



# PARKING TICKET

Plano, Texas

*"Having fun with Amateur Radio!"*

April, 2000

## Greetings fellow klubites!

Wasn't that a fantastic meeting last month? In excess of 50 attended and watched that very exciting video. If you missed the meeting last month you won't want to miss this month's part 2. We are going to rewind the tape to the last tornado from OK City and watch how close that gets to the car. The sound of the tornado was soooo loud that's how close it was. If there is time we will see a video of a tornado that touched down at Preston road and RT 121.

But that's not all! We are going to have a VE session for all of you who have taken advantage of the new FCC ruling and need the paper upgrade. To accommodate everyone we will be starting the meeting at 7:00pm to allow enough time for the VE's to get everything done while we watch the video. So come early. Remember you will need your Certificate of Completion, a copy of your current license, and \$6.65 cash. Correct change is appreciated.

Please spread the word about the meeting and the VE session. We would love to have another 50 plus at our meeting. See we can have fun at the meetings. Hopefully we can continue with exciting programs (by the way if you have suggestions for a really good program, if you have one of your own, or have seen one in the past, let me know and we will try to get it in the schedule) every month.

I have been in contact with Haggard Middle School (right behind Plano Senior High) science teacher Debbie Pybus. She is working with the science class to promote the CCCC engineering departments program to motivate junior high students to become involved with hands on electronic/wireless communications. She has asked our help to set up some packet stations, and bring active RF into

the school. We will be setting up a meeting with her in the next week or two and will need your help to get this off the ground.

HamCom will be upon us before you know it. I will bring advanced registration forms to the meeting for you to take advantage of a discount. Take all of your saved coins and find all of the good bargains in the flea market, and see all the new products. Don't forget to stop by the MARS booth and pick up the literature. We would love to have you join us in Army Mars...but there is also Navy/Marine Corps and Air Force Mars programs.

Elections are this month too. We only have one candidate for each position and no one has stepped forward yet to cover the newsletter job. So how about it? Any talented newsletter editors lurking about out there. Contact me as soon as possible. We are considering going electronic with the newsletter and posting it on the web page. Then we would send out a postcard to remind you of the meeting and that the newsletter has been posted on the web. Anyone who is not connected to the web can still get the paper copy by snail mail. Does anyone have a problem with this trial publication? Call me, and we can discuss this issue.

We have applied for a club call sign and after bureaucratic wrangling and a few calls to the FCC we are now known as KD5JRJ. Now that we have the call sign, we will go back on the vanity call and find one like N5PRK or similar. We will be using it on the clubs 440 machine when we get it back from the FCC.

So again, spread the word. Let's keep building the club from the inside and invite those from the outside to join us.

73 and god bless. CU on the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Bill KJ5ZV / AAR6CE

## Texas Hams Pitch In As Tornadoes Rake Fort Worth

Dozens of Amateur Radio volunteers were on duty this week in the Fort Worth, Texas, area in the wake of tornadoes Tuesday night that claimed several lives and left downtown Fort Worth a shambles.

The twisters hit around suppertime, during the tail end of the afternoon rush hour. Eyewitness accounts said it looked like a bomb had exploded, shattering glass in high-rise buildings and leaving debris everywhere. With power out to thousands of customers in a wide area and telephone service—including cellular—interrupted, Amateur Radio has been able to fill its more traditional role of providing emergency and backup communication. Hams reportedly have been assisting local and emergency officials in tracking damage resulting from the severe weather as well as helping to coordinate shelters.

**Continued on page 3**

### The following dates are the Plano Amateur Radio Klub meetings for the year 2000.

@ Harrington Library

Apr. 18-00 (Tue.)  
May 08-00 (Mon.)  
June 12-00 (Mon.)  
July 18-00 (Tue.)  
Aug. 15-00 (Tue.)  
Sept. 11-00 (Mon.)  
Oct. 09-00 (Mon.)  
Nov. 21-00 (Tue.)  
Dec. 19-00 (Tue.)

Copy this form and send to address indicated.



**Ham-Com 2000  
Pre-Registration  
June 9th and 10th  
Arlington Convention Center**

Plano Amateur Radio Klub

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Voice #: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax #: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

***Pre-Registration Must be Postmarked No Later Than May 20, 2000***

\_\_\_\_\_ Ham-Com Full Pre-Registrations (\$10 at the door).....@ \$9.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Family Members, Non-Hams (\$5 at the door).....@ \$4.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Children under 12 no charge  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Flea Market Tables.....@ \$25.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Electrical Outlets, 20 amp duplex.....@ \$50.00 each \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Check or Money Order Enclosed  
 \_\_\_\_\_ Payment by Visa or MasterCard (Only MC/Visa accepted)  
 Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail** this form with Check, Money Order or Credit Card authorization to:

**Ham-Com 2000  
P.O. Box 12774  
Dallas, Texas 75225-0774**

Or **Fax** this form with **Credit Card authorization to: 214-361-7574**

*The fineprint: All Flea Market Tables must be accompanied by a Ham-Com full registration.*

*Ham-Com 2000 is presented by Ham-Com, Inc., a Texas Non-profit Corporation,  
with the assistance of many DFW Area Amateur Radio Clubs.*

WebSite: <http://www.hamcom.org/> E-Mail: [chairman@hamcom.org](mailto:chairman@hamcom.org)

## Some thoughts for the newsletter

de K5YO "CW Sebesta"

Hamcom: I got a letter in the PARK mail box from Hamcom asking the club to print a pre-registration form in our newsletter. I know we've done this in the past. I understand if we insert "PLANO AMATEUR RADIO KLUB" right above the name fill-in-the-blank, the club gets a percentage. The form is located at: <http://www.hamcom.org/Pre-RegFaxForm.htm>

The Ham-Com 2000 home page is worth a visit. <http://www.hamcom.org>. Bill put in a good write-up for our club there.

Here's some sites for on-line practice exams: <http://www.wvara.org> highly recommended <http://www.hamtest.com> <http://www.qrz.com>

VE Testing in Plano on 3rd Saturday April 15th from 1 to 3pm, Williams High School, 18th and Ave P., Plano. Come early. Bring 2 forms of ID, \$6.65, and the original and a copy of license and/or CSCE. 5 wpm code test is no longer free starting April 15th at ARRL sessions.

Paper-only VE Session at the Plano

Amateur Radio Klub meeting, April 18th at Harrington Library at 7:30 pm. Upgrades only - no exams will be given. Come early. (We plan to set up early). Bring 2 forms of ID, \$6.65, and the original and a copy of license and/or CSCE. Turn in application and enjoy the klub meeting program. The VE's will have the paperwork done before you leave. Please have patience. Paperwork is always slow especially when the government (FCC) makes up the rules!

*Editor's Note - Caveat Emptor. This "press release" was sent to me unsolicited. The P.A.R.K. in no way endorses this product. It is presented for your information only.*

**Ham University** is the premiere Windows program for studying for your FCC Exams. The latest version, 2.001, lets you study and practice with the latest Question Pools due to go into effect April 15th — as well as helping you learn Morse code.

You can test yourself on written questions that are giving you a problem or you can take a mock exam to see how you would do. In addition to a formal series of CW lessons, HamU contains a wealth of practice exercises and the popular game, Pentode®, designed to make learning the code fun.

Ham University is sold over the Internet by the author (Michael Crick) and in retail stores by Timewave Inc. - currently under the name Morse University. This new release is a free upgrade for owners of version 2.000 and is half price to owners of earlier versions of Ham University.

You can learn more about Ham University at our web site (at <http://crick.com/Hamu>) or you can check out a fully featured demo copy for a week by going to <http://crick.com/hamu/download.html>.

Michael F. C. Crick  
([mica@crick.com](mailto:mica@crick.com)) at MICA

MICA is a family company located at 2845 - 140th Avenue NE, Seattle WA whose main products are Ham University and WordZap (The Action Word Game!). Michael Crick is a veteran programmer who previously worked on the development of Microsoft Windows, Word, Help, Access, Encarta, and the Internet — and also authored several popular computer games

## Please pass the word

The 443.025+ (pl 110.9) is on the air in The Colony. The repeater belongs to the NTRN (North Texas Repeater Network). They also have two repeaters in Mesquite.....145.150 & 443.000. Please give it a holler! 73s!

Bill Cunningham, N5VVS  
The Colony

## Amateur Balloon Launch Planned

I'm an officer in the Athens Amateur Radio Club in Athens, Texas. We are hoping to do our own amateur balloon launch on Saturday May 27, 2000.

We have a payload package containing a crossband repeater and 35mm camera. The repeater listens on 440 and transmits down continuously with 2.5 watts on 2-meters. Every 5 minutes it announces the inside and outside temperature over the air, then announces a voice ID. At that same time a 35mm photo is snapped.

We plan to be a part of a grand opening event at the local municipal airport. News people will be there; the public is invited; and civic groups will be setting up information tables to inform the community about what they do. Since school will still be in session, we hope to have some student involvement too, perhaps as radio operators. (Supervised, of course.) What an opportunity to educate the public about amateur radio!

But we have one big hold-up. Recovery teams. Unless we can find enough DF'ers, we can't launch because we would have no hope of recovering our package.

Please pass this information on to all the area clubs you know. If anybody would like to help please have them e-mail me. Also, if anybody is involved with the Civil Air Patrol, perhaps a CAP group may wish to have a DF exercise AND get a chance to demonstrate for the public what they do as well.

Any help would be appreciated. Again, we cannot launch unless we get some foxhunting volunteers.

Thanks, 73,  
James Alderman, KF5WT  
[kf5wt@arrl.net](mailto:kf5wt@arrl.net)  
972-977-1114 cell / voice mail

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### Continued from page 1

Dallas County RACES Officer Johnny Davis, K5JD, said amateurs were handling traffic on VHF and UHF repeaters as well as on simplex frequencies. Davis said he expected that amateurs could be involved in the tornado for several more days. "In the pictures I saw there are wires everywhere, there's debris, it's just mass destruction in some

areas," he said.

SKYWARN nets in Tarrant and Dallas counties were activated in advance of the storms, and the National Weather Service already had warned of the possibility of tornadoes. Fort Worth RACES reported a tornado on the ground at 4th and 6th streets in downtown Fort Worth at 6:18 PM Central Time.

SKYWARN member Rick Moran, KC5STX, said amateur spotter reports were able to add an extra 10 to 15 minutes warning for those in the path of the tornadoes. As described it, the tornado "raced through Fort Worth proper, piling cars like cord wood and sucking windows from high-rise office towers." Moran said the city was plunged into darkness "as hundreds of power transformers popped in the path of the storm." For a while, it appeared as though Dallas might also be hit. A twister also caused extensive damage in Arlington, Moran said.

Denton County SKYWARN Coordinator George Lindley, WA5HKW, said Fort Worth RACES requested its assistance with communications after the twisters had blasted through the city. Ten operators took an emergency communications van to Fort Worth and assisted for several hours in the search for missing or unaccounted for people, using the van as a command post.

SATERN Southern Coordinator Jerry Jennison, N5OKQ, from San Angelo, reports that the Salvation Army had set up two temporary shelters, and the City of Fort Worth and the Red Cross have set up one shelter apiece to house those left homeless or without a place to go. Downtown Fort Worth was closed off to the public, and several buildings there were said to have been heavily damaged—possibly beyond repair. Hams have been helping to provide communication at shelter sites and are expected to be used during the damage assessment.

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## P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

March 6, 2000

The regularly monthly meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Bill Drake KJ5ZV, PARK President. The meeting was attended by 53 people which included 40 members and 10 visitors who signed in.

Bill announced that club officer elections will be held at the April Meeting. The offices up for election are President, Treasurer, Activities Director, and Newsletter Editor. The present officers have agreed to run for re-election except for Newsletter Editor. Due to the two term limit, Dan Kautz, W5EHS, isn't allowed to serve and wants a break anyway. Bill wished someone would come forward for this important task.

Bill announced that the club has a new web page. The URL is listed on the back page of the newsletter. We appreciate Shel Fisher N5CAE's efforts to put up the web page on his Collin County ARES website. Bill encouraged everyone to pass the word on the new site. He also wished to thank Jimmie Holman for his long efforts of maintaining the previous site. Jimmie has been unable to maintain the web site due to work.

Bill congratulated the Collin County ARES for observing its 25th anniversary this month. Special note was given to Bill Swan K5MWC for his appointment as SEC (Section Emergency Coordinator) for the ARRL North Texas Section. His domain consists of 68 counties of North Texas!

Comments were received from last months speaker Tom Mobley about the "Technology Awareness Program" at CCCC. This is a new program that will expose middle and high school students to technologies with initial focus on packet radio. He reported that the kids were really taking to it and the program was taking off faster than they expected. He's reaching out for more support from the ham community. Bill said to check the local nets for announcements. Shel added that the link to TechCamp 2000 is on his site.

Bill offered several study guides for anyone interested in upgrading to extra

class. Congratulations to Bill for passing his extra class exam! He challenged every club member to upgrade to extra class. With the 5 WPM code test, no one should have an excuse.

Committee Reports:

Secretary - nothing to report. All minutes are now published only in the newsletter and will no longer be read at the meeting.

Treasurer: Bruce Dingman - Regular fund: 422.39 expended, 506.00 income, 2003.55 balance. Repeater: no expense, 203.00 income, 2843.71 balance.

Newsletter editor: out of town. Bill relayed that articles and inputs are needed by end of month.

Activities: Susie Hegg KB5SSV - nothing to report except Saturday morning breakfast still well attended.

Communications: Bill Fell KK5PB - no known problems.

TVI: Don Hice WB5TVI - one call but resolved before any action was taken.

Bill asked for more volunteers to run the Good News Net on Thursdays at 8pm. Also more check-ins are needed.

The program was presented by Bruce Dingman N5BYL. The subject was Tornadoes - How to stay out of the way!!! He showed the video of the Oklahoma outbreak last year. The video was stopped due to time. The program will be continued at the next meeting which also includes the paper-only VE session.

Clarence Sebesta K5YO - PARK Secretary  
[k5yo@arrl.net](mailto:k5yo@arrl.net) 972-867-2691

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## THE MARS CORNER

By Lorraine S. Matthew/AAA9PR  
[lorimatt@aol.com](mailto:lorimatt@aol.com)

People Power! Much has been written in these pages and in most other documents about the MARS programs and the results of MARS operations. What is often lost is the fact that for every radio, every computer, every document, every operation, there is a person... collectively, people. Close to 10,000 people from every walk of life have chosen to devote much of their time and many of their assets to the three

service MARS programs.

Is there a "typical" MARS member? I am often asked if a MARS member had to have once been a member of the armed services. No. That is not a necessary qualification. Many MARS members are veterans and were, at first, introduced to the MARS program from overseas assignments. Some became MARS operators at those locations while others were happy to use the services to the military personnel that MARS had (and still has) to offer. Remembering the contribution that MARS made in their lives, many of these veterans have joined the MARS programs.

The only factors that all MARS members have in common is the requirement that each one be an F.C.C. licensed Amateur Radio Operator and be able to operate on military frequencies. They also have a desire to serve their country and their fellow human beings. All other factors are as unique as the person is himself or herself.

As a non-veteran member, the desire to serve my country in some way led me to MARS membership as soon I received my first F.C.C. license. As I look back on those early days in my MARS career, I think my "service" might have been a disadvantage to my state MARS program. Boy! Was I green!

The willingness of the MARS organizations to take on people at all levels of radio competence is one of the great assets to the MARS applicant. No matter what level his or her license or experience might be, the new MARS member is welcome to operate on all the available modes. No-where else can a new Ham gain this type of experience. Members are most willing to help and the learning by doing on the nets is the fastest way to learn. I would not be the accomplished operator and traffic handler that I am today without having had my MARS membership and experience. There is still much that I don't know; but there is always a MARS member who is willing to help and to teach me what I need to know. That is the key to MARS operations in all areas.

One major program which has truly become interservice is the Helping Hands program which originated in Army MARS but includes members, helping and being helped, from all the services. It is nothing uncommon for a mix of Army, Air Force, and Navy personnel to be in on a project to

help get a member on the air and functioning. Major assistance in such states as Michigan, Virginia, Alabama, West Virginia, and several others have given us very valuable MARS members. I have worked with one gentleman who is blind and runs one of the best digital message centers that I have ever worked. I could cite specific people and have given this much thought; but I don't want to have them singled out as being atypical MARS members.

The Helping Hands program is not limited to the physically challenged in terms of health. It is also available to any MARS member who needs help for temporary health reasons or for any other reason causing a hardship. As a reasonably new widow, I would qualify because of the fact that my husband used to do all the muscle work in keeping the station on the air. I am fortunate to have radio friends and an active radio club whose members help me when I need it.

The staffers responsible for the Helping Hands program are Cindy Rogers/AAA9HH and her husband, Jim/AAA9TC. They are, themselves, physically challenged and have long been assisting Hams to stay active and to be able to operate. They have simply and most effectively extended their expertise to the MARS services as well. They emphasize the training of those operators who want to help because this is not an area into which a person just wades in and then tries to figure out how best to help. They refer those who need the help to those who want to give the help. They also, very often, steer the challenged one to appropriate software and equipment that might solve that person's problem. They are fine teachers.

People helping people was reflected in the remarks of the FEMA representative, Mr. Paul Reid, when he participated in the Chief's Command Net on 10 March 2000. His remarks reflected the widespread participation of MARS members in the FEMA National Emergency Coordination Nets that are tested quarterly. "First of all, I would like to thank the Army MARS membership for their continuing support of the National Emergency Coordination Net, or NECN as it is commonly known. As you know, the NECN is the command-and-control backup for the Federal Response Plan. The Federal Response Plan is the

plan approved by the White House that all Federal agencies follow when responding to a disaster.

In order to ensure that the NECN is ready to support the Federal Response Plan, it is tested each quarter. The June exercise, scheduled to coincide with the start of hurricane season is open to check in by each Federal station desiring to participate. The remaining three exercises limit MARS and Civil Air Patrol check-ins to net control stations. This is done to make it easier for the other Federal stations to check in as most perform this as an additional duty and must return to their other duties as soon as possible.

During this past exercise, Army MARS had 538 stations participating, with 50 of those being direct check-ins.

During an actual emergency, the activation messages that the FEMA Communications Center sends out will contain instructions governing check-ins. Generally speaking, we are looking for check-ins from stations in the immediate affected areas, plus net control stations from adjoining states. We do not need lists of stations you have below the net control stations, but those stations may be needed to help distribute traffic. If the activation is for a hurricane in Florida, we do not need the net control station from California or other distant states to check in. During many emergencies, we will designate working frequencies and have the most critical stations move to those frequencies. These working frequencies are generally between 3 to 17 MHz.

In conclusion, I want to again thank the Army MARS members for their hard work and dedication and ask for their continued support."

Mr. Reid can be assured that MARS will continue to support the FEMA efforts when an emergency or disaster occurs. By serving FEMA and other relief organizations, MARS members are also serving friends and neighbors.

Army MARS continues to serve...Proud, Professional, and Ready.

This EMail distributed by: Army Telecommunications Directorate Fort Huachuca, Arizona

EMail:  
ATO\_Automation@hqasc.army.mil

## All Texas Army Mars Members Ham-com 2000

Ham-com will be on June-9 and 10 June and the meeting room m-1 has been reserved from 1300-1500 on Saturday. All three chiefs have been invited to speak at the tri-service Mars meeting. The Mars booth will be setup on Friday and will only be manned on Saturday. Ham-com will be held at the Arlington Convention Center, in Arlington, TX.

The tickets cost \$9.00 for each full registration and \$4.00 for each family member. If you prefer to use the US mail, the address is: Ham-com, inc p.o. 12774 Dallas, TX 75225-0774 if you want to order the tickets on line the address, <http://www.hamcom.org>

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## Easily Heard Signals

de W5EHS

This is election month. The only office unfilled at this point is Newsletter Editor. (!) Unfortunately my work will have me in Ohio at the time of the meeting. I will take this space to say...

Thanks for bearing with me for the last two years. I enjoy doing newsletters, but now it is time for me to take a break. Klub rules forbid more than two terms in a row for any officer.

I hope someone will take up this opportunity to serve the klub. I intend to continue this column so there is at least a start.

Most word processing programs will do an admirable job of newsletter layout. I use Adobe PageMaker but that type of layout program is not a requirement. All you need is a computer, a printer and a word processor.

Saving in PDF and getting the newsletter on the Internet is a bit more work. That isn't a requirement unless the klub would like to go to electronic publishing and mail less newsletters.

There you go. It's your choice. Just keep it fun and you will be wondering how fast time flies.

I can hardly believe it's been two years!

73

## FCC Takes Registration to Another Level; ULS Registration to Disappear

NEWINGTON, CT, Mar 17, 2000—Forget ULS registration! CORES and FRN are just ahead in the FCC continuum of time and space! But please stand by. Do not adjust your set—yet!

Just when you thought it was safe to register on the Universal Licensing System, the FCC has announced a new, agency-wide licensee registration system. The new system, the Commission Registration System, or CORES, officially comes into being March 27. It's expected to replace ULS registration within a year and possibly as early as six months from now.

A new CORES registration form soon will be out that eventually will replace the ULS Registration Form 606. It's believed that FCC Form 605—which also came into being with the ULS—is safe for now.

"I'm sitting here shaking my head and hoping that amateurs won't revolt," said one observer who's familiar with the internal workings of the FCC and ULS but did not wish to be identified.

The ULS—which covers only Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees and applicants—was deployed for the Amateur Service last August, and the FCC still has not removed all the wrinkles from the system. The ULS registration process confounded many amateur licensees, and most amateurs still are not registered in the system. The ULS itself will remain for use by WTB applicants. Internet access for applicants was supposed to be the next step in ULS implementation.

But Amateurs Radio licensees and applicants need not panic. At least for now, hams won't have to do anything differently, but they will have to keep track of a new set of acronyms. Amateurs should continue to register in the ULS until the FCC announces procedural changes for amateurs.

Under CORES, anyone doing

business with the FCC—whether money changes hand or not—will have to register using their TIN (Taxpayer Identification Number, typically your Social Security Number), just as Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees now do via the ULS. CORES will assign a new 10-digit FCC Registration Number, or FRN. The FRNs will replace the Licensee ID Numbers now issued by ULS for WTB licensees. Are you confused yet?

The FCC says the FRN will be a "unique identifier" for applicants and licensees. "It will be used by all Commission financial, authorization of service and enforcement systems," the Commission said today in a *Public Notice* to announce the program. "CORES will provide a central standard repository for basic regulatee and licensee [that's us—*Ed*] information, and will help the Commission more effectively forecast, assess and collect regulatory fees; track enforcement of fines and forfeiture actions; monitor and collect penalties; manage the grant of waivers and exemptions; and provide information to the public."

Registering in CORES is expected to be similar to the current ULS registration. Those already registered in the ULS will automatically be registered in CORES. Just how CORES will affect ULS is not entirely clear at this juncture, however. Neither is it certain at what point ULS registration for amateurs will end and CORES will take over. That's because the FCC's Office of Managing Director announced CORES and FRN before the WTB had a chance to get its own *Public Notice* out to clarify some of the issues bound to arise. As the ARRL understands the situation, an announcement about CORES and FRN will be posted on the ULS site.

At some point in the not-too-distant future, registrants linking to ULS will be bumped over to CORES instead of ULS. The FCC anticipates that current ULS registrants will receive a notification in the mail advising them of CORES and FRNs and issuing them a new FRN to replace their current ULS Licensee Identification Number.

CORES registration apparently will continue to be automatic for those filing an application via a Volunteer Examiner

Coordinator or a ULS Form 605 by mail or on line. Under CORES registration, clubs seeking an assigned TIN no longer will have to call the FCC to obtain one. The CORES system incorporates exemption categories, one of which would be used for Amateur Radio club applicants.

The ARRL hopes to have additional details on the implications of the CORES and FRN within the next week or so. The WTB is not expected to release details on the impact of CORES and FRN on the ULS until sometime next week.

The FCC *Public Notice* is available at [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OMD/Public\\_Notices/2000/da000407.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/OMD/Public_Notices/2000/da000407.html)

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## FCC Puts CORES and FRN on Hold

The FCC has delayed the implementation of the FCC's agency-wide Commission Registration System (CORES) and the issuance of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) to each licensee. The new system, which would supplant Universal Licensing System (ULS) registration for Wireless Telecommunications Bureau-administered licensees, was to have gone into effect next Monday, March 27.

The FCC said it plans to soon issue a new *Public Notice* "clarifying certain issues about the new program and providing a new effective date for implementation."

CORES registration is expected to replace ULS registration within a year. Information provided to the ARRL by FCC officials indicates that a new CORES registration form will take the place of the ULS Registration Form 606 when the new system goes on-line. Once in place, CORES will assign a new 10-digit FCC Registration Number, or FRN, which will replace the Licensee ID Numbers now issued by ULS for WTB licensees.

The ULS covers Wireless Telecommunications Bureau licensees and applicants. It became effective for the Amateur Service last August.

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## Hams Help Get Wounded Boy From High Seas To Hospital

In a dramatic situation this week off the coast of Central America, Amateur Radio operators on the 20-meter Maritime Mobile Service Net helped get a wounded boy to safety after he was shot by what were being called "pirates."

The nightmare began the afternoon of March 28 for the family of Jacco van Tuijl, KH2TD, as he and his 13-year-old son Willem, were in an inflatable dinghy, not far from their 44-foot sailing sloop. Wife and mother Jannie van Tuijl, KH2TE, remained aboard the sailboat. The van Tuijls, from the Netherlands, have been cruising various parts of the world since 1995.

van Tuijl said the family was anchored behind a reef with a couple of other sailboats in the vicinity—one at anchor—some 50 miles off the coast of Honduras. The father and son were visiting with acquaintances aboard the other anchored sailboat when Jacco van Tuijl saw four or five men in an open wooden boat come alongside his vessel and board.

van Tuijl and his son headed back toward their vessel, but one of the pirates brandished a "machine gun" when they were about 20 yards away. In ensuing gunfire, the boy was wounded in the abdomen and the dinghy was damaged and flipped over, dumping the pair into the water. van Tuijl said the marauders "got nervous" and soon left the scene after taking the damaged dinghy and outboard motor with them.

van Tuijl managed to get his injured son, bleeding badly, back on board his sailboat. He then turned on his radio to seek help, breaking into a QSO involving Phil Fiol, WB2BMC, in Florida. Fiol moved KH2TD down to the Maritime Mobile Service Net on 14.300 MHz while the other station called the US Coast Guard. Other amateurs in the US—alerted to the incident by the Maritime Net activity—also contacted the US Coast Guard, which, in turn got in touch with Honduran authorities. A Honduran Navy station came on frequency several hours later to help coordinate the rescue effort

with van Tuijl.

Fiol credits Frederick Moore, W3ZU, in Pennsylvania—a fluent Spanish speaker—with helping to translate. Fiol says he and W3ZU alternated net control duties during the long night. He said other assisting stations included WB1AVE, KD5BZ, J39GH, N3FK, W1KY, and YV5/VE7AMV.

The van Tuijls' vessel and the other two vessels in the vicinity then pulled anchor and headed for the Honduran coast to rendezvous with a Honduran Navy vessel. In the meantime, the family rendered first aid to Willem. Two Amateur Radio-physicians—one of them Dr Jim Hirschman, K4TCV—in Florida provided the family with valuable medical advice that van Tuijl thinks helped to keep the youth alive overnight, despite heavy loss of blood. He also expressed his gratitude for the amateur support. "You guys are great!" he told those on the Net.

Once the van Tuijls' vessel arrived off Honduras Wednesday morning, the boy and his mother were taken aboard a Honduran Naval vessel, then airlifted to a hospital, where Willem underwent surgery Wednesday afternoon. Jacco van Tuijl stayed aboard the sloop. Through an Amateur Radio phone patch arrangement via Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, in Florida the van Tuijls were able to discuss their son's condition.

Jacco van Tuijl said he and his wife decided to get their Amateur Radio tickets during an extended stay in Guam, because they sometimes sail in remote regions. van Tuijl agreed that the decision to get licensed turned out to be a good one.

van Tuijl said the family was on its way back to the Netherlands when the incident occurred. He says he hopes the name of his vessel—Hayat—will be a good omen. In Turkish, his mother's native language, van Tuijl said, "it means 'life.' That's got to be a good sign."

Petzolt this week appealed to the White House and is exploring other avenues in efforts to expedite US medical aid for Willem van Tuijl, who's now in a hospital in La Saba, Honduras. Doctors there have recommended he be taken to the US for further treatment for his serious and potentially life-threatening injuries. The situation is said to be

complicated by the fact that the youngster is a foreign national.

Jacco van Tuijl arrived in Roatan Thursday evening and was at his son's bedside Friday morning. Doctors have told the family that if Willem does not get proper medical followup within the next day or two, it could lead to irreversible complications.

**UPDATE** (Mar 31, 2000): Willem's condition deteriorated March 31, increasing the urgency of getting him to a hospital where he can receive advanced medical treatment, possibly in the US. The Dutch Consulate has indicated it has an aircraft standing by to provide transportation to a hospital in the US, once clearances are obtained.

The boy's remaining kidney's function has been compromised, but the problem has been fixed temporarily. His other kidney was badly damaged and had to be removed. The youngster also has possible spinal cord damage. Ed Petzolt, K1LNC, in Florida, has been in contact with Dr Jim Hirschman, K4TCV, in Miami. Hirschman has made arrangements with Jackson Memorial Hospital there to receive Willem. Shriners Hospital in Philadelphia also has said it would evaluate Willem's medical situation for possible admission.

Amateur Radio continues to play a major role in facilitating contact among the affected parties.

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The **PARKING TICKET** is the monthly publication of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to the PARK and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contribution of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs around the country. Permission is granted to reprint material as long as proper credit is given. Ideas for and contributions to the **PARKING TICKET** should be sent to:

**Editor - Dan Kautz, W5EHS  
PARKING TICKET  
11314 Harbor Rd.  
Frisco, Texas 75035-7569**

**email: w5ehs@arrl.net**

Submissions must be received no later than the first day of the month to be included in that month's issue. Material received after the deadline will be included in the following month's issue if it is still current.

The Plano Amateur Radio Klub meets each month at 7:30 PM in the Harrington Library, 18th and Avenue P. See newsletter, web page or listen to repeaters for date. Dues are \$15 per year, \$21 for family membership, and \$7 for the Repeater Association, prorated biannually. The PARK operates three repeaters: WD5ERD on 147.18+, WB5SGN on 224.22- and K5VOU on 444.25+. Visit the P.A.R.K. Web Site at: <http://home1.gte.net/n5cae>. Click on the link for the *Plano Amateur Radio Klub*.



**Plano Amateur Radio Klub  
PARKING TICKET  
P.O. Box 860435  
Plano, TX. 75086-0435**

