



Richardson, Texas

SIGNALS

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Volume 45 Issue 08

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

May 2024

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 28 May 2024 5:30 PM

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

"Why Contest?"

**by Eric Silverthorne, NM5M
and George Perkins, N5UI, of
the DFW Contest Group**

George, N5UI was first licensed at the age of 15 as WN4QBW. He is interested primarily in HF, CW and contesting, although he does dabble in DMR as well as HF digital modes like FT8, etc.

Professionally, George has been in the Information Technology field for his entire career working at such OEMs as Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, and Oracle Corp. More of his background is available at <https://www.linkedin.com/in/george-perkins-dfw/>

Eric Silverthorn, NM5M was licensed just after his 13th birthday in September 1976 as WN5WHR and was introduced to contesting in early 1978 after participating in the ARRL Novice Roundup. He received his current call (NM5M) in 1983 after passing the Extra exam. Outside of contesting, Eric enjoys chasing DX and engaging in conversational CW at fairly high speeds.

He has been a CW instructor in the CW Academy for the past 7 years, is an active member in CW Opsa, and FOC, and is a co-founder of the DFW Contest Group. Over the years Eric has operated from the following DX locations: Eritrea, Congo DRC, 4U1ITU, China, Mexico, Antigua, and Galapagos. He enjoys participating in multi-op contesting and has operated from K5TR in Austin, NR5M in Houston and most recently K1TTT in New England.



The May meeting of the Collins Amateur Radio Club will be held on Tuesday, May 28th, at 5:30 pm at Woodcreek Church, 3400 E. Renner Rd., Richardson. Following a brief business meeting, a program entitled "Why Contest?" will be presented by Eric Silverthorne, NM5M and George Perkins, N5UI, of the DFW Contest Group.

George and Eric will discuss why we contest and dispel a few myths about contesting, including that you need a BIG STATION to participate and that BIG GUNS only really care about working other big guns.

They will give an overview of the types of contests occurring nowadays and how to pick one that's best for you. And, of course, knowing which of the myriad of logging software apps is best for contesting.



For those members working on Club projects, events or activities, a check request Form for reimbursement of expenditures or for funding advancements is now available in the Member's Only section of the [n5cxx.us](http://www.n5cxx.us) website. The form is entitled "Collins ARC Check Request Form." It is located in the "Business" table near the top of the section.

The Club Treasurer requests that this form be used for standardizing funding / reimbursement requests. Questions about any part of the form should be addressed to treasurer@n5cxx.us

If you don't know the access codes for the Member's Only section, contact the webmaster at webmaster@n5cxx.us

CARC LEADERSHIP			
PRESIDENT		VICE-PRESIDENT	
Mike Montgomery	WD5TX	Bill Fell	KK5PB
president@n5cxx.us		vp@n5cxx.us	
SECRETARY		TREASURER	
Jim Brown	AF5MA	Mark Dempsy	N5MD
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MEMBERSHIP		WEBSITE MANAGER	
Bill Fell	KK5PB	Mike Hollingsworth	W5QH
membership@n5cxx.us		webmaster@n5cxx.us	

Hall are located on the east side of the church building, with big signs by the entrance door. Contact Janet Crenshaw, WB9ZPH at 972.302.9992.

Plano testing is on the third Saturday of each month, 1300 hrs at Williams High School, 1717 17th St. East Plano. Check Repeater 147.180+ for announcements.

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

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VE SESSIONS

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

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

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

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

Garland testing is held on the fourth Thursday of each month, excluding November, and begins at 1930 sharp. Location is Freeman Heights Baptist. Church, 1120 N Garland Ave, Garland (between W Walnut and Buckingham Rd). Enter via the north driveway. A HUGE parking lot is located behind the church. Both the parking lot and the Fellowship

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Just a short message this month - progress has been made towards the repeater antenna replacement. Everything is in place; we are just waiting on the weather to cooperate. Several of us made an attempt after work one evening, but it was just too windy. Hopefully it will not be much longer until we can get that task taken care of. Field Day is approaching fast, and there will be more information coming out in the days ahead, so stay tuned.

Mike Montgomery
WD5TX

Vice-President’s Report

No members paid renewal dues this month. The grace period for expired members to renew has passed. No members were moved to inactive status recently for failure to pay dues or respond to repeated contact attempts by officers. No challenge coins were purchased at the general membership meeting. We have 67 challenge coins in inventory currently. I will have challenge coins available for purchase at \$5 each at the May general membership meeting.

Membership Status

- Current Active Membership = 52
- Inactive Membership = 23
- Full Members = 38 (includes life and retiree members)
- Associate Members = 14
- New/renewed Members = 0

Members moved to Inactive Status = 0
 Expired memberships awaiting renewal = 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

23 April 2024

President Mike Montgomery WD5TX called the meeting to order at 1737. The meeting was held at Woodcreek Church in Richardson, with Zoom access for those who could not attend in person.

The following were present at the meeting site:

Jeff Box	WA5TCA
Jim Brown	AF5MA
Dennis Cobb	WA8ZBT
Wayne Collins	KI5YOQ
Gene Duprey	K1GD
Mark Dempsky	N5MD
Bill Fell	KK5PB
Frank Krizan	KR1ZAN
John McFadden	K5TIP
Mike Montgomery	WD5TX
Jim Skinner	WB0UNI
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS

The following logged in via Zoom:

Clarence Sebesta	K5YO
Bill Swan	K5MWC

Recognition of Members Present, New Members and Guests

All members present were asked to introduce themselves. There were no guests in attendance.

Officer and Committee Reports

The Vice President’s and Secretary’s reports were published in the April 2024 CARC Newsletter, and no clarifications or updates were offered at the meeting. Treasurer Mark Dempsky presented the Treasurer’s report, which is

now available on the Members Only page of the CARC website.

Old Business

Request for Increase in Funding for Climbing Gear. The CARC Board passed the following motion at the April 2024 Board meeting:

“It is moved that a revised funding request for safety harnesses and associated equipment in an amount not to exceed \$1,000 be submitted to the General Membership for approval at the next General Meeting.”

President Mike Montgomery moved to approve the requested funding; Jim Brown seconded the motion. Members present approved the funding unanimously.

New Business

There was no new business.

Announcements

President Mike Montgomery presented plans for CARC participation in ARRL Field Day next June. The Club will operate from the Club radio station within the Collins Aerospace facility, but radio equipment will be powered from the Club’s portable generators to be located just outside the facility. Mike requested that all members without Collins Aerospace access who wish to participate submit requests to him well in advance of the event; approvals and escorts will be arranged to the extent possible.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1748, followed by a presentation by Vice President Bill Fell KK5PB, “Lessons from Nacogdoches - Amateur Radio Participation in the Shuttle Columbia Recovery Effort.”

Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting

14 May 2024

President Mike Montgomery WD5TX began the informal pre-meeting workshop via Zoom at 1904.

The following Board members logged into the meeting:

- Mike Montgomery WD5TX, President
- Bill Fell, KK5PB, Vice President
- Jim Brown AF5MA, Secretary
- Mark Dempsky, N5MD, Treasurer
- Bill Swan K5MWC, Immediate Past President

One non-voting CARC member also logged in:

- Frank Krizan KR1ZAN

Topics addressed are summarized below.

Purchase of Safety Harnesses for Club Antenna Work. Mike Montgomery stated that all required equipment has been purchased from Grainger and will be available this week. There are tentative plans to complete repeater antenna repair work this weekend.

Upgrade of Computers for the Club Radio Room. Mike Montgomery stated that he has upgraded the three computers provided by the Company for use by the Club. Mike replaced the installed hard drives with new solid-state drives and loaded new operating systems without Company-proprietary code. A motion to reimburse Mike will be voted at the formal Board meeting to follow.

Addition of CARC Check Request Form to Webpage. Frank Krizan will forward the current draft of this form to the Board for review and revision if needed, and he will then arrange to have it posted to the Members Only webpage.

Filing of Annual Report to State of Texas. Bill Swan reported that he has submitted the Texas Franchise Tax Public Information Report for the CARC to the State this month. This is the first such report submitted by the Club; annual resubmissions will be required. Bill will review the CARC Officers Transition Guide to ensure that guidance for this submission is current. The filing will be posted on the CARC website Members Only page.

Repository for All Club Account Information and Passwords. The Board discussed the need for a common repository to collect access credentials and a list of authorized users for all CARC accounts with external entities. At a minimum, the following accounts should be included:

FCC CORES	Logbook of the World
HamClubOnline	Zoom
Prosperity Bank	QRZ.com
Texas Secretary of State	Hanover Insurance
Texas State Comptroller	

Jim Brown volunteered to develop a candidate methodology that will:

- Capture all relevant existing records for each account as PDF files
- Create a list of authorized users for each account
- Create a list of active passwords for each account

Data as above will be stored on two identical portable memory devices to be retained by two current officers of the CARC.

This methodology will be reviewed at the next Board meeting prior to implementation.

Formal Board Meeting. The formal meeting was begun at 1940 to address issues as defined in the prior workshop. One motion developed in the workshop was formally offered:

Motion: "It is moved that CARC President Mike Montgomery be reimbursed for his expenses in modifying the three computers provided to the Club by the Company. Reimbursement shall not exceed \$250." This was moved by Jim Brown, seconded by Bill Fell, and approved by all Board members present.

Adjournment. Moved at 1942 by Mike Montgomery and seconded by Bill Fell.

I Wonder.....

Bill Swan K5MWC

I Wonder??

What will our Elmers of 2044 be advising and mentoring the newly licensed amateur radio operators on? An Elmer is defined as an individual who acts as an advisor and mentor to a newly-licensed amateur. I remember well, as I expect you do, my Elmer. Almost 67 years ago my Elmer was W5BD, Les Downing. Les lived on a farm on the outskirts of Angleton Texas, which is about 50 miles or so south of Houston. Les could copy Associated Press releases at 50+ wpm, type those releases on a manual typewriter and hold a running conversation with me all at the same time. Talk about multitasking. Amazing! Les taught me not only the rules and regulations of amateur radio and some of the technology, but he also taught me what it meant to be a good operator - lessons I hope that I will never forget. Les has long been a SK, but I remember him well. I bet you also have similar stories you could tell about your Elmer.

My Elmer was dealing with tube-based equipment, CW and AM modes and a hands-on (no computer) control of everything from the mic or key to the antenna. I bet in 2044 the Elmer will be advising and mentoring the new ham on what has been referred to as a Modio. That is short for the combination of Modem and Radio. The line between the two is hard to determine. We already see that today in equipment like the Flex radios, but by 2044 it is almost certain to be smaller, more powerful, have significantly less need for user interface to operate (think holographic and AI), and have vastly different operational characteristics. The FCC rules and regulations that the 2044 amateur will operate under will also certainly have changed from today.

Yes, the Elmer of 2044 will have a vastly different world to advise and mentor the new operator on. The Elmer of 2044 could be dealing with a box that you set on a table, speak to about who or what you want to connect to, and that is it. The box senses the environment around it, does all the calculations about distance and direction from its location to the desired location, figures out the best path to connect

the two points and determines the best means to make that connection. It could be RF, Internet, or a combination of both. Sound far-fetched? Not so, Lone Ranger. The company I worked for actually had a multiyear IR&D project built around those goals. We never achieved all of our objectives, as technology did not exist to support them at the time, but we achieved some great breakthroughs in advanced synthesizers, software-defined radios and surface acoustical wave (SAW) technology.

I have little doubt that the Elmer of 2044 will be advising and mentoring the newly-licensed ham on something not too far from this do-it-all box.

Remember the lesson from my Elmer that I hope I will never forget? That was how to be a good operator. That is one thing that will not change for the Elmer of 2044. That Elmer must instill in the new ham the understanding of what the heart of amateur radio is. And that heart is built around the three guiding words that the CARC has adopted: Education, Fellowship and Service.

The Elmer of 2044 and the Elmer of today share that responsibility.

Who are the Elmers today? They are you and me. Who are the Elmers of 2044? They are the brand-new hams who today just got their new call sign.

Search Is On for a New Activities Chairman

Life situations change, and I must regrettably announce that I will not be able to continue as Activities Chairman beginning in 2025.

The job of Activities Chairman primarily involves arranging for monthly speakers for our Club meetings and encouraging teams to participate in operating activities. I have handled the job of lining up speakers since 2018 and won't be able to beginning in early 2025, so it is time for someone to step in and accept this important task.

Programs are already lined up for 2024 (yes, there are a couple of TBDs, but I'm waiting for confirmations from potential presenters). By the time we get to 2025, half or more of the months will be lined up, too.

The sooner someone can step up and accept the job of Activities Chairman, the sooner I can work with that person in learning the ropes. It's not that hard and a very satisfying chore.

If you'd like to discuss the job with me, email me at frank@krizan.org or call 214-563-6679.

73, Frank KR1ZAN

\$5.00 ENTRY PER PERSON

Registration & Pre-Sale:
WWW.DFWHAMEXPO.COM

June 14-15, 2024

DFW HAM EXPO

FCC Ham and Commercial Testing Available

RAFFLE TICKETS
3 for \$5.00
15 for \$25.00

TICKET

TAILGATE TABLES
\$10 Tailgate Spaces
\$20 Indoor Tables

x2 DAYS TABLES PRIZES

JEFFY FEE CAN BE ELIMINATED BY SELECTING OTHER IN-CHECKOUT SCREEN

Vista Mall - Entrance 6 North
2401 S. Stemmons Freeway Lewisville TX

GRAND PRIZE
YAESU FTDX-10

1ST PRIZE
YAESU FTM-500

NO NEED TO BE PRESENT FOR GRAND OR 1ST PRIZE

All other prizes must be present to win.

Free On-Line Amateur Radio Operating Class

A free, weekly, 3-hour Amateur Radio Operating Class on Zoom will begin on Thursday April 4 and run through June 20 at 6:30 PM Eastern time. The presenters will be various experienced folks in the various subjects.

A detailed syllabus will be published before the classes begin. Attend them all, or any that you like, but you must register for the classes. To receive registration information, contact Rol Anders, K3RA, at roland.anders@comcast.net.

Subjects will include:

All About Operating--A general Introduction

Amateur Radio Organizations—Local to International
Ham Radio Awards

DXing-History and Tips from the Experts

QSLing-How to get that needed card for DXCC or WAS

VHF/UHF Weak Signal Work and "Roving"

Image Operating—Slow Scan and Fast Scan TV

Remote Station control over internet

Learning CW in the no-code era

Digital Modes—From RTTY to FT8 and beyond
 Contesting—How to get started, tips for the beginner and intermediated contester
 Logging Software—What’s available, how to use
 Propagation—A general intro to HF Propagation
 Amateur Satellites—How to get started
 Portable (backpacking) operation—Tips from an expert
 Setting Up a Modern (or not so modern) HF Station
 Lightning Protection and Grounding
 Traffic Handling
 Public Service, Emergency Communications
 Thanks,
 RoI, K3RA

(Submitted by Frank Krizan KR1ZAN)

[Source: N4WFU]

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson outdoor warning siren testing. The May 2024 test was cancelled due to “increasing cloud cover.” 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 March City of Garland Siren Test was also conducted on 6 March. The Garland test was also cancelled.

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

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB’s Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack’s book. Jack and Sue grow even closer to each other. A lot of good information about cooking, too.

Tuesday 27 November It was after 8 when I woke up. It was raining, and the sky to the east was dark. Sue was not in bed, so I dressed and went downstairs. I opened the front door and walked out on the porch to get a better view of the sky. There was a little light low to the south, a fair breeze from the north, chilly. It occurred to me that Mae would need a ride to school, not that she couldn’t walk, but it was nasty out. I was sure the wind was stronger and rain more penetrating away from the house.

I was cold so I went back in the house. Sue was in the kitchen putting up the clean dishes. She asked me what I

wanted for breakfast. I got out a mug and poured coffee and said I wanted nothing.

I asked, “Where is the best place to buy shrimp? I want to make gumbo today and that’s the only thing I need.”

She said, “It’s just across from the ice house. It used to be a filling station until we ran out of gasoline that summer. It still has the old-style pumps outside. It has a hand-painted sign that says ‘The Fish Man.’ The owner is always there, must be older than us, but he has the freshest seafood anywhere. He is open now.”

“I could take Mae to school and go there. I also need to do laundry, including whatever you need to be washed.”

“Well, the sheets and towels could be washed I guess. I’ll make you a basket or two while you’re gone.”

“Would it be OK if I bought some fish too? I recall you had baked bass in Lafayette. If there is still some left-over chicken by the time I make the gumbo I will add that. I’ll ask Mae if that would be OK with her.”

Sue said, “Yes, that would be good. George will fillet the fish after you select it and give you the parts not used separately so you can make fish stock. There is never any already filleted fish there. Same thing goes for shrimp: you will have to behead them yourself. He doesn’t believe in mutilating his fish.”

“Great! Gumbo made with fresh fish stock is even better. I have to use chicken stock in Texas.”

Mae came in, not looking hungry, only sleepy. “It is raining hard. I had the north window open and it rained in just a little. Not much. The wind is strong and cold.”

Sue said, “Jack has to buy things for dinner and can drop you off at school on his way. What will you have for breakfast?”

“Nothing, just coffee. I’m still full from last night.”

I said, “I think we all are. That was a wonderful treat. After school, if you have time, I hope you can tell me how you cooked the broccoli.”

“Better than that, I’ll show you. It would go well with gumbo if you’re still going to cook that. There is plenty of broccoli in the garden. Is there any more bread? Some toast will hold me until lunch.”

I was closest, got out the much-diminished loaf, and cut two slices. I was going to have to make bread, and we were out of whole wheat flour. I asked them where to buy that.

The toast popped up, and I served Mae one slice. She said, “If you are going to get fish from George, just continue down to the docks and follow that road. On the right about a kilometer from the docks there is a Whole Foods like store except local and a little less expensive. They have organic whole wheat flour in bulk. I noticed we are low on yeast too.”

I thanked her, and asked Sue if she would like to split the other toast. She would so we did. When Mae finished eating, she said it's 830 so we should go.

Sue walked us through the office to the parking lot where I was parked. The rain was cold. It was so windy an umbrella would be useless, but the car wasn't far. In the car, I asked Mae about the leftover chicken. She said, "There is just the dark meat. You probably like it, but we don't much. You could use the meat for the gumbo and the carcass for stock."

Then Mae asked me when I was going back to Texas. I told her I had some medical things I had to do early next week so I would go back Sunday. I said I don't know how long it will take. We arrived at the school and she told me I could just let her out in the street instead of waiting in line to save her ten seconds of rain.

I continued to the docks and found the 'natural' food store just where Mae said it was. I got twenty pounds of flour, half a pound of bulk bread yeast, and whole wheat pasta flour, went back to The Fish Man and got two pounds of shrimp. There was a pretty red snapper, so I got that, filleted. The Fish Man didn't look old in spirit, but he was wall-to-wall wrinkles. I asked him if he ever fished, and he said he used to, for a living, out of Biloxi MS. He asked if I wanted the stuff he cut away for stock and I said I did. "Times have changed," he said. "Folks usually say they don't want the bones or other parts."

I just nodded and thanked him. The rain had let up enough so that I could see pretty well. Sue must have seen me in the driveway because she met me at the office door. We took the stuff to the kitchen and I showed her the snapper. She asked if I could make Salsa Snapper, and I said sure. "As you saw, we could split a fillet for lunch and still have three for dinner with the gumbo. One of them is a little bigger than the others. It would make a nice lunch with a salad from the seemingly unlimited garden. It is just as easy to make a quart of picante as a cup. It keeps forever with all the acid from the tomatoes and vinegar. Do you think you would use some if there were, say, a pint in the icebox?"

"Yes. Sometimes I mix it with grated cheddar and microwave it until the cheese melts, then eat it with a spoon. I have actually eaten the Salsa, straight up, from the jar."

"How decadent."

"Good word, just perfect for the task. That sounds fine for lunch. I have a poncho that would fit you (or almost anyone over 5 feet tall) if you want to go to the garden now." I said, "Let me do laundry first. I'm sure you have some, and I was going to wash the sheets and pillow cases in both rooms in addition to my stuff. There is probably some from the kitchen too. I'll leave the basket next to your closet door. After the last laundry I didn't give you back your basket, so I still have it."

"My side isn't locked. I already stripped the bed and gave you stuff to wash. It's in a basket by your bed. Marie does all her own laundry and takes care of her room."

I put the fish and shrimp in the icebox and went to do chores. Everything fit in one basket. One of the machines was free so I started the load.

I didn't know where Sue was, so I assumed she was in her office working, or out somewhere. I got the mixer and went to work on the bread. Perhaps this should be some kind of mystical experience, but actually it was automatic and required no thought.

I wondered why Mae had asked me about going back to Texas. The only thing I could come up with is she is worried that I won't come back, which is a possibility if I am too sick. This caused me to wonder why again, too deep I know, and it must be because she wants Sue and me to be together. It can't be that she likes me, for I am really nothing to her except a new friend. Well, I was on her side in this one. I wanted Sue and me to be together forever. I sort of asked her. I didn't ask her long ago and have regretted it until now.

While the bread was doing its thing, I found a large enameled pot on the icebox which would be perfect for the gumbo. Just to make sure I looked for and found the okra, and returned with four quarts. There was some canola oil, so I put a pint of that in the pot on the hottest burner, added a pint of flour, and cooked it on high, stirring frequently with a wooden spoon. Meanwhile I chopped onion and celery, and opened the okra to make sure it was good. I was using whole wheat flour so you can't go by the color, but smell is a better indicator anyway.

When the dark roux was ready, I turned the heat to medium, added two T butter, the onion and celery, and heated the okra in the microwave. When the onion and celery had nearly melted, I added the okra and stirred everything, adding hot stock to keep it thick but easy to stir. (After this it is almost certain that the roux will not disunite, but it is still better to not drastically lower the temperature.) Then I covered it and turned the heat to low. It would cook for hours just like it was. The stock looked like it was reduced to a quarter so I covered it and set to simmer.

It was getting close to time for lunch, so I got a small Corningware dish, cut the larger of the snapper fillets in half and placed on the buttered dish skin side down, spooned the salsa over, and set aside. I turned the lower electric oven to 450°, and went out for lettuce. There was some tender romaine, and I selected that.

Back inside, I put some olive oil in the wooden salad bowl, added crushed garlic and salt, and rubbed that around. I washed and tore the lettuce and dried it on paper towels. I thought last night's salad was elegant and complicated but for lunch all we needed was a simple olive oil, vinegar, and egg dressing. I did use balsamic vinegar, a vinegar made

from white grapes, the finest cured in wooden casks in which red wine had been aged. It is sweet and would be good for the tender young lettuce. I found a cheese grater loaded with Parma cheese in the freezer.

Just in time, Sue arrived. I said, "Lunch in 20 minutes, or say when. Twenty minutes is good. I'll be down in ten." I put the fish in the oven. I went out and found that the laundry was dry, so I brought it in, took it upstairs to my room. Back to the kitchen, I punched the bread down and got out two large plates for the food. I had already put forks at the dinner table, and glasses of water. Sue came in. She looked tired somehow. "Is there anything wrong?" "Nothing you can help with. I don't know why I do this."

I peeked at the fish but the topping wasn't bubbling yet. "It'll be a few minutes. Business?"

"Yes. When I know more, I may even tell you."

I said, "Mae wanted to know when I go back to Texas. I told her Sunday because I have several medical things to do next week. I have tried to understand why she cares."

"Oh, men are such idiots. She worships you. If she had it in her she would kill to keep you here. Don't panic: She does not love you romantically. To her you are a deity, someone sent from afar to fix everything. I have to admit you have played your part, just by accident. Happenstance would be a better word."

"Lunch is ready." I brought plates with fish and the salad bowl to the kitchen table, made the dressing at the table, and sat. I said, "I can possibly add to this complex relationship. Mae said she had overheard you say I was good for her. Mae said, verbatim, 'I don't think it is for me. You treated Craig the same as me. You were incurably nice to Uncle Johnny, even though you could have handed him another defeat, one of a constant parade. You didn't know Ruth's name but she was not offended, and told me good things about you. It goes on and on. You are almost as good a cook as I am, but I admit your bread is something else. The soufflé was not up to my standard because there was a faint hint of either bad or incorrect cheese. The eggs Benedict were the only ones I have had that were edible. So, it comes and goes."

Sue sighed. "I wish I could do that." She was half-way through her fish.

"What?" "Remember stuff like that. I know you are right: it sounds like Marie, not you, and it contains things you couldn't have known, some that I know independently."

I was eating. I thought it was good. Snapper stands up to the salsa. I never thought it could. I didn't tell Sue I could remember conversations much longer than that one, over an hour if I knew everyone.

I was listening while making the dough into loaves. I asked, "Would you like to try a couple of baguettes instead of one of the American loaves?"

"That would be fun. Sure."

I put the marble slab in. It wouldn't make any difference in how the loaf in the Pyrex pan cooked. However, the oven would need to be preheated about 15 minutes longer than usual. I made the baguettes and loaf and covered with a towel to let rise.

In the kitchen, I set the oven to 475° and chopped some marjoram and stirred it in the salsa. I also added 1 t salt. If I had used canned tomatoes there would be ten times what I added. I stirred the gumbo base. Nothing was recognizable. In Texas I divide it into one serving size quantities, about a pint, and freeze it. For gumbo the next day, put the base in the main part of the icebox. Next day heat, and add whatever you have.

I strained the stock and mixed it with the gumbo base, then increased the heat so it would simmer uncovered. I got out the dark meat and cut it into half inch cubes (or that much volume) and added that to the gumbo. I would add the shrimp ten minutes before serving.

It was 1530. Mae should be home by 4. It had quit raining at noon, and it was a fifteen minute walk.

"What can I do?"

"Kiss me. Fetch lettuce from the garden, and anything else you would like for a salad. We will eat in the kitchen." She gave me a peck, grabbed the basket, a sharp paring knife, and left.

The front door opened. I thought it would be Sue. It surprised me when Mae came in. She said, "I caught a ride." I told her the state of things, and asked her if she was hungry. She said, "I could eat, but about 5 would be better since I have an hours-worth of homework to do. No more than that."

"Have you heard from Craig?"

"Just email. He is bored out of his mind with school and Ruth is mad about something, probably not him. He has a great scholarship from U T Dallas. Thank you for helping me with that problem. Because of you it isn't one."

I decided to quit saying I hadn't done anything, so I just said she was welcome. She left, and the real Sue came in the door. She said Bert had some problem I didn't understand, and I told her Mae was upstairs doing homework and that dinner would be at 5. The gathering basket was full, so that was going to be a typical female salad.

I suggested, "We have an hour and I would like to hold you now if you think that good. We have not done much holding."

“Sounds good. I put on clean sheets after you took the others to wash.” I turned down the fire under the gumbo, covered it, and let her lead me there once again.

Mae was doing homework at a desk in the library. It looked like math, except upside down. Sue didn't seem to care if we were seen. In her room, we undressed and crawled between the clean sheets. It was so wonderful to hold her! We started out with smoochy kisses, but she turned over and we spooned. It was nice. When we do this, she usually has her head on my shoulder. I was going to have to keep track of time and be downstairs by 1640. This was an ideal setting for falling sound asleep. I guess I didn't think this thing through, but holding Sue was something I needed, probably we both did.

I looked back at the clock and saw 1635, so I got up, went through the closet passage, and dressed in the newly clean clothes. As I passed the library, I noticed Mae was not at that desk. Downstairs I found her at the chess board, but I didn't think I had time to see what she was studying. I noticed she was writing in a notebook. Called her to have dinner soon.

We ate when Sue came down. Everything was excellent. After dinner Sue and I went for a walk and I said, “I asked Mae about Craig and she said they send email about every other day. That is about right if you want a sustainable pace. More, and one or the other will snap. I would guess Craig. He is a control freak, but the only one he has to control is himself. I know that's not what control freak means, although they often feel the need to strictly control their own lives and environment.”

“I'm glad one isn't nuts about the other. They're too young anyway. It always amazes me that Marie knows that. I didn't.

“It has to be you. You have been a great mom to her, and she's crazy about you.”

We were back at the house. Mae was still at the chessboard studying. I thought I heard the dishwasher going in the kitchen. Sue did, and said so. When we got there, we were amazed to see the kitchen was spotless. There was a note on the counter above the dishwasher. It read, “Thank you both for the wonderful dinner. Everything was perfect. Love to both, Marie”

Can we interrupt her work to thank her?”

“Yes. She is the second person in Louisiana who has thanked me for anything, and she expects us to thank her. We do, don't we?”

“Don't be silly, you know we do. Let's do it. We went in to interrupt Mae. She was using a weird notation for following the move tree. I studied it for a minute, got a hint but not an answer. She looked up, and said, “Yes?”

Sue said, “Thank you for cleaning up for us. We didn't expect that. We both thank you deeply for the sweet note.” She just smiled.

I told everyone it was getting late, school day tomorrow and so on, and went upstairs. I was putting on the sheets when Sue came in. I said, “Help me with the other corner. It keeps popping out.”

Once the bed was made she said, “I want to sleep here with you tonight. It has everything to do with love. Somehow it is different here. It is very quiet.” Then she said, “You know what happens to the sounds we hear?” I said yes.

“Indeed. Even your Morse code. Sounds do not reach the brain as sounds. What we see is more likely to reach the brain intact. Sounds are disassembled and put back together the way the brain wants them, which often has little to do with the source sounds. I am aware that you can put more feeling, power, and resonance into poetry than when Marie recites, but it would not touch me the way her renditions do.”

I had more or less made the bed. At least it had sheets and pillow cases, and a blanket was at hand. It was warm in the house from all the cooking. I was dressed. “Please stay. I promise I won't molest you. The afternoon holding was incomplete. I am not ashamed to admit that I need a lot more.”

“Since when have you molested me? But I want that too. How should I dress?”

“I think a gown. We don't slide around so much when you have one on.” She went through the closet and in a minute came back wearing a long gown, which seemed to be made for her. It took me a minute to realize it was made to the same pattern as her double flannel gown, except made of cotton, or a cotton blend, no nap. I was too tired to care, and desperately needed Sue. Not a good feeling, but I knew holding her would fix it. I know it is bad tactics, but I told her: “Darling, I need you tonight like never before.” The ‘darling’ just came out. I had never addressed anyone as darling before. I hoped she would understand it was affection.

We fell asleep in each other's arms before my worries were resolved, but I guess that did resolve them. I held her tight at first, on my bony shoulder. The last thought I had was, ‘Where does this insecurity come from? I was OK alone, and now I am needy? How come?’

To Be Continued if there is still interest

LOOKING AHEAD

Here are the meetings we have lined up for the rest of 2024. There are two open slots, so if you'd like to give a presentation or have a suggestion, send your ideas to frank@kri-zan.org.

***** PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR JUNE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 3RD TUESDAY DUE TO SCHEDULING CONFLICTS AT WOODCREEK CHURCH. THIS IS ACTUALLY BETTER IN ORDER TO FINALIZE PLANS FOR FIELD DAY. *****

Jun 18 - TBD and Field Day Final Plans / Briefing

Jun 22/23 - ARRL Field Day

Jul 23 - Ice Cream Social

Aug 27 - Fox-Plus and the active ASCENT Projects - Jonathan Brandenburg, KF5IDY

Sep 24 - Six Meters-the Magic Band - Jim Wilson, K5ND

Oct 22 - TBD

Nov 19 - Annual Meeting / Elections

Dec 10 - CARC Christmas Dinner - Aboca's Italian Grill

And we're set for a couple of months in 2025:

Jan 28 - Show and Tell Night

Feb 25 - ARRL Night

CQ WPX CW Contest. The WPX Contest is based on an award offered by CQ Magazine for working all prefixes. Held on the last weekend of March (SSB) and May (CW), the contest draws thousands of entries from around the world. The contest this year is held on **25-26 May**, Have questions about the rules and what they mean? Visit the Rules FAQ page at <https://cqwp.com/> for answers to the most commonly asked questions.

Upcoming Events

Daily	DFW Early Traffic Net (NTS) at 6:30pm 146.88 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	DFW Late Traffic Net (NTS) at 10:30pm 146.72 – PL 110.9Hz
Daily	Texas CW Traffic Net at 7:00pm on 3541 KHz and at 10pm on 3541 KHz www.k6jt.com
Tuesdays	Collins ARC Drive Home Net. 442.8 (+5) MHz, PL=110.9 Hz (K5QHD repeater), 5:30-6:00pm (no net 4 th Tuesday.)
1st Wednesday	Richardson Emergency Siren Test. At noon using the Richardson Wireless Klub (RWK) repeater at 147.120 MHz.
2nd Wednesday	ARES North Texas HF Net Every month—3860 KHz at 8:30 pm—9:30pm
JUNE	
1-2	International Digital Contest —Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information using any digital mode (excluding RTTY) that supports the 4-digit Grid Square exchange — attended operation only -- on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands Stations may only be worked once per band. Each claimed contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by the operator on both sides of the contact. Begins 1800 UTC Saturday, ends 2359 UTC Sunday, Details at http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest
8-10	June VHF For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree grid squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada. Details at http://www.arrl.org/june-vhf
22-23	Field Day Objective: To contact as many stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20,15 and 10 Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. Details at http://www.arrl.org/field-day
JULY	
13-14	IARU HF World Championship. Objective: to contact as many other amateurs, especially IARU member society HQ stations, around the world as possible using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. Begins 1200 UTC Saturday and ends 1159 UTC Sunday. Details at http://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship

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The Amateur's Code

by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA (1928)

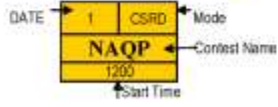
The Radio Amateur is:

- 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 - 2024

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

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





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Membership Meeting

Tuesday 28 May 2024 5:30 PM

THE MEETING WILL BE AT

Woodcreek Church Richardson TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:

→→→ 07 June 2024 ←←←