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# DeFOREST

AMATEUR RADIO CLUB - K8GE

PO Box 73 - West Union, OH 45693-0073

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AUGUST 2002

EDITOR: WB8IOW - Jerry S. Paquette

<http://www.qsl.net/k8ge>

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## The President's Shack

I want to thank everyone that came out for the Special Event With the weather what it was, we didn't do as good as we have done in the past. The noise level was so high that you could not hear the stations calling very well. Next year will be our last Special event for the Bicentennial. Hope the weather is better then.

Next meeting is September 10th. See you there.

73 Ed KE8FK

**NEXT MEETING**  
**TUESDAY – September 10, 2002**  
**ABCAP Senior Nutrition Center**  
**7:00 PM**  
**Across from the front steps of the**  
**Adams County Courthouse**

## DeForest A.R.C. Birthdays & SPECIAL EVENTS

09-01 K8GXL Donald Hoop  
09-03 KC8CXM Jered Grooms  
09-04 KB8SCV Warren Lewis  
09-10 KB8JML John Kimble  
**09-10 DeForest meeting 7:00 PM**  
09-11 KC8HGA Helen Paquette  
09-17 N8XGQ Marty Gilkison  
09-21 N8XGP Ridney Lorenz  
09-22 KA8URK Jack Bradford

09-25 KE4ETT James Brewer  
09-29 KB8OMG Barry Storer  
09-30 KF8IX Danny Hoop  
09-30 N8YWX Kim Paquette  
10-02 KB8VBJ Sheila Starcher  
10-04 W8UJM Al Norris  
10-05 KB8AMX Eldon O'Cull  
**10-08 DeForest meeting 7:00 PM**  
10-21 KC8OIZ Berlin Setty  
10-25 N8SND Bill Mangus  
10-28 KC8NHS Thomas McDonough  
10-29 AB8AM Mike Bailey

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### AMATEUR RADIO SATELLITES K8YMI BOB HALLEY

AO-7, an amateur satellite from the 70's and early 80's came alive again last month after being quiet for about 18 years. It had been assumed that the batteries failed in 1984. The solar panels when in sunlight are providing enough power, bypassing the batteries. Jan King, W3GEY, one of the original designers of the satellite has downlinked information and run a number of tests on various instruments on board and they all seem to be operating as they should... what a compliment to the skills of the "Amateur" designers. More extensive evaluations will be run to confirm Jan's first findings. Mike, N1JEZ, is leading the testing program and we can best help him by not sending e-mail questions etc to his website. The work he is doing is very time

consuming and questions from us take him away from his principal assignment.

Mike, N1JEZ, also recently stated that "the batteries on AO-27 are starting to show a positive charge. The command team will be turning the automatic data down loads back on". Check the AO-27 web page and follow the links on telemetry at <http://www.ao27.org/tlm/shtml>

This is being written during our family vacation near Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado. Our kids and grand kids are here too and we are enjoying the surroundings. We are not far from Estes Park where two fires are burning but we have not been in any danger. The smell of wood smoke sometimes is strong depending of the wind direction. There was a good rainstorm on Sunday night in the fire area and again about noon on Tuesday which helped the fire-fighters.

I brought an HT and also a 2 meter mobile rig but have made little use of them. While in Colorado Springs, I tried to check into the local AMSAT net but could not get a signal out of the concrete and steel motel building with the HT. I could hear the net contacts but

nothing of real significance was announced. We also visited the Air Force Academy but with heavy security limits, not much was available to visitors. The Cadet Chapel was open and seemed even more impressive than the last time we saw it.

We stopped in Hutchinson Kansas at a place identified as the Kansas Cosmosphere and Space Center. It was shown on an Atlas map of Kansas. There were only a few signs but we found it near the airport. This was assembled by a group of businessmen. Included outside the building was a Redstone Rocket with a Mercury Capsule on top, a TITAN II missile with a Gemini Capsule on it and several other rockets that I could not identify at a distance. Inside the large new building was a full size model of the Shuttle Endeavor, several airplanes of the Stealth construction, a number of rocket engines of the type used in heavy launches and a complete Moon lander with the capsule attached. We asked how they had obtained these and the answer was simply that NASA, the Air Force, and Contractors had these around their locations and were considered obsolete (junk) and they were pleased to GIVE them to this organization for display purposes. While we were there, several groups of 30 of 40 students were seen wearing Space School T-shirts.

The building also contained an IMAX Theater and we got to see the new IMAX movie made from film shot by the Astronauts and Cosmonauts on the International Space Station. This movie was just released several months ago with much fanfare at the Air and Space

Museum in Washington. There was also a planetarium, and a replica of Dr. Robert Goddard's early laboratory in New Mexico where he developed and launched the first liquid propelled rocket of it's type. Most important to some of us was the first class Ham Satellite Station in the building built and maintained by the Reno County Kansas Amateur Radio Club. Some of their recent records are of contacts with the ISS, and also some contacts with other Ham Stations through AO-40 and AO-27 satellites. It was locked when we were there but it was in plain sight through a window.

-73- K8YMI

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## NEWSLETTER SPONSORS

By Jerry S. Paquette – WB8IOW

This month's highlighted newsletter sponsor is **Southern Hills Eye Care** operated by Dr. Howard L. Covert.

Dr. Covert's office is located just south of the intersection of SR 41 and SR 125 on the south end of West Union. Look for the modern 2-story building. There is plenty of parking in the rear.

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### DeForest ARC Club meeting

The August meeting was called to order at 7:05 P.M. Our President Ed Lock, KE8FK, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no changes voiced to the minutes as printed in the newsletter, so KE8FK announced that the minutes stand approved as read.

Treasurer Pat Ellis, KC8VE gave the treasurer's report with 0 inflows and \$86.91 outflows and a balance of \$1,504.73. KC8LVE announced that since she printed the report, she paid the phone bill and also postage. WB8IOW advised that this would cover postage through the October newsletter. Bill Mangus N8SND made a motion to accept treasurer's report as read and Jerry Paquette WB8IOW seconded the motion. Motion carried.

President's Report: KE8FK reported that he had the opportunity to announce that the DeForest Amateur Radio Club would be assisting the Marine Corps League with the 5K run and fun walk this Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup>. He was on WRAC this morning with other members of the Marine Corps League to promote the race.

### OLD BUSINESS

WB8IOW reported that there was a problem with repeater autopatch. KE8FK and WB8IOW repaired a damaged cable, but there is still a hum. WB8IOW advised that he

has wire that just came in and that he and Ed will get up there and replace the wire to shield it from the noise. Other than that, repeater seems to be functioning well.

Marine Corps Race is set for August 17<sup>th</sup> in front of the elementary school.

Those who are able to assist with communication, please be there at 7:30 to set up.

The Special Event Station is scheduled for August 18<sup>th</sup> at the North side of Adams Lake. There is not a covered dish planned for this event (BYOF - Bring your own food!), but all are welcome to come out and operate. This is the third year the DARC has participated in this special event. Operating time is from 1:00 to 6:00, but help is always needed for set-up and take-down.

#### **ARES**

Kim Paquette N8YWX announced that the ARES meeting originally scheduled for August has been cancelled due to the SEC's hospitalization. She also announced the Ohio Section Conference that is scheduled for September 21<sup>st</sup> at the state EOC in Columbus. WB8IOW added that for security reasons, Hams should bring a picture ID if planning to attend.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

N8YWV announced the Portsmouth Hamfest scheduled for this Saturday, August 17, 2002. WB8IOW announced that two free tickets are available for the Medina County Hamfest scheduled for October 6, 2002. WB8IOW gave a brief summary of the video that will be shown following the meeting for anyone wishing to stay

for it. Split the pot was won by WB8IOW. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 and those present viewed the video. Those present for this month's meetings were KC8LVE, N8HIA, KE8FK, N8SND, W8ZFO, KC8OLS, KC8DDY, KC8NHS, KE8FK, KB8AMX, WB8IOW, and N8YWX.

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### **JIM WEAVER K8JE Seeking Great Lakes Director Position**

I wanted to let you know I've submitted a completed nominating form to run for the Director's position in the Great Lakes Division. You may already have heard of my intent from KI4LA inasmuch as he was the first person I told of this.

If you have any questions let me know. If you or any others would like, I can send you background information on me.

Tnx, 73,  
Jim Weaver, K8JE  
[k8je@arrl.net](mailto:k8je@arrl.net)

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### **FCC SPELLS OUT UTILITY'S OBLIGATIONS IN INTERFERENCE CASES**

Electric utilities must correct equipment problems that cause harmful interference to stations operating in the Amateur Service. Following up on a recent pledge to get tougher on electric utilities that fail to promptly fix faulty gear that generates interference, FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth made that point doubly clear August 9 in an letter to Reliant Energy Company of Houston. The case involves unresolved interference complaints from Edward J. Gerber, W5GCX, of Houston.

"Reliant must do all things necessary, and bear any and all necessary costs, to comply with its obligations as an operator of unlicensed devices pursuant to the Commission's Part 15 regulations," Hollingsworth reminded the utility's attorneys. He asked Reliant to pro-

vide a written report in 30 days detailing steps taken to eliminate the interference to W5GCX.

Hollingsworth said he'd hold off on enforcement action until he has the report in hand but added that the FCC "expects a complete solution without further delay."

In its reply to a May 23 letter from the FCC, Reliant had suggested that the interference Gerber was experiencing had come from an otherwise properly operating 250 kVA step-down transformer. The utility had proposed to relocate the transformer at Gerber's expense.

Hollingsworth pointed out that the utility may not pass on the cost of fixing the problem to the victim of the interference. "It is exclusively the obligation of the operator of the unlicensed device," Hollingsworth wrote, referring to the FCC's Part 15 rules.

Responding to the initial FCC letter, the utility's attorneys--Baker Botts LLP of Houston--had attempted to claim it was not obligated to avoid interference to amateur stations. Hollingsworth called the attempted distinction "baseless."

A copy of the letter went to the office of Texas Public Utility Commission Chairman Rebecca Klein.

The League has worked with the FCC and utilities to resolve dozens of interference complaints. ARRL Electromagnetic Compatibility and Radio Frequency Interference Engineer John Phillips, K2QAI, applauded Hollingsworth's tenacious approach to dealing with interference complaints involving power companies. "Amateur Radio is very fortunate to have someone like Riley Hollingsworth in our corner," he said. "There is no way that amateurs could ever hope to resolve some of these problems without the backing of the FCC."

*Thanks to the  
ARRL Letter for the  
prior article*

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