

CARC Membership Meeting

Tuesday 16 November 2021 5:30 PM
NOTE THE TIME CHANGE

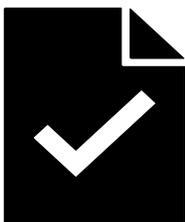
The November 2021 MEETING WILL BE AT
Poor Richards Café Plano TX

Final Town Hall Meeting discussing the interests of Club members and the future of
CARC

November Meeting Announcement

THE NOVEMBER MEETING IS BEING HELD A WEEK EARLIER TO AVOID THE THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY RUSH. The November Collins Amateur Radio Club will meet on Tuesday, November 16th.

We are continuing to meet "in-person" at Poor Richard's Cafe in Plano. We've switched to our traditional start time of 5:30 pm (doors open at 5 pm), and we will also offer audio and video via Zoom for any who are uncomfortable with in-person meetings and those who live some distance away.



The November 16th meeting will be the culmination of our two-month-long series of Town Hall Meetings discussing the interests of Club members and the future of CARC. We urge all members to attend, either in person or via Zoom. Door prizes will be given to attendees - one for in-person attendees and another for Zoom attendees.

November has traditionally been our Annual Meeting, but a couple of months ago the membership passed a motion to delay the Annual Meeting and election of officers to March 2022 to accommodate the rework of the Club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Poor Richard's Cafe is located at 2442 K Avenue, Plano 75074 (southeast corner of E Park Blvd and K Ave). Poor

Richard's web site is <https://poorrichardscafe.com> at which you can review their extensive breakfast and lunch menu. We hope you'll give Poor Richard's a try and make it a frequent stop as a way to say "Thanks" for allowing us to use their facilities. PRC is closed at night, so we have the private use of the cafe; however, there will not be any food or beverage service.

SIGN UP NOW FOR THE ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Collins Amateur Radio Club's traditional Christmas Dinner will be held Tuesday, December 7th, from 5:30 p.m. to ?? at Aboca's Italian Grill in Richardson, Texas. Aboca's is located in the Richardson Heights Shopping Center (100 S Central Expy, Richardson) and is the same restaurant we've used for several years. Food orders will begin about 6 p.m. Everyone orders from the regular menu and pays their own bill.



The Club will provide \$200 in door prizes; only dues current members are eligible for the door prizes. This is a great time to enjoy food, fun and fellowship with members and families.

We hope you'll plan to attend. It's important we know who's coming to dinner so we will have enough tables. Please call Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, at (214) 478-3230 or email weeks.kerry@gmail.com to let him know names, calls and contact phone numbers of those planning to attend.

We'd love to break attendance records for this year's Christmas Dinner - so, come on out and bring your significant other and family members. The food is great.

Need another Badge or Coffee Mug?



Order from The Sign Man of Baton Rouge at:
<https://www.thesignman.com/clubs/collinsarccart.html>

CARC OFFICERS**PRESIDENT**

Frank Krizan KR5N
214-563-6679
kr5n@arrl.net

VICE-PRESIDENT

Bill Swan K5MWC
972-529-3906
bill@swanshome.net

SECRETARY

Jim Brown AF5MA
972.495.2209
jhksbrown@verizon.net

TREASURER

Rohan Thomas KG5RCN
972.697.3512
Rohan7066@yahoo.com

ACTIVITIES CHAIRMAN

Kerry Weeks K5WKS
214-478-3230
weeks.kerry@gmail.com

WEBSITE MANAGER

Mike Hollingsworth W5QH
972.571.6060
w5qh@arrl.net

STATION TRUSTEE

Bob Kirby K3NT
319.360.0500
k3nt@arrl.net

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jim Skinner WB0UNI
214.535.5264
wb0uni@arrl.net

MEMBERSHIP

Bill Swan K5MWC
972-529-3906
bill@swanshome.net

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 or by phone at (214) 478-3230.

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

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

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

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

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

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

SIGNALS is the monthly newsletter of the Collins Amateur Radio Club, published by and for its members. The entire contents of this newsletter are copyright © 2021 by the Collins Amateur Radio Club. Permission is hereby granted to any not-for-profit amateur radio publication to reprint any portion of this newsletter provided both the author and Collins Amateur Radio Club are credited.

The Prez Sez

with KR5N



It's that hustle-bustle time of year with Thanksgiving and Christmas just around the corner. Temps outdoors are cooler. There are lots of ham radio activities for just about everyone - public service events, contests, DXing, antenna projects and more.

The Collins Board of Directors has been busy developing plans for the coming year, plus working on the creation of a revised Constitution and By-laws. In order for the Club to be steered in the direction that interests the majority of our members, we've been conducting Town Hall Meetings and will finalize those meetings on Nov. 16th. I hope you'll make an effort to attend the Nov. 16th meeting in-person or via Zoom in order to express your views on the future of the Club, as well as your particular interests.

Our Club shouldn't focus on just the desires of a handful of members. Clubs function best when the programs, projects and organization lend themselves to the great majority of their members. We need your inputs.

As we've mentioned in previous articles, the Annual Meeting, normally held in November, was deferred to March 2022, so that the revised Constitution and By-laws could be created and adopted by members before holding elections. You've probably thought to yourself that if I were a particular Club officer, this is how I'd lead the Club. We're anxious to hear from you. So, if you'd like to run for any Club office, contact any Club officer (see the contact info at n5cxx.us) to get your name in consideration.

There are are lots of jobs needing to be done in the Club. Next month, I'll have a list of some of the jobs needing someone to perform. I hope you'll consider your skills and

talents relating to the list of jobs and sign up for one or more.

I'm looking forward to seeing a huge turnout at the Annual Christmas Dinner on Dec. 7th at Aboca's Italian Grill. See the announcement elsewhere in this issue and make your reservation with Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, as soon as possible.

Have a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving ...

73 de Frank KR5N

Vice President/Membership Chairman Report

Membership Chairman Report - The CARC added David Abshire, W5DLA, as a new Associate member. He hold a General class license and enjoys DXing and general HF operating. He is a member of the ARRL.

Welcome David!

Current Membership - 59

Full Members – 44 (Includes Life and Retiree Members)

Associate Members - 15

The most current roster is posted on the Members Only portion of our web site. If you need a Member ID and Password for the Members Only portion you can contact Mike Hollingsworth at (C) 972-571-6060.

The end of the fiscal year is approaching and with that comes a time for membership renewal for some of our current members. Ham Club On Line (HCOL) will send out notices of upcoming renewals soon. These notices will go out to those whose membership expires on 31 December 2021. Thank you in advance for submitting a timely renewal. Your continued membership and participation is important to the CARC.

73s,

Bill K5MWC

Secretary's Report

26 October 2021

President Frank Krizan KR5N called the meeting to order at 1734. The meeting was in-person at our new 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:

- David Abshire W5DLA
- Brian Belcher WA5M
- Jim Brown AF5MA
- Gene Duprey K1GD

- Bill Fell KK5PB
- Bob Hicks W5TX
- Paul Jarvis KC5MVE
- Frank Krizan KR5N
- John McFadden K5TIP
- Mike Schmit WA9WCC
- Jim Skinner WB0UNI
- Bill Swan K5MWC
- Kerry Weeks K5WKS
- Mark Wells K9MDI
- Milt Withers AD5XD

The following logged in via Zoom:

- Dave Jaksa W0VX
- Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA
- Charley Snodgrass KC0CD
- Jim Stafford W5DTG

Officer and Committee Reports

The Vice President's, Secretary's and Activity Manager's reports were published in the October 2021 CARC Newsletter, and no clarifications or updates were offered at the meeting. Dave Jaksa W0VX moved to approve the reports, with a second from Bill Swan K5MWC; approval was unanimous.

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.

Announcements

All members present introduced themselves and offered personal status updates as they chose.

Frank Krizan announced that the State Fair of Texas was considering reinstatement of the Ham Radio Booth special event at the 2022 fair after a 25-year absence. This event would encourage participation by all amateur radio groups in Texas.

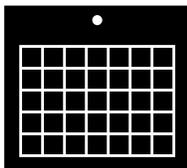
Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1759, followed by a presentation titled "Get Ready for Fun on the Higher HF Bands," by Carl Luetzelschwab K9LA, and a VE testing session.

ACTIVITY MANAGER'S REPORT

by Kerry Weeks, K5WKS

Our October meeting was very interesting. Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA, gave a talk on "Get Ready for Fun on the Higher HF Bands." He gave a layman's view of ionospheric propagation and what some of the solar indices mean and how they affect radio conditions. Carl, also talked about some simple antennas that can be built to help enjoy the higher HF bands (20 through 10 meters). We hope to have Carl back in 2022 to talk about some related subjects.



We will continue to meet in-person at Poor Richard's Cafe in Plano. Poor Richard's is closed at night and delighted to allow us to use part of their space. There will be no food or drink service. Access will begin about 5 pm on the 4th Tuesday. Ring the doorbell at the main door to gain entrance. We have switched back to the traditional meeting time of 5:30 pm with VE testing starting after the meeting (about 7:30 pm).

I encourage you to try breakfast and/or lunch at Poor Richard's as a way to say Thanks for use of their facility. The address is: 2442 K Avenue, Plano, 75074 (southeast corner of E Park Blvd & K Ave). Check out their web site (<http://www.poorrichardscafe.com>) for more info and menu.

For those who are uncomfortable with in-person meetings, we will offer the meeting audio and video via Zoom. The Zoom credentials are emailed to members the Monday prior to the meeting and are available in the Member's Only Section of the Club website (n5cxx.us).

The November meeting will be held a week earlier than usual, November 16th, to avoid the Thanksgiving holidays. The meeting will be the culmination of our Town Hall Meetings to discuss the future of our Club. Please try to attend, either in-person or via Zoom. Your inputs are vitally needed.

And December 7th is our Annual Christmas Dinner. We're having it at Aboca's Italian Grill in Richardson. See the announcement elsewhere in this SIGNALS.

Upcoming meeting programs in 2022:

- January 25 - Annual Show and Tell Night
- February 22 - ARRL Night - Steven Lott Smith, KG5VK, ARRL NTX Section Manager
- March 22 - Revised Annual Meeting and Election of Officers
- Apr 26 - TBD
- May 24 - Field Day Planning
- Jun 28 - Post Field Day / TBD
- Jul 26 - Ice Cream Social

Aug 30 - Grounding and Bonding - Tim Duffy, K3LR (Note meeting date change to accommodate Tim)

Sep 27 - TBD

Oct 25 - TBD

Nov 15 - Annual Meeting / Election of Officers

If you'd like to do a program in 2022 or have a suggestion for a program (either a topic or the name of a speaker), let me know. How about Operating Events - which ones do you think the Club should take part in? And don't be shy about stepping up to organize our Club's involvement in a contest or Special Event. Send your ideas to weeks.kerry@gmail.com

November CARC VE Test Sessions Report

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

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



Contact Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, at 214-478-3230 or via email: weeks.kerry@gmail.com to register.

Kerry will discuss the exam fees, what you need to do prior to the exam and what to bring to the test session. More info is available at: <http://www.arrl.org/what-to-bring-to-an-exam-session>

Two candidates were examined at the October 26, 2021 session. Gordon Donaldson, KI5EHO, of Allen upgraded from General to Extra, and Scott Filstrup of Farmers Branch became a General as KI5SIW. Congratulations Gordon and Scott! VEs at this session were Kerry Weeks, K5WKS, Mark Wells, K9MDI, and Frank Krizan, KR5N.

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.

Minutes of CARC Board of Directors Meeting

9 November 2021

President Frank Krizan KR5N called the meeting to order on-line via Zoom at 2015.

The following logged into the meeting:

- | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|
| David Abshire | W5DLA (Non-Voting Participant) |
| Jim Brown | AF5MA |
| Bill Fell | KK5PB (Non-Voting Participant) |

Frank Krizan	KR5N
Bill Swan	K5MWC
Rohan Thomas	KG5RCN
Kerry Weeks	K5WKS

Pre-Meeting Workshop

All Directors and other members present participated in a pre-meeting workshop beginning at 1907 to discuss a range of topics and develop motions as needed for action by the Board at the formal meeting summarized below.

Topics covered in the workshop included the following:

- Frank Krizan summarized discussions with the CACLB (the group responsible for distributing corporate funds to supported employee activities) regarding Club funding for FY2022. The CACLB is expected to offer dues-matching funds but no additional support for the year.
- Frank Krizan discussed the results of two CARC town hall sessions held in October. Attendance was limited, but good inputs were received and will be presented to the general membership at the November meeting.
- Options were discussed for development of a Club constitution and by-laws. It was suggested that Frank Krizan and Bill Swan K5MWC will propose a straw-man draft to facilitate Board discussion at the January 2022 CARC Board meeting.
- It was agreed that the CARC Board will not meet in December.
- The Board reviewed the slate of upcoming meeting topics through August 2022. This information will appear in the Activity Manager’s report in the November newsletter.

Board Actions

Kerry Weeks K5WKS moved to accept the agenda as presented; Rohan Thomas KG5RCN seconded. There were no objections.

No formal motions were developed at the pre-meeting workshop, and none were offered from the floor.

Adjournment

Moved at 2021 by Kerry Weeks and seconded by Jim Brown AF5MA.

Collins and the VOA

[Bill Swan, K5MWC, discussed a nostalgic video about the involvement of Collins Radio Company and the Voice of America on a recent Drive Home Net. Here are some comments from Bill, as well as a link to the video, which I think you’ll enjoy watching. - Ed.]



Here is the link to the video I mentioned this evening on the Drive Home Net. The video is one hour and 31 minutes long. If you look at the whole video, it takes you from the very beginning of the US Information actions to the VOA to today. I worked on a very small portion of the 821 A-2 VOA transmitter which was to replace the 821 A-1 that served the VOA so well. The A-2 was a 250 KW high-level plate-modulated 2-26.5 Mhz transmitter capable of tuning from 2 Mhz to 26.5 Mhz in 12 seconds maximum. Amazing when you consider all the tuning that had to be done.

Collins followed its design practice of having low power input to better control the purity and stability of the signal that drove the amplifier. The input for the A-2 was 100 mw to 400 mw at 50 ohms, which was amplified to 250 KW. Bldg. 412 at the Arapaho campus was where the transmitter was installed and worked on. Primary power was a big issue, for which TXU had to install special transformers for us. Just for interest, here are some of the numbers about the input power.

Input voltage: 3-phase, 4160 volts to 13.8 kv, 50 or 60 Hz, 662-kw. No break, -48 volt dc., 7 amp (battery preferred).

Power Consumption: Standby: 41 kw

Carrier: 452 kw

95% sine-wave modulation: 662 kw

For the A-1, which is featured in this video, numbers were not much different.

Since there were a number of hams that worked on the A-2, we could not let all that power go to waste. In the evening we would play music into a dummy load (yes, we had a dummy load) that was tuned to 40 meters. I could drive from the plant all the way to my home in Plano and have the music be full quiet on my mobile rig. In the morning when it was cool you could see a column of condensate coming off the dummy load several miles away from the plant. The 40-meter band should be thankful we did not have an antenna for this thing.

What a project.

There may be a banner that comes up when the video is launched that covers the time bar and play cell in the lower left of the view. There is an X in the upper left hand side of that banner that will remove the large banner for better viewing.

Hope you enjoy this. Quite a tribute to the project, to the VOA, to Collins and to the Collins Collectors Association and Antique Wireless Association for taking on the project to preserve this piece of history.

<https://vimeo.com/640943128>

(Contributed by Bill Swan, K5MWC)

Drive Home Net Report - November 2021

The Collins ARC Drive Home Net continues on Tuesdays from 5:30 to 6:00 pm on the N5CXX Repeater 441.875 MHz, +5 MHz, PL=131.8 Hz. The Net is not held on the Tuesdays of the monthly membership meeting (generally the 4th Tuesday. Exceptions are the November meeting - held on the 3rd Tuesday to avoid the Thanksgiving holiday, in December when Net Schedules work around the Christmas Dinner and Christmas Eve/Day and in January to avoid New Year's Eve/Day).

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



OCT 19 - [6] KR5N Frank NCS; K5WKS Kerry; K5MWC Bill; AC5BC/m Bill; N5WSV George.

OCT 26 - NO NET; GENERAL MEETING

NOV 2 - [7] KR5N Frank NCS; K5WKS Kerry; K5MWC Bill; KC5MVE Paul; N5WSV George; N5JJC Mark; WB0UNI Jim.

NOV 9 - [7] KR5N Frank NCS; WB0UNI Jim; K5WKS, Kerry; K5MWC Bill; KC5MVE Paul; N5JJC/m Mark; N5WSV George.

Average participation for this period: 7

Average participation for the previous period: 8

Net record for check-ins: 9

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.

CARC Community Service Activities

Siren Testing Dennis Cobb WA8ZBT, Frank Krizan KR5N, and Jim Skinner WB0UNI participate in the Richardson emergency siren testing. The November 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, which is designated as the backup repeater. The Garland Siren 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 all suspicious activities to the police department.

Dallas Marathon 2021 News

To all potential 2021 Marathon Communicators:

Communicator's sign up for the Marathon is now open. Use the below url to get started.

<https://sites.google.com/site/dallas-marathoncomms/volunteering/sign-up?authuser=0>



The Marathon is the second Sunday in December, December 12, 2021 to be exact. Please mark your calendars for this event.

Please pass this information to any one you know that might be interested in helping out this year.

Last year's Dallas Marathon was canceled because of COVID. We need about 65 amateur operators for different positions during the race.

There will be a Marathon, Half Marathon and an Ultra Marathon (50 km). It will be in downtown Dallas. Here is a map of the course.

<https://www.rundallas.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/2021-Dallas-Marathon-SUNDAY-Graphical-Map.pdf>

It is a good event to raise money for the Dallas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. Scottish Rite for Children is a world-renowned leader in the treatment of pediatric orthopedic conditions, sports injuries and fractures, as well as certain related arthritic and neurological disorders and learning disorders, such as dyslexia.

All kinds of positions are open. We have operators at each of the water stops along the route. Because of the size of the event, it is recommended that you use a mobile radio to get a good signal to the repeater. However there are a few positions where you can get by with an HT. If you are mobile, then it would be good to have an APRS also.

For more information, contact John Galvin, N5TIM, at n5tim@arri.net

73 and Thanks from your Communications Committee.

Excerpt from Jack, W5TFB's Book

Here is the next excerpt from Jack's book. Jack finally meets with Sue and fits right in with some interesting recipes and cooking (yes, Jack actually did know how to cook very well). You may find you feel hungry after reading some of his cooking descriptions.

Sunday 18 November

The rooster woke me. It was about 7. I had slept well in the car. They don't make them like this any more. John came out and said, "Put them tires on the Packard." I'm not making this up, he actually ordered me to do it.

I said, "Yes sir, right away, but where are they?"

"You don't know? They must be where you put them." This guy was a real fruitcake. Suddenly, seeing him discredited was not going to be funny, and I had to undo that, but first we had to find the tires.

I said, "Master John, my memory jist are not what it were. Do you think I might have put them in the barn? Is there anyone else who knows the place good? Like Mae?" He turned almost red, only darker and blotchy.

"Keep away from Mae, boy, she's mine."

"Yes sir, I know, but can you ask her? I feel real bad about losing your tires, and since y'all are not paid me for three months I got no money. You promised me \$400 a month, with a bonus of another \$400 if I got the Packard running good. Don't you think my memory would kick in just good as new if you paid me my due? It's only \$1,600, and I know you got more than that. You know all about my grandson with leukemia, who needs treatment with money that you promised."

John said, "Well, OK, I'll go git the money, but you better find them tires. Hey, git Mae to help you, she's good at findin' things." To this day I still wonder if I could have got twice that, but it was enough, surely enough for teaching this man about mechanical chokes. He needed, more than anything, a success, just anything, and he was going to get one. I admit that this money thing was a pure shot in the dark.

He came back with the money, all in hundreds. I counted it quickly, \$2,400. I told him thanks, stuffed it in my pocket, and went to the barn. I guess he added the \$400 bonus to each of three months. Or maybe he couldn't count and just grabbed a handful of money. I wondered where it came from.

Brenda emerged from the house. I asked about Mae and she told me Mae sleeps late when she can. She said Sue wants to see me for real, and she is in the kitchen getting breakfast for everyone. Brenda told me I would have to help with the dishes, and I lied, saying I love doing dishes and even drying them and putting them up if someone can help me with where they go. I asked her if she knew where the tires to the Packard were, and she said no, but Mae did. She might show me after she got up. She said Sue and Mae would be going back to New Iberia after lunch.

I asked, "Could I prepare a special birthday luncheon for Sue? I cook." Brenda: "What would you cook?" I outlined a menu:

Appetizer: Fresh crab, seasoned with only lemon, salt, and pepper, about three ounces a serving. Wine, a sauterne. Main course: Roast duck, with a sharp brown sauce from the giblets and aromatic vegetables. Broccoli with lemon and brown butter. Hot rolls. Wine, a Burgundy, from a good year, 96 if possible.

Dessert: A grand birthday cake, must consult the birthday girl as to her preferences, It should be rich and messy to eat. Wine, a fine French Champagne. Brenda said, "That would take six, maybe eight, hours to prepare. You would need all-purpose flour dry yeast skim milk brown sugar heavy cream eggs, lightly beaten, two five pound ducks. The wine you call for is easily three hundred dollars, especially the Burgundy, perhaps twice that, and I don't know what you mean by 'fine French Champagne.' You can get all the food locally, all fresh, the crab actually alive, but it is not cheap. I assume you want fresh, never frozen duck?"

"I would prefer to have the duck cleaned and packaged. I have never dressed a fresh duck, although I have plucked many a chicken. It would be better if Sue were here for her birthday feast, so time is a consideration. And it may not take that long. The appetizer is trivial if the crab is fresh, the duck is too if you perform some minor surgery before cooking. It just amounts to severing the ball joints from inside. Makes it easy to carve, which will not be done at table anyway. After we discover Sue's preference, the cake can be made in a flash. I think it can be done in two hours if you are willing to help."

Brenda said she never knew a man who said he loved doing dishes. "What should I do now?" "Shop. I have made a short list. I think the liquor stores open at ten, so someone else may make that trip. Perhaps Sue herself." I handed her two hundreds.

Brenda said I'm just trying to impress her about the money this all costs. I said the equivalent of BS, and you have work to do, and I have to figure out your kitchen, so scat.

The whole meal can easily be prepared in under three hours after the shopping is done, and one glance told me the kitchen was just fine. Without the rolls needing to rise, less than two. There was an old stand mixer with a rotary control at the back, plenty of fresh eggs and cream and standard staples no matter what cake Sue preferred. Even two types of solid chocolate, and an unopened coconut. There were lemons and limes, carrots and celery, evidently those fresh from a garden I hadn't seen. Onions on the counter by the sink, also from the garden. I again told Brenda to scat. I wanted Sue alone, to take my punishment, to know her again if she would have it. Our connection was asymmetrical, for I never thought about her as someone to more than admire, and she told me she loved me. I now know what that meant, but too late.

I started on the rolls. The mixer worked, but I did them by hand. They are usually lighter if you don't develop the gluten more than necessary. Anyway, the mixer didn't have a dough hook. It was a Sunbeam just like Eileen Gray's, probably 60 years old or more. Here is what I put in the batter:

3 ½ C all-purpose flour

1 pkg dry yeast

½ C skim milk

½ C brown sugar
 ¾ C heavy cream
 2 eggs, lightly beaten

I thought back: it took me longer to learn how to make rolls than bread. I made the dough and covered it to let rise. Then did the dishes, dried and ready to put up.

I went into the dining room, connected to the kitchen by a swinging door. A place was set, I supposed for me. I am not good at eating last meals, but she said, "Sit. Eat." It was simple. Grits, scrambled eggs, biscuits. I silently thanked her for no sausage or bacon. The grits were good, the scrambled eggs what you would expect, not at all good but edible, but the biscuits were light and fluffy and not even a little salty. I raved about them and asked if there were more. "No. I had to take these off the table else John would eat them. I guess you want to know how I make them. Everyone does, but after I tell them they say that won't work, and they don't try it."

"I know what you did, I just don't know the timing. After you added the yeast to the batter, how long did you wait before adding the baking powder and more flour? And how many eggs? In a pastry like this it all centers around the egg. For each egg, what do you add? I can guess, a half cup each of milk and flour. What else? I would guess you add a little water, per egg, about a T, with the yeast, let it rise until almost double, then add 1 t of baking powder and more flour to make a dough you can roll out."

"You haven't changed a bit. That's about it, I let it little more than double, but I never measure anything. Why didn't you answer my letters?"

"There were no letters, not one. I couldn't find out where you were. Those were paranoid times. What's the matter with John? He seems not all here." I was really trying to steer the conversation into the present. Sue didn't bite.

"But I wrote you a letter every day. I gave them to daddy who said he could mail them APO NY for the same cost as a US letter, and they would arrive faster."

There was nothing to add, so I didn't. After I would guess two minutes, I said, "I'm sorry. I was going through many changes myself and you were the only friend I had. I was desperate to talk to you. I would have given anything to get a letter from you, or just have your address. I tried everything. I knew a lot of men in the Navy and Air Force, and they couldn't find your father. They tried extra hard because they were worried too, and they knew I always told the exact truth. The men in the Navy had taught me how to send and receive Morse Code and the company I worked for had a service contract for all of the avionics at Shepherd Field; I did most of the work because I had all the FCC licenses one needed. They didn't care if I looked like I was 12. Could I have some milk?"

Sue told me it's on the top shelf left side in the icebox. She was pale, as if realizing something horrible. I thought I knew what but she had to bring it up if she wanted to talk about it. I returned with the biggest glass I could find full of milk. It was skim milk. "Brenda takes off the cream and uses it to cook with mostly. Brenda used to make butter but the old cow doesn't make as much cream as she used to. I sent a letter every day for over a year, even after we were transferred to England. I guess daddy didn't mail them.

"John has always been not all here. When Brenda was 17 she got mixed up with some bad people and got pregnant. It was a lot of men so she didn't know who the father was. Daddy kicked her out and she got by somehow, mostly by staying boozed up. I gave her food and all the money I could get. She had John, I never knew when or where. I don't think Brenda knows.

"After daddy retired from the Air Force, mommy and daddy were recruited by the CIA, mainly because of their excellent German, to go undercover in East Germany. Brenda and I were sent to a boarding school. Then some man from the CIA took us out of school. We were never told anything, but they gave Brenda and me a lot of money and moved us to Lafayette where Daddy's older sister lived. I didn't know her, and she had no use for kids, but we were fed and stayed warm. I learned a few years ago they were arrested in Dresden.

"I found I had some sense about money, and power over men, although it didn't work with you. Maybe I didn't have it then."

I told her I wasn't a man yet.

"If only all reasons could be as good. I met men who did real estate, and I learned I could leverage my money almost fifty to one, and buy property, mostly raw land paying interest only from distress situations, bank auctions, divorces, later partnerships that are dissolving with lots of legal expense, especially those. And so you could buy a section for less than fifty thousand on a good day, paying interest only. With full mineral rights." I didn't ask her, but she told me anyway. "My net worth is a little under 33 million. I'm out of real estate now, mostly in oil and gas, with about a million in tax-free bonds as a cushion. I'll be OK, and I help with Brenda and John. Marie has no clue about the money, but she's a good girl and does well in school. I own this run-down old place, which my geophysicist says is sitting on a salt dome, so there is oil and probably gas, but it'll keep. I heard you and my sister talking about food and stuff. I don't feel like wine, but the crab, duck, and vegetables sound good. I don't have to be back by any certain time but I need to be there Monday morning. And if I ate cake with Champagne often I'd weigh two hundred pounds. Would you like to go back to New Iberia with us tonight?"

One thing hadn't changed. She still didn't know a paragraph from a paragon. I guess someone worth that much money didn't need to make paragraphs any more. Perhaps she

wasn't still working on building her fortune. I was trying to decide, actually resisting it, but when the silence was turning awkward I just said, "I better go do the dishes. There aren't many." Sue said she was going to take a nap. I would guess that the realization that her dad had deceived her was a big blow, one that will take a while to get over.

Mae came in. She looked good enough to eat in her cut-offs and halter top, barefoot. I asked, "May I make you breakfast? I understand how the kitchen works and the pantry is ample. Do you know anything about the Packard tires? John wants me to put them on."

"No, I'll just have some milk. After that let's get the tires. There is an X-shaped lug nut tool in the trunk. The lug nuts are on the wheels. The car was jacked and put on blocks so the tires will be easy to put on. We won't need Uncle Johnny; he would just be in the way."

There wasn't anything to do until Brenda returned, so when she finished, we went to do the tires. I asked if she didn't need shoes and she said no but put them on anyway. Meanwhile I put the hand brake on and put it in first gear to keep the wheels still. Mae was right, and she had arranged it so that the weight of the car was resting on the 2 by 6 with the concrete blocks inside the bumpers the car was resting on, so if you jacked up, say, the front, then the front end of the 2 by 6 would stay with the bumper and you could just ease the front concrete blocks out. Same way with the back. They had a serious roll-around jack that worked on the dirt if you put it on something solid. Mae used a 2 by 10 about two feet long. There was nothing wrong with her brain. We finished putting everything up just as Brenda returned.

After I washed, we unpacked the groceries, and put the crab on ice, covered, in the icebox. Brenda had found fresh raspberries which had no bad spots. I was going to make orange and raspberry duck if she could find nice raspberries, with a fallback brown sauce. She got two ducks, each close enough to 5 pounds, and at least a quart of raspberries. "How long does your sister sleep when she has a nap?" She said Sue never goes back to bed in the morning, and I told Brenda she might need some rest or at least alone time. I asked her to spread the berries on a big cookie sheet, sprinkle with a cup of granulated sugar. While she was doing that I washed the ducks, dried them, severed the ball joints from the inside, tied the legs and wings and pinned the neck skin back. The oven was at 400F and I put the ducks breast side up on a rack in a preheated roasting pan, and slid it in the oven, uncovered. The pan was too small for two so I lined the lid with foil to hold the other duck. When steady sizzling noises started in the oven, I reduced temperature to 300°. (Actually, I go by smell, but that is impossible to describe.) They would roast about 2 more hours.

Meanwhile, we made the sauce. I cooked while she fetched.

A Medium Heavy Saucepan with Lid

1C Orange Juice

1C Chicken stock

¼ C Brandy

Combine in the saucepan and bring to boil. Reduce to 1 C. I asked her to find some nuts, sliver them, and put them on a cookie sheet and into the oven. She had walnuts and almonds, and I said, "Then walnuts. You can just chop them fairly fine, they don't sliver."

Add 1 C of the raspberries, and ginger and walnuts. While simmering, mash with something like a potato masher. I used a pine 2 by 4 scrap end, not finding a potato masher. Reduce heat to lowest point possible over the slowest burner, fold in the remaining raspberries, unmashed, and sage, cover tightly, gently stirring now and then.

Make the crab appetizer (Brenda did this). Toss the crabs into boiling salted water, return to boil, remove and cool to allow removing meat. Make a simple sauce of lemon and pepper (she used cayenne and ground white pepper, ¼ t each). Cool in icebox if desired, or serve warm. Brenda obviously knew her way around a crab.

When the duck is done (wiggle a leg), remove to stovetop. Let rest 15 minutes. Meanwhile, increase oven to 400F and, when at temperature, put in risen rolls. Steam bite size broccoli flowerets until tender, knead 4 T softened butter with 3 T flour, melt in warm skillet, increase heat to brown the flour, but not to burn the solids in the butter.

(This is tricky. You have to watch it. By the time you smell anything it is burned. You can still eat it, but it won't be as good as when it tastes like toasted butter. A work-around is to use clarified butter in the first place).

We shared the cooking, but I knew the Cajun way of making a dark roux, which would not work, so I browned the butter-flour. Have the juice and zest of one lemon at simmer and whisk in all at once. The sauce will be thick. If too thick add boiling water a few drops at a time. Pour over broccoli on heated serving dish and keep hot. Nothing I know loses its heat faster than broccoli. Serve the crab appetizer while carving the first duck, arrange duck on dinner plates, and set on table. Pass remaining raspberry sauce separately and serve a basket of hot rolls and the seasoned hot broccoli. Carve the second duck and pass this on a warm serving platter. Add rolls to basket as needed (it was).

It was a simple lunch, but seemed to please everyone, even John. Sue had two additional servings of the duck, and we ran out of two dozen oversized rolls, as well as the broccoli and raspberry sauce. There was about enough leftover duck to make a couple of sandwiches.

Mae and John cleared the table while I broke up the bones and started making stock, tossing in chopped celery, carrot,

and onion, skin and all, and liquid from deglazing the roasting pans, as well as the remains of the crabs and the water in which they were cooked. When everything was cleared away and stacked in the kitchen, I ran everyone out so I could do dishes. I really dislike doing a few dishes, but when you have a modest quantity it is fun to plan everything and do it efficiently and well. The way I do it another person would just be in the way. They had a three basin sink. In a restaurant kitchen, one has hot water with a couple drops of bleach, but I used them as a degreasing wash, a slightly soapy rinse, and then a final rinse in the largest sink. It took about 20 minutes, then I went and got Mae and John to dry and put up. The roasting pans were still soaking. There was no mess except a little grease in the oven that always splatters when you roast fowl, especially a fat one like domestic duck, so I cleaned the oven. There was some aerosol foam Easy-Off that I had never used before. I was impressed. While applying the foam I wondered how Mae fit into all of this. She was obviously Sue's granddaughter. Probably Mae's mother was Sue's daughter, So where is the mother? And father? Her statement "Oh, they be dead" does not seem to me to be enough. If I need to know I will. For now it is enough that there is Mae who loves her grandmother. Probably more relevant is where is Sue's husband, if there were one? And are there any Mae siblings or other aunts and uncles? All this has nothing to do with me, except that it is in me, the need to know, or, if you prefer, the curiosity.

When the kids were finished and the foam was working, I took John out and showed him the choke and told him what it did and how to handle it. If he was surprised to see the tires on the Packard he didn't show it, and I didn't expect him to. I also told him he will need to go to an auto parts store and buy a gasoline additive that will let the car run on unleaded gas without burning the valves and perhaps piston heads. Brenda and Mae came out and he asked if they wanted to take a spin. I told Mae to make sure he goes by the gas station to check the pressure in the tires.

I went back in the house. Sue was up sitting at the table. She had a far-away look, one new to me, or was it? No, that is the look she has when she is working hard on a math problem, but I doubted it was a math problem. I silently went back through the swinging door and, using wet paper towels, wiped the dirty foam off the oven. It looked a lot better. While I was halfway inside the oven Sue came in and asked if I wanted her to turn on the gas. I wiggled my way out, gathered the dirty paper up and disposed of it, washed my hands, and told her she could now. "Have you solved the problem you were working on?"

Without answering, she asked, "How long will you be here? Do you still live in Wichita Falls?"

"I have to return to Lethe's place for my car and other stuff, but I'm free otherwise. It's an easy hour long walk. I live near College Station."

"I could drive you to Lethe's. That would give us more time. I would like to leave when Marie gets back. I'm all ready to go. If you would like you can follow me back here, then talk about New Iberia. It isn't far, about 20 miles. I have asked you before."

I said, "It would be nice to go with you. I need to call the person who is taking care of my dog and tell her." She handed me her cell phone and I called Agnes and left a message. I returned the device.

"OK, let's fetch my car."

She had a car in an attached garage I hadn't really noticed. It was a dark green 71 Datsun 240-Z. A few little dents and scratches, but the inside was clean and it ran well. She didn't need much in the way of directions, just point it out when we arrive. She handed me her cell phone and told me to call so Lethe would know I was coming. So I did that. We arrived in less than a minute after I finished telling Lethe.

Lethe met us on the porch. She was sitting on the porch swing. She was wearing a faded flowery housecoat and looked really tired. I introduced the two, and we went inside. "Jack, what am I going to do?"

I told her she would survive, she always has. (This is true: She had two children, boys who died of cystic fibrosis, Hank at age 15 and David at 21. David was the first kid in the US with cystic fibrosis to graduate from college. Hank was bitter and fought against it, but David just accepted it, learned as much as he could, and spent his time when not on pure O2 studying, not always what was for school. They both died in Lafayette, David three weeks after he graduated from USL with honors, in chemistry. He wanted to go to medical school. Throughout all of this Lethe kept the family together, even though she couldn't stand her husband Cliff who had turned into a right-wing nut. Cliff was a close friend at A&M, a graduate student when I came back from Rice. After he graduated he got a post at USL teaching math. We kept in touch, mostly through my monthly newsletter to former students and associates who had left. I quit doing that in 72. No one seemed to care anymore.)

I didn't ask what Cliff died of and no one told me. Isn't it enough that he is dead? If I kept track of what people I know died from that would be all I did. I gave Lethe the best hug I have. I had parked the Honda down the driveway. Lethe thanked me for all my help and asked if we were hungry. Sue said, louder than necessary, "No!" I explained, "I just cooked her a birthday luncheon. She enjoyed three helpings of roast duck with raspberry sauce."

Lethe, who knows I cook, just nodded. My stuff was behind the couch I slept on the first night. We left, Sue going first, and I followed. I didn't try to keep up with her. We had to go back and get Mae.

To Be Continued

(Contributed by Steve Phillips K6JT)

New Collins Building Access Restrictions

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

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

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. 441.875 (+5) MHz, PL=131.8 Hz, 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

NOVEMBER

20-22 Nov. Sweepstakes – Phone--For stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) to exchange QSO November-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 Details at <http://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>.

20-21 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz—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 <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>.

DECEMBER

3-5 160 Meter--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 <http://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

11-12 10 Meter-- For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday. Details at <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

18-19 EME - 50 to 1296 MHz—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 <http://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>.

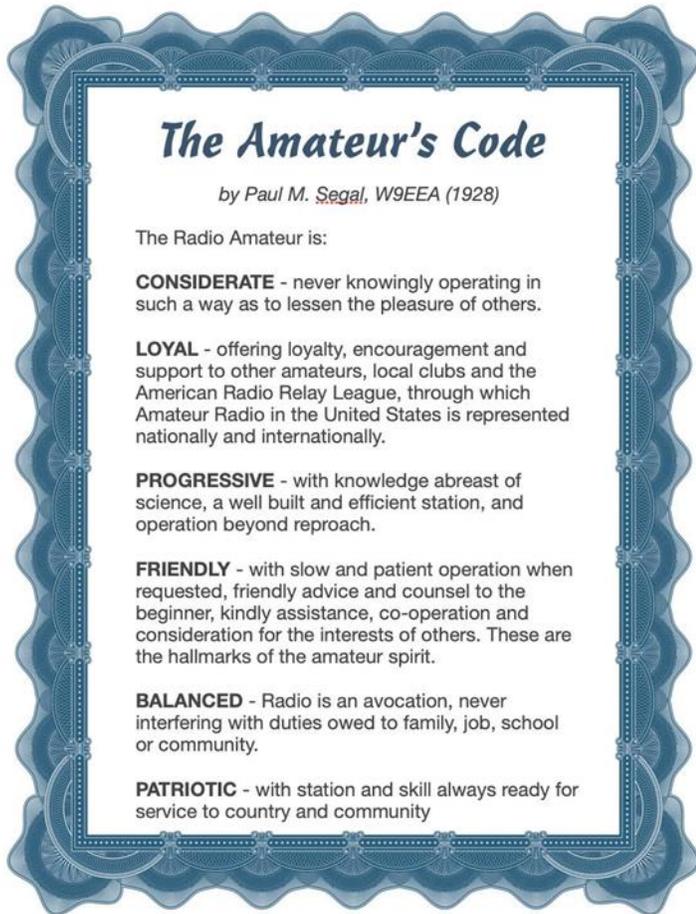
TEXAS  FIXINS

POOR
Richard's
CAFE

We encourage you to dine at Poor Richard's Cafe, and, thank them for allowing us to hold our meetings in their facility.

—  —

2442 K Avenue, Plano 75074
<https://poorrichardscafe.com>



PERIODIC TABLE OF MAJOR AMATEUR RADIO CONTESTS



2021

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

Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
2 1800Z ARRL RTTY Roundup	3 2400Z NA Sprint CW	7 0400Z ARRL DX SSB	7 2400Z SP Polish DX	4 1500Z 7QP/IN/DE New England QSO Parties	2 1200Z SEANET Contest	6 1400Z Marconi Memorial HF	4 1400Z NAQP CW	8 0900Z CWops CW Open	4 2150Z California QSO Party	3 2100Z ARRL SS CW	8 0300Z ARRL 160
9 1800Z NAQP CW	10 0600Z WPX RTTY	14 2400Z NA Sprint RTTY	14 0400Z JIDX CW	10 0900Z CQ-M DX	11 1300Z ARRL June VHF	8 1200Z IARU HF	14 1200Z WAE CW	11 0000Z WAE SSB	12 2350Z Oceania CW	9 0800Z WAE RTTY	13 0000Z ARRL 10
16 1800Z NAQP SSB	17 0600Z ARRL DX CW	20 1200Z Russian DX	21 1200Z CQMM DX	17 0900Z King of Spain	18 2350Z All Asian CW	19 1200Z CQ VHF	20 2400Z NAQP SSB	17 1800Z WA/NJ/NH QSO Parties	18 1450Z Worked All Germany	19 varies ARRL SS SSB	22 0000Z RAC Winter
16 1800Z ARRL January VHF	18 0300Z CQ 160 SSB	26 2200Z WPX SSB	27 0800Z Florida QSO Party	24 1800Z Contest University Dayton Hamvention	25 2150Z ARRL Field Day	20 1100Z RSGB IOTA	23 1700Z WW Digi	26 1800Z CQWW RTTY	28 1200Z CQWW CW	25 0000Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS	24 2400Z HAPPY HOLIDAYS
29 2200Z CQ 160 CW	31 2100Z			29 0000Z WPX CW	30 2400Z				30 0000Z CQWW SSB	31 2400Z	

A contribution from EA3O.



Richardson, Texas
www.N5CXX.us

**PO Box 830766
Richardson, TX 75083-0766**

TO:



Richardson, Texas
www.N5CXX.us

CLUB STATION
(972) 705-1349
N5CXX REPEATER
441.875 MHz +5 MHz Input
131.8 Hz PL - RX and TX
N5CXX-1 PACKET BBS COL Node
145.05 MHz
N5CXX-N1, NRCXX-N2 & N5CXX-N3 HSMM-MESHNET Nodes 2.4 GHz

Membership Meeting
Tuesday 16 November 2021 **5:30 PM**
NOTE THE TIME CHANGE
The November 2021 MEETING WILL BE AT
Poor Richards Café Plano TX

NEXT SIGNALS INPUTS DEADLINE:
→→→ 17 December 2021 ←←←