



# PARKING TICKET

Plano, Texas

*"Having fun with Amateur Radio!"*

October, 1999

## 1999 CoCo BEST

### McKinney, Texas (1999)

The 1999 Collin County Boosting Engineering Science & Technology (CoCo BEST) contest is about to begin. For 1999, 26 schools are invited to participate in the CoCo BEST contest. The Regional Competition is to be held on October 30th at the Princeton High School gymnasium. Doors open to the public at 7:30 a.m. with the competition beginning about 8:00 a.m. Team practice days will be held October 9th (Early Bird) at Bankston Ford in Frisco and October 23rd (Mall Day) at the Plano Outlet Mall, from about 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and is open to the public.

CoCo BEST is the Collin County part of the Texas BEST contest. The goals of the BEST program are to inspire and motivate students toward studies and careers in engineering, science, and technology. BEST is a program designed to show youth how engineering can be fun. The BEST program is a sports-like contest where local high school student teams build a remote controlled robot designed to accomplish a given task. Approximately 250 schools across Texas are participating in the BEST contest this year with additional teams in Oklahoma, Colorado, Kansas, Illinois and Arkansas.

The technology contest kicked off on Sept 18th at Jasper High School in Plano, Texas. A team of students from area high schools will be assisted by a small group of

technology coaches from local industry for a six-week period to design and build their radio controlled robot.

The technology coaches' role is to act as a mentor for their school's team, to guide the students through a product design, prototype, build-and-deliver sequence. Coaches are encouraged to participate in student brainstorming sessions, but the students remain the primary decision makers as they design and build their machines.

The technology contest is designed to simulate a real-world business and engineering environment. On kickoff day, the students are shown the game field and are given the following:

#### **The time period of the contest**

The game is limited to six weeks to simulate a product time-to-market constraint. In the real world, a late product does not sell. In the game world, a late product means that you do not compete.

#### **The resources for the contest**

Each team is given an identical box of odd parts, fasteners, materials, and a radio controller for motors. In the real world, a new product must be built within a cost budget. In the game world, the machine can be built with only kit parts.

#### **The specifications for the contest**

At the kickoff, each team is given a detailed game task description. This description is the most closely held secret in the process,

known only to a few Texas BEST game designers before the kickoff. In the real world, a new product must meet the customer's requirements and specifications. In the game world, the machine must meet size and weight requirements while still completing the game task.

The BEST game began in Grayson County as North Texas BEST in 1993. There are now ten Texas "hub" sites plus one each in Colorado, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas, and across the country where regional competitions are held. The Collin County BEST hub was formed in 1995. Trophies are given to the top finishing teams and the team with the best increase in school awareness of engineering, science, and technology.

Awards also are given to teams whose machines display the most elegant design, most unusual design, and the most robust design. The top winners from each regional competition are invited to the state-wide Texas BEST competition to be held on November 20th at Texas A&M University. Trophies and awards such as engineering scholarships are offered at the state-wide competition.

Mike Doocy, sports director for KDFW, will be our special guest to kick-off this year's contest.

The BEST program receives financial support from both individuals and industry as well as vital support from school administrators and local businesses. More information can be found about CoCo BEST on the World Wide Web at <http://users.ticnet.com/ccbest/>.

## Greetings Fellow Parkites!

Fall is upon us. The balloon festival is another success, and the smell of chili is in the air.

So that brings up two issues. One is the balloon festival, A very huge thank you to all of the Klub members, and those from other clubs who were able to participate. Bill Fell, wonderful job, along with all the net control operators, and chasers. With 90 some odd balloons, it was at times like an old three stooges movie. Fun, chaotic, and successful. If the next year is like this year, we may need to enlist the help of more non-members to keep up with the participants. Our first real situation occurred with one balloon in mixing it up with some electrical wires. No injuries except to an ego. Balloon survived intact too. I was very impressed with the action of the amateurs at the site. Message went back to the field then on the the command van. Traffic on Alma was handled for a short while, then it was closed down and Hams redirected the traffic until local police and fire officials arrived. A hardy Thank You from the Double Check balloon crew to all of the amateurs.

Chili!!!! The smell is in the air. By the time you get this newsletter the club chili party will be history. I sure hope you all had a great time. Thank you Susie for getting it all put together and another fattening outing.

Klub elections will be held this month. Clarence Sebesta K5YO has accepted the nomination for the Secretary. Jim Holman continues to run for VP. Bill Fell is running for Communications, Shel Fisher is the current Public Relations position. All of these positions are open for elections, and it would be nice to have an election with more than one person running for that position. You too can become a part of the leadership team.

After all of the ice cream that

was consumed at the last meeting, we may need to have an exercise class at the next meeting. (Just kidding) Look forward to seeing you all there at the October meeting.

Bill KJ5ZV / AAR6CE

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## P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

August 17, 1999

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub was called to order by Bill Drake 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.

A round of introductions were given by call sign and all visitors were welcomed. Seventeen members logged in and Five visitor signed the visitors sheet.

Vice President Jim Holman indicated he has several programs lined up, but, concrete dates have been set at this time. Jim also asked for suggestions for programs for future meetings. No further action was taken. Secretary Jack Ward read the minutes for the July Meeting. A motion was made to accept the minutes as read, it carried unanimously.

Treasurers report was published in the Newsletter. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published, it carried unanimously.

Communications Director Bill Fell noted ARES and Plano RACES have been asked to provide communications assistance for transition into 2000. This is contingency communications for City of Plano and possibly for Collin County. This has been publicized on the training nets. Anyone having questions or wanting to volunteer, please contact Bill Fell KK5PB. Newsletter Editor Dan Kautz noted his address on the back of the August issue of The Parking Ticket is incorrect. The July issue was correct and the

September issue will also be correct. No further action was taken. Activities Director Susie Hegg said we are planning a Chili Cookoff at Harrington Park for October 10th. Susie is accepting sign-ups for anyone wishing to make Chili or bring other items. More planning and information will be provided at the September Meeting. No further action was taken. TVI Committee Director Don Hice and no report to give at this meeting. No further action was taken.

Greeting Committee Spokesperson Bob Willoughby introduced the visitors to the meeting. All were welcomed with a round of greetings and applause. President Bill Drake noted the weekend of Aug. 14th was MARS Army Section down in Bastrop. The Western Area MARS Direction was the speaker. Approx. 70 people were in attendance. Discussions involved Emergency Communications. Volunteers are always welcome to participate.

### New Business -

Ed Lawrence WA5WSD noted he was in town helping set a new company. They are looking for a Technician to assist with troubleshooting and installing feedline among other technical responsibility. Anyone interested an contact Ed Lawrence. President Bill Drake noted there will be a Hamfest in Greenville, TX on August 21st at the Fletcher Warren Civic Center. Admission is \$4 per person. Testing sessions will be available. John Sanders AB5ZR noted Tuesday August 24th will be a combined meeting of several Telecom Corridor Nets. The MCI and Alcatel Clubs found a lot of membership overlap and same speaker repetition. They decided to have a joint meeting including Rockwell, TI, Nortel, Ericson, and UTD Clubs have also been invited. The program will be presented by Phil Salas and will cover HF Mobile Installations. The meeting will be held at MCI building at 2400 N. Glenville. John noted all Clubs, including PARK, was invited to attend. John also indi-

cated they are willing to move their meeting dates around to accommodate the PARK scheduled meeting times and said other rooms are available to conduct independent meeting business. Old Business - John Scanlan noted there will be a VE testing session the weekend of the 21st. Bruce Dingman noted ARES will be gathering at the Denton Hamfest and have a training session. The meeting was adjourned at 2037 hours. Jack Ward, KC5KOV, Secretary

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## **P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes**

**September 21, 1999**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub was called to order by Bill Drake 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.

A round of introductions were given by call sign and all visitors were welcomed.

Sixteen members logged in and Three visitors signed the visitors sheet.

Secretary Jack Ward noted the August Meeting Minutes did not make the September Newsletter. August and September Meeting Minutes will be published in October Newsletter.

Treasurer Bruce Dingman read the expense report. Expenses \$123.89, Income \$36.00, Balance \$2012.42. Repeater account Expenses \$16.24, Income \$7.00, Balance \$2627.15. A motion was made to accept the report as read, it carried unanimously.

Communications Director Bill Fell reported on the Plano Balloon Festival. Over 84 Balloons lifted off with 61 Hams participated (49 current Hams and 12 Hams-in-progress). 6 other Klubs also participated in Ham related activities at the event. Only one incident was

reported. A Balloon landed over a power line. Communications were superb as Hams helped to convey messages to the appropriate people. Luckily no fires or problems resulted. Thanks to everyone who participated. Bill reported no problems with the repeaters and there has been no action on the voter system.

Newsletter Editor Dan Kautz noted he would like to have photos from the Balloon Fest sent to him for publishing in the newsletter.

Activities Director Susie Hegg said the Chili Cookoff at Harrington Park for October 10th is still a on. Susie noted she was still taking sign-ups to bring chili and fixins. No further action was taken.

TVI Committee Director Don Hice reported having another potential customer. No information to present at this time.

Greeting Committee Spokesperson Bob Willoughby introduced 3 visitors to the meeting. All were welcomed with a round of greetings and applause.

### **New Business -**

President Bill Drake noted the MARS Army Section was activated as the standby communications for the recent hurricane. Bill also noted PARK elections will be held in October. Anyone interested in volunteering for a position please contact him for information.

### **Old Business -**

President Bill Drake noted the Program for tonight canceled at the last minute. So, an Ice Cream social was scheduled instead. (it was great).

### **Announcements -**

Visitor Lester Woosley will bring info from ARRL to the next meeting for those who would like to become more interested in Ham Radio.

Bill Fell noted the Walk America Walk-a-thon will be held on Oct. 2nd. Financial sponsors can contact Bill Fell.

Richard Phillips, Sr. KB5YBQ informed the Klub about the upcoming Robotics Competition of High

School students on October 30th at Princeton High School. There will be 50 teams 5 from out of state. Last year the Klub and other amateurs provided communications between the game field and the pits. They are looking for the similar support from amateur radio operators. Food will be provided for participants. Any one interested in participating please contact Richard.

The meeting was adjourned at 2010 hours.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV, Secretary

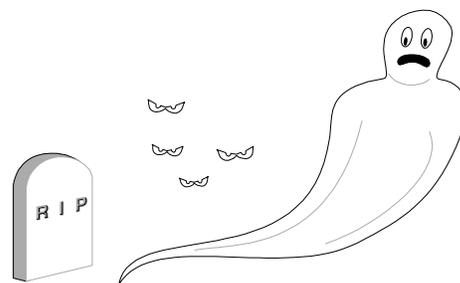
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## **No Treasurer's Report for September 1999**



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### **Easily Heard Signals**

de W8EHS  
w8ehs@arrl.net

WOW! Lots of nice contributions this month. Keep up the great work. I even had to add back in the extra two pages that 33 cents will allow to be sent. So... TEN pages this issue!

That means I will keep my column short. Yeah, yeah, I hear the moans but we all have to scarifice sometimes.

Not much hamming at my station this month. Been playing with a video capture board though. Had to do something waiting for all the promised articles to come in. That is why this issue is a bit late again. (They DID come!)

Election is this month. Attached to this issue you will find a Ballot for anyone who will be absent and wants to vote. It is also your clue to who is running for what.

# PARKING TICKET



## Hams Contribute to the Successful 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Plano Balloon Festival

The 20<sup>th</sup> annual Plano Balloon Festival was held on the third weekend of September. The festival was held at a new location, the Spring Creek campus of Collin County Community College, which has considerably more space, better access for both visitors and balloon crews, and practically no "neighbor" problems. Eighty-eight balloons participated in this year's festival, up from seventy-eight in 1998. The festival balloon operations activities were supported by 49 ham radio operators and 12 associates (YLs, XYLs, and YMs), including many Plano Amateur Radio Klub members. The ham radio operators received many compliments for the professional manner in which they provided service. Pat Cannon, the Balloonmeister for the festival, David Begin, the Safety Officer, and Susan Owen and Larry Long, co-chairs of the Balloon Operations Committee, went out of their way to commend the hams and the variety of services they provided.

The weekend started early on Friday morning with the pre-opening media flight. Members of the media and festival sponsors were the special guests flying on 35 balloons. Participation in the media flight included a chase to the landings in north Plano by a small group of dedicated hams. Good weather allowed all scheduled festival flights to occur for the second year in a row.

The festival opened late Friday afternoon with precision landings by the RE-MAX Competition Parachute Team. This was followed by a fun flight/static display/envelop glow among the 88 balloons. The launch and other field activities were supported by 9 hams and associates led by Bill - KK5PB, John - N5OOM, Robyn - N0MNV, and

Wes - N5ODC. The chase activity was performed by 16 hams and associates led by Richard - KB5YBQ. Fifty balloons flew, while the remaining 38 stayed on the launch field for the "glow" activity.

About half of the balloons came to the launch field Saturday morning to fly out in a Hare and Hound balloon flight. By plan the other half of the balloons launched from off the site, flew to the launch field, and competed with each other to see who could drop markers on a target most accurately while in-flight. The sight of the competition balloons flying in to the launch field, then dropping down near the ground to drop their markers on the target thrilled the crowd who clapped with increasing enthusiasm as each balloon flew over the target. The competition balloons then flew on to a landing elsewhere. The 22 hams and associates serving as chase teams were successful in tracking and accounting for every balloon and their ground crews.

The Saturday evening flight saw 83 of the 88 balloons launch in two waves from the launch field. The remaining 5 stayed and "glowed." The balloons and crews were tracked onto and off of the field by 11 hams and associates. Then 34 hams and associates chased the balloons to landing and reunion with their ground crews.

The Sunday morning flight was planned to be much like the Saturday morning flight. Weather conditions (wind speed) were such that the decision was made at the launch field by the Balloonmeister to cancel the fly-in competition. Ham radio was used to pass the word from the field out to the balloons that were preparing to take off and fly in to the launch field that they were to come to the launch field instead. The 25 hams and associates that were preparing to chase were (by prior plan) used to contact as many of the off-field balloonists as they could find to pass the cancellation message. We were able to contact all but about 5 of the 45 balloons affected. They came to

the launch field where most of them then launched and flew in a fun flight. The hams then tracked those balloons to landing and reunion with their ground crews.

Only 48 balloons participated in the Sunday evening flight, and 20 of them did not fly due to wind speed and direction. Those that did fly were chased by 26 hams and associates, almost a one-on-one situation. One balloon contacted power lines after landing. The pilot exited his balloon safely. Ham radio reported this event via the chase and field nets to officials. The message was delivered to the Balloonmeister at the same time that he received the information by cell phone; an outstanding display of amateur radio capability to deliver important messages quickly and accurately. On-scene ham operators were able to establish a safety perimeter and to help direct emergency vehicles to the scene.

The participating ham radio operators provided other assistance during the festival. Most notable was the service provided to the Air Apparent balloon and ground crew. Ham operators KD5EIA - Chris and KD6EZY - Leslie had chased Air Apparent to landing. The Air Apparent pilot is a ham and uses ham radio to communicate with his ground crew. During the flight, the ground crew bumped their radio off frequency and didn't notice it. They were unable to communicate with their balloon. Chris and Leslie were able to locate the ground crew via the chase net and to provide directions that enable the ground crew to be reunited with the Air Apparent balloon. Air Apparent's pilot was very appreciative of the service we provided, to the extent of writing a letter of thanks and delivering two balloon collector cards of their balloon for these operators. The other festival pilots were informed of this service at a later briefing.

Another balloon pilot reported the loss of his cell phone on the launch field after an evening "glow."

Continued on page 6

**Continued from page 5**

John, N5OOM, and a friend walked the field after dark while dialing the cell phone's number in an unsuccessful attempt to locate it. The next morning Wes, N5ODC, found the cell phone on the launch field driveway. Unfortunately it was DOA, having been run over by several heavy vehicles. Several large pieces including the NiCad battery pack were found. These pieces were delivered to the Balloonmeister who returned the cell phone to its owner during the next flight briefing (to the general amusement of the pilots assembled). Several other items (camera case, balloon envelope straps, etc) were found by the hams at the launch field and were returned to their owners.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Plano Balloon Festival was declared a success by the organizers thanks to the move to a new site and the efforts of many, many volunteers. We are among those volunteers. Once again through the persistent, professional efforts of 63 hams and associates, the balloon pilots, passengers, and ground crews were provided communication services by ham radio that enhanced their safety and convenience. We believe that the service we provide during the festival continues to be unique to this balloon festival. Thanks to everyone that participated; each of you made positive, notable contributions to this very successful 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary event. You are expected back next year for the 21<sup>st</sup> annual Plano Balloon Festival.

Ham radio operators that supported the Plano Balloon Festival are:

- AA5NT    KB5VSL    KD5EZY
- N5BYL    N5UIG    AB5ZR
- KB5YBQ    KD5FMC    N5CRC
- N5YGR    AB5ZS    KB9BUJ
- KD5HDV    N5DBI    NV9E
- AC5DT    KC5CCZ    KD5HPE
- N5JJG    W5GDC    K1GD
- KC5LBE    KF4FL    N5ODC
- W5HRL    K5KJ    KC5LOP
- KJ5VL    N5OOM    W5LEP

- K5LIZ    KC5RMJ    KJ5ZV
- N5OYT    WA5KXX    K5MVZ
- KC5RWR    KK5PB    N5PDW
- WB5QPB    K5YO    KC5VBR
- KM5HW    N5RDB    WB5UAS
- KA5BOU    KD5BJQ    KM5IS
- N5SUR    WD5ERD    KA5HQY
- KD5DAT    KR1ZAN    N5TIP
- KB5EDQ    KD5EIA    N0MNV
- N5TVL

**Notice;  
To All North Texas  
Section Hams:**

This notice should be given the widest possible distribution.

There will be a state wide test of emergency communications on October 7 and October 21.

The purpose of this test is to provide to the state a measure of what coverage that hams in the state could provide. The results of this test will be then be part of the state planning for Y2K.

The two tests will be performed on October 7 and October 21. Each test will be for a 24 hour period starting on midnight local time and going to the following midnight of the same day.

The state contact will be made with WC5AAH, the State Of Texas Div Of Emerg Management. WC5AAH will probably the HF net controls during each day.

The frequencies to be used are 7285 KHZ and 3873KHZ.

To establish a contact the following information will be sent: Call, City, County, (optional phone number)

The city and county would be your expected QTH on New Years Eve.

If you cannot directly contact WC5AAH, relays are encouraged, including cross band. For instance a Ham on a repeater can make a contact through a another ham(s) that are in contact with WC5AAH. Confirmation will pass back through the same path. Nets could also be used. The purpose of this test is to be able to pass realtime information

both ways.

This test is open to all hams, you do not have to be a member of RACES or ARES in order to participate.

The DFW nets will be set up to provide relay capabilities.

Further information regarding this test and other Y2K planning will be on the section web page:

<http://lsic.net/net/ntexas.html>

More details will be provided as the plans firm up and the date approaches. There is still some possibility that the frequencies may change. Check the web page for last second changes.

Don Mathis

NTX Section Manager

**Accident Report**

de Bill - KK5PB  
[kk5pb@arrl.net](mailto:kk5pb@arrl.net)

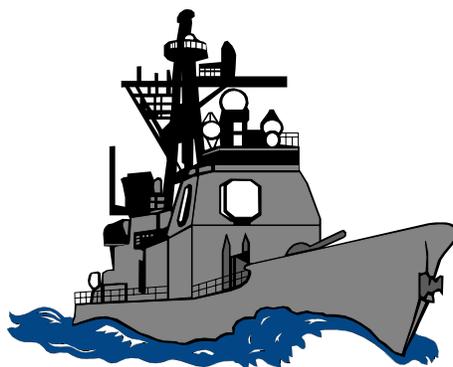
This one needs an introduction, so you won't be lost at the beginning. This man was in an accident at home, so he filled out an insurance claim. The insurance company contacted him and asked for more information. This was his response:

"I am writing in response to your request for additional information, for block number 3 of the accident reporting form. I put 'poor planning' as the cause of my accident. You said in your letter that I should explain more fully and I trust the following detail will be sufficient. I am an amateur radio operator and on the day of the accident, I was working alone on the top section of my new 80-foot tower. When I had completed my work, I discovered that I had, over the course of several trips up the tower, brought up about 300 pounds of tools and spare hardware. Rather than carry the now unneeded tools and material down by hand, I decided to lower the items down in a small barrel by using the pulley attached to the gin pole at the top of the tower. Securing the rope at ground level, I went to the top of the tower and loaded the tools and

material into the barrel. Then I went back to the ground and untied the rope, holding it tightly to ensure a slow decent of the 300 pounds of tools."

"You will note in block number 11 of the accident reporting form that I weigh only 155 pounds. Due to my surprise of being jerked off the ground so suddenly, I lost my presence of mind and forgot to let go of the rope. Needless to say, I proceeded at a rather rapid rate of speed up the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming down. This explains my fractured skull and broken collarbone. Slowed only slightly, I continued my rapid ascent, not stopping until the fingers of my right hand were two knuckles deep into the pulley. Fortunately, by this time, I had regained my presence of mind and was able to hold onto the rope in spite of my pain. At approximately the same time, however, the barrel of tools hit the ground and the bottom fell out of the barrel."

"Devoid of the weight of the tools, the barrel now weighed approximately 20 pounds. I refer you again to my weight in block number 11. As you might imagine, I began a rapid descent down the side of the tower. In the vicinity of the 40-foot level, I met the barrel coming up. This accounts for the two fractured ankles, and the lacerations of my legs and lower body. The encounter with the barrel slowed me enough to lessen my injuries when I fell onto the pile of tools and, fortunately, only three vertebrae were cracked. I am sorry to report, however, that as I lay there on the tools, in pain, unable to stand and watching the empty barrel 80 feet above me, I again lost my presence of mind. I let go of the rope..."



## From the DEC

Sometimes it is heard on the amateur bands that the need to handle formal message traffic is something whose time has passed. In the world of cell phones, internet, pagers, fax, packet techniques, e-mail, etc. using voice or CW to pass traffic has been replaced. While it is true that these new technologies have brought a whole new dimension to communications between individuals, these new techniques need to be embraced as yet another way to serve and not viewed as competitors. I offer to you that the method while important is not as important as the why and the how.

The National Traffic System (NTS) is a valued partner with the ARES in providing service to the general public and to the served agencies in our community. Why do we say that the NTS is a valued partner? The obvious answer is that they like the ARES help the general public remain aware of the contribution of amateur radio. Instead of being viewed as just a neighborhood nuisance, the ham next door is recognized as a person who provides a service.

But another value comes from understanding the role of formal traffic handling. That value is that it provides the basic understanding of what is important and how to organize and send traffic that will support emergency communication. Too often in the heat of an emergency, only hasty notes are taken as to what a city official, a Red Cross director, the Fire Department or some other agency has asked that we communicate. It is right here that attention to formal traffic handling is important. Regardless of the format, the structure is the same. Know who the

message is for, record when it was filed, make sure the information is correct and who sent it and what their authority is. That is why we have spent time on the training nets going into some detail on formal traffic handling.

The purpose of that focus is not to make each of us into formal traffic experts. Being involved with formal traffic handling has some very good rewards when you hear the joy that someone expresses after you deliver birthday greetings for instance. Or you deliver a message from someone in the military to a loved one back home. To what extent one gets involved with the NTS is like so much of amateur radio in that it is an individual choice.

My purpose rather is to keep the awareness up of the importance of good organization and structure in passing traffic that could literally mean the difference between life and death, helping to make recovery from a storm or other disaster for instance quicker or relieving the anxiety of someone that has not heard from a loved one after a tornado has gone through the area.

Here are some thoughts for each of us:

- Listen to a NTS traffic net (voice or CW) and pay special attention to the format and process for handling traffic
- Try your hand at putting a message together and sending it to a relative or friend
- Check in to those ARES training nets, this subject will be discussed
- Participate in public displays of amateur radio where the public will be offered the opportunity to send a message.
- Get more involved in traffic handling if you would like that facet of amateur radio.

Try it, you may like it as the commercial used to say. NTS and the ARES – Good Partners for the public welfare!

The best to each of you,

Bill – K5MWC DEC District 5 and Collin County EC

## **CHILI COOKOFF FOLLOWUP**

Did I not tell you that you would miss a good time? Well you most certainly did. Our chili cookoff that was held Sunday afternoon, October 10, was a great success. The Harrington Park facility was ideal, the weather was perfect. We had six brave souls that were willing to submit their chili to the test. And those judges were tough, I tell you. Oh yes, I should add that everyone there was given a ballot to cast their vote for:

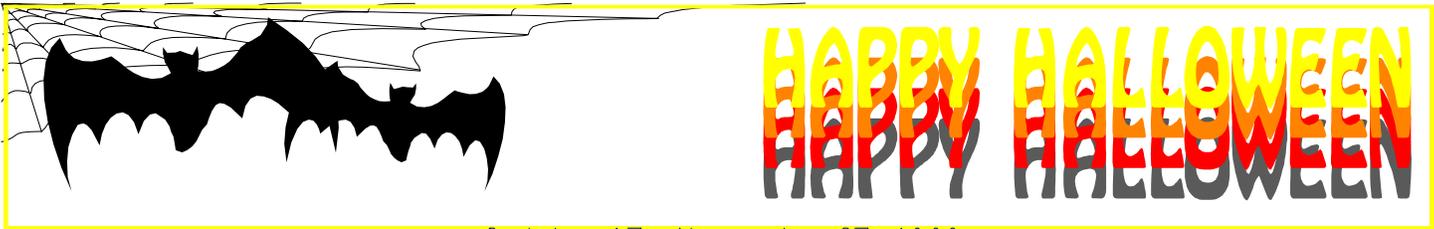
- 1) The Best Overall Chili!
- 2) The Chili with the Most Creative Name!
- 3) The Chili Least Likely to Succeed!

**Bill Fell** (KK5PB) is our very first winner for the *Best Overall Chili*. **Dick Hoff** (AA5NT) is our winner for the *Chili with the Most Creative Name*. I refuse to tell you who the winner is for the 3<sup>rd</sup> category. BUT, the consensus is that our chili cookoff would make a great annual event!

I want to thank everyone in attendance for their support, for their contributions to the event, and for spending a Sunday afternoon with friends. It doesn't get much better than that!

*Susie*  
KB5SSV



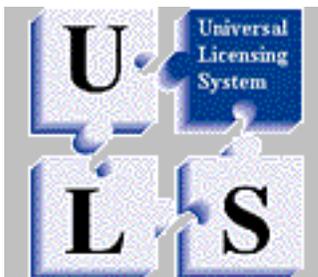


October 17 - November 27, 1999

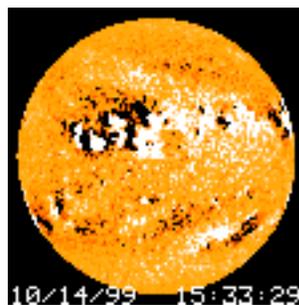
Weekly Planner

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
October 17 Collin County ARES Net 2100hrs 147.18+	October 18	October 19 PARK Meeting 7:30PM	October 20	October 21 GoodNEWS Net 8:00PM 147.180+	October 22	October 23
October 24	October 25	October 26 PARK Board Meeting	October 27	October 28 GoodNEWS Net 8:00PM 147.180+	October 29	October 30 CoCo Best 7:30AM
October 31	November 1	November 2	November 3	November 4 GoodNEWS Net 8:00PM 147.180+	November 5	November 6
November 7 Collin County ARES Net 2100hrs 147.18+	November 8	November 9	November 10	November 11 GoodNEWS Net 8:00PM 147.180+	November 12	November 13
November 14	November 15	November 16 PARK Meeting 7:30PM	November 17	November 18 GoodNEWS Net 8:00PM 147.180+	November 19	November 20
November 21 Collin County ARES Net 2100hrs 147.18+	November 22	November 23 PARK Board Meeting	November 24	November 25 GoodNEWS Net 8:00PM 147.180+	November 26	November 27

Plano Amateur Radio Klub



**Vanity Grants Under ULS Coming Slowly; Applications Off** (October 15, 1999) — The FCC appears to have granted upwards of 90 vanity call signs since October 1, but vanity call sign processing under the new Universal Licensing System still is far from routine, and the number of applications seems to be down. No new vanity call signs have been granted since October 7, and the FCC's ULS Task Force says it does not plan to resume issuing vanity call signs until all the wrinkles have been worked out of the system.



**The K7VVV Solar Update** (October 15, 1999) — Solar activity was up by quite a bit this week. Average solar flux values increased by nearly 30 points over last week, and average sunspot numbers were up by almost 80 points. The reporting week, which runs Thursday through Wednesday, began with a stable geomagnetic field and A indices in the single digits, but quickly changed after the weekend to storm conditions.



**Hurricane Watch Net Tracking Irene** (October 15, 1999) — The Hurricane Watch Net reactivated today on 14.325 MHz as Hurricane Irene threatened southern Florida. The storm was centered over Key West as of 1500 UTC today, and Key West authorities have declared a state of emergency there. The Net secured last night at 0200 UTC after the storm moved off the coast of Cuba but resumed operation today at 1100 UTC to track its progress toward Florida.

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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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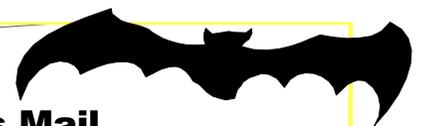
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Submissions must be received no later than the first day of the month to be included in that month's issue. Material received after the deadline will be included in the following month's issue if it is still current.

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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