



# PARKING TICKET

"Our 26th YEAR!"

August, 1998

## Plano Tower Moratorium Klub Members Maintain Ham Radio Presence.

Members of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub do their part to maintain Amateur Radio presence at all City of Plano meetings regarding radio tower construction considerations. A group of very vocal Plano citizens has forced the city into considering additional regulations and controls on all new tower construction. The immediate result has been a moratorium placed on all tower construction (permits) until a selected committee can produce acceptable recommendations to city council.

Pictured at right are Bill Swan, K5MWC (left) with two additional klub members involved in the Plano discussions. *Unfortunately, I have been unable to confirm the names and calls of the other two hams pictured here before publication.*

It was the (perfectly legal and properly installed) Ham radio tower owned by the klub member in the center of this picture that sparked all the unrest. It is NOT just a Ham problem. The moratorium affects towers of all types.



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

July 21, 1998 1930 Hours

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub was called to order Martin Reynolds, PARK President. The meeting was held at the regular meeting location, Harrington Library.

The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited all present to join in The Pledge of Allegiance.

Thirty two members logged in and five visitors signed the visitors sheet.

A round of introductions by name and call sign was given.

The Secretary read the minutes of the April Meeting since they were not published in the May Newsletter. The Newsletter had been dedicated to the 25th Anniversary celebration.

Also noted, the May Meeting was the 25th Anniversary; no formal meeting was held and no minutes were taken. A motion was made to accept the Minutes as read, after several corrections due to reading errors, it was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was read. A motion was made to accept the report, it carried unanimously.

### Old Business -

\*Chuck Lechner WB2LMA requested a progress report on the voter equipment the Klub acquired several years ago. It was noted that Jim Holman has the equipment (exciter and receiver). He indicated the components are near ready state and awaiting someone to take control of the equipment, finalize adjustments and install equipment.

\*Martin Reynolds asked for a report on the repeater. No one from the Repeater Committee was present, no report was given.

### New Business -

\*Bill Drake notified the Klub of



**PARK Meeting Minutes Cont...**

an opportunity to install the 2-Meter repeater on top of an 8 story office building near Coit and Campbell. The building presently under construction and power outlets and backup power supply would be available. Bill requested Klub members help compile a list of items needed to install and operate the equipment. The list would be presented to the building owners. There was a general discussion of the opportunity. A committee will be formed to help with the list. No further action was taken.

**Announcements -**

\*Bill Swan informed the Klub on the progress of the Antenna Ordinance which is under review by the Plano City Council. He also provided some handouts; they will be present at future meeting. Any questions on the information presented to the Klub should be directed to Bill Swan.

The meeting was adjourned at 2047 hours after which the program on County Hunting would be given.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV Secretary

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## Worked All RAC Award

Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) has announced its new Worked All RAC (WARAC) Award. The new award, which became effective July 1, is available to all amateurs worldwide. A certificate will be issued to any amateur who confirms two-way communication with an Official RAC Station using the RAC suffix in at least 10 of the 13 Canadian prefixes—VE1, VA2, VA3, VE4, VE5, VE6, VE7, VE8, VE9, VO1, VO2, VY1, VY2. For more information, see <http://www.rac.ca/warac.htm> An application form also is available at <http://www.rac.ca/awapp2.htm>

## Easily Heard Signals

*de W8EHS*



A bunch of folks missed a great presentation on Fast Scan TV last month. The meeting ran a little long because of the tower moratorium so many folks didn't stick around for the real program.

(Hmmm... maybe the moratorium WAS the real program?)

I found my OCR software so was able to scan the short story from Bert Syverson, K5CW and include it in this issue. That's a hint that any more of you out there with information to share can contribute printed material. The MARS report was courtesy of Bill Drake, KJ5ZV.

I have been playing with my computer a lot these days since I do not have the HF station up and running. Loaded Windows98 when it first came out, but to tell the truth, I don't see a need for most folks to do the same. Oh, it runs OK, but so did '95. I did add the 32 bit FAT to my C: drive, but even that is quite transparent, with no appreciable gain in performance noted. It does however, make MUCH better use (smaller sectors) of drive space.

I have also gone back to my favorite operating system which is Linux. In fact, I am writing this column using a text editor in an X session in Linux. If that is all geek to you and you want to know more, you need to pick up a text on Linux. The magazine "Linux Journal" is available at most news stands. Also do a search on the web for "LINUX". There is a lot out there. Linux is already the #2 OS (Operating System) behind the MS Windows variants (3.5, 95, 98 & NT).

You will see a "blurb" about this elsewhere in this issue. The "PARKing Ticket" is available off the web in PDF format. At least the last three issues that I have produced. You will find them at <http://www.tedatum.com/park/>. From

## Treasurer's Report

July 30, 1998

**PARK regular**

Expenses 255.17  
Refunds 36.00  
Income 72.00  
Balance 2535.80

**PARK repeater**

Expenses -0-  
Income 63.00  
Balance 2155.99

Bonnie Swartzendruber WB5KTC  
Treasurer

there you can also link to the Klub web site. I have not seen a link from the Klub site to here as of this writing.

You will need the Adobe Acrobat 3.0 reader to view the newsletter. A link is provided so you can down load the most current version from the Adobe site. The reader is FREE. You do not need to purchase the complete Adobe package.

An additional feature of viewing the "PARKing Ticket" this way is the pictures are in color!

The Klub officer's meeting was a bit light (of officers) last month. We are all reminded the Klub Officer's Meeting is an automatic 4th Tuesday of the month at the presidents house unless otherwise notified.

Not much call for storm spotting in the last month or so. Maybe things will catch up when the wet season returns. Ha! Seems like that has been a year ago. Maybe there is a need to start a "fire watchers" net? (See page 6) We need a good excuse to put our radios and communication systems to use. (Just kidding, I hope!)

That's it for this month. Keep those cards and letters coming. 73

# The MARS Corner

by Lorraine S. Matthew/N4ZCF/AAA9PR  
Army MARS Public Relations  
Coordinator  
e-mail: lorimatt@aol.com

Army MARS members, as have all people everywhere, have been watching the results of the tsunami that struck Papua earlier this month. We became aware of the fragility of life along the Pacific Rim of Fire as never before. Thousands of people died in that onslaught. So many of the victims were children that several regional schools will not reopen. There are no children to attend them.

That north shore of Papua was occupied by villages serving an approximate population of 3000. The earthquake that triggered the wave occurred on the ocean floor about twelve miles off shore. It was not even a major quake but it did generate the tsunami wave that wreaked such destruction when it reached the shore. These waves do not show up until they strike. They travel unobservable underwater. They become apparent when all the water is sucked seaward from the beach surf and is returned in the wall of water which travels over this newly exposed land.

Papua was the unfortunate victim simply because it is located on the Pacific Rim of Fire. If we look further at the Pacific Rim, we must examine such places as the Aleutian Islands (10000 people), Anchorage (227000 people), all the coastal towns of Washington, Oregon, and California (an estimated 8000000 people), towns such as San Francisco (725000 people), Los Angeles (3485000 people), San Diego (2500000 people).

These locations are not only on the Rim but they also are 12 miles from the region in which the Pacific Plate slides under the Continental Shelf — that same twelve miles that triggered the tsunami in Papua. It is at this confluence of giant undersea plates that the potential for giant earthquakes exists. The quakes in recent years have given emphasis to the variety of fault lines which criss cross the three CONUS states.

California seismologists are examining a quiescent fault inside Los Angeles as well as the plate activity off shore. Their comment was not a maybe. Their comment was that a major quake will happen. We just do not know when. They feel that the region is overdue for a major event and that all preparations should be made now.

Army MARS is also examining a number of scenarios in order to prepare for major events. Part of a proposed scenario for an all-service MARS exercise describes a succession of tsunamis or tidal waves caused by a major earthquake in the Pacific Ocean. A succession of waves result in damage all along the Rim states and in Hawaii. Tsunamis can branch off into several waves. These are the type that came ashore in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Northern California a few years ago.

One area of emergency operation and support for MARS operators is to plan alternate routes of networking and traffic relay. These alternates become necessary when an established station or set of stations are no longer available. Florida has long had this type of planning in operation. The state is divided into four regions and many practice exercises and real events have occurred in which at least one of the regions was declared inoperational. I lived in Florida State Region 2 — the Panhandle. This is a land area (and some islands) which is approximately 200 miles from west to east and only 30 miles from south to north. When hurricanes such as Erin and Opal came roaring into the Panhandle, our stations were no longer there. We were mandatorily evacuated. The flow of information was forced to circumvent the entire region. Stations in bordering states helped to fill the gap and thus the region concept was tested in part before it became official policy.

Cooperation among Army MARS operators has long been present among the volunteers. With additional emphasis upon interservice cooperation, this type of regional support will become common and well practiced. This type of operation has worked well in Florida with the hurricanes, in the Northwest with both floods and fires and in several other areas of emergency support operations.

Working together, all MARS members will go forward ... Proud, Professional, and Ready.

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## P.A.R.K. Officers Meeting

Fourth Tuesday of month. One week following Klub Meeting. Members are welcome!

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## FCC's "Streamlining" Proposal Due Out Soon!

The ARRL has learned that the FCC very likely will release its long-awaited "streamlined" Part 97 Amateur Service rules by August 11. The document, part of the Commission's 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review, was adopted July 29, but it's undergoing some last-minute fine tuning prior to public release.

Details of the FCC's license restructuring or Morse code testing proposals still are not available. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) will carry WT Docket No. 98-143. It's expected that the FCC will use the NPRM to respond to some outstanding amateur rules-related petitions, including RM-9196, which proposed changes in the administration of CW tests to handicapped individuals. The ARRL will release details of the NPRM via a W1AW bulletin as soon as the information is available. It's expected that the FCC will post the complete set of proposals on its Web site, <http://www.fcc.gov>.

Word is that the FCC will provide an extended period—something longer than the typical 30 days—for the amateur community to voice its comments on the proposals, and additional time also will be provided for reply comments. The ARRL released its own Amateur Radio licensing restructuring plan last month.

# Amateur Radio-itis

## What is it?

By *Burt Syverson K5CW*

If you have been in Amateur Radio any length of time, you have probably witnessed the antics of other Hams that make you wonder if they have taken temporary leave of their senses. Perhaps they may have been performing a death-defying feat while erecting an antenna. At a Hamfest or radio club meeting you may have seen a Ham talking rapidly, with great glee, about the merits of different Ham equipment. In either case, they usually have a broad grin on their face, reminiscent of an opossum that has discovered an open garbage can. Have you ever wondered what causes this? Is Amateur Radio something more than only a hobby and maybe some kind of physical condition as well? If it is, is it a genetic thing, an addiction, or something else? Like the question of, "Which came first, the chicken or the egg." It is something to ponder. Like a Perry Mason mystery, let's take a look as some evidence that I have gathered over a long period of time and see what we come up with.

In gathering evidence, there is a problem. It requires looking back into the past. Having once had HADphobia (History's A Drag) myself, I understand. There was a time when the mere mention of an event that happened before I was born was enough for a shade to come down in my head and I would have the urge to crawl under a rug and stuff cotton in my ears. However, I would like to reassure you that you will not be required to remember dates or be quizzed. Get your comfortable walking shoes on. We are going back pretty far. Together we will look at a condition that I call Amateur Radio-itis and discover if it is genetic in nature or not.

Strange things started happening to me at the age of 11. My behavior was changing. I developed a craving for anything to do with radio. It was absolutely the worst time for something like this to happen that one could imagine. It was 1933 and we were in the Depression in a big way. Very few could afford to put a down payment on a postage stamp

(which was 3 cents). Amateur Radio-itus was now turning me into a first class scrounger in order to satisfy this craving. It also turned me into constructor of regenerative receivers made with junk parts that others had discarded. The result was that whistles and strange sounds were soon heard emanating from our basement. The voices were usually discussing equally strange things such as; electron coupled oscillators, class B modulators and end fed Zepp antennas.

Because nothing was ever mentioned about my behavior, I began to wonder if there had been some weirdo ancestor perched up in our family tree that no one wanted to discuss. This seemed feasible to me. I had two older brothers. The eldest was a Scoutmaster and deeply engrossed in the Scouting program. With little or no provocation, he would remark "Scouting can't wait." I began to think it was genetic. Later on, I met others who have Amateur Radio-itus, but not a brother like mine and I changed my mind. Perhaps it is an addiction. Evidence seemed to mount in this direction.

Hams have always had dreams of owning a kilowatt rig. In that era it was much more impossible than it is today because none were built commercially and if they were, they would be unaffordable. Building your own with available components was the only way. There was one key component, the high voltage transformer for the final amplifier. This is the centerpiece for a tale that I wish to relate to you shortly. It strongly suggests that Radio-itus is an addiction. First, a few words about one Ham's solution for the high voltage transformer problem.

Electric utility companies use what is commonly referred to as a pole transformer to convert high voltage at low current down to the low voltage at heavy currents that we use in our homes. Homes of that era did not have the electrical demand that we do today and consequently transformers were a little smaller. Reversing the process, applying 115 volts

to the low voltage winding would yield approximately the right amount of voltage from the high voltage winding for a 1 kW amplifier. Tap connections on the low voltage winding gave some control of the high voltage output. Acquiring one of these jewels was like winning a lottery. Now on to the story.

In 1942, World War 2 had begun and Amateur Radio came to a halt. We were off of the air. There was no CQ calling, DX chasing or home brew equipment building with new parts. Those of us with Amateur Radio-itis were suffering withdrawal symptoms. I found some relief working in a War Plant as a technician on what was then Top Secret (Radar). The plant seemed to be a Mecca for other Amateurs going through withdrawal. This was probably because a Ham Ticket was accepted as proof of the holders' technical competence. It was there that I met another Ham named Joe who had a more severe case of Amateur Radio-itis than my own.

Joe was a fascinating character. He was my senior by several years, married, had served in the Coast Guard and was a very fine CW operator. He and his lovely XYL (who was most tolerant of Amateur Radio) had bought an old home in my hometown and we soon became good friends.

One day at work during coffee break I told Joe that I had heard of an uncased pole transformer for sale and the price was ten dollars. Joe exclaimed, "I have got to have it."

I was not sure as to whether he was going to do cartwheels or jump up in my lap. This was fine, but there were problems. The transformer was almost fifty miles from our town and Joe did not own a car. I had one, but gasoline rationing was on and if I drove, I faced walking several miles to work for a few days. I knew that Joe wanted the transformer badly and wanted me to volunteer. I thought to myself, "Oh what the heck, "Amateur Radio can't wait" and said I would pick him up at noon on the following Sunday.

February in Northern Illinois can be most disagreeable. That Sunday was exceptional. Along with the snow and ice, it was bitter cold and dark. I felt that something ominous was about to happen. When we returned around 4PM, I helped

Joe carry his prize into the house. As we were passing through the living room I asked him where he wanted to put it down. He replied "right here." So we set it down right in the center of the room.

Without taking off his hat or jacket, he went and got his toolbox. He unplugged a floor lamp and cut the cord from its base. I noticed Joe's wife standing there with her mouth agape, in utter disbelief, as Joe hurriedly bared the conductors and connected them to the low voltage terminals of the transformer. He then plugged the cord into the nearest outlet.

Suddenly we were plunged into darkness and the furnace stopped running. Joe ran off downstairs to check the fuses visually, using matches for illumination.

Shortly he returned and said that the fuses appeared to be good. I suggested that we had better check them with his ohmmeter, which I would hold for him.

Both of us went downstairs. Joe was right; they were good. Upon returning upstairs, I noticed Joe's wife hurriedly going through her kitchen cabinets in the dark. I assumed she was looking for a candle, but considered it might be a knife and if there was going to be any blood shed, I did not want it to be mine. I suddenly remembered that I was late for a dinner engagement and made a hasty exit.

The next morning at work I was greatly relieved to see that Joe was still amongst the living. He explained that in his haste he had mistakenly applied power across the tap connections. The 115-volt wires feeding his house had burned off and the utility company had to install new ones that evening. I assumed the whole incident was a touchy subject with his wife, so I did not ask about her.

Later on, I lost contact with Joe when my occupational deferment ran out and I entered the Military Service. When I returned, we were back on the air and I went to visit Joe. His first words were, "You have just got to see my kilowatt rig." His home had an enclosed sun porch on the rear, which was now his Ham shack. It looked like something out of an old science fiction movie. I looked around to make sure there was not some kind of Frankenstein monster lurking about. Joe had nailed two 2x4s vertically between the floor and ceiling which were spaced for 19 inch panels and chassis to

be mounted to. On the floor behind that his treasured pole transformer sat with dangling wires leading over to four 866 mercury vapor rectifier tubes in a bridge configuration on the lowest chassis. Joe just had to give me a demonstration. He flipped the power switch on and the filaments of the final amplifier gave off more than enough light to read by. The final amplifier output was fed by 300 ohm TV receiving line to a antenna tuner located about 5 feet away above a window. Joe pressed the key. The mercury vapor rectifiers partially lit the room with their bluish glow. His house lights dimmed as well as those of his neighbors. Also the one neighbor's TV set that we could see, went blank.

Joe was very proud of the low S.W.R. on the line to the tuner. He wanted me to grip it with my fingers while he held the key down. Not thinking that gripping a ribbon cable carrying around 700 watts of R.F. was conducive to a long life, I declined. I explained that my doctor thought I ought to cut back on playing chicken with the Grim Reaper. Joe seemed disappointed. No doubt, Joe would have been the envy of many big foreign countries for his radio jamming ability.

Circumstances changed things and I did not see Joe any more. Some years later I read Joe's name and call sign in the Silent Keys column of QST. Not really knowing what had happened, I could not help wonder if the cause was Amateur Radio-itis or something else. Still being here many years later with Amateur Radio-itis myself, perhaps it isn't addictive either. What is it then?

Come to think about it; what is it, that makes a person appear to be off on Cloud Nine, act abnormally and go around with a grin on their face? It appears that those of us with Amateur Radio-itis are in love with an inanimate thing at that, making it very unusual in more ways than one. It gives us a seemingly endless series of challenges. Accepting and overcoming each of them gives us pride in our accomplishment. Those that we do not readily overcome, teach us to look for answers and try again. It is a regenerative process and in time, we begin to ask ourselves, "What if?" Once getting caught up in the loop, it is

hard too. Upon hearing a faint CQ CQ CQ de, I still sit on the edge of my seat waiting to hear the call sign prefix. In the middle of the night, ideas for circuits pop into my head. I will get no rest until I sketch it on paper get out the tools, check available parts and plug in the soldering iron. How many other love affairs affect people this way?

I hope that this may explain the antics of our Amateur Radio brethren when you observe one of them doing something worthy of a Hollywood stunt man and grinning like a cat in a field of catnip. When you do, you may say to yourself, that poor chap has a bad case of Amateur Radio-itis. However, you can also be sure that he loves every minute of it and like me, he is saying to himself, "Amateur Radio can't wait."

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## Texas hams help in power emergency

Hams helped save the day after a power outage June 13 shut down the city of Lubbock, Texas. According to the *Lubbock Avalanche-Journal*, 15 hams arrived at the American Red Cross to help take refreshments to nearly 80 police officers who were directing traffic at intersections throughout the city in 100-degree heat. Ham radio remained one of the only functional means of communication during the blackout and was used to coordinate the relief effort.—*thanks to Don Edwards, K5EL*

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## Parking Ticket in PDF

Address your web browser to this URL:

<http://www.tedatum.com/park/>

and follow the directions!

# Noon Time Net Helps Fight Forest Fire

Hams on the HF Noon Time Net (40 and 75 meters) on the West Coast were able to help forest service crews get the jump on a potentially dangerous forest fire July 19. Net member Jan Van Allen, N7WJB, reports that Clyde Little, AA7WC, in Grants Pass, Oregon, was running the 40-meter side of the net. Typically, he starts greeting potential check-ins early, before the net gets down to business at noon.

On July 19, a Sunday, a ham couple from Dublin, California, camping in the Stanislaus National Forest discovered a forest fire that had just started. John Hayward, KE6ME, and his wife, Jeanette, KF6NCA, first tried their cell phone but were out of range. John Hayward then dialed up the Noon Time Net and broke in. Little immediately had the net stand by. Fortunately, KE6ME had his GPS with him and was able to give precise

coordinates for the fire. Not only that, he was able to relay the numbers of the fire service roads and highways to get to the fire site.

Little then called Dave Glisan, WB6JJR, in Fenton, California, and relayed all the pertinent information, Glisan, in turn, called the Forest Service and alerted them to the situation. The Forest Service relayed back through Glisan to Little to John Hayward, who by then had jumped into his jeep and was on his way to high ground to try his cell phone, in case contact could not be accomplished via ham radio. He need not have worried.

Van Allen says the entire procedure, including relays took less than ten minutes to get firefighters on their way to the two-acre (and growing) fire. Fire crews had the blaze under control within a short time.

The Noon Time Net meets every day on 7.268.5 MHz and 3.970 MHz, and covers the entire West Coast handling traffic, informal contacts, and—occasionally—an emergency like this.—*Jan Van Allen, N7WJB*

# Restructuring Proposal

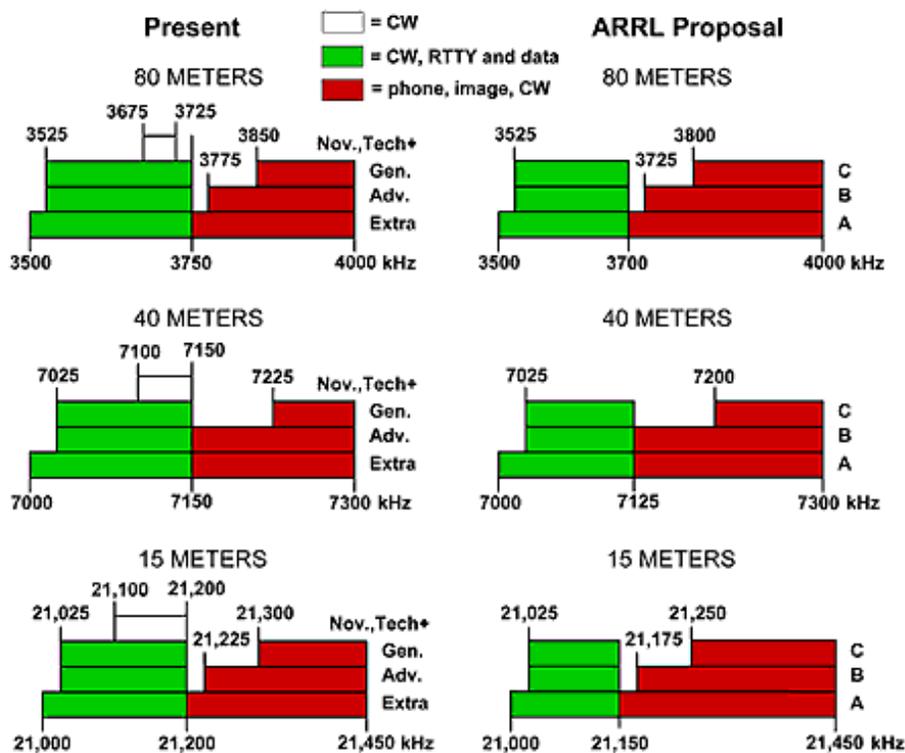
The ARRL Board has agreed to propose a simplified Amateur Radio licensing structure with four classes. Lengthy discussion and debate during the Board's meeting July 16-18 led to majority support for a plan for four written examination elements to establish amateurs' operational and technical qualifications instead of the present five, and two Morse code examination elements instead of the present three.

Under the plan adopted by the Board, the entry level to Amateur Radio would be known as Class D and would convey the privileges of the present Technician license. The written examination would be at the same level of difficulty as that of the present Technician examination, but consistent with the privileges of the license. All amateurs now licensed as Technicians would become Class D.

The next step would be known as Class C and would convey the privileges of the present General license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. Class C would be the entry level to high frequency (HF) operating privileges. To upgrade from Class D to Class C, an amateur would pass a written examination on the operational and technical qualifications required for HF operation and a 5 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as General, Technician Plus, and Novice would become Class C. The expansion of the telephony sub-bands would result from "refarming" of the Novice CW bands that are no longer required for their original purpose.

The third step would be known as Class B and would convey the privileges of the present Advanced license, but with phone subbands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class C to Class B, an amateur would pass a more advanced written examination similar in difficulty to the present Element 4A and a 12 word per minute Morse code examination. All amateurs now licensed as Advanced would become Class B.

The final step would be known as



Class A and would convey the full privileges of the present Amateur Extra Class, with telephony sub-bands expanded by 50 kHz on 75 and 15 meters and by 25 kHz on 40 meters. To upgrade from Class B to Class A, an amateur would be required to pass the most difficult written examination in the sequence. Consistent with the practice in many other countries, no additional Morse code examination would be required beyond 12 words per minute. All amateurs presently licensed as Amateur Extra Class would become Class A.

In their discussions, Board members emphasized that the objective is to rationalize and simplify the amateur licensing structure without reducing the requirements for any class of license. Where reductions in Morse code requirements are proposed, there would be a corresponding increase in written examination standards. On the other hand, Board members were adamant that simplifying the structure should not come at the expense of privileges already earned by amateurs. Therefore, present Novice and Technician Plus licensees, having earned entry-level HF operating privileges, would be granted the new entry-level HF license.

Adoption of the simplification plan marks the culmination of 30 months of work by the Board, during which time the input of literally thousands of ARRL members and other amateurs and prospective amateurs was considered. The Board debated a wide variety of options includ-

## New Satellites Working Well

After just a couple of weeks in space, the two newest Amateur Radio digital satellites—TMSAT-1 and TechSat-1B—are reported responding to flight commands from ground-control stations. The two micro-satellites were successfully launched July 10 from Russia's Baikonur Cosmodrome.

Chris Jackson, G7UPN/ZL2TPO, reports that the initial part of the flight software is now running on TMSAT-1, and the onboard computer system has been switched to the downlink. "Users familiar with the current digital satellites will now be able to observe TMSAT data using standard ground-station software," said Jackson. The official control station for TMSAT is HS0AM in Thailand, but Jackson is handling ground control during the initial phases.

Jackson says the satellite's call sign is TMSAT1. It transmits on 436.923 MHz. At present, it may be 3 kHz too high in frequency because the internal spacecraft temperature is quite cold. The transmitter is currently only being

switched on over Bangkok during commissioning tests. Current output power is approximately 1.7 to 2 W. G7UPN requests that stations refrain from attempting to uplink to the spacecraft at this time.

The Gurwin II TechSat-1B also is reported responding well to flight commands. Shlomo Menuhin, 4X1AS, says the TechSat-1B downlink frequency was recently changed to 435.225 MHz with the satellite transmitting in telemetry mode. The satellite does not have a continuous beacon, but does transmit a 9600-baud burst every 30 seconds (for about 3 seconds). Menuhin estimates that it will take several weeks to complete initial in-orbit testing. In the meantime TechSat-1B will continue its present burst-mode transmission format. TechSat-1B will be a digital store-and-forward multi-user system. For more information, visit <http://techsat.internet-zahav.net/>.

Stations around the world continue to report receiving signals from the two new satellites.—AMSAT News Service

ing both smaller and larger numbers of license classes, higher and lower qualification levels, and different privileges. Nine of the 15 Directors voted in favor of the plan, with six opposed. Following the meeting ARRL President Rod Stafford,

W6ROD, observed, "The debate was at times contentious and the result was not unanimous. Some Board members preferred greater simplification; others were uncomfortable with some of the changes being proposed. However, every Board member, without exception, left the meeting knowing that each of his or her colleagues did what they believe is best for the future of Amateur Radio."

## How Present Amateur Licenses Translate to New Licenses Under the ARRL Proposal

Present	Proposed	Present	Proposed
Amateur Extra	Class A	Technician Plus	Class C
Advanced	Class B	Novice	Class C
General	Class C	Technician	Class D



## Requirements for Amateur Licenses Under the ARRL Proposal

License Class	Written exam	Morse exam	Level of difficulty
Class D	Operational and technical questions relevant to VHF/UHF	None	Same as present Technician
Upgrade from D to C	Operational and technical questions relevant to HF	5 words per minute	Same as upgrading from present Tech Plus to General
Upgrade from C to B	Similar to present Element 4A (Advanced)	12 words per minute	Same as upgrading to present Advanced, plus Morse exam
Upgrade from B to A	More advanced technical questions	None	Same as upgrading from Advanced to Extra

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Office	Name	Home	Work
President	Martin Reynolds, N6LIF	972-727-6746	
Vice President	Robyn Winans, N0MNV	972-633-5108	972-633-5108
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Treasurer	Bonnie Swartzendruber, WB5KTC	972-423-6768	
Activities Director			
Communications	Jim Cosby, N5DBI		972-684-1231
Editor	Daniel Kautz, W8EHS	972-394-6995	972-323-4814
Public Relations	Bill Fell, KK5PB	972-424-0496	972-705-3611
2M Trustee	Fred Varian, WD5ERD	972-398-0407	214-464-6084
220 Trustee	Steve Jones, WB5SGN	972-241-6311	214-265-3243
440 Trustee	Tom Gentry, K5VOU	972-442-3502	972-423-3421
Former President	Charles Cashion, W5ISZ	972-881-0952	972-519-2583
Tech. Comm. Chr.	Charlie Stone, KG5XX	972-517-1575	972-684-5364

**LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Chairman	Name	Home	Work
	Jim Holman, KC5JGT	972-424-4282	
	John Creel, N5OON	972-517-7551	972-484-3620
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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:

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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 the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Harrington Library, 18th and Avenue P. 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+. Look for PARK on the Internet at: <http://www.holman.net/park/>.



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