



# PARKING TICKET

Plano, Texas

*"Having fun with Amateur Radio!"*

September, 1999



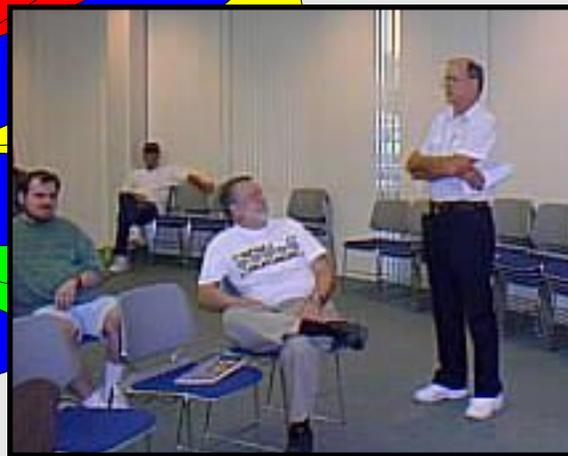
Club officers



Let's eat Chili!



## Plano Balloon Fest This Weekend! Sept 17-19



# Klub Meetings are FUN!

# Greetings to one and all!

It looks like the very hot summer is slowly, and I mean slowly winding down. And with the cooler weather comes the major support function for our club. The Plano Balloon Festival. We have confirmation now of a total of 95 balloons that will take part in this year's event. 95.... It is really important that we muster as many club members, cousins, aunts, hound dogs to turn out to support the safety of the balloon operators. Make sure you have your calendars marked for this one.

The board meeting this last month was at MCI with a combination meeting of the clubs of MCI, Alcatel, UTD, Richardson, E-Systems, TI, and I am sure we missed someone there. The meeting was great. The program was on HF mobile antenna installations and problems associated with mobile operations. The meeting started at 6:00pm and went through to about 8:00. It was suggested that more of these meeting be scheduled in the future and that all the clubs could meet quarterly, or twice a year. It is not a bad idea. You can't believe all the service projects that are going on that some of the other clubs are supporting. As individual clubs it is only one project. But when they all indicate what they are doing, there are many opportunities for amateur radio to make a concerted impact on the DFW area. It is just that all the clubs don't know what each other are doing. This joint meeting could help to coordinate the efforts.

We had a great meeting last month. I had fun, (and you all know that's what counts) and I am sure others did too. Thanks to Susie for the great snacks. Was that called the "I just gained 3 pounds desert"? Hot coffee (not necessary at 100 degrees) but was partaken of

most. Come and join us the next meeting in September on the 21<sup>st</sup>. You too can have a great time.

I hate to bring this up again but elections are in October. The offices that are open this time are VP, Secretary, Communications, and PR. I must assume that Jim will still be running for VP. That Bill will continue for his second term as the communications officer. Shel can continue for one more term as PR director. Anyone interested in any of those positions should contact any of the board members as soon as possible. No I didn't leave out the Secretary position. Jack has finished his two-term limit. This is a position that we must fill with a new person. Let's find someone as soon a possible to run for this position. The club can use you! Support your club by volunteering your talents to the cause.

Again, we will need your support, Bill Fell will have all the up to date information at the September meeting with regard to the balloon festival. See you there.

Bill KJ5ZV / AAR6CE



## *First Annual*

### **"CHILI-IN-THE-PARK" EVENT**

Sunday, October 10, 2-6 p.m.  
Harrington Park, Plano

This could be the start of something big. Or at least an annual event for the club. But YOU will have to help make it happen! So join us on Sunday afternoon, October 10 for fun and food with fantastic friends.

If you are one of those who make a killer pot of chili, this is the time to do it. We need a few to make chili and the rest of us can bring stuff to compliment the "main event". We will have judges for that fantastic chili and prizes for different categories, such as best, hottest, and even for the most creative name.

So CALL me or send me an email, right now, and let me know you will be there. If you don't, you will miss out on a really good time. You can find my email address on the back of the newsletter, along with my telephone number.

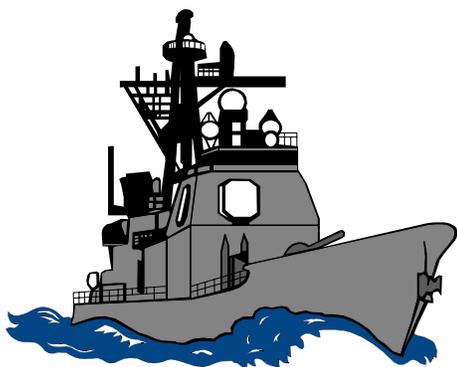
If you have radio equipment you have been wanting to sell, perhaps this would also be a great time to put it on display. We could very easily turn this into a flea market each year, too. So LET ME KNOW!

- (1) Mark your calendar NOW
- (2) Call me or e-mail me
- (3) Find your chili recipe
- (4) Locate that stuff you want to sell
- (5) Plan to have a great time!

Susie **KB5SSV**

### **Please note the following change of schedule for the September Sessions of the Collin County ARES Nets:**

In recognition of the Balloon Fest, the Collin County ARES Net normally scheduled for the 19th of September will be rescheduled for the 26th of September. This change from the third Sunday to the fourth Sunday is for September only. The regular schedule will resume in October.



## From the DEC

Y2K, Y2K, Y2K It seems everyday that one hears about the Y2K problem. I would offer that all of us are close to information overload on this subject. Predictions ranging from total disaster to don't worry about it abound. So what is the response of Amateur Radio to be? Each of you of course has his or her own understanding and opinion as to what the 31 December 1999 roll over will mean.

The recent GPS clock roll over of its clock has come and gone with little or no consequences. As you may know the GPS clocks were originally designed to run for a 20 year period (about 1024 weeks) due to the expected life of the payload clocks at the time of initial satellite launch. That 20-year period was reached at 1931 hours CDT on 27 August. As with the Y2K situation everything from total chaos to nothing is going to happen was predicted. In this case little did happen. Those watching the situation from a knowledgeable point of view were prepared and had planned ahead. Such is the case with the Y2K issue.

The amateur radio community is preparing by examining any infrastructure system that may be susceptible to the Y2K baseline condition, the practice of showing years using two digits instead of four. Thus year 99 will become year 00 and systems that use year information could be impacted.

Additionally, the amateur community is preparing to respond to requests from local served agencies to provide stand by communications support if required. Such is the case locally. Requests from fire departments, county level emergency management organizations and other served agencies are beginning to come in to the amateur community. Planning is underway to respond to those requests.

If you can, please be prepared to respond to your EC or RACES coordinators to help out in meeting these requests. The primary needs will be for people to staff selected sites and to support EOCs on a stand by basis. Typically such support will last from like 1800 hours on the 31<sup>st</sup> to 0200 on the morning of the 1<sup>st</sup>. If at all possible begin now to plan to help out.

But what if I can not be available on the 31<sup>st</sup>, is there something I can do to help. YES! As a communicator, it is important that we all recognize that many people listen to conversations that are going on the bands. This is especially true for the VHF/UHF bands as even the general public will be monitoring. As such, it is important for all of us to communicate information as accurately as possible. Of course you can air your thoughts and opinions on the subject. Just keep in mind that it is our responsibility to pass information in as accurate and non-emotional way that we can. This is true in emergency communications and also holds true in an area such as Y2K where much confusion abounds. So you can help!

Y2K – Be prepared. If all of the attention has brought anything positive it has been attention to the need to be prepared for emergencies regardless of their source. The American Red Cross provided the following list. I find that it sets a good tone and also contains some useful information.

The Red Cross Y2K-readiness checklist

Here are the basic supplies that the Red Cross recommends every U.S. households have on hand to be

prepared for Y2K disruptions—or any emergency of short duration. The group's basic advice: Stock up as you would for a severe winter storm; it will be cold in much of the U.S.

**Water:** Three gallons per person, enough for three days, stored in Unbreakable plastic containers. (Replace stored water every six months with a fresh supply.)

**Food:** A three-day supply of nonperishable edibles, plus ready-to-eat canned meats, fruits, and vegetables. For infants: formula, diapers, powdered milk.

**Tools and supplies:** These should include a flashlight, battery-operated radio, nonelectric can opener, fire extinguisher, matches, signal flare, paper and pencil, plastic storage containers, aluminum foil, tape, whistle, needle and thread, plastic sheeting, local map (for locating shelters), paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, toilet paper, towelettes, liquid detergent, plastic garbage bags, disinfectant, and personal-hygiene items.

**Clothing, bedding:** Set aside one complete change of clothes and footwear per person, sturdy shoes or work boots, rain gear, hat and gloves, thermal underwear, blankets or sleeping bags in case your family must be evacuated.

The North Texas Section Newsletter will also be publishing some valuable information especially for this area. That newsletter is available at the following URL: <http://www.lsic.net/net/ntexas.html>

And finally here is a little humor (I hope)

### **REWARD OFFERED**

A reward of 500 microfarads is offered for information leading to the arrest of Hop-A-Long capacity. This unrectified criminal escaped from a western primary cell where he had been clamped in ions awaiting the gauss chamber.

He is charged with the induction of an 18 turn coil named

**Continued on page 4**

**Continued from page 3**

millihenry who was found choked and robbed of valuable joules. He is armed with a carbon rod and is a potential killer. Capacity is also charged with driving a DC motor over a wheatstone bridge and refusing to let the band-pass.

If encountered, he may offer resistance. The electromotive force spent the night searching for him in a magnetic field where he had gone to earth. They had no success and believed he had returned ohm via a short circuit.

He was last seen riding a kilocycle with his friend Eddy Current who was playing a harmonic.

The best to each of you,  
Bill – K5MWC DEC District 5

## No word yet on restructuring

An FCC staff member says the Commission staff is “diligently working” towards getting a Report and Order on Amateur Radio license restructuring out the door. But beyond that, the FCC staffer—who did not want to be identified by name—said it was impossible to predict when that would happen. He said FCC rules revent him from revealing any information about “internal thinking or scheduling” regarding the proceeding, known formally as the 1998 Biennial Regulatory Review of Part 97 (WT Docket 98-143). The FCC’s move last spring into consolidated offices at The Portals also disrupted routine work flow.

A year ago, the FCC proposed phasing out the Novice and Technician Plus licenses, leaving Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra in place. The FCC also asked the amateur community to express its opinions on Morse code requirements for licensing and testing, but offered no recommendations.

The previous month, the ARRL Board of Directors issued its own plan to restyle Amateur Radio. Among other details, the ARRL plan also called for four license classes and for “refarming” Novice/Tech Plus subbands to provide additional phone spectrum for higher-class operators. Under the League plan, the Technician license would remain unchanged, and the General would become the entry-level ticket for those interested in HF operation. The ARRL proposed Morse code requirements of 5 WPM for General and 12 WPM for Advanced and xtra class.

“We are simply in that period of time when no information is available,” the FCC staff member said. “This is a normal part of the Commission’s quasi-judicial decision-making process and a necessary part of being objective and fair to all.”

Before the long-awaited Report and Order sees the light of day, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff first must digest the 2200 omments, filed mostly by individuals. Then, the staff will circulate its recommendation to the Commissioners. Commissioners and their staff will mull the WTB input and arrive at a plan.

The ultimate FCC decision will come either at the Commission’s monthly meeting or it will be handled “on circulation”—outside of an actual meeting. A Public Notice will be issued, and the actual Report and Order will follow.

The bottom line is that Amateur Radio operators will have to wait a few weeks or a few months longer before the restructuring issue is resolved.

**Nominations  
This Month For  
Elections in  
October!**

## ARRL task force seeks future technology proposals

The ARRL Technology Task Force wants to hear from hams with ideas and proposals for new technology to carry Amateur Radio into the next century. The ARRL Board of Directors created the Task Force and the companion Technology Working Group last January, and ARRL President Rod Stafford, W6ROD, has appointed a number of leading amateurs to serve on both panels. The Task Force and the Working Group will work hand-in-hand to identify, evaluate, and promote the most promising 21st Century technologies for Amateur Radio.

The Task Force consists of members of the ARRL Board family and the Headquarters staff. Chairing the Task Force is ARRL First Vice President Steve Mendelsohn, W2ML. Other TTF members are Roanoke Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF; Hudson Director Frank Fallon, N2FF; New England Director Tom Frenaye, K1KI; Southwestern Vice Director Art Goddard, W6XD; Pacific Director-elect (and current Vice Director) Jim Maxwell, W6CF; International Affairs Vice President Larry Price, W4RA; and Rocky Mountain Director Walt Stinson, W0CP.

The Technology Working Group will evaluate technical proposals and make recommendations to the Technology Task Force, which, in turn, will make specific policy proposals to the ARRL Board of Directors.

The Working group is an expert panel selected from among League members representing a broad spectrum of Amateur Radio interests and activities. Chairing the Working Group is CQ Editor Rich Moseson, W2VU. Other members are AMSAT-NA President Keith Baker, KB1SF; Peter Coffee, AC6EN; Mike Cook, AF9Y; Gene

McGahey, NR0NR; ARRL Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI; Dennis Silage, K3DS, and QEX Editor Doug Smith, KF6DX.

ARRL Laboratory Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, will serve as ARRL HQ staff liaison to both committees.

The Task Force invites information and concepts on a wide range of technologies with the potential to improve Amateur Radio and to promote what the FCC calls "continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The Task Force invites the submission of ideas and proposals from all parts of the amateur community, and will use the input to help formulate League policy recommendations on a wide range of technical issues.

Amateurs are invite to complete the form on ARRLWeb at <http://www.arrl.org/news/ttf/>, send e-mail to the Task Force at [tftinput@arrl.org](mailto:tftinput@arrl.org), or offer your ideas by mail to the ARRL Technology Task Force, c/o Ed Hare, W1RFI, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. Suggestions are requested by November 30, 1999.

## FCC relaxes rules for spread spectrum

The FCC has relaxed rules governing the use of spread spectrum techniques by radio amateurs and opened the door to the possibility of international spread spectrum communication. The Report and Order in WT Docket 97-12 adopted August 31 concludes a proceeding that originated with an ARRL petition in December 1995 and has been pending since 1997.

The FCC adopted rules that will allow Amateur Radio stations to transmit additional spread spectrum emission types. Once the new rules become effective November 1, hams will be able to use techniques other than frequency hopping and direct sequence spreading. In

addition, the new FCC rules will permit US hams to use spread spectrum techniques to communicate with amateurs in other countries that permit SS. Spread spectrum communication has been limited to stations within FCC jurisdiction.

The new rules require that spread spectrum stations running more than 1 W incorporate automatic transmitter power control. Amateur stations using SS are restricted to a maximum power of 100 W.

The Commission also amended the rules to eliminate what it called "now-unnecessary record keeping and station identification requirements" that apply only to stations using spread spectrum. The FCC agreed to let SS stations identify themselves using conventions developed by the Amateur Radio community.

Roanoke Division Vice Director Dennis Bodson, W4PWF, who has followed the League's Spread Spectrum initiative through from start to finish was pleased with the outcome of the proceeding. "I'm very happy," he said. "The League got everything it wanted and more—all of which, I believe, will help to promote this mode on the amateur bands."

Stations employing spread spectrum techniques will remain secondary to—and must accept all interference from—stations employing other authorized modes. The FCC declined to authorize the use of spread spectrum techniques on additional bands or frequencies.

A copy of the FCC's complete Report and Order is available at <http://www.arrl.org/announce/regulatory/wt97-12>.

*Sorry - No Treasurer's Report or minutes from the last meeting received this month. --ed.*

## ARRL Offers Handbook Collector's Edition for 2000

NEWINGTON, CT, Sep 8, 1999—The ARRL Board of Directors has commissioned a limited-run collector's edition of the 2000 ARRL



*The limited-run collector's edition of the 2000 ARRL Handbook for Radio Amateurs.*

*Handbook for Radio Amateurs.* This is a casebound (hardcover) edition with leather on the outside and gold-foil lettering. Those ordering by October 31—the deadline for holiday orders—can

have their copies personalized with name and call sign, also in gold foil lettering, on the cover. Orders received by October 31 should be delivered in early December. The text of the book is exactly the same as the regular edition. The price is \$75. No more than 2000 will be made. Each book will be sequentially issued and numbered. *The ARRL Handbook 2000—Collector's Edition* is item 1859. The price is \$75 (plus shipping and handling). To order, visit ARRLWeb, <http://www.arrl.org/catalog/1859/> or call toll-free 888-277-5289, Monday through Friday from 8 AM to 8 PM Eastern Time.

## STENSAT to launch:

Stanford University's OPAL—Orbiting Picosatellite Automated Launcher—experiment is scheduled for launch October 4. The experiment includes the small (12 cubic inch) StenSat Amateur Radio picosatellite. The package is a crossband repeater that will operate much like the popular AO-27 satellite. StenSat will uplink on 145.840 MHz and downlink on 436.625 MHz. The spacecraft's designers are looking for volunteers to monitor and help control the picosatellite. They are especially interested in getting AX.25 telemetry reports in the hours and days following launch. Interested hams should contact Hank Heidt, N4AFL, [hheidt@erols.com](mailto:hheidt@erols.com) to be added to the StenSat mailing list. For more information, visit <http://www.erols.com/hheidt>.—Space News/ANS

## Where Have All the Laptops Gone?

By Joe Tokarz, KB9EZZ  
August 4, 1999

Is your ARES or RACES group looking for a low-cost, low-overhead way of setting up "shelter boxes" that include a PC running packet? Here's the way one ARES organization tackled the problem.



Here's a recycled Zenith 386-class machine with a monochrome display and a 40 MB hard drive. During boot-up it draws 1 A, and in standby it sleeps at about 200 mA. [Photo by KB9EZZ]

Where *have* all the laptops gone? A few months ago, I asked that very question to ARRL Field Services Manager Rick Palm, K1CE. Our ARES group wanted to put together some "shelter boxes,"

complete with a PC running *ARESPACK* for remote emergency message printing. But, we wanted to keep current drain as low as possible.

Rick was unable to recommend sources, so I started asking around. It just so happened that the local power company was having a computer sale. They had many 386-class laptops—once state-of-the-art but now unwanted and unloved . . . except by the local Amateur Radio Emergency Service.

After a complete reformat of the small hard drive, a DOS reload, and the installation of *ARESPACK*, these laptops are just what the emergency services doctor ordered! With two packet stations running *ARESPACK*, it takes but a few keystrokes to fetch a blank emergency message, format it, connect, remotely place the printer on-line, print the message and get an acknowledgement that the message was printed. All this from a 1 A load to run the PC!

One source—but by all means not the only—to obtain *ARESPACK* is <http://www.kwarc.on.ca/arespack.html>.

An Internet search for *ARESPACK* should net you several sites where you can download this excellent program.

*ARESPACK* runs on a 386 or even 286 machine and takes very little memory. *ARESPACK* only works with IBM-compatible computers, and the machine will need a serial port (the default is COM1, but this can be changed to COM2) and a parallel (printer) port (the default is

LPT1, but this can be changed to LPT2). Selection of COM and LPT ports is made from the command line when you start the program.

Last winter, I taught a Tech class. I set up two little Alinco transceivers, laptops, KPC-3+ TNCs, and one printer. The kids quickly learned how to fetch a blank message, tab over date and time to automatically fill those in and then add the subject, text, "emergency authority" and operator. And with the press of an "F" key, the message is sent, placing the printer on-line, printing the message, and taking the printer offline. All via packet radio!

We also set this up at Field Day to demonstrate to our local emergency services officials. If you use anything other than a TAPR-2 TNC, the printer won't work, but you can still send messages to another *ARESPACK*-equipped station. We tried that during Field Day too. We connected to an OM who was using a Baycom TNC. We were running *ARESPACK* with the KPC-3+. He sent us one line containing ".aon" and the laptop yelped for a few seconds responding to the alarm on command.

When you pull up a blank message to edit, *ARESPACK* automatically gives it the next message number by looking into the *ARESPACK* directory in the hard drive. Once you send the message, the message is also placed in the directory with the new message number. Now for the good part: if another station in the net fails to get a message (if, for example, the station was not yet on-line), it can connect to your station and "get" the messages it doesn't have. And the operator doesn't have to do a thing!

We got the idea to use laptops after seeing the full-sized, recycled PCs used in shelter boxes at other locations. Full-sized PCs seemed too bulky and too power hungry for us, so that's what prompted our quest for old laptops. Ask local businesses if they would be willing to help with donated or loaned "older" equipment needing a good home.

By the way, *ARESPACK* was written for the express purpose of facilitating emergency radio communications via packet radio by Utah County Amateur Radio Service, so the help files in the program are specific to Utah County ARES and are left for other users as examples to follow in developing their own help files.

The program is intended to be shared, and permission has been granted for nonprofit, noncommercial use of the program and its documentation. As the *ARESPACK* documentation says: "Please feel free to copy this program and share it with a fellow ARES member."

**Editor's note:** Editor's note: Joe Tokarz, KB9EZZ, lives in Ottawa, Illinois. He belongs to the ARRL, is a member of the LaSalle County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and is editor of the Starved Rock Radio Club's newsletter STATIC. Contact the author at [tokarz@ivcc.edu](mailto:tokarz@ivcc.edu).

## Easily Heard Signals

de W8EHS  
[w8ehs@arrl.net](mailto:w8ehs@arrl.net)

Plano Balloon Fest should be on everyone's mind. It is that time already. This year it will be in a new place. (CCCC) We will all have to learn the new particulars of how to get there, where to go and all that sort of thing. Two meter simplex (Yes your HT will work in that mode!) will be used on the site. Expect the club repeaters to be in heavy use during launches and chasing. It is THIS weekend, September 17,18,19 before the club meeting date.

Many hams are the type of people that have more than one hobby or special interest. Are you one of those folks? I have been contemplating publishing a list of names of hams whom have hobbies other than radio. It might be fun to find out who else flies model airplanes or collects stamps. Kind of like the "blurbs" you see in "QST", "I

would like to get in touch with someone who enjoys leather craft..." etc.. Anyone volunteer? Send me an email or add to the list at next meeting.

While living in 8-land and also the three years I spent in 1-land, winter seemed to be the time when I wanted to do the most antenna work. The old "why do today (in nice weather) what you can do under much nastier conditions" trick. The winters here in Plano are not too bad so I suppose 5-landers could change antenna projects around to a summertime activity.

Yeah, that's the ticket. As soon as the temperature pegs over 100 degrees, start the new sky wire project. I have heard of one monster 80 meter beam project under way. Anyone have any stories (pictures) about antenna projects such as this one or others they are willing to share with the PARK?

Remember, this is your forum too. Feed me the good stuff to get published. I will Thank You!

September 12 - October 23, 1999

Weekly Planner

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

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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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:

**Editor - Dan Kautz, W8EHS**  
**PARKING TICKET**  
**11314 Harbor Rd.**  
**Frisco, Texas 75035-7569**

**email: w8ehs@arrl.net**

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

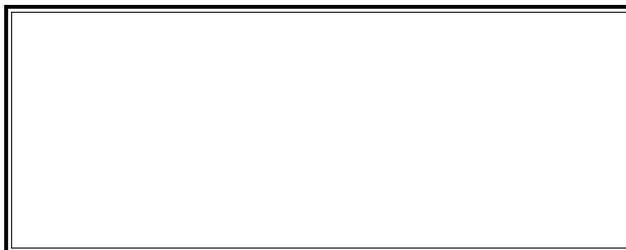
The Plano Amateur Radio Klub meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM in the Harrington Library, 18th and Avenue P. Dues are \$15 per year, \$21 for family membership, and \$7 for the Repeater Association, prorated biannually. The PARK operates three repeaters: WD5ERD on 147.18+, WB5SGN on 224.22- and K5VOU on 444.25+. Look for PARK on the Internet at: <http://www.holman.net/park/>.



**Plano Amateur Radio Klub**  
**PARKING TICKET**  
**P.O. Box 860435**  
**Plano, TX. 75086-0435**



**First Class Mail**



**Participate!**  
**Plano Balloon Fest This Weekend.**  
**Sept 17-19, 1999**