

HOOTERHAM NEWS.

June 2018

Well it may not be summer officially yet, but it sure seems like it. The grass is brown and crunchy, and the antenna towers have stopped growing.

May will soon be over and again it has been quite an active month active for the club.

Some of the hungry members met at Dickey's barbecue for lunch and although the food passed muster the meeting room was very cold. The next lunch will be scheduled for the **6th of June** and Dickey's will be requested to make the facility more comfortable so that we do not have to set fire to the tables to keep warm.

On the 19th of May we had our Spring Fling meeting, open house, cookout and valuable items sale at the Hooterville clubhouse. Attendance was good, and the weather was great.



Bobby, KF5BA, working a little FT8.



Not everyone took matters seriously, however. Some preferred to share a joke while others tried out the coffee, doughnuts and armchairs. For those with a serious appetite a gourmet lunch was provided which included pulled pork along with other exotic items from the grill.

It was also noted that some members were carrying off boxes loaded with rare and exclusive items that they had purchased while the wife was not looking!

Preparations for Field Day, 23rd and 24th of June were discussed and it seems that things are on the right track. We usually need more operators, especially for the evening so don't be shy! I do know that the RTTY station is already prepared to go.

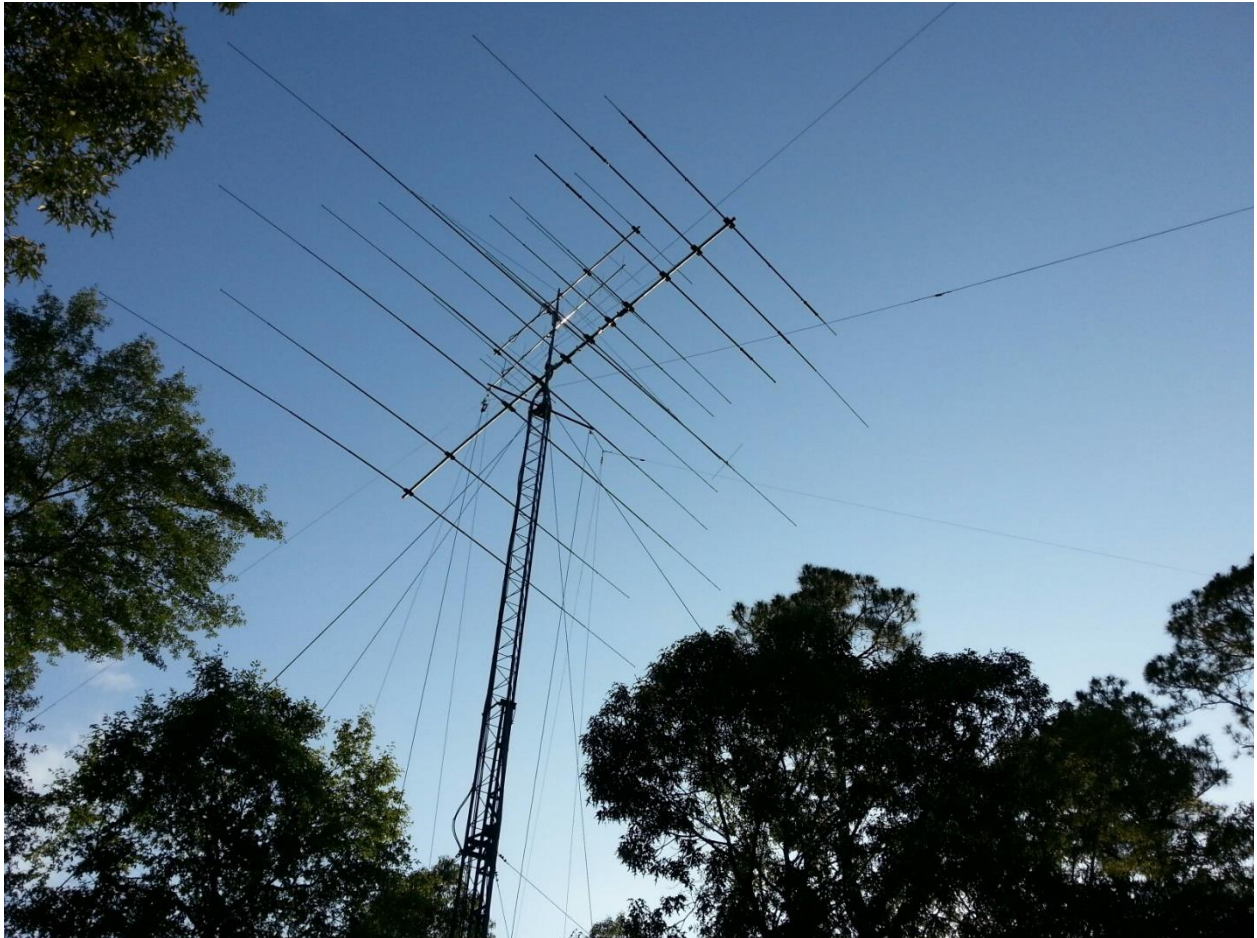
Before Field Day, on the 9th -11th June is the ARRL VHF contest and that will be a good opportunity to make sure that everything is set up and ready to go for Field Day. Our esteemed President Ray will no doubt advise us of the day and time to be at Hooterville to check out everything.

It does seem that we are already collecting a number of prizes to be presented at our December Christmas Dinner, which will again be held at the Great Southern Club on top of the Hancock Bank building in downtown Gulfport. The nighttime views from there are outstanding and the food is good. Highly recommended if you have never been to the annual dinner before.

Now for a little information for those who feel that they do not have enough real estate or expensive equipment to be able to set up a station that will get them some serious DX.

Here is a fine example of space utilization on a small lot with trees. On about a 45 foot tower there is an 11 element yagi for 10 through 20 meters, a 2 meter yagi with 10 elements vertical and 10 elements horizontal, a 40 meter rotatable dipole, and a 4 element 6 meter yagi. Attached to the side arms are a 160 meter wire (which has a home brew matching device), a 30 meter wire dipole, an 80 meter $\frac{1}{2}$ wave end fed wire and a G5RV.

And it all works very well as evidenced by the over 300 countries confirmed.



Neither is it a requirement to have the finest, most expensive equipment either, one of our club members has 343 countries confirmed using an old Kenwood 440, and Icom 746, with a small beam antenna at 33 feet and only 100 watts. It can be done, and it need not cost a fortune.

Advancements in computer programming, such as the new FT8 mode, are also making it possible to work a lot of DX when a radio is linked to a computer.

All of these factors are coming together to make it possible to work some great DX contacts in conditions that only a few years ago would have been impossible, and with the advancements in computer logging getting a contact confirmed can be easier and faster than ever before.

So, take heart people, it may be near the bottom of the solar cycle but do not give up, there is still plenty to do, and plenty of activity when you belong to the Great Southern DX Association.

Remember also that we have some very smart and experienced members who will always be there to help with advice and resolving problems. That's part of why we are a club.

73 and good DX,

Mike, WM5DX.