

Plano Amateur Radio Klub



PARKING TICKET

"Our 26th YEAR!"

January, 1999

Collin County Community College ARS K5CCC



The Collin County Community College Amateur Radio Station is located on the Preston Ridge Campus in Frisco, Texas. Information about club membership and activities can be obtained by calling the Engineering Technology Division office at 972-377-1715

Easily Heard Signals

de W8EHS
w8ehs@tedatum.com

This is the start of another exciting New Year. I have been trying to decide my resolutions for 1999. A list of all the things I should do for the new year. My constant problem is how to regulate the time I spend in all my hobbies. The fact is I just have too many of them.

Ham radio has always been one of my primary interests. I was first licensed in 1969 but "played" with radios and electronics long before that. It was a CPO (Chief Petty Officer) in my Navy Reserve unit who finally gave me the Novice test and started me off officially as a ham operator. John Petrek, W8BNO is my "Elmer". I have recently tried to get in contact with John and let him know I still play with radios. Unfortunately the letter was returned with "forwarding expired" written on the front. I'll have to look a little harder.

This really is the time of year to remember all the things we should have done and all the things we need to do. I guess it is that seemingly long "dead" spell after the Christmas and New Years holidays that encourages us to have something new to do. Taking care of old promises and old friends comes under that need. Perhaps we should remember our "Elmer" at this time of the year.

Antennas and Radios

The weather has froze up my outdoor enthusiasm. I would be digging a hole to put in a pole for my vertical antenna installation if it wasn't so cold. There is a nifty fold over gadget being offered by Alpha Delta Communications, Inc. A couple of hinged aluminum pieces tied together with a gas filled dampener. I think for \$230 to \$250 I could be influenced to build one from scratch. Maybe leave out the dampener and make it real cheap. The idea is good. Having the ability to easily fold over a vertical an-

tenna. Check it out on page 3 of the January 99 QST.

I sure have been wanting to dust the cobwebs off the Omni VI Plus. It has been in storage since the move from 8 land over a year ago. I took it out of the box on New Years, but the antenna, as mentioned, will have to wait a bit. Actually the antenna is already mostly assembled. I took apart the R7 at the middle joint and removed the mini radials at the base when I packaged it for the move. About 15 minutes and it could be whole again. Hmmm. I even have a brand new spool of Belden 9913 setting in the garage. *What am I waiting for?*

Well, I can come up with excuses, but they don't help me get back on the air. There is still some work to be done at the operators position. Wiring, etc. I will take care of that soon. The room was cluttered with all the books collected through the years until I put in the new bookcase. I had stacked them in piles during the move-in. Most of the magazines have been thrown out or given away before the move. It is amazing how rapidly they seem to collect. Or is it just that time passes faster the older you get?

I haven't checked, but perhaps the libraries we use for our meetings would be grateful for some of the radio publications we no longer want to hold on to. When you purchase a new ARRL Handbook for example, passing the old one down to the library sounds like a good deal. If anyone has done this let me know and I will mention your good deed here in the Parking Ticket.

The Cover

I stumbled upon the K5CCC station on the cover of this issue while fueling my truck. I looked over at the rear of the Preston Ridge campus of the CCCC and saw the unmistakable silhouette of a ham beam and tower against the skyline. Of course I had to go investigate and snap a picture. Many of you may already know of this college station. A few members thought I

was referring to this station when I mused about starting the old Frisco Amateur Radio Transmitting Society a few columns back. Nope, never saw this one before.

I am trying to get more information on this club, so stay tuned for a wider band opening.

Computing

Crashing more now and enjoying it less? Your computer, not your car! I have been reading where Linux is rapidly growing in popularity for business applications. Still not your user friendly Plug 'N Play but many people are seeking alternatives to Gates' offerings. When properly configured, Linux is a very stable OS (operating system.) I don't recommend it to just anyone yet, but you will be reading more about Linux. It is already on the cover of many non-computer magazines at the news stand.

SK

Pure Larsony



"Yeah, I got into this hobby so I could meet some YL's!"

ARRL DROPS SPRING VHF/UHF SPRINTS

The VHF/UHF Spring Sprints—traditionally held during April and May—have been dropped from the ARRL contest schedule. ARRL Contest Branch Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, cites a lack of participation for the change.

“Participation in the VHF/UHF Spring Sprints has never reached the level of a healthy national event,” he said. “In 1998 only 200 individuals submitted logs spread across the seven frequency bands covered by the Sprints.”

Henderson said budgetary constraints were another factor. “With the soaring costs and limited space available in QST and NCJ, the 1998 Sprint results were moved and made available to all on ARRLWeb,” Henderson said. “We hate to drop the contest and would be willing to work with another group who would like to pick up sponsorship and running the sprints.” But he said the League could not justify a decision to continue to devote staff time to a small event when it already sponsors several other more significant VHF/UHF events.

Many VHF/UHF events remain on the ARRL Contest schedule. These include the January VHF Sweepstakes, the June VHF QSO party, the August UHF Contest, and the September VHF QSO Party, plus two 10 GHz And Up weekends in August and September and the popular EME contest weekends each fall. Also, Field Day offers opportunities for VHF/UHF participation, Henderson pointed out.

For more information contact, Dan Henderson, N1ND, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111; tel 860-594-0232; e-mail n1nd@arrl.org.

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 1 ARLB001
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 6, 1999
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB001

ARRLB001

Field Services, Educational Activities join forces

The sound of moving furniture, books, and equipment punctuated the holiday season at League headquarters as two ARRL departments prepared to merge into one entity. Effective January 4, the Field Services and Educational Activities departments consolidated to become the Field and Educational Services Department.

ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, explained that the new department brings together staff members with similar missions and functions—primarily supporting ARRL volunteers who, in turn, support ARRL objectives and promote ham radio on a local and regional level. Working within a single department, Sumner said, HQ staffers could more easily share expertise, ideas, and resources.

The move also was designed to reduce expenses in the face of a decline in both ARRL membership and overall Amateur Radio licensing and activity over the past year or so.

“The primary reason is efficiency,” Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE, explained in a letter to ARRL section managers. Palm will continue as the main contact person for section managers. He will focus on representing the League to the outside agencies it serves and on promoting and supporting the field organization.

Former Educational Activities Department Manager Rosalie White, WA1STO, has assumed the title of Educational Services Manager. She will oversee day-to-day operation of the combined department and will continue as the primary staff contact for Amateur Radio in space issues. “We expect the greater efficiency of the combined departments to benefit our members by putting related resources in the same place,” White said of the move.

To accommodate the change, employees from the former Educational Activities Department moved into quarters adjacent to the former Field Services Department, trading places with the ARRL Book Team headed by Joel Kleinman, N1BKE. Now that the two departments are in the same location, staff members have begun to settle in and work as a team. Telephone and e-mail addresses for individual staff members remain the same.

New video includes 1935 ARRL HQ tour:

Nostalgia buffs will certainly enjoy watching a 1935 tour of ARRL Headquarters—narrated by retired ARRL staffer George Hart, W1NJM, and included in the latest League video, Volume 9: Amateur Radio History. Also included are segments produced by the Antique Wireless Association about the early days of

Amateur Radio. Relive the 1921 transatlantic tests and see 1BCG—one of the earliest Amateur Radio stations. Maj Edwin Howard Armstrong, inventor and Amateur Radio pioneer, is depicted in slides with a commentary. All videos are \$12. To order, contact Margie Bourgoin, KB1DCO, 860-594-0267, e-mail mbourgoin@arrl.org, or write her at ARRL EAD, 225 Main St, Newington CT 06111.

PARKING TICKET

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 2 ARLB002
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 6, 1999
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB002

ARLB002

K9JF appointed Northwestern Division Vice Director

James E. Fenstermaker, K9JF, of Vancouver, Washington, is the new Northwestern Division Vice Director. ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, announced the appointment January 6, following the recommendation of Northwestern Division Director Greg Milnes, W7AGQ, and certification of eligibility by the Election Committee.

Fenstermaker, 53, fills the position left vacant when Milnes, the former vice director, succeeded Mary Lou Brown, NM7N, as director.

Brown died suddenly December 3. Fenstermaker's term expires January 1, 2001.

A ham since 1959, Fenstermaker was first licensed as KN9TZH. A DX enthusiast, he's also operated as DL5JF, OJ0SUF, and VP2V/K9JF. He's on the DXCC Honor Roll with 354 countries, 5BWAZ, 5BDXCC, and 160 Meter DXCC, as well as numerous contest honors. He's past president of the Clark County Amateur Radio Club and the Willamette Valley DX Club.

On the professional side, Fenstermaker is director of business services for the Parkrose School District in Portland, Oregon. He's a graduate of Anderson University and Indiana University and holds an accounting certificate from Portland State University.

Fenstermaker hopes to attend his first ARRL Board meeting in Houston, Texas, January 15-16. Members may contact him via e-mail at jfenster@pacifier.com.

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 14, 1999
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB003

ARLB003

FCC warns alleged major amateur offenders

The FCC has issued strong warnings to two amateurs in Indiana and a third in New York who are on the Commission's top ten list of alleged major amateur offenders. The FCC's amateur enforcement point man, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, says the warning letters sent earlier this month are the last step before the FCC initiates formal enforcement proceedings. One case primarily involved malicious interference on VHF repeaters, while the other two involved interference to an HF net.

"We have been cutting bait a while, now it's time for us to fish," said

Hollingsworth, the legal advisor for enforcement within the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau.

The FCC did not make the names or call signs public, but Hollingsworth said all those who received the letters were put on the FCC's Alert List with FCC field offices. "The Alert List is the FCC equivalent of an all-points bulletin," Hollingsworth explained.

He said Field Office monitors would be making a special effort to listen for further violations by stations on the Alert List.

Since taking over Amateur Radio enforcement within the CIB last fall, Hollingsworth says he's sent out dozens of warning letters of a much milder nature. "Now, we're distilling that activity to the worst offenders," he said, adding that similar actions were imminent in other major cases.

The letters sent out January 7 and 8 spell out the agency's expectations in no uncertain terms. In the case of the alleged HF offenders, Hollingsworth's letters state that the Commission "has additional evidence that you have been deliberately and maliciously interfering with the operations of other licensed amateurs," primarily a 75-meter net. Both hams—whose cases are related—already had received official Notices of Violation last fall for similar conduct, and the FCC had imposed restricted operating hours on one of them. But the FCC says that the troublesome behavior has continued.

Hollingsworth said the alleged illegal activities not only put the hams' licenses in jeopardy but open them up to possible fines and even put transmitting equipment at risk of seizure. He said he also has cautioned the controllers of the net involved to not engage hecklers or those attempting to harass or interfere, nor to call up the net on a busy frequency. "One thing these nets have to understand is that the nets don't own the frequency," he said.

The case of the alleged VHF

offender had a similar pattern. The amateur license of the ham in question already had been suspended at one point, but violations are said to have continued, even during the suspension period.

Beyond amateur violations, Hollingsworth said that the FCC's evidence indicated the amateur had threatened FCC employees and others. He told the ARRL that additional warning letters went out to eight other individuals whom he described as "cohorts" to the alleged prime VHF offender.

Hollingsworth requested that all of the amateurs involved contact him immediately to discuss the allegations.



South Africa's First Satellite to Launch January 14 from US

(January 8, 1998) -- South Africa will launch its first satellite SUNDASAT, January 14 from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California.

The satellite will carry an Amateur Radio package, a high-resolution imager, precision attitude control, and school experiments as well as other payloads, including NASA experiments. SUNDASAT was built by students at the University of Stellenbosch, and its name is an acronym for Stellenbosch UNiversity SATellite.

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 4 ARLB004
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 14, 1999
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB004

ARLB004

FCC official meets hams on their own turf

The FCC's Amateur Radio enforcer, Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, turned up in an unexpected place January 13—75 meters. In what could be an unprecedented move, Hollingsworth, legal advisor for amateur enforcement within the FCC's Compliance and Information Bureau, showed up at around 3894 kHz to discuss enforcement and encourage compliance.

"A couple of them were pretty shocked," he said. "This has never been tried before," Hollingsworth said the next morning. He said he broke in on an argument that was growing increasingly nasty in an effort to settle things down, then stayed to discuss enforcement with the hams on frequency.

Hollingsworth says he thinks one key to compliance is just getting people to listen to what he has to say. "Most people, if you can just get to them on a one-to-one basis, they'll listen," he said, reflecting his overall enforcement approach to attempt to reason violators into voluntary compliance rather than writing them up. During his time on the air, Hollingsworth confronted one individual he'd already been in touch with about alleged on-air misbehavior.

Among other things, he told those on hand that noncompliance and inappropriate on-air behavior could even threaten the hobby's HF allocations. Hollingsworth advised hams to be more tolerant and patient and to avoid confrontation or retaliation.

"We all have to realize we're on a mission here: to save Amateur Radio," he said the day after his 75-meter appearance. "There are going to be licenses lost and fines owed." The jammers already are well on their way to "hanging themselves" right now, he said.

Even as he preached better behavior, Hollingsworth says he understood from the others on frequency that someone was attempting to jam his signal. "I hope the monitoring folks were on the frequency too," he said.

Hollingsworth advised the hams on 75 to contact him with enforcement problems, and he gave out his e-mail address and telephone number, rholling@fcc.gov, 717-338-2502.

"I don't know what effect it will have," he said of his on-air foray. Hollingsworth says he'll "do what it takes" to improve amateur compliance, and that could include future on-air visits with amateurs.

"I've gotten a lot of feedback this morning by phone and e-mail asking me to do it more often," he said. "We'll be listening more and asking to be allowed in QSOs more."

Hollingsworth, who's based in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, took over the FCC's most recent Amateur Radio enforcement initiative last September.

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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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