Woodcreek Church on Tuesday, January 23rd. The theme for January was "Show and Tell" and featured four items presented by three of our members.

1. Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, showed a convenient way to get RF from one side of a window to another using the Comet CTC-50M Window Gap Jumper. The device costs approximately \$60 and is available locally through HRO.



NEW PRODUCT!! CTC-50M Window Gap Jumper



Frequency Range: DC-1300MHz
Connectors: SO-239
Length: 15.75 inches
Max Power: HF 100W PEP
VHF: 60W FM
UHF: 40W FM
900MHz -1.3GHz: 10W FM
VSWR: <500MHz 1.3:1
>500MHz 1.5:1
Loss: DC-500MHz .5dB
500-900MHz 1.3dB
900-1300MHz 1.8dB
Impedance: 50 Ohm

NCG Company 800-962-2611

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February Meeting

The February meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, February 27th, beginning at 5:30 pm at Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Road, Richardson, and via Zoom. The Zoom login info is sent to all members via email prior to the meeting and is available on the Club's website (n5cxx.us).

**PLEASE NOTE WE WILL MEET
IN THE YOUTH BUILDING**

Following a brief business meeting, the program for the evening is "ARRL Night" featuring the ARRL North Texas Section Manager Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK. Steve will review recent happenings within the League and the FCC and answer questions that you may have concerning amateur radio and membership in the ARRL. And ... he's known to bring some nice door prizes, as well.



Steve is retired from the U.S. Air Force and is very active in ham radio. He enjoys DXing and contesting and has achieved numerous awards.

CARC OFFICERS			
PRESIDENT		VICE-PRESIDENT	
Mike Montgomery	KD5TX	Bill Fell	KK5PB
972.890.1149		972.424.0496	
president@n5cxx.us		vp@n5cxx.us	
SECRETARY		TREASURER	
Jim Brown	AF5MA	Mark Dempsy	N5MD
972.495.2209		469.438.7252	
secretary@n5cxx.us		treasurer@n5cxx.us	
ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN		WEBSITE MANAGER	
Frank Krizan	KR1ZA	Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
214.563.6679		972.571.6060	
director@n5cxx.us		webmaster@n5cxx.us	
STATION TRUSTEE		NEWSLETTER EDITOR	
Bob Kirby	K3NT	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
319.360.0500		214.535.5264	
k3nt@arri.net		newsletter@n5cxx.us	
MEMBERSHIP		N5CXX CLUB STATION	
Bill Fell	KK5PB	Phone Number Unavailable	
972.424.0496		Until Further Notice	
vp@n5cxx.us			

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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VE SESSIONS

The Northeast Metro ARRL License Testing Group will hold testing sessions on the **first** Monday each month (except holidays) at the Garland Amateur Radio clubhouse in downtown Garland TX, 1027B Austin St., Garland TX 75040 beginning August 2023. Time 6-8pm. All who want to test for an amateur radio license are welcome. You will need **photo ID, FRN from FCC and \$15.00 correct cash**. All forms, etc., will be provided by testing group. You can reserve a seat by calling Kerry Weeks at 214.478.3230 or email at weeks.kerry@gmail.com in advance of the test.

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 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

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

I can’t believe that we are already at the end of February. When I first took on the endeavor of club president, I was excited. I wanted to do my part to see the club grow. Don’t get me wrong, I still want those things, but it also made me wonder if I actually have time for this. As I write this, I am sitting at gate C19 at DFW on what is scheduled to be a three-week trip.

I want to thank those officers before me and encourage those to come. A little about me: I started with Rockwell in 1997 as a technician – mainly working on VLF and then moved into SATCOM. I left for a few years and returned in 2007. This time I did it backwards, it was SATCOM and then VLF, where I currently am today.

I got my first interest in radio as a teen. My grandfather was a licensed ham and my dad, although not a ham, did have his General Radio Telephone license (present day GROL). I started off in CB and began to study for my ham license, passing my Technician (no-code) in high-school. At the time I started studying, code was still a requirement, and I had a hard time with it. As soon as the no-code tech came about, I jumped on it and passed. I wanted more and knew that I would eventually have to learn code. With the change to a 5-WPM code test, I thought that was my call. I set my goal on passing the 5-WPM before I would attempt any other written tests. The theory was easy - I grew up around electronics. I knew the resistor color code and Ohm’s Law before I was 10. I eventually passed the code and worked my way up to Extra.

My activity in radio has been up and down. Through the years, I went back to school, started travelling, son plays high-school and club soccer – at one time I was the team manager. I am reaching that stage in life that I have a little more time, or at least I think I do. I don't want to **lead** the club, I want to guide the club with input and suggestions from members. I am excited for this year, but it is going to take more than just me to be excited. It is going to take all of us to make this club what we want.

73s,

Mike Montgomery

WD5TX

Vice-President's Report

VP Report – One member paid his renewal dues this month. Six current members need to pay their renewal dues in February or March. The 2024 officers were sworn-in in January. We have 72 challenge coins in inventory currently. I will have challenge coins available for purchase at \$5 each at the General Membership meeting.

Membership Committee –

Current Active Membership = 55

Full Members = 40 (includes life and retiree members)

Associate Members = 15

New / renewed Members = 3

Members moved to Inactive Status = 0

Expired memberships awaiting renewal = 6

Continuing membership is important to the CARC. Through the skills and experiences of all 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 your support and contributions to the CARC.

73, Bill, KK5PB

Secretary's Report

23 January 2024

President Bill Swan K5MWC called the meeting to order at 1735 CST. The meeting was in-person at our meeting site at Woodcreek Church, and Zoom access was provided.

The following were present at the meeting site:

Bill Swan, K5MWC (2023 President)

Bill Fell KK5PB (Vice President/Membership)

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN (2023 Activities/Training)

Jim Stafford, W5DTG (2023 Secretary)

Kerry Weeks K5WKS (2023 Treasurer)

Jim Brown AF5MA (2024 Secretary)

Jim Skinner WB0UNI (Newsletter Editor)

Mike Montgomery WD5TX (2024 President)

Mark Dempsy N5MD (2024 Treasurer)

Milton Withers AD5XD

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT

Wayne Collins KI5YOQ (visitor) – Woodcreek Church coordinator)

The following logged in via Zoom:

Bob Chandler KR5BC

Paul Ferris W3PWF

Preliminaries

1. Opening Remarks and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Recognition of New Members and Guests Introductions - None,
3. Recognition of Members
4. Officer Reports
 - a. Included in the January 2024 Newsletter
 - b. Kerry Weeks reported all 2023 bills paid, and reported the balance in the checking account. Also, dues from a new member given to the 2024 Treasurer.
5. **Old Business** - None
6. **New Business**
 - a. Report of Expenditures by the Board to the membership as required by constitution
 - b. D-Star Repeater Purchase - \$432.95 reimbursed to Frank Krizan, equipment transferred to CARC Radio Room
 - c. A process to sell CARC surplus equipment to Club members was presented at the meeting. The details will be developed by the 2024 club officers at a future date.
7. **Announcements**
 - a. The CARC challenge coins are available for a donation of \$5. Bill Fell has them available at all membership meetings. Out-of-town members must pay for postage and handling.
8. **Installation of 2024 Board Members**
President - Mike Montgomery

Vice President / Membership - Bill Fell

Treasurer - Mark Dempsy

Secretary - Jim Brown

Immediate Past President - Bill Swan

There being no further business, President Swan declared an adjournment of the Business Meeting at 1747 CST. The "Show and Tell" program immediately followed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jim Stafford, 2023 Secretary, Collins Amateur Radio Club

CARC Board Meeting Minutes

14 Feb 2024

President Mike Montgomery WD5TX called the meeting to order on-line via Zoom at 1903.

The following Board members logged into the meeting:

Mike Montgomery WD5TX, President

Bill Fell, KK5PB, Vice President

Jim Brown AF5MA, Secretary

Bill Swan K5MWC, Immediate Past President

Two non-voting CARC members also logged in:

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN

John Galvin N5TIM

Topics addressed during the meeting are summarized below.

Status Update for Repeater and Antenna Repairs. Mike Montgomery summarized status of repairs, which are progressing as expected. Issues not yet resolved:

1. Need for working safety lanyards to allow antenna access
2. Decision on addition of voice announcements to the repeater on-air interface

After a general discussion of the merits of voice messages and the capability of existing/proposed equipment to support this, it was agreed that Mike would define the viable options and present them for consideration at a later meeting.

Possible Acquisition of Collins KWM-2 Equipment for Club Use. Retired Collins engineer Don Eichenberger has offered to sell his KWM-2 transceiver to the CARC for use in the Club radio room. After discussion among the Board, it was generally agreed that the acquisition of additional Collins legacy equipment was not a good use of Club funds,

since future operations are expected to rely on more-current technology already in place in the radio room.

Bill Swan agreed to contact Don and advise him of the Board's decision.

Transfer of CARC Bank Account Access. The Board recognized the need to transfer access authorization to the Club's Prosperity Bank account to newly-elected officers (President and Treasurer). It was understood that deposits to the account can continue without this transfer, but an update will be required prior to further disbursements. Bill Swan agreed to define detailed actions required to accomplish this.

Possible Change of General Meeting Format. It was suggested that the general membership meeting be re-structured to put the guest speaker before the business meeting, thus allowing the speaker to better schedule his appearance. After a general discussion it was agreed that the structure of the meeting was under the control of the President and could be adjusted on a case-by-case basis to accommodate speaker scheduling needs.

Retention and Access to CARC User IDs and Passwords. The Club makes use of several user IDs and passwords to conduct Club business. Access to QRZ.com and Logbook of the World (LoTW) sites requires login credentials currently held by the CARC call sign trustee. Other sites requiring credentials include those for HamClubOnline (HCOL) and the Texas Secretary of State. The Club currently does not have a common repository for this data. It was generally agreed that:

1. Access to credentials must be available to more than one individual.
2. Only one individual should be authorized to alter any one credential to avoid potential conflict.
3. Access to credentials should be limited to officers and designated responsible individuals, not posted to the Members Only page.

No final solution was proposed.

Possible Replacement of CARC Call Sign Trustee. Board discussion addressed the need for the trustee to be responsive to Club members' queries and requests for action. Additionally, the FCC registration number (FRN) for the call sign is currently assigned to the trustee, not to the Club. This is inconsistent with the practices of all other Collins amateur radio clubs, which have separate FRNs for the club and the trustee. President Mike Montgomery agreed to assume the role of call sign trustee pending a discussion with the current trustee. Jim Brown moved and Bill Swan seconded: "It is moved that the CARC Board approves the transfer of Call Sign Trustee status and duties from the cur-

rent trustee to Mike Montgomery WD5TX, pending discussion with the current trustee.” The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Email Aliases for CARC Officers and Other Assigned Positions. To facilitate email communications among CARC members and with the general public, Frank Krizan proposed assigning an email alias to each individual which will map the alias to the individual’s personal email account. This will serve to provide some privacy to the individuals and also ease the transition of communications to new individuals as needed. Proposed CARC aliases are:

- President: president@n5cxx.us
- Vice President: vp@n5cxx.us
- Secretary: secretary@n5cxx.us
- Treasurer: treasurer@n5cxx.us
- Immediate Past President: director@n5cxx.us
- All Officers: board@n5cxx.us
- Webmaster: webmaster@n5cxx.us
- Newsletter Editor: newsletter@n5cxx.us
- Call Sign Trustee: trustee@n5cxx.us
- Activities Chairman: activities@n5cxx.us
- Membership Chairman: membership@n5cxx.us
- CARC Contact Point: info@n5cxx.us (assigned to CARC Secretary)

Mike Montgomery moved and Bill Fell seconded: “It is moved that the CARC Board approves the assignment of email aliases as proposed.” The motion passed unanimously.

Frank Krizan will prepare and submit an edit to the ARRL Affiliated Clubs database to reflect this.

Meeting Room Conflict for the June Meeting. A meeting room is unavailable at the Club’s usual meeting location at Woodcreek Church for the scheduled 28 June 2024 meeting. Given the choice to move the meeting location or move the meeting date, the Board chose the latter. Mike Montgomery moved and Bill Fell seconded: “It is moved that the June 2024 general membership meeting of the CARC be scheduled at Woodcreek Church on 18 June.” The motion passed unanimously.

Field Day Discussions. The Board discussed options for Field Day that included indoor operation, outdoor operation and joint efforts with other clubs. Frank Krizan offered to conduct a member survey using HCOL to determine interest. The results of this survey should be available in time to

support discussion at the next general membership meeting.

Budget Discussions. Bill Swan noted that there are currently no funded projects in the 2024 CARC budget. Bill will send a copy of the budget to all Board members, along with a draft list of candidate projects for 2024 consideration.

CARC Repeater Capabilities Discussions. The board discussed digital options for the Club repeater, including D-Star, AllStarLink and EchoLink. All of the options will require extension of Internet access to the penthouse. No conclusions were reached.

Publishing of CARC Officer Transition Guide. Jim Brown announced that Revision E of the transition guide was ready to post to the Members Only webpage. Since all content had been previously distributed to the Board for review, no further discussion resulted. Mike Montgomery moved and Jim Brown seconded a motion to post the document. The motion passed unanimously.

Jim Brown will forward the document to the CARC webmaster for posting.

Adjournment. Moved at 2022 by Mike Montgomery and seconded by Bill Swan.



Drive Home Net Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to serve as Net Control Stations (NCSs) for the Tuesday night Drive Home Nets. We need NCS for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd Tuesdays. There is no Net on the 4th Tuesday because that is our monthly meeting night. Fifth Tuesdays are covered.

We are looking for commitments for a three-month period and seek three NCSs per quarter; that way each NCS only has to run the net once each month. Nets are held on the Garland ARC UHF repeater, 442.7 MHz, + offset, PL=110.9 Hz, every Tuesday except for meeting nights, from 5:30 to 6 pm.

An NCS script is available and training is available for anyone who hasn't been a regular on the Net or wants additional insight on running a net. Initial assignments are for January, February and March.

Once the Collins ARC UHF repeater is repaired, we will move the Net back over to 441.875 MHz.

January Show & Tell

2. The second item was shown by Bill Fell, KK5PB. It is the TinySA Ultra Spectrum Analyzer. The device is available through Amazon and several other vendors and costs between \$150 to \$250, depending on options.



3. Keeping with the theme of "antennas", Bill Swan K5MWC showed the MFJ-223 Vector Impedance Antenna Analyzer. The unit fits in the palm of your hand and covers the HF band through 6M. It is available locally through HRO for \$380.



4. Frank KR1ZAN completed the Show and Tell with an iOS app for the iPhone and iPad which is a convenient way to send and receive Winlink messages, including various Winlink templates, via telnet, packet and VARA-FM/HF. Additional hardware is needed for packet and VARA. The app is available through the Apple App Store. The app cost is \$15 and has an annual subscription fee of \$10 for template updates.



At the conclusion of the meeting, Bill Swan, K5MWC, our outgoing President, presented certificates of appreciation to the 2023 officers:



(l-r) Bill Swan, K5MWC, and Bill Fell, KK5PB, 2023 Vice-President (who continues as 2024 VP)



(l-r) Bill Swan, K5MWC, and Jim Stafford, W5DTG, 2023 Secretary



(l-r) Bill Swan, K5MWC, and Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, 2023 Treasurer



(l-r) Bill Swan, K5MWC, and Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, Immediate Past President and Director-at-Large.

The officers for 2024 were installed at the January meeting, and their photos will be included in next month's SIGNALS.

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson outdoor warning siren testing. The February 2024 test was conducted on 7 February. All sirens worked perfectly. 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, as backup. The December City of Garland Siren Test was also conducted on 7 February. Jim Stafford W5DTG participated. The Garland test observations report on a Net conducted on the GARC 146.66 repeater.

Crime Watch Patrol Jim Skinner WB0UNI participates in Richardson Duck Creek Crime Watch Patrol (CWP). CWP members, after successful completion of Richardson Police Department training, patrol their neighborhoods and report

Senate Bill S.3690 Introduced to Eliminate Private Land Use Restrictions on Amateur Radio

On January 30, 2024, US Senators Roger Wicker (MS) and Richard Blumenthal (CT) introduced S.3690, the Senate companion bill to H.R.4006, introduced last June. Both bills reflect the Congressional campaign efforts by the ARRL to eliminate homeowner association land use restrictions that prohibit, restrict, or impair the ability of an Amateur Radio Operator to install and operate amateur station antennas on residential properties they own.

The text of bill S.3690 can be found at,

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/3690/text> .

Amateur Radio Operators repeatedly are relied upon to provide essential communications when disaster strikes, but their ability to do so is being impaired by the exponential growth of residential private land use restrictions that hinder their ability to establish stations in their homes with which to train and provide emergency communications when called upon.

In announcing the introduction of S.3690, Senator Wicker said: "Because communication during natural disasters is often hindered, we should be making every attempt to give folks more options. Reliable access can make the difference between life and death in an emergency. Our legislation removes roadblocks for amateur radio operators looking to help their friends, families, and neighbors."

In a similar announcement, Senator Blumenthal stated: "Our measure will help clarify the rules so ham radio enthusiasts can successfully continue their communications. In the face of emergency or crisis, they help provide vital, life-saving information that allow listeners to properly and safely respond, but prohibitive home association rules and confusing approval processes for installing antennas have been an unnecessary impediment. The Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act resolves these bottlenecks and ensures that radio operators can function successfully."

ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, and Director John Robert Stratton, N5AUS, Chair of the ARRL's Government Affairs Committee, both extended on behalf of ARRL, its Members, and the Amateur Radio community their thanks and appreciation for the leadership of Senator Wicker and Senator Blumenthal in their continuing efforts to support and protect the rights of all Amateur Radio Operators.

[This article courtesy ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003, From ARRL Headquarters, Newington CT, February 15, 2024]

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. 442.8 (+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
MARCH	
2-3	International DX—Phone To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and station capability by creating competition. W/VE amateurs: Work as many DX stations in as many DXCC entities as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. The event runs 48 hours, from 0000 UTC Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx
APRIL	
21	Rookie Roundup—Phone Mission: To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Objective: Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. Rookie entrants are encouraged to read “HF Contesting – Good Practices, Interpretations and Suggestions.” The event runs from 1800 UTC through 2359 UTC. Details at http://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup
June	
1-2	International Digital Contest— Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using any digital mode (excluding RTTY) that supports the 4-digit Grid Square exchange — attended operation only -- on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands (Technicians are limited per FCC Rules to the 10 and 6 meter bands). Stations may only be worked once per band. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2359 UTC Sunday, Details at http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Mae cooks a dinner for them to celebrate Love for her Grandma and Jack.

I said, "I thought so, and that is the problem I have been working on. I'm trying to take it easy, slow would be better, because similar decisions made me sick twice when I forced it. I have to return to Texas for at least a few days. I have some health-related appointments I should not miss and some legal changes to make. Nothing like what you would have to do, but more than a routine chore. If you want to come with me that would be fine, but I can't wait until the Winter Solstice break so that Mae can come too, and I would not recommend she be left here on her own. She was brave because she knew she was not alone. She probably wants us to be together because she wants a stable family and a father-figure. She has most of that now, but she likes me, and, after all, she really found me. There is something to be said for having someone who approaches life like a man around. Right now Mae and I are in this honeymoon-like mutual admiration society, but it will not last. Eventually I will know her as an ordinary mortal. To me, now, she is a treasure, the one who spoke to me wondering if I was OK after a near-miss lightning strike, the one I saw a lot of you in, and who was bold enough to tell me your name when I asked."

"Yes, but you were bold enough to ask. That is unlike you. I want to believe, but help me. Explain."

I thought, 'Why don't you say what you want instead of making me guess.' But this time I think I got it right. "Yes, it is unlike me, completely foreign, but the whole thing is simple. I have been searching for you for fifty-six years. After the first year no one was interested. A few felt sorry for me, but said, as kindly as possible, 'Move on, give up on this.' And I tried to. The results are not pretty, you know enough to know that."

"When I was in Houston I twice stopped a woman, not the same one, who looked like it could be you. One's first name was Sue, Sue Clark I think, but she was from Beaumont. I am not a detective. When the internet came to A&M I searched for 'Sue Barber' and got thousands of hits. The last time I looked there were 138,000 hits, using Google, about a month ago. The first search engine I used was Mosaic. Because you are a woman your name is not engraved in granite. A man's isn't either, but it takes a trip to a judge to change it, so I had no idea what your name would be fifty years later."

"I never married." "I suppose not, but you also did not make yourself visible on the internet." "Now you know why." "Yes, you want to be invisible, to attract as little attention as possible. There must be hundreds of companies that do

what you do, at least more or less, and any one of them would like to know what the others were doing."

"Our best estimate of the number of companies that admit to doing what we do is now 124, not counting limited partnerships, which are probably bad ideas. We don't waste any time trying to see what they are doing. And then there are individuals. Most of the people who try this on their own lose. For all I know someone in this company is doing that, although that would be contrary to their employment contract. We could save a lot on research if we spent a little on covert operations or bribery. We don't because we are doing OK. It only takes three big deals a year to keep us going. So far this year we have had two and seven medium deals."

"Sometimes I miss being in real estate until I remember that the company didn't really take off until my partner left with the real estate component. We diversify now by keeping our cash in index funds until it is needed. They can be liquidated at no cost at any time. The total in cash is substantial. We keep petty cash in a money market account. They told me the total this morning but I will not tell you."

"OK." "I was fairly sure her secret number was about as hidden as Mae's safe combination. "I'm not sure that I would even understand the number. One of the lawyers that helped on Mae's school problem knows about you." "Who?"

"Joseph Jones. He said you are a genius at real estate, and he is sad to know that you are not still in it. He is the one who found Connie Owens although the Houston lawyer had her on his list of three."

"I don't know Joseph personally, but I do know his ex-partner Ruth Zephaniah. They tried to do in Texas, mainly the Houston area, what I did out of Lafayette. They called their company Jonz, which I am sure did not help. They lost a lot of money on a deal involving a 6,400 acre ranch they bought from Sterling Evans, a two mile frontage along US 290/TX 6, five miles deep, the deal highly leveraged. Hewlett-Packard was going to build a plant just north of Houston, and they believed a rumor it was that property HP was interested in. It wasn't, and Jonz took a bath."

"I like what our company is doing here. The deals are bigger and have a much longer lifetime than anything in real estate except for actively managed properties; that's a good way to make a living if you don't like living. By the way, we have that too, a high rise condo in Little Rock, a shopping mall in Memphis, and an office building in Lafayette, mostly as a hedge against market crashes. We have management firms do the day-to-day chores, but in the company we have had to do our homework and watch our cash flow. That is what we do here, the people you see come to work. Twice as many work at home, and as many travel."

I wasn't really listening to the details, but it made time to remember something from long ago. "Isn't Zephaniah a

seventh century B.C. minor prophet? I believe he originated the idea that there will be a day of judgment.”

Sue said, “Yes, giving religion a power over you even after you cease to exist. It is a powerful idea if you believe it.”

”I had never talked to anyone in bed, especially a sexy naked woman. This afternoon I thought it a good idea, and learned, this time, it is. But even good ideas often have a short life. Perhaps I should dance with the idea for which we climbed the stairs...

All of a sudden I needed a diversion, so I decided on computing, integrating by parts. That worked about as well as you would think, but memory of these things is notoriously unreliable.

I heard the front door shut, firmer than usual, and said, “I think Mae is home, if you’ll let me up I can go greet her. We have something to talk about anyway. I’ll wash up. On the way out I told her I loved her, but I don’t think she heard me.

Mae was in the kitchen. She asked, “Do I cook?” I told her yes, but if she had homework we could put it off.

“Not much homework. They have a new principal, still no assistant. No one is saying anything about it in school, except all my teachers are treating me with a different kind of respect. Not the kind when you just make all A’s. I am still being hounded and I am still saying no comment, and I think they finally believe me.”

“Good for you. Did you tell about chess?”

“No, they wouldn’t understand. It is enough that I do. When you have a girlfriend far away how often do you write?”

“It depends. At first, just a single email. If that is returned, then another. If that is returned, certainly every day, but short. If no reply one day, then skip a day. The trick is to give him his space. “If snail mail, only if you need to send something that can’t fit on paper. With that nice scanner in the library I can’t imagine anything. If you are not talking about Craig, but literally my girlfriend, then I don’t have to, she is right here.”

“What happened when you told her?”

“I’m still here. That tells it all. If you want more, Sue will probably tell you. You can say I said it was OK for her to tell. Actually it wasn’t much since we both knew it. Remember the time you asked if I was a blabbermouth? Well, I’m still not.”

“I have heard Grandma say you are good for me. I don’t think it is for me. You treated Craig the same as me. You were incurably nice to Uncle Johnny, even though you could have handed him another defeat, one of a constant parade. You didn’t know Ruth’s name but she was not offended, and told me good things about you. It goes on and on. You are almost as good a cook as I am, but I admit your bread is something else. The souffle was not up to my

standards because there was a faint hint of either bad or incorrect cheese. The eggs Benedict were the only ones I have had that were edible. So, it comes and goes.”

“Do you need any help cooking tonight? I can do anything you are likely to need, and I have served under the command of some great but demanding chefs. So use me if you like.”

Mae thought about it, but said, “No, thank you, I think I can handle it. If you think Grandma will stand for it, I would like for you to leave and close the door to the dining room. Tell Grandma dinner is at 7. You have to fly solo eventually.”

I thought but did not say, ‘That’s for sure.’ What a wonderful young woman, as good as Sue was at about the same age. I left, closing the dining room door.

I decided not to go back upstairs until 6, and then tell Sue about dinner. She might be asleep. I went into the sitting room and found the cookbooks. I brought one out, published in 1890, London, and sat on that comfortable couch. There was just barely enough light so I went to one of the swivel chairs, which shared an old floor lamp.

The book was about making beer (they called it ale) and wine. I remember trying to make pear hard cider, but I guess some bad yeast got in because it smelled like propane, and was not good for anything. I tried igniting a small sample but it didn’t burn. Probably needed to be distilled. I couldn’t remember the boiling point of acetone. Maybe never knew it.

I had never tried making beer. It looked easy enough, but I didn’t see how to get the ingredients in small quantities cheaply enough to make the venture pay.

Sue came down the stairs wearing her flannel gown. She saw where I was in the book. “Are we going to have a brewery? You could start in a corner of the barn.”

“No, I just like old books. You have this one in the sitting room. I’ll put it up.” I held her hand and took her with me. I had estimated the number of books here, about three thousand. A third chess. I had about a hundred counting books about chess players. The rest of the books in this small library were about domestic things, cooking, gardening, a nice selection about architecture and carpentry, a shelf contained every school book Mae used, in order.

Sue and I sat on a love seat across from an east window. The sun was about to set. I told Sue about dinner at 7. I put my arm around her and she cuddled up next to me. She said, “So that’s why the dining room door is closed. Mae is cooking us dinner. She has helped me cook since she was four, but never all by herself for three people.”

“I offered to help, but she thought about it and said no. You will like what she said next: ‘You have to fly solo eventually.’ She asked me to close the door, and I left without comment.”

"She is right, and the comment is like her, but why is she doing it now?"

I had expected this and decided, since Mae did not ask me not to not tell Sue, not to withhold anything, I had a free hand. "It is the payment of a bribe. To get the dinner I had to tell you I love you."

"That doesn't seem so operose, particularly since you knew I knew it anyway, but it did make me warm all over on a chilly windy afternoon. That hasn't worn off yet, I hope it never does. And our lovemaking today is indescribable. I think your saying it right out loud had something to do with that."

I thought, 'Maybe indescribable, but I intend to try.' I was enjoying her gown. It has long sleeves, a scooped out neck, fit snugly, but was full below mid thigh. The first time I saw it I thought about Ruth's black ballet dress. I didn't know it could be had in flannel. Out loud I said, "I love this gown. It warms me as much as it must you."

"Yes, it feels wonderful. It is good to dance in. I have, alone. The way it is cut gives me some support as well. I know you have noticed that. The fabric softens your already gentle touch."

"You must have designed it yourself and had it made for you."

"Yes. The seamstress now owns the store where you bought your new clothes. The cloth is not actually flannel, for it has a nap on both sides. The wool is alpaca, made at my suggestion, in Brazil. I once had a bolt of it but I gradually gave it away and only have ten yards or so now, in cold storage in Lafayette.

Just to my left was a small fireplace; I hadn't seen a woodpile so it may not be used now. On the mantel was an old ship's clock, beautiful polished brass. It read a quarter of seven. "Would you like to change before dinner?"

"No, I love this gown and Marie is used to me in it. Next time I go to Lafayette I'm going to get the cloth and have one made for Marie. For her sixteenth birthday.

"I could wear the gown to a party. Oh, I'm wearing silk stockings because I figure you like me in them. I also like the shoes I have on, only 2 inch heels, but they fit better than most. I don't usually wear heels, not even these low ones."

I wanted to take her upstairs... It was almost 7 so we went to the front room and sat on the couch I liked. It was much nicer than the loveseat, which seemed to be designed for looks, not sitting.

Mae came out to announce dinner. She told Sue, "You look lovely this evening. I hope you enjoy your dinner."

Sue said, "Thank you. We are both looking forward to it."

When we got to the dining room I understood why she wanted the door closed. It was to keep all the wonderful aroma of the cooking bottled up. To have to smell things one at a time would have detracted from the event with all blended.

Mae led us into the dining room. She had moved nine of the chairs from the table, had us sit at each end of the table. Mae had her place the side nearest the kitchen door, centered between us. On each side of the central vase of flowers were five lit candles, tall white beeswax ones, elegant. I wondered if she did that so Sue and I could not see each other, and therefore she would receive more attention. Probably not. Indeed, she moved the vase and candles to the place across from hers.

The room was lit with three spotlights down the center of the table. (All four of the china cabinets were also lit, but that was dim. Mae's trophies were on the cabinet nearest the kitchen wall under glass shelves holding pottery.) The spots were subdued, subjectively a tenth full brightness. Except for a wooden salad bowl with greens of some sort on the teak cart, no food was visible, just weapons for attacking the food and the nice ironed linen napkins. Each place had a plain glass of water, and there was a bowl of ice that could be passed if needed on the cart. At each end place was an elegant hand-written menu. Her handwriting was even better when she wanted it to be. I can't reproduce it here, only the words. I don't think it is corny. I still have the menu.

Dinner to Celebrate Love For Grandma and Jack

Chicken Florentine Haricot Beans. Baked Artichokes, Broccoli Sauteed in Wine and Garlic

Wilted Spinach Salad with Snails.

Before we sat, I told Mae, "Sue asked me how come the dinner, and I told her." Mae said, "I knew she would ask or figure it out herself. I'm glad you told her." She went into the kitchen and brought a tray with three dinner plates, the entree already served, returned with three bowls of side dishes and a straw basket of rolls. As she served us she said, "I thought your appetite would need no jump start, so I have forgone an appetizer."

Serving ourselves was a problem since no one could reach another, but Mae took the dishes around the table and it was done quickly. As she brought a dish she said what it was, although it was obvious, especially since we each had a nice menu.

Sue raved about the chicken, and thanked Mae for the artichokes, Sue's favorite. I said, "The *Phaseolus vulgaris* are cooked perfectly. How did you do it?" Mae said, "I soaked them 10 hours, then put them on cheesecloth in the dark to sprout overnight. Then rinsed them and boiled in water to cover for ten minutes, adding hot water as needed, and simmered for an hour more. No seasoning."

"But that would make it before I told Sue I love her."

Mae said, "I knew you would. I started the beans even before we made that deal. I knew you couldn't pass it up."

Sue asked what we were talking about, and I told her the small white beans.

While Mae was walking around with the food, I said, "Your trophies look spectacular the way they are displayed. One would think they are of solid silver, or at least heavily silver-plated. This is the first time I noticed your name engraved on the gold plaque. You must be proud of them. They are magnificent!"

She said, "Thank you. Grandma had them engraved, made a place for them and put them there. It surprised me. It is wonderful to know you are loved." She must have done that while I was in the library looking at the books, or perhaps I didn't notice them earlier.

When the main course was finished she collected the dishes on her tray and took them to the kitchen, and proceeded to make the salad dressing at the table. She was certainly elegant. The dressing itself was simple. Olive oil, vinegar, crushed garlic, what looked like half-and-half sugar and mustard, and a coddled egg yolk. While blending the mixture, she said, "I thought no salt, not with the bacon and snails."

Behind the bowl were small glass containers of bacon bits, chopped shiitake mushrooms soaked in white wine, green onion tops, chopped hard-cooked egg, and something I didn't recognize. Looking at the menu I gathered they were snails, sliced thin. She first added the dressing to the barely wilted spinach, tossed that, then the other ingredients one at a time, tossing between additions. She added the heavier ingredients last. (I doubted it made any difference, and it may not have been by design,) She served us on chilled dessert plates. I had never had snails in a salad before. They were a nice addition, but salty.

All during the meal we commented on the food, but only sincere comments. The "It's all good" attitude does not help much. It is clear that Mae is an accomplished cook and has good sense about what goes with what. My favorite was the broccoli, which can be tricky, especially sauteed. But it was tender without being mushy with a coating of some sauce I did not recognize.

Not only can she cook, but she did so without cookbooks. If she had gone to get one I would have seen her (and we might have been caught), and there were none visible in the kitchen. There would be no reason to hide one. I read cookbooks but not when I'm cooking. Nothing slows me down more than having to stop to see what's next.

The dinner was over, and we told Mae to retire while we did dishes and cleaned the kitchen. She left. We decided to load the dishwasher and soak what was left in the big sink.

I asked Sue, "What do you think of Marie now?" That just came out, the Marie instead of Mae.

"I'm too tired to think. Let's go to bed."

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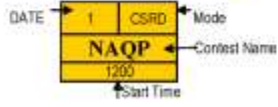
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CDXA Periodic Table of Contests - 2024

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
6 R	3 CSRD	2 S	8 CSRD	4 CSRD	1 CSRD	1 CS	3 C	1 CSRD	5 CS	2 C	6 CS
RTTY Roundup 1800	VT QSO Party 0000	ARRL DX - SSB 0000	LA QSO Party 1400	7th Area QSO Party 1300	KY QSO Party 1400	RAC Canada Day 0000	NAQP - CW 1800	TN QSO Party 1800	CA QSO Party 1800	Sweepstakes - CW 2100	ARRL - 160M 2200
13 C	3 CSRD	9 CSRD	3 CSRD	4 CS	1 D	13 CS	10 C	7 C	12 R	9 R	7 D
NAQP - CW 1800	MN QSO Party 1400	OK QSO Party 1400	MS QSO Party TBD	IN QSO Party 1800	ARRL - INT. Digi 1800	LARU 1200	WAE DX - CW 0000	CWops Open 0000	Makrothen - RTTY 0000	WAE DX - RTTY 0000	FT Roundup 1800
20 S	3 CSRD	8 C	8 CSRD	4 CSRD	8 CSRD	20 CSRD	10 CSR	7 CS	12 CSRD	16 S	14 CS
NAQP - SSB 1800	BC QSO Party 1800	Stew Perry TBC 1500	MO QSO Party 1400	DE QSO Party 1700	ARRL - VHF 1800	CQWW - VHF 1800	MDC QSO Party 1400	CO QSO Party 1300	NV QSO Party 0300	Sweepstakes - SSB 2100	ARRL - 10M 0900
20 CSRD	4 C	9 CSRD	13 CSRD	4 CSRD	15 C	20 R	17 S	8 C	12 CSR	23 C	28 CS
ARRL - VHF 1900	NA Sprint - CW 0000	ID QSO Party 1800	NM QSO Party 1400	New England QSO Party 2000	Stew Perry TBC 1500	NAQP - RTTY 1800	NAQP - SSB 1800	NA Sprint - CW 0000	AZ QSO Party 1500	CQWW - CW 0000	RAC Winter 0000
26 C	10 R	10 R	13 CS	11 CS	15 CSRD	27 CS	24 CSRD	14 S	12 CSRD	Monday C	26 C
CQ - 160M CW 2200	CQWW WPX - RTTY 0800	NA Sprint - RTTY 0000	GA QSO Party 1800	CQM DX 1200	WV QSO Party 1800	RSGB IOTA 1200	HI QSO Party 0400	WAE DX - SSB 0000	PA QSO Party 1800	KIUSN Test 1800	Stew Perry TBC 1900
27 R	17 C	10 CSRD	TBD CSRD	18 CSR	Monday C	Monday C	24 D	14 CSRD	12 CSRD	Friday C	Monday C
BARTG RTTY Sprint 1200	ARRL DX - CW 0000	WI QSO Party 1800	ND QSO Party TBD	AR QSO Party 1400	KIUSN Test 0000	KIUSN Test 0000	WW Digi DX 1200	ARRL - VHF 1800	SD QSO Party 1800	KIUSN Test 2000	KIUSN Test 0000
Monday C	26 S	16 R	20 R	20 C	Friday C	Friday C	24 CSRD	14 CS	19 CSRD		Friday C
KIUSN Test 0900	CQ - 160M SSB 2200	BARTG RTTY 0200	CQMM DX 0700	CQWW WPX - CW 0000	KIUSN Test 2000	KIUSN Test 2000	KS QSO Party 1400	AL QSO Party TBD	NY QSO Party 1400		KIUSN Test 2000
Friday C	24 CSRD	24 R	20 CS	Monday C			24 CS	21 CSRD	19 CS		
KIUSN Test 2000	SC QSO Party 1900	NA Sprint - SSB 0000	MI QSO Party 1800	KIUSN Test 0000			OH QSO Party 1800	IA QSO Party 1400	Worked All Germany 1500		
	24 R	30 S	20 CS	Friday C			Monday C	21 CSRD	18 C		
	NAQP - RTTY 1800	CQWW WPX - SSB 0000	ON QSO Party 1800	KIUSN Test 2000			KIUSN Test 0000	TX QSO Party 1400	Stew Perry TBC 1500		
	28 CSRD	Monday C	27 CS				Friday C	21 CSRD	30 CSRD		
	NC QSO Party 1500	KIUSN Test 0000	FL QSO Party 1800					KIUSN Test 2000	NH QSO Party 1800	IL QSO Party 1700	
	Monday C	Friday C	Monday C						21 CS	28 S	
	KIUSN Test 0000	KIUSN Test 2000	KIUSN Test 0000						NJ QSO Party 1800	CQWW - SSB 0000	
	Friday C		Friday C						21 CSRD	Monday C	
	KIUSN Test 2000		KIUSN Test 2000						WA Salmon Run 1800	KIUSN Test 0000	
									22 R	Friday C	
									NA Sprint - RTTY 0000	KIUSN Test 2000	
									28 R		
									CQWW - RTTY 0000		
									28 CS		
									ME QSO Party 1200		
									Monday C		
									KIUSN 0000		
									Friday C		
									KIUSN 0000		
									2000		

LEGEND
 GOLD = Major Contest= 10 points
 Blue = QSO Party = 7 points
 Pink = DX Contest = 5 points
 C = CW S = SSB
 R = RTTY D = Digital





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Membership Meeting
 Tuesday 27 February 2024 5:30 PM
 THE MEETING WILL BE AT
Woodcreek Church Richardson TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 15 March 2024 ←←←