



November 2005 Smoke Signals

The newsletter of the Indian Hills Radio Club

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

How ARRL goes to Washington Is November 14 meeting topic

Walter Cronkite gives us the story

The November meeting turns our attention to a fact of life that may seem strange to Amateur Radio operators. But the truth is, no one is responsible for defending our radio service but us.

“The government is us; we are the government, you and I.”

Theodore Roosevelt

So the ARRL, which is increasingly having to lobby in Washington on our behalf, has produced a video called, “The ARRL Goes to Washington — Preserving Amateur Radio for the Future. This new presentation is narrated by Walter Cronkite, KB2GSD.

This short program provides a behind-the-scenes look at ARRL’s advocacy program on behalf of our members in “official Washington.” It includes coverage of the legislative and regulatory issues of the day: interference from broadband over power line (BPL), the Spectrum Protection Act and ham radio volunteerism as a national resource.

Featured in the video is ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, with production by a team including Dave Bell, W6AQ; Alan Kaul, W6RCL; Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF; and Keith Glispie, WA6TFD.

Please note that our meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. The usual meeting site is the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road. Bring a friend. And yourself!

Note: the library asks that we not congregate near the computers or talk loudly prior to entering the meeting room. ■

Indian Hills Radio Club Net

Thursday Evenings

8:00 PM local time

146.430 MHz simplex

ARRL asks FCC to reduce BPL Interference potential

Seeks Part 15 rule changes

All BPL systems aren’t created equal. Some have far less potential for interfering with Amateur Radio than others. That’s the thinking of ARRL, which has filed a petition asking the FCC to modify the Part 15 rules it adopted last year and sharply reduce BPL’s interference potential.

The League says that its rule suggestions take into account recent advancements in BPL technology and should resolve unsettled but substantial interference issues affecting hams and other licensed services.



Problem-causing systems make use of the HF spectrum on unshielded overhead medium-voltage lines. They lack fixed notches in the ham bands and cause interference that’s difficult to resolve.

The good news is that ARRL has identified several BPL systems that don’t cause ham band interference. One of these is Motorola’s Powerline LV BPL system. It doesn’t use medium-voltage powerlines and has been designed to avoid interference. Tests by ARRL and Motorola have confirmed this.

The League is asking the FCC to modify its rules to prohibit BPL systems from using medium-voltage power lines or using Amateur Radio frequency allocations.

“It is the Commission’s obligation to recognize and utilize this opportunity and to amend its rules to protect licensed radio services for the first time in this proceeding,” the ARRL concluded. “It can be done without significant system redesign by any BPL provider.” ■

The ARRL Letter

Hams providing hurricane help; This time it's Wilma

Record-breaking storm season a test

The Hurricane Net on 14.325 MHz continued to be a very busy spot on the Amateur Radio dial as still another major storm, named Wilma, raged through southern waters.

Activated at 1300Z on October 21 for coverage of the Yucatan Peninsula, the bilingual support team was on hand to provide essential advisory information to the affected area and to collect any locally observed weather data for relay to the National Hurricane Center.

The Hurricane Warning Net and WX4NHC work together to provide ground-level weather data to assist National Weather Service meteorologists to fine tune their forecasts.

Amateur Radio Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, says the station also provides backup communication to National Weather Service field offices in the affected areas. He asks that stations give 14.325 MHz a wide berth when HWN and WX4NHC are active.

Countless Amateur Radio operators have provided communication during hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Ginger Flynn of the Red Cross praised hams for their help, especially when cell phones and Internet communications proved erratic. ■

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

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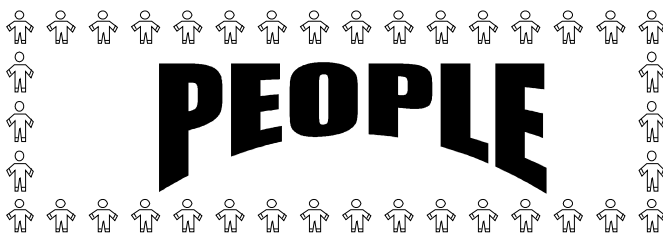
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Medical memo: We noted that **John, KS8A**, was wearing a special shoe to the last club meeting following removal of a pair of his toenails at the VA hospital. John reports that it's the third try for one of his big toes, so we wish him luck.

Award-winning Jeff. For those who weren't at the last QCWA Chapter One meeting, we're delighted to report that **Jeff, WA8SAJ**, received the 2005 President's Award for his contributions to Amateur Radio and Chapter One. Congratulations! Your editor, "**Dee**" **W1HEO**, was also presented with the 2005 Amateur of the Year Award. We thank the Chapter for this honor.

Reindeer eats. A recent vacation to the Chicago area by **Dick, W8FDN**, and his XYL Vi, resulted in a first-hand report of feeding reindeer. What did they eat? Would you believe graham crackers? Yep. By the way, Dick also received a QCWA 55-year Anniversary Award during the recent meeting. Congratulations!

Antenna weather is just around the corner. That's the time when it seems necessary to brave the howling winds, rain and snow to work on our antennas. **Les, K8LP**, has attempted to put up a 160-meter wire ahead of the season, and **David, W8DDD**, has prepared for the antenna work ahead by having several trees trimmed to provide more room for his skyhooks. (Now where did we put the blowtorch and those mukluks?)

Birthdays recalled or not. The recent celebration of the 90th birthday of **Lou Sabetto, W8PIU**, reminds ye olde editor that we haven't been announcing these important milestones (or is it mill stones?) in these pages. Do you readers feel strongly about the need to include or forget them? Let us know. Meantime, how about a hearty cheer for these birthday folks who celebrate during October and November: **AB8GV, WA8LWH, WA8SAJ**, and **KF8VX**. ■

Holiday Gala Ahead!
Plan to join us for a Fifth Thursday dinner on December 29. The restaurant will be announced later. Mark the date.

Radio classics The Hallicrafters S-40

Another trusty cost-effective performer

This old favorite shortwave receiver was said by Hallicrafters “To offer superior performance in the medium price range.” Indeed it did. For less than \$90 in the 1950s, this popular model provided AM and CW reception from 540 kc to 43 Mhz.

Its circuitry included a temperature-compensated oscillator, one RF and two IF stages, and an audio response to 10,000 cycles.

Powered by standard AC current, the radio had four main bands with a main tuning knob and a band spread dial, AF and RF gain controls, AVC, BFO and noise limiter switches, a three-position tone control, BFO, pitch and receive/standby switch.

Its satin black steel cabinet had a hinged top that allowed easy access to the tubes. The receiver measured 18.5” wide, by 8 7/8” high by 9.5” deep. It weighed 32 pounds.

Seven tubes & rectifier were used in the S-40B version. Included: a 6SG7 RF amplifier, 6SA7 converter, two 6SK7 IF amplifiers, 6H6 noise limiter and AVC, 6SL7 BFO and detector, 6F6G output and 5Y3GT rectifier.

We remember our S-40B with fondness. It was a step up for us from an S-38A, and was used with an outboard Heathkit Q Multiplier for better CW selectivity during our Novice and early General class days.

The 1950s were very successful for the Hallicrafters Company. Bill Halligan (founder) and his son Bill, Jr., were involved in the operation. This was the era of civil defense, so many radios carried names like “Civic Patrol,” and “Defender.”

The company built a new plant after the war at 5th and Kostner in Chicago. It would be the main factory for the next 20 years.

Products were given a modern look with the help of Raymond Loewy, a well-known industrial designer at the time. One of the first sets to be designed was the S-38. The logo was changed to the familiar “Circle H.”

The Halligans continued to run the company until 1966, when the firm was sold to the Northrup Corporation. This ended the family’s involvement in Hallicrafters. ■



News From The Wide World of Amateur Radio

Holiday toy drive: The ARRL and the Salvation Army are cooperating to launch the 2005 Holiday Toy Drive in order to brighten the holidays for youngsters displaced or left homeless by the Gulf Coast hurricanes. ARRL members are asked to gather new toys (for ages 1-14) and ship them before Thanksgiving to Memphis, Tenn. The address: ARRL Toy Drive/The Salvation Army, 1775 Moriah Woods Blvd., Suite 12, Memphis, Tenn. 38117-7125. Toys will be sorted and sent to Salvation Army facilities in the affected areas.

Space phone call: The International Space Station’s third civilian space traveler, Greg Olsen, KC2ONX, contacted students in three high schools while in orbit. The schools, in Princeton, NJ, Brooklyn, NY and Ridgefield Park, NJ, asked Olsen several questions about his experiences in space. “You can only dream about what it’s like to float about for a long time,” he said. “It’s really different and exhilarating.”

Ham in top post. The new Director of the National Counterterrorism Center is John “Scott” Redd, KØDQ. He was sworn in Sept. 12 by Vice President Dick Cheney.

BPL test ends. A broadband over power lines experiment in Pennsylvania’s Lehigh Valley was shut down by a utility firm, citing the high cost of a full-scale BPL rollout and competition from cable and DSL services. Radio Amateurs reported S9 interference during the tests that wasn’t fully resolved.

Ham license revocation. The FCC has begun proceedings to revoke the ham radio license of convicted felon David Edward Cox, W5OER, of Pride, Louisiana. Cox’s multiple felony convictions “raise serious questions about his character qualifications,” says the Commission.

ARRL testifies before Congress. Harold Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL’s Chief Operating Officer, has testified on behalf of the League before the US House Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet. Kramer told the group about the successful efforts of Amateur Radio operators who provided communications during Hurricane Katrina.

The ARRL Letter

Indian Hills Radio Club Web site is up and running

Information & newsletters available

The radio club is taking a major step forward into the Age of the Internet by launching its own Web site. Thanks to Secretary Don Ritchie, K8ZGW, and the Cleveland Hamfest Association, information on the club is easily found at:

<<http://www.hac.org/ihr>>

The Web site includes information on the Indian Hills Radio Club and its officers, plus copies of the *Smoke Signals* newsletter, an application for membership and an overview of the Cleveland Ham Radio Promotion Project.

Please spread the word about this Web site, and urge potential members to check it out for information on our club.

Thanks to Don for putting the new Web site together, and to the Cleveland Hamfest Association for allowing us to use their server. ■



Jest A Moment!

The Lighter Side of
The News, Collected
By John Rogoski, KS8A

Politically correct ways to speak about women and men

1. **She** doesn't get drunk or tipsy, she becomes "Chemically inconvenienced."
2. She doesn't nag, she is "Verbally repetitive."
3. She's not a hooker, she's "A low-cost provider."
4. She's not a screamer, she's "Vocally appreciative."

1. **He's** not balding, he's in "Follicle regression."
2. He doesn't get lost all the time, he "Investigates alternative destinations."
3. He's not a male chauvinist pig, he has "Swine empathy."
4. He isn't afraid of a commitment, he is "Relationship challenged."
5. He's not a cradle robber, he prefers, "Generational differential relationships." ■



Chewing the Rag: Odds and Ends From Here , There and On the Air.

By W1HEO

Do you have an emergency plan?

The recent public embarrassment of FEMA and our Government following the recent hurricanes reminds us of the need for better planning and the ability to put plans into action quickly. Perhaps there's a message for us as individuals and Amateur Radio operators.

First, we should prepare for the worst even as we hope for the best. Having lived through a hurricane and ice storms for a week without power, our family knows that it must be ready to face the worst. We stockpile batteries, firewood, sterno, and have radios that operate on battery power, not AC. We even have a meeting place outside Lake County in the event of an evacuation order from the Perry Nuclear Plant.

As radio Amateurs, we know it's a good idea to have a mobile rig and perhaps an HT whose nicads are kept charged just in case. We might well be called to use these important communication tools at a moment's notice. Better to be ready than embarrassed. Remember FEMA?

It may even be a good idea to discuss family emergency plans, and even practice them, *before* they're needed. It may reveal batteries that are dead, flashlights that don't work, or the need to invest in an electric generator.

The Red Cross in Lake County published an emergency handbook a while back that contained some solid information on making your own disaster plan. Included are posting emergency telephone numbers, stocking emergency supplies, how to turn off the electricity, gas or water, checking smoke detectors, and identifying escape routes from each room.

Details on preparing a family disaster plan are also provided along with how to build a disaster supplies kit. The contents include a first aid kit, of course, along with non-prescription drugs, tools, flashlights, fire extinguishers, towels, blankets and sleeping bags.

Different types of emergencies require different responses. The Red Cross booklet covers some of the more common, including tornadoes, thunderstorms, winter storms, floods and fires.

There may be some lifestyle changes to be made, too. With our gasoline supplies becoming less than certain these days, letting our tank hit bottom and running on fumes may not be prudent. Putting a few extra cans of soup, water, and veggies in the pantry might be wise as well.

Times are changing, but one thing doesn't change: mother nature can be downright nasty and she doesn't play favorites, so we'd better be prepared. ■