



# Di-Dah-Dit

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

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## RONNIE MILSAP, WB4KCG, IS HAMVENTION SPEAKER

Country music legend Ronnie Milsap, WB4KCG, will be the 1998 Dayton Hamvention banquet speaker. This year's Hamvention is May 15, 16, and 17, and the banquet will be the evening of May 16. Milsap also will serve as the evening's entertainment.

Blind since birth, Milsap discovered a connection to music while attending the North Carolina State School for the Blind. He learned to play piano, guitar, clarinet, violin and cello, and developed his vocal talents.

Milsap began performing professionally in the 1960s and has won numerous awards, including Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year and Male Vocalist of the Year (1974, 1976 and 1977) and CMA Album of the Year (1976, 1978 and 1986). In 1983, the Academy of Country Music voted Milsap Best Male Vocalist. He won Song of the Year in 1986 for *Lost in the Fifties Tonight*. He also received the only gold Braille album ever awarded. Today, Milsap can be seen regularly at The Ronnie Milsap Theater in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

The Hamvention 1998 banquet will be held at the Nutter Center at Wright State University in Fairborn, Ohio. The Nutter Center has free parking for banquet attendees, no steps, and handicapped access. The banquet also will feature the awards presentation for Amateur of the Year, Technical Excellence, and Special Achievement.

Banquet tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 (if available) the day of the banquet. Seating is limited. Tickets for the concert only are \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and are available by fax, mail, at the Hara Arena box office or at the Nutter Center box office. There's a \$3 charge for concert parking.

For more information, visit <http://www.hamvention.org/>

### FCC "Internet fee" Notice is Old News:

The FCC's trying to staunch a flow of e-mail concerning a nonexistent issue. Several individuals, including some hams, have circulated or posted "warn-

ings" on the Internet concerning the possibility that telephone companies would be permitted to charge by the minute for Internet access. Some recipients of this "warning" were advised that the telephone companies were trying to slip this past the public before users realized what was happening. The "warning" mentioned a February 1998 date to send comments to the FCC. In short, this is old news. The FCC did issue a Notice of Inquiry on this topic in late 1996 (with a reply comment deadline in February 1997), but it subsequently rejected the idea. The FCC now has posted a message to this effect on its Web site (see [http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common\\_Carrier/Factsheets/ispfact.html](http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Common_Carrier/Factsheets/ispfact.html)): "There is no open comment period in this proceeding. If you have recently seen a message on the Internet stating that in response to a request from local telephone companies, the FCC is requesting comments to [isp@fcc.gov](mailto:isp@fcc.gov) by February 1998, be aware that this information is inaccurate."

## MIR TO STAY UP A BIT LONGER; NEXT CREW TO BE ALL HAMS

News reports say that the 12-year-old Russian Mir space station may stay in orbit until the first components of the International Space Station are in place in 1999—a few months longer than planned. The first ISS units are set to be launched later this year. Hams are scheduled to be among the first crew members to populate the ISS, but the US presence aboard Mir will come to an end this June.

US astronaut David Wolf, KC5VPF, now aboard Mir, is scheduled to be replaced later this month by Australian-born US astronaut Andy Thomas, KC5CHF. Two new Russian crew members, both hams, are due to arrive at month's end. NASA has set January 22 as the launch date for the penultimate space shuttle trip to Mir. The shuttle Endeavour will carry supplies and a crew of seven, including Thomas.

Wolf has been living on Mir since late September. Thomas will work aboard Mir until June, when the US shuttle Discovery will dock with Mir for the final time, rounding off the Russian-US cooperative mission.

Wolf's research schedule has allowed him little spare time to use the ham radio equipment aboard Mir. The packet system aboard the space station has been experiencing problems because the crew has not had time to set up

the correct parameters for the new TNC aboard Mir. This week, Wolf, 41, monitored and filmed the operation from inside Mir's main module as his two cosmonaut crewmates conducted a space walk to check a leaky hatch and to retrieve some equipment. Wolf and cosmonaut Anatoly Solovyov will carry out a NASA-run spacewalk on January 14 to recover experiments set up outside Mir by previous US astronauts.

The SAFEX repeater (downlink 437.950 MHz; uplink 435.750 MHz) has been active on an intermittent basis. The crew has turned off the CTCSS tone feature of the repeater, making it easier for weak stations to access the repeater. However, this also means the repeater may transmit noise and occasionally time out.

While the aging space station has been free of the kinds of major troubles that plagued it last year, Mir's computer malfunctioned just two days into the new year. The problem was subsequently fixed.

Later this month, Mir will get a bit crowded. French astronaut Leopold Eyharts is scheduled to join Russian cosmonauts Talgat Musabayev, RO3FT, and Nikolai Budarin, RV3FB (ex-RV3DB and R4MIR) in the first crew change of the year. They are scheduled to blast off to Mir on January 29. Eyharts' mission to Mir was planned for last

August but had to be postponed after a Progress cargo rocket collided with Mir last June forcing emergency repairs. Eyharts will work aboard Mir for three weeks before returning to earth with Anatoly Solovyov and Pavel Vinogradov, the current Mir Russian contingent.

### December 19, 1997 PARK Meeting Minutes

The annual Christmas party was held at the Washington Bottom Community Building, at 6:30 pm. The covered dish dinner was enjoyed by everyone present. The Klub furnished the meat and drink.

Jane N8MOW played the keyboard and Connie WD8MIO sang solos, and they both led us in singing carols. Peter Wharton also played trumpet solos.

Santa (N8NBL) made an appearance and passed out gifts to the children.

Curt made a presentation of a plaque for Klub member(s) of the year (formerly ham of the year) to John WD8LKT and Georgia Milhoan.

The raffle drawing for the \$100 Wal Mart gift certificate was held and Ray N8TWW was the winner. go to pg.5

Thanks go to Jim Palmer for providing this interesting information.

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QST

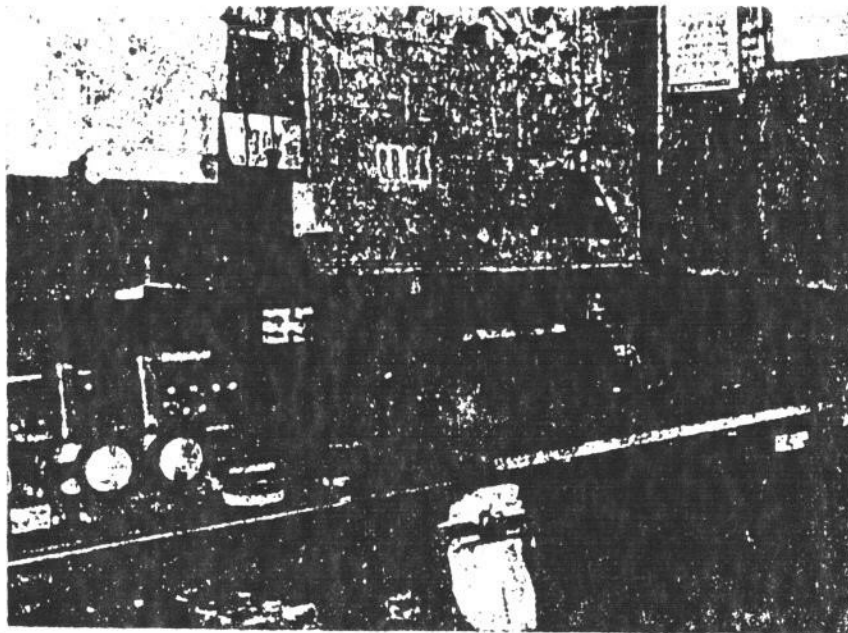
March, 1924



# Amateur Radio Stations



## 8BDA Parkersburg, W. Va.



A small unobtrusive wooden shack on Quincy Hill, overlooking the Ohio river at Parkersburg, West Virginia, houses 8BDA. Nearby is a ninety-foot pipe mast with the antenna, two six-wire cages 100 feet long, dropping down to the shack at about 45 degrees. Beneath the antenna is the counterpoise of twelve wires, used exclusively because the ground is too sandy to obtain a good ground connection.

Part of 8BDA is a remnant of the spark days, for the spark set is still in the station, ready for immediate use. It is rarely used now and is kept mainly for emergencies when communication must be established with the least possible delay. This spark set was described in the article on page 35 of the December, 1922, QST. A United Wireless 1K.W. coffin, a condenser with half-inch plate glass and cop-

per sheets immersed in oil, a synchronous spark gap with a Hyrad disc, and a "split" type oscillation transformer are the essentials. The antenna current is 8 amperes.

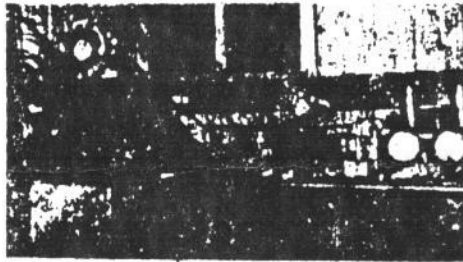
There are several who operate the station, but the license is issued in the name of Edw. Garrison, 515 10 1/2 Street, Parkersburg, West Va., and communications addressed to him will reach the station without delay.

On the table near the spark set is the C.W. transmitter, using two 50-watt tubes, connected in the reversed feedback circuit with plate current supplied through a 60-jar rectifier and filtered. The antenna current is normally about 6.6 amperes on 200 meters.

A Reinartz tuner, slightly modified, and a one stage audio amplifier, constitute the receiving equipment. A wire 125 feet

long at right angles to the big antenna is used for receiving and the connections are such as to allow break-in operation.

As for records, the spark transmitter has been reported 50 feet from the phones at 7IY near Seattle, Washington, on a Beverage antenna, detector and two stage audio amplifier; besides being heard in all



The old and new at 8BDA

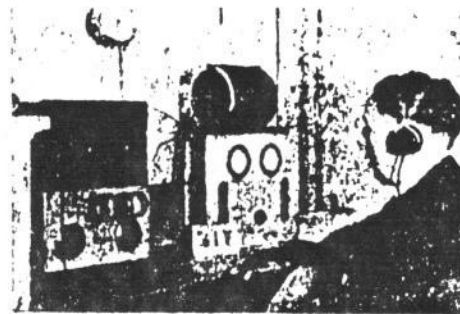
districts, 1,000 miles south of San Diego in the Pacific, 2,100 miles at sea in the Atlantic and in Porto Rico, Panama, and Cuba. 8BDA's C.W. signals have been heard by amateurs in 46 states, all Canadian provinces, Hawaii, Panama, Porto Rico, Cuba, Alaska, and several times by ship operators aboard ships in the Pacific and Atlantic Oceans. Stations in every district have been worked. 8BDA is always QRV for your traffic.

### 6LV, San Mateo, Cal.

"QSR anywhere, anyplace, anytime" is the motto of 6LV. Here is a 6th district station which is heard consistently throughout the U. S. almost every time the key is pressed. Wm. Baker is the owner, builder and operator, and the station is

located at his home at 235 7th Ave., San Mateo, Calif. The signals of 6LV have been heard in practically all states and Canadian provinces and also in Alaska, Mexico, Hawaii, and New Zealand. The average monthly traffic participation is about 150 messages.

The receiver is a three-coil honeycomb set with a detector and two-stage audio amplifier above it. Amateur signals from every district are copied quite regularly on the detector tube only, however. The transmitter uses two 50-watters in the Hartley circuit. An Acme 600-watt transformer furnishes 1000 volts which is chem-



ically rectified, then filtered and applied to the plates.

The antenna is not all one could wish for as it is rather small and completely surrounded by oak trees. It is a four-wire flat top 45 feet long and 65 and 55 feet high at the ends. The lead-in is taken from the lower end. The counterpoise, directly beneath it, is a 7-wire fan 70 feet long, 10 feet high, and fanned out to 24 feet at the far end. The antenna current is between four and five amperes.

### 8ZD-8VE, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Radio station 8ZD-8VE is owned and operated jointly by P. E. Wiggin, old 8XH, and F. B. Westervelt of 8VE, and is located at the home of the latter at 5306 Westminister Place, Pittsburgh, Penn. The station is in a basement room about fifteen feet square. The walls are painted white, heat is provided by a furnace in an adjoining room and everything is arranged for the convenience of operators and visitors who come to pound brass in the early hours of the morning.

On the right of the table is the main transmitter which employs five 50-watters arranged for C.W. phone or chopper. When phone is used the Hoising system of modu-

lation is employed, two 50-watters acting as oscillators, three as modulators and a 5-watter as speech amplifier. The Hartley circuit is used. Plate current is furnished by a Westinghouse 1,000 volt motor-generator set under the table. The filaments are supplied with A.C. On the front of the panel are meters for indicating values of, D.C. plate voltage, antenna current, oscillator grid current, modulator plate current, filament voltage, oscillator plate current, and modulation. The filament rheostats are located on each side of the modulation meter and the switch below is for changing filament voltmeter from the oscillator tube circuit to the modulator

Introductions were made by 47 members and guests.

There was no business meeting. The next regular meeting will be on January 12, 1998 at the Bonanza restaurant on Pike Street in Parkersburg.

## January 12, 1998 PARK Meeting Minutes

The Parkersburg Amateur Radio Klub met at the Bonanza Restaurant and the meeting was called to order by the president, Paul KB8QPY at 7:05 pm. Introductions were made by 30 members and guests. The minutes of the November meeting were read and approved.

The report on the Christmas party was read by the secretary. The treasurers report was given. The 50/50 drawing of \$12.50 as won by Roger KB8UEQ.

**OLD BUSINESS:**  
There is still a need for a teacher for the upgrade class. Carl K8OWL will teach the novice and tech class. Class will start in February to end about April 25-26 for the ARRL national testing.

The ARRL will not take back the Now You're Talking books, so Paul KB8QPY will order only five for the new class.

Roy N8YYS made a report on field day, stating that all logging will be by computer and hopefully they will all be tied to-

gether. This year, the digital mode is separated so it there can be RTTY, CW, and phone all on the same band. Field day is June 27-28.

Rory KB8MDN was absent so there was no report on the club inventory report, but it is progressing.

Roy N8YYS will have the new net control rosters at the next meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**  
Chad N8JXU will notify Tim WB8MOI of our desire to place an antenna on his new tower. Tim WB8MOI loaned us a repeater at no cost to use until we get our 97 repeater repaired. Our thanks to Tim WB8MOI for allowing Chad N8JXU to work on our repeater on company time.

Paul announced several hamfests.

The club dues for 1998 are due from now until April.

Jep K8BOT moved and George K8VAH seconded that we apply for a vanity club call of W8MIT at a cost of \$50 for ten years. Motion passed.

Jep K8BOT moved and Cal N8RNY seconded for adjournment at 7:55 pm.

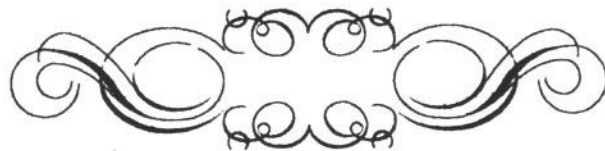
Ray Bodie N8TWV, secretary

## RFI reflector established:

An Internet reflector focusing on the causes and cures of Radio Frequency Interference (RFI) has been established. It will be moderated by Tim Duffy, K3LR. Issues relating to RFI and TVI are welcome.

Discussions should be aimed at providing technical information to assist amateurs in resolving interference problems. To subscribe, send an e-mail message to rfi-request@contesting.com. The message body should include only the work "subscribe." To post a message to the group, send it to rfi@contesting.com. A digest form of this list also is available. You will receive one message per day around midday (Eastern Time) that contains the previous day's messages. To subscribe to the digest version, send a message to rfi-digest-request@contesting.com and put only the word "subscribe" in the message body. You do not need to be subscribed to both reflectors.

Individuals subscribed to the digest list still may post to the RFI list address. For more information, contact Duffy at k3lr@contesting.com.—Tim Duffy, K3LR



## E-MAIL ELMERS DEBUT IN DAYTON

Here's an idea that some other clubs might want to imitate. The Miami Valley FM Association last month announced its E-mail Elmer program. The system allows new or prospective hams in Dayton and Southwestern Ohio—or even experienced amateurs who are venturing into a new aspect of the hobby to send an e-mail request for assistance. Volunteer on-line Elmers then can provide a response in the "Elmer" tradition of mentoring new or less-experienced hams.

"Today, many hams prepare for their license exams through classroom programs, and the individual Elmer's touch isn't as common as it once was," said MVFMA President Fred Peerenboom, KE8TQ, of Dayton. "The E-mail Elmer program is an attempt to restore this long tradition." Peerenboom said the club hopes the initial e-mail exchange be the start of an ongoing Elmer relationship in the best tradition of Amateur Radio.

Hams in the Dayton area or in Southwestern Ohio may use the Elmer Server simply by sending an e-mail message to [elmer@febo.com](mailto:elmer@febo.com) and posing the ham radio question they'd like to have answered. Users will get a machine-generated confirmation, and,

within a few days, they'll get a response from one or more of the volunteer Elmers.

For more information, or to volunteer as an E-mail Elmer, contact KE8TQ at 937-256-4355; e-mail [ke8tq@febo.com](mailto:ke8tq@febo.com).

### DXCC FEE HIKE EXPLAINED

New fees for the DXCC program that went into effect January 1 will only cover about one half of the program's substantial annual shortfall. The DXCC program costs at least \$100,000 more each year to administer than it collects in user fees, despite greater efficiency and a smaller staff than in the past. That explanation from ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, came in the wake of comments from DXCC participants who were unhappy about the fee increases.

Sumner noted that the League "had a difficult financial year in 1996," when it posted a \$700,000 operating loss. To turn things around, Sumner said, the Board of Directors determined to curb continuing losses as well as cut other costs and seek additional income sources. In the case of

DXCC and other membership service programs that serve a portion of the membership, these efforts focused on ways to reduce costs or to make the programs more self-sustaining through user fees.

"The DXCC program is expensive to administer in its present form," Sumner said, pointing out that the League plans to take advantage of new technology in an effort to further cut the program's costs without affecting its integrity. New software scheduled to come on-line early this year should increase the speed of DXCC processing. "After that, attention will turn to a program that will allow members to file DXCC applications electronically, which we anticipate will lead to further savings without sacrificing integrity in any way," he said.

"Everyone wants the DXCC program to continue and to provide the kind of service that members deserve." Sumner emphasized that the League "never considered as an option" any steps that might have affected the integrity of the DXCC program.




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P O Box 2112  
Parkersburg, WV 26101-2112