



Grant Amateur Radio Club



Issue 7

Newsletter

July 1997

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JULY 10TH, 7:00 PM

GEORGETOWN



IMPROMPTU EAST FORK CAMPARAMA A BIG SUCCESS

(Editor) Judge for your self. No serious injuries in the marshmallow wars, no one got sprayed by a skunk (at least not in our group), no serious back injuries from sleeping on the ground or a hard camping mattress, no one took any falls on WB8UJM's moped, and at last count around 24 hams wandered through the East Fork campground without complaints.

WD8LSN and family heard the only wild animal noise of the night. (Sorry K8RJ, the noises you heard were wild but they weren't identified as animals.) We found out that KE4MZN makes a mean scrambled eggs, and I never did find out what the name of that *catch it by its green tail for the most points thingy* was called.

No boxes of sunlight, postholes, dehydrated water or wireless extension cords were sold but much discussion was given toward them. N1WJM is now hard at work on her auctioneering degree. Thanks to N8AGP, there are a few less fish in this world, and thanks to several of the ladies, Sunday morning breakfast has added a few extra inches to many of our middles. And if that weren't enough, there were rumors that a few people even snuck off for a White Castle run at 3:30am.

In short, if you missed it, then you missed a heck of a good time. But don't fret there's talk of another one in the future. Keep an ear toward the 73 machine for details to follow.



Photo courtesy WD8LSN

TOP TEN SIGNS THAT YOU NEED AN ELMER.

(Editor) An elmer is the guy you go to, to ask questions about topics in Ham Radio that you don't understand. In that vain, *You know it's time for you to find an Elmer if...*

- Your friend tells you he has a new two meter radio and you figure one of the meters must be for SWR and the other for power out.
- You hear a conversation on the low bands about CW and you think their referring to the cold war.
- You hear some one sign this is N8XXX mobile 4 and you think it's because he has three other radios
- You hear that some one won a 40 meter radio at a ham fest and you wonder how they're going to get some thing that large in their house.
- You build a Morse code key out of Plexiglas and can't figure out why it won't key your radio.
- You think the difference between short wave and long wave is the speed at which you move your wrist back and forth.
- You're thinking about joining your other ham friends in the local ATV group because you own a four wheel drive vehicle that will go just about anywhere.
- You won't use a repeater because you've heard that using a repeater could be dangerous. You've heard an aligator could get you.
- You think a collinear antenna can only be used with two amplifiers.
- You think fm is the modulation type that came after em, dm, cm, bm and am.
- You wouldn't mind getting into packet radio but no matter how much you practice you can't get the hang of sending those beeps and braps with your keyer.
- You wonder what sound a short wave makes and why any one would want to listen to one.
- You think the repeater owner would be a lot happier if instead of talking about his cavities he just went to the dentist and got them filled.



BIRTHDAY CLUB

Call	Name	Date
KB8QOZ	Stephanie	7/ 1
KC8FBI	Steve	7/ 1
N8AGB	Ray	7/ 7
KB8PVY	Jerry	7/15
KB8QMV	Karen	7/16
KB8IYM	Kenneth	7/21
KC8CXO	Arthur	7/31

GRANT MEETING CHANGE

Set your calendar, the Grant Meeting for July will be held July 10th

AREA CLUB MEETINGS

Got a need to meet? Try one of the local ham clubs. Here are a few of the local clubs meeting schedules.

1st Tuesday OH-KY-IN ARS, 7:30 PM, Western Hills. Info: Carol Hugentober, K8DHK, 513/661-5323. General interest club.

1st Wednesday Butler County VHF Assoc., 7:30 PM, Hamilton. Info: Ted Wilson, K8TCR, 513/868-7012. General interest club.

1st Wednesday of even-numbered months Cincinnati FM Club, 7:30 PM, Greenhills. Info: Richard Kuns, KC8TW, 513/829-0385. Repeater club.

1st Friday Hamilton Co. ARPSC, 8 PM, Northern Hills. Info: Stan Cohen, WD8QDQ, 513/531-1011. Emergency/publicservicecommunications.

1st Wednesday of Month DeForest Amateur Radio Club 7:00pm West Union Talk in on 147.60/00.

2nd Thursday Milford ARC, 8 PM, Milford. Info: Jim Linn, WB8RRR, 513/831-6255. General interest club.

2nd Thursday (ex. summer) South West Ohio DX Assoc., Dinner 6:30 PM, Meeting 7:30 PM, Centerville. Info: Jay Slough, K4ZLE, 513/779-1747. DX club.

3rd Thursday (ex. summer) Ohio Valley ARA, 8 PM, Cincinnati. Info: Frank Koval, W8RSW, 513/662-3557. DX club.

3rd Friday Queen City Emergency Net, 8 PM, Cincinnati. Info: Tom Delaney, KC7TN, 513/921-7423. Emergency/publicservicecommunications.

4th Wednesday Greater Cincinnati ARA, 7:45 PM, St. Bernard. Info: Herm Turner, KW8X, 513/961-3250. General interest club.

CONTEST CORNER

RAC Canada Day Contest
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, SSB
IARU HF World Championship
CQ World Wide VHF Contest
Colombian Indep. Contest
SEANET WW DX Contest, CW
South Pacific 160m Contest
North Amer. QSO Party, RTTY
Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest, CW
Russian WW RTTY Contest
IOTA Contest

UP AND COMING HAMFESTS

July 6
Triangle ARC, Lisbon, OH
Dick Sisley, K8JKB
1218 Northside Ave.,
East Liverpool, OH 43920
330-385-1245
<http://www.qsl.net/tarc>

July 12-13
Central Division Convention,
Indianapolis, IN
Rick Ogan, N9LRR
5329 Lester St., Indianapolis, IN 46208
317-257-4050

July 13
Wood County ARC, Bowling Green, OH
Larry Reitz, WA8CWD
419-837-2202
E-mail: teckyreiz@aol.com
<http://bravais.bgsu.edu/~boughton/wcarc.html>

July 13
North Hills ARC, Pittsburgh, PA
Bob Ferrey Jr., N3DOK
871 Rosalind Rd.,
Pittsburgh, PA 15237-5938
412-367-2393
E-mail: bferrey@nauticom.net
<http://nharc.pgh.pa.us>

July 19
Northern Ohio ARS, Wellington, OH
John Schaaf, KC8AOX
528 2nd Street B, Elyria, OH 44035
216-323-0081

July 20
Van Wert ARC, Van Wert, OH
Robert Barnes, WD8LPY
419-238-1877
E-mail: barnesrl@bright.net
<http://www.bright.net/~barnesrl/hamfest.htm>
Louie Thomas, WD8LLO, 419-238-2812

0000Z-2400Z, Jul 1
0000Z, Jul 5-2400Z, Jul 6
1200Z, Jul 12-1200Z, Jul 13
1800Z, Jul 12-2400Z, Jul 13
0000Z-2400Z, Jul 19
0001Z, Jul 19-2359Z, Jul 20
0500Z-2359Z, Jul 19
1800Z, Jul 19-0600Z, Jul 20
0000Z, Jul 26-2400Z, Jul 27
0000Z, Jul 26-2400Z, Jul 27
1200Z, Jul 26-1200Z, Jul 27

WHO'S IN CHARGE?

Or is it whom? No matter the English, here's a reminder of who our fearless leaders for 1997 are. Let them know how there do ing. They're also a great starting point for that suggestion you've been kick ing around.

President - John K8RJ
Vice-President - Roy NL7FK
Secretary - Jerry KB8PVY
Treasurer - Dot KB8TKU

CONGRESS PASSES BILLS TO PROTECT

VOLUNTEERS

Both the US House of Representatives and the US Senate have passed bills to protect certain categories of volunteers from lawsuits arising from the performance of their official duties. The two bills are in conference committee at deadline time and then will be sent to President Clinton for signature.

Included in the coverage are Volunteer Examiners, Official Observers and other ARRL or government volunteers, provided they have been "certified" through some form of training process to perform their duties.

MEETING MINUTES

No meeting minutes this month from the secretary, but he assures me everything that happened at the meeting was on the up and up. Contact KC8PBY for the details.

ADAMS COUNTY PROCLAIMATED

(Editor) If image is every thing then the De Forest Group, is looking good with a pat on the back from no less than the county commissioners. Congrat's on a job well done. (Text of proclamation follows)

WHEREAS, Amateur Radio is dedicated to public service and every year a Simulated Emergency Test is held, in October, to test the ability of Amateur Radio to respond and serve as the communications link for emergency service agencies when disasters make normal communications inoperable; and

WHEREAS, during the March 1997 flood and flash flood in Adams County Amateur Radio operators helped their neighbors by searching for drowning victims in the Blue creek and Wamsley areas, provided communications for the Adams County EMA, the Red Cross, and the Ohio National Guard, provided assistance and communication for the Blue creek, West Union and Manchester shelters, helped with rescues, delivered food and medicine, provided assistance in the Copeland distribution center, and provided communications for clean-up crews, in all accumulating more than 2000 man hours of volunteer work; and

WHEREAS, Saturday, June 28th and Sunday, June 29th, 1997, Amateur Radio operators throughout the country will participate in the American Radio Relay League's 61st annual Field Day emergency preparedness test and members of the DeForest Amateur Radio Club will operate their portable radio stations, powered by generator and solar power at the Lorenz air-strip, Logans Lane, West Union, Ohio; and

WHEREAS, on July 4th, 1997, the De Forest Amateur Radio Club will participate in the Adams County bicentennial celebration, operating a mobile special event station and talking with HAMS around the world

NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE ADAMS COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, ON THE TWELFTH DAY OF MAY, 1997, DO HEREBY PROCLAIM THE WEEK OF JUNE 28TH TO JULY 4TH, 1997 AS AMATEUR RADIO WEEK IN ADAMS COUNTY AND CALL UPON ALL CITIZENS OF ADAMS COUNTY TO BECOME ACQUAINTED WITH THE DeFOREST AMATEUR RADIO CLUB AND EXPRESS THANKS AND APPRECIATION FOR THEIR EFFORTS WHICH GREATLY BENEFIT US ALL.

(signed by)

James McClanahan Robert Hall Paul Rothwell

CONTACT FILMING INVOLVED COORDINATION, COOPERATION

Dave Finley, N1IRZ, of the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro, New Mexico, is looking forward to seeing the Warner Bros movie, Contact, due to appear in theaters this summer. That's because Finley and many of his NRAO colleagues were heavily involved in helping to bring the film to fruition - including a week of filming at NRAO last fall. "I've never been that big a movie fan," Finley said, "but I was impressed with the actors and the crew."

Finley also was impressed with Contact star Joelle Foster. She plays astronomer Ellie Arroway, who, as a girl, gets her ham ticket along with her father in the late 1960s, then goes on to become a radio astronomer and the first person to decipher a message received on Earth from extraterrestrial intelligent life. Eventually, she's among the team sent into space to explore the message's origin. The story is based on Carl Sagan's 1985 novel of the same name. Finley says Foster had done her homework on radio astronomy. "She's quite sharp," he said. But he doesn't think the experience was enough to entice Foster to get her ticket in real life.

Realism was a major goal of the filmmakers, Finley said. "They were a very professional group of people." The crew got in touch with NRAO very early on in the project,

he said, noting that the first person to call them was none other than Carl Sagan himself. In the movie, the first signal is received at the Very Large Array (VLA) at New Mexico. "They used the actual VLA" in the movie, Finley said.

Finley, who served as the liaison between the film company and the observatory, called the week of filming "an intense experience." The potential of RFI from the crew's wireless mikes and communication gear was a big concern for the sensitive ears of the NRAO. The observatory also was not able to stop work to accommodate the filming, but the Warner Bros crew was able to work around the NRAO to get the shots it needed. "It was a different way of operating for both of us," he said. Despite the movie crew's "overwhelming presence, Finley said the encounter, like the movie's plot, "opened my eyes to a world I'd not seen before."

Filming in some locations was simply impractical. In one instance, WB completely and accurately replicated one of the facility's radio telescope control rooms in meticulous detail on another set. "When I walked up to their set, you would really think you were in the control room," Finley said. He hopes the same sense of realism carries over into the ham radio aspects of the movie.

The NRAO, which is run by the US government, gained from the experience too. In exchange for disrupting the observatory's maintenance schedules to get shots of the large arrays being aimed a particular way, Warner Bros reimbursed the government. In addition, WB gave money to the NRAO's educational fund to redo the visitors' center. "All of our visitors will eventually benefit," said Finley.

In addition to Foster, Contact stars James Woods and Matthew McConaughey. Robert Zemeckis directed the film. The ARRL provided the filmmakers with an ARRL map and other League publications of the 1960s, while staff members supplied vintage QSLs and advised Warner Bros on the types of antennas and equipment they'd need to make the movie set realistic.

Contact is due out in mid-July. For more information, see <http://www.contact-themovie.com>.