

HOOTERHAM NEWS.

August 2018

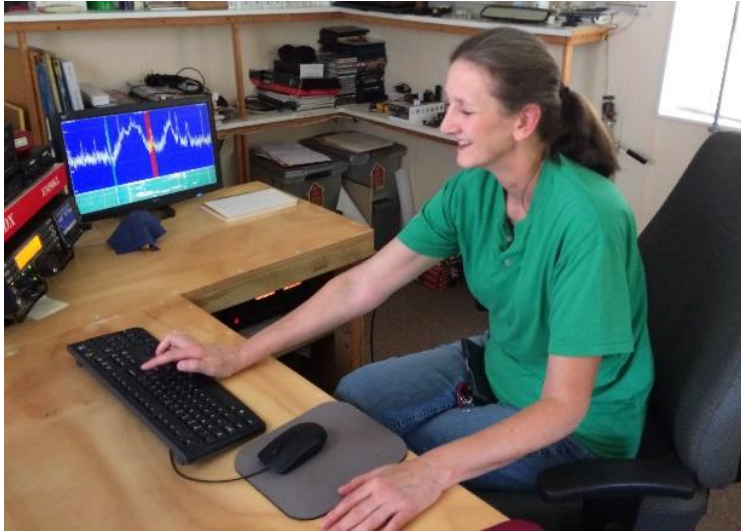
Well, July was another good month for the club. HF propagation conditions were generally poor but FT8 was active and club members have been working 6 meters hard with numerous contacts made into Europe and Japan. Good work ladies and gentlemen.



We were blessed with another club award by the ARRL, this one for the 2017 June VHF Contest, first place in the Mississippi section. Let's hope that this year's entry does it for us again, but we will have to wait a while, it takes the ARRL almost a year to compile results and issue certificates. I must say, however, that the ARRL certificates are so much nicer than the ones that the winner must print out.

The monthly Dickey's barbecue lunch gathering was especially well attended since it was held on July 4th when many people did not have to work. Apparently, a respectable number of ladies were present, perhaps to find out what the OM's talk about at this monthly event.





The KH1 Baker Island DXpedition came up on schedule and seemed to be very successful even though the team was limited to using only vertical antennas. Most of our club members were able to work them for a new one on the bands and modes that they wanted.

Here is Yvette, AE5MI, who seems to be very happy, having just worked them on 20 meters CW. (First call, 30 watts to 4 elements at 55 feet.)

Even with the current poor conditions there are a couple of contests coming up this month that may be of interest to some. First is the North America QSO party, CW, on 4th / 5th August. This is not really a DX contest, but it is a good opportunity for operators who want to practice their CW skills. An interesting feature is that the exchange is your name and state only, and there sure are some people with very curious names out there! Makes it fun.

On the 11th / 12th August is the Worked All Europe contest, CW. This is one of the contests where additional points can be scored for sending or receiving QTC's. Recommended for experienced CW ops only!

Now, on the 19th August there is the SARL (South Africa) contest. It is intended mainly for South African stations, but it is a digital contest that includes FT8, so if you need South Africa for a new country or digital contact this may be worth looking at. Information at:

<http://www.sarl.org.za/Web3/Members/DoDocDownload.aspx?X=201712180812348XdiUz5yFy.PDF>

Preparations for the Christmas DX dinner are proceeding and looking good. The DX dinner raffle tickets are on sale, contact Charlie Otnott, our esteemed secretary, either at a meeting, open house or via E-mail wd5bjt@peoplepc.com

This year sees a slight change in the raffle. The grand prize is a new, in the box, Icom 7300 transceiver, which will only be presented to a licensed amateur operator. There is an additional prize of \$300 cash which will be presented to the first ticket drawn that is purchased by a non-licensed ticket holder. Therefore, anyone who is not a licensed operator but who buys a ticket cannot win the radio but can at least have a chance at the cash prize, which cannot be won by a licensed amateur. Winners will be notified and do not have to be present at the dinner.

We also have some good door prizes including an SDR receiver and an ERC usb rotor controller package. (I use one of these controllers and it is great). You do have to be present for the door prizes.

Now for a little something that some members may not be aware of. Our monthly general club meeting, held on the third Saturday of each month, is preceded by a meeting of the Board of Directors on the second weekend of each month. The object of this meeting is to put together an agenda for the upcoming general meeting. The meeting is a very sparse affair (we are led to believe), where the dedicated BOD members take matters extremely seriously and are overwhelmed with paperwork, facts and figures. The occasional glass of water is provided to resuscitate members who may be suffering from exhaustion.

Now, a recent meeting was infiltrated by a spy, who took clandestine photographs, and the shocking truth of what really goes on is revealed. Call signs have been omitted to protect the innocent (the guy in the white shirt).



It is apparent that the BOD are living high on the hog, far from the state of mental exhaustion that we are led to believe exists. Indeed, some members were even seen to be indulging in second helpings. How long can this debauchery go on I ask? Enquiring minds have a right to know!

Incidentally, there is a vacancy on the Board for a Vice President. We need someone who can put a stop to this raucous behavior. Someone please step forward, we need you!

That's it for this month ladies and gentlemen, Chinese doughnuts at the open house this Saturday (28th July), see you there.

73, Mike, WM5DX.