

Ora "Buzz" Pettit

Glenna and I first met Buzz Pettit in the early 70's at the First Baptist Church of Wilson. We found Buzz a very devoted Christian and a man who lived his religion.

As I got into Ham Radio I met Buzz in another venue. He was an avid builder of our LARA projects starting with the Slow Scan TV adapter. He also participated in our weekly exchanges of pictures.

Even at the age of 100 one of his favorite sayings was "inside this body is a 16 year old boy trying to get out".

One day Buzz called asking if he could come over and see my fax machine. He came, saw, and asked questions. When I asked if he was considering the purchase of a fax machine he said that he only wanted to see and understand its operation. He tried to keep up to date on all new types of communications gear. Buzz was very interested in the weather and he downloaded the Weatherfax images from his HF radio.

Buzz was on his second or third computer. He was active on e-mail and more recently was learning to use Echolink.

Buzz was a voracious builder of Heathkits. Much of his test equipment, for his appliance repair business, was built from Heathkits. His repair shop and ham shack was well stocked with early Heath Oscilloscopes up through Heath's last Ham radios. The manuals for the equipment he built contain his technical notes regarding modification, calibration, and use.

For many years Buzz organized LARA's annual summer picnic. He arranged for the use of Krueger Park in the Town of Wilson, ordered the meat and rolls, and brought his own charcoal grill. He always arrived early, had the grill lighted, and cooked the meat. This continued through 2006 when Buzz turned 100 years young.

In earlier years the Village of Wilson School was subject to power failures. When this occurred Buzz took a generator, he kept for the purpose, and powered the cafeteria refrigerators and freezers. This was done at no profit to Buzz but as a community service.

For many years Buzz was the Coordinator for LARA's Sunday night Net. He arranged for Net Control stations to cover every Sunday and he took his regular turn as well. Buzz continued being coordinator up through age 99.

Within a week or so of Buzz's death I visited him in the Newfane Hospital. At that time I asked him what his first amateur call was. After a moments thought he said 8CHN. That was the forerunner of his final call of K2BXS. He was first licensed in January of 1924 at the age of 17. A copy of his original license appears elsewhere on this website.

It has been a privilege and an honor to have known and been associated with such a fine gentleman.

Bob Radmore N2PWP
9/26/07