

HOOTERHAM NEWS.

November 2018

My apologies for being a little late with the November Newsletter. It has been a busy month and I am behind with my projects. This morning added another little job for the weekend.



It was good to see a better turnout for our Dickeys lunch meeting in October, nine members and visitors enjoyed Ice Cream (and a little barbecue). We also had a good turnout for our regular Club meeting at the hospital. Perhaps my little nagfest last month stirred some souls!

It also seems that our members have been quite active on the bands, working the VP6 Ducie Island on many bands including 10, 12, 15, 17 and 160 meters. Who says the bands are dead? Not if you keep trying.

I personally worked a new country, SV2ASP/A, Monk Apollo, bringing me up to 345 when I get his card. I also played a little in the Oceania CW contest and worked quite a few VK's and ZL's on 40 meters early in the morning, but the opening lasted only about 2 hours.

I know the weak signal mode is giving lots of new ones to the deserving. Just think what it will be like when the cycle perks up again.

Christmas will soon be on us and preparations for our DX Dinner function are going well. It is not too late to get your raffle tickets for the Icom 7300 or your DX dinner tickets but don't delay any longer or we may be sold out!

I'm really looking forward to hearing from Bob Allphin, K4UEE, about the recent Bouvet expedition, and when we might look forward to another attempt to activate this rare one. (Hint: Bob, if you get there please call CQ WM5DX ONLY on every band, SSB, CW and RTTY, until he's in the log, He's getting desperate)!

Last weekend was our open house at Hooterville and I think we had a good turnout although I was out in the field most of the morning getting the base ready for the new 80 meter antenna that George, K5JZ, very generously donated to the Club. If the weather is good it looks like we may have it on the air very soon.

Many thanks to those members who came and helped with taking down the old antenna and locating the radial system.



Locating the radials at the old antenna prior to taking the antenna down.



The hole is dug, 2-foot square by 4 feet deep formwork is in and rock for drainage is being placed.



Concrete goes in. The 3-inch galvanized pipe which will support the new vertical is accurately secured vertically.



The area is cleaned up and the radials are laid out ready to be pinned down.

Within a week the antenna will be mounted on the pipe and the Clubs electrical and RF experts will take over and get everything connected and working.

The real test will come later in the month with the CQ WW DX Contest on the 24th and 25th November. Expectations are high!

OK, that's all for this month, the Dickeys BBQ lunch will be next Wednesday 7th November, Club general meeting at the Garden Park hospital on the 17th November and the Open House at Hooterville on the 24th November, which is the weekend of the above mentioned CQ WW contest. No doubt some hardened CW ops will be operating then.

73 and Good DX to all,

Mike, WM5DX.