Plano Amateur Radio Klub

PARKING TICKET

"Our 26th YEAR!" December, 1998

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http://www.hamradio-online.com

Digital ATV - It Works!

Les Rayburn, KT4OZ,
lowga@traveller.com

Using a couple of IBM Wireless LAN PCMCIA cards operating on 2.4ghz, I and Tom Askew, KB5IHI, with the assistance of Bob Askew (a former ham), were able to exchange Real Video files containing our callsigns and other information today at around 6:10PM CST, November 24, 1998 (0410 UTC, November 25th).

The PCMIA wireless LAN cards are inexpensive. We purchased ours for less than $30 bucks each on the Internet. Most use either "Integral" or "Patch" style antennas and can have range of up to 1,600 feet at 100mw.

In our tests using two laptop computers, we were able to transmit successfully down to the corner about 800 feet away. We set up both laptops to run the Apache http server and the Real Media Basic Server (free for personal use) We then configured the LAN cards to use TCP/IP protocol and simply typed in the IP addresses into web browsers. When the streams were detected, the web browsers would launch the Real Media Players and we were able to have a QSO.

At 28.8 encoding, it was even possible to have two way (Full Duplex) QSO's but at 56K encoding the stream broke often. The Wireless LAN cards had a rated bandwidth of 512K but much of this is taken up by the protocol functions.

One way QSO's at virtually any encoding speed were possible, and high quality video (P5) was exchanged out to our maximum distance.

Please note that these transmissions would have been perfectly legal under Part 15. However, as we plan to add power and high gain antennas, we took the extra step of joining the Special Temporary Authorization of the TAPR. This will allow us to do several things that would otherwise be illegal such as ue a frequency hopping sequence that differs from the FCC's guidelines for amateur use.

Of Interest: Further comments from the packet folks in California reveals that they may have been pushing digital video through their high speed network as early as 3 years ago! They didn't even think it was important! Another update from Dale Heatherington, WA4DSY: "Based on the date I created the CU-SeeMe directory on my hard drive I'd say the experiment took place in December of 1996 at the earliest. I was running an early OS/2 beta of CU-SeeMe which could only receive video and not transmit. Alan Adamson,NE1H, was running a Windows 95 CU-SeeMe program and transmitted some live video over the 56K RF link to me. The 56K link was kept pretty busy during the session. Due the RX only nature of my program we didn't try two way simultanious video. That's my memory of the experiment. If I'd known it was historic I'd kept notes :-)"

For more information about TAPR, visit their web site at: http://www.tapr.org. Looks under "Spread Spectrum" for information about using digital spread spectrum technology on the Amateur bands.

I believe that high speed packet networks are the best route towards Digital ATV on a wide scale, however, we were eager to experiment with digital ATV, and to begin exploring options for networking. These cards are very inexpensive and therefore, we tried the spread spectrum route first.

Some amateurs in the TAPR spread spectrum STA have achieved ranges out to 14 miles using these cards with small power amps and gain antennas. We hope to try some of the "coffee can" ATV antennas soon and see what kind of range we can achieve here.

Any body out there have access to a high speed 56K packet backbone that so we could try this out on packet too?

Sources of Equipment

Here is a very inexpensive source of the IBM Wireless PCMIA cards (model #92G7787) that I had found earlier. I had not ordered from this dealer because at the time we were unsure of how the system might actually work and he could provide no real technical information. (Though his email was fast and very supportive.)

After that, we found some online documentation and figured out that this card should work fine but by then Bob Askew, our project engineer had found them for cheap elsewhere. In any event, here they are for only $30bucks each! See http://home.eznet.net/~kento/lancard.html The latest system software drivers are here for download too.

Any day of the week you should

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P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

November 17, 1998

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub was called to order by Martin Reynolds Park President. The meeting was held at the Schimeplfinig Library.

(The meeting was to be held at the Harrington Library, but, the room was unavailable. The meeting room was not available when former President Charles Cashion tried to reserve the room last year. So, the meeting was moved to Schimeplfinig where a room had been reserved by Charles Cashion.)

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

Seventeen members logged in and two visitors signed the visitors sheet.

The meeting was called to order and then handed over to Brian Harris. Brian gave a great program on his collection of working antique amateur radios.

Secretary announced the minutes were published in the Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, it carried unanimously.

New Business - None

Old Business - None

Announcements -

*President Martin Reynolds announced the Annual Plano Amateur Radio Klub Christmas Party will be held at the Carpenter Recreation Center - Arts and Crafts Building - 6701 Coit, NW corner of Coit and Springcreek. The building is surrounded by the soccer fields.

For additional directions call the Center at 972-618-6005. Please feel free to bring

The meeting was adjourned at 2042 hours after which Brian Harris answered many questions about his collection of radios.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV
Secretary

A Note from the President

The Christmas Party is at Carpenter Rec Center on Coit. 2 blks north of Spring Creek. The date is Dec 15, 7:30. Bring some goodies to share. It is in the Arts and Crafts Bldg.

Easily Heard Signals

de W8EHS
email: w8ehs@tedatum.com

Hard to believe. Christmas season is already upon us. No regular meeting this month. Check the minutes from the last meeting (This page.) for where to get more information about the Klub Christmas Party. What are you asking Santa for this year? Has to be something in there for Ham Radio! _•••_

The FCC and ARRL are really getting into the license structure change thing. I hope you have been following this subject. I am glad for the change. I especially like the change away from Novice and the proposed reduction of the code requirements. I don't want to see code removed completely, but the new proposals make a lot of sense. I for one enjoy operating CW. I have a Ten-Tec Omni 7 Plus and I also like to run my Heathkit HW-9 QRP CW rig. My HF operating is probably 80% CW. I am no speed demon, but I like the kind of contacts I make on CW.

My thought is similar to the idea, "just because some people like to run AM, don't make it a pass / no pass portion of the license exam." CW is past its day as a top operating mode so it is about time to take some emphasis off of the code requirement. Beef up the written and put the higher class ticket more in the "what you know " category rather than the "one time, how fast can you copy CW and then never use again" requirement it is now.

Of course if you disagree with my view, I invite your comments for publication. _•••_

The new house is finally a reality. Now I have the fun of planning the new station from scratch. Also planning the antennas. The housing development has no explicit restrictions but I do not yet know what the city of Frisco has in the building code requirements. I am NOT planning a tower but would like to put up a vertical as soon as possible. I am even willing to run stealth as I did when living in Plano. I was no contest killer but had loads of nice DX and stateside QSOs in the log book. Most of them on CW QRP by the way. The other end of the QSO never suspected stealth antennas or QRP operation. Neither did the neighbors.

Now I am not saying I prefer to operate that way or that it is right for you, but I sure had a lot of fun playing with Ham Radio that way, and would do it again if I had to. Restrictions were not a deal breaker on the purchase of this house.

How many of you are old enough to remember the old WWII spy movies when the enemy agent pulled out the "short wave radio" from the closet and called to the submarine off the coast? They never did show what they were using for an antenna. They had to be pretty sneaky then. They SHOT war spies! _•••_

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Treasurer's report Dec. 1, 1998

PARK regular

Expenses 156.22
Income 22.00
Balance 2071.82

PARK repeater

Expenses -0-
Income 7.00
Balance 2180.49

Bonnie Swartzendruber
WB5KTC - Treasurer

This is also my chance to plan a new workshop. Didn't have the space for one whilst living in the apartment in Carrollton. Now I have a nice size garage if we ever get rid of all the moving boxes. Cars live outside anyway, don't they? My problem is I am too much a "Hobbyist". I have some many things I like to do as a hobby but real work keeps getting in the way. I can hardly stand to be with out a workbench though, so it is one of my higher priorities. Lets see… wood working there… electronics over here… model airplanes…

If any of you folks would like to share other hobbies with the readership, do a short write up for the Parking Ticket. I have built R/C and free flight airplanes and R/C boats. Maybe other enjoy doing this too. I also plan to build fine furniture as soon as the new shop permits. So what else do you do beside radio? Maybe just tell us about your radio addictions. ...._._

Each One Reach One

Army MARS Public Relations Newsletter

Lorraine S. Matthew/AAA9PR
Army MARS Public Relations Coordinator

December 8, 1998

There have been some questions about the "Any Servicemember" project in terms of the FPO address that was given in the last newsletter. Any FPO address with a zip code beginning with 093 is automatically routed to the Army MARS Gateway Station in Germany. Therefore any messages using that zip code will be honored.

The response from a number of Army MARS members nationwide to Operation Holidays has been very positive. We have a number of people who have already submitted articles to local papers and other media. A few have entered the information on workplace e-mail circulations with their companies' enthusiastic permissions. Getting the proper permissions before using the communications media of a company or another entity is important. We don't want to besmirch the fine reputation that Army MARS enjoys.

I have also assisted some members who are doing work with other media such as local radio and TV stations.

We have had national exposure via ARRL's Newsline that many of you hear on VHF nets all over the country. I even heard from hams as far away as Turkey on the QST coverage.

The one key problem for the public is still the relative invisibility of MARS members in their own localities. That is where you, each individual Army MARS member, come in. I cannot advertise your availability because we work under the guidance of the Privacy Act. Only YOU can tell your constituents that you are there for them, there to take their messages for our service people all over the world. I appeal to those of you who are local to Army bases. Let those bases know that you are there and that you can serve the needs of the soldiers at that base. Too many soldiers are being deployed who have never heard of Army MARS and what it can do for them. Try putting notices or small articles in the base newspaper periodically. Work with the Family Services office and the recreation centers.

Mac McClure/AAA7MO, wrote a fine supporting piece in the Missouri Army MARS Newsletter in which he said, "Several members have been commenting about the lack of MARSgram traffic these days. Here is your chance to change all that."

This is your chance. Guidelines about contacting the media are available from this office. Essentially, keep it simple. Explain what Army MARS is and the message service that we offer free of charge. Give them your name and telephone number, e-mail address and anything else that will allow people to find you. Do not give out this information about another MARS member unless you have his/her written permission. You, too, operate under the Privacy Act.

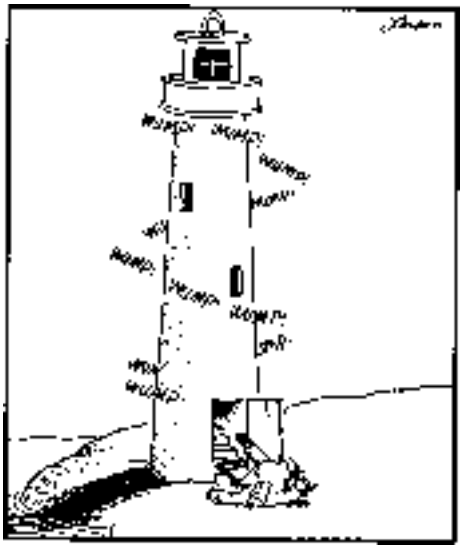
I would like nothing better than to tell my incoming contacts about MARS members in their locality; it is simply not permitted.

Let's make this a happy holiday season for all of our troops wherever they may be. You can make it happen.

Let's all be ... Proud, Professional, and Ready.

submitted courtesy KJ5ZV/AAR6CE

Pure Larsony



Always wear a safety harness when climbing your tower to operate.

Continued from page 1

be able to find these on http://www.ebay.com. Simply type in "Wireless LAN" into the search engine and bid. Right now they have a ton of them going in a dutch auction, meaning almost everyone who bids will win...for $50 bucks.

A quick search on AltaVista turned up numerous sources for PCMCIA adapter cards that will allow us to use the PCMCIA Wireless LAN cards on our desktop computers as well. They seem to sell in the $80-$100 dollar range, so I think for as little as $300 dollars you could have a working 2.4ghz spread spectrum Digital ATV system! (Assuming that you own the computers, etc..) But remember, that if you want to do anything that is beyond Part 15 limits, you'll have to join a STA or apply for your own from the FCC. Currently, the TAPR requires some documentation before granting the STA inclusion and the FCC is requiring some documentation after the fact. Read the TAPR STA carefully, and be sure that you are willing to comply before even asking to be included. (Editor's note: Also use caution - the 2.4 Ghz Part 15 band extends beyond the edge of the Amateur allocation - by adding an amplifier to the device for Amateur use, you could inadvertently operate outside the Amateur band. It may be easier to use 902-928 MHz Part 15 units instead of 2.4 GHz since the Part 15 band edges are the same as the Amateur allocation.)

To search for these units, type in "PCMCIA Desktop" at AltaVista.

We are going to soon try some of the "Coffee Can" antennas that were in this quarters ATVQ with when I get back from vacation. Can't wait to see how that works!

This article is adapted, with permission, from discussions that first appeared on the Tallahassee ATV mailing list and was edited by Ed Mitchell, KF7VY. To join the discussion list, send an email to: atv-request@atv.tallahassee.net and put the word "subscribe" on a line by itself in the BODY section of the email text. To unsubscribe, send an email to:

atv-request@atv.tallahassee.net with only "unsubscribe" in the BODY of the email. To post to the list, send an email to:

atv@atv.tallahassee.net

Amateur Digital Video

By Ed Mitchell, KF7VY, vbook@vbook.com, http://hamradio-online.com

November 25, 1998: Over the past few days, discussions have been underway on the ATV mailing list regarding various ways of conducting digital ATV. I and others suggested that the quickest and lowest cost approach to achieving digital ATV would be to use standard off the shelf components and in particular, to rely on the extensive body of Internet protocols and software that has been developed to create scaleable digital video solutions. Within days, a proof of concept demonstration was completed by KT4OZ and KB5IHI – see their story in "Low Cost Amateur Digital Video Is Now a Reality". Ironically, the pace of this development has occurred faster than I could write this story! So in some respects, this article is already dated even though we are publishing it in "Internet time"!... de KF7VY

Amateur Television (ATV) today operates in basically 3 modes:

Slow-Scan TV signals sent, mostly, over HF bands for transmitting still, analog images over large distances. I believe that Kenwood's new VC-1 handheld camera is an integrated SSTV system for use with handheld transceivers.

Fast-Scan TV signals requiring large bandwidth (6 to 9 MHz) and transmitted at UHF only.

Still digital images (JPEG files) transmitted over packet radio networks.

Fast Scan Digital TV

A number of Amateurs have begun experimenting with digital "fast scan" or "broad bandwidth" TV. That is to say, high quality television using digital compression and modulation techniques, and especially geared to broadcast functions. Most amateur experimenters have had access to expensive commercial equipment needed (at this point) to perform broad bandwidth digital TV. Broad bandwidth Digital TV uses MPEG video compression encoders to convert video data streams into a format that can be used for transmission over the air. Even after compression, most digital video schemes require over 1 million bits per second data rates for "VHS quality" video. While this is certainly with in range of skilled Amateurs for the purposes of experimentation, this type of technology, particularly regarding cost, is going to outside the scope of most Amateur budgets for some time to come.

Many commercial entities are producing "digital TV" systems using the Digital Video Broadcast standard or DVB. In these types of schemes, multiple video channels are digitized, compressed and statistically multiplexed together into a single 38 Mbps data stream. This 38 Mbps data stream is modulated into a 6 or 8 MHz carrier bandwidth. Typically 6 to 10 video signals are transmitted simultaneously in one of these video channels. The cost and complexity of this level of performance will remain outside the scope of individual Amateurs for a long time to come.

Digital Internet TV

A second approach to digital imaging is to use digital technology and data networking for image transmission but not necessarily, at least for now, going after "broadcast" quality. My comments on

"Amateur Digital Video" focus on this category of routing pictures, and especially motion pictures, over data networks. This category of "Amateur Digital TV" or what I call Amateur Digital Video (ADV) is a place where Amateurs can offer significant contributions to the state-of-the-art by creating simple, low cost solutions that can be widely deployed. Existing low cost off-the-shelf solutions make all this possible.

How do we do this? The answer is to leverage the technologies of the Internet. Many products have been developed by computer companies to deliver digital imaging over the Internet. These technologies are designed to scale to the available bandwidth so that they can work on a telephone modem, an ISDN line or a fast Internet connection. Best of all, they are available now, off-the-shelf. Amateurs do not have to re-invent or invent new solutions for the Amateur radio world but can leverage existing technologies. And these existing solutions have the benefit of leveraging the Internet itself – ADV linking is automatically available through the Internet. Pictures from a disaster scene can be linked live to a web site used by emergency managers, for example.

The huge advantage of leveraging Internet video technologies is that anyone who has a personal computer – or a notebook computer – or even a handheld PC – or a WebTV-like Internet-to-TV interface – is well along to receiving "Amateur Digital Video". I've used QuickTime 3.0 and RealPlayer on the Macintosh – and Windows Media Player and RealPlayer on Windows – both platforms provide numerous tools for decoding video streams. Further, there are many products available for encoding video streams to match the available bandwidth. In this way, ADV can use off-the-shelf technology to generate low cost digital data streams that are optimized for use over what ever Amateur data technologies are available – ranging from 9600 bps to 56 kbps modems, and up to 1+ Mbps data networks.

The key concept is that leveraging Internet technologies enables the widespread deployment of low cost ADV that scales to the resources of Amateurs. ADV reception becomes very low cost as most Amateurs already have most of the basic technology on their personal computers. Portable reception is possible using existing handheld computer devices that support the Internet. Amateurs sometimes build exotic one-of-kind solutions that, due to low volumes, end up being made of unobtanium. The high volumes of Internet technology ensure a plentiful supply of low cost components.

Additionally, by using Internet technologies, it becomes possible to link ADV repeaters together using the Internet itself. ADV signals can be cross-linked from the Amateur radio bands, into the Internet, and relayed again out over ADV links at destination sites. In some applications, such as at emergencies and disasters, emergency managers can view incoming video feeds routed directly to a web site. Amateurs will undoubtedly invent many new applications of ADV technology, used stand alone or in conjunction with the Internet. Today, voice repeaters are linked across the Internet – imagine a digital TV link between an ATV repeater in Seattle and an ATV repeater in the San Francisco bay area – this is now possible.

This approach to ADV would also enable cooperation among special interest groups like ATV enthusiasts, TAPR and digital communications hobbyists including radio designers and designers of high speed modems, and those who are interested in the computer networking side. According to Steve Stroh, N8GNJ, "I think there could be a good fit between those who would build digital video repeaters and those who would build high speed digital repeaters. I think the mindset is there for the "data" folks" but the video folks have not yet seen the digital opportunity.

According to N8GNJ, "We now have an end point of the Vancouver 56K repeater network operating at Camano Island. We have the designer/builder of the 56K repeaters and transverters, and now a 56K modem living in Redmond. The 56K gear that he designed was with the intent to grow it to 2 Mbps relatively easily. That's a speed that's interesting enough to start re-attracting "Internet techies" into Amateur Radio for the price of getting a Tech Plus ticket."

Initially, ADV will likely work on a mix of technologies ranging from Amateur 56 kbps gear to modified Part 15 equipment in the 902-928 MHz and 2.4 to 2.45 MHz Amateur bands. As the radio technologies advance (and come down in cost), higher bit rates become possible and higher quality digital video becomes common place. But using off-the-shelf equipment, KT4OZ and KB5IHI have produced a short range, low powered ADV station for just $300.

TCP/IP is not Perfect for Video Streams

Purest will argue, correctly, that there are significant problems in the use of TCP/IP for broadcast functionality. However, many academic and corporate researchers are working on solutions to fixing the problems in IP networks to better accommodate multi-cast and time-bounded transmissions. There are hundreds of millions of TCP/IP users – including not only Internet surfers but corporate networks and many kinds of devices that connect directly to TCP/IP networks. Many people are making enormous investment in TCP/IP technologies – these technologies are not going to go away but will be improved to meet customer requirements.

Amateurs can leverage the investment that so many others have made in Internet technologies and can create innovative, low cost, flexible, scaleable, widely deployable, Internet linkable

Amateur Digital Video.

With ADSL and cable modem technology not rolling out, the concept of linking ADV and existing ATV repeaters together over the Internet is a reality. As N8GNJ notes, "I expect someone to come out with a single board PC that runs, perhaps Linux, perhaps Windows CE, and does H.323 (an Internet standard for video conferencing) and has an input for a USB QuickCam and connects to the family's big screen TV, and boom, you start doing videoconferencing."

The key is to avoid re-inventing lots of new stuff – start with low cost, obtainable technology and adapt and innovate for the Amateur bands. Who knows what will come of all this in a relatively short time? Progress is now occurring extraordinarily rapidly. Faster than I can write this article!

Drake Ends Factory Service for Much of its Older Gear

FRANKLIN, OH, Nov 12, 1998--R. L. Drake Company has announced it no longer will provide factory service for most of its older Amateur Radio and marine equipment. The list includes much--but not all--of the popular 4-Line equipment.

Veteran Drake Service Manager Bill Frost, WD8DFP, says it's getting harder to get parts for the older Drake units. "The big switches, you can't buy those things anymore," he said this week. "The big electrolytics are not available."

Frost, who's been with Drake for 32 years, said his department has "reached a point where we cannot service the older products in the manner to which our customers have become accustomed." He said in several cases, technicians have begun a repair only to find that a needed part was not available and they were unable to finish the job. Even technicians familiar with the older, mostly tube-type gear are in short supply these days. "Our technical expertise on the older equipment has gradually been diminished by the loss of long-time employees due to retirement," Frost said.

The company has posted a list on its Web site at http://www.rldrake.com/tech/Outofservice.html of items that it no longer can service. The list includes The R-4 and R-4A receivers, the popular T-4X, XB, and XC HF transmitters, and the TR-3 and TR-4 transceivers, as well as most of the power supplies for those units, the SSR-1 receiver, and the TR-22, 22C and TR-33C 2-meter transceivers. Items on the list and sent to Drake for repair will be returned to the sender unrepaired accompanied by a bill for shipping, handling, and applicable COD fees.

Frost said Drake is still servicing "to an extent" the R-4B and R-4C receivers as well as the TR-5 and TR-7 transceivers, but not the TR-6 6-meter transceiver. The company also still will provide factory repair service for the L-4, L-4B and L-7 linear amplifiers, but Frost emphasizes that parts availability continues to be a problem even for the Drake units that are not yet on the out-of-service list.

Drake says that while its supply of unique parts is limited, it still might be able to supply individual owners with needed parts for do-it-yourself repairs. Frost encouraged Drake owners to call or write if they have any questions about repair or service of a particular piece of equipment--even if it's already on the list.

Frost said the cost of repairing older Drake equipment also was a major factor in deciding to discontinue factory service for some items. "Our present labor charge is $21.22 per quarter hour," he said. "A couple of hours of labor, a few parts, and the return shipping and handling charges can easily exceed the used market value of a unit."

Call Frost at 513-746-4556 or e-mail him at Bill_Frost@rldrake.com. Frost's mailing address is Bill Frost, R.L. Drake Co, Service Dept, 230 Industrial Dr, Franklin, OH 45005.

The X-mas Files

57 ELM STREET
BETHLEHEM, PA.
11:51 P.M., DECEMBER 24TH

We're too late! It's already been here. Mulder, I hope you know what you're doing.

Look, Scully, just like the other homes: Douglas fir, truncated, mounted, transformed into a shrine; halls decked with boughs of holly; stockings hung by the chimney, with care.

You really think someone's been here?

Someone, or something.

Mulder, over here--it's a fruitcake.

Don't touch it! Those things can be lethal.

It's O.K. There's a note attached: "Gonna find out who's naughty and nice."

It's judging them, Scully. It's making a list.

Who? What are you talking about?

Ancient mythology tells of an obese humanoid entity who could travel at great speed in a craft powered by antlered servants. Once each year, near the winter solstice, this creature is said to descend from the heavens to reward its followers and punish disbelievers with jagged chunks of antracite.

But that's legend, Mulder--a story told by parents to frighten children.

Surely you don't believe it?

Something was here tonight, Scully. Check out the bite marks on this gingerbread man. Whatever tore

through this plate of cookies was massive

--and in a hurry.

It left crumbs everywhere. And look, Mulder, this milk glass has been completely drained.

It gorged itself, Scully. It fed without remorse.

But why would they leave it milk and cookies?

Appeasement. Tonight is the Eve, and nothing can stop its wilding.

But if this thing does exist, how did it get in? The doors and windows were locked. There's no sign of forced entry.

Unless I miss my guess, it came through the fireplace.

Wait a minute, Mulder. If you're saying some huge creature landed on the roof and came down this chimney, you're crazy. The flue is barely six inches wide.

Nothing could get down there.

But what if it could alter its shape, move in all directions at once?

You mean, like a bowl full of jelly?

Exactly. Scully, I've never told anyone this, but when I was a child my home was visited. I saw the creature. It had long white shanks of fur surrounding its ruddy, misshapen head. Its bloated torso was red and white. I'll never foget the horror. I turned away, and when I looked back it had somehow taken on the facial features of my father.

Impossible.

I know what I saw. And that night it read my mind. It brought me a Mr. Potato Head, Scully. It knew that I wanted a Mr. Potato Head!

I'm sorry, Mulder, but you're asking me to disregard the laws of physics.

You want me to believe in some supernatural being who soars across the skies and brings gifts to good little girls and boys. Listen to what you're saying. Do you understand the repercussions? If this gets out, they'll close the X-files.

Scully, listen to me: It know when you're sleeping. It knows when you're awake.

But we have no proof.

Last year, on this exact date, SETI radio telescopes detected bogeys in the airspace over twenty-seven states. The White House ordered a Condition Red. But that was a meteor shower.

Officially. Two days ago, eight prized Scandinavian reindeer vanished from the National Zoo, in Washington, D.C. Nobody--not even the zookeeper--was told about it. The government doesn't want people to know about Project Kringle. They fear that if this thing is proved to exist the public will stop spending half its annual income in a Christmas shopping frenzy. Retail markets will collapse. Scully, they cannot let the world believe this creature lives. There's too much at stake.

They'll do whatever it takes to insure another silent night.

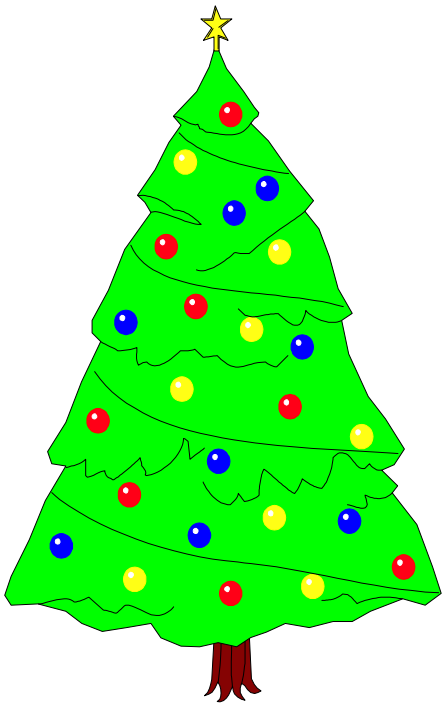
Mulder, I--

Sh-h-h. Do you hear what I hear?

On the roof. It sounds like...a clatter.

The truth is up there. Let's see what's the matter...

This humor courtesy of The Laffatorium (www.laffnow.com)



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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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First Class Mail

Christmas Party at Carpenter Rec Center on Coit. 2 blks north of Spring Creek Dec 15, 7:30.