

October-November 2006 Smoke Signals

The Indian Hills Radio Club

www.hac.org/ihrcc

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

WA8SAJ on restoring classic Radios at October 9 meeting

Jeff shares his secrets of radio rejuvenation

It's the season for raking leaves and getting our antennas ready for winter as the club says goodbye to the static season and hello to quieter ham bands.

Our Monday, October 9, gathering will finalize the plans for our 50th anniversary dinner, which is set for Thursday, November 16. Please make an effort to attend the October meeting and make your wishes known as to the restaurant.



Any final details will be covered at the forthcoming November 13 meeting.

Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ, will be our speaker, telling us some his unique methods for making old radios look and sound new again. If you've seen his work, you know how talented he is in this specialized field.

Speaking of November, our meeting will feature a program of various member recollections of interesting events from the club's past 50 years. So check your memory banks for tales that dot the half-century history of the Indian Hills Radio Club.

In response to some member suggestions, we will make an effort to keep the business meetings short to allow ample time for coffee and fellowship.

The club officers will be developing a plan for the year, including a recruiting effort to build membership. We encourage your input (see survey last page) and your participation. ■

Reminder: If you haven't paid your \$10 membership dues yet, please do so at the next meeting, or mail a check to Treasurer David Dennis, W8DDD, at 30113 Robert St., Wickliffe, OH 44092.

The Butler Hamfest sponsors Throw in the towel

Shortage of helping hams cited

The Butler County Amateur Radio Association (BCARA) has voted to get out of the hamfest business. The announcement came just two days after the club hosted the ARRL Western Pennsylvania Section convention September 10.

The main reason is a lack of member involvement.

Club Treasurer and newsletter editor Kevin Berry, KF4RMA, said, "The few dependable workers have burned out." Fewer than one-quarter of the club's 80 members helped with this year's hamfest, and most handled multiple duties.

The September 10 gathering at the Butler County Farm Show Fairgrounds was the club's 29th annual hamfest. Whether or not it's the last, BCARA President Jim Love, W1JHL, told ARRL, is in the hands of the membership.

"If we can get the manpower that is required to support the hamfest we will continue the tradition," he said. "However, this year, as in the recent past, we have not received the needed help." ■

Parts in a jar attracts a crowd

Guessers galore made their best estimate of the number of radio parts in a jar during the Cleveland hamfest. Over 50 guesses were made at 50 cents each, raising \$28.50 for the Ham Radio



Promotion Project.

The winning guess was 905 parts by George Keltner, K8SGM.

The exact number? 919. Thanks to all who contributed parts for this fun project. ■

Visit to Slovakia by AB8GV Includes chat with local ham *Cathie also is licensed as OM9ACM*

A planned trip to Slovakia to visit her family led Cathie, AB8GV to consider getting an OM ham license there. After sending \$10.00 and a copy of her U.S. license, she was assigned OM9ACM.

"It was a long flight to Bratislava, Slovakia," says Cathie. "The flight to Prague was eight hours and to Bratislava another four." From there she drove to her cousin's home in Spisska Sobota, which took seven hours.

She later talked with Kurt, OM8AA, who is the contact person for the club station in Poprad, which is in north central Slovakia.

"He said that their club has declined since the discontinuation of the CW requirement. He said that most people were interested in direction finding rather than transmitting. That goes along with the geocaching trend here. The club equipment sounded routine, with ICOMs and antennas."

While Cathie wasn't able to work out a time to operate from Slovakia, (she was told to wait until she returned to the country), she did enjoy the sightseeing.

"It's a beautiful, colorful country," she comments, mentioning the 14,000-foot Tatry Mountains called the "Slovak Alps." Slovakia is about half the square mileage of Ohio but about the length of Pennsylvania, says Cathie. ■

Smoke Signals is the official publication of The Indian Hills Radio Club.

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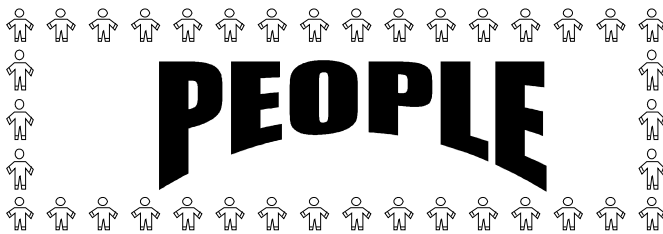
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Trip reports: Fall foliage is but one reason to take a trip into the countryside, but some members have gone far beyond in their travels. **Gus Mirsalis, W8RPT**, had his sights set, not on falling leaves, but on the correctly falling cards when visiting Seneca Niagara Casino. He's ordered his Mercedes with his "winnings." **Cathie McAdams, AB8GV**, visited Slovakia earlier this year, meeting family members and receiving the ham call OM9ACM. She also brought her 18-year-old cousin back to the U.S. for a visit. (See related story this page.)

More travels ahead: Meanwhile, **Jim Iams, K8BLB**, steered his motor home to Branson, Missouri, spending eight days enjoying the entertainment. He had a good time, including making several QSOs on 40, 75 and 2 meters. He may be rolling south to Hilton Head, S.C. as you read this. Happy trails!

War trophy: A souvenir of the Falklands Island War was given to **Ed Meglic, N8THI**, recently. Ed describes it as an HF radio; a Fuchs B25IB26 type. (Is the manual written in German?) Another trophy of Ed's was a 22-inch walleye caught during a fishing expedition.

At ease, men! A reunion with his old Marine Corps gang is on the October calendar of **Al Benedetti, W8NPH**. He'll be heading for D.C. and other cities.

Hamfest findings: We hear from **Rol Randolph, K8ATQ**, that he bought a broken TS-430 at the Butler Hamfest. (Good luck with the fixings, Rol!). He also has retired his GAP Titan DX vertical and replaced it with a G5RV. He reports a two-to-three S-unit improvement.

Medical reports: A recent bout with pneumonia has left **John Esborn, K8OCK**, a bit weak, and his lungs have been slow to recover. He reports some nasty side effects from the antibiotics he was taking.

Restoration project: A pet project of **Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE**, is restoring a Central Electronics 20A transmitter. He's also looking for one, so if you know where there may be one, let him know. ■

Cleveland's ham radio roots A brief history of AES, Amateur Electronic Supply, Cleveland

By Don Ritchie, K8ZGW

In 1970, John Linton, W8DKI, and Pete Smith, WA8PZA, decided that the Cleveland area needed another, better Amateur Radio outlet. Prior to opening the store, John was the sales manager at Electrocom, a local two-way radio dealer, and Pete was a salesman at Pioneer Standard.

They opened L&S Electronics, starting in the TV shop of Ray, W8ICS, on Euclid Avenue. With L&S



in the front, Ray moved all of his TV repairs to the rear of the store.

John and Pete both took night jobs at the Republic Steel plant.

Their wives would

open the store in the morning, and Pete and John would come in around noon.

In January of 1973, John sold his share to Pete and went to work for BF Goodrich Company in Akron. Pete sold out to Terry Serman of AES around December of 1973.

Terry moved the store down the street to the corner of Euclid and Burgess, where it stayed for a couple of years. Around 1975 the store was moved to the old A&P Store in Wickliffe, where it still is today.

There are a couple of versions of how they got into the A&P store. I like to think it was I who suggested the move, because of my position at the telephone company I became aware of the vacant store. I suggested it to Pete when he asked if I knew of a suitable location. George, WA8EYG, thinks that it was he who suggested the location. It could well have been both of us.

Pete moved to Las Vegas in the late '70s to run the Vegas store. To the best of my memories, Pete passed away in the early '80s.

If Pete and John had not started the Amateur Radio business in Cleveland, John said that he doubts that AES would have ever moved here. But Terry saw that Pete and John were making headway in that area and decided, after many conversations with them, that AES needed to have a store here. ■

**Join the Thursday night net;
146.430 simplex at 8:00 p.m.**



News From The Wide World of Amateur Radio

500 kHz contact: The FCC has granted an experimental license, WD2XSH, to the ARRL to investigate the 600-meter band between 505 and 510 kiloHertz. Narrowband modes at power levels to 20 watts ERP are authorized. Several contacts have been made, with many to distances of 300 miles and some even farther. One contact, between Iowa and Oregon, covered 1,500 miles.

Hams help during floods: When telephone and Internet services were affected by recent floods in Kentucky and Indiana, ARES teams supplied needed communications. Up to 10 inches of rain caused emergencies in 19 Kentucky counties and 12 cities, including Frankfort, the capital.

Japanese ham satellite: A tiny "cubesat" was launched by Hokkaido Institute of Technology that carries an Amateur Radio payload. HIT-SAT was built from mostly off-the-shelf parts. The 1200 bps FM packet downlink is on 437.425 MHz, with CW telemetry downlink is on 437.275 with a transmitter power of 100 mW.

Radio jammer is jailed. Radio jammer Jack Gerritsen, 70, has been sentenced to seven years in prison and fined \$15,225 for his willful and malicious interference with radio communications and transmitting without a license. The former KG6IRO was monitored sending prerecorded messages, harassment and profanity for hours at a time.

Ham band intruders: The FCC has warned several individuals against unlicensed operation in the ham bands. Two trucking firms and a balloon festival promoter were cited for operating Amateur Radio and General Mobile Radio Service equipment without a license.

New solar cycle? Appearance of a new "backward sunspot" may mean solar cycle 23 is ending and cycle 24 is under way. That's the opinion of solar physicist David Hathaway of the Marshall Flight Center, who says that backward refers to the sunspot's reverse magnetic polarity associated with new solar cycles. ■

The ARRL Letter

Half-century flashback That wonderful year 1983

Return with us now to those glory days.....

Fiber optics was the program topic at the club's January meeting at the Euclid Public Library. A pre-meeting meeting was held at the Richmond restaurant. The President was none other than WD8SCH, David Dennis. Dues were only \$9.00 and \$3.00 for associate members.

A celebration was held to honor 50 years as an Amateur by Ray, W8ICS. 65 guests turned out at his QTH.

The Indian Hills Radio Club at 50 Dick, W8FDN, was the speaker at the club's April, 1983, meeting, reporting on his sojourn in the Orient. Plans for a fox hunt were brewing, and John, KS8A, attended the Lake County Hamfest and brought home some "booty."

A Sunday brunch was attended by 21 members.

Homeland security was an issue, even back then. An Indian Hills Radio Club speaker from Star Security Systems of Parma was featured at the May meeting. Don, K8ZGW, was heard on 146.43, transmitting from Richmond Heights Hospital while undergoing gall bladder removal.

A note to *The Westlink Report* from President David, included an article dealing with local TV personality Joel Rose, N8JR.

Field Day planning was led by FD Chairman Chuck, W8KF. The foxhunt report identified the "Fox" as Fritz, K8WLF.

Ray Kacprzak, W8ICS, is elected President; George Klassen, W8MH, is VP; George Wagstaff, W8AZW, is Secretary; and Paul Zander, WA8PAZ; is Treasurer.

A new ARRL video, "Amateur Radio's Newest Frontier," starring NBC-TV reporter Roy Neal, K6DUE, is shown at the November meeting. (Guess which video production was produced next by IHRC?)

The Indian Hills Christmas party was held at the W8ICS QTH featuring a party tray buffet (\$2.00 per person) with beer and mix supplied. BYOB. A gift exchange (\$3.00) was held. ■

Let's do lunch!
Fridays starting at 11:30 a.m.
Denny's at 6207 Wilson Mills
West of I-271



Jest A Moment!

**The Lighter Side of The News
Collected By Dick Scott, W8FDN**

Kids say the craziest things!

Now that our young students have wandered into the beginnings of radio, they expand their knowledge into the operation of this wonderful invention. Their words:

"I have found radios to be easier to listen to than to tell how they work."

"Another name for the radio is radiotelephony, but I think I will just stick with the first name and learn it good."

"Many things about electronic communications that were once thought to be science fiction now actually are."

"Last month I found out how a radio works by taking it apart. I both found out and got in trouble."

"When currents at 110 to 120 volts go through, them radios start making sounds. So would anybody."

"A radio telescope is a thing you can hear programs by looking through it."

"Radio waves would not be all that important to study if it were not for ears."

"I have noticed that if a portable radio is turned in different directions, the station talks loudest behind its back."

"Someone in here said that FM has shorter waves than shortwave radios. Is this so? I think it is because I was the one that said it."

"We now have radios that can run on either standard or daylight time." ■

Editor's note:

**This is a combined October/November
issue of Smoke Signals.
The November meeting is on the 13.
Please mark your calendar.**

Indian Hills Radio Club 2006 Member Survey

In order to insure that your interests and opinions will be reflected in the club's operation, please complete this survey and turn it in to any club officer, or mail it to "Dee" Logan, W1HEO, at 9901 Cypress Circle, Mentor, OH 44060, or send it via e-mail to delogan@ameritech.net.

Please print. Signing your name is optional.

1. I attend club meetings () often () sometimes () seldom

2. What I like most about meetings: _____

3. I consider programs () necessary () unnecessary () optional () other _____

4. Program topics should be () ham radio () electronics () general

5. What program topics would you like to have presented?

6 Who do you know who would be a good guest speaker?

7. How important is it for coffee and sweets to be available at meetings, and what system should be used to appoint a member to bring it?

8. How important is it to have a regular club dinner? () very () not very () no opinion

9. What factors would influence your decision to attend a club dinner, e.g., type of menu, day of week, cost etc?

10. What other club activities should be offered?

11. What skills or talents could you offer the club? (Include your name)

Thank you for completing this survey!

Name: _____ Call: _____