

POTOMAC VALLEY RADIO CLUB

est. 1947

MARCH 1991 NEWSLETTER

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT - WA8MAZ	DON DASO	(301) 702-2059
VICE PRESIDENT - N3JT	JIM TALENS	(703) 241-1144
SECRETARY - AA4XU	BEN SHAVER	(703) 534-4740
TREASURER - N3RR	BILL HIDER	(301) 424-2707

The Potomac Valley Radio Club meets the second Monday of each month, from September through May. Meetings alternate between College Park, MD and Temple Hills, MD. For directions, see the address page, or call any club officer.

VHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 147.00 mHz, Input 146.40 mHz

UHF Repeater (K3WX): Output 443.15 mHz, Input 448.15 mHz

Packet Cluster Contest/DX System:

145.51 mHz Connect to W0YVA

145.57 mHz Connect to N2FB

145.59 mHz Connect to W3LPL

145.63.mHz Connect to K3NA

Next Meeting:

Date: 11 March 1991

Place: University of Maryland

Tawes Building, Room 2154

Time: 1930 Hours

NOTE: In case of inclement weather on the night of a meeting, please check the Packet Cluster, or the Repeater for the latest meeting information.

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S SHACK

Rather than a singular objective this month. . . here are some rambling thoughts. (I know, you thought every month was rambling thoughts. I can hear the jokes now!)

Observed on packet cluster: a slew of comments on the Colvins. While everyone is entitled to his/her opinion, I am personally surprised by the incredibly silly reactions to Lloyd and Iris. It is pretty easy to sit at your rig here in the metro area and forget that it took lots of effort to get to Africa, what it might be like under such primitive conditions, what it might be like to experience this in the so-called golden years. Indeed, let's hope that each and every one of us can operate as well when we are their ages. Which brings me to the point of this ramble: PVRC membership includes several people who are the Colvins age. I respect people who are that age, usually as a matter of course. I respect their accomplishments even more. They deserve it. Take a close look at a Colvin QSL sometime. Read the fine print contained on it. You may be surprised, and hopefully more respectful.

In a conversation the other day, I mentioned that the last time a world high score from the USA happened in CQWW, it was a PVRC member who did it. The person was surprised to hear about this accomplishment by W3GRF. It got me to thinking about how we came to learn something about each other--in the more-than-a-member sense. I concluded that rumor, hearsay, gossip and opinion probably prevail. So, in order to promote some sense of our heritage, I have decided to try to collect something like a PVRC storybook, with a page on each member. I'll try to put together a suitable survey. I hope you respond.

For various reasons, there was no contest cookbook this season. We hope to bring it back next year.

The March meeting promises to be good. K1ZZI and 5H3TW will present programs on their respective trips to the USSR and Africa. Also, the usual good contest chatter from the ARRL DX contest will take place. Hope to see you all there.

Vy 73 de Don WA8MAZ

Explanation of **FINAL NOTICE** near mailing label:

This is your FINAL COPY of the PVRC Newsletter.

The annual PVRC dues of \$10.00 is payable by check (your call on the check, please) to the treasurer, at the beginning of each calendar year.

For the out-of-area member (OAM), the Newsletter cost is \$5.00 per year.

OVER-THE-HILL DIVISION -- PVRC

Luncheon location: Ramada Inn, Oxon Hill, MD

Date: 20 Feb. 1991

Host: **Len Chertok W3GRF**

Attending members: W3XE, W3GRF, W3AZ, W3CPB, K3WX, AA4XU, W6AXX, W3GN, K3ZO, W4GF, AA4I, W3ABC, N3RR.

Next luncheon: 12 Noon, Date: ?? March 1991-- Location: Tom Weston's, Annadale, VA
Host: Bill Grenfell W4GF. Call Bill to make your reservation: (703)-560-5229.

-- REMEMBER --

PVRC CHARTER MEMBERS

W3GRF, W3IKN, W4AAV, W4KFC, W4KFT, NOFFZ, W4LUE, W7YS, YP2VI (WODX)
SK SK

Charter members are not required to pay dues-they receive a Newsletter each month, gratis.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to those who have a birthday in March.

Our thanks to **Tony Falola K3WX**, for use of his copier for publishing this Newsletter.

Editor/Historian: Lawrence T. Fadner W3GN
(301) 725-1624

Assistant Editor: Howard B. Leake W6AXX
(301) 465-7008

News deadline: 20th each month

MINUTES - FEBRUARY 11, 1991

The meeting was called to order by President WA8MAZ at the Church of the Nativity, Temple Hills, MD. The minutes were read by Secretary AA4XU and approved as read.

Guests: N3HIT, OD5RH/KA3YFX, UB5KAF/WF3J, K1DQVxyl, W3HVQ

Members: WA8MAZ W3IUU WB3FSB AA4XU W6AXX NR4L W4RW KE3Q
W3LPL W3AZ WB3JRU N3GB K3ZO W3CPB NV3V W3YOZ W3XE K7GPD
WA3EKL K1DQV.

OLD BUSINESS

Bylaws: Pursuant to the Motion of W3LPL (January 14, 1991), the Officers met on January 30 and revised the present Bylaws. The President read the Officers' Bylaws Revision pointing out changes in the original Bylaws. Discussion:

K7GPD re ARTICLE VI feels that the latter part of the Article reading "...may become liable in tort. Liabilities which may arise through the operation of motor vehicles are specifically exempted from this provision." should be stricken because this weakens the Club's liability position. President WA8MAZ will consult Lawyer-Member KC3D concerning the language of ARTICLE VI.

K3ZO re ARTICLE II, SECTION 1 suggests inserting "business" in sentence 2 to read: "(Generally, business meetings will not be held in June, July, and August.)" W3XE moved that the change be adopted. Motion carried.

The President asked all Members to study the Bylaws Revision at home. A vote will be taken at the **MARCH** meeting.

Incorporation: The President said that the one-time cost of incorporating in Maryland is \$40, and urged the Members to accept the Articles of Incorporation. The Articles require that the Club have a Board of Trustees, provision for which was made in the Bylaws Revision. The Articles were read by the Secretary. W3XE advised that if either the person serving as Resident Agent or his address (the Corporation's "principal place of business") changes, the Club must reincorporate starting with a Lawyer drawing up new Articles of Incorporation, resubmission, new fee, etc. Therefore, the Resident Agent should be a Member who won't move from his present address for a number of years. W3XE moved that WB3JRU serve as the Resident Agent. Motion carried.

Club liability insurance: AA4XU reported that ARRL sells club liability insurance for clubs whose members are all ARRL members. The rate is \$272 per year for \$1 million per occurrence, \$2 million aggregate for 112 active members. W3EKL recommends that coverage

for Trustees and Officers be obtained. President WA8MAZ will investigate this.

NEW BUSINESS

Membership vote: John Sherrick W3HVQ, having attended the previous two meetings and met requirements for membership, was received as Member by vote. WELCOME JOHN.

Field Day: N3HIT and W3YOZ jointly invite the Members and their families to use their home grounds for ARRL Field Day. N3HIT especially invites XYLs and children. There will be boating and games for the children. K1DQV is FD committee chairman.

PVRC joint meeting with Frankford Radio Club: W3LPL will host this meeting at his QTH in June.

Packet cluster report by W3LPL: There have been some misunderstandings about moneys received annually to support the cluster. There are no required "dues". Voluntary financial support is requested, the proceeds are used to maintain and update the multinode system which now has hardware valued at \$20,000. Sysops read all BBS messages, even S/P messages, their obligation as licensees of the node station. S/P messages are never completely private, as any unconnected station may read them by monitoring the frequency as they are entered or read.

S.F.B. Morse Centennial Report by W3LPL: The research done jointly by W3GN and W3LPL has resulted in a ceremonial reenactment of the sending of "What hath God wrought" message planned for the end of May. It will be held in the Old Supreme Court chambers where invited guests will include Vice President Quayle, various Senators and other dignitaries. Reproduction of the Morse telegraph instruments will be provided by the Smithsonian Institutions.

PVRC contest activity. KE3Q quoted from the FRC Bulletin that that Club reports 70 to 90 percent of their members participate in each major contest, and asks how we could encourage PVRC contest activity. W3AZ said that in the past, there was a group of members who telephoned each member before major events saying, "Are you entering the contest?...Why not?" WA8MAZ sees the many fine stations not being used for contests as source of points for the Club if those underutilized stations were activated as multi-single stations for Members who do not own competitive stations. KE3Q suggests more regional meetings in diverse locations in VA as well as in MD; meetings in houses to see stations; station tours in a van on Saturday to encourage less experienced members. K1DQV suggests a slide show of members competition. W3XE suggests picking 3's and 4's from Sweepstakes and Novice Roundup and invite them to meetings. K3ZO volunteered to run any members log through his K1EA computer for score and dupe to encourage increased participation in the ARRL DX contest.

The new 1991 Club Roster was distributed to Members who have paid dues. W3XE moved the meeting be adjourned. Next meeting PROGRAM: Videos on the giant screen at Tawes Lecture Hall, U of MD. by K1ZZI "DXpedition to USSR" and K3TW "Living in Africa."

ARRL DX CONTEST

16-17 FEB 1991

PVRC CW SCORES

CALL	CATEGORY	POWER	QSOS	MULT	SCORE
WB3JRU	SOA	HIGH	2237	415	2,785,065
K3SA	SOA	HIGH	1623	327	1,592,163
W3USS	SOA	HIGH	1313	251	988,689
N3RR	SOA	HIGH	857	351	902,421
N3II	SOA	HIGH	762	251	573,786
KM4YY	SOA	HIGH	589	202	356,934
W3YY	SOA	HIGH	555	205	341,325
K3ZO	SO AB	HIGH	2623	369	2,903,661
W3GRF	SO AB	HIGH	1282	271	1,042,266
W9LT/4	SO AB	HIGH	1127	236	797,916
W3UJ	SO AB	LOW	950	257	732,450
AA4XU	SO AB	HIGH	1094	193	633,426
W3AZ	SO AB	HIGH	683	241	493,809
K3WS	SO AB	QRP	500	213	319,500
W3ZZ	SO AB	QRP	537	184	296,424
N3IGV	SO AB	HIGH	576	166	286,848
W3CPB	SO AB	HIGH	199	53	31,641
WI2T	SO AB	HIGH	-	-	3,500
NV3V	SO 15M	LOW	102	45	13,770
W3GN	SO 10M	HIGH	152	53	24,168
W3GG	MS	HIGH	2016	310	1,874,880
W3LPL	MM	HIGH	6354	558	10,636,596
K3DI	MM	HIGH	715	296	634,920
N4MM	SO AB	HIGH	140	91	38,220
TOTAL PVRC SCORE					28,304,378

N4MO/C6A SO 15M	DX	1079	56	181,272
HK0/N3JT SO AB	DX	4740	333	4,735,260

K3DI MULTI-MULTI : K3DI WD4IEH WG3J
 W3GG MULTI-SINGLE : W3GG WD3I
 W3LPL MULTI-MULTI : W3LPL ND3A WB3FSB N8II KD9J WA8MAZ
 : N3GB KF3P K3RA K3RV KT3Y

PLEASE REPORT SCORES VIA PACKET, K3WX REPEATER, US MAIL,
 PHONE, OR IN PERSON(!) TO WB3JRU: HOME (301) 531-5423
 WORK (301) 925-3410

ABOVE SCORES REPORTED AS OF 27 FEBRUARY 1991.

While computers have made the job easier for entrants and log checkers, they have also introduced their own class of score-reducing errors. While spending my summer checking CQ WW contest logs, I ran across a number of common problems I want to share with computer-assisted contesters. While most of the computerized entrants were using CT by K1EA, the same mistakes were discovered in logs generated by other packages as well. Were you guilty of any of the following?

1) If errors are the enemy of the tester, then the keyboard may be the deadliest weapon (it has taken the place of poor penmanship!) Typing errors almost always lead to score reductions. Examples include entry of "O" (Oh) instead of "0" (zero) and vice-versa. It looks the same on the computer printout, but not to the computer checking the log. A more-damaging error is just pressing the wrong key on the keyboard. A broken call sign incurs the same penalty as a dupe and the broken call often hides an additional duplicate QSO. An easy way to find these mistakes is to read the dupe sheet looking for calls that appear similar. Calls such as DJ4SO9, LZ11KDP, X4FT, etc, are easy marks for the log

checker's red pen!

2) Did you know the CT software treats the following calls as different: G4ABC, G4ABC/P, G4ABC/M, G4ABC/Ø? All are potential dupes. Some stations may not indicate portable when running stations, yet may do so when the rate slows or when calling stations. Use the Check-Partial function (a lot!) or read the dupe sheet carefully.

3) Most Lithuanian contesters changed their prefixes from UP to LY just before the 1989 CQ Phone contest. The country file provided with CT identified LY as Argentina and Zone 13! If you didn't notice this and failed to correct the country file, you probably lost all QSOs with LY stations and several zone and country multipliers! The same thing for 4UØITU, which many entrants showed as YK (Syria) and Zone 20. The format of the CQ WW contest does not leave many things for the log checker to evaluate. Is the call sign correctly logged? Is the zone correct? Getting either wrong, for any reason, causes the QSO to be lost. Find a text editor and learn how to modify the .CTY file to keep up with the new calls and prefixes.

4) The Russians have unleashed a tidal wave of special prefixes for contest and portable operations. One station active in

both modes of the 1989 CQ WW contest was 4J5FV operating from UF6 (CQ Zone 21). CT identified this as 4J1 (MV Island) in Zone 15. This is where the crutch of computer contesting can get kicked out from under you. Those who copied the exchange recognized that, given Zone 21 and the letter "F" after the number, the call sign indicated UF6. Those who didn't may have missed the relatively rare Zone 21 and because they had the exchange wrong (the computer put in 15), they lost the QSO and the country multiplier! A similar example occurred in the CW contest. XF4T was sending Zone 06 all weekend. Those who logged by pencil had it correct 100% of the time. About 80% of those who used a computer had the zone as 10. You have to copy and enter what the guy sends!

5) CT formerly did not include a place on the summary sheet to indicate a club name. If your club is missing some big points, this may be the reason. The latest version of CT includes entry of a club name.

NCJ has been filled with articles touting the advantages of computers for contesting. The computer is only a logging tool and as such, is only as good as the user. Don't let simple, correctable computer errors cost hard-won contest QSOs.

EXCERPTED FROM: THE NATIONAL CONTEST JOURNAL, VOL 18 NO 5, SEPT/OCT 1990

Review: N6RJ 2nd OP, Version V3.0

de Jim, N5DC

In the May 1990 issue of the Bullshead (also see errata in July 1990..ed) I reviewed the DX logging program, N6RJ 2nd OP, which is marketed by Ham Radio Outlet on the West Coast. I recently obtained Version 3.0. It is a significantly improved and enhanced program from the earlier versions! It still does the same basic logging functions that I described earlier. However, there are some major changes in this new version that really put the program in a class by itself.

Specifically, there are four main areas of interest. First, Fast Log is a great new feature for real-time logging. It really does just exactly what the name implies. It is a pleasure to use the Fast Log function. The second addition is the use of the "N" key, or the Need function, that allows you to see for each country which modes and bands you have worked and which ones you still need. It considerably simplifies your tracking for 5 Band DXCC. The third major improvement lies in fact that it is almost impossible to throw a callsign at it, and not have the program correctly identify the country.

Last, and by no means least, is the conversion program supplied that will convert K1EA logs to the 2nd OP format. If you are into contesting, and want to include put your contest logs in your 2nd OP records, this feature will solve your problem. With as many testers as we have using K1EA, I think this makes ownership of 2nd OP almost mandatory for anyone who also chases DX.

I might note in closing, that data files from previous versions are not directly compatible with the new program, but the authors have taken care of that with a suitable conversion program. My installation, and the data file conversion, came off without a hitch! As usual, you are cautioned and begged to "BACK UP YOUR FILES". I stated in my previous articles that 2nd OP was a winner then, and it is even better now.

The following receive a Courtesy Copy (CC) of the PVRC Newsletter:

-----	CC	KH6BZF	CC
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8576 LAUDERDALE DR		45-601 LULUKU RD RT 11	
LAUREL MD 20707		KANEOHE OAHU HI 96744	
-----	CC	KJ9D	CC
TEXAS DX SOCIETY		SEGO JOSEPH E H C C	
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PAOLI PA 19301			

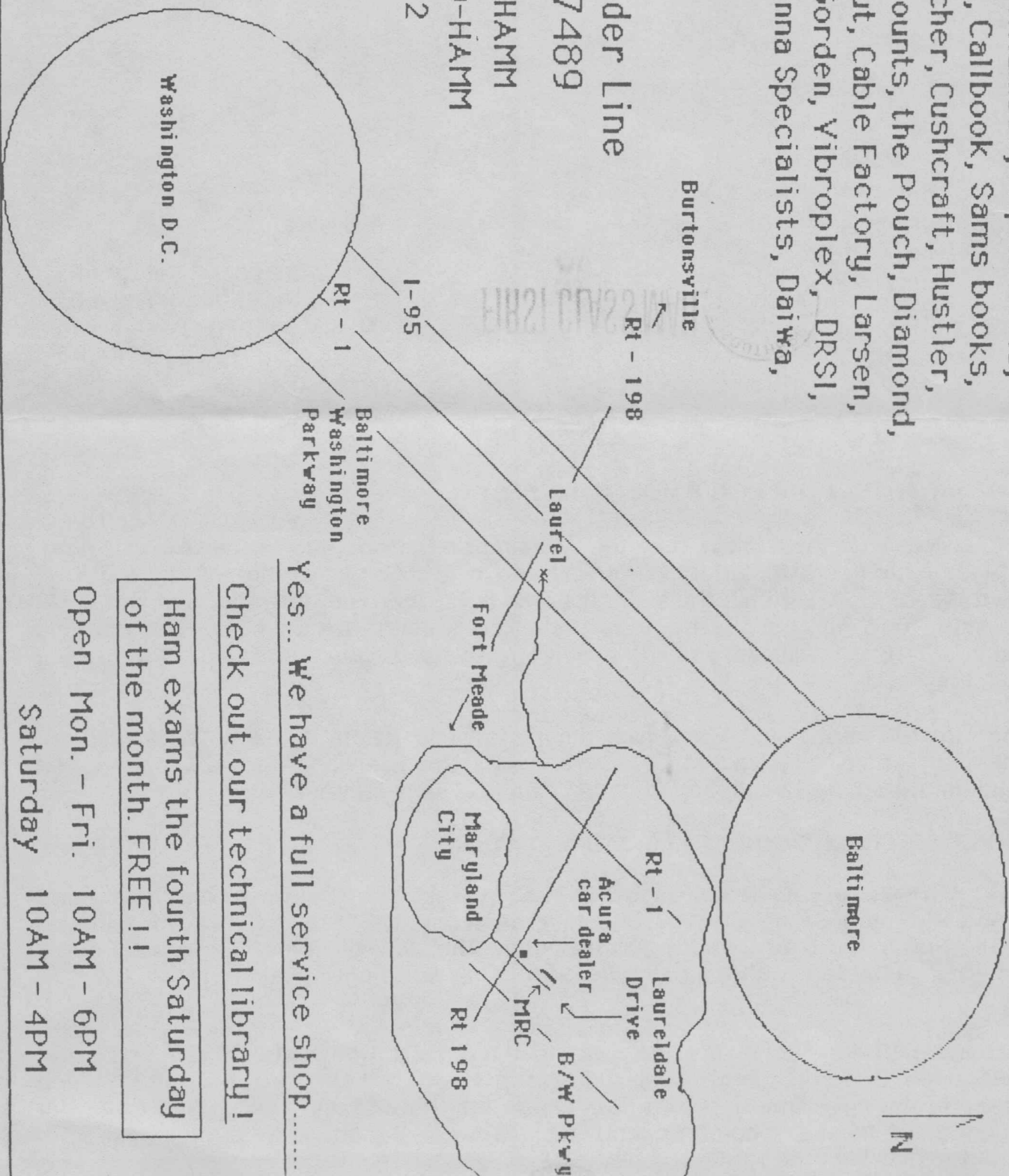
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1991

PVRC NEWSLETTER



FIRST CLASS MAIL

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10743 Harding Road
Laurel, MD 20723-1288

DIRECTIONS TO THE COLLEGE PARK, MD MEETING

FROM MARYLAND OR VIRGINIA: Take the Washington Beltway 495 to the U.S. 1 South. College Park exit. Go south for about two miles and exit U.S. 1 to the right, MD 193, University Blvd West. Go west until the second traffic light, then turn left, Stadium Drive. At the first stop sign, turn right. You are now travelling through a parking lot. At the next stop sign, on your left, you will see a building with large white pillars and a sign for parking Lot 1. Park in Lot 1.

The building to the right of the one with the large white pillars is the TAWES building, where the meeting is held in Room 2154. Walk across a small service road, enter a door on left side of building, then up two flights of stairs. Room 2154 is on your left.

DIRECTIONS TO THE TEMPLE HILLS, MD MEETING

FROM MARYLAND: Take your favorite road to the Washington Beltway 495 and head toward Andrews Air Force Base. Exit Rt. 5 East, Branch Avenue. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the first traffic light. About 200 feet after the turn, the entrance to the Church parking lot will be on the left, with a small blue sign. Turn left there. Parking is at the top of the hill.

FROM VIRGINIA: Take your favorite road to the Washington Beltway 495 and head toward Maryland on the Outer Loop over the Wilson bridge. Exit Rt. 5 East, Branch Avenue. Stay in the right lane and turn right at the first traffic light. About 200 feet after the turn, the entrance to the Church parking lot will be on the left, with a small blue sign. Turn left there. Parking is at the top of the hill.