

HOOTERHAM NEWS

February 2019

2018 Has come and gone, and I for one am not sorry to see it go. Now we face a New Year of opportunity, when we could try new things, take on new challenges and somehow make a difference.

The first event, on the 2nd of January, was our Dickey's BBQ lunch meeting, which, because some people were taking a break from work, was well attended with at least a dozen members and friends present. The free ice cream machine did not get a break from work!

The ARRL RTTY Roundup contest was on the weekend of January 5th and I know that Ray, WQ5L took part, as did I. I had some concerns that because FT8 was included this year, for the first time, that RTTY participation would be down with many regular participants migrating to FT8. That did not prove to be the case, the band segments normally utilized for RTTY were very crowded and it was difficult to find a clear spot. I ran high power and for the first 3 hours logged over 70 qso's per hour. Whilst 20 and 40 meters were the most productive 15 meters yielded some very useful multipliers from the Caribbean and South America. Ray ran low power and finished up with a very fine score in that category. Good job Ray.

Our regular club meeting was also well attended, and it was great to see some members there who had not been able to get to the meetings for a while. Various matters were discussed, and Bill Breeden received the Hooterville DX Hogg award. This is the last year for the Hog award as such, next year it will be presented as an Achievement award.



Bill, NA5DX receives the DX Hogg award from Ray, WQ5L.

The last weekend of January brought on the CQ 160 meter CW contest in which several of our members took part at the clubhouse. It was a low power operation and they were hampered by a lack of poor receive antennas and conditions but still managed to log 223 QSO's.

Charlie, WB5BJT, has been very active on 160 meters, operating in the Stew Perry Top Band contest in December. Running only 5 watts he made 73 QSO's, in USA, VE, XE and PJ2. He has also done well with high power working some good dx into Africa and other remote locations.

The Hooterville Open House attendees were entertained by Charlie who gave a fine talk and slide show on the pleasures of operating on the 160 meter band. It may be a low part of the 11 year cycle but there is still some very good dx to be worked.

February will have an interesting number of contests, check www.contestcalendar.com for full details but briefly we have the Mexican RTTY contest on the 2nd and 3rd, the CQ WW RTTY WPX on the 9th and 10th, the ARRL CW DX contest on the 16th and 17th and the CQ 160 meter SSB on the 22nd and 24th. Something for everyone. Remember that these contests can be very useful for picking up new countries, you don't need to be a contester, just be sure you know the exchange to give, which you can find from the above website in the rules for the contest.

As a casual contester I like to work stations that only make one or two contacts because you know that very few others have them in their log.

This month our all comers gathering for lunch will be at Dickeys BBQ on Wednesday 6th February around 11.45, members, visitors and friends are all welcome. The Club general meeting at Garden Park will be on Saturday 16th February and the Open House at the Hooterville clubhouse on the following Saturday 23rd February.

It has been one year since the first Hooterham News was distributed, in February 2018. My intent at that time was to write a simple newsletter that would disseminate information about the Club, its activities, and its members, which would help to give everyone a sense of belonging, of being part of an active group that works together to promote a common interest. It is my belief that the News has not fulfilled that purpose. There has been little comment and even less participation than I had hoped for and I do not believe that my objective has been achieved.

Therefore, unless someone else has a desire to take over, this will be the final Hooterham News.

73's and the best of DX to all,

Mike, WM5DX.