



PARKING TICKET

"Our 26th YEAR!"

September, 1998

A Letter from ARRL's President

A number of members have asked why the ARRL Board of Directors, at its July 1998 meeting, decided to propose changes to the amateur radio licensing structure. Let me see if I can shed some light on some of the reasons for the proposed changes.

I am certain that some hams will find change itself to be very disconcerting. It is our nature to like things the way they are and the way they were. We're generally comfortable with that and not comfortable with change. In many instances, we would like to return to "the good old days" of ham radio. However, there are some very real reasons why amateur radio has to make some changes if it is to be around in the 21st century.

As amateur radio operators, we're slipping farther and farther behind on the technology power curve, and people take note of that. Take a look at the primary modes of communication we use: SSB, FM, CW, etc. Each of those modes of operation have been around 50, 60, 70 years or more. I was traveling by airplane not long ago and the person sitting next to me was a retired electrical engineer. As we chatted I told him about my involvement with amateur radio. He had a ham license about 45 years ago. He was amazed hams still use SSB, let alone CW. He wondered why the hams didn't use some of the more "modern" modes of communications. This is a typical reaction. We have to change people's perception of ham radio being a pursuit involving 70 year old communication techniques. One of the ways to help change that perception is to mod-

ernize our approach to CW. We're not eliminating it, we're simply trying to put in its proper perspective as we move into a new century. CW will be around for a very long time as one of the modes of communication for amateurs. There are still many people who use CW to communicate. However, as an examination element, it carries much more weight than it should at the present time. I believe the League proposal will put CW into a more proper perspective in the examination context as we try to bring amateur radio into the current technological environment.

I don't think there are many people who see CW as the future of amateur radio. If they do, in my opinion, they are looking backwards and not to the future of ham radio. And, as I mentioned, we're not eliminating CW. There will be plenty of people operating CW just as they have for years. Most non-hams think of ham radio as a hobby. And as a matter of fact, most hams think of amateur radio as a hobby. Sure, the League tries to stress the emergency communications and the public service aspects of amateur radio to those that are unaware of that role and people outside of ham radio do have some understanding of that role of amateur radio. It is certainly one of the first things I tell people about amateur radio if they have no acquaintance with the amateur service. However, the bottom line is we're viewed as a hobby.

The point is, we have some very valuable spectrum that is available to us for hobby purposes, and yes, even for our public service activi-

ties. It has become more and more difficult in recent years to justify retaining and defending our spectrum from commercial interests who make some very good arguments as to why they should be allowed to use our spectrum for endeavors that will generate jobs, used advanced telecommunications techniques and put the spectrum to use for commercial purposes, not just for hobby purposes.

Even considering the perception that what we do is a "hobby," we can counter some of that perception that we're "a dying breed" clinging to old technologies when we can show that amateur radio is a vital, growing activity. One only has to look at the statistics in the last few years to find that to be untrue. In recent years the average age of an active ham has crept up to nearly 60 years old. The growth rate of new hams coming into the service is at a very low rate of less than 2%. That doesn't even keep up with the "loss rate" of people who die or simply leave amateur radio for various reasons. The argument that we need to retain spectrum for the growth of amateur radio in the face of such dwindling numbers is an unconvincing one to anyone, such as the FCC and commercial interests, who take a moment to look at the numbers.

Taking these factors into consideration, the perception of ham radio is one of an aging group of hobbyists who use "less than state-of-the-art" communication techniques. We may not like that perception but that is what it is in many circles of the

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P.A.R.K. Meeting Minutes

**August 18, 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 Three members logged in and two visitors signed the visitors sheet.

The Secretary noted the Minutes in the August Newsletter as printed except for incorrectly reporting the program for the evening. The program was presented on Amateur Television. A motion was made to accept the minutes as published and corrected, it was seconded and carried unanimously.

The Treasurer's report was cited as published in the newsletter. A motion was made to accept the report, it carried unanimously.

Martin Reynolds asked for a report on the repeater. No one from the Repeater Committee was present, no report was given.

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

Martin Reynolds asked for a report from the Communications Committee. No one from Communications Committee was present, no report was given.

Dan Kautz asked for contributions to the newsletter. He also requested any contributions be sent to him by the first day of the month.

Old Business -

* Bill Swan K5MWC reminded the Klub the formation of an RFI

Committee still needs to be formed. The Klub is looking for a volunteer to chair the committee.

* At the last meeting Bill Drake KJ5ZV notified the Klub of an opportunity to install the 2-Meter repeater on top of an 8 story office building near Coit and Campbell. He said the progress is going very well. The architect is unfamiliar with Amateur Radio Antennas, so, Bill is going to provide him with pictures. Anyone with pictures that may help are requested to contact Bill.

New Business -

* The secretary noted 1 application for membership, Rich Casey N5CSU. A motion was made to accept the new member, it was seconded, and carried unanimously.

Announcements -

* Bill Fell informed the Klub of the upcoming Plano Balloon Festival on September 18,19, & 20. Assistance is needed in chase/tracking of balloons. Everyone has always had fun in the past. Anyone wanting to participate in the activities need to contact Bill, KK5PB.

* Vice President Robin Winans indicated she was looking for programs for Sept., Oct., and Nov. (Robin did not attend the meeting. The information was read by the secretary.)

* Richard Phillips, Sr. KB5YBQ informed the Klub about the upcoming Robotics Competition of High School students on October 10th at Allen High School.

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.

* John Sanders AB5ZR suggested the Klub review the way a meeting is conducted when a

Treasurer's Report Aug. 26, 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

program is to be presented that evening. At the previous meeting, due to the discussion on the Antenna Moratorium, the Fast Scan TV Program was delayed. After debating the issue, with considerable input from most present, it was decided the President, or other member, operating the Klub meeting would make decisions on the meeting format. Consideration will be given to future presentations. No further action was taken.

The meeting was adjourned at 2014 hours after which the program on Amateur Radio Satellites would be given by John Barber N5JB.

Jack Ward, KC5KOV
Secretary



Collins Collectors Association 1998 Annual Convention

The Collins Collectors Assn. Will have its 1998 convention here in Dallas in October, from the 15th to the 18th. The convention will be held at the Holiday Inn Select - Dallas Central. The convention is open to all interested in collecting/using Collins equipment, but you must be a member to attend. Memberships will be available at the door or can be obtained by visiting their web site.

The convention will have a wide range of activities to include workshops on the care and feeding of Collins radio equipment, a flea market, a Saturday night Bar-B-Q and also a tour of the Rockwell Collins Facility where they will see the Rivet Rider (Commando Solo) mockup and also the HPTS 200KW Transmitter.

A special treat for Collins fans and amateur radio history buffs will be the showing of the Collins Radio Demonstration Van. This van is a Ford Econo-Van, which was outfitted with a complete Collins S-Line station and was driven to amateur radio conventions around the country to demonstrate Collins equipment. The van was purchased privately which has been privately restored and equipped exactly as Collins toured it by Jim Stitzinger, WA3CEX. The Van will also be shown at the Rockwell Collins facility in Richardson on the Monday after the convention for employees to view. RCARC will also host a viewing that night for other area clubs. The van will be setup and operational at the Rockwell Collins facility for this showing.

The Rockwell Collins Amateur Radio Club (RCARC) will host the Special Event Stations W5ROK (RCARC Richardson) and W0CXX/5 (W0CXX is the late Art Collins' call) and supply operators along with

other area clubs also helping out. The current plan is to have a special QSL or Special Certificate for stations working the stations. W0CXX will occupy the Collins Demo Van that will be setup outside the hotel.

I am currently looking for operators to man the Special event stations that will operate throughout the convention. A special QSL/Certificate is planned for all who work the stations. The stations will use only Collins Amateur equipment in keeping with the theme of the CCA. Those volunteers who are not familiar with using 'Tube Type Gear' will be tutored in the 'Fine Art' of tuning up the Collins gear at a session prior to the convention.

If you would like to help out with the special event stations, or would like additional information on the convention please contact me at 972-424-7403 or e-mail at gene_duprey@comsys.rockwell.com. Additional information on the Collins Collectors Association can be found on their web sit at: www.teleteam.com/~jmiller/ccca_html/ccahome.html.

Gene K1GD

Easily Heard Signals

De W8EHS

Where have all the techies gone? Long time passing? (From a song of similar lyrics.) Just wondering what has happened to all the Ham inventiveness that comes with the toys we play with. Not many of us are willing to take the time or find the parts when it comes to building our own receivers and transmitters. However, there must be a lot of other projects that we do for ourselves that come under the heading of "inventiveness."

Inventiveness for a Ham is A.K.A. (Also Known As) "home brewing." What have you built for yourself that you would like others



to know about? What I am looking for is articles about home brew projects for the newsletter. You may not have to write about it. If you get me interested, I will do it for you. What I need is to see your project.

This could be a simple antenna project. Or perhaps it is a control system for the station. Maybe how you keep track of your contacts and QSL's. This could be a hardware or a software system.

We all hear folks talking about the neat new HT they just bought. Or maybe some new "super rig". A little write-up (like a product report) would be great. Brag it up or beat it down. Here is your chance to be a critic. Of course it is understood that hams only purchase or build the best stuff!

If you read something within your normal field of endeavor (your regular job) that is of interest to you as a radio amateur, clip it out and send it to me. Others will equally enjoy the information. I see stuff in my vocation (computer control systems) that could have amateur radio application. I hesitate publishing it only because it is heavy into computers and this is a ham klub. But then again, ham radio is heavy into microprocessors.

Unless you are building a direct conversion receiver from scratch, I bet you can not find a ham rig today that doesn't involve a microprocessor. You have got to know that everything today is designed or engineered with the use of a computer.

The CPU's in our home computers are now running clock speeds well into UHF. It is hard to realize the early machines were running in the bottom end of HF.

Be sure to read the lead story in this issue. Wether you agree or not with restructuring, there are some very valid points about where Amateur Radio and our Klub "is at" today. 73

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communications industry. And of course the communications industry is where we have to compete for our spectrum. The changes proposed by the League are not the total solution to the problem. We still have to make an effort to move into more advanced communication techniques in the near future. We need to take advantage of some of the more cutting edge modes of digital communication to allow for more efficient use of the spectrum. The Board of Directors is aware that merely restructuring license classes and modernizing the CW testing requirements is not the whole answer.

The League is going to have to take the lead in promoting technological advances within amateur radio even if it is just stressing the idea that amateurs put to use in amateur radio some of the techniques used by the commercial services. Hopefully, we'll be able to rise to that challenge. And it's not just the League that needs a different mindset to get us into the next century with a vital amateur radio. For example, we might persuade repeater coordinators to give priority to sanctioning repeaters that are going to be using advanced digital modes rather than the 50 year old narrow band FM mode.

We might even persuade radio manufacturers to market HF radios that use other modes than CW and SSB as the primary modes of communication below 30 MHz. There are digital techniques that can be applied to the amateur service that would make more efficient use of the spectrum and minimize the interference potential between stations.

I suppose the bottom line is we in amateur radio have to start thinking about the future and where we want amateur radio to be in the future. Changes within ham radio have been suggested for quite a number of years. The pressure for change has been building. The FCC has had a continuing stream of

proposals from individual amateurs to make significant changes over the last ten years or so. The League, for various reasons, has resisted such change, myself included. However, I think the proposal the League recently adopted will move us as amateurs in the direction we need to be going.

I have resisted engaging in any debate about the pros and cons of CW and how it is or is not a filter for "quality" amateurs getting on the HF bands. There are plenty of people who will spend hours and hours debating that subject. I don't. Not only that, it misses the whole point of why the Board suggested the changes it did. If you have an urge to do that, I can suggest some internet newsgroups where that debate has been raging for years and with no satisfactory conclusion I might add.

Any comments you have regarding the specific provisions of the proposal can be addressed by filing comments with the FCC now that the matter is released for public comment.

I also have to make a comment about the "motives" of the members of the Board in making such a proposal. Some hams who are not in favor of the changes have said the Board made the move to make sure more radios were sold. Some have said it was to attract more members to the League. I can state without any hesitation that the Board acted in the best interests of amateur radio and for no other reason. Most all of the members of the Board have been amateurs for 35 years or so and some even much longer. These are not people who want to see amateur radio be hurt in any way. They don't spend 30 or 40 hours a week working on amateur radio matters for anything other than the benefit of amateur radio.

I don't think there is anyone on the Board who cares how many radios Yaesu, Icom or Kenwood sell. Those companies are involved in other commercial activities and the amateur radio segment of their business is not large in the context

of their entire commercial enterprise. If one or more of those companies should leave the amateur radio market, some other company will fill the void and market amateur radios. Of course, that assumes there is an amateur radio service.

The League would obviously like to have more of the amateurs as members. I certainly don't dispute that. But that doesn't mean it will benefit any person on the Board if the League has additional members because we are volunteers to begin with. We don't get paid and we certainly don't get any bonuses if additional members join the organization. It actually means the League can provide more in the way of services to the members more than anything else.

I would hope that you would consider these factors in assessing the need for and the effect of the League's proposal. There's no reason the changes are being suggested other than they are needed. Other changes along the lines that I mentioned are also needed for the amateur service to continue to be a growing, valuable service.

73,

Rod Stafford, W6ROD
President, ARRL

FCC Issues RF Safety Supplement B to OET Bulletin 65

Hams now have basic guidelines and tools to evaluate their stations for compliance with the FCC's RF exposure guidelines that go into effect January 1, 1998. On November 18, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology issued the long-anticipated Amateur Radio Supplement B to OET Bulletin 65 (<http://www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/bulletins/#65>). The FCC worked closely with the Amateur Radio community in developing the new supplement. Several ARRL Headquarters staff members and Technical Advisors were involved in

reviewing preliminary drafts of the supplement. ARRL Lab Supervisor Ed Hare, W1RFI, has been the League's point man for RF safety and exposure issues.

Supplement B, subtitled "Additional Information for Amateur Radio Stations," contains detailed information specific to ham radio stations. It is designed to be used in conjunction with the FCC's OET Bulletin 65 (Version 97-01) (<http://www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/bulletins/#65>), *Evaluating Compliance with FCC Guidelines for Human Exposure to Radiofrequency Electromagnetic Fields*. The revised Bulletin 65 was issued earlier this year. Supplement B covers definitions of RF radiation and discusses the FCC exposure guidelines and their applications, methods of predicting human exposure, estimating compliance distances, and controlling exposure to RF fields. The supplement runs approximately 60 pages. Among its noteworthy highlights are numerous easy-to-use tables based on various frequencies, power levels and antenna configurations to help hams determine whether their stations comply with the FCC's published RF exposure guidelines. Most of the tables show compliance distance, the distance that an antenna needs to be located from areas of exposure to be in compliance. The January, 1998 issue of *QST* features an article, "FCC RF-Exposure Regulations — the Station Evaluation," by Ed Hare, W1RFI, that describes Supplement B and tells hams how to use it to complete their station evaluations.

OET Bulletin 65 and the new Supplement B can all be viewed and downloaded from the FCC's OET World Wide Web Site: <http://www.fcc.gov/oet/info/documents/bulletins/#65>. Copies can also be purchased from the Commission's duplicating/research contractor: International Transcription Service, Inc., 1231 20th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036; Telephone: (202) 857-3800, FAX: (202) 857-3805.

19th Annual Balloon Festival



The nineteenth annual Plano Balloon Festival will be held on the 18th., 19th. and 20th. of September 1998. Ham operators are needed and welcome to participate in the public service communications related to the festival. This activity is a project of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub.

Two kinds of help are needed. One is to provide on-field (at Bob Woodruff Park) help, and the other is to provide off-field (balloon chase) help. You may select which kind and may change the type from flight to flight. There will be five official flights, Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday evening, Sunday morning, and Sunday evening, provided the weather cooperates. There is also an unofficial "media" flight on Friday morning.

For on-field work, you need to check in to the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (P.A.R.K.) tent at the northeast end of Bob Woodruff Park by 6:30 a.m. (morning flight) and about 4:30 p.m. (evening flight). A 2 meter handheld radio is required for this activity. Entry to Bob Woodruff Park is severely limited by city ordinance — nearby residents have passes, certain Festival staff and vendors have passes, the remainder must use either the \$10 per day parking lot to the north of Bob Woodruff Park, or the \$1 round trip DART bus from the East Plano Transit Center (Archerwood between Park Blvd. and Parker Rd.). Bob Woodruff Park is located between Park Blvd. and Parker Rd.,

and between Shiloh (if/when extended) and San Gabriel Dr. in Plano.

During the period between the morning flight and the evening flight, a few hams are needed at the park to provide general public service communications assistance (lost child, etc.). A 2 meter handheld with sufficient battery endurance is needed for this activity. Generally, you will be free to walk around looking at the exhibits and entertainment during this period.

For the off-field work, you will need to find your way to the "chase" assembly point. This can be done by checking with others on the P.A.R.K. repeater (147.18 +). Meeting times are generally the same as for the on-field activity. At the assembly point, identify yourself to the "chase" net controller, and if you are alone, ask to be paired with another ham to do the chase.

Balloon chasing is done in pairs for safety sake since one person is needed to do the driving while the other spots and reports via radio. If you haven't done this before, being paired with an experienced "chaser" will be instructive. For the chase vehicles, a 2 meter mobile radio (25 W or better) and external (mobile) antenna is desired for this activity; a handheld with external antenna will be marginal for longer chases which may extend 10 to 20 miles from the park.

This event is a lot of fun for everyone, some hams take their families on the balloon chases and/or to the park. If there are other questions please contact Bill Fell, KK5PB, at:

wjfell@lonestar.rcclub.org

Or at the phone numbers in the Klub roster.

Klub Constitution

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

<http://www.tedatum.com/park>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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President	Martin Reynolds, N6LIF	972-727-6746	
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The **PARKING TICKET** is the monthly publication of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) and is intended to present news, issues and opinions of interest to the PARK and the Amateur Radio Community. We encourage contribution of articles, letters to the editor, etc. and welcome newsletter exchanges with other clubs around the country. Permission is granted to reprint material as long as proper credit is given. Ideas for and contributions to the **PARKING TICKET** should be sent to:

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

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



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First Class Mail

