Plano Amateur Radio Klub

PARKING TICKET

"Our 26th YEAR!" October, 1998

November Program

"Vintage Amateur Radio Today".

Brian Harris, WA5UEK, will discuss the rising interest in vintage amateur radio and present slides of his 200+ piece collection of tube type equipment from the early 30's through the early 60's. While much of his 'working museum' consists of popular units from famous names like Johnson, National, Collins, Hammarlund and Hallicrafters, he also has many limited production items from more obscure manufacturers. Following the slide presentation he will demonstrate amplitude modulation using vintage equipment.

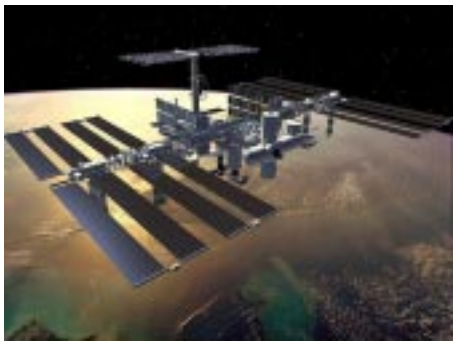
About the presenter:

First licensed as WN5UEK (Novice) license in 1968, Brian earned his Advanced class in less than a year. Now, as an Amateur Extra, he spends most of his air time working 40 meter CW or 75 meter AM. After earning a B.S.E.E. from the University of Oklahoma in 1975, he worked for E-Systems and Texas Instruments as a design engineer. For the last seventeen years he has been employed by Philips Semiconductors (formerly Signetics) as a Field Application Engineer.

Two hydrogen atoms were walking down the street. One said to the other, "I lost an electron." The other asked, "Are you sure?" The first answered, "I'm positive"...

DELAYED SPACE STATION SCHEDULE POSTPONES ARISS

Delays in the start of construction for the International Space Station will postpone the permanent presence of ham radio in space. After meeting with a NASA delegation late last week, the Russian Space Agency rescheduled the launch of the first crew to early next year. Originally set for launch next summer, the first crew now will go into space in January 2000. "So, you won't have an Amateur Radio signal coming out of the ISS until then," said NASA's SAREX Principal Investigator Matt Bordelon, KC5BTL.



An artist's conception of the completed International Space Station. The vehicle is approximately as long as three football fields. [NASA photo]

The first crew will consist of US astronaut William M. Shepherd, as the expedition commander. Shepherd is studying for his ham ticket. Accompanying him will be Russian cosmonauts Yuri Gidzenko and Sergei Krikalev, U5MIR. All three have previous space flight experience. The crew has been training for their launch on a *Soyuz* vehicle and a planned five-month mission on the ISS.

The change in launch date was blamed on budget-based delays in Russia's completion of the Functional Cargo Block or service module for the ISS. Launch of the service module now is set for next July. The service module is the section of the ISS in which astronauts and cosmonauts will live during construction and will be ham radio's first permanent beach head in space. Russia's financial woes have put its space program well behind the curve in recent months.

At the same meetings between US and Russian space officials last week, Russia agreed to sell its research time aboard the first phase of the ISS and unspecified hardware to the US for $60 million.

The latest delay means that permanent Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) equipment will not be on the air until after the Russian service module is in space and occupied. However, Amateur Radio has been manifested aboard the ISS as "necessary crew equipment."

Once aboard the ISS, ham radio, through the SAREX program, will serve as an educational tool through worldwide school contacts and as an outreach to the general public.

Think About This

Two proposals are now under consideration for re-structuring the Amateur Radio Service in the U.S. It is critical to consider how Amateur Radio fits into a world that is now awash in communications technology - and design an Amateur Radio Service for the 21st century, not the mid-20th century. An understanding of the state-of-the-art is essential to setting priorities and goals for the 21st century.

P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

September 15, 1998
1930 Hours

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 regular meeting location, Harrington Library.

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

Twenty eight members logged in and seven visitors signed the visitors sheet.

The Secretary noted the Minutes in the September Newsletter as printed. It was noted the Aug. Minutes were incomplete. The minutes were amended with the following additions:

Martin Reynold N6LIF brought into question the standing of the PARK Constitution. After a brief discussion of the members present, it was noted the PARK Constitution was still valid and effective. A copy will be provided to Martin and other Klub Members that were in need of a copy. No further action was taken.

The Secretary noted the Klub Affiliation with the ARRL is still in good standing. The secretary notified the Klub updates will be made to the ARRL web Page (http://www.arrl.org/field/club/clubsearch.phtml) noting current officers and contacts for the Klub. No further action was taken.

A motion was made to accept the Minutes as published and corrected, it was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Secretary informed the Klub that it is in good standing with the ARRL. It was further noted that Klub interests may not be represented properly with the ARRL. (http://www.arrl.org/field/club/clubsearch.phtml) There are 2 categories: Club Specialties and Services Sponsored by the Club. Under Club Specialties there are the following categories; General Interest, Digital Modes, School or Youth Group, Contest, DX, VHF/UHF, Repeaters, Public Service/Emergency. * *Note - General Interest and Repeaters are selected.*

Under Services Sponsored by the Club there are the following categories; Club Newsletter, TVI/RFI Committee, Entry Level Classes, Higher Level Classes, License Test Sessions, On-the-Air Bulletins, Hamfest, Repeater, Packet Radio BBS. * *Note - Entry Level Classes and Higher Level Classes are selected.*

The Secretary asked the Klub members to review items checked and forward any revisions to a board member for presentation to the Klub.

The Treasurer's report was cited as published in the newsletter by the Secretary; the Treasurer was not present. A motion was made to accept the report, it carried unanimously.

Martin Reynolds asked for a Communications report. No report was given.

Old Business -

* Martin Reynolds asked if any has volunteered for the RFI Committee. Don Hice WB5TVI noted he would chair the committee.

New Business -

* The Secretary noted Klub Officer Elections will be held at the next months meeting. The following positions will be voted on; Vice President, Secretary, Public Relations, Communications Director, and Activities Director. It was noted a ballot will be posted in the October Newsletter. There was a general discussion on the nomination process. It was noted that the Nomination Committee in the past was made up of the past 2 presidents and the current president. Martin Reynolds asked for nominations for the October Elections.

Bill Fell was nominated and accepted the nomination of Communications Director. There were no nominations for the positions of Vice President, Secretary, Public Relations, and Activities Director.

Martin Reynolds asked for a report from the Activities Committee. Since the chair is presently vacant, no report was given.

Martin Reynolds asked for new members. The secretary noted 2 applications for membership, Joseph (Hoss) McBain KD5FAB and Erich Gartner KC5JFZ. After the new members were presented to the Klub, a motion was made to accept the new member, it was seconded, and carried unanimously.

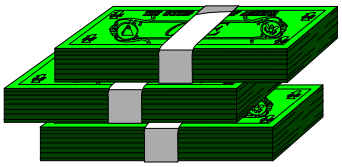
The meeting was adjourned at 1959 hours after which the program on the 1998 Plano Balloon Festival would be given.

Announcements -

* Bill Fell KK5PB noted there were sign-up sheets present for anyone wanting to participate in the Balloon Festival.

* Richard Phillips KB5YBQ noted the Chase Group for the Balloon Festival would meet at the Collin County Community College west parking lot if the wind was out of the south, and they would meet at the old Albertsons at 14th and Shiloh if the wind was out of the north. There was a general discussion about locations and responsibilities. No Further action was taken.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV
Secretary



Teasurer's report Oct. 1, 1998

PARK regular

Expenses 142.55
Income 33.00
Balance 2426.25

PARK repeater

Expenses -0-
Income 10.50
Balance 2166.49

Bonnie Swartzendruber WB5KTC -- Treasurer

Mickey A. Driver AK5Q./4
315 Amador Circle
Atlanta CA 30338

Antenna-Raising: The Good-Neighbor Policy

—sidestepping civil war

While working as a public relations representative for one of the top five U.S. oil companies, I have learned, among other things, that the truth isn't nearly as important as what the public perceives the truth to be. I knew the instant I put up my very first beam ever, over my new suburban Houston home, that my neighbors were not going to know what it was and what they perceived it to be could cause me a lot of trouble.

My concern for ensuring good relations with my neighbors might have been prompted by paranoia from continuously explaining oil-company profits and prices, but more than likely it was the fact that my house sat only ten feet away from my neighbors on each side. I lived right in the middle of my subdivision, where the standard lot size was 50' **X** 100'. Wherever the concern came from, it caused me to plan a little public relations into the installation of my beam. If you're planning to install a beam and/or tower for the first time, you might want to include some public relations, too, especially if you live close to your neighbors.

In the oil industry, our public relations efforts are often in reaction to something, like bad publicity. You know—high gasoline prices, shortages, excess profits, and the like. We're learning that the more we educate the public about our business, the better understanding and acceptance there is of what is taking place. That makes our jobs in PR a lot easier.

I didn't want to confront problems with my neighbors after I put up my beam, so I set out to educate them about what was going to be on top of my house. Not that I thought that fact alone would persuade them to let me live in peace on 20-meter CW, but I felt sure that if these folks saw an antenna on top of my house without knowing exactly what it was, they were sure to think that I was a CBer running 5000 Watts into stereos, televisions, telephones, and intercoms. Thus, they would try to have my antenna taken down the minute they saw it.

My first action was to make sure that my installation was going to be legal. Like many high-density subdivisions in metropolitan areas, my subdivision had a homeowners association with a list of strict deed restrictions. Living ten feet apart we needed them! Antennae were covered in paragraph 17. "Maximum Height of Antennae: No radio or television aerial wires or antennae shall be maintained on any portion of any residential lot forward of the front building line of said lot; nor shall any free-standing antennae of any style be permitted to extend more than ten feet above the roof of the main residential structure of said lot."

This wasn't news to me. It was the first thing I checked before buying the house. (For some reason my XYL kept looking at wallpaper.) I already had planned my installation to include a 4" X 4'' post anchored to my attic floor, going through the roof at its point, and extending three feet above the roofline. I would attach a nine-foot piece of 2¼**"** galvanized pipe to the 4"x 4", with the bottom of the pipe flush with the roof.

With the rotor and beam on top of the pipe, the installation would be exactly ten feet above the roof. I had a two-story house with the point of the roof 25 feet above ground level, so the beam would rest nicely at 35 feet. Cushcraft recommended a minimum of 33 feet, a half-wave at 20 meters, for their ATB-34 triband beam.

My next action was to inform the chairman and members of the subdivision's architectural control committee of my plans. Though my installation was going to be legal, if my neighbors started calling these guys, **it** really could stir up a mess. I wanted to get to them first with facts instead of speculation. Instead of a personal visit to a committee meeting, I decided to write a letter. Here's what I said:

"I am writing to let you *know about an antenna lam erecting on top of my* house, *and to assure you that it complies with the deed restrictions* of our *community.*

"The antenna is an amateur radio beam antenna used for directing radio signals to a predetermined geographical area. Unlike a Citizens Band (CB) radio operator who is limited to 40 channels in one frequency band and five Watts input power, an amateur radio operator, or ham, is licensed to operate on a multitude of frequencies in several different frequency bands using 1000 Watts input power. Thus, it is as common for amateur radio operators to talk with hams in foreign countries as it is to hams in their own hometowns.

"I have been a ham for seven years and have talked with other hams in Europe, Africa, and Asia, including the Soviet Union. The antenna I am erecting will allow me to direct my signals using frequencies in three amateur bands. This antenna will also allow me to conduct emergency communications in our neighborhood should the need ever exist.

"Like most homeowners, 1 am concerned about the aesthetics of our community and adherence to the community's deed restrictions. In accordance with our deed restrictions, my antenna will not be ten feet higher than the highest point of my roof and it will not have any part forward of the front of my house. For your review, I have enclosed a drawing of how my installation will look. Would you please inform me about your acceptance of these plans. Respectfully,..."

I accomplished several objectives with this letter. I let the architectural control committee know that I was not a CBer, that I had expertise in my hobby, that I was concerned about making sure my installation adhered to our deed restrictions. and that I *cared* about neighborhood aesthetics. Plus, I asked that the board respond about acceptance of my planned installation.

About two weeks after I mailed the letter, I received a reply from the committee:

"Your planned installation of an amateur radio station antenna is in accordance with the deed restrictions of our community and we plan no action regarding it at this time." There **it** was in black and white: " is in accordance with the deed restrictions.." Believe me, that

Continued on page 4

Continued from page 3

was a valuable document.

Now to get ready for the installation. I had the 4" x 4" post, 9' piece of pipe for the mast, rotor, and beam. I began working to place the post through the roof and run the coax and rotor cable. A few days away from installation, I wrote another letter, one I planned to give each of my neighbors who would be able to see my antenna from their homes.

I walked up and down the street in front of my house with an eye on my roof. I did the same from the street in front of my neighbors' houses behind mine. I figured there were 26 homes from which my neighbors would be able to see my beam from their yards. My plan was to give each of these neighbors a letter about the beam the day I put it up. Here's what **it** said:

*"You have probably seen an antenna on top of my house at 7703 Hollow Glen Lane. I want to explain why **it** is there and assure you that **it** complies with the deed restrictions of our community."*

I then duplicated the second, third, and fourth paragraphs of the letter I sent to the committee. The letter ended this way: *"The chairman and members of the architectural control committee are aware of the installation of this antenna and have said that it is in compliance with the deed restrictions of our community. There are hundreds of thousands of amateur radio operators around the world, and communicating with them is truly an exciting hobby. If you, your friends, or children are ever interested in amateur radio, please let me know. I would be pleased for you to visit my shack for a demonstration. Respectfully,*

Finally, everything was ready. I took a day off from work to put up the beam since I didn't want to do it on a Saturday or Sunday with the neighbors staring at me. A friend came over to help me and up it went without a hitch. Inside the shack, on the second floor directly beneath the antenna, I tuned up, checked the swr, which was nearly one to one, and immediately began working 20-meter DX. It was early afternoon and I stopped long enough to deliver the letters. It is illegal to place such a letter inside someone s mailbox, so I attached the letters to the doors of the houses.

Then it was back to the shack. The efforts I made to put up the beam were justified, as I worked several new countries in a matter of an hour. My HW-101 was producing 599 signals from Europe, and as I began to turn the beam, my thoughts turned to the neighbors. I didn't know what to expect from them when they got in from work that afternoon and saw the addition to the neighborhood. Whatever happened, I felt good knowing that I had done a little PR in advance of their discovery.

I was kind of scared to go outside for a few days, but the weekend came and along with it yard work. I eased outside and started my Saturday-morning ritual of mowing and edging, along with several of the neighbors. Occasionally, I would look skyward to the beam and think, 'My gosh, that's big!" Though there were quite a few folks in their yards who could have grouped to descend on me lynch-mob style, I received nothing more than the usual friendly waves. The weekend passed with twelve new countries on CW and no threats from the neighbors.

A week passed, a month, then several months. Nothing. Not a word. Had I done a good PR job or was there apathy in the community? It's the same question often asked in public relations when we plan for a potential problem but nothing happens. The fact is, I'll never know what might have happened, but I do know what did happen. I operated with my beam for two years before being transferred, working DXCCCW with about 100 Watts output. I never got any flak over the antenna, but I did get lots of questions about ham radio. I just wonder how many of my neighbors' thoughts changed from aesthetics to my signals around the world as they looked skyward to my **beam.**

Reprinted from 73 Magazine, May, 1982

Pure Larsony

"...and we want you to sign our petition to stop the antenna's in our neighborhood."

Klub Constitution

Get your copy of the P.A.R.K. constitution at:

http://www.tedatum.com/park

HAMS SOUGHT TO ASSIST WILDLIFE RESEARCHERS

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says Canadian Wildlife Service biologists again are seeking help from ham operators and monitoring enthusiasts in tracking the migration of the burrowing owl. Up to 40 radio-tagged burrowing owls will be migrating south from Alberta and Saskatchewan through the central United States in the next few weeks. These endangered birds are expected to find winter homes in southern Texas and nearby areas of Mexico. They are considered endangered in some places and "of special concern" in others.

Unlike other owls, burrowing owls don't roost in trees. They prefer to roost in cavities on the ground in treeless grasslands.

If you have a scanner or extended range 2-meter receiver and live in the anticipated migratory path or in the wintering area of the owls, you can assist by listening for the radio tags, which emit pulsed signals near 172 MHz. They have greatest range at night when the birds are in flight. Your help is especially needed if you have portable direction finding equipment.

For more information, visit the K0OV Radio Direction Finding Web site at http://members.aol.com/homingin/ **or send e-mail to** homingin@aol.com**.—** ***Joe Moell, K0OV***

Easily Heard Signals

DE W8EHS

The big event last month was the Plano Balloon Fest. I did not receive a write up in time for this issue. I did take some pictures while I was there on Sunday evening and have included some of them in this issue. If anyone has more pictures or would like to make a report with statistics, I'll gladly make room in the next issue.

Elections are this month and it looks like we have only one name on the ballot. The other positions have a write in space and hopefully we get some people to fill those vacancies.

I am again rushed at the last minute to get this issue on the press. As I wrote several issues ago, I have been looking for a home in the Plano area. Well, for the last week or so, we have been doing all the homework and negotiating on closing on a home on the Frisco area. I knew the Parking Ticket was due, but was occupying my time in the evenings with other thoughts. So please excuse if this is a bit late.

It is safe to say we will be our new home before the next issue. Just hoping I get all the computer stuff wired back together again in time for the newsletter. That is the plan anyway!

I was just thinking. Now that I will be a Frisco resident, I should start a new ham club in that area. I am considering calling it the "Frisco Amateur Radio Transmitting Society." Membership will be limited to hams who have been licensed 30 years or more or who are at least 50 years of age. Of course I qualify on both counts. We could be a sister club to the P.A.R.K but naturally, WE will be known as the Old F.A.R.T.S.

Any ham seeking membership can contact me at oldfarts@tedatum.com. This is a real email address so you know I am serious!

The article in this issue on tower raising is interesting. It was written over 15 years ago and you may assume things have changed somewhat. Or have they? Anyway, it is food for thought and I thought appropriate for the problems on this subject in Plano.

The cartoon "Pure Larsony" hits on the same topic. You will see more of these revised Larson cartoons continue in my "Pure Larsony" series. All are related to Amateur Radio. Thanks to KJ5ZV for the contributions.

BURROWING OWLS ON THE MOVE!

ARRL Amateur Radio Direction Finding Coordinator Joe Moell, K0OV, says that reports from Canadian Wildlife Service biologists indicate that radio-tagged rare burrowing owls are on the move. "Now is the time to monitor for the owls!" he said.

Moell recently sought help from hams and monitoring enthusiasts to assist in tracking the migration of the burrowing owl. "We need many monitors scattered over a wide area right now," he said. The owls' radio tags transmit in the vicinity of 172 MHz. Approximately 40 owls have been tagged with transmitters, each on a slightly different frequency.

Reports from Canadian wildlife personnel indicate the owls have migrated south from Saskatchewan and Alberta A planned aircraft tracking project fell through, however, increasing the importance of ground-based volunteer monitors.

The Saskatchewan and Alberta owls are expected to fly southward through Montana, North Dakota, Wyoming, South Dakota, Nebraska, Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Texas. However, the exact routes and route variations are uncertain. Moell, says there's a particular need for monitors in southern Texas and northern Mexico--the anticipated wintering grounds for the Saskatchewan owls.

Those with monitoring capability living in and even around the states listed should check the owl frequencies regularly for the next month or so. Because the owls fly at night, the transmitting range at night is better than daytime.

Moell says that if you hear a signal that might be an owl radio tag, make note of the date and time, exact frequency, your location, and any other distinctive signal characteristics. But he cautions against disturbing the birds themselves, even if sighted.

Moell asks volunteer monitors to e-mail any "owl heard" reports with as much detail as possible to him at homingin@aol.com and to Canadian biologist Helen Trefry Helen.Trefry@EC.gc.ca. For more information, see the K0OV Web site, http://members.aol.com/~homingin/.

PHASE 3D SATELLITE TO UNDERGO TESTING

Amateur Radio's Phase 3D spacecraft undergoes pre-launch testing this month in the Washington, DC, area to analyze the satellite's ability to withstand the harsh environment of space. Thermal-vacuum testing is set to begin October 20 at Orbital Sciences Corporation in Germantown, Maryland.

The spacecraft was transported in a well-padded truck from the Phase 3D Integration Lab in Orlando to the DC area. AMSAT-NA Executive Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, says the satellite will be placed in a large chamber for the thermal-vacuum test, and most of the air will be removed. "Then the temperature will be cycled up and down to simulate the harsh heating and cooling environment that the satellite is expected to encounter while in space," he said. A complete thermal cycle runs about 36 hours. The Phase 3D satellite will endure five cycles.

Barring unforeseen problems with the thermal-vacuum test, Baker said, the satellite now is slated to undergo vibration testing to simulate the launcher environment either late this year or early next year.

While the satellite was in town, Maryland-DC AMSAT Coordinator Pat Kilroy, WD8LAQ, was arranging opportunities for AMSAT members and "family" to get a look at the spacecraft before it enters the test chamber.

For more information on Phase 3D, see the Phase 3D Spacecraft Integration Laboratory Web site, http://www.magicnet.net/~phase3d/.

SEDSAT-1 SATELLITE READY FOR LAUNCH!

The SEDSAT-1 satellite package is scheduled to go into space later this month. It will include Amateur Radio digital packet store-and-forward and analog repeater systems. Originally set for a July launch, the SEDSAT-1 will fly as a secondary passenger along with the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's Deep Space One mission aboard a Delta II booster. SEDSAT-1 spokesman Mark Maier, KF4YGR, says the launch could occur as early as October 22.

Built at the University of Alabama's Huntsville campus, SEDSAT-1 will carry a Mode-L digital transponder as well as a Mode A analog transponder. The satellite's primary payload will provide multi-spectral remote sensing. Images will be made available via the Internet. "After many years of work, the whole team--present and past--is ready to see SEDSAT fly and work," Maier said. The satellite's name is an acronym for Students for the Exploration and Development of Space Satellite.

Maier says SEDSAT seeks help from a few experienced hams in Hawaii and the West Coast or Arizona area to get telemetry and contact as soon as possible after separation from the booster following launch. Contact Maier at maier@ece.uah.edu or Chris Bond at Chris_Bond@usa.net. For more information, visit the SEDSAT Web site, http://146.229.5.181/

SEDSAT-1

The Day the Sprinklers Sent CQ

by Steve Altig, N7IF, Baltigs@aol.com

What an afternoon. Sending CQ with the sprinklers doesn't get a ham very far. It only gets strange looks from the neighbors, and the occasional curious earthworm. But, you need a little background.

After discussion with my wife, with retirement just a few years away, and a pending move to the country we reached the conclusion that it would be a good idea for me to rejoin the ranks of Amateur Radio Operators. I had held a General class license (WA6ISW) back in the '60s, but it had expired while I was in the Army, and then family and career became time priorities.

So, I bought a copy of Ham University(c) and began to study the code and technical elements, hoping to get my Novice license and later upgrade to General. The more I studied, the more I began to think I would try to take all the elements qualifying me for a General instead of working up to it.

The big day, March 1, 1997, arrived. There was a big crowd taking various Amateur Radio tests on this day, my day. An entire Scout troop, a group from a school, and an assortment of others, of which I was one.

"We are going to begin with the code tests, and after they begin, no one can leave the room." said the Volunteer Examiner in charge. "Who is taking the 20 wpm test?", she asked. The fellow in the seat next to me raised his hand. After some more instruction, the test began. I listened to the 20 wpm code test, copied about 1/3, and began to worry. When the 13 wpm test began I breathed a sigh of relief when words flowed from my pencil to the paper.

"Anyone want to go for one minute of solid copy," asked the Volunteer Examiner. I raised my hand. He took my paper and began to go over it in detail. "Looks good," he said and gave my paper to the other VE s at the table. "One minute solid copy," he said. They looked up at me and looked back at the paper. After a few minutes they were also nodding and saying things to each other like, "Start here" and "Looks good" and "No problem." Then they looked at me and said, "You passed." What a relief. Element 1b passed. Now on to the technical elements.

Element 2. PASSED. Element 3A. PASSED. Element 3B. Waiting and sweating. PASSED. What a feeling. Walking out with my CSCE showing completion of all required elements for a brand new General class license felt great. Now to get equipment, antennas, and all of the other necessary "stuff" to get back on the air. My license came from the FCC a few days later and I was now KC7UXA.

How things have changed! It's a long way from a Heathkit DX-40 to a modern solid state transceiver. Scary stuff! My biggest problem though was how to deal with the homeowners association restrictions on antennas. I convinced myself that a random wire antenna, nailed to the eaves of my house was the way to go.

Everything was connected. Power supply, transceiver, antenna tuner and key all ready to go. I was ready. Power on, tune the antenna and try an 80 meter CQ. Out to my shack comes my wife. "There is something wrong with the plumbing," she cries. "Come quick. The pipes are banging and crashing"

I went into the house and listened but heard nothing. She insisted they had been making horrible noises. I stood in the doorway of the house and had her key down a few times and she was right, as usual. Sounded like someone was pounding on the pipes. This was disaster. All my work and study, not to mention money, and now this.

After some thinking and discussion with other hams, it turns out the RF from the transceiver was activating the solenoids in the sprinkler system for our yard. I asked my wife to go watch the sprinklers while I transmitted. What a sight for the neighbors to see water spurting out of the sprinklers to the rhythm of "CQ CQ CQ."

In the end it all worked out and now I am back on the air and have worked 13 states in the weeks since everything came together. Oh yes, I do get the occasional "hi hi" when I tell other hams that my antenna is a random wire nailed to the eaves of my house 12 feet off the ground. But the best part is IT WORKS..

P.S. Since this story was originally written in April, 1997, the writer has upgraded to Extra and is now AB7VZ, and now has new vanity call N7IF.

New Digital Modular Radio to Reduce Operating Cost and Increase Battle Flexibility

Scottsdale, AZ. -- September 23, 1998 -- Motorola Systems Solutions Group (SSG), a component of Motorola's newly formed Communications Enterprise, was awarded a five year, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract from the U.S. Navy for a new, digital, software-programmable radio. If the Navy exercises all of its options, the contract is expected to exceed US$337 million. Motorola derived its Digital Modular Radio (DMR) solution for the Navy from a three year research and development project that began in June 1995.

The most significant advantage of a software-programmable radio is that a user can change the radio's bandwidth, modulation, security and waveforms with software commands, rather than the current, more costly approach, replacing system hardware. This new capability allows the Navy to program the new radio over-the-air, whether at sea or in the field, resulting in significant flexibility and a minimum of down time during critical battle situations.

"It is analogous to having a computer at your fingertips," says Erling Rasmussen, corporate vice president and general manager of the Information Security Solutions and Products Division. Rasmussen adds, "If you want it to perform an entirely different function ... you re-program it, or purchase a new program ... you don't have to go purchase a new computer."

The DMR will serve as a router, moving voice, data and video over a wide variety of wireline and wireless paths. In addition, the user can re-program the radio through a Windows"-like interface from a PC, or remotely, over wireless, wireline, or internet pathways.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Office	Name	Home	Work
President	Martin Reynolds, N6LIF	972-727-6746	
Vice President	Robyn Winans, N0MNV	972-633-5108	972-633-5108
Secretary	Jack Ward, KC5KOV	972-527-8344	972-497-6098
Treasurer	Bonnie Swartzendruber, WB5KTC	972-423-6768	
Activities Director			
Communications	Jim Cosby, N5DBI		972-684-1231
Editor	Daniel Kautz, W8EHS	972-394-6995	972-323-4814
Public Relations	Bill Fell, KK5PB	972-424-0496	972-705-3611
2M Trustee	Fred Varian, WD5ERD	972-398-0407	214-464-6084
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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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October 20th, 1998
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