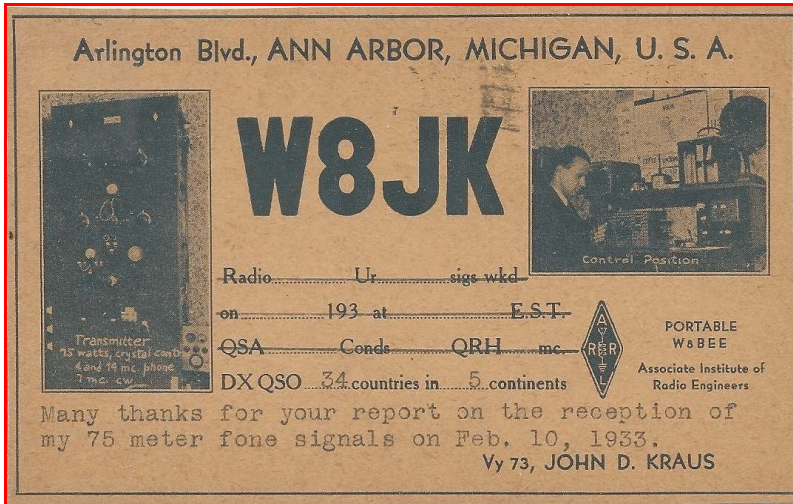


Dr. John D. Kraus *W8JK* 1910-2004 American physicist, author, college lecturer, antenna developer & radio astronomer. Earned his PHD in 1933 at Univ. of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

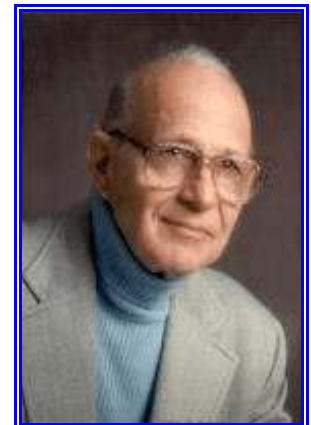
While Kraus enjoyed a worldwide reputation, he is perhaps best known within the amateur radio community for his bi-directional wire beam antenna often dubbed the “8JK Array.” The array has remained popular for decades. Other important designs include the corner reflector and the helix antenna. He served our country during WW2 with important engineering design.



The Michigan native was a pioneer of radio telescope design and father of the “Big Ear” telescope which ceased operation after 40 years of service on the grounds of Ohio Wesleyan University, Delaware, Ohio. He obtained his bachelors, masters and doctoral degrees at U of Mich. In 1946 he joined the faculty of “The Ohio State University” as a professor of electrical engineering and astronomy. He became a Fellow of IEEE in 1954.

It isn't well known however it is thought Dr. Kraus developed the “Windom” antenna and enjoyed the company so much of W8GZ, that Kraus named it after his friend Major General Windom of Columbus, O.

There is one story that I am directly aware of and here it is for what ever it brings. Our Ohio Highway Patrol for many years has used Air Speed traffic enforcement and early on near the Big Ear radio installation at Delaware Ohio, we received complaints when our fixed wing aircraft operating on Low Band VHF. The RF emitted from the aircraft (25Watts) was too much for the



receivers to handle at the observatory and Ohio State Highway Patrol agreed to move the speed zone away from the area in question! (The Big Ear was an amazing place and I can still hear the light wind buzzing like a humming bird as it hit the long parabola web just before the lease expired and the facility removed.) Partially extracted from ARRL eulogy

