



COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Richardson, Texas

# SIGNALS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 45 Issue 01

Web Site <http://www.n5cxx.us>

October 2023

### CARC

### Membership Meeting

Tuesday 24 October 2023 5:30 PM

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

**"nanoVNA: A Primer"**

**by Shawn Prestridge, KI5PXG**

package called nanoVNA Saver which allows you to use and control the nanoVNA from a PC using either Linux or Windows. He will demonstrate how to calibrate the nanoVNA with nanoVNA Saver and show you some of the more popular plots that can be generated with it, including a brief explanation of how a Smith chart works. The material is intended to be an introductory course on using the nanoVNA to build your mental model of how it works and invite further exploration of its capabilities.

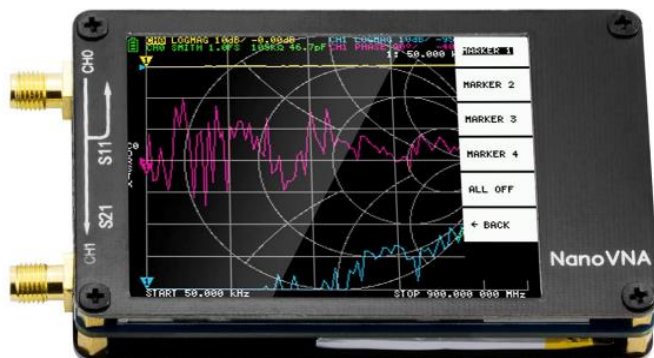
Shawn's ham journey began with his father (KA5CTN, SK) who owned a CB sales/service shop in CB's heyday of the 70s and 80s. His father also became a licensed amateur radio operator and took him to ham club meetings and even roped his mother into radio (KA5HPL). During school summer breaks, Shawn's dad took him to his shop where he learned to read schematics and repair radios which led him to a career in Electrical Engineering.

Shawn holds multiple degrees in Electrical Engineering, Mathematics, and Software Engineering, all from Southern Methodist University. He rediscovered radio when he picked up a COVID-induced SDR habit and decided to follow his father's footsteps, going from no ticket to Extra in 2 weeks. He loves HF and dabbles in PotA, becoming the first activator of VP5-0001 in Turks and Caicos in late July 2023. He also is an avid foxhunter and now serves as the Education Director at the Richardson Wireless Klub.

## CARC October Meeting

The next meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Richardson, TX will be held on Tuesday, October 24, 2023, at 5:30 p.m. at Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Rd, Richardson. The meeting will also be streamed via Zoom (see the Club's website [n5cxx.us](http://www.n5cxx.us) for connection details).

Following a brief business meeting, Shawn Prestridge, KI5PXG, will present a program entitled "nanoVNA: A Primer". In this brief presentation, you will learn about some of the popular uses of the nanoVNA, but the focus will be on its most common use: determining the SWR of an antenna system.



To make demonstration (and, ultimately, use) of the nanoVNA easier, Shawn will introduce you to a software

## Nov & Dec Date Changes

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW FOR THE NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER CARC MEETING AND CHRISTMAS DINNER!!!**

To avoid issues with the Thanksgiving holiday, the November Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 5:30 pm at Woodcreek Church in Richardson.

And, similarly, because of many other activities occurring during December, our Christmas Dinner Party will be held on Tuesday, December 5th, at Aboca's Italian Grill, 100 S. Central Expy, Unit 63, in Richardson. More details will be available in next month's SIGNALS and via emails to members.

**WOCXX SPECIAL EVENTS ON PAGE 7**

<b>CARC OFFICERS</b>			
<b>PRESIDENT</b>		<b>VICE-PRESIDENT</b>	
Bill Swan	K5MWC	Bill Fell	KK5PB
972-529-3906		972-424-0496	
<a href="mailto:president@n5cxx.us">president@n5cxx.us</a>		<a href="mailto:vp@n5cxx.us">vp@n5cxx.us</a>	
<b>SECRETARY</b>		<b>TREASURER</b>	
Jim Stafford	W5DTG	Kerry Weeks	K5WKS
		214-478-3230	
<a href="mailto:secretary@n5cxx.us">secretary@n5cxx.us</a>		<a href="mailto:treasurer@n5cxx.us">treasurer@n5cxx.us</a>	
<b>ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN</b>		<b>WEBSITE MANAGER</b>	
Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN	Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
214-563-6679		972.571.6060	
<a href="mailto:director@n5cxx.us">director@n5cxx.us</a>		<a href="mailto:webmaster@n5cxx.us">webmaster@n5cxx.us</a>	
<b>STATION TRUSTEE</b>		<b>NEWSLETTER EDITOR</b>	
Bob Kirby	K3NT	Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
319.360.0500		214.535.5264	
<a href="mailto:k3nt@arrl.net">k3nt@arrl.net</a>		<a href="mailto:newsletter@n5cxx.us">newsletter@n5cxx.us</a>	
<b>MEMBERSHIP</b>		<b>N5CXX CLUB STATION</b>	
Bill Fell	KK5PB	<b>Phone Number/Mail Station</b>	
972-424-0496		<b>Unavailable until further notice</b>	
<a href="mailto:vp@n5cxx.us">vp@n5cxx.us</a>			

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 17<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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

*The  
President's  
Pen*



— . . . — . . . **de The Prez**

Our October meeting is coming up on the 24<sup>th</sup>, and the subject will be “ nanoVNA, a Primer” presented by Shawn Prestridge, KI5PXG at Woodcreek Church, 1730 CDT. This promises to be a most informative presentation on what a Virtual Network Analyzer is and how to use it to improve our station’s performance.

The Christmas dinner event will be held on 5 December, and it will be a great time for fellowship and good food. As it has in the recent past, it will be held at Aboca’s Italian Grill, 100 S. Central Expy, Suite 63, in Richardson. Frank Krizan and Kerry Weeks are working to get some great door prizes once again from Ham Radio Outlet. I hope to see you there.

It is hard for me to realize how fast this year has been going, but just around the corner is our annual meeting in November where we take some time to look back over the current year’s activities and accomplishments and to look forward to 2024. This meeting also presents the 2024 budget to the membership for consideration, and the new officer team is elected. The slate includes candidates for President, Vice

President, Treasurer and Secretary. Bill Fell, our Vice President, by our constitution is responsible for conducting the election. If you would like to stand for election or perhaps you would like to nominate someone for one of these offices, let Bill know. If you do nominate someone, please be sure that they have given you permission to do so.

Our club station trustee, Bob Kirby K3NT, has been tasked by the board to obtain a new FCC Registration Number (FRN). Currently the FRN for N5CXX and K3NT are the same. Recently the concern over the protection of personal information means that today the FRN for a club station and the trustee must be different. The FRN for an individual contains such information as social security number, address, phone number etc. Thus, if the FRNs were the same, someone looking up the FRN for N5CXX would get the personal information for Bob. A quick survey of several local clubs and our sister station in Cedar Rapids indicates that having two separate FRNs is now accepted practice.

A big “thank you” to the team conducting the open house events. Not only does it raise awareness of the club station and of the CARC, the open house events have produced new members. They also have piqued the interest in some to get their license. Great job, guys.

Looking forward to seeing each of you at our October meeting.

You will see this in every President’s article that I write as I sincerely want to serve you, our members.

As I close this newsletter entry, I commit to you that I will strive to continue the work of the CARC, a work focused on providing fellowship, transparency, and value. Let me know if you have suggestions or comments on how we can work together to make the CARC shine and grow.

73, Bill, K5MWC

## Vice-President’s Report

### Vice President’s Report

I am preparing a budget for FY2024 for the Board’s consideration and ultimately for adoption by the CARC membership. If anyone would like to help in this task, please contact me. I will have challenge coins available for purchase at \$5 each at our next GMM. I will still be taking nominations for potential FY2024 CARC officers at the next GMM. Officer elections will be held at the November GMM.

**Membership Committee** – No membership committee activity this past month.

Current Active Membership = 57

Full Members = 41 (includes life and retiree members)

Associate Members = 16

Members moved to Inactive Status = 0

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

26 September 2023

President Bill Swan K5MWC called the meeting to order at 1731 CDT. The meeting was in-person at our meeting site at Woodcreek Church. Zoom access was also provided for those not able to meet in person.

### The following were present at the meeting site:

Bill Swan, K5MWC (President)

Bill Fell KK5PB (Vice President / Membership)

Frank Krizan KR1ZAN (Activities / Training)

Jim Stafford W5DTG (Secretary)

Kerry Weeks K5WKS (Treasurer)

Jim Skinner WB0UNI (Signals Editor)

Jim Brown AF5MA

Gene Duprey K1GD

John McFadden K5TIP

Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT

Dave Russell W2DMR

Jon Moon KA5HND

Bill Owens AD5EW

Mike Montgomery WD5TX

Bob Coelln KG5JL

Brandon E. Bearden KG5EZS

Larry Hall KI6LT (visitor/New member)

Landon Elfenbein N5AET (visitor/New member)

Wayne Collins KI5YOQ (visitor) – Woodcreek Church coordinator

Mark Dempsey N5MD

Cameron Prince (No Call) Employee Collins Aerospace

### The following logged in via Zoom:

Jeff Stuparits W4DD (Presenter)

Bob Chandler KI5KRN

Robert Coulbourne W4FTD  
 Paul Veenstra AA5PV  
 Bill Clay K7UOP (W7CXX)  
 Jack Reed WA7LNM (W7CXX)

**Preliminaries**

1. Opening remarks and Pledge of Allegiance
  - a. Recognition of Jeff Stuparits on Zoom
  - b. Commendation on radio room open house activities
2. Member and Visitor Recognition - Cameron Prince recently moved to Collins Aerospace from Raytheon McKinney)

**Officer Reports**

1. The Secretary's Report is included in the September Newsletter.
2. Bill Fell reported he was working to update the 2006 equipment inventory list. He is now selling the CARC challenge coins for \$5 each. He asked that members start sending names of potential nominees for 2024 Officers. Bill Fell will be responsible for the election of new officers at membership meeting in November.
3. Kerry Weeks provided a verbal report on the Club's bank account balance.

**Old Business**

None

**New Business**

1. Bill Swan presented the remainder of FY 2023 Planned Estimated Expenses. Bill explained that there was a delay in determining actual expenses involved in getting the Collins Aerospace radio room operational because of the Company needing the space, but later deciding they did not need it, and in addition the new security issues and recovery from the Covid-19 restrictions.
2. Below is a summary of the plan:
3. Renovation expenses: \$4,200.00
4. Reimburse Frank Krizan for out-of-pocket expenses during the Covid pandemic: \$2,907.58
5. 2023 Christmas Dinner: \$200.00
6. General Operating Expenses: \$160.00
7. Jim Skinner distributed an updated radio room renovation expense report which aligned closely with the expenses voted on by the membership at the

August membership meeting. Jim requested a copy of Frank Krizan's expenses and receipts.

8. Frank made the following motion: Moved to adopt the remainder of the Operating Expense Budget as proposed by the Collins Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors that includes an additional line item of \$500 for repair and maintenance.

Bill Fell seconded the motion, and the vote was called. The motion was passed by those in attendance, including members attending by Zoom. There was one member abstaining.

**Announcements**

1. Annual Christmas Dinner – 5 December 2023
2. Annual Meeting – 14 November 2023, election of 2024 Board Officers, presentation of 2024 Annual Budget
3. Challenge coins available for purchase from Bill Fell for \$5.00
4. Frank Krizan requested that someone volunteer to store the "E-Z UP" tents and weights because he will not have room to store them next year.
5. The Tuesday night CARC Drive home Net has been moved to the Garland UHF repeater 442.700 MHZ with PL 110.9. The net is from 5:30 pm CDT to 6:00 pm CDT.

**Adjourned Business Meeting** at 1812 CDT.

**Tonight's Program**

Tonight's program was presented by way of Zoom and the subject was "Locating Power Line Noise (and other RFI) presented by Jeff Stuparits, W4DD from the Atlanta, GA area.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Jim Stafford, Secretary  
 Collins Amateur Radio Club

**CARC Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date: 10 October 2023**

Bill Swan, K5MWC, called the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Richardson, Texas Board of Directors meeting to order at 1905 CDT.

Board Members Present:

- President: Bill Swan, K5MWC
- Vice-President / Membership Director: Bill Fell, KK5PB
- Secretary: Jim Stafford, W5DTG
- Treasurer: Kerry Weeks, K5WKS

Immediate Past President / Director at Large: Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

Visitors Present:

Jim Brown AF5MA

Bob Chandler KI5KRN

Mike Montgomery WD5TX

Rob Whitener KI5AON

1. Welcome

2. Motion to approve the Consent Agenda

Item A: Minutes of the 26 September 2023 General Membership Meeting, previously distributed

Item B: Minutes of the 12 September 2023 Membership Meeting 2023, previously distributed

Item C. Agenda for 10 October 2023 Board Meeting, previously distributed

Motion made by Bill Fell, seconded by Frank Krizan. Motion passed unanimously.

3. FCC Registration Number (FRN)

a. MOTION to remove from the table the motion that was tabled for “additional review” at the 12 September 2023 Board Meeting. Motion made by Bill Fell and seconded by Frank Krizan. Motion passed.

b. Consider the original motion recorded below if the motion to remove from the table is passed: Moved that the Board of Directors of the Collins Amateur Radio Club of Richardson, Texas directs the Club's call sign Trustee to file for a new FCC FRN associated with the Club's Taxpayer ID and then to work with the FCC to replace the N5CXX FRN with the new FRN associated with the Club.

Motion made by Bill Fell and seconded by Frank Krizan. Motion passed.

c. Bob Kirby will be advised of this action and asked to begin the process of getting a new FRN for N5CXX.

4. Station Restoration Project Status

FY 2023 Expense Plan has been completed and approved by the membership, but Kerry Weeks has not received invoices and receipts for expenses incurred as of this October Board meeting. Bill Swan will contact Jim Skinner and emphasize the importance of getting invoices to Kerry so they can be paid. The importance of accounting for as many of the expenses as possible is that it impacts the FY 2024 budget

planning and the amount of money that could be allocated to proposed projects.

a. A separate FY 2024 Plan Budget is being prepared by Bill Fell. Resolution for all unpaid expenses in the FY 2023 Expense Plan needs to occur immediately. The end-of-year results become the beginning funds balance for the Budget Plan for FY 2024. The budget is to be presented to Membership at the 14 November 2023 Membership meeting.

b. Kerry Weeks reported on the bank account balance at present. Bill Fell reports that he currently has some projects for FY 2024 which include some new proposed projects and previously identified potential projects. All proposed projects need to have a statement of justification and a cost estimate along with a description of the project.

c. In Jim Skinner's absence Mike Montgomery updated the status of renovation of club radio room. He had no resolution on where to get the rotators repaired. Kerry Weeks to provide the contact information for the repair person in Decator, TX. The KPA 500 has been tested on the air and appears to be working in accordance with specifications. The ability to obtain a climbing harness is still not resolved.

5. CARC Officer Transition Guide Review (Moved from the August Board meeting).

a. General Comments – Jim Brown asked for any final comments. Bill Swan has one more update to submit to Jim Brown.

b. The initial version of this guide will be available after all updates are complete and available in January 2024.

6. Items to Resolve

a. Action Plan development with timeline

Searchable Filing System - Stafford

b. Financial Reporting and Record Keeping - Weeks. Bill Fell is assisting with this effort.

c. Website update and revision – Krizan

d. The initial version of these documents will be available in January 2024.

7. Christmas Dinner Planning

a. Frank Krizan is making the plans and has set December 5, 2023 as the date at Aboca's Italian Grill, 100 S. Central EXPY, Suite 63, Richardson. TX.

b. Frank Krizan and Kerry Weeks will secure the door prizes at Ham Radio Outlet before November 1, 2023.

8. Report on The Big Project
  - a. Frank Krizan suggested that the Big Project be considered as several smaller projects involving people who have similar interests. The theme is "Something for everyone, everyone involved in something."
  - b. Each project will incorporate the values that guide the club's offerings: Education, Service and Fellowship for the betterment of current employe-es, retirees, the community, and amateur radio.
9. Election of Officers – Constitution Article VI, Section 2, and Article IX
  - a. The initial notice and request for nominees was announced in the September newsletter and was the subject of a HCOL message to all members. The same announcements will be made in October.
  - b. Bill Fell, VP, will conduct the election process. Bill Fell stated that the president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer positions will be open.
10. Other
  - a. Bill Swan introduced the process of disposing of club radio equipment. It will be discussed in the November Board meeting.
  - b. Rob Whitener, guest from Garland Amateur Radio Club, presented an invitation to the Collins club to participate in a Radio Road Rally on October 21, from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Rob stated that an "information flyer" was posted on the Garland club's website, K5QHD.org.
11. Program Reminder – 24 October 2023 "nanoVNA, a Primer" will be presented by Shawn Prestridge, KI5PXG
12. Board Meeting adjourned at 2025 CDT.

Minutes recorded by  
 Jim Stafford, W5DTG  
 CARC Secretary

## Upcoming Meeting Programs

Here's what's coming up in the next few months at Collins ARC meetings:

Nov 14 - Annual Meeting / Elections

Dec 5 - CARC Christmas Dinner - Aboca's Italian Grill

\*\*\* **NOTE:** The November and December meeting dates are not the 4th



Tuesday and are changed to accommodate the holidays.  
 \*\*\*

[2024]

Jan 23 - Show and Tell Night

Feb 27 - ARRL Night - Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK (ARRL NTX SM)

We're working on a program on Getting Started with the Raspberry Pi and a speaker on the AMSAT Fox-Plus Project. If you have suggestions for meeting topics that would interest our members, send them to [kr1zan@arrl.net](mailto:kr1zan@arrl.net).

In May, we anticipate a program on final plans for Field Day, and, of course, July is our Annual Ice Cream Social. November is the Annual Meeting, and Elections and December is our Christmas Dinner Party.

## Dubya...Dubya...Dubya

Web sites for Hams ...

We all have our favorite web sites for various amateur radio topics and resources. To help in the sharing of that info,



we're starting a monthly collection of useful web sites on a different topic each month. This list isn't all inclusive...and we're sure you have others that could benefit your fellow members.

So we'd like to ask that you send along your URLs (web site addresses) along with a short description of what's important on

the web site to [kr1zan@arrl.net](mailto:kr1zan@arrl.net). We'll publish your added links in the following month's SIGNALS.

Also, if you have a favorite web site that's not associated with this month's topic, send it along with a brief description to [kr1zan@arrl.net](mailto:kr1zan@arrl.net), and we'll include it in the ETC section of next month's Dubya-Dubya-Dubya.

This month, our focus is on "Emcomm"... our coverage is not comprehensive, so we hope you'll send in your favorite websites for Emcomm that you enjoy. We'll print those next month in **ETC** below.

### ARRL Emergency Communications Training

<https://www.arrl.org/emergency-communications-training>

### FEMA ICS Resource Center

<https://training.fema.gov/emiweb/is/icsresource/training-materials/>

### EmComm-Training.org

<https://emcomm-training.org>

### EmComm Wiki

[https://emcommwiki.org/index.php?title=Main\\_Page](https://emcommwiki.org/index.php?title=Main_Page)

### EmComm Articles - On All Bands

<https://www.onallbands.com/category/technical-articles/emcomm/>

### EmComm Tools - with focus on off-grid & RPi

<https://www.thetechprepper.com/emcomm-tools>

### Emergency Field Communications

<https://www.americanoutdoor.guide/survival-gear/survival-gear-guides/emergency-field-communications/>

### ARRL North Texas ARES

<https://arrlntx.org/WP/public-service/ares/>

### Dallas County RACES - Cloud Cowboy Reference Manual

<https://www.dallasraces.org/ccrm>

### Texas State RACES

<http://texasraces.org>

**Monthly NTX ARES HF Net** - 2nd Wednesday of each month. 8:30 p.m. local time, 3860 kHz, LSB (ARES membership not required to participate)

### Collin County ARES

<https://www.collinares.net>

### Dallas County RACES

<https://www.dallasraces.org>



No contributions were received from our readers this past month, so ETC is empty. If you have some favorite and useful URLs that would interest other hams in CARC, send the links to kr1zan@arrl.net.

## CARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson outdoor warning siren testing. The September 2023 test was cancelled due to cloudy weather. 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 August City of Garland Siren Test was also cancelled. 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 all suspicious activities to the police department.

## W0CXX SPECIAL EVENTS

The Collins Amateur Radio Club station, W0CXX, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, has planned three special events to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Collins Radio. Arthur A. Collins (1909-1987) founded Collins Radio Company in 1933 and produced shortwave equipment before supplying equipment for the commercial broadcast industry.

The company also built radios for amateur use, including the KW-1, KWS-1, KWM-1, KWM-2/2A, and KWM-380, as well as the classic S line consisting of the 75S-3A, 32S-3, 51S-1, 30S-1, and 30L-1. After several mergers and acquisitions, the company began producing avionics for the aviation and aerospace industries and is now Collins Aerospace, a subsidiary of Raytheon Technologies.

On September 9, 2023, W0CXX was host to a special event station celebrating Arthur Collins' birthday. On October 14, 2023, a special event station was in operation from 14:00 UTC to 20:00 UTC to celebrate the 90th anniversary of Collins Radio. On November 18, 2023, a third special event station will operate from 15:00 UTC to 21:00 UTC to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the club's charter. More information is available on the club's website ([w0cxx.us](http://w0cxx.us)) and on [QRZ.COM](http://QRZ.COM) (see W0CXX).

### Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Mae does exceptionally well in the chess tournament. Lots of chess detail for those of you who play.

It was good that the table was a little large for us, because that was a lot of food, with eighteen selections, all different. I would like to inspect their kitchen, but not when it is busy. I would probably be trampled and cooked. This time the food took longer, partly because it takes a while to grill a porterhouse medium, and baked bass also took time. I was occupied studying Sue and mom. They could have been the same age. I spent a lot more time on Sue.

Mae had eyes only for Craig, and he returned the favor. Craig was not all dolled up like Mae and mom, although that may have been mom's regular garb. He looked exactly like what he is, a bright young man with no doubt of his accomplishments and future. I knew that those three chess games had improved Mae's outlook, and that the school nonsense was forgotten.

They were jabbering in French. Craig turned out to be fluent as well. I did not feel left out, not at all. They weren't talking about me; I believe they were talking about their experiences in France. Had it been in English I could have joined in but probably would not have. Mom and Craig spent seven years in France, where Craig went to a Catholic school until he was 10, when they returned to the states. They used English at home, so he was naturally bilingual.

When they returned he was given some test by the school that placed him in the seventh grade. He had learned to play chess in France from mom.

Sue and Mae had toured France in her seventh summer, and stayed in Toulouse the summer she was eight. Toulouse is an old city, then about the population of El Paso but much more compact with adjacent buildings sharing side walls, the inner city surrounded by a wall. In South Louisiana, serious French is offered in schools, and Mae took all she could.

The food started arriving. We had a temporary extra bus-boy; they set up their portable tables for their large trays. It took four trips, two by each, to bring everything. Only Craig's was all on one plate. Those that could merged different dishes when that could be done. The preferred language reverted to English.

I asked Sue, "Who took care of the company while you were in France?" "Then I had a partner who knew everything I knew. The company was a lot smaller, and required less management. Plus we didn't have a pile of cash in index funds like we do now. We didn't separate research from the money part. Also, the company was still in real estate. When we returned from the second trip I found that he started his own company, in Baton Rouge where real estate was really hot, taking all of the real estate team. I did get a million in securities from him, which I liquidated and put in no load low expense index funds, and we finally had some cash. Oil was booming and we were in an ideal position to capitalize.

"The downside is that I lost a partner, but I got to do things I had always wanted to do, mainly beef up the research group. And the company had cash to fund what research said looked good."

Mom asked me, "What do you do? Craig says you are quick with numbers." I told her I am a mathematician, retired but still keep up, especially with pattern recognition. I asked her, "And you?"

"I was a dancer, Ballet, in New York. My husband is a bean counter for the Federal Reserve in Dallas, makes a lot of money, but he has a hard time getting away. We met by accident after he had seen me perform in Romeo and Juliet. He was on a business assignment. He has a law degree, but his passion is accounting, especially auditing. And, yes, I was her, Juliet.

"We married with a contract saying that each was free to pursue our separate careers. I took leave to have Craig. He was born in Dallas. When he was 2 we went back to New York, hired a nanny, and I went back to work. The long rest had been good for me. I was in better shape than ever, and again was given lead parts. The troupe went to France, where I was born. I traveled separately, bringing Craig and Michelle (French Canadian nanny). Late in the first year I

was dropped, falling all the way into the orchestra, and would never dance again professionally. We decided to stay in France. I got a job teaching dance and English, and finally returned to Dallas when Craig was 10. My husband was still counting beans and had not missed me. He was never close to Craig and didn't understand why anyone would play chess. Still, he is a good man. I am now director of the Arts Council of Dallas."

I asked, "Where in France were you born?" "Nimes, in 1960. We came to New York when I was 16. I could already dance."

In between all of this everyone was raving about their food and the care with which

it was prepared. The 'common' salad was beefed up with several unexpected goodies: anchovies, croutons, the tiniest, sweetest tomatoes I had tasted (Sue said they were a new variety developed at LSU), julienned baby carrots, and hand torn tender romaine.

During all of this Craig and Mae were essentially fooling around from across the table. Mae had perfect table manners (a big change from 'normal'), as did Craig. I felt like the only slob at the table, but no one, not even Sue, paid the slightest attention to me. That left me alone to savor the food.

I worried about how we were going to keep the kids out of bed. I also had no idea how to bring it up. Problems like this have plagued me all my life. My own childhood offered no guidance.

After the feast was over, I asked if anyone wanted coffee. Craig said he didn't, that he had to be up early, and no one else did either. It turned out that Craig and mom had a room with two regular beds, and mom was a light sleeper. And both Mae and Craig had that part of their brain, that I lack, fully functional. I must admit that my restraint with Sue had been purely tactical: All the signals from her indicated that my invitation to share a bed would be accepted, even the first night, but it had to come from her. Later, when she didn't ask right out loud if I wanted company, she forced me to bring it up. She didn't know but if she had said, "I'll be there with you and Marie." it would not have offended nor surprised me.

They brought the check, which I picked up but Sue said, "Let me." "Then I will furnish the tip, in cash. There is a significant difference in how much they get now and in how much they can keep."

Mom said, "I won't tell my husband." I guess she knew a little about taxes. I said, "It's not that. The restaurant will make them pay the credit charge discount. I think it is 5% for American Express."

We arose, went out by the fountain, and had the obligatory hugs. That's something else I suck at, hugging a stranger.



It is even stronger than that. I'm no good at hugging anyone who isn't a lover. I shook hands with Craig, asked if he knew the outcome of round 3, and he said Mae had told him, and that tomorrow is going to be interesting. The hug from mom was OK but her heels put my nose under her chin. Craig hugged Mae, and you could tell she was almost liquid and he was showing what he wanted, but they eventually separated, and he went to his room with mom.

I asked if anyone would like a walk in the cool. Mae said, "Yes. I need to work off some of the tension from the evening. Keep an eye on me lest I attack the first man I see. Oh, Jack is safe." That was excellent, and I knew what she was really saying that she knew we knew, that she had sexual cravings for Craig, and she was telling us not to worry.

Sue said. "I am tired and need a shower, so you two go on." There was a park about half a mile away. I asked if she would like to go there. She said OK, so we headed off in that direction. I said, "You will have White in both games. Have you thought about what opening to use?"

She reflected. "It depends on the pairings," "You will not play Craig in round 4. Your opponent will be from Baton Rouge. He and Billy drew the round before you beat Billy. He is the reigning Louisiana champ."

"Then I will use the English opening. I know it fairly deeply, but I am sure Craig knows it better. If I win and play Craig in round 5 then I will start (no matter what he does) 1 g3 2 Nf3 3 Bg2 4 0-0. He will not try crazy things, but will develop, probably in some order d5, Nf6, e4, Be7. He may copy my moves exactly, giving me the King's Indian with colors reversed. In any event I have analyzed this variation myself with help from Fritz 6, at least to 22 moves, the main lines deeper. You do not want to let me have this."

I was impressed. "I would like to anyway. I have played (with Black) 1 . . . d5 2 . . . b6 3 . . . Nc6 4 . . . Bb7, challenging White on the long h1-a8 diagonal."

"Do that with me and you'll find your center to be easily assailed and your challenge ineffective. The main problem is nothing is defending b7 giving me a free pass with a King Knight, pinning your Knight defending your center after preparation with solid semi-closed development on the Queen side. A move like Rb8 wastes a move tying up the rook, which should be on c8 or d8. Exchanging Bishops is worse. Your kingside is weak, mostly because of your second move. I'll show you soon. You have other problems as well. Your Queen Knight should wait for c5 before going to c6. What you did gives me d5."

We arrived at the park. It was well lit and had adult sized swings and a kid-sized merry-go-round, but she didn't want those, I guess because her pretty dress was only 5 inches from the ground. I asked if she would like to go back, and she said she would like that.

On the way back I reminded her of the time controls, and of exactly what the rule is. "In the next two rounds the clocks are set so that initially they point to six o'clock. Each player has an hour to reach move 30 in the game. If your opponent's flag falls before reaching 30 moves, stop the clock and call the director, who will rule that the player forfeits based on time. If both players clocks have fallen then the game is a draw. If time control of one hour is reached and move 30 has been completed, then the next time control occurs when the clock reaches 8 o'clock. Thus a game theoretically lasts four hours, although that is rare. All the rest of the moves in a game must be completed by 8. Again, if you notice his drop, stop the clock and call the director."

"OK, I didn't really understand that. So far time has not been a problem. Are there any other weird rules?" "Yes, the three most common are: A game is drawn if the same exact position obtains three times, not necessarily consecutively. A few believe it has to be the result of perpetual check. That is only the most common way it happens.

"A game is drawn if 50 moves are completed with no player moving a pawn or capturing a piece or pawn. The director will assign someone to count moves when that looks likely to happen. They will not rely on the recorded score, but sit there and count moves.

"A game is drawn if there are no pawns, and both sides have either a King and Bishop or a King and one or two Knights or a lone King, unless mate on the move can be demonstrated. If this happens, and you are in time trouble, stop the clock and call the director. An alert director will do that for you. You are not required to by rule or ethic. For example if you are ahead on time you would play on without breaking any rule, knowing that you can't lose unless you do something really stupid.

"There are scores of rules about defective clocks and making illegal moves (they are regarded as set when the other player has completed two moves). Thus a King can capture a Queen if the player moves his King next to the Queen, two moves by the other player are completed, at which point the first player can legally capture the Queen unless she is protected. That is unlikely, but I have seen it happen that a player accidentally moved a Bishop to a wrong colored square and it was not challenged until two moves were made, thus giving the player two Bishops of the same color. This can be an advantage or not. Kids just learning often make wrong Knight moves or do not know the e.p. pawn capture rule, or how to castle queen-side, but they won't happen in your group. Pay attention anyway.

"By the way, when castling either move the King first or move the Rook and King at the same time. If you move your Rook and take your hand off then that move is complete. I've seen that challenged and the rule enforced. When that happens you can still castle on the other side if it is legal.

The director or assistant director is not allowed to interfere in these issues. It is up to the offended player.

“The Rook move thing happened once in a French Defense game, advance variation. The f and d files were both open on my side. I moved my King Rook to f8 and then picked the King up and my opponent called the director and I was told I couldn’t do that. (I knew it.) On my next move I castled Queenside, now had two rooks on half-open files with a magnificent Knight on d4 that could not be dislodged. My opponent didn’t see it coming. If I had castled Kingside I would be castling into a fierce attack. White had all his forces ready to target my g7 and h7 pawns.”

Mae said, “Would you like to continue that ineffective defense to the R’eti you proposed? We could pick it up at White’s move 5.”

I said okay, not enthralled with my prospects. I gave up at move 12. “You were right.”

We reached the hotel. Mae said, “I feel better, relaxed and just a little tired. Tomorrow is going to be fun, and I promise to manage my time more carefully.” In the room she gave me an innocent hug, but didn’t take a chance on the cheek peck. She may be tired but she was keyed up, and only one thing I could imagine could cause that.

I entered our room, saw that Sue was sound asleep, had a quick shower, set the alarm to 6, and joined her. We slept peacefully. I thought this a good sign.

Sunday morning 25 November The alarm sounded. I stopped it as soon as I knew it. I think Sue was already awake, or had been, since she was holding me and I had to free myself. That woke her up as well, or the alarm did.

I wanted to cuddle but as tired as I was I would probably go back to sleep and wake up at ten. So I asked Sue what she wanted to do. She said, “Sleep.” So I dressed, set the alarm to 8, and went down for coffee. I also had to think about timing. I came up with this:

Section

10–12 8–9 K–3 4–5 6–7

Section 4: 9:00 1:10

Section 5 10:00 12:30

Section 6 10:10 12:40

Section 7 10:20 12:50

Awards 5:20 or as soon as finished 3:00 or as soon as finished 3:10 or as soon as finished 3:20 or as soon as finished 3:35 or as soon as finished.

The spacing is a little tighter because of the efficiency shown by the staff in getting out pairings quickly. It may take longer to give out awards in the 4–5 section. That won’t hurt anything. They were going to bring in pizza starting at 11:15 today. Some of the Senior group would not have much time to eat if the first game lasted the full four hours. I had never seen that happen,

although I had played over games in which both players were in time trouble.

I went to the coffee shop and had only coffee. I wasn’t hungry. Sue knew where I would be if she needed me. I went back to the lobby where I would be in sight of the elevator. There was a New York Times on the table that I picked up to read. It was about 7:30. I realized I didn’t really care what was going on, so I put the paper back and went back to the coffee shop, asked for OJ, whole wheat toast, and black coffee to take to my room. It came on a tray, at least 12 ounces of coffee, half that of orange juice. I headed back to our room.

Sue was up, almost dressed. She smelled the coffee and said, “How sweet of you.” She moved the phone and put the contents on the small, high table surrounded by three stools, and sat. “I was hoping I could serve you in bed, although I find that unpleasant myself, eating in bed.” “Yes, so do I, just as I dislike sleeping at a dinner table.”

I smiled. “Oswald Jacoby has a saying, ‘I know the difference between a card table and a bed’, I suppose meaning he doesn’t sleep when playing cards. And that is true, he doesn’t.”

“Have you played with him?”

“Unfortunately, no. I have played against him, a sport I cannot recommend. He is a wonderful bridge and poker player. He did go halves with me in a poker game while he had to play bridge in the men’s final bridge championship at the Shamrock Hotel in Houston.”

“What do you mean by going halves?”

“He puts up half the stake, I put up the rest. At the end, he gets his contribution if I have that much, then I get mine, and we split the rest of winnings if there is anything left. We both receive a benefit: I get to play in a higher stakes game and risk losing only half that stake. He does not expect me to lose and thinks I am going to win a lot, so he gets good odds on his money. In fact he doubled it, as did I. Once he put up all the stake when I was broke. I risked nothing. That was a thousand dollar buy-in game. I played tight and won eighteen hundred, leaving me with \$2,800. After giving him his grand back and splitting the winnings I had \$900.”

Mae came in. I didn’t hear that she was up. She was dressed in ordinary clothes. Sue had finished everything I brought up, so I asked if she would like to take Mae to breakfast. Mae said, “Craig and I are going to have breakfast at 8.”

I said, “Go Dutch, and charge your part to 12010, Bryant.”

Sue said, “You have three minutes.” She said OK and left. “I wasn’t hungry anyway. I should have gone with you two on that walk. I am still stuffed from last night, but the treat you brought was nice.”

“I am stuffed too. I didn’t eat anything, just had coffee. Looks like they enjoy each other’s company. Does Mae have a lot of boyfriends?”

“None that I know of. She thinks the boys at school are juveniles and jerks. Craig seems older than 16.” “She’s probably

right. I was when you knew me. And Mae seems older than 15, even when dressed in normal clothes. I noticed she had washed off the eye liner this morning.”

“Even when Marie was little she seemed more grown-up than other kids her age, and it is more pronounced since you arrived. You had better get to the tournament. It will be 8:30 by the time you arrive.” I kissed her, and left.

When I arrived the pairings for the Senior division were posted. Mae has White on

board 2 with one of the players from Baton Rouge with 2 1 . One player had withdrawn, so 2

the lowest scoring player got a bye and an automatic win. I guess there is no house-man for this division. Craig has Black on board 1 against another from Spring, also with 3, who last year came in second to Craig at the Texas Championship. This was Craig’s first time to play Black, so should both win they will play in the final round, each with 4. I gave my proposed timetable to the bullpen manager, who said they could compress the lower division start times because all the pairings have been made and were posted. I said, “The only critical one is the start of round 5 for the senior division. Their games could take four hours and they need time to eat something. I’ll watch and time it so they get 20 minutes to eat. You guys have been cranking out pairings in near real time.”

Pairings were posted in two ways: An alphabetical list of players, their current score, room and board, and whether White or Black, was posted in the skittles room, the only time I have seen this. Also, next to the door to the room in which play was going to be, with two copies of the physically split 4–5 and 6–7 divisions. Maybe it wouldn’t be so bad because they would not all arrive at the same time. It is usually a madhouse. Not this one; they had a large blackboard for announcements, and where the pairings are posted written on it. Anyway, kids are good at finding things.

I looked and saw that Billy had withdrawn. Mr. Leland walked in, and I asked if he would like to swap back. He would, and said he’d take care of it. The seniors were trickling in. Most looked like zombies.\* They were mostly five to a room, with one sleeping on a cot, the others in two regular beds. They probably partied half the night. Craig and Mae came in, holding hands, and looking alert and ready to play. They didn’t care that I saw them holding hands. I could tell Sue that Craig is good for Mae. I think she knows it. I won’t tell her they were holding hands, although I think I could have, just not my style. They looked at the pairings then came over to greet me.

\* There are no actual Zombies; they looked like the Hollywood version.

I got Craig’s firm handshake and a warm hug from Mae. Craig said, “I want to brief Mae on the playing style of her opponent, so we will go to the skittles room.” I wanted to hear, but knew I couldn’t. A handshake and a hug from two contenders was bad enough. I decided to recuse myself in the case of Craig also, and told Mr. Leland, although not why. He said he knew there would be no problem. I knew Craig had played in the

tournaments in Spring several times, and in every state championship since he moved to Texas.

I noticed board 3 was being played by two Spring players with 2 points. Looked like Spring was going to win two of the top five places. I went into the game room at 5 till 9, but Mae wasn’t there, so I went to the skittles room and announced the start of round four, Seniors, and went back. When everyone was there I told them to set their clocks to 6:00, and explained the 60 minute time control and the whole game time control, what to do if a flag fell, turned it over to Mr. Leland, and left. From the look on their faces I could tell they knew that stuff.

Mr. Leland had an assistant I had played long ago but I didn’t remember his name. I remembered the game. The tournament was held in New Orleans and was not a Swiss

system tournament, but was paired like one each round. Instead it was double elimination (draws counting 1 ) with pairings made like in tennis, using ratings to determine the 2

rankings the first round, three games each on Saturday and Sunday, 30/60, starting at 8. Eliminated players were handled by entering them as withdrawn in the program. Grueling. Rounds started at 8, 1, and 6 each day, so it is conceivable you would play until 10. The tournament ended when only ten or fewer were ‘standing.’ I had drawn the third game on Saturday, an 80 move game, both players speciously not wanting to win. I wanted to but couldn’t. With both in time trouble he proposed a draw which I accepted, more because I was worn out, and he didn’t seem to be. I had driven half the night to get there by 7:30, in a VW microbus that needed a valve job. It was 11 before I got to bed.

This guy I played at 8 Sunday was a 1 e4 guy who didn’t know his way around the French. He lost in 22 moves. Knowing an opening deeply helps because you can move blitz speed at first. I never knew a player this did not rattle, although there is nothing unethical about it. In this game we got out of the book at move 13 because he blundered. He played the advance variation, which seems like a good idea, but his center pawns are subject to attack by c5 and f6. Opening the King Bishop (f) file is disastrous for White unless he castles Queenside, but this guy didn’t know. I went to my room and back to sleep, setting the alarm to noon. That would be a two hour catnap with an hour to dress, eat something, and wake up. The game I just played was not even a little stimulating.

The next game was with the first player I had played who was rated near me. He had lost 1, so I might have got an agreed draw from him, but he refused and we played. He played below his rating. I had White and played Bird’s opening (1 f4) mainly because many books say it is unsound, and players who think that try to take advantage of it prematurely. It is just the Dutch defense with a move in hand, and if that game is OK what’s the matter with this one? Actually, the move prevents e5, gives an ideal spot for the King Knight at f3, and after e3 opens lines for the King Bishop. I figured that if he is rated close to me then he will probably have dismissed this move as ‘undeveloping,’ and had not given it much thought, but look at what White has if you try to force things in the center: White may develop the

KB (e2 is a good spot, or if Black has played Nc6, b5 is better), followed by 0-0, and now the rook has a potentially half open file. Anyway this guy let me have all of those things and I had a comfortable game. It is a shame that he blundered, for I think I had a won the game before that. By the way, I would never play this opening against a player rated 100 points or more higher or lower than I am.

After this round there were only 9 with 11 or fewer losses, and only one with a perfect 25, so the tournament ended at 4:30. I was tied with one other (the player I drew in that marathon) at 4-1-0, so we split the sum of second and third place. After subtracting the room rent, the cost of gas, food, and the entry fee I about broke even, but that's not why we play, is it? (I asked you a question: Is it?!)

It was time for the other kids to start, all sections starting at ten sharp. They had

already heard the time control speech, so I wasn't needed. A couple of Seniors had finished

but not Craig or Mae. I knew unless someone grossly blundered they would take at least

two hours. I hoped Mae could keep focused for that long, but I thought it possible because

she was itching to play Craig. To have a chance at doing that she had to win. And the

pair with 21 playing each other had to draw for Craig or Mae to win second outright. I had thought she had no chance against Craig, nor did anyone else. However, I was at the "but I wouldn't bet on it" point. Since Saturday a week ago this is a new Mae.

I called the room but got the message thing. So Sue was asleep or gone, both good. I

had packed my bag, and Sue and Mae were supposed to pack theirs, so when I got a break

I could go put them in my car. Check-out time was 4, but you could leave your car there

without charge until 6. I checked the standings after three rounds: Three were 3, one 2 1 , 2

and two 2 among the players I thought had a chance to beat Mae. (She had already won games with three others having 2 now, so she wouldn't play them no matter what.)

Craig and his opponent came out. I couldn't read Craig, but his opponent might as well have had a 'He Kicked Me' sign hanging around his neck. Craig was so cool, I'm not surprised he, out of nowhere, asked me if I play poker. It would be an experience to play in a game which included him. Or even head-to-head against him. Craig came over, and I congratulated him. He just said, "Thank you." There was nothing insincere about it.

I asked how Mae is doing, and he said he couldn't look, even though he was playing on the board next to hers. I said, "I understand."

Craig said, "Perhaps. It may not be what you are thinking. I have to stay focused on my own game. Even a second of inattention and you lose. Norbert Weiner said, 'Mathematics is nothing like chess. Chess is not decided by your best moves, but by your worst. It is just the opposite in Mathematics.' I am captivated by Mae but when I play I cease to exist as a person." There was a long pause. "I am really not good at chess. It is hard work, and doesn't come naturally to me.

There are hundreds of players who would crush me like a June bug. Experience has given me a hard shell, and discipline has given me the ability to have fear and not show it, but inside I am just a weak mess. I win with concentration as much as knowing openings or traps. And I totally ignore my opponent."

"You are right, I didn't understand at all. Now I do. It is a rare man of any age who knows himself to those depths."

He said, "Do you know when the pizza will arrive? I couldn't eat anything this morning but last night's steak is gone. By the way, I've never had a meal where everything was perfect." I told him, and agreed, the food was outstanding.

He looked at his watch: 10:55. "Twenty minutes. I guess I can wait. I hope Mae can join me, even in a noisy skittles room with sub par pizza. I don't know why she is interested in me. In school everyone thinks I am a geek. My old man thinks I'm throwing my life away playing chess, but I make all A's in school, all the way back to the second grade when they started giving grades. And schools in France are tough."

I did understand most of that oh too well, but said nothing. I'm glad, because I was facing the Senior's room. Mae emerged, put her finger to her lips silently saying shhh, and came and put her hands over Craig's eyes. She whispered, "Guess who?"

Craig said, "Oh Mom, I wish you wouldn't do that in front of all my friends." She removed her hands and quickly goosed him in the ribs. So he is a match for Mae's sharp sense of humor. That has to be more important than the shrinks think. Both of them giggled. "Let me turn in my result, and then eat something. I'm starving." Her victim now had only 21, and needed a draw in the last round to win anything.

I heard the pizza arriving. When Mae came I said, "I think there will be pizza in a

moment." They left, Mae skipping like a ten-year-old. I have to advise her never to play poker.

So they both won. Interesting. I called the room, got Sue, and asked her, "What are your plans in the next half-hour?"

"I don't have any. Why?" "Come down to the tournament room. There is awful food and a wonderful grand-daughter who may be hard to live with for a while." "OK, I'm on my way,"

She arrived in less than two minutes. The elevator must have been close. This hotel, for all its fanciness, needed another public elevator. Two is not enough for a 12 story building.

Sue arrived. "What did she do, swallow a pawn?" I said, "No, she is in there with Craig. Find out for yourself. She will like

seeing you, and you may be pleased. Don't eat the pizza unless you are starving." She left, and the two Spring players, who recognized me, came out. I asked, "How did you do?"

The taller one, I think his name is Chenault, said, "We drew. It's like kissing your sister." Morgan, the other one, looked less downtrodden. "I was ahead the exchange and this wiener got me in perpetual check." I didn't say I know the feeling. If you play just a little chess, you do. It is funny how people show how they feel in different ways. The one who escaped the almost certain loss was disappointed and the other didn't really care. "Sometimes a draw with a lost game feels better than a win." They went to report the result. I went to tell the three the maybe good news.

They were celebrating. Sue looked like she could be 55, no, younger. I had no idea she had such a radiant smile. Craig and Mae, on the other side of the table, saw me coming. I did my best to appear glum, in this case by imagining some madman had mowed down the K-3 group with a machine gun. I know I made tears, and my mouth was quivering. Mae asked, "What's wrong?"

I said, sadly. "The other pair with 21 drew, so you two will play on board one in the 2

final round to decide first and second outright." Then I came out of it, and went over on the other side of the table to shake Craig's hand and hug Mae.

Sue asked, "So whoever wins the next game will win the whole thing? Wow!"

Craig agreed, then said, "I play every game hard, concentrating with everything I have."

Mae said quietly, no emotion at all, "Yes. You will find that I do as well."

I changed my mind: Anyone who can do that should play poker, perhaps for a living. I got up and got more pizza. It was better today, and Sue had a slice. She said it wasn't hot enough but as hot as one would expect. Mae and Craig were staring one another down, hard when you're sitting shoulder-to-shoulder. Craig spoke, losing the staring contest, but easing the tension: "We shall see. It is what you wanted. You need to see how good you are. So far you are perfect."

Mae said, "That last game, I may not have won if you hadn't told me some of his weaknesses. He tried to play my English just like a Queen's gambit played wrong. If Jack hadn't told me to take it easy, that is, to take more time, I could have dispatched him in 20 minutes. His King pawn was isolated by the tenth move, and I won it without much of a struggle, destroying his center in the process. Meanwhile, I had a well-protected Knight in the center on d5, what Nimzovich calls an outpost, and that decided the game. He just imploded. When he resigned the only move he had was to move his King back and forth."

I looked at Sue, who was clearly amazed, but beaming. I hoped this would end forever the it's-because-of-Jack myth. The bullpen folks knew where I was, but my place is really out

on the floor. I said, "I must return to work. The K-3 last round is starting. I want to thank you both. However the last round turns out, you two have brought much joy into my life this weekend."

Holy cow, I don't say crap like that, but I did. It just came out. My checker needs some fine tuning. The kids were being surprisingly orderly and quiet, probably because they were mostly sleepy. I looked in on the Senior division room. Two games were still going on, but in one of them both players were in serious time trouble with about three minutes left in a closed position with interlocking pawns. The other game was a draw by insufficient material, which I pointed out to Mr. Leland who had not noticed it, so he went over and told them. This is one case where the director is supposed to stop the game. So it would be over in 5 minutes max, and I went to tell the office guru the next Senior round can start 25 minutes from now. He thanked me for the info. The sooner that round ended the sooner they could all go home.

Sue came out to visit. "You don't seem to be doing anything." "That means I'm doing my job well. What do you think about your granddaughter?" "I understood your comment, but I don't think she will be hard to live with. She has succeeded before and never got the big head. I admit this is a lot to be shoved into a week. Let me see: Total victory over those awful men, the best high school player in Louisiana, captured a fine young man and, if you don't mind my saying so, a fine old one as well."

I said I didn't and that it was true and mutual. I wasn't sure about being 'fine.' She added to what she had said, still having a hard time understanding it: "The capture of the only charming 16-year old boy I've met. Winning the Louisiana Chess Championship, coming out of nowhere. Possibly, and it doesn't seem as remote to me as it does to you, winning the open tournament, defeating a Master in the last round. I know you understand adolescence. No matter how much Craig proclaims he is serious, almost detached from his body, Marie has him wrapped around her little finger. Not really, he has wrapped himself around anything loose enough to grab hold of."

"I partially agree; he said she 'captivated' him, but went on to explain how he can put everything except the game out of his brain. I thought he was protesting too much, in this case because I had never questioned the forgone conclusion that he would win. That would be highly unethical and I wouldn't, but Craig may not know it.

"Craig was talking to himself, and although the words were forceful and confident, his body language betrayed him. He is afraid she will beat him, and that's not the Craig I know. His hormones are making a fool of him, as they do to us all at times. The man that remained fixed on Mae during a two-hour dinner, nothing in the room but her of any interest, cannot put that aside in an instant. You may not have seen it with all the French rattling around. He tried to cut his steak with a spoon. He is not in control of his brain.

"A woman can have the two feelings at once. I guess they have nicer hormones. And Mae has nothing to lose, and Craig just

loses a cheap plastic trophy and, perhaps, some measure of 'face.' Surely nothing compared to his great accomplishments. Losing to an unrated player is never a disgrace. What if she is a young Bobby Fischer, or even Garry Kasparov, unknown until now? Actually, what if she is? She may be. Nothing she has done today makes that unlikely. This is a strong tournament."

"So you agree with me." "Reluctantly, yes. It could be that when she played me she was not so confident. Although she won, she didn't run all over me. I just ran out of time. Now she has psychology on her side. She has used it in all four of her wins so far, in three different ways.

"I think she may not just beat Craig, but crush him. She is going to use the R'eti on him, an opening Craig thinks is weak. She has studied it, with the help of Fritz 6, and must know a thousand lines. I know she knows a hundred lines of the French, which is a much quieter opening. If he lets her have a King's Indian reversed he will lose. Ten to one. We played a double blindfold game while walking, and after the fourth move she said she had a won game and outlined how she would win it. I didn't believe it, but by the twelfth move I was so tied up I had no good move, and was about to lose a pawn. I have played Craig several times, and he never had me in so much trouble so early. He is meticulous and almost never blunders, but Mae has shown today that she plays the man, not just the game, and because of that has won. Do you know they played an offhand game that they had to end and agreed on a draw?"

"Yes. Jack, I wish you would make up your mind. You have gone from no chance to maybe a slight chance to almost certain draw or win." "That is how the brain of a mathematician works. It changes the result of a calculation because of new data or deeper analysis. I know that it works the same in us all, but a mathematician must keep an open and flexible brain facing the most intricate and beautiful problems invented by man. I admit it: I think there is a good chance she will win. If she put on makeup and that blue sweater I know she would, but that is the wrong thing for her. Even if she decided on that you should nix it. If she did that and won then . . . OK, from your face I see that you know the then better than I do."

"Yes, it would destroy her. In a sense that is what happened to Brenda. She dressed up last night for the reason she gave: She wanted Craig to know she was not a Cajun hick, but someone as sophisticated as anyone in his experience, and she did it tastefully and well. I know mom was impressed: She told me using plain French. By the way, her name is Ruth. The way to do it goes like this: He: 'I beg your pardon, but I have forgotten your name' She: 'Think nothing of it. My name is Ruth.' Lose the crap about no one ever told you her name. No one will believe you. And what does it matter? You just want to know her name."

*To Be Continued – tournament result in next issue*

## Upcoming Events

<b>Daily</b>	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
<b>Daily</b>	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz <a href="http://www.k6jt.com">www.k6jt.com</a>
<b>Tuesdays</b>	Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 442.8 (+5) MHz, PL=110.9 Hz (K5QHD repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday.)
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday</b>	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</b>	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm
<b>OCTOBER</b>	
<b>28-29</b>	<b>EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</b> —Work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a> .
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>4-6</b>	<b>Nov. Sweepstakes – CW</b> --For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSONovember-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands.. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a> .
<b>18-20</b>	<b>Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone</b> --For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSONovember-SweepstakesLogo.jpg information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a>
<b>25-26</b>	<b>EME - 50 to 1296 MHz</b> —Work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. Full weekend 48-hour period (0000 UTC on Saturday through 2359 UTC Sunday). Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest">http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest</a> .
<b>DECEMBER</b>	
<b>1-3</b>	<b>160 Meter</b> --For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. Starts 2200 UTC Friday, ends 1600 UTC Sunday: forty-two hour period with no time limitation. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/160-meter">http://www.arrl.org/160-meter</a>

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### The Amateur's Code

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

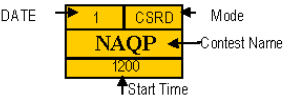
The Radio Amateur is:

- 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

CDXA Periodic Table of Contests - 2023

January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
7   R	4   CSRD	4   S	1   CSRD	6   CSRD	3   CSRD	1   CS	5   C	2   C	7   CS	4   C	2   CS
RTTY Roundup 1800	VT QSO Party 0000	ARRL DX - SSB 0000	LA QSO Party 1400	7th Area QSO Party 1300	KY QSO Party 1300	RAC Canada Day 0000	NAQP - CW 1800	CWops Open 0000	CA QSO Party 1800	Sweepstakes CW 2100	ARRL - 160M 2200
14   C	4   CSRD	11   CSRD	TBD   CSRD	6   CS	3   D	8   CS	12   C	2   CSR	14   R	11   R	3   D
NAQP - CW 1800	MN QSO Party 1400	OK QSO Party 1800	MS QSO Party TBD	IN QSO Party 1800	ARRL - INT. Digi 1800	IARU 1200	WAE DX - CW 0000	CO QSO Party 1300	Makrothen - RTTY 0000	WAE DX - RTTY 0000	FT Roundup 1800
21   S	4   CSRD	11   C	1   CSRD	6   CSRD	10   CSRD	16   CSRD	12   CSR	3   CSR	14   CSRD	18   S	10   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	TN QSO Party 1800	NV QSO Party 0300	Sweepstakes SSB 2100	ARRL - 10M 0000
21   CSRD	5   C	11   CSRD	4   S	6   CSRD	17   C	15   R	19   S	9   S	14   CSR	25   C	17   CS
ARRL - VHF 1900	NA Sprint - CW 0	ID QSO Party 1900	NA Sprint - SSB 0000	New England QSO Party 2000	Stew Perry TBC 1500	NAQP - RTTY 1800	NAQP - SSB 1800	WAE DX - SSB 0000	AZ QSO Party 1500	CQWW - CW 0000	RAC Winter 0000
27   C	11   R	12   R	8   CSRD	20   CSR	17   CSRD	29   CS	26   CSRD	9   CSRD	14   CSRD		23   C
CQ - 160M CW 2200	CQWW WPX - RTTY 0000	NA Sprint - RTTY 0	NM QSO Party 1400	AR QSO Party 1400	WV QSO Party 1600	RSGB IOTA 1200	HI QSO Party 0400	ARRL - VHF 1800	PA QSO Party 1800	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	Stew Perry TBC 1900
28   R	18   C	12   CSRD	8   CS	27   C			26   D	TBD   CP	14   CSRD		
BARTG RTTY 1200	ARRL DX - CW 0000	WI QSO Party 1800	GA QSO Party 1800	CQWW WPX - CW 0000	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	WW Digi DX 1200	AL QSO Party 1800	SD QSO Party 1800		All K1USN, ICWC & CWA
	24   S	18   R	TBD   CSRD				26   CSRD	10   C	21   CSRD		
All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	CQ - 160M SSB 2200	BARTG RTTY 0200	ND QSO Party TBD	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA			KS QSO Party 1400	NA Sprint - CW 0000	NY QSO Party 1400		
	25   CSRD	25   S	15   R				27   CS	TBD   CSRD	21   CS		
	SC QSO Party 1500	CQWW WPX - SSB 0000	CQMM DX 0900				OH QSO Party 1600	IA QSO Party 1400	Worked All Germany 1500		
	25   R		15   CS					16   CSRD	21   C		
	NAQP - RTTY 1800	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	MI QSO Party 1600				All K1USN, ICWC & CWA	NH QSO Party 1600	Stew Perry TBC 1500		
	26   CSRD		15   CS					16   CSRD	22   CSRD		
	NC QSO Party 1500		ON QSO Party 1800					TX QSO Party 1400	IL QSO Party 1700		
			29   CS					16   CS	28   S		
	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA		FL QSO Party 1800					16   CSRD			
								WA Salmon Run 1600	All K1USN, ICWC & CWA		
								17   R			
								NA Sprint - RTTY 0000			
								23   R			
								CQWW - RTTY 0000			
								23   CS			
								ME QSO 1200			
								All K1USN,			

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 24 October 2023 5:30 PM  
 THE MEETING WILL BE AT  
**Woodcreek Church Richardson TX**

**NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:**  
**→→→ 3 November 2023 ←←←**