

HOOTERHAM NEWS.

March 2018

The newsletter of the Great Southern DX Association, K5GDX.

Many thanks to all for the great response to the February newsletter. It was forwarded on to a club up in Boston, and also to the Cray Valley Radio Society in London, England, who passed it on to their members. So that is a good start.



January ended well with the usual good attendance at the clubs monthly open house regardless of the threat of bad weather.

Thank you, Charlie, WD5BJT, for the donuts and thanks to the multiple members who combined their technical expertise to get the coffee pot working!

Ed Byrd, KA5VFU, is seen here chatting with our newest member Charlie Carney, AG5CC at the open house. Welcome to the club, Charlie.

Congratulations to Yvette, AE5MI, who received her certificate at our January general meeting for 100 countries confirmed. Yvette is a dedicated club member who has operated in several contests from the clubhouse and is practicing hard to become a skilled CW operator. Well done Yvette.

The mid-week lunch meeting.

On the 7th of February a group of determined operators and wives braved the elements (72 degrees and sunny) and made the hazardous journey to Dickeys BBQ in Gulfport for lunch. There they were rewarded with a variety of delicious barbecued animal parts and free ice cream. Various matters were discussed and the world is now a better place.



Eva, wife of Mike WM5DX, Karen Yordy KA5EPR, Bill Yordy W5RWF, Charlie Otnott WD5BJT, Bruce Osterberg N9BX, Terry Hull AE5RI, and CharlieCarney AG5CC taking care of business.

Kosovo.

Towards the end of January Kosovo was added to the DXCC list as a new country and Z60A became active from the headquarters of Kosovo's IARU member society SHRAK. Many of our members were able to put it in the log for a new one. The total number of current DXCC countries is now 340, with 331 confirmed required for Honor Roll status.

Bouvet.

To the great disappointment of many, and probably especially to those on the expedition, it seems like, for now at least, those of us who need it will not get this as a new one. As I write the boat is on its way to Cape Town.

Although the message from the team is that they will consider another attempt at some future date perhaps there is much more to this event that has yet to be revealed.

Revilla Gigedo.

This is a group of islands belonging to Mexico and is about 250 miles off the coast of Mexico in the Pacific. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, a marine reserve and a Mexico National Park. The islands are uninhabited and probably have a high potential for becoming inaccessible to dxpeditiioners at some future date. There is an activation proposed by XE1B in early March. The message here is that it should be an easy one to work from Mississippi and if you have never had it in the log go get it. Good luck.

NG3K website.

Bill Feidt , NG3K, has a great page at WWW.NG3K.com listing many useful websites. He also has a list of upcoming dxpeditiions for those of us who do not subscribe to a regular DX newsletter. Well worth a visit to see what might be coming up.

Lightning.

Y'all may have seen the e-mail from Ray, WQ5L, our esteemed president, noting that Harrison County has now become the lightning capital of the USA. This is what it can do to an antenna, which is nothing compared to what it can do to your equipment inside the shack.



It does not have to be a direct hit, in fact it seems that telephone lines, cable lines and power lines are often the route by which a strike can enter the shack and cause damage. Don't let it happen to you. Make sure all your antennas and equipment are properly grounded and when storms are in the area disconnect antennas and other outside cables from your shack if possible.

Hooterville clubhouse.

Several suggestions have been brought up recently regarding improvements to our clubhouse. We have an awesome clubhouse unlike any other club in the area, but we do need to take care of it. Ideas have included the acquisition and installation of a storage building to keep spare equipment in, extension of the front porch, cleanup and some landscaping around the building, covers for the equipment when it is not in use and the installation of a UPS system to prevent power surges to the computers. We would welcome suggestions at our monthly general meetings on how to proceed and put the ideas into reality. Of course, donations of materials or funds for any or a specific project are always welcome.

Training.

During a recent conversation with one of our members it was brought up that often times many of the very simple fundamental things about our hobby are never explained during our license acquisition process. I know that sometimes the operation of the ARRL Bureau system can be a mystery. I remember that, when I was a volunteer sorter, I had a gentleman send me a note asking me to sort out and not forward to him Short Wave listener cards, he surely did not know what a problem that could be if a big contest station, or all operators, asked the same.

If any member has a question on a seemingly simple subject then please bring it up. It is not a stupid question, it is a failure of the rest of us not to teach.

That is enough for this month, folks, I need to go get my morning tea. (Hot with milk!).

Dilly Dilly,

Mike, WM5DX.

