

HOOTERHAM NEWS.

October 2018

September has come and almost gone. I wish I could say that it has been a good month but that would not be accurate, it has been a disappointing month.

The publicized evening supper event for the 1st of the month was very poorly attended. Although there had been rumors of a tropical storm, that did not fully materialize, and need not have prevented attendance. An earlier poll of our members indicated that the holiday weekend would not affect attendance.

On Wednesday 5th September the regular Dickey's barbecue lunch was scheduled and there was only one person show up.

The monthly general meeting was quite well attended but the Open House was not, only six members and a lot of spare donuts.

This is your Club. Without your participation there will be no club. As a member a range of privileges are available to you and you are always welcome to take advantage of those opportunities. You can get help and advice from other members, you can get help with working new entities for your DXCC award. You can take part in contests and Field Day from the clubhouse, you can use the antennas and equipment at that facility to increase your DXCC total and you can get new country cards checked for the DXCC award.



Charlie, WD5BJT, demonstrating the new FT8 digital mode to visitors at Open House day.

Remember, there are no stupid questions, only a failure of members to share their knowledge.

The Club needs the participation of its members to survive, if a club does not survive it is another nail in the coffin for amateur radio.

Sadly, another benefit of belonging to this Club has materialized. Recently one of our members became a silent key and will be sorely missed. He had a sizeable collection of equipment, generally in excellent condition. His wife had no knowledge of the equipment or its value and wished to dispose of it. Several members of the K5GDX club stepped up to help. The equipment was inventoried, moved into safe storage and its resale value researched. The equipment is currently being advertised for sale and when sold receipts are issued and 100 percent of the proceeds will be passed to the widow. Our members involved devoted considerable time and effort to this endeavor and provided great comfort and assistance to the widow at her time of need.

The entire K5GDX membership can be very proud of the actions of this few dedicated members.

Now on to the future. Contest season is upon us. You may not be interested in contesting, but it can be a very productive means of increasing your DXCC totals. And you never know, maybe you will like it!

September 29th – 30th sees the CQ Worldwide RTTY contest taking place. This is usually a very busy one with many countries represented. It has a “rookie” category and also a “classic operator” category. The “classic operator” category is for stations operating only one radio as distinct from the stations operating two or more radios. A pet peeve of mine is that one radio stations in contests are often included with SO2R stations in the results which, in my opinion, is totally unfair.

The Oceania SSB contest is on October 6th – 7th and the Oceania CW contest is the 13th – 14th of October. Good contests to pick up some of the South Pacific islands, possibly on 160 meters. K5GDX has a history of doing well in the CW contest.

October 20th – 21st will be the JARTS (Japanese) RTTY contest, also usually plenty of JA’s on the air.

Rules for all contests can be found at www.contestcalendar.com

Regrettably for some of us, it may be that RTTY will gradually be replaced by the scourge of the new FT8 mode. The RTTY DXCC certificate has already been replaced by the “Digital” DXCC certificate.

Good news! George, K5JZ, who is one of the founding members of the Club, has very generously donated a new 80 meter antenna for installation at the Hooterville clubhouse. It is a big DX Engineering vertical complete with ground mounting pipe and winch to raise it from the horizontal to the vertical position. It will replace the existing 80 meter vertical and utilize the existing ground radial system. Very many thanks George for this great donation.

As soon as the weather cools off we will need a devoted group of members to aid with installation. If you have never installed a vertical antenna this is will be an excellent learning opportunity!

We now have DX Dinner tickets on sale, and tickets for the raffle, which will be drawn during the DX Dinner event on 1st December at the Great Southern Club. Our speaker during the evening will be Bob Allphin, K4UEE, who was a member of the 2018 Bouvet Island DXpedition team and has taken part in very many exotic operations. This will be a great evening and is not to be missed.

The raffle grand prize is a new Icom 7300 transceiver which will go to a licensed operator, followed by a \$300 cash prize going to an unlicensed raffle ticket holder.

Our October events will include the lunchtime barbecue gathering at Dickeys on the first Wednesday (3rd October), our general meeting on the 20th October, and the Open House day at Hooterville on the 27th October.

Please remember that your participation is needed in any of the Club activities, we want to remain the best ham club on the coast.

I would also note that the opinions expressed above are my personal opinions and not those of the Club in general.

73, Mike, WM5DX.