

# Di-Dah-Dit

## W8CNF here—Over!

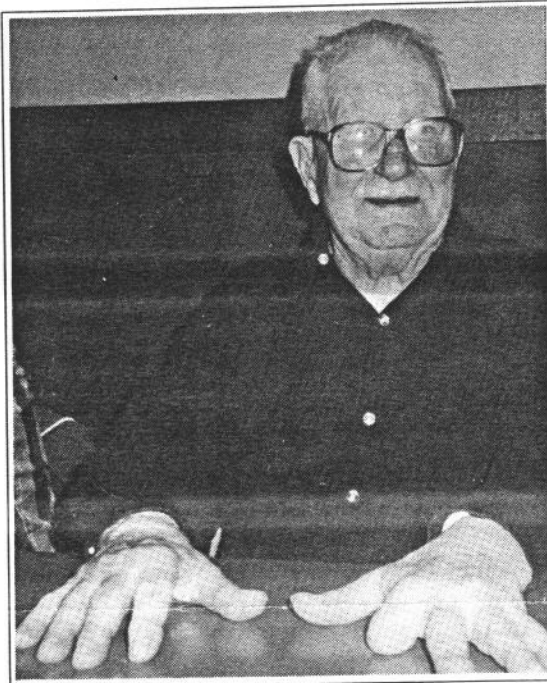
Here's an OT worth getting to know

Many times, I have heard Homer Nowery, W8CNF, sign-on the repeater with these very words. But, it wasn't until I had time to sit down and talk with him at the Klub's Christmas party, that I came to really appreciate this *Seasoned Ham*.

"I was a radio mechanic during the war," Nowery says. "The Britons were just developing radar. And Uncle Sam needed some operators—so I went to school in Boca Raton, Florida, and became a radarman. I was an air crewman on board the B-24s. I had five days to learn the Morse Code when I was in the Air Force—and did it! I qualified with 13wpm and was given air crewman status."

13 wpm in five days? What else could this man have done to impress even the most avid ham radio operator? Would you believe, a ham shack in a chicken coup? And a five-element beam made out of an old wooden ladder—complete with a steering wheel used for a rotator?

Nowery says, "I built a ham shack out of an 8x12 foot chicken coup. After I got it cleaned out (*phew*), it worked out nicely. Then, I built a tower on top of the chicken house and made a five-element beam out of an old 14-foot ladder." (*He has a photo of this contraption—for real!*) Nowery adds, "I didn't have any way of turning the beam. So I put a half-inch pipe down through the roof and put an old



**"I built a ham shack out of a chicken coup..."**

car steering wheel on the pipe. Now, the pipe came down through the roof and was in the middle of the room with this steering wheel on it (*try that one at home and see how the XYL reacts*). I could really fine tune my beam heading with that thing."

By this time, your editor had his mouth open. And it wasn't because I was trying another slice of Christmas ham at the Klub party. Nope! This guy had gotten my attention.

I thought, here's an OT worth getting to know.

Nowery told me more ham radio stories of the days when he used a G-1 Radio and an ARC-5 as his on-air station and was an active member of MARS (Military Affiliated Radio System). Ask some of the other OTs about G-1s and ARC-5s. Or better still, ask Homer.

Nowery didn't become a ham until after WWII. And when you mention "the war" or flying, you get a unique smile and a certain twinkle occurs in his eyes.

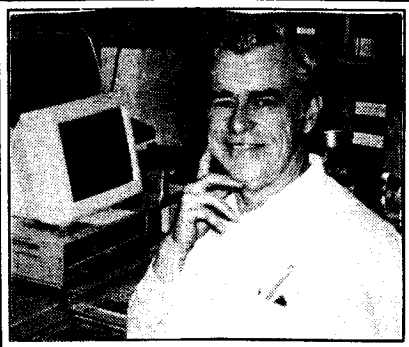
"I had 60 hours solo, before the Air Force got me," Nowery says. He is a qualified pilot with all ratings except the multi-engine sea

rating.

I asked if he was a pilot in the war. "They (US) needed radio operators and radarmen more than pilots," he said. "I was in a unit that performed LAB, low altitude bombing. We bombed ships at sea. The low altitude was from deck level to about 400 feet. The worst thing that happened was when I had to do the sync-scope operator's job *and* my own job—it saved our hides, though."

(see page two)

## President's Corner



Curt Fouse, K8UC

## Tnx much fer ur help

**T**he months are going by fast. I think it's high time I took the time to let all of you, who make the Klub function so well, know how much you're appreciated.

Because of creeping senility, I won't mention each person by name—might leave someone out, you know. But here goes.

Special thanks to the Education Committee and instructors for their fine job at our classes, this year.

Also, thanks to the newsletter staff. Including all of you who have contributed articles and materials for publication. I also appreciate the ones who are willing to print, fold, staple and help mail the letter. The fact that deadlines are met and kept has allowed us not to miss a single issue.

The Tuesday night nets are always on schedule and attract quite a few check-ins. Bob, KB8EFB says, anyone who wants to run the net on Tuesdays, should just give him a call and let him know of your desire to serve the Klub in this manner. I thank each one who checks in, too.

There's the VE team who help us make testing another service of the Klub.

The team who has been conducting code practice on the 147.390 machine deserve a click of the key, too. There is some thought, that since we started the classes at the Red Cross, there is not as much interest in the on-air-code practice. If you listen in and appreciate the code practice—let the control operators know. We won't continue this service, at this time, if there's no interest.

Each of the other Klub officers deserve a mention here, too. Especially the one who will take the reins for the next meeting. I may have to sked from Florida if I have any input for the next meeting.

I salute our new members and remind all of you—dues are coming up for renewal.

If you read this column last month, you know of my "Big Map Attack." Well, all is well, that ends well. The Vector Company sent me a new heading map—and an apology. And the Feds sent my other topo map.

73, 'til next month. Curt, K8UC

## Klub Notes

submitted by  
Rory, KB8MDN, secretary

First reading on three new Klub applicants: Wayne Webb, N4TCR; H. David Howell, N8WOQ; and Glenn Lebrock, W8KGM. Leo, WA8BMA is recruiting operators for a walk-a-thon on April 26. March will bring a state-wide emergency drill and ARES "bodies" will be needed. Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW, reports 12 in the novice/tech classes and 5 in the upgrade classes at the Klub's amateur radio classes. A Klub discussion was held about moving the autopatch to a town location, so that 911 can be utilized.

W8CNF continued from front page

A war veteran. A veteran ham operator. A veteran of the Johns Manville Corporation. Oh, wait! I forgot to mention that. Nowery worked for nearly 35 years at the Manville plant in Vienna. And he has been a flight instructor since 1974. He is also a Civil Air Patrol charter member. "One time I found two lost planes. One of them had \$250,000 on board. The money belonged to a bank," he says.

Finally, I asked Homer what's been the most enjoyable times of his 77 years? With a tear that expressed a love only a brother could understand, Homer said, "The days with my brother Harry (deceased). We ran a radio shop together when we were 16 year-old kids. It was located on 13 1/2 Street at St. Marys Avenue. We worked on Atwater Kents, Majestics and old RCAs."

"He (Harry) was quite a guy. I can't really tell you how it happened, but, when I was in the war, at Langley Air Force Base, I looked up one day—and there was Harry. He'd joined up too. It was really something, that we'd meet up like that, you know?"

Homer, I kind of feel like there is another reunion, with Harry, that will be even more enjoyable than the first.

Thank you, Homer for your love of our hobby, life and mankind.

(Homer says, "Anybody that wants to, can give me a call and stop by for a visit. I can show you my ladder beam. And talk about Charlie Whiskey—that's CW.")

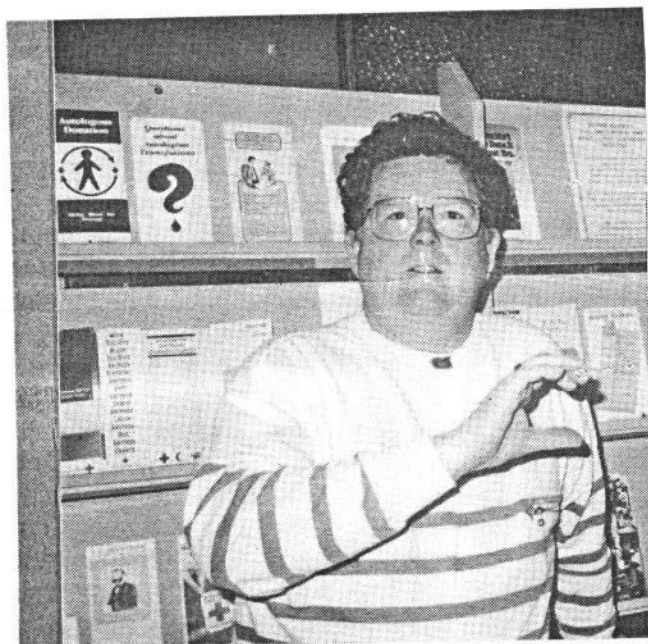
VY 73, Larry, KF8NW

## Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub 1992-1993 Officers and staff

Curt Fouse, K8UC, President  
Earl Hulce, KB8HRG, VP  
John McGuffey, N8NBL, VP  
Bob Lyons, KB8EFB, VP  
Rory Hughes, KB8MDN, Sect.  
Jane McGuffey, N8MOW, Treas.  
Jerry Wharton, KA8NJW, Ed.  
Larry Dale, KF8NW, Ed.

# FYI:

(For your information)



*"This is the way my hand looks after using my new MFJ keyer. It's also easier for me to make the letter 'C' in sign language than trying to use that darn keyer." (Tim, KB8JWF, caught off guard by the Camera Bug)*

## New 147.000 + rpt

A new repeater with several "whistles and bells" went on the air recently in Wirt County.

The call assigned to the repeater is N8TWU. That is Ken Brooks, Jr.'s call and it is operated by the T.C.A.R.A. (Tri-County Amateur Radio Association).

The repeater will serve Wirt, Wood and Jackson counties from atop Elizabeth Hill (elevation 1150 feet, plus 60-foot tower).

An autopatch is in the making. A packet set-up and PBBS are also included in the system.

Call KB8NUR on packet at 145.050 mhz. PBBS is KB8NUR-1, node is TCARA and the digi is WIRT.

Mail can also be left at N8TWU-1 V WIRT. Let me know how it's working.

*de KB8NUR, Ken Brooks, Sr.*

*Buy, Sell and Trade items can be sent to:*

**Larry, KF8NW**

**Rt 3 Box 157,**

**Washington, WV 26181**

*(please include your phone # to verify info)*

## Susan, Kay Bee 8 Jay Zed Ed, anchors first YL/XYL net night—Thursdays at 9 p.m.

Susan, KB8JZE, has agreed to serve as net control on the first YL/XYL net night, which is slated for 9 p.m., Thursday night, March 11.

Susan adds, "I am looking forward to hearing a bunch of YLs and XYLs on the 147.390 mhz repeater. I liked the idea, "A ladies night on the repeater," when I first heard about it."

**"Call it what you want, partyline, a hen party—but, our time has come. Ladies! Join in the YL/XYL net night."** Susan Dale

She says, "I am also looking for lots of help from others who will serve as net control."

She told Di-Dah-Dit, "Ham radio could grow by leaps and bounds if some of the OMs would tune their radios to the '39-machine and let their wives listen in and then they (wives) might decide they'd like to get their license, too."

The net is an "open net." This means, any YL/XYL, holding a valid amateur license, is welcome to check into the net on Thursdays at 9 p.m. The net is not affiliated with the PARK or any other club or organization.

*(Editor's note: Remember, the first net is scheduled for Thursday, March 11, at 9 p.m. This day and time is for trial purposes. Show your support—check in on the 147.390 mhz machine and Tnx.)*

# Hams go to school and demonstrate

## Demonstrations were conducted on two local campuses, last month.

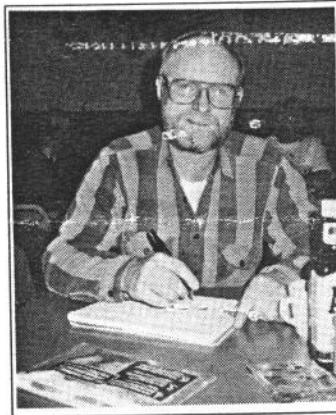
However, there were no End-the-War signs carried by long-haired hippie-types. Nobody was chanting, "Justice for Rodney King," either.

Instead, children's eyes and ears were filled with the magic of ham radio.

Jane, N8MOW; Mike, N8SOP; Tim, WA8CRW; Mary, KB8BOA; Rory, KB8MDN; Dave, KD8YY and Ben, KB8HDE, made it possible for the sixth-grade students at Emerson School and students at Kanawha School to understand ham radio a bit better.

After being invited by Jane to come to Emerson (she teaches there), the rest of the hams got their heads (and equipment) together and headed

for the schoolhouse and put on their "Dog and Pony Show" about ham radio.



***"I think we'll see some new hams come out of these two schools in the future."***

Rory Hughes, KB8MDN

Tim, Mary, Rory and Mike were set up at Emerson School. Dave and his son, Ben, were at Kanawha School. A cross-county QSO on ten meters was foiled by poor band conditions. But two meters was wide open (through the repeater) and served to impress many. A highlight of the demonstration was when one student at Emerson phoned home and talked with his Mom using the Klub's

autopatch.

Mike used a laptop computer and made a packet contact in Arizona—that really got the students' attention. CW was demonstrated by Mike on a straight key and an electronic keyer.

After the demonstration, Rory said, "I think we'll see some new hams come out of these two schools in the future."

Dave Stone, KD8YY, has already seen several students become ham radio operators, including his two sons, at Kanawha School. Dave has done an outstanding job of promoting ham radio and using it as a teaching tool. He qualified the school's club for the special computer software offered by the Kenwood Corporation. The school's club has participated in contests and other special events, recently and in the past.

*(Editor's note: As Pvt. Gomer Pyle would say, "Thank ya', Thank ya', Thank ya! And since we're thanking people for a special effort; Thank You, Mary, KB8BOA, for the Klub Roster you printed and included in our last newsletter. It's this type of willingness to serve others, that makes the PARK such a special Klub and group of people.)*

**Don't forget!  
Tuesday night  
is  
NetNight  
on Nine-Seven  
at  
Nine-oh-Clock**

**Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub  
P.O. Box 2112  
Parkersburg, WV 26101**



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KABNJW Jerry Wharton  
1722 20th St.  
Parkersburg WV 26101

