



COLLINS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Richardson, Texas

# SIGNALS

## MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 43 Issue 12

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

September 2022

### CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 27 September 2022 5:30 PM

The Meeting will be at

Poor Richards Café, Plano TX

Focus on CARC Future

### September General Meeting to Focus on CARC Future

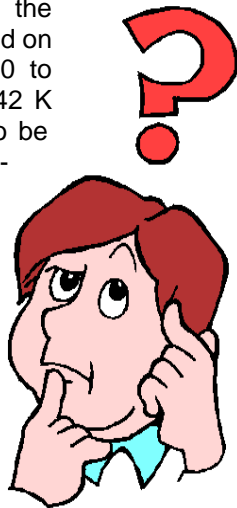
The September General Meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, September 27th, from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at Poor Richard's Cafe, 2442 K Avenue, Plano. The meeting will also be streamed via Zoom. The Zoom login instructions will be emailed on Sunday before the meeting and are available in the Members Only Section of the [n5cxx.us](http://n5cxx.us) web site.

Following our new meeting format, this meeting will be a Discussion Topic Night with two topics planned:

1) What should we do with the Club Station, Repeaters and other equipment? Your input is very important. An email survey was sent out prior to the meeting and will be used to start the discussion.

2) Do you need help with some aspect of amateur radio? (i.e., a particular radio or software app, antennas, grounding, learning Morse Code, digital modes, etc.) We're hoping that someone in the Club can give you the information or help needed. This Roundtable discussion will strive to match attendees with a common interest.

An ARRL VE Test Session will be held immediately after the meeting. See details in the VE Test Session article in this issue or on the Club's website at [n5cxx.us](http://n5cxx.us)



### CARC Announces Policy Change on Groups.io

Effective October 1, 2022, the "Weekly Update" will no longer be sent as direct email to individuals. Distribution of the Weekly Update will be via the Club's groups.io account - CARC@groups.io

If you wish to receive the Weekly Update and participate in discussion of ham radio related topics, please apply for membership in the CARC@groups.io account. Visit the group's homepage at: <https://groups.io/g/CARC> and request to join. This is a moderated group, which means a Moderator/Administrator will have to approve your application. Include your name and call sign in the comments section.

For new and prospective hams, we hope this new platform will be beneficial in answering questions about this great hobby/service. The discussion group is a wonderful way to meet other hams and find others who have similar equipment or interests. Use the group as a platform for buy, trade or sell (please limit to ham radio equipment or related computers). If you work some great DX or learn of upcoming DXpeditions or hamfests, post the info for others to see.

We hope that you'll join the group and become a contributing member of the Collins Amateur Radio Club's online discussion.

Questions? Send them to [kr5n@arrl.net](mailto:kr5n@arrl.net).

You've heard of  
the MLB ...

Now, welcome  
the MBL ...



"Muncha Buncha

Lunch" – every

Thursday, 1 p.m. at

Poor Richard's Cafe

Drive Home Net Changes—See Page 3

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**N5CXX CLUB STATION**

Phone Number/Mail Station  
Unavailable until further notice

**VE SESSIONS**

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

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

**Irving** tests are held on the third Saturday of each month at 0900. Fifth and Main St. Contact Bill Revis, KF5BL 252-8015

**McKinney** VE test sessions are held at the Heard Museum the first Sunday of the month. The address is 1 Nature Place, McKinney TX. The time of the testing is 1430, ending no later than 1645. **Note: no tests given on holiday week-ends.**

**Garland** testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH at 972.302.9992.

**Plano** testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 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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**The Prez Sez**

with KR5N



It appears the days of 100-degree weather are behind us as Fall approaches. This will make for some nice antenna and outdoor work. There's lots of great DX nowadays and some highly anticipated DXpeditions this winter. Let's keep our fingers crossed for cooperation from Ol' Sol.

Tim Duffy, K3LR, gave us a super program on Grounding and Bonding at the August meeting. If you missed it, do a search for "Tim Duffy Grounding and Bonding" on YouTube. Several clubs have recorded his program.

This month we're going to be discussing a couple of topics. The first has to do with our radio equipment - mainly, what do you, as members, want to do with the Radio Room on the Company premises? Similarly, what should be our focus on the Club's 70cm FM voice repeater and the 2M PBBS system?

We'll have the results of a poll sent out this past week to ask for our members' inputs on these matters, and ask for inputs, discussion and debate on how to proceed with keeping or scraping our radio systems.

We don't plan to make a decision at this meeting. With the information gathered from the poll and the discussion at the meeting, the Board hopes to have enough input to submit a plan to the membership. Come to this meeting to state your views. If you can't make it in person, join us via Zoom.

Elections for officers for 2023 will be held at the November meeting. All officer positions are open. We hope you'll consider volunteering to run for an elected officer slot.

Our Tuesday Drive Home Nets have had 8 or 9 participants and we could use more. I wish to thank Bill Swan, K5MWC, and Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, for serving as Net Controls the

past few months. We've been using the Garland ARC 442.7 machine because the CARC repeater has continued to have problems. We hope that with fall weather we can determine what's going on and fix the problem. Our repeater has a very good footprint in this area. Join us on Tuesdays for Net practice and discussing the "topic of the week."

73 de Frank KR5N

**Vice President/Membership Chairman Report**

**Membership Chairman Report** – Updated Membership status - There are no changes to the membership from the previous reporting period

Current Membership - 57

Full Members – 40 (Includes Life and Retiree Members)

Associate Members - 17

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

73s,

Bill K5MWC

**Secretary's Report**

30 August 2022

President Frank Krizan KR5N called the meeting to order at 1737. The meeting was in-person at our meeting site at Poor Richard's Café in Plano. Zoom access was also provided for those not able to meet in person.

The following were present at the meeting site:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Bill Fell	KK5PB
Frank Krizan	KR5N
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Jim Stafford	W5DTG
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS
Mark Wells	K9MDI
Milton Withers	AD5XD

The following logged in via Zoom:

Bob Chandler	KI5KRN
Tim Duffy	K3LR
Bob Jones	W5BJ
Dave Russell	W2DMR
Clarence Sebesta K	5YO

**Officer and Committee Reports**

The Vice President's and Secretary's reports were published in the July 2022 CARC Newsletter, and no clarifications or updates were offered at the meeting. The Treasurer's report was presented by Frank Krizan in the absence of Treasurer Rohan Thomas KG5RCN.

**Old Business**

There was no old business.

**New Business**

There was no new business.

**Introductions**

All members and guests present were asked to introduce themselves.

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 1807, followed by a program, Grounding and Bonding, presented by Tim Duffy K3LR, CEO of DX Engineering. Tim connected via Zoom from West Middlesex, Pennsylvania.

**Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting**

13 September 2022

President Frank Krizan KR5N called the meeting to order on-line via Zoom at 1904.

The following logged into the meeting:

Jim Brown	AF5MA
Bill Fell	KK5PB (Non-voting participant)
Frank Krizan	KR5N
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI (Non-voting participant)
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS

**Pre-Meeting Workshop**

Directors and other members present participated in a pre-meeting workshop beginning at 1904 to discuss a range of topics and to develop motions as needed for action by the Board at the formal meeting summarized below.

Topics covered in the workshop included the following:

- Discussion of possible approaches to revising the Club name and names of other Collins Aerospace-affiliated clubs to avoid confusion when compiling competition scores. After some debate all agreed that a format of Collins ARC-xx was workable, with the “xx” replaced with the home state of the club. For our club, this would appear as Collins ARC-TX. A second affiliated club in a state would add a “2” at the end. An alternate form of Collins.ARC.xx was suggested for consideration. Further progress on this effort will require coordination and agreement with the other Collins Aerospace-affiliated clubs, and President Frank Krizan KR5N agreed to pursue this. Any formal motions on this will be deferred until coordination progresses.
- Purchase of propane conversion fittings for the Club-owned generators. This was discussed, but full cost and technical information was not available to support a motion to purchase.
- Status of repair of the CARC repeater equipment. Bill Swan K5MWC reported that no progress has been made since the last meeting due primarily to workload-related issues and extremely hot weather conditions.
- Election of CARC officers for 2023. The Board wanted to widen the pool of candidates this year, but no decisions were reached.
- Discussion of the future of the Club radio room and repeater. Options discussed included restoring the radio room in its new location, relocating the repeater assets, and creating a mobile capability in a Club-purchased trailer. Relocating the repeater to the top level of the Methodist Richardson Medical Center parking lot was offered as a possibility, but no coordination has been attempted with the hospital as yet. The Board agreed that this should be a topic for discussion among the General Membership, and this will be done at a future meeting.

**Board Actions**

The formal Board meeting was declared at 2050.  
 There was no old business or new business arising from the pre-meeting workshop, and none was proposed by Board members present.

It was agreed that the Board proceed with plans for the annual Christmas Party at Aboca’s Italian Grill in December.

**Adjournment**

Moved at 2052 by Kerry Weeks K5WKS and seconded by Bill Swan K5MWC.

**Drive Home Net Report - September 2022**

The Collins ARC Drive Home Net continues on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 pm on the K5QHD Repeater 442.700 MHz, +5 MHz, PL=110.9 Hz. The Net is not held on the

Tuesdays of the monthly membership meeting or on Tuesdays of social events and holidays. We gratefully thank the Garland ARC for the use of their 70cm repeater while our repeater is being diagnosed.



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

**THIS MONTH’S LOG:**

**AUG 23 - [7] K5MWC Bill NCS; N5OUR Matt; KI5KRN Bob; K5WKS Kerry; W5BJ Bob; KC5MVE Paul; WB0UNI Jim This Net's topic was Crystal Sets.**

**AUG 30 - NO NET; GENERAL MEETING**

**SEP 6 - [8] KR5N Frank NCS; K5MWC Bill; WB0UNI Jim; K5WKS Kerry; KI5KRN Bob; KI5AON Rob; KD5TEO Nathan; K5YO Clarence**

**SEP 13 - [8] K5MWC Bill NCS; K5WKS Kerry; KI5WUZ Charlie (first time on Net); KI5KRN Bob; W5BJ Bob; KK5PB Bill (first time on Net with new radio); WB0UNI Jim; KI5AON Rob This Net's topic was experience with MFJ products.**

**SEP 20 - [6] K5MWC Bill NCS; K5WKS Kerry; KG5HCL RJ (first time on Net); KI5KRN Bob; WB0UNI Jim; KI5SXE Brandon**

Average participation for this period: 8  
 Average participation for the previous period: 7  
 Net record for check-ins: 10

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

**September CARC VE Test Session Report**

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

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



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

At our August meeting, three candidates tested and, unfortunately, none passed. We hope to see them soon at another session after a bit of extra studying. VEs at this test session included: Frank Krizan, KR5N, Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, and Mark Wells, K9MDI. Many thanks to these VEs for volunteering their time.

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

## CARC Community Service Activities

**Siren Testing** Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The September test was conducted on 7 September. Almost all sirens operated as designed. However the UTD sirens (now four) did not have functional strobes. The sirens are monitored by amateur radio operators and reports made using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz. Siren testing occasionally uses the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD) repeater at 145.430 MHz, which is designated as the backup repeater. Garland conducted their siren test also on Wednesday, 7 September, 2022 on the Garland ARC 146.66 MHz repeater. John Galvin, N5TIM, was volunteer coordinator and Net Control. Also, helping from CARC was: Bob Jones, W5BJ.

**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.

## Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

*Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Jack gets more involved with helping Sue's granddaughter and illustrates his cooking skills.*

I considered what Mae had said. It could have been just a wish on her part. Yet Sue and I were holding hands on the walk and Sue wanted Mae to see that we were. Too early to tell. I can see why Mae would believe that, especially since she had years with Sue observing how she was with men. The big gap in all this was Mae's grandfather. I was unlikely to go there without priming the pump, but that was tricky because there was so much of my past that is at least messy and one niche unresolved. And I could not leave that out. I decided to let it be for a while. Anyway, maybe I'm thinking too much.

Mae came down, said, "The fax is off. There was a big job ahead of me from work using the scanner which was almost done but still took ten minutes to finish." That was the only scanner that could handle large items such as maps and the only one Mae could use. The fax machine was really a software thing that ran on the big Mac that "read" the image

from the scanner. If it found characters it would send text, else it would convert to jpeg and send that. I was almost certain it could not read Mae's handwriting.

In the offices there were individual scanner/printer/copy machines, all put together by Apple. (Hewlett Packard actually made the printer/scanner hardware. The computer did not need to be connected to make copies.) It was an advantage to have one right in your workspace. Considering the extreme security measures they did not want a common printing area except for large or color copies requiring high quality and fast turnaround. Then it was policy to have any sensitive printing supervised with the room cleared.

I asked Mae what she wanted for dinner. She told me pasta, and I said OK provided she would go pick about five pounds of the big red tomatoes and a head of romaine for a salad. Also some fresh basil, about a cup. I put on a large pot of water to blanch the tomatoes and filled it from the almost boiling source. I could use the water to cook the pasta later. The kettle had a lid. The right front burner was really intense and would have it boiling by the time Mae returned. It was the same range as the one I had at home, a Hotpoint, which had been a constant Consumer Reports best buy and, at the same time, close to top rated range for years. I can't imagine why anyone would buy anything else unless they needed more burners or a grill.

I looked in the pantry for pastry flour but didn't see any, put that on my list, and looked around for pasta. It was in a big plastic cubby on the next to top shelf. There was more thin linguine than anything else. That was my favorite with a good sauce. It was sturdy enough to wrap around a fork yet had lots of surface area for the sauce. I thought maybe Mae would be interested, so I jotted down the sauce recipe. I thought I might as well make a lot. This may be shocking but I never seed tomatoes, although I do peel them when necessary. This time I did.

I took a heavy saucepan and started by chopping a large onion and sauteing it in olive oil, adding four cloves crushed garlic. By now the onion was transparent. Mae arrived with the produce and I asked her to remove the little white cone containing the stem and, when the water was boiling put in enough whole tomatoes to blanch in one layer, about 30 seconds a batch. I found the red pepper and cored it, sliced it thin, and added it to the onions. When the water was back to boiling Mae added another layer. I cut each tomato in roughly eighths, peeled off the skin, and chopped that tomato and tossed it in with the onions. By that time Mae had more tomatoes ready. I asked her to reserve one for a salad. In no time we were finished, so I turned up the heat under the tomatoes to maximum, boiled until thick, covered the saucepan and cut that fire to minimum. When just barely simmering Mae added her finely chopped basil. I washed and tore the lettuce, put it in a colander, covered it, and put it in the icebox. Meanwhile I tossed salt into the hot water, brought it to boil, and added about a fistful of the pasta to the boiling water. Then we made the salad. There



were some wonderful kalamata olives which I sliced thick, feta cheese, the large tomato Mae had reserved, more garlic, and olive oil. I used two cloves garlic, one to rub the salad bowl which had been sprinkled with sea salt and oil and one for the dressing: crushed garlic, 2 T Balsamic vinegar, 3 T olive oil (all of the olive oil was the best quality extra virgin). I let Mae finish the salad assembly while I fetched the pasta. I asked Mae if she would have bread. She said, "I think not, with the pasta." I agreed. It was time to eat.<sup>[SEP]</sup>She surprised me: she picked up her napkin, made it large, and tucked a corner in her blouse. I always do that with Italian food, but I hadn't even taken a seat yet. The napkins were nice linen, ironed but not starched. I had a serving of pasta and was almost full. Mae had two.

I fetched salad plates from the icebox, served myself, and passed the salad bowl to Mae. She had as much as I did, and we almost finished everything. There was enough for Sue just in case she came down, but she didn't.

Mae said, "They don't cook like this here. This was wonderful, and no meat, and so simple. A child who is old enough to handle boiling water and knives could have prepared this."

I thanked her. I didn't completely agree. Knowing when the tomato sauce is thickened perfectly does not come naturally, it must be learned. Even knowing when the pasta was just right is no cinch. But she was right about the mechanics. I don't know any every-day cooking that is different. There are still tricks and things to learn which are usually learned by failing.

Mae said, "It has been a good day. It was nice to see that creepy Mr. Wills out cold on the floor. It was all I could do not to step on him. And you have been nice and have helped so much, not just with that, but with giving me things to do: Without that I would probably have gone to pieces. And somehow locating someone who wants to help me if that is needed. I won't ask how you how you did it."

"It was nothing. I was glad to help. For one thing I don't want you to believe that even a few men are like Mr. Wills. He is rare, especially for someone with the position he has."

Unfortunately, I knew what I just told her was false, but if you know that when you are 15 then all life is impossible. I knew it, but work and Sue make life a joy in spite of what I know.

There was enough pasta for someone's lunch and a pint of sauce, so I put those in the icebox while Mae put the dishes in the machine. She noted that it wasn't full so set it for rinse and turned it on. So rare! She said she was going to watch TV, and I countered that I've been up since 5 and was tired. We turned off everything downstairs and went up.

The media center was next to my room, so I was curious to see whether I could hear the TV. I found I could hear the lower bass, say below 200 Hz, but not well enough to<sup>[SEP]</sup>make out the program material. I could easily hear it in

the hall. She had it on loud. I don't remember sleeping, always a good sign.

Tuesday 20 November I went down to make coffee and smelled it had already been done. That would be Sue. She poured me a big mug. I thanked her and asked her how her sleep was. I don't know why I do that. I suppose it's a bad habit. She did her part and said it was fine. I asked something which might be relevant. "What do you want for breakfast? You must be starving."

"Can you make me a cheese souffle? There is some Swiss cheese in the icebox, I think in the door. Souffle dishes, several sizes, are in the top drawer under the wall ovens. Two of them have metal collars."

"That will take almost an hour, but certainly."

"I had some milk and toast so I'm not starving. I can help, and the Sunbeam has a balloon whip which turns egg whites into stuff that almost floats away."

I set the lower wall oven to 375°, got out six eggs, the Swiss and some Parmesan cheese, butter, and milk. The rest was handy near the workspace. I found the dishes, selected the smaller of the two with a collar. I asked Sue to separate the eggs, putting the whites in the Sunbeam bowl, and yolks in a large mixing bowl I got out. I didn't mention it, but I always beat egg whites by hand. I finely grated about a tablespoon of the Parmesan cheese, buttered the souffle dish and the collar, and sprinkled with the cheese.

I needed three cups of diced Swiss, but only had two, so I filled in with cheddar. I put a heavy saucepan on the stove, medium heat, and melted 1 C butter, mixed in the same of flour, a pinch of cayenne, and made a light roux. I asked Sue to heat 12 C milk in the microwave until just simmering, added the hot milk all at once, and off heat stirred in all the cheese a little at a time until melted but was not stringy. This is tricky with the cheddar so I grated it and added it last. Sue beat the egg yolks until smooth and I dribbled in the cheese sauce while she stirred. The egg whites were ready to finish. She put in a pinch of cream of tartar and cranked up the mixer with the balloon whip to maximum. When the peaks were stiff, we removed about a third of the whites to the cheese sauce, folding it in, then dribbled that into the egg whites, again folding everything gently. (I had no idea how much easier it would be with two extra hands.) I had already put the collar on, and she poured the mixture into the dish. I opened the oven and she slid the dish in, closed the door, and reduced the temperature to 350°. I set the timer on the microwave to 40 minutes, then we went to the front room. It was still dark outside but there was light from the kitchen and street lights from town. The moon had set.

So did we, on that couch, me first because Sue washed her hands in the kitchen. She sat down close, touching. We only had thirty something minutes; that alone made it safe. My heart was pounding anyway, not paying attention to my

brain. In fact it was just the opposite. One's brain can be notoriously unreliable. Sue rested her hand on mine, and I let her in my palm. She said, "You can cook."

"You too, and you knew I could, or at least might have suspected it."

"No, what you cooked at Brenda's could have been something you have done many times. Today you made a souffle, and clearly knew exactly what you were doing. You even knew there would be nothing to watch while it cooked." I added, "No, I knew if you do disturb it at first there is a real danger it will collapse."

I knew that, generally, electric ovens are better regulated than gas ones, have much quieter air inside, and even if I could look at it there is nothing to be done. I also know it is almost impossible to burn a souffle because of the way the bubbles of air insulate it, which is also why it takes so long to cook. I have cooked duck before but it never came out as good as those did, and the orange-raspberry sauce was invented there. I had often wondered if it would work, and it did. Anyway, today you knew what you were doing too. You even turned the oven down to 350° without asking or being told. I understand the science, the chemistry and physics, but you have an enviable knack for the art."

This was an excellent way to defuse a tense, perhaps slightly dangerous, situation. "I would have added freshly grated nutmeg instead of cayenne." "Yes, that would have been good, but I thought it would not be breakfast-like. Anyway I couldn't find it." For a few minutes no one said anything. Then she asked what Marie had for dinner. "She asked for pasta. I couldn't find pastry flour and I don't like it with the coarser white flour, so I used ready-made linguine from the pantry. I sent Mae out to get five pounds of tomatoes, a cup of fresh basil, a bell pepper, red if possible, and lettuce for a salad. She helped, not as automatically as you did today. By the way, there is cooked pasta and a pint of the sauce in the icebox." The timer sounded from the kitchen, so I retrieved my hand and went to the kitchen to remove the collar from the souffle. It was perfect. No matter how carefully you cut it you make a mess. "You can have the whole thing but that's a lot of food."

"No, fetch plates and we'll share."

It was good enough. It seemed to hold up better to being cut than usual, probably because the eggs were fresh, having been laid yesterday. Or perhaps Sue knew how to cut a souffle. We ate about two-thirds of it. I thought maybe Mae would finish it when she got up in an hour. It was lightly raining outside.

"Yesterday I fell asleep before you could do your laundry. You could do it now." Sue again told me my ID badge opened the door. I went upstairs for my backpack. When I came down she had a laundry basket for me with a few kitchen towels in it, including the linen napkins we had used last night. I told her the dishes in the machine were rinsed

last night but not washed, and that I'd add today's when I returned.

The rain wasn't much. The laundry was well lit with two front-loading washers and a big dryer. I put everything in one, found the detergent and added that, started it on regular and left. If you closed the door it locked automatically. I found that was standard all over the compound except the small barn door.

It was light, about 730, the first of Sue's employees arriving. Sue had put the dishes in the machine and cleaned the work space. The souffle, what was left of it, was in the warming oven at 100°. With clean clothes all I wanted to do was go back to sleep. I left a note for Mae about the souffle. It would be a good breakfast for her, much better than for me and possibly Sue. In the note I told Mae to do what Dr. Owens said, which I'm sure was different from what I told her. Mine was just a first approximation, based on only what I would have done, but these were different times.

Connie called. She wanted Mae, and I said I knew of the problem, was on her side, and could relay any message, but Mae was not up yet. She said she recognized my voice. She told me to destroy any notes I took after I had relayed the messages to Mae. The message was she had engaged a private investigator in New Iberia who would work with two of her team that broke the sex scandal in Lafayette. They could easily pass for 16, and were one female, one male. It was all set for them to be transferred to the New Iberia school, probably starting this morning.

She wondered if Mae would wear a wire. If so, there was one in the mailbox down by the road, with a recorder she could leave anywhere in the school she thought wouldn't be searched but definitely not her locker. Connie said she would be in court most of the day, but if Mae chose to not wear the wire to put the flag up on the mailbox and it would go away. She said she would call between noon and 2. Connie said there was a remote chance Mae was in danger, but definitely not in legal danger. She said I should be proud of her. She had never had a client of any age who handled English as well. Before she got off she gave me two numbers, the PI's office and his cell.

I got it all down and told her I had it. I said, "You are after the whole system aren't you? Good."

She just said tell Mae. I was wide awake now. Mae was coming down the stairs, so I disposed of the souffle note and waited to see how she was. She told me she was hungry, and I told her about the just-made souffle, brought her a plate and some OJ. I left to go down the blacktop road to the mailbox and fetched the wire. When back in the kitchen I unpacked it and told Mae what it was. I told her Connie had called and left instructions. I thought it silly to tell her about the new students, but did tell her about the wire. She was all for it, and she had a teacher, her English teacher,

who would put the sound-activated recorder in a place unlikely to be searched, and that she wouldn't tell anyone where, not even her (Mae) where it was.

The only problem I could see was what if they grabbed her at the door and searched her stuff (probably not her person) there, so I suggested I leave the Civic parked near the school with the recorder locked inside. It had an LED which blinked green when it had a good two-way connection to the wire, red when it was recording, and alternated that with yellow when the battery was weak at either end. If there were no lights at all then the connection wasn't working or the battery at one end was dead.

There was also a switch and volume control for monitoring anything being picked up at the other end whether recording or not. According to Connie, both had new batteries that were easily good for two weeks. However, it could not send voice to the wire. Mae said there was a church across the street from the school with a parking lot students often parked in, and I could park near the school, put the recorder behind the visor, and walk home.

There were specifications with the device that said the range was a thousand feet inside and two miles outside a building, so I thought there was a good chance it would be heard in the car from anywhere in school. It worked at 2.4 GHz and was digitally encoded. My plan wasn't perfect, but was better than risking having the remote recorder found in Mae's stuff. That might have been explained but it was better if it didn't need to be. I wouldn't need the car. Anyway, with off and on rain it was natural to take Mae to school.

I asked her if she had a driver's license but she said no. That was a pity. She could have driven herself. I asked Mae to be absolutely sure there was nothing in her purse or books that a mean person could make look like something which could be used against her.

Mae went upstairs to get ready. She had finished eating the soufflé. I put the rest of the dishes in the dishwasher and started it. Sue came downstairs and I told her I needed to go out and, since it had been raining, I would drop Mae off at school. She told me that was good because she had some work to do that could no longer wait and that she couldn't play with me (her words) this morning. Mae heard that. She didn't know how we had been playing and of course the word meant something different to her. Sue intended that.

On the way to school I thought about the fake students and decided Mae might need to know, that it wasn't silly and wouldn't hurt, so I told her. She said, "Thanks. I would wonder who they are and might ask. Now I won't, and you know I won't tell either."

At school I got a good parking spot, nearest the school except for an SUV between to shield my activities. I turned the sound on the recorder so I could hear everything. I wanted to know, for one thing, that my paranoia was not silly. I could

hear background noises of a busy school, then heard someone, a female, tell Mae to stop. (The red light was flashing now.) The voice told her they were checking at random, and commanded Mae to empty her purse, turn out her pockets, and hand over her books. Mae hung onto her purse, said she had no pockets, and if you want to inspect the contents of my purse I want Linda here to watch. Linda was just next door in the office and had well-known skill at spotting something fishy. She is the one who found out the 3–6 grade math teacher was drinking on the job, although some of the older kids knew it.

Mae got her way on that one, and (I learned later) Linda watched while Mae's belongings were emptied out and the purse, which was made of light canvas with one inside pocket (empty) turned inside out and inspected. There was nothing more dangerous than a mechanical pencil (with which you can kill someone with one jab), enough money for lunch in a coin purse, a tube of chap stick, and a small spiral notebook. The woman started to read Mae's notebook but Linda objected.

Mae said, "No, it's OK, just class assignments, with a few phone numbers I might need in an emergency. I always have it with me." So Mae could take care of herself (which I thought I knew) but also knew some of the darker sides of humanity (such as planting contraband on another person). Mae told the inspector person, "I would like to leave my bag with Linda today, and have both of you come with me and inspect the contents of my locker. In fact I insist on it, and right now. You know you can do that without my permission, but I want it inspected and sealed. I know what this is about, although you two may not."

The woman, not Linda, tried to seem offended and started to tell Mae she could not talk like that, but Mae cut her off: "Just what part of 'insist' do you not understand? If you are not speaking for yourself then I must have the person who has ordered this outrageous invasion of privacy. Now! I am prepared for anything."

Mae told me later that they had attracted quite a crowd, mostly upper level students. Mae's voice was full of confidence. I had little to do with it but it made me feel good about what little I had done. I wondered what Connie had told her to do. They talked long enough to cover a contingency like this.

The woman asked to have the custodian brought to Mae's locker and to seal it without opening it. Mae said, "No, I want it opened now and the contents inventoried and published, then I want it to be sealed."

The locker was empty. The custodian arrived, photographed the inside, sealed the locker with a stainless steel braided wire and a lead clasp which he embossed with his special tool containing his mark, not easy to duplicate, photographed the job from two angles outside, and left. He had




been involved in several drug cases in which this tactic had been used against a student. Courts had ruled it was admissible. Anything found in that locker would now be, but would be on Mae's side.

Everything was quieter now. One in the crowd was with the high school newspaper, and she wanted to know, but everyone, Mae included, said, "No comment." I waited until Mae was in class, turned off the sound, locked the Civic, and left. Mae had done well. Of course I was itching to tell someone, even Sue, but couldn't. My only problem was with Linda, but I didn't think Mae's judgment was faulty and it was clear—well, almost clear—that she knew nothing.

*To Be Continued* (Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

## 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. 442.7 (+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>1-2</b>	<b>Collegiate QSO Party</b> is an operating event focused on amateur radio clubs at colleges and universities around the world. The event provides an opportunity for clubs to demonstrate amateur radio to new members, engage with alumni, and promote activity throughout college and university communities. The contest starts 1 October 0000 UTC and ends 2359 2 October Details at <a href="https://collegiateqsoparty.com/">https://collegiateqsoparty.com/</a> .
<b>15-16</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>17-19</b>	<b>School Club Roundup</b> —Objective: To exchange QSO information with club stations that are part of an elementary, middle, high school or college. Non-school clubs and individuals are encouraged to participate.. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup">http://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup</a>
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	
<b>5-7</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. 2100 UTC Saturday through 0259 UTC Monday. Details at <a href="http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes">http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes</a> .
<b>19-21</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> .

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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

# PERIODIC TABLE OF SELECT AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS 2022

Start Day (UTC) → 1 → 2 → End Day (UTC)  
 Start Time (UTC) → 2300Z → 2400Z → End Time (UTC)

Contest Name → Select Contest of weekend as chosen by NQGE

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1 0000Z 2355Z 2300Z Straight Key Night	15 2300Z 0300Z NA Sprint CW	6 5 0000Z 2400Z ARRL DX SSB	6 2 1900Z 1300Z SP Polish DX	3 7 varies 1200Z TOP/IN/DE/ New England QSO Parties	8 4 1100Z 1400Z Tisza Cup CW	5 2 1400Z 1800Z Marconi Memorial HF	3 6 0600Z 0530Z NAQP CW	7 3 2300Z 2100Z CWops CW Open	3 1 1800Z 2100Z California QSO Party	2 5 0300Z 2300Z ARRL SS CW	7 2 4 0300Z 1600Z ARRL 160
8 1800Z 2400Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	9 12 0000Z 2400Z CQ WPX RTTY	13 14 0000Z 0400Z NA Sprint RTTY	14 9 0400Z 0700Z JIDX CW	10 10 1200Z 1150Z CQ-M DX	14 15 1800Z 0300Z ARRL June VHF	11 13 1200Z 1000Z IARU HF	9 10 1200Z 2350Z WAE CW	13 14 0900Z 2300Z WAE SSB	10 11 8 0800Z 0600Z Oceania CW	9 12 13 0500Z 2300Z WAE RTTY	10 11 0900Z 2300Z ARRL 10
15 1800Z 0530Z NAQP CW	16 19 0000Z 2400Z ARRL DX CW	20 19 1200Z 1200Z Russian DX	20 16 1200Z 0900Z CQMM DX	17 19 1100Z 1700Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	22 18 0000Z 2400Z All Asian CW	19 16 1800Z 2100Z CQ WW VHF	17 20 1800Z 0600Z NAQP SSB	21 17 varies 1300Z WAN/JNH/TX QSO Parties	18 15 1300Z 1430Z Worked All Germany	16 19 2100Z 0300Z ARRL SS SSB	21 17 17 0000Z 2330Z RAC Winter
22 1800Z 0530Z NAQP SSB	23 25 0530Z 2300Z CQ 160 SSB	27 26 0000Z 2400Z CQ WPX SSB	27 23 1300Z 1200Z SP DX RTTY	24 28 0000Z 2400Z CQ WPX CW	25 26 1800Z 3100Z ARRL Field Day	23 24 1200Z 1200Z ARL Field Day	27 28 1200Z 1200Z WW Digi	24 25 0000Z 3400Z CQ WW RTTY	22 23 0000Z 2400Z CQ WW CW	26 27 0000Z 2400Z CQ WW CW	23 24 Happy Holidays
28 2200Z 2150Z CQ 160 CW	30 2150Z CQ 160 CW		30 1 1600Z 2150Z Florida QSO Party			30 31 1200Z 1200Z RSGB IOTA			29 30 0900Z 2400Z CQ WW SSB		



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<p><b>Membership Meeting</b>          Tuesday 27 September 2022 5:30 PM          THE JULY MEETING WILL BE AT  <b>Poor Richards Café Plano TX</b></p>
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<p><b>NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:</b>  <b>→→→ 14 October 2022 ←←←</b></p>
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