



Ronald Gene Parsons

April 1, 1938 - April 19, 2022

Ronald Gene Parsons passed away peacefully on April 19th, 2022 with his wife and children by his side. He will be remembered as an amazing father, ham radio and rocketry enthusiast, polio survivor, professor, and all-around amazing man.

He received his PhD from Stanford in 1966 and taught Physics at The University of Texas at Austin. He was an early adopter of home computing, building two computers in the late 1970s, and integrating them with other hobbies including model railroading. He was even featured in the PBS television show "The Triumph of the Nerds". Most recently, he was active in satellite radio earning the coveted Satellite Worked all States (WAS) and the Satellite Worked all Continents (WAC) certificates by the American Radio Relay League. He has published over 70 articles on physics, computing, ham radio, rocketry, model railroading among other topics.

He has made a lasting impact on those lucky enough to have known and worked with him. He will be greatly missed.

Ron is survived by his wife Kathy, his daughter, Kali (husband David), son, Vince (wife Ann), and four grandchildren, Ben and Nic (Kali), and Emma and Nathan (Vince), as well as Kathy's children Haidar (wife Ashley), Patti, Lana (husband Nelson), and Ramzi, and Kathy's grandchildren Will (Haider),

Katrina and Justin (Patti), and Nelson, Dani, and Ethan (Lana).

You may read a short biography here: <https://web2.ph.utexas.edu/utphysicshistory/RonGParsons.html>

In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to your favorite charity in Ron's name.

Tribute Wall



“ *Ronald Gene Parsons*

October 05, 2023 at 10:58 AM



“ *Ronald Gene Parsons*

October 04, 2023 at 06:25 PM



“ *Ronald Gene Parsons*

September 26, 2023 at 10:57 PM

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“ Ron was the "Satellite Elmer" for K5LBJ, the LASA High School Amateur Radio Club. In 2008, he coordinated setup of a direct radio contact between the LASA/LBJ High program and Richard Garriott aboard the ISS. As he upgraded his own equipment, he sold his old Icom 910H to the school for a deeply discounted price. In 2018, K5LBJ used that equipment to help a Salado Jr. High make direct contact with the ISS. Ron provided great advice to ensure success during that QSO. So, Ron was a great supporter of the ARISS/Satellite community. Many talk of helping young people to experience ham radio, but Ron went the extra step to make it happen (even when confined to a wheelchair).

On a personal note, Ron was always handy to provide technical advise or even invite you to a rocket launch. I am shocked to learn of his passing. My life (and that of many students) is richer for having worked and been friends with Ron.

*73, Ronny Risinger, KC5EES
Trustee, K5LBJ, the LASA High School Amateur Radio Club*

Ronny Risinger - May 09, 2022 at 02:55 PM

JY

“ Ron was one of my very first contacts when I discovered amateur radio satellite. May he rest in peace My condolences to his family. José Molina, YS1MS. El Salvador.

José Arturo Molina, YS1MS - April 24, 2022 at 10:07 PM

GA

“ I'm, one of Ron's amateur radio satellite acquaintances. I talked to Ron over 185 times via satellite over the years and had the pleasure of meeting in person at an amateur radio hamfest. As nice a guy in person as he was on the radio. His voice will be missed on the satellites. RIP, Ron. W5RKN SK.

Glenn Miller AA5PK - April 21, 2022 at 08:38 PM