



March 2007

Smoke Signals

The Indian Hills Radio Club

www.hac.org/ihr

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

The windy March 12 meeting Blows in a video choice

K8OCK lets you select from a couple

If **March blows in** like a lion, we hope it doesn't hurt your antenna farm and that you won't miss the next meeting on Monday, March 12th. Our veteran VP John Esborn, K8OCK, will be presiding, and will offer members a choice of two interesting and nostalgic videos

In column A he offers a look back at the B24 of World War II. Or, if that's too heavy, in column B is a video trip back to the family fun of Euclid Beach Park. Which one would you like to see? John will take a vote. Bring your own popcorn or flight jacket depending.

Our February meeting provided an interesting profile of the Official Observer Corps by Richard Swain, KK8O, the Ohio OO Coordinator (shown below). He said that OOs are now an FCC auxiliary, and work



closely on jamming and interference cases.

Advisory notices are typical of what OOs send to operators who need to correct certain Practices. But Rick pointed out that "Good Guy" notices are sent to those who demon-

strate good on-air operating, and in one year there were 150 "Good Guy" notices to only five advisory notices.

Recordings of certain types of poor operating practices were played, including improper Ids, profanity, and other violations of FCC rules. A case history of a jammer who used a hidden transmitter to disrupt repeater operations was presented. Oos used Doppler direction finding systems to track down the jammer. ■

The end of Morse code testing Arrived February 23rd

But Morse won't go away, say many

At midnight, February 22nd, the FCC officially declared the end of Morse code testing for Amateur Radio licenses. At that point, all ham radio license tests were code-free.

Some say it signals the end of Amateur Radio as we knew it. Others say it will enable many who found Morse code a difficult barrier to a license to at last join our ranks.

Regardless, it is, indeed, the end of an era.

Samuel Morse developed this new telegraphic code, along with Alfred Vail in the 1830s as a means of communicating via dots and dashes. It became the standard for long distance communication over wires, and, at the turn of the century, by early radio operators. But in recent years, with the development of computers and digital radio signal processing, Morse became less useful. Soon, various countries and military services dropped the Morse code requirement, followed by the Federal Communications Commission.

Dick Scott, W8FDN, who has used CW for over 50 years, questions the FCC decision to drop Morse. "It shouldn't have been eliminated, he says. "Five words per minute was easily handled by most people. Time will tell whether or not dropping Morse will result in more or fewer radio Amateurs."

Like many CW fans, Scott uses Morse for two-thirds of his HF work, finding it enjoyable and relaxing. ■

Indian Hills Radio Club Net

Thursday Evenings

8:00 PM local time

146.430 MHz simplex

Stan Skebe, WA8LWH, SK

We regret to report the passing of Indian Hills Radio Club member Stan Skebe, WA8LWH, and husband of the late Anna Skebe. He was born Oct. 15, 1924, in Cleveland and more recently lived in Highland Heights. He had worked as a tool and die maker for 44 years and was a Navy veteran. His obituary was published February 3.

Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest is Sunday, April 15th

A sign of Spring, but it's still indoors!

The 53rd annual Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest is coming up, taking place at the Emidio and Sons Party Center, 48 E. Bath Road at the corner of State Road. The Sunday, April 15, inside electronics and computer show is 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Admission is \$6.00, but advance tickets are only \$5.00 by sending an SASE with your check payable to CFARC, to: CFARC Tickets, c/o Bruce Ferry, AK8B, 2907 Lee Rd, Silver Lake, 44224.

Tables are \$12.00 each in advance, or \$15.00 on the day of hamfest (if available). Reserve online at: <http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2007r.htm>. Or call Ted Sarah, W8TTS at (330) 688-2013. ■

Smoke Signals is the official journal of The Indian Hills Radio Club.

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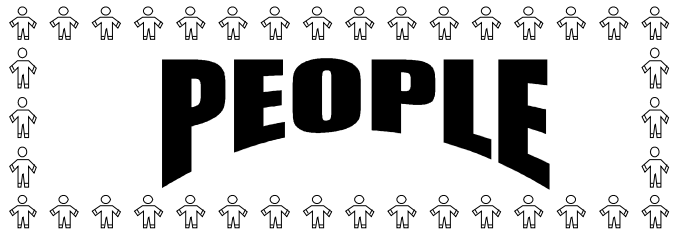
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Club meetings are held the second Monday of each month, except during July and August, at the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road, in Wickliffe. Meetings start at 7:15 p.m.

Dues are \$10.00 per club year (September to June.) Make checks payable to Indian Hills Radio Club, send to Treasurer W8DDD.



Ah, retirement! One of the club's most recently retired members, **Jeff Covelli, WA8SAJ**, announces that he is "loving it." He now has more time for his radio repair business and is already planning for the really big show, the Dayton Hamvention.

DXing duo: A most impressive collection of QSL cards from DX stations was shown at the last meeting by **Ed Meglic, N8THI**. His bulging envelope from the QSL bureau certainly is proof of his performance. Meanwhile, a different type of DXing is being pursued by **Jim Arcaro, WD8PFK**. His listening is focused on the medium waves between 1610 and 1690 kHz, where he finds new local AM stations. "See how many you can log," he says.

Top band commander: One of the most active 160-meter operators is **Tom Korycki, KC8QGJ**, who holds forth as net control of the 1.8721 group. His dedication to running things is amazing, considering that he bills the group as active "24/7." His members gather at the Dayton Hamvention and other spots for social events throughout the year.

Mister fixits: Rig problems have been bothering **Les Peine, K8LP**, lately. He's trying to get things to work, and trying to keep good neighbors, he says. There's not much new with **Jim Iams, K8BLB**, who reports that he has not drilled any more new holes in the brick walls for coax access. Perhaps this is a less-than-popular activity for the lady of the house, who obviously doesn't share Jim's enthusiasm for the most direct route for feedline entry into the shack.

Bataan Death March remembered: A Plain Dealer article passed along by **Al Benedetti, W8NPH**, tells of the return to the Philippines of Bataan Death March survivor **Dick Francies, W8SZF**. The infamous event of World War II was the brutal, atrocity-filled forced evacuation of 37,000 American and Filipino prisoners of war from one of the bloodiest Pacific Theater battlefields in 1942. Francies, now 85, was then a 25-year-old technical sergeant with a signal company and one of the lucky ones who survived. 9,000 did not. ■

That wonderful year 1982

A quarter-century flashback quiz

Quarter Century Club members (and other veteran operators) can look back with nostalgia to 1982 and answer most of these quiz questions. Try your hand and see how many you know. Answers below.

1. Which new WARC Amateur band became available in 1982?

- A. 12 meters
- B. 17 meters
- C. 30 meters
- D. 60 meters

2. The “Goldwater Bill” passed by Congress in 1982 authorized the FCC to:

- A. Establish RFI standards for electronic devices.
- B. Extend ham license terms to 10 years.
- C. Use Volunteer Examiners for license exams.
- D. All of the above.

3. R.L. Drake advertised these two rigs:

- A. TR3C and R3B.
- B. TR4B and R4A
- C. TR7A and R7A
- D. None of the above.

4. Super Bowl XVI was won by:

- A. The Cleveland Browns over NY Giants.
- B. Miami Dolphins over Chicago Bears.
- C. Dallas Cowboys over NY Jets
- D. San Francisco 49ers over Cincinnati.

5. Which was NOT a Chevrolet model?

- A. Granada
- B. Camaro
- C. Citation
- D. Chevette

6. Soviet Premier who died in 1982 was:

- A. Kosygin
- B. Brezhnev.
- C. Chernenko
- D. Popov

7. Sony and Philips introduction in 1982:

- A. The video recorder.
- B. The CD-ROM.
- C. Digital radio.
- D. The DVD.

8. Boeing plane making its debut in 1982:

- A. The 767.
- B. The 747.
- C. The 757.
- D. The 737.

Answers: 1-C, 2-D, 3-C, 4-D, 5-A, 6-B, 7-B, 8-A.



News From The Wide World of Amateur Radio

WARC-07 preparations: ITU members from 97 countries are preparing for the World Radiocommunication Conference in October. Issues of interest to Amateur Radio include allocations in the 4-10 MHz range and a possible new allocation at 136 kHz. The WARC-03 meeting had given hams a 200 kHz worldwide segment from 7.0 to 7.2 effective in 2009.

ARES active in Ohio storm: ARES and Skywarn volunteers were active during a fierce winter storm that hit Ohio and other Northeastern states. Hams in five Ohio counties were involved February 13 according to Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Frank Piper, KI8GW. Nets were activated in Seneca, Darke, Green and Shelby counties plus the Ohio SSB net on 3927.5.

Cell phone bills a threat? A series of bills aimed at stopping “driving while cellular” and “driving while distracted,” have been introduced in several states. They could pose a threat to radio Amateurs operating mobile. Legislation is being discussed in Georgia, New Jersey, Oregon, Texas, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. ARRL says that language exempting Amateur Radio from the bills is being proposed.

FCC fines radio ham: A \$14,000 fine for marketing non-certified transceivers has been affirmed by the FCC against Jason Kaltenbach, KE6CND, doing business at Metamerchant of Laguna Nigel. He was nabbed for selling non-certified VHF and UHF transceivers on the eBay auction site.

New privileges for Technicians: Effective February 23, Technician-class licensees who have not passed a Morse test automatically gained new privileges without having to apply at an exam session. On that date, all Novices and Technicians will have equal privileges on HF: CW on parts of 80, 40, and 15 meters plus CW, SSB and Data on parts of 10 meters. No other license classes get automatic upgrades or new privileges as of that date.

Vanity call backlog ending: The FCC ended a five-week delay in processing vanity call applications on February 8. The break allowed software changes to discourage the filing of multiple vanity callsign applications. ■



Jest A Moment!

The Lighter Side of The News
Collected By Dick Scott, W8FDN,
Gus Mirsalis, W8RPT, and
Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE

A backward poet writes inverse

- * A man's home is his castle in a manor of speaking.
- * A hangover is the wrath of grapes.
- * Sea captains don't like crew cuts.
- * Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
- * When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.
- * Shotgun wedding: a case of wife or death.
- * Practice safe eating: always use condiments.
- * Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
- * Every calendar's days are numbered.
- * A boiled egg in the morning is hard to beat.
- * A lot of money is tainted: it taint yours or mine.
- * He broke into song 'cuz he couldn't find the key.
- * Those who jump off a Paris bridge are in Seine.
- * Acupuncture is a jab well done.
- * He had a photographic memory that was never developed.
- * Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen them mall.

- * Bakers trade recipes on a knead-to-know basis.

You know you are living in 2007 when:

- * You accidentally enter your password on the microwave.
- * You haven't played solitaire with real cards in years.
- * You haven't stayed in touch with friends and family because they don't have an e-mail address.
- * You pull into your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone's home to help carry in the groceries.

What students say they learned about ham radio:

- * Ham operators look something like people.
- * They are one of the chief byproducts of electricity.
- * The number of ham operators today is an adsurbly large fact of a number.
- * Quite a bit of the world's supply of electricity goes into the making of ham radios.
- * All the stuff inside a ham radio is so twisted and complicated it is really not good for anything but being the stuff inside a ham radio. ■

**The following club meeting is
Monday April 9th.**



Chewing the Rag:
Odds and Ends From Here ,
There and On the Air.
Editorial by W1HEO

Recruits have joined The Elmer Corps

An important part of the Ham Radio Promotion Project is having a group of volunteers who agree to be the key contacts for public inquiries about our hobby. Of the 15 who have joined the Elmer Corps so far, six are members of our radio club. We thank them for stepping up to this important role.

Most of us have memories of Elmers who helped us enter the ham radio ranks, and this same spirit motivates many hams today. We need them!

One of the tools that was recently distributed to the Elmers was a reference manual. It contains several information resources that can be used to direct the public. Among them are sources of information on ham radio, books and study materials, radio magazines, Websites, ham radio testing, VE testing locations, radio clubs, Elmer Corps members and frequently asked questions about Amateur Radio.

One benefit of the Elmer Corps may be referring people to radio clubs. This can provide an opportunity for clubs, especially those that offer classes and additional help for those interested in joining our ranks.

Let's remember to extend a welcome to those new faces who appear at our meetings. Extend a hand and introduce yourself and others. Wearing a name badge should be standard operating procedure. Got yours?

A list of Elmer Corps members is now posted on the Promotion Project Website, kindly administered by our Secretary, Don Ritchie, K8ZGW. Check it out at <www.neoham.org>.

New ten-meter net forming

An e-mail forwarded by Fritz, K8WLF, announces the formation of a new 10-meter SSB net by George, N8GB. He says you don't have to be a member of LCARA (he's one) to join this informal roundtable. The first session was scheduled for Wednesday, February 28 at 8:30 p.m. on 28.450 MHz.

This conflicts with the Cleveland QCWA Chapter net at 8:00 p.m. on the 146.850 repeater, but some may want to drop in following it.

George says, "Here is a good chance to meet old and maybe some new friends." Sounds good to us! ■