



PARKING TICKET

Plano, Texas

"Having fun with Amateur Radio!"

December, 1999

This Issue Certified Y2K* Compliant!

Good morning or evening!

This is the last newsletter of the decade, so it is fitting that I find some words of wisdom to pass on to our membership. NAH! This month will be the social meeting where we can get together and enjoy each others company. Did I mention FOOD! Thought that would get your attention. We will supply the drinks for everyone. So bring something good to nibble on to share with the rest. We always have a great time. So be sure to mark your calendar for the 21st of December. 7:30 till 10. Be sure to spread the word on the air. Everyone is invited member or not. We look forward to seeing YOU there.

Short and sweet today. Have a great holiday season, from Anne and I to you and your family.

Bill KJ5ZV/AAR6CE

Support your community and ham radio: Your local emergency communications team needs you - Please help by joining today.

**German Democratic Republic --- This is a ham radio publication. You go figure it out!*

220 MHz Repeater - WB5SGN

The 220 MHz repeater has been broke and off the air for some time. The Texas VHF-FM Society has notified us that our coordination has expired and enclosed a coordination renewal request form. The question to be put to the members is if we want to renew and do we want to get the repeater back in operation. The existing system is home-brew modified using some ancient Midland radios. Repair is unlikely and probably impossible. Purchasing a new system would be very expensive. How many would use it? Come to the meeting and voice your opinion.

HAMS Superceded again!

International Space Station (ISS) to be Linked Live to the Internet

Spacehab plans to put Internet in space

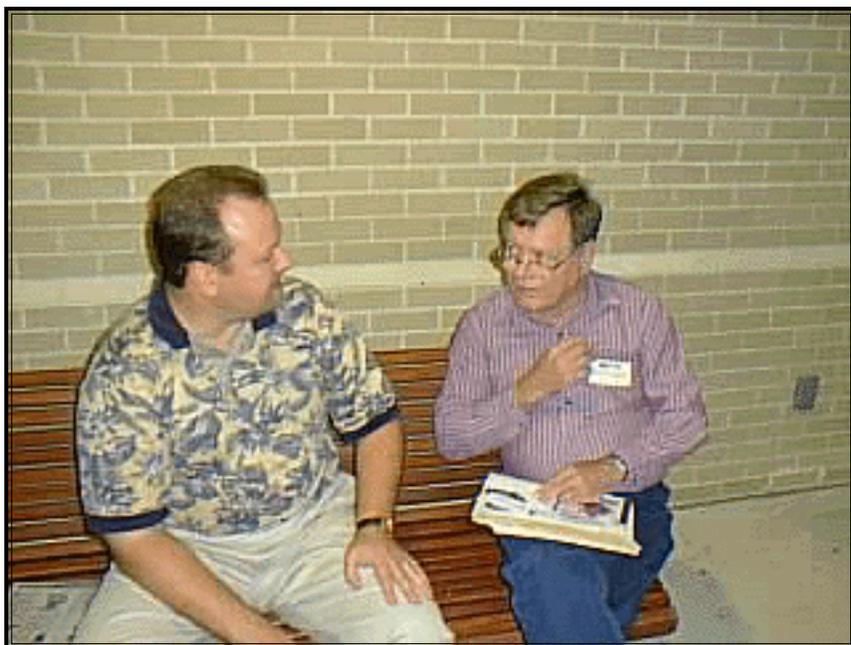
Via link to the Mercury Center, 13 December 1999

A private company is setting up a live Internet connection to the ISS. Once the ISS is occupied, the link will allow direct contact to and from astronauts and students, and let the general public watch ISS operations, live. *Amateur Radio previously provided a similar function for many Space Shuttle flights.*



Hanging out at the November meeting...

Changing of the Guard



Past secretary Jack Ward, KC5KOV hands over duties to Clarence Sebesta, K5YO

P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

November 16, 1999

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Club was called to order by Bill Drake KJ5ZV, PARK president. The meeting was held on the east porch of the Harrington Library due to scheduling problems with the normal meeting room inside. The temperature was in the mid 70's and very pleasant. A count of 15 people attended which included 11 members and 3 visitors who signed in.

President Bill Drake noted that the newsletter editor has been away on business. Due to not getting the newsletter mailed on time, Jack Ward KC5KOV, outgoing secretary was asked to read the minutes of the last meeting.

Communications Director Bill Fell KK5PB reported getting a message from the treasurer Bruce Dingman N5BYL. He had a good time in the Caribbean but had to

work this evening and will delay the treasurers report.

Bill Fell continued by giving the communications report. Bill noted that there was a problem with the 70cm repeater. It had gone "deaf and dumb". The problem was due damage to the hardline going to the antenna. He was able to connect to a spare antenna which is only 10 foot above the roof. A new pigtail needs to be assembled requiring a couple of connectors. Bill noted that there was still an intermittent noise burst problem on the 70 cm repeater but wasn't able to identify it except to rule out broadband noise.

Bill Fell noted that Shel Fisher N5CAE has modified his Collin County ARES web page <http://home1.gte.net/N5CAE> to include public service activities. Bill recommended that this was a good place to go for public service activities like Y2K, Balloon Festival, etc. Bill's in process of adding information about the balloon festival.

Activities director Susie Hegg KB5SSV asked everyone to spread the word about the Christmas party next month. Everyone is asked to bring cookies or other treats. Bill

Drake said he did confirm that the regular meeting room at Harrington is indeed scheduled for our regular meeting night, December 21st at 7:30pm and that we can have it until 10pm.

TVI/RFI committee chairman Don Hice WB5TVI reported no new customers this month.

Bill Drake said they are still looking for people to run the Good News Net. If more would volunteer, it could reduce the manning to once a month or even every other month.

Bill Drake reported getting a message from Don Buchanan N5FGO. He has had bone marrow transplant. He is doing extremely good and the prognosis is good.

Bill also reported a message about FCC investigating James Mason for interfering with the McKinney repeater. It was asked for the secretary to add the following information for the newsletter:

(From the ARRL web site (FCC Amateur Radio Enforcement Log - Nov 5, 1999): PLANO, TX: The FCC sent a Warning Notice October 28, 1999, to General licensee James R. Mason, K5DWO, citing evidence that the licensee had been "deliberately and maliciously interfering with repeater operations" in the McKinney, Texas, area. "This interference has occurred at various times in the past year and includes obscenity, profanity and one-way broadcasting," said a letter from FCC Legal Adviser for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth. The FCC identified the repeater as W5MRC in McKinney. Hollingsworth requested that Mason contact him to discuss the allegations.)

Bill Drake announced a public service announcement for the White Rock Marathon on December 5th. They need about 60 operators from early morning to about 3pm. They need operators for shadowing to aid station support and mobile support. They are also looking for APRS and ATV support. Contact John Gavin N5TIM at www.qsl.net/N5TIM.

Bill Drake also reported getting a letter from Don Smith W5EXP, one of the original co-founders of

HamCom. He has asked if he could be invited to address our group about plans for HamCom 2000. Bill indicated that we would try to honor his request.

Bill Drake read an invitation from the Alcatel/Rockwell plus Telecom Corridor about the Christmas party on December 14th at 8pm at the Golden Corral in Richardson. All area clubs are invited. Bill said we would post the information on the net and on the web site.

Bill Drake discussed Operations Holidays by his MARS group. They will be looking for messages of 25-50 words directed to military personnel.

Bill Swan K5MWC, our District Emergency Coordinaor reported on Y2K plans. Plans are to operate a net from 10pm New Years Eve til 2am on New Years Day. The intent is to staff the EOC and have a net member at each of the fire stations in Plano and Allen. Also Collin County EOC and the 11 volunteer fire stations. and the Red Cross. Others are pending. Need about 25 people. Laison to national traffic net using 145.19MHz. The intent is to support any communication breakdown and back up phone support for the local hospital. More details due on meeting December 1st. Coordinators are WD5ERD and N5BYL for city of Plano, Bill Fell for Collin County and Steve Hicks N5AC for city of Allen.

Bill Drake told about a story he heard on the news while in Detroit last week. A nursing home had blown up. A newsreporter was interviewing a ham. There were 7 emergency agencies from different towns helping the victims. Ham radio was used for communication since none of the agencies could talk to one another.

The meeting was adjourned at 2005. Bill took a photo of the entire group.

Secretary: Clarence Sebesta, K5YO
972-867-2691 k5yo@arrl.net

Added note by Secretary: I wish to thank Jack Ward for all his

efforts in helping to make my transition to secretary smooth. One of the neat things he did was to write up a list of 'Duties of Secretary'. There's a lot of things in there that I didn't know about. I plan to add to it during my term for the next secretary.

3G Phones Divide and Conquer

by **Christopher Jones**

3:00 a.m. 14.Dec.1999 PST
With a major mobile phone upgrade in the works worldwide, a new generation of wireless gadgets is now within arm's reach.

The ITU is in the final stages of establishing a global standard for mobile phones that will make it possible for a single handset to recognize multiple radio interfaces around the world. Dubbed IMT-2000, the standard is meant to be a framework for 3G phones and wireless services.

Whereas second-generation wireless phones transfer data at about 9.6 Kbps, 3G devices will be able to receive data at 2 Mbps.

Francine Lambert, a spokeswoman for the ITU, said real-time audio/video, radio, video mail, and other bandwidth-intensive services will soon be a mobile reality.

"You will be able to see the same as you can from your desktop on the Web. You can have video, radio, access to train and airline schedules, access to your bank. It [3G devices] will combine all the tools that you have today to deal with your leisure or your business," Lambert said.

The rollout of 3G phones is expected to start in the East and work its way West. In Japan, the first high-data rate phones could hit the market in 2001, reach Europe in 2003, and arrive in the US by 2004, according to the ITU.

Where is ham radio headed? -ED

Check out the 1999 Field Day Results in the December, 1999 QST.

Venturer Crew 73, K5BSA, sponsored by Alcatel USA has their photo on page 89 and score on page 92.

The Crew meets at Alcatel, Building 401 in Richardson, at 7 p.m. the first and third Mondays of each month. Membership is open to any young man or woman, ages 14 to 20, who have an interest in amateur radio. Previous scouting experience is not required. Adult advisors are also needed.

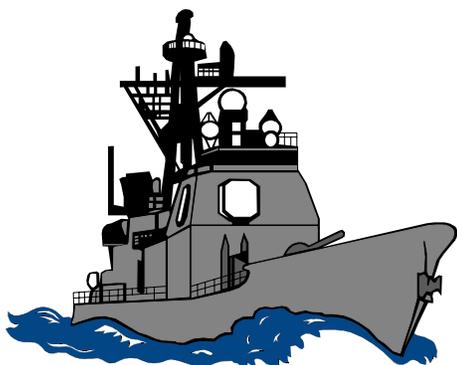
The Crew's upcoming events include: Channel 13 Pledge Night in December; a combined camp out and operation in the North American QSO Party in January; SkyWarn School in February; and, lots more in the months ahead.

For more information, contact Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, at 972-495-3479 (Hm), 972-402-2149 (Wk) or via email KR1ZAN@ARRL.NET.

contributed by Clarence Sebesta K5YO

For Sale: Icom IC-207C 2M\70CM Radio. It has the separation cable for the detachable faceplate, box and manuals. It is approx. 1 year old and is in perfect condition. I also have a Diamond "SuperGainer" antenna with it. The two seem to be a GREAT match. I have purchased a FT-100, so I no longer need this radio. \$300 for both, \$260 for radio or \$40 for antenna and base.

Gordon Keahey - KD5EBP
972-894-6881 (wk)
972-524-0782 (hm)



From the DEC

SKYWARN schools are now being scheduled throughout the North Texas area. This area is so very fortunate to have an excellent staff at the NWS office in Tarrant County to support the training and awareness of this valuable program. Some of the schools that have already been scheduled in this area include:

- Denton County – 5 January at 1900 hours in Denton
- Wise County – 6 January at 1900 hours in Decatur
- Hood County – 18 January at 1900 hours in Granbury
- Collin County – 20 January at 1900 hours in Plano
- Grayson County – 25 January at 1900 hours in Sherman
- Hunt County – 9 March at 1830 hours in Greenville

A complete listing can be found at the following URL: <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/fwd/sptrsch.html>

As I look at this schedule and think of how many SKYWARN schools I have been to (I honestly have lost count) I may be asking myself the same question that you may be asking yourself. That question is “I have been to these schools before so why should I go again?” The answer to that question is simple enough. Each year these schools refresh me on the key fundamentals of the severe weather formation in this area;

what we should be looking for and what needs to be reported to the NWS and the served agencies. Additionally new information is always being developed that adds to the body of knowledge about severe weather. These schools are the place to learn about that information. So I always find a good reason to go even though I may have heard some of the information many times.

For those new to the ranks of the ARES organization and its support to the SKYWARN program these schools offer valuable information that will serve you well. Even if you can not go out to the reporting points, your knowledge of severe weather is valuable. You can serve as a liaison for example. That is an extremely valuable service.

Many of the SKYWARN schools are open to the general public. Even though the focus is on those directly involved with the program, helping the general public know more about severe weather provides a valuable service. Spread the word around and let your neighbors know about the school. Also let your local fire departments or other served agency personnel know about the school. It is free and can be a valuable resource for them. A note of caution, please be sure and check with the local organizers of the school however to see if they have any problems such as restricted room which may mean that attendance must be limited.

SKYWARN schools are a valuable and critical element in the role that ARES plays in providing a service to the general public and the agencies that we serve. Plan to attend at least one during the months of January to March. If possible you might wish to attend more than one. Some of our members attend those schools that offer the basics and then follow up with those schools that offer more detailed training on the formation of severe weather formations. This is a good mix of

training and is worth considering.
SKYWARN SCHOOLS – A GOOD INVESTMENT OF TIME

The best to each of you,

Bill – K5MWC DEC District 5
and Collin County EC

SETI League Plans Next-Generation Telescope

Little Ferry, NJ.., December, 1999 - The SETI League, Inc., nonprofit leaders in a grass-roots Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence, have begun the design of **Array2k**, a new kind of radio telescope which will be taking shape over the next few years at a remote Northern New Jersey location. The name refers not to the new year, but rather to the instrument's more than 2000 square feet of collecting area. This is equivalent to a single dish antenna over fifty feet in diameter, at about a tenth the cost.

The **Array2k** design combines sixteen standard satellite TV antennas into a single, powerful radio telescope. The SETI League, Inc. pioneered the use of backyard satellite TV dishes for SETI research four years ago, with the launch of its Project Argus all-sky survey. The concept has been embraced by other scientific organizations, including the prestigious SETI Institute in California, which earlier this year announced its considerably more ambitious 1HT (One Hectare Telescope) project to combine 500 such dishes into a grand SETI array.

The SETI League's more modest design will be used to support the individual efforts of its 1100 members worldwide as a follow-up detection device to help confirm their observations. It will also be used for direct astronomical research, and serve as a test-bed for

SETI League engineers to develop the technologies which will someday allow them to unite thousands of members' small, backyard telescopes into a huge, planetary array.

SETI scientists seek to determine through microwave and optical measurements whether humankind is alone in the universe. Since Congress terminated NASA's SETI funding in 1993, The SETI League and other scientific groups have been attempting to privatize the research. Experimenters interested in participating in the search for intelligent alien life, or citizens

wishing to help support it, should email to join@setileague.org, check the SETI League Web site at <http://www.setileague.org/>, send a fax to 1 (201) 641-1771, or contact The SETI League, Inc. membership hotline at 1 (800) TAU-SETI. Be sure to provide us with a postal address to which we will mail further information. The SETI League, Inc. is a membership-supported, non-profit [501(c)(3)], educational and scientific corporation dedicated to the electromagnetic Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence.



Original (old) style antenna, Green Bank, WVA

Easily Heard Signals

de W8EHS
w8ehs@arrl.net

Is it a coincidence that "Easily Heard Signals" follows a SETI article? I'll let you decide.

This is a great time to be a ham. Lots of new things will (must) happen in the near future. The millennium change is a good excuse to start new activities. I tried to add some articles in this issue that show how times ARE changing. Soon Internet connection to our space stations. Cell phones that do everything. Many of the activities or "duties" that used to be amateur radio will be taken over by better operating commercial interests. Where does that leave Ham radio? I don't propose answers here. Just food for thought that we will be forced to change our ways. That makes opportunities for us to keep up with technology. I can only hope that the bureaucrats who run the FCC don't try to do to us what the FAA has done to the light plane private pilot. (Given away the bulk of the airspace to the big money boys.)

If you haven't figured the Y2K on the cover, the answer is Y2A-Y9Z call sign prefix is assigned to the GDR (Germany)

Nice report from our new secretary Clarence Sebesta, K5YO is in this issue. Sorry, no treasurer's report came in for this issue. I challenge all of you to contribute to your newsletter in the year 2000. It sure is nice when all I have to do is cut and paste. I like to write, but not ten pages. <grin>

A darn cold knocked me out this week. The XYL even forced me to go see the Doc. It's that time of the year when we are out among a lot of people and the weather takes some of our resistance away. Take care this season and I hope you have a healthy holiday. Maybe in January and after you survive Y2K, you will feel well enough to write something for the newsletter about the new rig Santa brought you.

No new radio gear in sight for this station. My "old" stuff works quite well except for the 2-meter HT. That thing has been flaky for some time. Maybe I need to trade it in for a 220 MHz rig. Hmmm... Just what should we do about our 220 repeater? It is almost a "forgotten" band with sparse commercial ham rigs being offered on that band. For what could we as a club be using this allocation? Can you think of a good purpose? Here is another "opportunity".

I have been playing with a CD burner lately. Got all my stuff "archived" on the CD-R disks. Mostly my graphic files. For instance, I put on all my HAM pictures in one directory. The space on these things is so large, it almost seems like a waste not to fill them up. I am buying a CD-R with jewel case for only \$1.50 each. I have seen them without case (just a paper sleeve) for about \$.69. The low cost sure beats the zip disks I was using. If anyone wants an archive of the back issues of the "Parking Ticket" (only the ones I have done) I can load them on a CD for you. Easier, just download them yourself from the web page. Heck, It may be pretentious to even think anyone (other than the secretary) is even saving these things! <grin>

A good project would be to archive all our existing club photos onto a CD. The "paper" printed ones would have to be scanned but that is no problem. I know there are several members with that capability. Sure would help keep all our "history" in one place. The disk could be copied for anyone wanting his or her own copy. Anyone interested in this project for the year 2000?

'Nuff for now. Have your self a good holiday and a great new year! 73&88

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Office	Name	Home	Work
President	Bill Drake, KJ5ZV	972-964-5516	972-497-5255
Vice President	Jim Holman, KC5JGT	972-424-4282	
Secretary	Clarence Sebesta, K5YO	972-867-2691	
Treasurer	Bruce Dingman, N5BYL	972-442-4542	972-344-3872
Activities Director	Susie Hegg, KB5SSV	972-516-0989	214-855-0449
Communications	Bill Fell, KK5PB	972-424-0496	972-705-3611
Editor	Daniel Kautz, W8EHS	972-712-7741	972-323-4814
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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	Martin Reynolds, N6LIF	972-727-6746	
Tech. Comm. Chr.	Charlie Stone, KG5XX	972-517-1575	972-684-5364
TV/RFI Committee	Don R. Hice, WB5TVI	972-599-2038	

LONG-RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Chairman	Name	Home	Work
Jim Holman, KC5JGT	972-424-4282		
John Creel, N5OON	972-517-7551	972-484-3620	
Bruce Dingman, N5BYL	972-442-4542	972-995-5774	
Tom Gentry, K5VOU	972-442-3502	972-423-3421	
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Deb Varian, KA5HQY	972-398-0407		
Craig Young, KA5BOU	972-396-9184	972-952-4616	

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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email: w8ehs@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 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/>.



Plano Amateur Radio Klub
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