



September-October 2007

Smoke Signals

The Indian Hills Radio Club

www.hac.org/ihrcc

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

New club year begins with September 10 meeting

Bring yourself and dues, too!

A new fiscal year gets underway with our September meeting, so we invite you to do your best to attend. New officers take over, dues for the new club year are welcome, and club plans for the future will be discussed.

The new officers for 2007-2008:

- President: Don Ritchie, K8ZGW
- Vice President: Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE
- Secretary: Dick Scott, W8FDN
- Treasurer: David Dennis, W8DDD.

Club dues remain at only \$10.00 for the year, and we urge you to please get your ten bucks to David in order to continue your full, voting membership. If you can't make the meeting (gasp!) you can mail your check to David at 30113 Robert St., Wickliffe, OH 44092. Thanks in advance for supporting ham radio in our area.

Club meetings will be held on the second Mondays of each month, September through June, at the Wickliffe Library. Meeting times may differ slightly, but generally will start at 7:15 p.m. or 7:30 depending upon the library's use of the meeting room for other activities.

The September meeting is scheduled for the 10th, and the October gathering will be held on the 8th.

The year's slate of meeting programs was being developed as we went to press, but the main attraction — fellowship and eyeball QSOs — will continue to offer an enjoyable evening for all.

Please consider helping out whenever you can, since our club is a cooperative venture that requires YOUR participation. ■

Our club's 2007 Field Day effort Produces nearly 600 contacts

And 1,450 points as well

The Indian Hills Club returned to form by launching its own Field Day effort this year. Lacking the co-sponsor support of the Philips Medical radio club, the decision was to go it alone.

So we did!

The result of our informal, laidback, funfest? A total of 574 QSOs, with 423 on sideband and 151 on CW. Two stations were operated, with contacts made on 75/80, 40, 20 and 15 meters.

Bonus points added to our score included portable power (old Betsy was supplied by Ed, AA8TV), publicity, public location (Lake FarmPark), messages sent and received, and



visits by public agencies. The result of contacts and bonus points was 1,450 for the club's claimed score.

As seen in the photo, taken by our photogra-

pher Herb Schieman, K8AZW, our operating site included an information booth with literature on Amateur Radio. This feature added to the club's bonus points and score. ■

Indian Hills Radio Club Net

Thursday Evenings

8:00 p.m. local time

146.430 simplex

PEOPLE

Honored veterans: The *Sun Messenger* recently ran a nice story on three war veterans, including **Al Benedetti, W8NPH**. Al served in the Marines in the South Pacific, including the invasion of Guam. Several stories were related by the vets of American Legion Post 775 after previewing the Ken Burns TV documentary on World War II airing this fall.

Medical notes: **Frank Oblak, KB8WHY**, continues therapy after knee surgery and says "It's still a pain!"

Stuff still available: A reminder that **Ed Meglic, N8THI**, still has aluminum tubing for anyone needing it for antenna projects. Ed also has a 25-watt surplus military HF transceiver that covers 2-30 MHz and operates AM, CW and SSB. Best offer and it's yours. Ed's telephone is (216) 481-4368.

DX doings: The club's DXing duo, **Dick Scott, W8FDN**, and ye olde editor, **Dee Logan, W1HEO**, recently worked the rarest entity on the DXCC list of 337, Scarborough Reef, BS7H. Dee has received his confirming QSLs which qualifies him for the Top of the Honor Roll. ■

Indian Hills Radio Club Information

President: Don Ritchie, K8ZGW
Vice President: Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE
Secretary: Dick Scott, W8FDN
Treasurer: David Dennis, W8DDD
Newsletter Editor: "Dee" Logan, W1HEO
Newsletter Production: W8DDD, K8ZGW
Send news to: 9901 Cypress Circle,
Mentor, OH 44060-7221
Material may be reprinted with credit to
the Indian Hills Radio Club newsletter.
Copyright © 2007 by the Indian Hills
Radio Club. All rights reserved.
Website: <<http://www.hac.org/ihrcc>>
Club meetings: Second Monday of
each month, except July & August at the
Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln
Road.
Dues are \$10.00 per year.

News Digest From The Ham Radio World

Hurricane communications: The recent parade of Caribbean hurricanes has brought plenty of ham radio emergency activity via WX4NHC, the National Hurricane Center in Miami. Hams in the areas affected have relayed damage reports through the HF networks.

Solar update: Recent sunspot numbers for August 9 through 15 ranged from 0 to 14 with a mean of 11.3. Solar flux had a mean number of 67.8. Still no word that the bottom of the cycle has passed.

Ham astronaut: The recent space shuttle flight of the *Endeavour* included a teacher, Barbara Morgan, who is also a ham, KD5VNP.

ARRL BPL action: A reply brief has been filed by ARRL in the US Court of Appeals accusing the FCC of refusing to address points made by the League concerning the interference threat from Broadband Over Powerline technology.

FCC enforcement: John Kimbrough, WR3S, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, was issued a warning notice and removal of automatic control privileges for his repeaters by the FCC. Monitors reported that his repeaters operated without proper control and re-broadcast portions of commercial TV programming and music. They also failed to identify and used false call signs. Kimbrough operated 12 repeaters. (That's 12.)

Post-Katrina report: The FCC issued its report on recommendations of a panel reviewing the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications. The Commission said, "The Amateur Radio community played an important role in the aftermath of Katrina and other disasters," and instructed that ham radio be included in its outreach efforts. ■

Friday Lunch

Join the gang at 11:30 a.m.
at the Firehouse Grill & Pub
2768 Stark Drive.
Located behind the Wright Place
West of route 91 on route six.

Radios: Yesterday and today; Some survive, others not

The shrinking of American-made rigs

Thumbing through copies of ham magazines from 1977 with ads for a variety of rigs reveals how things have changed in the ham shack. The Tempo 2020 shown below is one of the transceivers that have come and gone over time.



An ad for the Atlas 350-XL transceiver invited comparisons with other units. The Atlas was all solid state and ran 350 watts compared to 200 watts for the Ten-Tec and Yaesu FT-301. Other rigs were hybrids, including the Drake TR4-CW, Hy-Gain 3750, Kenwood TS-820 and Tempo 2020.

Atlas rigs were made in America, as were Drake and Ten-Tec. The Atlas cost \$995. The Tempo \$759. Power supplies were built in.

Features available included phase lock loop systems, digital readout, IF shift, and no-tune outputs. Heterodyne crystal VCO designs meant better stability than previous rigs. Notch filters, speech compression, and full break in CW were common.

Used rigs from the 50s & 60s could be found for only a few bucks in 1977. The giant, 107-pound Heathkit DX-100 transmitter kit that sold for around \$200 new could be purchased for around \$80. A Hallicrafters SX-101 receiver that sold new for \$395 was going for about \$125 in 1977.

Today's big rigs carry much larger price tags, but are loaded with advanced features that weren't around in 1977. The Yaesu FT-2000 is \$2700 from AES, with the FTDX-9000 priced at *only* \$5700. The ICOM IC-756PRO III is \$2700, and for those with a taste for top-of-the-line, the IC-7800 is only \$10,600.

Gone are rigs that could be built, maintained and repaired by the average ham. If this is progress, it's more hands-off than hands-on. But kits, such as the

Cleveland Hamfest and ARRL Convention coming in Sept.

Meet the ARRL folks and ham buddies

The September 22-23 weekend will be a big one for hams in the Cleveland area. On Saturday the 22nd it's the Great Lakes Division ARRL Convention at the Sheraton Independence Hotel on Rockside Road.

Following on Sunday the 23rd is the Cleveland Hamfest at the Berea Fairgrounds.

Opening at 11:30 a.m., the ARRL Convention will include guest speakers Joel Harrison, W5ZN, President of ARRL, Bob Heil, K9EID of Heil Sound, Tim Duffy, K3LR, contest super station, Jim Sanford, WB4GCS, AMSAT Project Manager and top DXers.

Tickets are available for seminars, banquet, and full package including room. Information at (216) 524-7711, (216) 524-1750 or <www.2007gldc.org>.

The Cleveland Hamfest runs from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Sunday Sept. 23rd at the Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds, Berea. Admission is \$6.00, and tables are \$20.00 each. Information at 1-800-CLE-FEST or (253-3378). Or, <<http://www.hac.org>>

VE testing is at the Berea Public Library, 2:00 p.m. sharp. Information at <<http://hac.org/ve>> Bring check for \$14 payable to "ARRL/VEC, photo ID, the original and copy of your license and any CSCEs you have earned. ■

A very gentle reminder: We need you and your dues!

Our fiscal year dawns in September

Radio clubs, like almost any organization, need money to operate. Not much, but enough to cover the cost of producing a newsletter, buying coffee and doughnuts, handling administrative costs and various other tasks.

So we need your ten bucks.

Without it, we may suffer what Mark Twain said: "Lack of money is the root of all evil." So we implore

you to help our club avoid evil by making a very modest contribution of \$10.00 to keep the Indian Hills Radio Club functioning. You will be a vital part of a club that is becoming widely known and respected as a sponsor of the Ham Radio Promotion Project and producer of a popular video.

Bring your ten dollars to the September 10 meeting or mail your check to David Dennis, W8DDD. 30113 Robert St., Wickliffe 44092. Thanks! ■





Jest a Minute

**Humor collected
By our Readers**

Puntastic e-mails

Evidence had been found that William Tell and his family were avid bowlers. Unfortunately, however, all the league records were destroyed in a fire. Thus, we'll never know for whom the Tells bowled.

□

A man rushed into the doctor's office and shouted, "Doctor! I think I'm shrinking!" The doctor calmly responded, "Now, now, settle down. You'll just have to be a little patient."

□

A marine biologist developed a race of genetically engineered dolphins that could live forever if they were fed a steady diet of seagulls. One day his supply of the birds ran out, so he had to go out and trap some more. On the way back, he spied two lions asleep on the road. Afraid to wake them, he gingerly stepped over them. Immediately, he was arrested and charged with transporting gulls across sedate lions for immortal porpoises.

□

Back in the 1800s, the Tates Watch Company of Massachusetts wanted to produce other products and, since they already produced the cases for pocket watches, decided to market compasses for the pioneers traveling west. It turned out that although their watches were of finest the quality, their compasses were so bad that people often ended up in Canada or Mexico, rather than California. This, of course, is the origin of the expression, "He who has a Tates is lost!"

□

A thief broke into the local police station and stole all the lavatory equipment. A spokesperson was quoted as saying, "We have absolutely nothing to go on."

□

An Indian chief was feeling very sick, so he summoned the medicine man. After a brief examination, the medicine man took out a long, thin strip of elk hide and gave it to the chief, instructing him to bite off, chew and swallow one inch of the leather every day. After a month, the medicine man returned to see how the chief was feeling. The chief shrugged and said, "The thong is ended, but the malady lingers on."

Submitted by John Rogoski, KS8A



The Open Mike: Editorial by W1HEO

BPL's spreading tentacles

We received an e-mail from Jim, WD8PFK, noting that DirectTV and the Current Group have agreed to offer customers of DirectTV BPL high-speed internet and VoIP services. Customers will be able to plug a BPL modem into any outlet in their homes. The system can provide faster speeds than present techniques. The first market to be served is the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

Jim Weaver, our ARRL Great Lakes Director, said that the guys at HQ are keeping an eye on this, but also comments that the Current Group has been running a "clean" operation.

In our opinion, loading our power lines with multiple digital signals may result in more interference to HF radio users. The power lines are excellent antennas that can radiate plenty of trouble for radio hams and others. The FCC has shown that it is promoting BPL and is looking the other way when it comes to resolving interference.

We wonder whatever happened to the FCC's responsibility to enforce rules covering interference? Is this another example of "money talks?" We can only hope that the ARRL's decision to confront the FCC in a court of law will force a return to the true purpose of this regulatory agency.

This newsletter's future

Some of you may know that your editor also writes several other newsletters, including one for a commercial client. Deadlines are a fact of life, and when travel and family obligations make it difficult, something's got to give.

Editors are always faced with the challenge of filling their pages with newsworthy information. When there are plenty of activities to report, and contributions arrive, editors can function effectively. But when there isn't much going on, and very little is contributed by readers, well, you get the picture.

This is why I must reduce the publication of this newsletter from monthly to every other month. This way, I can accommodate my travel schedule and workload but still publish *Smoke Signals*. If there are late-breaking announcements, the weekly net should be able to distribute them. ■