



# Di-Dah-Dit

Official Newsletter of the Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub  
P. O. Box 2112, Parkersburg, WV 26101

## LEAGUE PETITIONS FOR RACES FLEXIBILITY

The ARRL is seeking a change in FCC rules to relax regulations regarding the Amateur Radio Service and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). The League wants the FCC to allow hams actively supporting emergency or disaster communication or involved in drills and tests to communicate "between and among" RACES stations and those stations registered with civil defense organizations operating under RACES. The League also wants the FCC to relax time limitations on RACES emergency drills and tests. This would permit stations operating under RACES (organized under the Federal Emergency Management Agency and operating under local civil defense agencies) to communicate, as necessary during emergencies, tests and drills, with stations operating under the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, or ARES (begun by the ARRL in 1935) or with other non-ARES or non-RACES-stations also engaged in emergency communication or drills. Right now, RACES and ARES operate independently of each other, although some hams participate in both organizations.

Relaxing the rules "would permit intercommunication with other amateurs active in emergency communications, and enable a form of 'mutual aid' in the Amateur Service," the League said in its filing. "It is time that the Commission permit, but not require, communications between RACES participants and non-RACES amateurs during emergencies or emergency drills and preparedness exercises." The League said the Commission has an opportunity to eliminate a restriction that "arguably should never have been enacted in the first place," and that has "outlived whatever utility it may ever have had."

The League also seeks to increase the time limit on RACES training drills and tests from one hour per week to up to five hours per week.

John W. Keeper  
Born: May 27, 1921  
Died: March 3, 1997

### Scout Elmer Award:

You don't have to be in Scouting to be the recipient of the ScoutElmer Award for helping Scouts to become hams. To qualify, you must be licensed and either be a past or present Scout or adult leader or know a currently active Scout or leader. ScoutElmers agree to respond to help answer ham radio questions from Scouts in their area for at least one month. To sign up, send e-mail to Mel Goldberg at [myriad1@ix.netcom.com](mailto:myriad1@ix.netcom.com). Include your name and call sign, e-mail address; locations you can serve; mode(s) of communication, such as e-mail only, e-mail and telephone, telephone and ham class, etc; and your Scouting affiliation and position (past affiliation and date, if applicable), or your Scout or Scout leader sponsor. ScoutElmer Award recipients get a certificate, a Web site logo and the satisfaction that you helped promote Amateur Radio in Scouting. For more information, contact Mel Goldberg, KO6TF, via e-mail or visit the ScoutRadio Web site at <http://www.ocbsa.org/troop319/ham.htm>.

## NEW, IMPROVED TRANSCIVERS ON THE HORIZON

Yaesu's new FT-920 HF/6-meter transceiver will be available in early May, the company announced this week. The radio already is being advertised for sale in some overseas ham radio journals. Yaesu says the FT-920 will offer 100 W output on all bands; digital signal processing (DSP) in all modes (with auto notch and noise reduction); built-in antenna tuner, memory keyer and RS-232C level converter; and MOSFET finals. It's expected to retail for under \$2000.

ICOM has announced the IC-706MkII, with several improvements and additions to the popular tiny HF/VHF transceiver at the same price as the original IC-706. The MkII will offer slots for two optional filters, a "sub" dial (to tune the second VFO or for RIT), 20 W output on 2 meters, a separate band-change key, cross-band split, band-stacking register, and better sensitivity outside the ham bands. The MkII should be available in May, according to ICOM. No retrofits are possible for existing IC-706s.

Ten-Tec has announced the OMNI-VI Plus, an upgraded version of its popular HF transceiver. The OMNI-VI Plus includes DSP noise reduction, low pass, auto notch and adjustable CW offset (with tracking sidetone) plus another filter posi-

tion. A retrofit program is available for current OMNI-VI owners. The OMNI-VI Plus is priced at \$2585.

### Minutes February 1997

2/10/97

The meeting at the Old Country Buffet was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Lydia, AA8UL. Introductions were made by 26 members and visitors. The Minutes were read and approved and the treasurer's report was given. Jeff, N8WQO won the 50/50 drawing of \$10.00.

**OLD BUSINESS:** Curt reported the R & L has an Icom repeater for \$2439, which is the most popular radio in repeater use. They suggest buying two, one for a spare when the first is being repaired. Dave, WA8KAN and Archie, W8GWR gave a report on the ham classes.

**NEW BUSINESS:** There was discussion on how to save money on the Newsletter. If it was published every other month, that would save the Klub about \$300 per year. Jep, K8BOT, suggested that it be sent by packet or E-mail. Jerry, KA8NJW and Tim, KB8EHT will work out the details for this. Curt will update the membership roster. The current list has not been available due to Mary, KB8BOA being out of town. Dave, WA8KAN moved and Jeff, N8WQO seconded that the Newsletter be sent every other

month. Motion carried.

Curt, K8UC was collecting CQ subscriptions if he gets 10 then the price is only \$7.75 per year. (He had more than enough, JAW)

Roy, N8YYs stated that the FCC is proposing to change the HF and give some to the Tech+'s.

Jep, K8BOT talked of having an indoor circus for a fundraiser, and will get someone to present a plan.

John, N8NBL while in Florida, stopped to help a woman motorist and was jumped and robbed by two men.

Jep, K8BOT moved and Jerry, KA8NJW seconded that we adjourn at 7:38 PM.

Dave, W2INO gave a talk and slide presentation on his BBS. Thanks to Dave for a very informative program.

Ray Bodie, N8TWW,  
**SECRETARY**

### March Minutes

March 10, 1997

The meeting at the Old Country Buffet was called to order by President Lydia, AA8UL. Introductions were made by 27 members and visitors. Paul, KB8QPY, won the 50/50 drawing of \$9.50.

The minutes and treasurer's report were dispensed with this month due to needing to keep the meeting short.

Lydia gave a report on the new ham/upgrade classes. There was no repeater report.

There was no old business. Under new business: There will be no more meetings at the Old Country Buffet, as smokers have complained to the national office. They offered us a place in the main dining room, but that was deemed not acceptable due to the noise and background music.

Roy, N8YYS, moved, Jep, K8BOT, seconded, That we grant the ham class instructors a years free Klub membership.

Motion passed. The instructors are: Paul, KB8QPY, Archie, W8GWR, Dave, WA8KAN, and Tim, KB8JWF.

Curt, K8UC, moved that we pass on the Homecoming chair rental this year. (John needs to know) Curt withdrew his motion. Roger, KB8UEQ, moved, Archie, W8GWR, seconded that we table discussion till next meeting. Motion passed.

John, N8NBL, talked about the circus. We need to get a place, they guarantee us \$750 less the auditorium rent, they sell the tickets by phone and give us 25%. We also sell tickets and keep 50%.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m. to attend Cole Bros., Circus at Belpre High School.

Ray Bodie N8TWW  
Secretary

Hi Gang,

Well spring is in the air and we've made it through another winter! Looks like it's time for antenna parties, hamfests and FIELD DAY 1997!!

Get your gear together and make plans NOW to share in the fun and excitement of being an active participant in Field Day- June 28 and 29!! Roy N8YYS is Field Day chairman, so let him know AS SOON AS POSSIBLE that you want to be there and help our Klub do well and have fun doing it!

Classes are gong well land the students are excited about test day in April! Thanks again to all of our dedicated, hard-working instructors!

I can't let this opportunity go by without also thanking ALL of those who have been helping with the repeaters - it takes a lot of hard work and time and we sure appreciate it guys!! Thanks also to Tim for getting the newsletter on packet!

It's great to hear Tim (WA8CRW) back on the air after being gone for a few months. Dave and I had a nice visit with Tim and Mary today - we look forward to seeing them out to Klub activities real soon!!

I have been getting on 2 meters and packet a little more often lately and Dave keeps busy on all modes and even worked a guy in the Netherlands on RTTY today!!

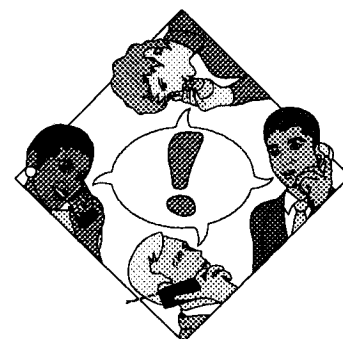
If you receive you Newsletter before Easter, Dave and I wish you a blessed Easter



and if the Newsletter arrives after the Easter Bunny, We hope Easter was a truly special day and hope your basket was filled with new ham gear along with those chocolate bunnies and jelly beans!

For those of you who are not aware, OUR NEW MEETING PLACE IS BONANZA RESTAURANT ON PIKE STREET IN SOUTH PARKERSBURG. Dave and I look forward to seeing everyone there on April 14 at 6:00 P.M. All PARK members will receive a 15% discount AT THE REGISTER - THANK YOU BONANZA!! See you There!!!!

Lydia - AA8UL



## WORLD TELECOMMUNICATION DAY IS MAY 17

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Council has chosen "Telecommunication In The Service Of Humanitarian Assistance" as the theme for 1997 World Telecommunication Day (WTD-97), a theme lying at the very heart of Amateur Radio. World Telecommunication Day takes place each year on the anniversary of the creation of the ITU, May 17, 1865.

A specialized agency of the United Nations, the ITU has the vital role of overseeing the division of the range of radio spectrum for the entire world. Based on the demonstrated or perceived needs of different services, which include broadcast, maritime, aeronautical, amateur and others, member-nations of the ITU decide which radio services will be allocated which bands of frequencies. Once that's done, the regulators for each country take over to write domestic regulations in accordance with ITU international agreements.

Amateur Radio is expected to be featured in a special telecommunications center designed to commemorate the event, to be located in front of the ITU Headquarters building, at the Place des Nations, in Geneva, Switzerland. It is expected that

special event station operators will use the call sign 4U1ITU, which is the call of the ITU Headquarters club station.

ARRL International Affairs Vice President and IARU Secretary Larry Price, W4RA, and Technical Relations Manager Paul Rinaldo, W4RI, will be in Geneva for other meetings and are planning to represent ARRL and IARU in person. It is further anticipated that ARRL will arrange a schedule with the Geneva special event station to convey a commemorative message from ARRL/IARU. (IARU is a Sector Member of the ITU. ARRL is the International Secretariat of the IARU). US groups involved in emergency communication programs such as ARES and RACES would also be invited to contact and exchange messages with the station.

Other planned activities and demonstrations in Geneva include live videoconferencing (possibly with relief workers at the site of operations in Rwanda and/or Burundi), satellite equipment (provided and operated by commercial suppliers), and VHF and HF mobile equipment. Videos, including a program currently in production on telecommunication in the Rwanda and Burundi operations, will be shown.

All articles in this Newsletter except the minutes and Presidents letter VIA- ARRL Letter 3/21-28/97

## Henry Radio Closes Retail Store

Citing competitive pressures, veteran ham radio retailer Henry Radio has closed its Los Angeles retail store. Ted Henry Jr, W6YEY, said Henry will continue its amplifier and commercial lines, but--with the closing of the LA store--no longer has a "storefront" retail operation. He said Henry Radio will continue to sell some ham radio equipment via mail order. Henry said ham radio retailing was "not a profitable business for us and has not been for a number of years." The store closing eliminated eight jobs. Henry Radio opened in Butler, Missouri, in 1927.

## □RS-16 Update:

While the RS-16 transponders apparently have not yet been switched on, the beacons on both 2 meters and 70 cm have been active. B. J. Arts, WT0N, reports that during a pass over North America on March 14, RS-16's 10-meter beacons at 29.408 and 29.451 MHz were not heard, while the 70-cm beacons at 435.504 and 435.548 MHz were active. The 435.504-MHz beacon was very strong, while the 435.548-MHz beacon was very weak. Once the transponder has been turned on, the uplink pass-band on 2 meters will be 145.915 to 145.948 MHz, and the downlink on 10 meters will be 29.415 to 29.448 MHz.--B.J. Arts,

## PHASE 3D LAUNCH PUT OFF UNTIL SEPTEMBER

Modifications to the Ariane 5 rocket's electrical systems and software will mean another costly delay for the Phase 3D Amateur Radio satellite. The European Space Agency (ESA) announced March 24, that the Ariane 502 which will carry Phase 3D aloft from Kourou, French Guyana, has been rescheduled for a mid-September launch. ESA said the schedule change was in response to recommendations of a board of inquiry that looked into the causes for the failure of the Ariane 501 launch last year.

"This additional action, which does not call into question the design of the launcher nor its flight readiness, is intended to improve its robustness, increase the operational margins and allow for degraded operating modes," an ESA press release said.

In a joint statement a day after the ESA announcement, Phase 3D Project Leader and AMSAT-DL (Germany) President Karl Meinzer, DJ4ZC, and AMSAT-NA President Bill Tynan, W3XO, expressed continuing confidence that ESA and CNES (the French Space Agency managing the Ariane 5 program) will succeed in completing all the tasks necessary for a successful flight test of Ariane 502. "Naturally, we are disap-

pointed that our launch will not be as soon as we had hoped," said Meinzer. "However, I am pleased that ESA and CNES are taking care to improve the operational margins for the Ariane 5 booster. This action helps give us renewed confidence in the overall probability for a successful launch of our satellite."

Tynan said a complete analysis had not yet been done but that he believed the delay would add "on the order of \$100,000" to Phase 3D's cost. That's on top of an estimated \$200,000 combined funding shortfall that AMSAT-NA and AMSAT-DL were reporting in late February. So far, AMSAT-DL has invested nearly \$1.6 million in Phase 3D, compared to nearly \$1.4 million for AMSAT-NA.

Phase 3D fund-raising efforts will continue. "Every month adds costs," Tynan concluded. "This shortfall can only increase now as a result of this latest schedule change." Both AMSAT leaders urged everyone to continue doing as much as possible to insure the needed funds will be in place for the completion and launch of Phase 3D in September.

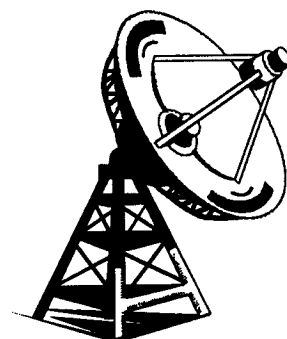
Earlier this year, the Japanese AMSAT group, JAMSAT, helped bridge the funding gap by transferring \$50,000 to AMSAT-NA. The money represented excess donations from JAMSAT members for the Phase 3D SCOPE camera. The completed SCOPE camera,

designed and built entirely by JAMSAT, has been installed and successfully powered up at the Phase 3D Integration Laboratory in Orlando, Florida, where preparation and testing continue.

Tynan emphasized that the Phase 3D team plans to take maximum advantage of the schedule change to perform additional testing. "It's not time being wasted," Tynan said, adding that the Phase 3D team "will use the delay to be even more sure about the spacecraft's readiness."

Prior to announcement of the latest delay, AMSAT-NA Vice President Keith Baker, KB1SF, had been reporting that AMSAT was racing to meet the early July launch schedule and that work on the satellite was moving along swiftly.

A series of pictures of Phase 3D work in progress is available via the AMSAT-NA Web site at <http://www.amsat.org>. Depending on its workload, the integration team hopes to be able to update these photos as work progresses.



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## EIMAC SELLS GLASS-TUBE DIVISION

Eimac is out of the glass-tube business. The former Eimac glass-tube manufacturing facility has been sold and relocated from Salt Lake City, Utah, to Easton, Pennsylvania.

The new company, Triton, moved the former Eimac plant "lock, stock and barrel" from Utah to Pennsylvania, said Mark Hoffman, a senior scientist at Triton. In all, it took 16 tractor-trailer loads to move the plant's manufacturing equipment and inventories across the country.

For now, Triton is manufacturing 46 different Eimac and Westinghouse tube types, including the popular 3-500Z, 4-400A and 4-400C. Right now, Triton does not make the 6146, 572B, 811A or 4-1000A, but Hoffman did not rule out the possibility that the company may tool up to manufacture those tubes in the fu-

ture. Triton also makes glass tube chimneys and sockets.

Hams interested in obtaining small quantities of Triton tubes should contact the company's distributor, Richardson Electronics, Lafox, Illinois; tel 800-323-1770.

Eimac--recently purchased by an investment group, Communications and Power Industries--continues to make and rebuild ceramic external-anode tubes. It has been relocated to Palo Alto, California.

## RADIO AMATEUR CALLBOOK GOES CD-ROM ONLY

It's the end of an era for The Radio Amateur Callbook. Publisher Bob Hughes announced March 17 in a letter to Callbook distributors that the company is phasing out its telephone-book-size paper North American and international editions in favor of its CD-ROM

product. The 1997 Callbook--the 75th edition--will be the last hard-copy version available. The letter cited "rising costs and increasing demand for electronic publishing" as the reasons for the company's decision to concentrate on the CD-ROM version, which includes worldwide listings. North American and international editions of the paper Callbook, a staple for years in many active ham shacks, sell for around \$40, while the CD-ROM sells for around \$50. The Callbook began publishing in 1920. Radio Amateur Callbook is produced by Watson-Guptill Publications.

The spring CD-ROM edition of the Callbook will be available at the Dayton Hamfest, Hughes' told distributors.

According to Hughes' letter, the company has "a limited supply of the printed edition" and anticipates that demand will be great once the word gets out. The last printed version will carry a label indicating "Last Edition of the Callbook." (For orders, call 800-278-8477; e-mail

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