



April 2007

# Smoke Signals

The Indian Hills Radio Club

[www.hac.org/ihrcc](http://www.hac.org/ihrcc)

Wickliffe, Ohio 44092

## It's a radio-controlled takeoff At the April 9 club meeting

*Come fly with us!*

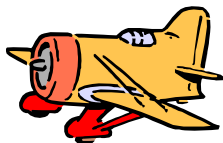
We'll welcome guest speaker Dennis Fuchs at our April meeting. His topic? The history of radio-control from the 1800s to the present. Did you realize that this technology has been around that long? Dennis will tell us about it.

The former President of the Mentor Area Radio Control Society (MARCS), Dennis will also tell us how today's radio controllers are using spread spectrum techniques.

Our speaker's background in radio includes the installation and calibration of a 900 MHz radio system for the Lake County Department of Utilities. He's also been involved with various other radio installations for Bergren Associates as well as radio-controlled aircraft.

Note that the Monday, April 9 meeting will begin with the program at 7:30, followed by the usual business meeting after a coffee break. This program should be of interest to many of our friends, so please invite them to join us.

The club meeting will be held as usual in the Wickliffe Public Library, 1713 Lincoln Road, Wickliffe. ■



## ARRL offers FCC new approach To regulation by bandwidth

*Is bandplanning by mode dead?*

Now that the FCC has dropped Morse code and made other changes to the Amateur Radio rules, confusion still exists over several issues. You may recall that the ARRL had asked the FCC to segment bands by bandwidths ranging from 200 to 100 Hz rather than by modes.

Now, ARRL CEO Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, says, "The proposals affecting the bands above 28 MHz have not aroused much controversy." But below 10 meters remains controversial, he noted, "because of the perceived potential impact on established operating patterns, so these proposals were removed from the list with one narrow exception." Which is: current rules impose no effective bandwidth limit on HF digital operation.

The proposal is to limit RTTY/data bandwidth to 3 kHz. Otherwise, a single digital station could monopolize large MF and HF band segments.

Further confusion arose due to rumors that there was an absence of CW in the table of HF modes. The rules do authorize CW on all Amateur frequencies except 60 meters.

Another wrong impression concerned Technician privileges under the new rules. The ARRL points out that they can operate phone only on 10 meters. To use phone on other bands, they will have to upgrade to General or Extra Class. ■

## Cuyahoga Falls Hamfest

*It's Sunday, April 15th*

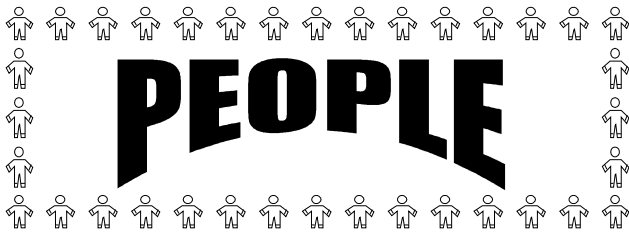
For those who enjoy getting out and about in the Spring, consider heading for this event. This is an inside hamfest, held at the Emidio and Sons Party Center, 48 E. Bath Road at the corner of State Road in Cuyahoga Falls. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and admission is \$6.00. Info at [www.cfarc.org/hamfest2007](http://www.cfarc.org/hamfest2007) or contact W8TTS at (330) 688-2013. ■

## Indian Hills Radio Club Net

Thursday Evenings

8:00 PM local time

146.430 MHz simplex



**Jerry Dusa, WB8ADF**, dropped by the Friday lunch recently to report that he's back on the air from his apartment. He met the challenge by putting a Hustler vertical on his car roof and getting on 40 meter CW. How did he do? "I worked Spain," he said, "and look forward to many more QSOs."

**Dick Scott, W8FDN**, points out that with tax day looming on April 16th, it recalls these historic words from Minister of Finance, Louis XIV of France: "The art of taxation consists in so plucking the goose as to obtain the largest amount of feathers with the smallest amount of hissing."

**Joe Gutoskey, W8DOE**, has almost finished his restoration of the classic Central Electronics 20A transmitter. Some minor adjustment of the vox circuit's capacitor should complete the job, and Joe will be ready to fire it up and get on the air. ■

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

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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.



## **News From The Wide World of Amateur Radio**

**Astronaut-ham at Dayton:** NASA space shuttle veteran and International Space Station Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, will be on hand to meet hams attending the Dayton Hamvention. McArthur will be on hand Friday, May 18. At the ARRL Expo 2007 booth.

**Solar stuff:** The current sunspot cycle is bottoming out, as evidenced by a 10-day period of zero sunspots ending March 23. Meanwhile, the *Plain Dealer* reports that the next cycle is predicted to be 30-50 percent stronger than the last and will begin about a year later than normal. This is according to the National Center for Atmospheric Research. A new computer model will allow for early warnings of solar storms that could disrupt global communications and affect the power grid.

**500 kHz activity:** ARRL reports that 16 participating stations have participated in the 500 kHz experiment since it began in late 2006. Station WD2XSH ground wave contacts of 100 miles have been made, which is much greater than typical VHF line-of-sight communications. The longest contact: 884 miles.

**English language** will remain the sole Amateur Radio exam language. The FCC turned down a request from the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League to issue the tests in Spanish.

**WARC-07:** ITU members from 97 countries are preparing for the World Radio Communications Conference in October. Ham items include allocations in the 4-10 MHz range and a possible new band at 136 kHz.

**Cell phone bills a threat?** Bills aimed at stopping "driving while distracted" were introduced in several states that could pose a threat to Amateur Radio mobile operators.

**Cushcraft sold:** The UK firm Laird Group has purchased the U.S. antenna company Cushcraft for \$89 Million. Laird's U.S. operations are in St. Louis. Cushcraft is a New Hampshire-based manufacturer. ■