



ITARS, KD5SDJ

© August, 2002



Presidential QRM

Greetings from your club President, First off let introduce myself, My name is James Strauss, and the call is KA5WHM. We have loads of ideas for the club and if we all work together the club can be something to be proud of. Input! We need lots of input from you as the club members. Please don't hesitate to let us know what you would

like to see. Feel free to visit the club web page at www.qsl.net/kd5sdj. Follow the links to the other pages, we have antenna projects, links pertaining to all aspects of ham radio and there is even a for sale page for you to list you items for sale or do a little shopping for that special item you need to fill that empty space in your shack. I hope

you can come to the club meeting and visit us. You do not have to be a ham or a club member to come to the meeting and be involved. We welcome anyone who is interested in the art of communications or electronics. On the back of this publication is a map to the meeting hall and the time and date as well. Hope to see you there. James, KA5WHM

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From the Editor

So it looks like this month we will have our first club meeting. The wonderful Mayor and people of Beggs has graciously welcomed us and allowed us the use of their brand new city hall and city council meeting room. I have had the op-

portunity to visit it and it is beautiful. We will have soft drinks available for purchase at the meeting but **please, out of respect for our great host's, no food.** Lets work very hard at leaving the meeting room as beautiful and nice as it is! The board

has met a couple of times and we are off to a less than perfect start, but it takes time putting together a top shelf club like the one we envision. Remember, the second Monday at 7:00 pm, that's the 12th of the month.
DE W5TAZ

What do you expect?

Well, now we are an established club, our first meeting as a club is in a few weeks, what are we going to do now? That's the question we are asking ourselves. On the one hand we are well on our way to having something in Okmulgee County that, we think, has never seen. We plan on being involved with just about everything we can help with. We are not going to be one of those clubs that simply meets on one day a month, drinks a little coffee and slaps each other on the back and go our separate ways. I figure that when we get started things may be a little slow, for that reason I urge you not to get discouraged. Remember we are trying to build a quality club from the

ground up. Things are bound to be a little rocky at first. But we plan on passing out some survey slips that you can fill out to let us know where or what you want to see us do. This is going to be your club, so I want you to treat it as such. Let us know what kind of programs you want and if all possible we will try to accommodate you. Also if you have a particular mode of operation you would like to demonstrate to the club as a program you can get with Dave, KD5OND and he will schedule you for a month in the future. We, as a club plan on getting involved in community service with the emphasis on storm spotting. Those interested can contact Brian KD5OII and he

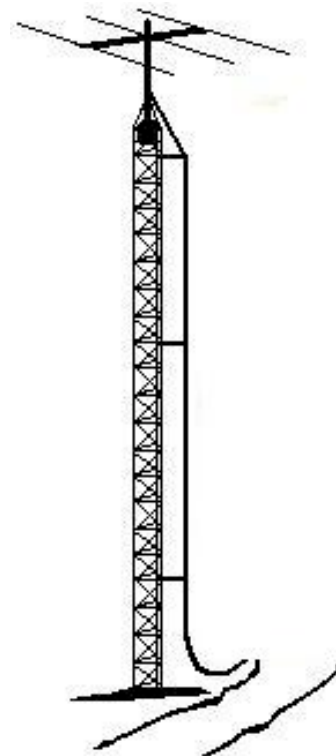
will get you to a training class. We are getting positive feedback from the local governmental bodies and things are looking good for the future. We want everyone to get involved that wants to. It will be a great way to meet and make new friends in the ham community. A Field Day will be brought back to Okmulgee County and if we can get it planned in time we will have a picnic and Tailgate Swap Meet in the fall for everyone to get involved with. If you wish to volunteer some time on any of these projects please step up and ask one of the club officers and they can direct you on the right path. 73 and we will see you at the club meeting and remember, **Bring everyone you know!**

Smoke Signals

We want what you want. Smoke Signals is the Official Newsletter of our club. Just starting out it is hard to know what to put in it. If you have any suggestions on what kind of articles or technical information you would like to see, please e-mail me at **davew5taz@juno.com** and I will try to find things to interest you.

There are many different operating modes out there waiting for you to explore them. We will ex-

plore them all from time to time as I run across articles that merit reprinting. If you run across an article that you think would go good in the newsletter please e-mail it to me. Please be sure to list the e-mail of the author, we will need his permission to reprint it. Please keep in mind I work 1 - 2 months in advance so if you send in an article, it may not show up for a month or two. 73 and CUL. DE W5TAZ

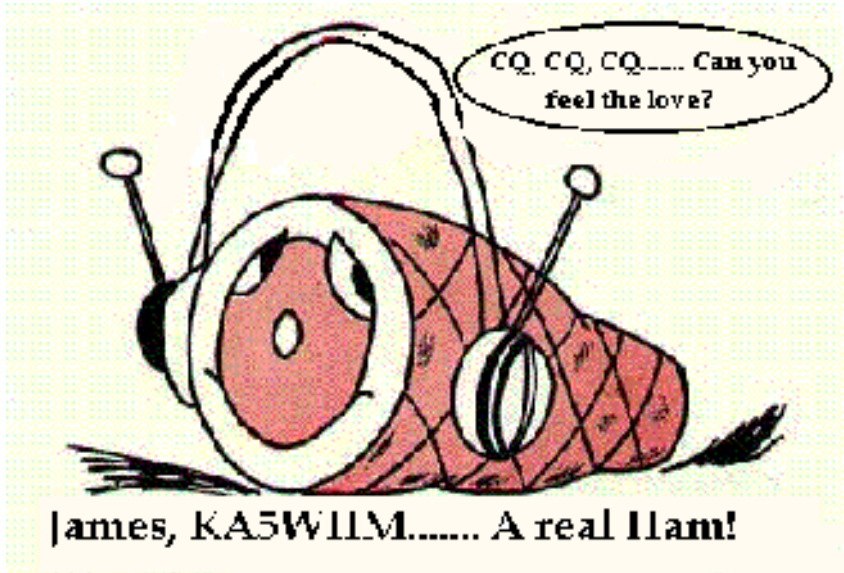


WHY RADIO AMATEURS ARE CALLED "HAMS"

From Florida Skip Magazine - 1959

Have you ever wondered why radio amateurs are called "HAMS"? Well, it goes like this: The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call of the first amateur wireless stations operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were ALBERT S. HYMAN, BOB ALMY, and POOGIE MURRAY. At first they called their station "HYMAN-ALMY-MURRAY". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HYALMU", using the first two letters of each of their names. Early in 1910 some confusion resulted between signals from the amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name, and the station call became "HAM". In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial WIRELESS REGULATION BILL as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of the committee hearing the bill. The Senator was so

impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through, they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur stations. Congressional debate began on the WIRELESS REGULATION BILL and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for



all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM". That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nationwide publicity associated station "HAM" with amateur radio operators. From that day to this, and probably to the end of time in radio, an amateur is a "HAM". Unfortunately for this story, none of it checks out. A past president of the ARRL did extensive research in an attempt to confirm this story. There is nothing in the Congressional record about little station HAM. There is nothing in contemporary press records. And there is no record of a Hyman, Almay, or Murray at Harvard at the time this supposedly happened. This story first surfaced in an amateur publication in 1948, and doesn't seem likely to die. But it appears to have no factual basis.

Another Story below.

"Ham: a poor operator. A 'plug.'" That's the definition of the word given in G. M. Dodge's The Telegraph Instructor even before radio. The defini-

tion has never changed in wire telegraphy. The first wireless operators were landline telegraphers who left their offices to go to sea or to man the coastal stations. They brought with them their language and much of the tradition of their older profession. In those early days, spark was king and every station occupied the same wavelength—or, more accurately perhaps, every station occupied the whole spectrum with its broad spark signal. Government stations, ships, coastal stations and the increasingly numerous amateur operators all competed for time and signal supremacy in each other's receivers. Many of the amateur stations were very powerful. Two amateurs, working across town, could effectively jam all the other operators in the area. When this happened, frustrated commercial operators would call the ship whose weaker signals had been blotted out by the amateurs and say "SRI OM THOSE #&\$!@ HAMS ARE JAMMING YOU." Amateurs, possibly unfamiliar with the real meaning of the term, picked it up and applied it to themselves in true "Yankee Doodle" fashion and wore it with pride. As the years advanced, the original meaning has completely disappeared.

Was there a mad Scientist in your neighborhood?

When I came up, even in what is affectionately known as the "hood", there were always old people doing scientific things. Some would work on cars, some on their house, some messing around with Electronic music, etc.... There was always someone doing something. I can remember what got me interested in Chemistry for example. There was this old man who was always blowing something up in his back yard. Very smart old man. He had one of those cool looking labs like you would see in the movies with all of the flasks and Alcohol burners...etc.... Come to find out later that he was making Home Brew Liquor....but man did he know his Chemistry. He helped me with my High School Chemistry. He died before I went to college. There was another one who was the Electronics/Radio/Computer guy. He had a lab that was cool looking

with all of scopes, meters, antennas and dishes. This old guy was a little off though (Crazy). He worked on satellites, then eventually opened a record shop. I learned a lot about Physics, and Electrical theory from this guy. He would always throw you a curve to see if you on your toes. He even help me pass my tech test when I was 12 way back in the old day's...lol. There was another old man that had a music studio in his garage. (The equipment was quite expensive back then!!!!) He had all of the latest Synthesizers, and he had his share of Signal generators, etc....trying to reproduce string and horn sounds electronically. I wound up learning about midi, and keyboard repair, I even got good enough to work part time at a keyboard repair place in Universal City Ca. Then there was my Step father (George) who was a truck driver. He never took

anything to a mechanic. A general do all fix all type of person, he had every tool and jack known to man minus mills and lathes....lol I can go on and on, but this is before all of the molestation scandals. I would love to be a role model like the ones I mentioned. I am a combination of all of them. These days, the lack of community, and the danger of getting fingered for abuse has kept me very distant from young people coming to me asking questions. I think these and many others are why things like radio don't spark an interest like they use to. Older people just keep things to themselves, and don't even bother to encourage young people to get more involved (There are exceptions...but I am talking about as a whole) and often cut young people down. This is truly sad coming from the same people that are watching a hobby die with the silent keys. Are you the neighborhood mad Scientist/Elmer, or did you grow up with one? Tell me your story. **Phineas, MAD Scientist/Elmer Jr. KC0LSC**

Digital Modes of operations

By Dave Lugo W5TAZ

Have you ever thought about digital modes of operation? I dabble a little in them myself. In the future we will explore several different mode that classify as being a digital mode. CW, RTTY, SSTV, MSFK 16, PSK31, QSK31 and Packet are just a few. There are several more out there and they are all quite fun. Lets face it folks, we are all hooked on electronic gadgets, radios, computers and anything else that either lights up, buzz's vib-

erates, talks to us or lets us listen and explore all the various signals that fly around us at any given time of the day. Amtor, Pactor and many others will be discussed and talked about. In the future issues of the newsletter we will list web pages where you can read the information on interfaces, computers and radio gear of all kinds that will allow you to explore all these wonderful modes of operation. Keep in mind you have to be a General



Class to transmit but as a Tech or just a SWL you can listen in on all these modes. Build an interface or buy one, get it hooked up and download the software and let the fun begin! I always said the worst thing I ever did was move my computer next to the radio station. My poor wife said she was going to start up a "Ham Radio Widows Society" for all the other wives out there with a ham for a husband. Oh well! **DE W5TAZ**

Setting up your new ham station on a budget.

By Dave Lugo, W5TAZ

Ok, so you have successfully passed your test and achieved that goal you have worked so hard for these past day's. Your new ham call is either going to be a reality or is pending or maybe you have already received it and your thinking about the cost of your new station.

Although the prospect of setting up a new station can be rather expensive for those just starting out, there are ways to combat the high end cost of this task. We will explore the way's you can get around the cost and get away fairly cheap, or inexpensive if you will, in the process of setting up you new station.

We will hold our discussion on the assumption that you are starting out as a Technician Class operator. This is an exciting time for all new ham's no matter what the age! There are a lot of new folks to listen to, get to know and make friends with.

The topic's of conversation varies from group to group. Keep in mind that everyone has an opinion on the different types of radio equipment and what I try to do is ask several what I need to know and see if they all agree. Going with the Status Quo is not always the cheapest.

Let's start out with the radio. You can come across radios on the market today that can be had fairly cheap. \$50 can get you one if you keep your ear open and look patiently for a bargain. With all the excitement of your new call that is not an option to most. Impatience can be expensive though.

New radios can be bought for a relatively low cost and I am not to particular as to the name brand. Kenwood, Icom, Yeasu, Radio

Shack, Alinco and others all have great products. You can get an Icom or an Alinco 2 meter H/T for about \$100 to \$150. You can also get a mobile for from around \$159 on up. \$200 will get you a very nice radio brand **new in the box!**

Most of the mobile rigs on the market today are 50 - 60 watt rigs and have all the tone capabilities that are needed to get you into the repeaters. Radio Shack has a 25 watt 2 meter mobile for around \$129, the last time I looked that was the cost of it. Remember that 25 watts will go a long way on VHF. The first radio I had was a Kenwood TR 7625 with a 25 watt output. I bought a external tone board from Communications Concepts and installed it to it. I mounted it on the top of the radio since I was running it as a base station. I can't begin to tell you the fun I had with that \$75 dollar radio.

Keep your eye out at the local pawn shops or simply put the word out on the air for a power supply. You will need about a 15-20 amp supply to run a 50 watt rig and you will be surprised at the prospects you can come up with this way.

The next time you get the opportunity to go to one of the local ham fest's you should be able to find a descent power supply. Don't be afraid to haggle with the vendor and try to get the best price you can. You can probably pick one up for \$50 to \$75 dollars, give or take a little.

Look in the "**Project's Page**" of the ITARS club web page at www.qsl.net/kd5sdj. There you will find some nice plan's to build a J-Pole which is an omni directional an-

tenna as well as plans to build beams, yagi and quads. The J-Pole can be Built for about \$10 dollars and works very well. I have 2 up at my house right now, they also double as a pretty darn good scanner antenna and are cheaper that those you by at radio shack. The J-Pole on the web page works 2 meter, 1.25 meters and 70 centimeters eliminating the need for multiple antenna's right off the bat.

If you have any trouble, just ask one of the club members for advice or help. Most of the folks you meet on the ham bands are very eager to help guide any new ham down the road to successful and positive radio skills.

So, let's recap, \$50-\$200 for a radio, \$25-\$100 for a power supply and about \$10 for a J-Pole and let's not forget the coax which is available at you local Rat Shack as well and that puts us in the neighborhood of any where from \$100-\$325 for a station. Not to bad!

You can get very expensive on your new station if you don't watch what you are doing. My suggestion is that you start out inexpensive and operate for a while to see what you want to set as a goal for your upgraded station in the future. Even if you wind up getting interested in other areas of ham radio you will always have a need for your meager station.

The main thing is to have fun, get to know some folks and make some new friends on the ham bands. The more you learn, the more you will want to branch out into different modes. Experiment with antenna's, do a little building and take pride in your on the air operations. Be the best Radio Operator you can be and you will gain the respect of the ham community!

73 and see you around the bands.

DE W5TAZ

Is it Radio?

A Look At the I-Link

The other night I was scanning the 2 meter band and was pleasantly surprised when I came across an I-Link system out of Ponca City, on simplex. I never was able to make a contact on it but did listen while several stations were rag chewing. Vancouver British Columbia, New York, Detroit, Pennsylvania and several others were in there. Yes I did get excited as I listened and plan on learning more about it. Several nights later I was on QRZ and ran across an article that got my attention. Here it is:

Is It Radio?

The excitement was growing, the buzz was in the air. I got an email asking me if I had a chance to download and install iLink as of yet? It's "kewl", said the email. So, I downloaded it, logged my call sign and waited the obligatory few hours for my call to clear. (Some have told me it takes but 3 minutes... uh-huh, sure...) Anyway, I logged in and was immediately in contact with a local ham. We QSO'd for about 10 minutes I suppose, then off I went. Later in the evening, I signed back on and connected to a repeater (so it said)

in Florida, gave my call, hung around, ID'ed again, hung around, then off I went. Later I was back on iLink and was called by a ham in San Diego and we chatted for about 10 minutes and off I went. See here's the rub, I've been working on computers since the old BBS days. One or two modems humming constantly in the back bedroom as hundreds of users fought for precious on-line time just to pass a few messages around to each other. Later, things like FIDOnet took over the message handling jobs and gateways were established to pass messages from BBS's to other protocols such as TCP/IP. Then along comes AOL and the Graphical User Interface for TCP/IP, soon upgraded with a browser and blah, blah, blah. Eventually someone invented Voice Over TCP/IP and programs like FireTalk and iPhone were all the rage. Even today MS Net meeting is a favorite, and if you look around long enough you can find websites that offer videophone. My problem is I don't find iLink any more exciting that using iPhone. Hey, maybe that's my fault. But maybe it's just that I see Voice Over TCP/IP as something that Ham Radio has finally caught up to, and not the other way around. I'm glad to see the technology cross over into radio, don't get me wrong,

anything that comes out of the hobby in a positive direction is what we are all about, right? It's just "it don't feel like radio" to me.

73, Jim - KC2JCA

Now I tell you, I bought my radio equipment to talk to whomever I see fit to associate myself with. I have mixed feelings about this I-Link stuff and frankly I don't fully understand it. It seems to me that if a technician class operator gets a taste of this I-link it will give him the incentive to upgrade so he can get on the HF bands. So I guess what I'm saying is, it may not be radio like some of us are used to but as we all know, technology is coming faster and faster each day. With this in mind I can see this little bit of technology doing some good for the ham community. Let's say you know a CB'er who is interested in DX. If you show him the I-link system and he realizes that you can I-link with a handi-talkie for a minimal investment in equipment, you may have the opportunity to bring a new ham into the hobby. Seeing how most hams with a love for radio came to this hobby from the CB band, I look at it as a good thing. After all, the more good radio operators I can drag up to the ham bands from 11 meters, the better I like it.

73 DE W5TAZ

Amateur Radio Freeware

Unearthed by Andrew Miller, KG4FCA

Our friend from the TARC, Richie, W5OKL sends us some interesting info of some software for DX'ing. "DXLab is a suite of interoperating applications designed to automate DX'ing activities. Each application can be independently installed and utilized; when multiple applications are running, they sense each other's presence and

interoperate appropriately. All DXLab applications are free, and contain no advertising; they run on Windows 95, 98, 98SE, NT, 2000, and XP. Commercial use is expressly forbidden. DXView: displays DXCC info and country maps; plots QSO's, spots, beam headings, solar position, and the solar terminator in real time on a

world map. Pathfinder: locates QSL information from web-accessible sources. Commander: controls and communicates with Icom, TenTec, Kenwood, and Yaesu radios; displays frequency-dependent settings for amplifiers and tuners. WinWarbler: conducts RTTY QSO's, with dual-channel diversity decode when an external RTTY modem is available." More! You can find this software at <http://www.qsl.net/dxlab/>. Our thanks to Richie, W5OKL.

On the Lighter Side

Signs Of Intelligence: Recently, when I went to McDonald's I saw on the menu that you could have an order of 6, 9 or 12 Chicken McNuggets. I asked for a half dozen nuggets. "We don't have half dozen nuggets", said the teenager at the counter. "You don't?" I replied. "We only have six, nine, or twelve," was the reply. "So I can't order a half-dozen nuggets, but I can order six?" "That's right." So I shook my head and ordered six McNuggets. The paragraph above doesn't amaze me because of what happened a couple of months ago. I was checking out at the local super market with just a few items and the lady behind me put her things on the belt close to mine. I picked up one of those "dividers" they keep by the cash register and placed it between our things so they wouldn't get mixed. After the girl had scanned all of my items, she picked up the "divider" looking all over for the bar code so

she could scan it. Not finding the bar code she said to me "Do you know how much this is?" and I said to her "I've changed my mind. I don't think I'll buy that today". She said "OK" and I paid her for the things and left. She had no clue to what had just happened..... **MAKES YOU WONDER HOW THESE PEOPLE CAN SURVIVE !!!** A lady at work was seen putting a credit card into her floppy drive and pulling it out very quickly. When I inquired as to what she was doing, she said she was shopping on the Internet and they kept asking for a credit card number, so she was using the ATM "thingy". I recently saw a distraught young lady weeping beside her car. Do you need some help?" I asked. She replied, "I knew I should have replaced the battery to this remote door unlocker. Now I can't get into my car. Do you think they (pointing to a distant convenient store) would have a

battery to fit this?" "Hmmm, I dunno. Do you have an alarm too?" I asked. "No, just this remote thingy," she answered, handing it and the car keys to me. As I took the key and manually unlocked the door, I replied, "Why don't you drive over there and check about the batteries it's a long walk. Several years ago, we had an intern who was none too swift. One day she was typing and turned to a secretary and said, "I'm almost out of typing paper. What do I do?" "Just use copier machine paper," the secretary told her. With that, the intern took her last remaining blank piece of paper, put it on the photocopier and proceeded to make five copies of the blank sheet. I was in a car dealership a while ago, when a large motor home was towed into the garage. The front of the vehicle was in dire need of repair and the whole thing generally looked like an extra in "Twister". I asked the manager what had happened. He told me that the driver had set the "cruise control" and then went in the back to make a sandwich.

Membership Application for the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society

Name _____ Call _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Work Phone _____

E-Mail _____

Year First Licensed _____ License Class and Expiration Date _____ ARRL Member? _____

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to abide by the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society's Constitution and Bylaws, the Federal Communications Commission rules and regulations and support the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society in, the advancement of amateur radio and public services.

Signature of Applicant _____ Date _____ Type of Membership _____

Dues received, Treasurer _____ Date _____ Amount Paid Dues: _____

\$15.00 Regular Yearly - (\$20.00 family membership) **Also use membership application for change of address.**



**INDIAN TERRITORY
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**



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at www.arrl.org



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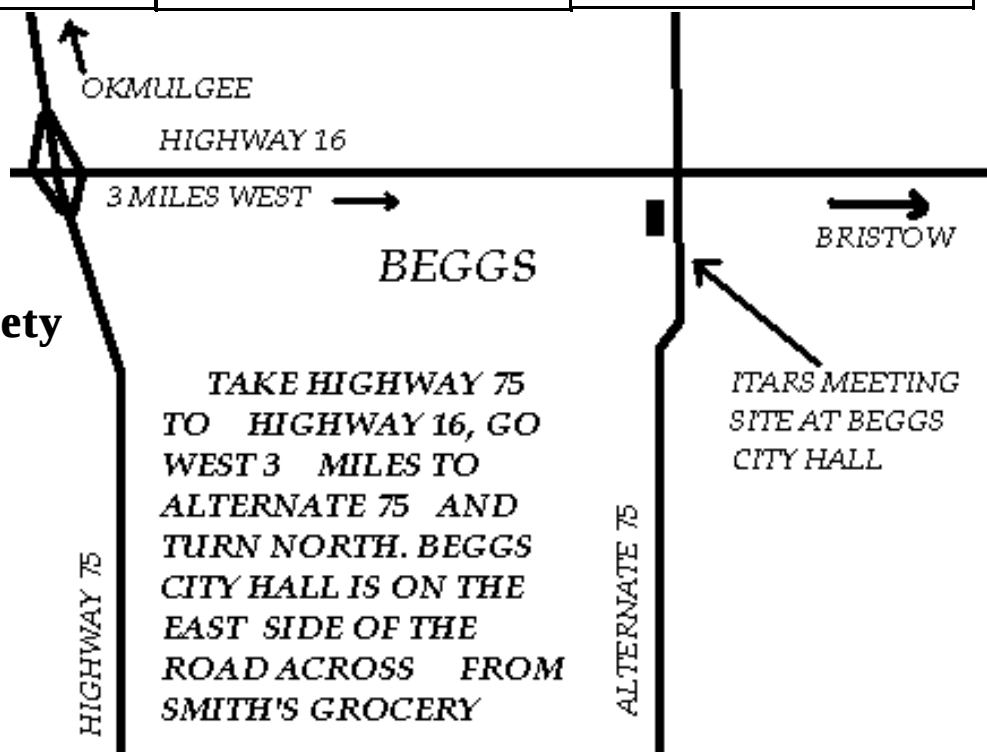
Membership is \$15 (\$5.00 additional family members) per year. Article deadline is the 25th of the month. Articles printed in Smoke Signals may or may not express the view of the club membership or its officers. The club is not responsible for any articles or ads that are placed in Smoke Signals. Articles may be edited for utilization of space and content. All articles become the property of Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society unless previously copyrighted. Copyrighted articles must have approval of the author before being printed in Smoke Signals. Corrections should be sent to ITARS, at Post Office Box 548, Beggs, OK 74421.

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Newsletter of the
Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society**

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***The ITARS
club meeting
will be held
at the
Beggs City
Hall the second
Monday of the
month at
7:00 pm.
August 12th***

**Indian Territory
Amateur Radio Society
P.O. Box 548
Beggs, Ok. 74421**



**TAKE HIGHWAY 75
TO HIGHWAY 16, GO
WEST 3 MILES TO
ALTERNATE 75 AND
TURN NORTH. BEGGS
CITY HALL IS ON THE
EAST SIDE OF THE
ROAD ACROSS FROM
SMITH'S GROCERY**

Follow the map to the ITARS club meeting to be held August 12th at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome and you don't have to be a club member or a ham .