

# HOOTERHAM NEWS.

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April 2018

Another active month for our members, and one which has proved the worth of belonging to the club.



A great achievement was the acquisition and installation of a new 160 meter vertical antenna that can be used when it is not practical to have the helium balloon operational. If we don't ever use it again I shall miss that balloon. It has been a source of great camaraderie and entertainment over the years, as well as enabling K5GDX to put out an awesome signal on 160.

Anyway, we have a new toy. The installation was interesting and some of us technically challenged members (me) discovered that we don't know it all despite having played radio for several decades. That is where the huge advantage of being a club member comes into play, we can learn from others.

One of our more intellectual members clearly demonstrated that knowledge is advantageous and was able to engineer a

matching device to make the antenna resonate where needed. Thank you, Bill, W5RWF, and now I know that there is more to an antenna than just throwing a kilowatt to it. (There is?).

Scientific minds at work laying out the telescoping mast which proved to be surprisingly strong despite its rather lean appearance. Notice that the instructions are being studied by the lady member since it is a well-known fact that men don't read instructions!



It's up in the air! (And men should have read the instructions!)

Below is the ingenious W5RWF matching device manufactured from a glass egg (without instructions.)



Now, we all know that times they are a'changin. We have remote operations, new digital modes and a bunch of other things that I don't understand. One thing that will never change, however, is the "Gentleman's band" as 160 meters has been known since time immemorial.

Wait a minute now, what's this? With the aid of the trusty new 160 vertical Yvette, AE5MI, noted lady member, was witnessed working 3 continents on 160 meters one evening. Apparently the "Gentlemans band" is no longer confined to gentlemen. Times they are a'changin! (Well done Yvette, you go girl!).

Last month mention was made of the proposed dxpedition to Revilla Gigedo Island. It has been on the air as 4B4B with a good signal. Several of our members have worked it for a new country.

At the February general meeting the membership agreed to donate \$250 to the upcoming Baker Island (KH1) dxpedition. That has been done, a letter of thanks has been received, and the K5GDX logo is now displayed on the expedition website. The team there will be listening for us and it should be another easy new one for many of our members.



Talking of DX, here is Bill Breeden, NA5DX, receiving the DX Hog award from President Ray, WQ5L, for his endeavors last year. Bill is way up on the ARRL Challenge Award list with over 2,000 band countries confirmed.

The February open house at Hooterville was well attended by members and visitors, and it was really good to see a couple of non-members helping to set up the new 160 antenna, thank you gentlemen. The doughnuts were either illegal or immoral, about the size of life rings and loaded with sugar and cholesterol, Awesome!

In order to enhance the classy regal atmosphere of Hooterville, KA5EPR, Karen Yordy, has arranged to have Hooterville coffe mugs (with club logo and operator call sign on), available and they will shortly be here for the members who have ordered them. Thank you, Karen. Too late now for additional orders, sorry.

Those of us who are able to enjoy a prolonged lunch again met at Dickeys Barbecue on the 7<sup>th</sup> March, which is turning out to be quite a social event. It was good to see some of the wives, not interested in male activities, obviously enjoying visiting and let's hope that more members and friends can make future lunch gatherings.

Our next monthly general meeting will be here very soon, (17<sup>th</sup> March, 7.30am for breakfast at Garden Park Hospital cafeteria) so make a note on your calendars because we like to see you! Newcomers and non-members are always welcome.

The general meeting will be followed one week later by the open house Saturday morning at Hooterville. The CQ WW WPX SSB contest is on that weekend and no doubt some of our members will want to make good use of the club facilities to make some QSO,s. That's why we have the clubhouse. The open house morning is also a very good time to ask questions and pick the brains of other members, and I for one, need that!

That's all for now folks, 73 and good DX,

Mike, WM5DX.

