Plano Amateur Radio Klub

PARKING TICKET

"Our 26th YEAR!" February, 1999

TESLA INVENTED RADIO?

1997 W. Beaty

In all of the mass comm books I have used over the past 20 years, credit for early development in radio goes to Marconi, Fessenden, De Forest and Armstrong. On occasion, and seldom at that, Tesla is mentioned. But he is never discussed as a major player in the beginnings of radio.

Tesla's problem was that he set his sights too high, aiming for a *worldwide* wireless communication system and power distribution system.

He apparently did not take Marconi seriously, and so did not fiercely defend his work when stolen. Initially he rejected fame and wealth, and gave away his ideas via lectures, rather than employing secrecy and courtroom patent-battles. He also made the mistake of attempting to perfect his entire system before releasing it to the world, rather than releasing it immediately and then improving it over time. He made radio possible, but his own dreams failed. He invented modern radio, but made such serious mistakes in business that the recognition (to say nothing of the money!) was given to others.

The simplified history: Tesla, the expert in high frequency, high power systems, follows a vision of worldwide instantaneous communication and invents a radio TRANSMITTER whose output power far outstrips anything of the period, and which is based on several key Tesla techniques: rotary spark gap, lumped resonance (rather than antenna resonance,) capacitor energy storage, and a ground connection. Radio recievers already existed (the coherer, NOT invented by Marconi but by Branly.) Earlier radio systems had extremely limited range. Tesla's amazing transmitter put out 1000 to 10,000 times the power of existing transmitters, and made worldwide communication feasible. This was the status in 1893, with several patents granted to Tesla in 1898 and on. Besides the transmitter, Tesla's inventions also included the four tuned circuits of modern radio systems: a transmitter and receiver at both ends of a radio link, all four using tuning.

Next stage: Marconi takes the coherer and Tesla inventions, and commercializes them. But Tesla believes that his completed "world system" will be far superior than Marconi's demonstration, so he pursues power transmission rather than simple communications alone, and he says something to the effect "good luck to Marconi, he's using seventeen of my patents."

Tesla also remains aloof from the community of early radio developers while single-mindedly pursuing his own vision. Nearly twenty years later Tesla finally takes Marconi to court. He loses! Though Tesla's patents were prior to Marconi, Marconi had the press behind him, Tesla was an unknown, and the judge was not a technical expert. Tesla loses his R&D financing in later decades, while Marconi's company is wildly successful.

Tesla is not vindicated until 1943, when the US Supreme court reverses the old decision, strikes down the Marconi patents, and awards priority to Tesla #645,576.

See:

http://home.navisoft.com/horn/inventor.htm

Also: "Tesla, Man out of Time", Margaret Cheney, especially "The Great Radio Controvery." This book references as a thorough account an

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P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

January 19, 1999

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 Harrington Library.

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

Twenty three members logged in and three visitors signed the visitors sheet.

The meeting was called to order after which a program was presented by Martin Reynolds. The program was on transmitter hunting in China.

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

Bonnie Swartzendruber WB5KTC dues have once again come due.

New Business - none

Bill Fell KK5PB noted the repeater codes will be changing. For those that have paid repeater dues keep an eye on the newsletter for the change. He also noted the Communications Committee is again pursuing the voter system. Anyone willing to participate, please contact Bill Fell.

Old Business -

Bill Swan K5MWC announced the Plano City Council passed the revised Antenna Ordinance without change on Nov. 23 1998.

Announcements -

Don Hice WB5TVI announced the first meeting for the TVI Committee will be held on Monday, February 8th at his home. Everyone is invited to attend and participate.

Bill Swan K5MWC invited the everyone to attend the 6th Annual meeting of the Texas Severe Storm Association on April 17 Plano City Hall Complex. Starts at 9:00 AM and runs until 1:00 PM. He also noted a group will be gathering for Collin County training activities for ARES Feb. 20th, 1:00 PM at the Plano Recreation Center. (Same place as the Klub Christmas Party)

The meeting was adjourned at 2047 hours.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV
Secretary

Treasurer's report

Jan 27, 1999

Expenses 337.14
Income 360.00
Balance 2094.68

PARK repeater

Expenses -0-
Income 133.00
Balance 2313.49

Bonnie Swartzendruber WB5KTC
Treasuer

Check your Personal QRZ Data Base

Juno Subscribers that don't have internet access to QRZ. I just found out a couple of interesting things. First, if a person has Juno as an email server and no internet connection, they can get information on any ham by sending an email to:

lookup@qrz.com

Skip the subject line (leave it blank) In the text, type in: lookup (followed by the call sign of the ham, after skipping a space)

ARRL E-MAIL ADDRESSES AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS

ARRL members are able to announce their ARRL membership through their e-mail addresses!

Starting February 1, 1999, a new membership service was made available for those wishing to have an ARRL e-mail address, and you won't have to switch e-mail services to do it.

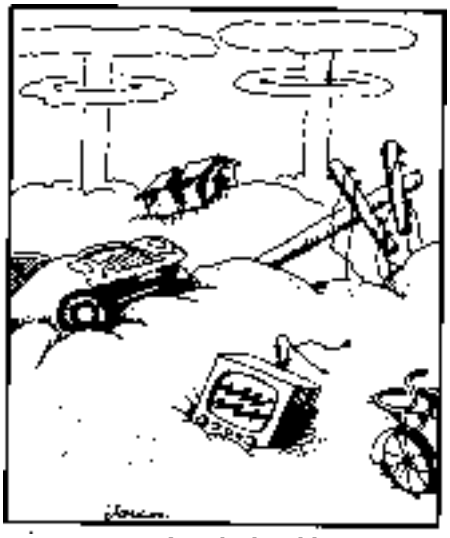
Not only that, but it is free-of-charge to League members!

The new, personalized League e-mail addresses consists of the member's call sign @arrl.net. Electronic mail sent to the address automatically is forwarded to any e-mail account you choose.

As long as you remain an ARRL member, you'll never have to notify people of an address change—even if you change Internet service providers.

Members are able to sign up quickly and easily through the ARRL Members Only Web Site. If you are not already registered for the Members Only Web Site, you can do so at http://www.arrl.org/members/

Pure Larsony



"Ummm... Fred, is the legal limit 2,000W or 2,000kW?"

COLOMBIAN QUAKE SPRINGS HAMS TO ACTION

Amateur Radio nets activated in short order on 20 and 40 meters following an earthquake January 25 in West Central Colombia. The quake, measuring 6 on the Richter scale, killed more than 1000 people, injured thousands of others, and caused major structural damage. The Salvation Army reports more than 150,000 people missing in Colombia's mountainous coffee-growing region.

The initial tremor and some aftershocks were felt in the capital city of Bogota. News media in Colombia were reporting "chaos" in the city of Armenia, where some residents stormed and looted stores and supermarkets when relief supplies failed to materialize. Martial law was declared there.

"In most cases, the problem is in the distribution," said Dallas Carter, W3PP, in Laurel, Delaware. Carter monitored some of the first reports of the quake via Amateur Radio on a 20-meter relief net run by HK3SA and HK3RQA and has been assisting as a US net control—sometimes for as long as 12 hours a day. Amateur activities were taking place on 14.347 MHz and locally on 7.085 and 7.090 MHz.

Ham radio was a major source of information out of the affected area in the hours immediately following the disaster. "They are requesting blood, water, medical assistance, rescue equipment," Carter said this week. He said HK3SA was flown into the city of Armenia and has set up an HF operation to maintain contact via 40 and 20 meters to directly handle international health-and-welfare requests as well as keep in touch with the capital. He said 2-meter repeaters were being used for local emergency coordination.

The Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) has established contact with hams in Colombia and a net on 14.265 MHz and was helping with inquiries about victims. At this point, most of the health-and-welfare traffic was coming into the US from the stricken regions, while not much was going into the area. The Salvation Army's Michael Koenemund, KB1CKF, reported that the Salvation Army had dispatched a 10-member assessment and first response team from Bogota to the affected cities of Pereira and Ibaque. "The team will render primary services, including food, water and shelter," he said.

The International Red Cross in Colombia has dispatched a team of 80, plus relief equipment and supplies "There's an extreme shortage of doctors," Carter said. "They're still digging people out."

The ARRL has offered its assistance to the Liga Colombiana de Radioaficionados (LCRA), the League's IARU sister society in Colombia.

Media in Bogota have set up Web sites with information from the affected areas including lists of individual names and status. See http://www.rcntv.com.co or http://www.eureka.com.co/terremoto/ (Spanish) or http://www.eureka.com.co/terremoto/indexEn.html (English).

LEAGUE SEEKS ULS CHANGES

The ARRL has asked the FCC to make some minor alterations to its impending Universal Licensing System rules. The ULS, being phased in by the FCC throughout 1999, will consolidate application forms and procedures for several FCC services. Among other things, it will replace the venerable FCC Form 610 series with a new Form 605 and will provide for electronic filing, modification, and renewal for amateurs.

The ULS Report and Order was issued last October by the FCC, which also took the occasion to amend the rules to make it easier for foreign hams to operate temporarily in the US.

In a petition for partial reconsideration, the League said it wants the FCC to continue to issue paper license documents; to come up with a way for applicants not having a Taxpayer Identification Number—typically a Social Security Number—to meet ULS requirements to provide one; and to include on Form 605 a section for Volunteer Examiners to certify that an applicant has met the requirements for a new or upgraded ham ticket. In addition, the League plans to ask the FCC to restore wording in Section 97.15(e) that references the limited federal preemption, PRB-1. The section was inadvertently deleted during the Commission's redrafting of the rules to accommodate the ULS changes.

The ARRL already has exressed concerns over FCC suggestions that the agency might do away with paper license documents altogether and rely instead on the "license grant"—the virtual document that resides within the FCC's computerized amateur database. In its latest filing, January 12, the League said that in some states that regulate possession of scanning receivers but exempt amateurs, inability to produce a license document could result in "arrest and criminal prosecution as well as seizure of equipment by local law enforcement." The League said hams operating overseas also often must produce a paper document. The ARRL noted that the CEPT agreement requires US hams traveling in CEPT countries to possess a US government-issued license document and that ITU regulations "appear to require" a government-issued license document.

The League also called on the FCC to devise a means for those not holding a TIN—such as foreigners who hold US ham tickets—to comply with the ULS rules which

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require an applicant to provide one. "One possibility for these persons would be for the Commission to issue them some substitute TIN or some other type of registration number," the League proposed.

Finally, the ARRL pointed out to the FCC that neither the main Form 605 nor the Amateur Radio Schedule D contains a section for VE certifications and called on the Commission to modify the form to

PSK31 GETS RAVES

Getting tired of the "same ol' same ol'" on HF? From the father of AMTOR, Peter Martinez, G3PLX, comes PSK31, a "live QSO" keyboard-to-keyboard mode that occupies a sliver of bandwidth and offers terrific performance even under weak-signal conditions.

PSK31 isn't new; it's been around for a few years, but no one really took much notice until Martinez developed free software that works with a PC sound card. Suddenly, PSK31 has become the latest HF fad. Unlike 'TOR modes, PSK31 does not use a synchronized linking—or handshaking—protocol to exchange error-checked data packets. Operationally, it's much like traditional 45-baud RTTY. PSK31 has shown itself to be a real trouper in weak-signal situations. Some hams experimenting with PSK31 claim that it outperforms all other amateur modes for weak-signal work—including CW. Indeed, PSK31 signals are easy to overlook on the bands. Most PSK31 activity is concentrated on 14.070.15 and at 3.580.15 MHz. You'll also find it on 40 meters at 7.035.15 MHz. On 15 meters, look for activity around 21.070 MHz.

To run PSK31, you need a PC that runs Windows that's equipped with a sound card. PSK31 software is available via the Web). Your HF SSB transceiver should be very stable and tune in 1-Hz increments. The connections between the radio and the sound card are very straightforward.

Several versions of PSK31 software are available as zipped files. The latest PSK31 software includes a couple of tuning aids that make finding and tuning signals much simpler. The "official" PSK31 Web site is http://aintel.bi.ehu.es/psk31.html, operated by Eduardo Jacob, EA2BAJ. The site also contains lots of information and links to other PSK31 and DSP-related sites, plus .wav files of PSK31 signals, so you'll know what to listen for.

W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, has experimented with the new operating mode, PSK31, at the Maxim Memorial Station. While it took a bit of effort to get the equipment to function properly, he says initial results were quite good. Plans are in the works to add this mode to the complement of modes available for W1AW visiting operators.

Some have questioned whether the FCC permits hams to use PSK31. The answer is a definite "yes," although some confusion is understandable given the wording of Section 97.309(a) of the rules. Responding to an ARRL inquiry, the FCC amended the section in 1995 (Order DA 95-2106) "to clarify that amateur stations may use any digital code that has its technical characteristics publicly documented." PSK31 is publicly documented and widely available, but the ARRL in late January took the additional step of specifically documenting the technical characeristics of both PACTOR II and PSK31 in a letter to the FCC.

DUES ARE DUE!

End of the Line for Morse Code "SOS" Signals as of 1 February 1999

An Overview of the Global Maritime Distress & Safety System

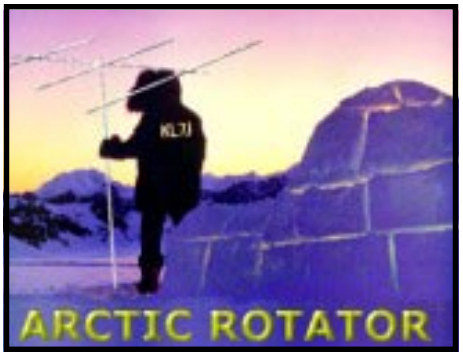
Since the invention of radio at the end of the 19th Century, ships at sea have relied on Morse code, invented by Samuel Morse and first used in 1844, for distress and safety telecommunications. The need for ship and coast radio stations to have and use radiotelegraph equipment, and to listen to a common radio frequency for Morse encoded distress calls, was recognized after the sinking of the liner Titanic in the North Atlantic in 1912. The U.S. Congress enacted legislation soon after, requiring U.S. ships to use Morse code radiotelegraph equipment for distress calls. The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), now a United Nations agency, followed suit for ships of all nations. Morse encoded distress calling has saved thousands of lives since its inception almost a century ago, but its use requires skilled radio operators spending many hours listening to the radio distress frequency. Its range on the medium frequency (MF) distress band (500 kHz) is limited, and the amount of traffic Morse signals can carry is also limited.

Over fifteen years ago the International Maritime Organization (IMO), a United Nations agency specializing in safety of shipping and preventing ships from polluting the seas, began looking at ways of improving maritime distress and safety communications. In 1979, a group of experts drafted the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, which called for development of a global search and rescue plan. This group also passed a resolution calling for development

by IMO of a Global Maritime Distress and Safety System (GMDSS) to provide the communication support needed to implement the search and rescue plan. This new system, which the world's maritime nations, including the United States, are implementing, is based upon a combination of satellite and terrestrial radio services, and has changed international distress communications from being primarily ship-to-ship based to ship-to-shore (Rescue Coordination Center) based. It spelled the end of Morse code communications for all but a few users, such as Amateur Radio. The GMDSS provides for automatic distress alerting and locating in cases where a radio operator doesn't have time to send an SOS or MAYDAY call, and, for the first time, requires ships to receive broadcasts of maritime safety information which could prevent a distress from happening in the first place. In 1988, IMO amended the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention, requiring ships subject to it fit GMDSS equipment. Such ships were required to carry NAVTEX and satellite EPIRBs by 1 August 1993, and had to fit all other GMDSS equipment by 1 February 1999. US ships were allowed to fit GMDSS in lieu of Morse telegraphy equipment by the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

The GMDSS consists of several systems, some of which are new, but many of which have been in operation for many years. The system will be able to reliably perform the following functions: alerting (including position determination of the unit in distress), search and rescue coordination, locating (homing), maritime safety information broadcasts, general communications, and bridge-to-bridge communications. Specific radio carriage requirements depend upon the ship's area of operation, rather than its tonnage. The system also provides redundant means of distress alerting, and emergency sources of power.

The GMDSS consists of many separate systems which are being implemented in a coordinated and agreed-upon manner.



How cold is it? (revised 7/98)

An annotated thermometer (amended for amateur radio, KL7J).

50 - Miami rotators need heat applied

40 - Californians guywires shiver uncontrollably. Wisconsinites go on field day

35 - Italian coax breaks

32 - Clean Water freezes

30 - You can see your breath freezing to the tower. You plan your DX vacation to Australia. Wisconsinites put on field day jackets

25 - Californians turn on car heater instead of radio. Wisconsinites think of antenna projects. Cat tries sleeping on your radio

20 - You can hear the antenna rotator groan. Miami residents plan DX vacation further South. Canadians enjoy outdoor operating field day

15 - You plan a DX vacation in Mexico sometime this winter. Cat insists sleeping on your radio

10 - California coax breaks. Minnesota hams finish up antenna work. Alaskans still building antennas before winter.

5 - You turn on your amp to heat the shack. You look up to see why the antenna seems slow rotating. Ice detunes your yagi

0 - Mobile radio LCD will not work. Alaskans put on flannel shirts. Coax freezes to the side of the house.

-15 - Alaskans build a field day igloo. North Dakota hams turn heat on in shack. Miami hams cease to exist

-20 - Cat moves to sleeping on the amp. Reading the technical manual becomes informative. Wisconsinites note mild antenna icing.

-25 - Too cold to operate without feet on keyed amp. You need more than a new country to get DX'ers excited. You burn the old radio ads for heat.

-30 - You scrape ice off the inside of the shack windows. You think of metal fatigue as the tower groans. You learn something new reading the small print in the manuals.

-40 - Californian hams disappear. Wisconsinites note antenna rotators freezing. Canadians decide to stop antenna work.

-50 - Congressional hot air about band reallocation freezes. Alaskans note the shack window has ice on the inside. Minnesota hams stay inside to read radio Magazines.

-80 - Alaskan rotators freeze (-82 F recorded in Alaska!) Alaskan coax breaks if moved. You ask your travel agent for a DX vacation in Burmuda.

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article "Priority of Invention of Radio - Tesla vs. Marconi", from The Antique Wireless Association No. 4, March 1980. (I haven't tracked this down.)

Why is Tesla ignored? There's the old saw that "history is written by the winners". This remains true even if the winners used dishonest means.

But there are better explanations. Tesla lectured about his discoveries, and in a very short time his ideas were incorporated into the technical culture of the period. When this happens, people of the time tend to deny that a single inventor originated the ideas, and tend to believe that the ideas simply arose spontaneously, or by unnoticed team effort. The history of the Wright Brothers followed a similar path; the Wrights published articles about their boxkite-winged glider, and within a few years everyone was copying it and assuming that this was the natural way to proceed. Only in hindsight does the overwhelming influence of the Wrights' boxkite-glider become obvious. And so with radio, inventors copied Tesla without realizing it, assuming that his methods were simply the obvious way it should be done. High-power transmitter systems, high frequency resonance and grounding, the keys to successful radio, were thought to be "in the air," and only through the hindsight of today can we see that Tesla, and not Marconi, was the one who put them there.

My own experience as a textbook consultant points to another reason why Tesla is ignored: reference books support each other. Reference books in many ways strive for consistency rather than for truth. To an extent they are "inbred", and to an extent their information is not absolute truth, but rather is a consensus perception of the truth. However, most people would vigorously deny this embarrassing view, and would prefer to believe that reference books contain only truth. Most books say the same thing, so they must be correct, no? No, not if the goal of consensus is placed higher than the goal of accuracy. If this were true, then the books would be expected to all agree, whether their concensus facts were right or not.

For this reason it is nearly impossible to change the contents of text and reference books, even if the material in them is clearly erroneous. If all the books say the same thing, it must be true, no? After all, that many books couldn't be wrong! Yet if they are, then acknowledging this fact would rub our noses in the fragility of the foundations of our whole system of knowledge. And so our maintaining of a unified front of illusory truthfulness becomes more important to us than the correcting of mistakes. If we must maintain respect for reference books at any cost, then if they make major flubs, we automatically indulge in unsupported disbelief, blindness, and denial.

If a major mistake regarding Tesla's priority to inventing Radi is made in 1915, and is not officially righted until 1943, then reference books and textbooks had thirty years to mistakenly elevate Marconi as the inventor of radio. How many decades do you think it would take before the thirty years of Marconi-worship finally wears off, before the textbook concensus shifts and begins to recognize Tesla? Well, fifty years have passed, and clamor to recognize Tesla is finally starting to be heard. However, the major players currently dismiss it as coming from fringe groups and "Tesla worshippers." I suspect that it will take far longer than fifty years before all the textbooks finally reverse themselves. It can only happen slowly, so no one is threatened or embarrassed. Politics and face-saving is far more important than historical accuracy! The real story must invade the books slowly, so no one is directly forced to confront the staggering extent of this historical error.

Easily Heard Signals

de W8EHS
w8ehs@tedatum.com

No, The antenna is not up. I did take it out of the garage and inspect it all to make sure it survived all the mileage it has accumulated in the last two years. All the parts are there except for one ss hose clamp. So I guess I don't have any excuse!

Did write (e-mail) some of my old ham buddies in 8-land and promised to get things working here. I started to do some PACTOR investigation on the WWW a few days ago. I used to do a lot of RTTY and other digital modes years back. The teletypes, paper tapes and current loops are long gone from the shack. No more “green keys.”

The video of the ham in Kuwait operating digital during the war sparked my thinking about HF digital modes again. It is the mode he used that probably saved his life! That is really SOTA (State Of The Art) these days. Read the article about S.O.S. Being dead on page 4 of this issue. The road signs are now billboards. Also read the article about PSK31 on page 4. I haven't checked this out yet, but it seems (if you already own an computer) like an easy (cheap) new digital mode to “play” with.

If a few hams in PARK want to try PSK31, drop me an e-mail and I will publish your intent in the Parking Ticket. A local net is surely a boost to getting something like this started.

Reminder! - Club dues are due again. My how time flies! I am not sure when the Klub will set the deadline but you will soon stop getting the Parking Ticket and other Klub benefits if you don't get up to date on dues. The repeater access code will also change so don't miss out.

Without an Activities Director there is no “spark” for things the Klub should do... as a club. Field Day will sneak up on us again before we know it. Will we “field” a station this year? What does the

membership expect from its membership? Remember, none of us (officers) are paid to provide entertainment. That is not what your dues do for you. It requires the free participation of members interested in doing or gaining something from the added power of being a group. Hmm... did I explain that properly? So why did you join? If I can get any of you to send me an e-mail on the subject, "Why I joined the P.A.R.K.", I would like to publish it here in the Parking Ticket. I am sure there are many good reasons! You can remain anonymous if you wish.

Now for me. Why do I sit here and pound out this newsletter every month? To be honest, I sometimes have to really ask myself this question. To be even more honest, I could be doing something much more personal (like getting up my antenna) than spending the two to three days a month it takes to produce this thing.

I think it is important for every organization to have good communication. The newsletter is the most traditional way of doing that. Without your newsletter, would you really feel connected to the Klub? Receiving it every month indicates you are a "member" who is on the roster. Do you also care what it says inside? I hope so.

I take an amount of pride in producing a good looking document for you. I have the investment in proper equipment to help me do that job. I hope I have enough talent for an interesting layout. I could get a whole lot fancier, if I spent less time finding articles and more time on layout and details. I have done many other newsletters and publications in the past so the investment in hardware was not done for the PARK. The PARK gets to take advantage of the good tools. Oh yeah, I see... the advantage of varied membership talents and experience. One reason for forming a club.

The PARK is no different from any other organization as far as getting help on the material for the newsletter. I did a weekly Rotary Club bulletin for may years and several other club newsletters. The story is the same. (Just ask any bulletin editor, past or present.) We as editors are always begging the membership for new material. We know it is there; are always extremely grateful when it arrives; and are always looking for more. (A personal note to Lee WD4SIH... I received your article last meeting. Sometimes the process gets a bit constipated. Sorry. -ed.)

OK, so it is a power thing — you know... of the printed word. Where else can I get a 150 to 200 (or more) people to pay attention to what I have to say? Please enjoy or spit at me. Sometimes I try to do both. <grin> 73

Better late than never department

Thoughts On A Christmas Past

Lee Martindale, WD4SIH

It was the weekend before Thanksgiving some twenty years ago and, on the Kentucky repeater I called "home" at the time, the topic of discussion was whether there would be a "North Pole Net" that year. For several years, ham operators had convened every weekend between Thanksgiving and Christmas so that kids in area hospitals could "talk to Santa" via 2-meters. Bill, the ham who started the tradition, had passed away a few months before, and Bill had always been "Santa".

The general consensus was, of course, "We can't disappoint the kids," but none of the old-timers could bring themselves to try to fill Bill's "boots". They'd just turned their attentions to convincing me to run the net as "Mrs. Santa" when a call, even newer and shinier than my own, joined the roundtable. Was there anything he could do to help?

That voice! Deep, rich and positively dripping merriment. As he talked, I saw rosy fat cheeks, a curly white beard, red velvet and white fur on the other side of the mike. And I'm sure I wasn't the only one on frequency who broke into a grin.

His name, so help me, was Kris.

We explained the situation, and he said he was more than willing to be our "Santa". Before we took him up on it, however, he thought we probably ought to meet him. So several of us convened at his door, eager to meet the man who went with that voice.

As is so often the case in our hobby, the man who opened the door and greeted us warmly looked nothing like the image his voice conjured up. He was angular and lanky and - oh, yes - in a wheelchair, thanks to a land mind in Vietnam that had deprived him of his legs . The wheelchair was the reason he'd wanted us to meet him before accepting him as a volunteer. It put some people off, he told us.

My personal belief if that it's also one reason why there was a little extra magic in Santa's conversations with the kids that year, and why hope and encouragement, even beyond that of the season, poured across the frequency from Kris' home to each hospital bed. Santa knew better than any of the rest of us just how hard those kids were fighting. He had been there, he'd done that, and he'd won.

A good bit has changed for me since that long ago North Pole Net. I moved to Texas the following year and, a few years ago, became the better part of a paraplegic myself. I've had numerous opportunities to learn first-hand what Kris meant when he said that wheelchairs "tend to put some people off". Happily, I also recall a certain deep, merry voice making the holidays just a bit brighter for hospitalized kids and signing off with "This is Santa, Net Control for the North Pole Net, wishing all stations on frequency Happy Holidays and Free Wheeling!"

As holiday wishes go, I can't think of any better.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Office	Name	Home	Work
President	Martin Reynolds, N6LIF	972-727-6746	
Vice President			
Secretary	Jack Ward, KC5KOV	972-527-8344	972-497-6098
Treasurer	Bonnie Swartzendruber, WB5KTC	972-423-6768	
Activities Director			
Communications	Bill Fell, KK5PB	972-424-0496	972-705-3611
Editor	Daniel Kautz, W8EHS	972-712-7741	972-323-4814
Public Relations			
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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

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	Bruce Dingman, N5BYL	972-442-4542	972-995-5774
	Tom Gentry, K5VOU	972-442-3502	972-423-3421
	Patsy Jones, WA5MYD	972-423-0202	
	Jim Popelarski, W5WN	972-618-5096	972-308-1419
	Bill Swan, K5MWC	972-596-9307	972-705-3441
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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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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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