

HOOTERHAM NEWS.

May 2018.

Another month goes by and this station has not been very active, mostly due to family commitments. The Club, however, has had another good month.

There was a good attendance at the March general meeting at Garden Park.





Yvette, AE5MI receives her ARRL DXCC 100 Certificate from Ray, WQ5L, club President, at the general meeting.

Congratulations Yvette.

The open house day at Hooterville was also very well attended with both members and visitors. The CQ WPX contest was going on during the open house and some attendees did get on the air and participate.



The social meeting for lunch at Dickey's Barbecue kept about 10 hungry people busy and it was great to see wives and visitors joining together with club members.

We should be clear that although we do sometimes participate in contests we are a DX club and anything related to DXing is fair game. With that in mind some of our members may like collecting special event contacts or unusual prefixes and the following information may be of interest.

As some may have heard there is a wedding planned for Saturday 19th May. Something to do with the English Royal Family and an American actress, I believe. Accordingly, the Cray Valley Radio Society in London (of which I am a member) will be activating a Special Event station from the Saturday morning until the Wednesday evening (London times), but activity may be intermittent because they use a club station in the local Boy Scouts hall which will preclude operation when the Scouts need the hall.

The call sign will be GR9RW, and it is believed that this is the first time that this prefix has been used, and it is therefore rare.

The pileups are expected to be huge and it may be very difficult to get a Stateside QSO, however if any of our members would like to try I may (no promises) be able to arrange a schedule with the CV-RS club. Let me know soon if you are interested.

With DXing in mind remember that www.ng3k.com/Misc/adxo.html is a great reference for upcoming dxpeditions.

How's your shack looking? Mine is constantly changing, over the years it has grown considerably

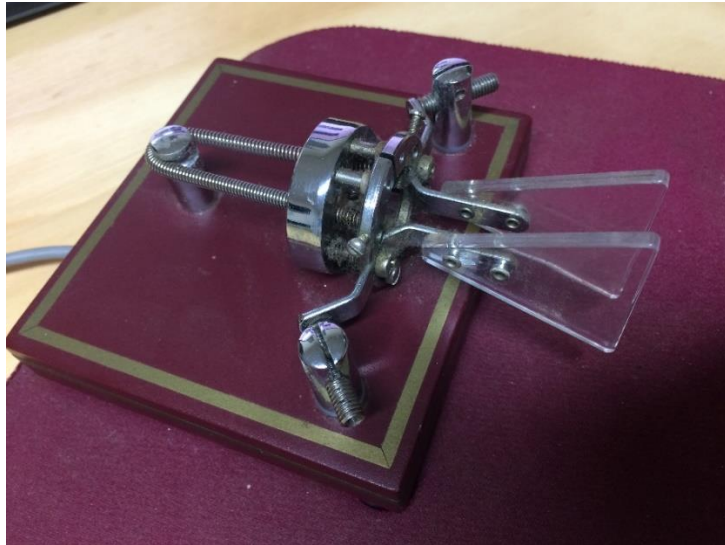


but there is one thing that has been consistent. It has always been a collection of drab looking mismatched black (or grey) boxes with knobs on. Not surprising that non-hams who have seen it don't seem to have been impressed and have not displayed stunned awe. The average teenager is probably far more excited with the display of cell phone cases at a stand in the local mall. So, this year I will begin a serious attempt to make it look like something more aesthetically

pleasing, more like something that a younger person would like to play with. I have made a start. Some who were at the last general meeting may recall that I asked how many operators there are using the Bencher style CW key. Apparently quite a few.

It is a nice key to operate and is available in a wonderful array of finishes, black or chrome! But not in this shack. I have two of them and neither are black or chrome. It is easy to personalize them and make them your own and more attractive. Would not surprise me to see one of our lady members using a pink one.

So how about it guys and gals, lets see if we can add a little flair to our hobby when there's not much DX to chase. There are going to be more changes at my shack in an attempt to make it more visually appealing to the unwashed masses.



Maybe even a teenager would like to play with one of these, who knows?

I have even considered covering one of these bases with denim from an old pair of jeans, complete with holes. Now how fashionable would that be?



That's all for this month, our April general meeting will be at Garden Park cafeteria on 21st April, and the Hooterville open house on the 28th of April.

In May, for the hungry among us the lunchtime social gathering will be at Dickey's BBQ on 9th May, the K5GDX general meeting will be at Garden Park cafeteria on the 19th May and the Hooterville open house will be on the 26th May.

Visitors and guests are all welcome and suitable contributions to this newsletter from anyone are also welcome. Send comments, articles, pictures and cash to <WM5DX@yahoo.com>

73, de Mike, WM5DX.