

# December 2006 Smoke Signals

The Indian Hills Radio Club

[www.hac.org/ihr](http://www.hac.org/ihr)

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

## Yule have a festive eve at the Club's December 11th meeting

*Ho, ho ho! And away we go!*

It's the season to be merry, so let's plan to get into the holiday spirit at the club's Monday, December 11 meeting. It will be a laid back, informal gathering, so bring along a couple of yule cookies to share with the members. We'll have a short business meeting, and then enjoy some holiday fellowship while sampling the sweets.



If you'd like to write a letter to Santa and list a few ham radio toys for the stocking or comment on radio-type things in general, please bring it along and read it to the group. Be creative!

If you have any cash left over from your Yule shopping, consider taking a chance on our new 50-50 raffle. Al Benedetti, W8NPH, has kindly procured some tickets, and will happily accept your buck for each chance to win one half of the total. Who knows, you could be a winner. As noted at our last meeting, funds will be used to conduct a membership drive.

The weekly Thursday night club net is still alive and well, although there's room for additional member checkins. Make a note to fire up your two meter rig Thursdays at 8:00 p.m. on 146.430 simplex. It's a convenient way to stay in touch in between meetings.

Our December 11th meeting starts at 7:15 p.m. at the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road in Wickliffe. Bring a friend! ■

**Reminder: If you haven't yet 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 FCC announces changes to Amateur Radio rules

*Still no action on the Morse code*

After a long wait, the FCC released its omnibus Amateur Radio proceeding, adopting most of the changes it had proposed in its 2004 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. It did not include action on a proposal to eliminate the Morse code requirement. That decision is pending.

The new rules become effective December 15.

Highlights of the "Omnibus" Report and Order:

- ▶ "Reformed" the Novice/Tech Plus bands to expand certain phone subbands;
- ▶ Agreed to allow Novice and Tech Plus licensees to operate CW in the General class CW subbands on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters;
- ▶ Implemented rules to discourage multiple vanity call applications on the same day from the same applicant;
- ▶ Permitted auxiliary stations to transmit on portions of the 2 meter band;
- ▶ Eliminated certain restrictions on the manufacture and sale of external power amplifiers for ham use;
- ▶ Deleted the requirement to publicly announce Amateur Radio examination locations and times;
- ▶ Deleted the frequency bands and segments specified for the Radio Amateur Emergency Service stations;
- ▶ Clarified that amateur stations may, at all times and on all frequencies authorized to the control operator, make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and to facilitate relief actions;
- ▶ Permitted Amateur licensees to designate a specific Amateur Radio club to receive their call in memorium.

Once the new rules go into effect, the 75-meter phone band will span 3800 to 4000 kHz for Generals, 3700 to 4000 kHz for Advanced, and 3600 to 4000 kHz for Extras plus more modest expansions in the 40 and 15 meter bands. ■

## Ham microphone maker Heil has exhibit at Rock 'n Roll Hall Joins collection of audio technology

**Hams know Bob Heil** as a producer of a variety of microphones and related audio equipment for the Amateur Radio market, but he's also associated with the rock and roll music world. Heil now has a display of his gear at Cleveland's Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.

Heil provided live sound production in the 1960s and '70s for many of the world's notable groups, including The Who, ZZ Top, Grateful Dead, Joe Walsh's Eagles, Peter Frampton, and Humble Pie.

**Items on display** include the Mavis mixer built for Pete Townsend and the Who's Quadrophenia tour. The most famous item is the talk box used on Joe Walsh's recording, "Rocky Mountain Way." There are several references to ham radio in the display. (Joe Walsh is a radio ham.)

"Bob Heil is truly an innovator in the field of live sound," said Howard Kramer, the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum curatorial director.

**Commented Heil**, "I am thrilled and honored to have this exhibit represent my body of work in live sound." He started out in 1966 with a small store, Ye Olde Music Shop, in Marissa, Illinois where he catered to mostly the Hammond organ market. He noted that the market changed quickly, and now looks back at those years "with amazement." Today Heil Sound Ltd. is a world leader in the design and manufacture of microphones. ■

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

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Vice President: John Esborn, K8OCK

Secretary: Don Ritchie, K8ZGW

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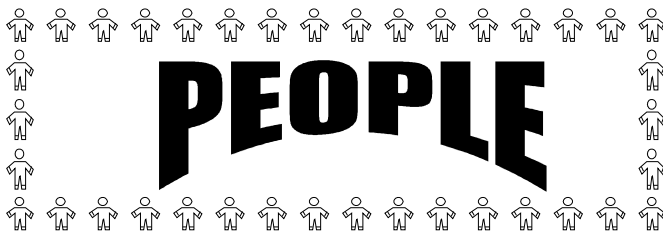
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**Another retiree:** We welcome to the ranks of the no-longer-working **Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ**, who announces his retirement this month from the East Ohio Gas Company. He celebrated with a new Mustang GT — "made in the USA" — and says that he is now doing radio repair full-time during the days. (We hope to see you at club meetings more often, Jeff — Ed.)

**New grandpa:** One of our newest grandfathers is **Jim McAdams, KF8VX**, who reports that a grand daughter, Sydney Elizabeth, was born to his oldest daughter in September.

**On the road again!** In the further adventures of **Jim Iams, K8BLB**, he again pointed his motor home south, this time to Hilton Head Island, SC, where he says he had a good time, lots of fun, and did some hamming.

**Surplus projects:** The recent acquisition of a wartime military radio by **Ed Meglic, N8THI**, has him working on getting the rather large "boat anchor" on the air. He's had some technical support from **Rol Randolph, K8ATQ**.

**Remember six meters?** Certainly this band is on the mind of **Les Peine, K8LP**, who has purchased a six-meter rig and is trying to get the unit to work so that he can monitor the band. (Let us know what's happening.)

**Digital doings:** One the newest members to use voice over computer techniques is **John Rogoski, KS8A**, who recently acquired a new PC and Internet provider. John was able to set up a three-way voice contact with his two sons via the Internet.

**Top bander:** Among members who have been chatting about 160 meters, **Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE**, reports that he's put up an inverted L and is even custom building a metal box to enclose a variable capacitor at the feed point. Ye olde editor is still working on the finishing touches of his inverted L, but has found that the thing works. All that digging to bury ground wires is hard work, but certainly cheaper than a membership in a fitness center. Who else is on top band? We'd love to hear about your experiences. ■

## Results of members' survey

*A summary of comments from some of you*

**Indian Hills is your club**, which is why we recently asked each of you for your opinion and comments on how the club should be run. Thanks to those eight who responded. For those who did not, remember that you had an opportunity to be heard.

All of the members who completed the survey said that they attend meetings often. Among the main things that they like about them is fellowship, updates, technical exchanges, and programs that are short and interesting.

A majority of responses said that programs were considered to be necessary, while a minority considered them unnecessary. Most agreed that programs should cover ham radio or electronics, with only a few mentioning general subjects.

**What program topics** were suggested? The list included new technology, SSTV, EME, satellite communication, digital radio, and antique radios.

Who would be a good guest speaker? Members mentioned an AES representative, ARRL Ohio Section Manager K8QOE, and K8OCK.

**Is coffee necessary?** Replies were about even between those who enjoy coffee and those who don't consider it important. But enjoying ragchewing during the coffee break was mentioned by several. As to sweets such as doughnuts, the opinion was that this should be an optional feature at meetings.

**Club dinners** are not considered to be important by a majority of respondents. As to factors that influence decisions to attend, the list includes a decent, pleasant restaurant, the night of the week (Wednesdays or Thursdays are favorites), cost, non-family style service, menu, location of restaurant, and dress.

**Club activities** that could be offered include Field Day, outings or field trips, and an unexpected adventures such as hot air balloon rides.

Thanks again to those of you who took the time to complete and return the survey. Having member input and *participation* is needed if our club is to fill the needs and wishes of its members.

**The one important issue not covered** was how our club can attract new members. Most agree that we need new members if our club is to have a future. How we proceed depends upon several factors, including the active participation of current members and having funds with which to conduct a campaign. Everyone has an opinion on this, as our last meeting revealed, but it's something that must be done. ■

## Half-century flashback

### Member memories abound

*More looks at the club's first 50 years*

**Our November meeting** brought a variety of stories from members covering the 50+ year history of the club. Some were funny, others strange, but all were interesting.

We begin with a lengthy note from former member Fritz, K8WLF, who was active in the 1970s. He

**The club's first  
50  
years**

remembers the Saturday "Board Meetings" and the Field Day at Fred Cousino's place when Olaf fell off a tower and broke his leg, and at the Cuyahoga airport

Airport when the "Kingfish" slipped a bottle to someone who made sure that the grass got cut.

**Fritz joined the club** when it met at the Indian Hills elementary school and later at the Euclid Public Library. "Oh the fun times we had years ago before computers," he recalls. "You could build things, or even really repair a store-bought radio with spare junk parts. You could see and feel the glow of the old valves."

**Moving on to 1990**, here are some highlights from Smoke Signals, when the club President was WD8PFK, VP W8LXR, Secretary WD8SCH and Treasurer K8ZGW. Programs included "Antennas" by Ron Jakubowski of Antenna Specialists, and Crime Prevention by the Euclid Police Department. Rainy Field Day operations were class 3A with a 40-foot tower and electricity furnished by the trusty "Olde Betsy" generator, but it hiccupped when a cable started steaming on the wet grass. Operators included KS8A, W8ICS, W8FDN, WD8SCH, W8NPH, WD8PFK, K8ZGW, and WA8SAJ.

**In 1991**, Keith Grove, KA8EOD was President and John, KS8A was Treasurer. A program on getting started in packet radio was presented by David Dennis, then WD8SCH. An article on the club's Field Day, "Ham radio operators have field day with equipment," appeared in the Euclid Sun. And Fritz, K8WLF, provided a program on the City of Euclid's new radio system.

**Way back in 1962** a Greater Cleveland-Area Callbook was published. Don, K8ZGW, provided a copy that included a listing of radio clubs. The total? Twenty-five, which included our club, plus several interesting groups such Chix-on-Six, Buckeye Rag Chewers' Club, and Karamu Radio Club. ■

## Recruiting new members Ideas from members suggest ways to grow membership

*How should we proceed?*

To assure the future of our radio club, new members certainly are needed. Most members understand the need to promote our club and attract new



members. How should we do this? Here are a few ideas that have been suggested, with most coming from Cathie, AB8GV:

- Publicize club meetings with announcements in the local press, posters in the library, AES, Radio Shack or exterior signs near the library.
- Distribute copies of *Smoke Signals* to local governments, schools, libraries, local newspapers, and potential members with an application for membership included.
- Invite fellow hams to attend a meeting.
- Ask members who have tables at hamfests to offer club fliers, newsletters or applications.
- Send invitations to local hams identified in databases, request mailing labels from ARRL.

**Most ideas require** money for printing or postage, plus members willing to do the work. This poses a challenge, since our modest club treasury is not adequate to cover such costs. Thus we began an *optional* fund raising approach that includes a 50-50 raffle and a coffee jar donation mug for those who elect to have a cup at the meeting. We would welcome a member to head up a membership committee. You? ■

### Announcements

**Amateur Radio Scholarships** are available from the Foundation for Amateur Radio for the academic year 2007-2008. Hams who will attend an accredited university or technical school can apply for grants from \$500-\$3000. Info from: FAR Scholarships, P.O. Box 831, Riverdale, MD 20738 or <Scholarships@Farweb.org>

**Skywarn training** is being offered March 10, 2007 in Elkhart, Indiana. To register, go to: <www.imoskywarn.org>



## News from the Wide World of Amateur Radio

**BPL support from broadcasters:** The ARRL has received support for its court appeal of the FCC's Broadband Over Powerline (BPL) rules. The Association of Maximum Service Television and the National Association of Broadcasters have filed a joint motion for leave to intervene in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia. In the suit, the FCC's current BPL rules covering interference are termed "arbitrary, capricious and contrary to law," and will adversely affect their members by permitting unlicensed users of the radio spectrum to interfere with licensed users.

**500 KHz experiments:** Eleven stations are on the air now as part of a special FCC experimental license to operate in the vicinity of 500 kHz, also known as the 600 meter band. W4DEX in North Carolina, operating as WD2XSH/10, was copied in Germany using slow-speed CW.

**W1AW's new antennas:** The ARRL's headquarter station has had a major antenna upgrade. The \$24,000 project was paid for by member donations and included 14 HF yagis, and yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm. A 120-foot tower alone supports two yagis for 40, three for 20, two for 15 and one for 10 meters. W1AW's signals are reportedly much better.

**Ham security checks** are now required by the American Red Cross for operators who provide emergency radio services. A flap over possible credit checks by the ARC brought assurances that credit checks would be done only in "rare instances."

**Ham band intruders warned:** Seven Michigan residents who used 2-meter gear while bear hunting have been warned by FCC's Riley Hollingsworth that unlicensed use of Amateur Radio equipment is illegal and may result in fines. The FCC also issued warnings to glider pilots in Florida who have used ham gear on the two meter band. Still another notice went to a Houston, Texas, trucking firm whose drivers have operated unlicensed ham equipment on 10 meters while in Michigan.

**60-meter band support asked:** The ARRL has asked for FCC support of a proposed 150-kHz 60-meter band to be presented at the 2007 World Radio Communication Conference. The plan requests a worldwide, secondary Amateur Allocation from 5260 to 5410 kHz. ■

## A McGan Saga

By David Dennis, W8DDD

**It was a dark and stormy night.** In the murky recesses of an obscure tavern on U.S. 6 sat two hams. As they mused over the ascending bubbles in their tankards, Edward broke the silence: "Have you seen the February QST?"

David replied, "I just put it on top of the stack in the bathroom."

Edward continued, "There's an article about an award for Amateur Radio promotion."

"I don't know a thing about it," said David.

Edward explained, "It's called the McGan Silver Antenna Award. Whatcha think about nominating Dee?"

David concurred, "Let's do it!"

Thusly was the plot hatched.

**The award** gets its name for journalist, Philip J. McGan, WA2MBQ (SK) who served as the first chairman of the ARRL's Public Relations Committee.

An application form was obtained from the ARRL website. Then, the bits and pieces of Dee's deep, dark past were collected, assembled, cut and pasted until the info seemed to match the questions. It was the day before the opening of the Dayton Hamvention when the final edit was completed. An archival copy was made, followed by a hurried trip to the post office where the package was overnighted to ARRL HQ. It had to arrive by the deadline of 5 PM on the ensuing Monday. Later that week, Allen Pitts, W1AGP, the current chief ARRL publicist, confirmed by mail that our entry had, indeed, arrived in time.

**It was a long summer** as we awaited word from the ARRL committee. It was tough keeping it a secret. And, it was learned that there was another nomination made in Dee's behalf. This was the effort of Frank Benesh, K8IFH, from Farmington Hills, MI. Frank is remembered by many as the co-producer of the DVD, *Amateur Radio: Wireless Window to the World*.

Finally, in an ARRL news release dated October 17, it was learned that our man, Dee Logan, W1HEO, was designated as the recipient of the 2006 Philip J. McGan Memorial Silver Antenna Award!

Now, back to those murky recesses in an obscure tavern on U.S. 6.... ■

*David Dennis, W8DDD, is Treasurer of the Indian Hills Radio Club and a former editor of Smoke Signals.*



Chewing the Rag:  
Odds and Ends From Here,  
There and On the Air.  
By W1HEO

## Looking back and then ahead

**As the year 2006** winds down, and we contemplate 2007, there are a few things to ponder before we pop the bubbly and ring in the New Year.

Change was certainly in the air as the nation's voters registered their desire for a shift in the nation's direction. The quick moves by the White House confirmed that the status quo was not what the people had in mind. As the sage once said, "Nothing is so permanent as change."

The aftermath of Hurricane Katrina brought a painful evaluation of the country's ability to deal with major disasters, with communications an issue. The Amateur Radio community was involved in the process, and in some respects made itself known to those who had gladly accepted its services, while giving us little public recognition.

**The FCC**, after a long delay in acting on the ARRL's omnibus Amateur Radio proceeding, finally released its proposed rule making (see story, page one). Missing was any ruling on Morse code. More action needs to be done in the year ahead, including the long-lingering BPL issue, which seems to be missing from the FCC's radar.

**Closer to home**, progress was made in launching the Ham Radio Promotion Project. Funds were adequate to purchase a variety of promotional banners, signs and display materials for use by radio clubs. The video, "Amateur Radio: Wireless Window to the World," was provided to a number of radio clubs and individuals in Northeast Ohio and across the U.S. and will help spread the word about ham radio to the public. In 2007, the challenge is for radio clubs to use these tools and take the initiative by seeking opportunities to tell our story.

Since "Elmers" remain a very important part of helping people enter the ham radio ranks, the year ahead should see this group begin to be an active part of the promotional process.

Our radio club, having passed an important half-century milestone, must focus its attention on its future. An aging membership is a fact of life that points to the urgent need to recruit new members. We know that Amateur Radio is now surrounded by a new generation that takes communication technology for granted, and that for them, radio may not offer the same appeal that motivated us. But we need to find a way to attract both new members and new Amateurs. It may not be easy, but for those who love our hobby and radio service, well worth the effort. ■

## Special dinner marks the Club's half-century mark

*A bit late, but who's counting?*

Our radio club marked its fifty-plus anniversary by holding a belated dinner celebration at El

Rodeo restaurant on November 16.

A great turnout of some 25 members and their guests made this event a success.

Thanks to the dinner committee of John Esborn, K8OCK, and Dick Scott, W8FDN for doing a great job

of putting this event together.

While the club was formed in 1955, it took a while to get around to celebrating the anniversary, but it was fun anyway. ■



## A look at the 2005 ARRL Annual Report

*How the ham world looks to them*

A copy of the report was passed along by W8FDN, so we took a look, and share some interesting tidbits.

The ARRL reported to Congress how hams provided communications during hurricane Katrina and QST honored nearly 1,000 volunteer operators who served.

There were 148,877 ARRL members in 2005, a decline of 1.9%. ARRL volunteer examiners held 5,275 sessions for 24,275 applicants.

ARRL publication sales totaled \$2,962,000 in 2005. New publications were *Basic Radio*, *Emergency Power*, and the *2006 Amateur Radio Calendar*. The ARRL Letter had a weekly circulation of 67,000, and the League's Website attracted 25,000 to 40,000 visitors per day.

Some 170 schools received resources through the Education and Technology program, and 589 persons signed up for ARRL online technical courses.

Total 2005 ARRL revenues: \$13.6 million. ■

**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 Club Members

### How kids view vacuum tubes

Another installment of amusing quotes from students who move deeper into science, provided by Dick Scott, W8FDN.

- ▶ "The way vacuum tubes work as I understand it, is not very well understood."
- ▶ "Many questions have been aroused in my mind about vacuum tubes. As a matter of fact, the main trouble with vacuum tubes is that they give more questions than they answer."
- ▶ "A vacuum is an empty space with nothing in it."
- ▶ "Vacuums are not anythings. We only mention them to let them know they're there."
- ▶ "There is no air in vacuums. That means there is nothing. Try to think of it. It is easier to think of anything than nothing."
- ▶ "A vacuum tube contains nothing. All of its parts are outside of itself."
- ▶ "I figured out how a vacuum tube works twice, but I forgot it three times."
- ▶ "When I learned how empty vacuum tubes are, I would have fainted if I knew how."
- ▶ "An electron tube can be heated two different ways: Either Farenheit or Centipede."

### Deep thoughts

1. Don't sweat the petty things, and don't pet the sweaty things.
2. Atheism is a non-prophet organization.
3. I went to a bookstore and asked the saleswoman, "Where's the self-help section?" She said, "If I told you, it would defeat the purpose."
4. If a mute swears, does his mother wash his hands with soap?
5. If a man stands in the middle of a forest speaking and there is no woman around to hear him...is he still wrong?
6. If someone with multiple personalities threatens to kill himself, is it considered a hostage situation?
7. Is there another word for synonym? ■