

# Smoke Signals

**ITARS, KD5SDJ**

## Presidential QRM

**August, 2003**



### **Inside this issue: Of Smoke Signals**

<i>Presidential QRM</i>	1
<i>Dog Days of Summer</i>	2
<i>Keys to ham happiness</i>	3
<i>WRC Discusses dropping morse code</i>	4
<i>Get Off Your High Horse</i>	5
<i>Dog days of Summer cont.</i>	6
<i>Get Off Your High Horse</i>	7
<i>Club Information Membership Application</i>	8

Our club had another first with our simplex net of July 24th. We had check ins from as far as Drumright and Salina, Ok. (I at first thought it was Salina, Ks.) We had a total of 9 check ins, great for our first and last minute net.

I want to thank each and everyone that checked in. I will try and have this net every week, that is on Thursdays at 8:00 pm on 146.55 MHz. Please listen up, and tell all your friends to stop by and check in.

Our club needs this kind of activity to grow so if anyone has any ideas on how to

make the net more interesting or on any other activities, please let me know.

Dave, W5TAZ, this weekend showed me that PSK31 seems to work on 2 meter sideband, maybe this is something the club could work on as a resource for emergency communication, and maybe even as a net mode. If we work



on this type of activity, we could become a leader in the area.

Lets all work together to see just how many ideas we can come up with. Till next month, 73.

Bill Griffin, NI5X.



# The Dog Days of Summer

Oh Yea! The Dog Days of summer are on! With the heat index over 105 for several days in a row it is time for us as emergency management personnel to pay special attention to the population that is at the most risk! Please help spread the word for everyone you know to remember to check on those that are less fortunate. It is easy to overlook the fact that as we sit in or air conditioned homes that there are those out there that don't have that simple luxury.

**Please don't forget your outdoor pets either!** Often easily overlooked, our outdoor pets can be suffering in the heat as well. Ever faithful and always watchful, our guard dogs on chains often cannot escape the heat and suffer tremendously this time of year! Please remember to dump their drinking wa-

ter and give them fresh, cool water a couple of times a day and ensure they have shade to escape the ravages of the hot sun.

"**DOG DAYS**" is the name for the most sultry period of summer, from about July through August. Named in early times by observers in countries bordering the Mediterranean, the period was reckoned as extending from 20 days before to 20 days after the conjunction of Sirius (the dog star) and the sun.

In the latitude of the Mediterranean region this period coincided with hot days that were plagued with disease and discomfort. The time of conjunction varies with difference in latitude, and because of the precession of the equinoxes it changes gradually over long periods in all latitudes. When people think of natural disasters, they tend to

envision hurricanes, tornadoes and earthquakes. But according to a report from the Oklahoma State Department of Health (Injury Update, May 31, 2002), extreme heat is the most devastating natural phenomenon in terms of lives lost - killing more Americans (nearly 400 annually) than hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, lightning and floods combined. On average, heat kills 12 Oklahomans each year. Either the Emergency Medical Services Authority (EMSA) or the National Weather Service (NWS) can set the heat emergency plan into action by declaring a Medical Heat Alert or a Heat Advisory. EMSA, in Tulsa, will issue a heat alert when its paramedics respond to five or more heat-related calls within a 24-hour period; NWS advisories are called when the daytime heat index soars to 105 degrees or more and nighttime ambient temperatures reach at least 80 degrees for two consecu-

## SEE YOU ON 60 METERS FIVE CHANNELS NOW OPEN FOR USE

US amateurs had been counting down the weeks, days and hours. Now, the five new 60-meter "channel center" frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373 and 5405 kHz--are available! Given the constraints imposed on the five lightly used government frequencies, ARRL advises members to demonstrate their best operating behavior and to use common sense when operating under the new rules. The channelized domestic, secondary allocation at 5 MHz marks the first new HF amateur band since the 1980s.

The only legal mode is upper side-band voice (USB), with a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz (centered

within each channel). On July 3, the first day the band was available, hundreds of operators opened up on one of the channels to grab their first contacts. The friendly free-for-all took place on a fairly level playing field, however, since the FCC has imposed a 50 W effective radiated power (ERP) limit. The new FCC rules--§97.303(s)--define this as the transmitter output in peak envelope power (PEP) multiplied by antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole or the equivalent calculation in decibels. The Commission presumes that a half-wave dipole on the 5 MHz allocation has a gain of 0 dBd.

Licensees using antennas other than

a half-wave dipole must maintain in their station records either manufacturer data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain. The bottom line for most hams will be to erect a wire dipole, set their transmitter to 50 W PEP output and enjoy the new band.

For more information, see the 60-Meter FAQs posted on the ARRL Web site <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/faq.html>.

Amateurs in the US and the United Kingdom share one 5-MHz channel--5405 kHz. While it's legal for US hams to work UK amateurs--and some transatlantic contacts already have been reported--the RSGB 5 MHz Working Group says UK hams are on the band specifically as part of propagation and equipment experiments, not to make general contacts.

# The Keys to Ham Happiness

Rob Atkinson, K5UJ



After being a licensed ham for over 30 years, I've developed some rules to live by for ham happiness.

As someone who isn't perfect, I forget them from time to time but when I get a sense that something's wrong with my thinking, I usually come back to them. Here they are, in no particular order, submitted as suggestions, which, unlike a mandate from your licensing authority, you may take or leave as you wish:

1. This thing we have called amateur radio, which covers a variety of activities probably wider than any other avocation, is supposed to be fun. Therefore, if you're engaged in some activity that doesn't involve an emergency or public service, and you're not having fun then you're working and you should be getting paid for it. If you're not getting paid for it, quit it. (Actually, even if you are getting paid, you should quit it anyway but that's beyond the scope of ham radio and a subject for another article.) Next, find something else to do that's enjoyable. You have the right to be having fun provided what you are doing is safe and legal. That's why it's a hobby and not a job (employees in the ham trade an obvious exception).

2. In entertainment, people are known for their "rave scenes." A rave scene is something you are good at, because you have a talent for it. It may be interviewing others, or tap-dancing, or playing the violin -- whatever. Every ham has at least one rave scene but in our case it isn't usually entertainment; instead it may be CW operating, contesting, putting up antennas,

troubleshooting gear or any number of other things. Find out what yours is and develop it. Then, whatever it is, be grateful that you are good at it, and content yourself with that. We all can't design the next brilliant, mind blowing transceiver and get on the cover of QST, but who knows, you might become knowledgeable enough in your area to give a talk at a club meeting or write an article for a magazine (or eHam.net - ed.). In any event, keep your hand in with what you have a knack for.

3. At some point, you need to do something new. It's a good idea every few years (or more often if you want) to sit down and think about what you're doing in the hobby, what you'd like to do differently, what you would have done if you could do it all over again, and, if the sky's the limit, what you would try. You can't relive your life, but you can whittle away at the possibilities until you wind up with one or two things you'll realize are within the realm of possibility. Maybe your antennas and rigs haven't changed in 25 years. How about a new Yagi, or microphone? Never been on six meters, 160, or operated mobile from a rare section during the Sweepstakes? You aren't getting any younger - so do it! In other words, if you're in a rut, get out of it.

4. This hobby has so much to offer, it is literally the case that not one of us can do everything there is to do in a single lifetime. A few try -- even fewer compile a fairly impressive "brag tape" of accomplishments, but let's face it --

we're not all going to get to operate from the ISS or be the next P5. Do what you can and want to do, and let it go at that. Then, share what you've learned. Write a review for eHam. Work a novice on CW. Help a guy with RFI problems. Tell others about your experiences and ask questions. Don't worry about looking stupid -- people who learn things all had to start out asking some pretty basic questions once.

5. Finally, learn to respect everyone else's interests. Joe may do nothing else but operate moon-bounce. You may not be able to comprehend how anyone can be interested in that, in place of operating with a kilowatt on 40-meter phone (which, whatayaknow, is what you like to do). Unbeknownst to you, Joe is wondering how you can stand 40-meter phone. Instead of further balkanizing the hobby by putting Joe down for doing something you don't care about, be glad the hobby can accommodate the two of you, and the CW guys, the QRP guys, the QRO guys, the DX chasers, the meteor scatter ops, ATVers, and... You get the point. In fact, if everyone wanted to do what you like to do, it would probably stink. Think about a million hams all on your band and mode, all at the same time. Besides, if Joe follows the advice above, he just might discover someday that 40-meter phone at 3 AM is pretty interesting, and you -- you might be applying for a vanity call with EME in the suffix.

**Rob Atkinson, K5UJ**

## WHAT TO DO ABOUT THE MORSE REQUIREMENT POST-WRC-03?

World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) made optional the requirement to prove the ability to send and receive Morse code to operate below 30 MHz. While Morse exam elements remain on the books in the US, Canada and elsewhere, Switzerland and the United Kingdom have apparently become the first countries to delete their Morse requirements for HF operation. In the US, however, the FCC is unlikely to act on its own motion to simply make the Morse testing requirement go away. "There isn't an exception in the Administrative Procedures Act that I am aware of that would permit the Commission to issue an administrative fiat changing the license structure or exam-requirement rules," said an FCC staffer who's closely involved with Amateur Service rules. Other countries can do this because they have different laws and procedures, the FCC staff member observed, adding that even if it could be done here, "that still leaves unanswered the fundamental question: What do you want the new rules to be?"

In its December 1999 Report and Order restructuring Amateur Radio licensing, the FCC stopped short of revising the rules to sunset the Morse requirement automatically if WRC-03 deleted Morse proficiency from the international Radio Regulations. The FCC also acknowledged "a clear dichotomy of viewpoints" on the Morse code issue within the amateur community. The ARRL's policy for several years has been that Morse should be retained as a testing element in the US. At its July 18-19 meeting in Connecticut, however, the Board said it would solicit and review input from members on the Morse testing requirement and other possible revisions to Part 97 arising from WRC-03. The first move on the Morse code question in the US is for someone to file a Petition for Rule Making with the FCC seeking a rule change. No Code International (NCI) has spearheaded the battle to eliminate the Morse requirement and would be a likely organization to file such a petition. NCI Executive Director Carl Stevenson, WK3C, said late last week that NCI was still studying

the matter and had not yet made a final decision on a plan of action. An ARRL member, Stevenson says he hopes personally that the League would join NCI in actively encouraging the FCC to eliminate the Morse exam element as soon as possible. Hopes for a quick resolution to the Morse question could be wishful thinking, however. Once a petition to drop the Morse exam element is filed, the FCC will put it on "public notice" by assigning an RM number and soliciting comments. If more than one such petition is filed, the FCC is obliged to invite comments on each. When that process is completed, the FCC may determine that a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) is in order. The Commission at that point could incorporate all Morse-related rule making petitions into a single proceeding. The NPRM would get a docket number, and the comment process would begin anew. Further complicating and extending the process, the FCC most likely would incorporate other pending Amateur Radio-related issues into the same NPRM. At the end of the comment and reply comment periods, the FCC would issue a Report and Order (R&O) that includes its decision on the Morse code requirement and any other issues incorporated into the proceeding. The whole process could take a couple of years, perhaps longer. Ratification of the WRC-03 Final Acts by the US Senate does not appear to be necessary before the FCC can act or begin the rule making process. Following World Administrative Conference 1979 (WARC-79) which resulted in three new HF amateur bands, the FCC acted in 1982, prior to Senate ratification of the conference's Final Acts, not only to initiate the rule making process but to give amateurs limited access to 30 meters. Radio Amateurs of Canada has advised hams in that country that the Morse qualification requirement remains in effect for operation below 30 MHz, "pending a review by Industry Canada of the impact of the WRC-2003 regulatory changes on the Canadian radio regulations, policies and procedures."



# Griffin Electronics

## Griffin Electronics is now selling RF parts!

*I will try to keep on hand:*

**PL-259 and reducers for RG8X  
BNC to uhf adaptors  
N type to uhf adaptors  
panel mount SO-239  
bulkhead uhf  
uhf couplers**

**Will soon have at least RG8X coax, possibly others.  
Can take orders as well.**

**Also, lots of transistors, capacitors, resistors.**

*Let me know what else you would like for me to keep around. All parts cheaper than Rat Shack. Most of these parts I will try and keep with me in my truck so I can sell when I see you.*

**Griffin Electronics: 13161 S. Memorial**

**(in the Computer Homecare Store)**

**Bixby, Ok. 74008**

**Phone: 232-8487 or 369-1417**



# Get Off Your High Horse

By Christian Slater-Kellogg, KG4QBN

I read an article this morning on eHam.net that was posted by Randy Frum, AC4FD, (Article # 4311) that I thought contained a very good idea about using public service announcements on broadcast radio and TV to promote Ham Radio.

Then I started reading the comments that were posted in reply. Talk about disturbing...

Though I should have known better, I never thought hams would be so judgmental and snooty. I got my Tech in November 2001. Between my best friend and the things I heard ham radio operators did on 9/11, I decided I wanted to do the same. Now my best friend had been nagging me about it for more than a year but I wasn't really interested until after 9/11. So basically, I was drawn by media coverage and disaster. That was the only thing available that showed me what ham radio really was, a way to help others selflessly. I believe it would better if we could do the same thing, using the same media, with less catastrophe. I didn't know we also helped with the Special Olympics, which really made me appreciate being a human being, watching those kids overcome enormous obstacles (literally and figuratively) to accomplish what they have. I was happy to have played however small a part in that.

I digress however.

While reading the comments on Randy's article, I noticed a

disturbing undercurrent of hostility towards non-hams. One person actually had the gall to say most people aren't smart enough to be hams. If you believe that, ask yourself one question: How much did I know about radio and electronics when I FIRST started? Personally I have the benefit of extensive Navy electronics training and 9 years military experience (and nothing breaks more than military equipment). However, my specialty is sonar, not radio. Similar, but a lot of differences that I have had to learn. I didn't know diddly about antennas 1 1/2 years ago (and only slightly more now, they are complicated). Sonar's antenna is a large speaker and microphone, not a tall pointy thingy. When somebody asks me what the freq limits of HF are, my first answer is still 500 to 3000 Hz, oops, no wait a minute...

Where in Part 97 of the FCC Rules does it state we have to be members of the Mensa Society? Or the ARRL Handbook?

The bottom line is that we need more hams. Model railroaders don't have worry about the Federal Commission of Modeling taking away their track scales. No single community has done more, in my opinion, for the furthering of practical science than Amateur Radio Operators. Remember, Marconi considered himself one of us, not a professional. I read an article in QST yesterday that said the only reason the military went to SSB when it did was because an Air Force general, who happened to be ham, knew how much better it worked for ham radio than AM.

I have noticed also since I became a ham, a distressing dislike for 11M/CB. Just because we took an EASY test and paid ten dollars, we are better than they are? I thought that test was to prove to the FCC that we know enough not to unintentionally damage something or interfere with others.

I have a CB radio installed on the other side of the steering wheel from my ICOM rig. When traveling that radio is indispensable. In December I made a road trip to Missouri for the holidays. The whole 2 day drive

**Visit the Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society on the Web At**  
**[www.qsl.net/kd5sdj](http://www.qsl.net/kd5sdj)**  
**Check out the links, projects, newsletters, severe wx, photos, for sale page and much more.**

## The Dog Days of Summer Continued

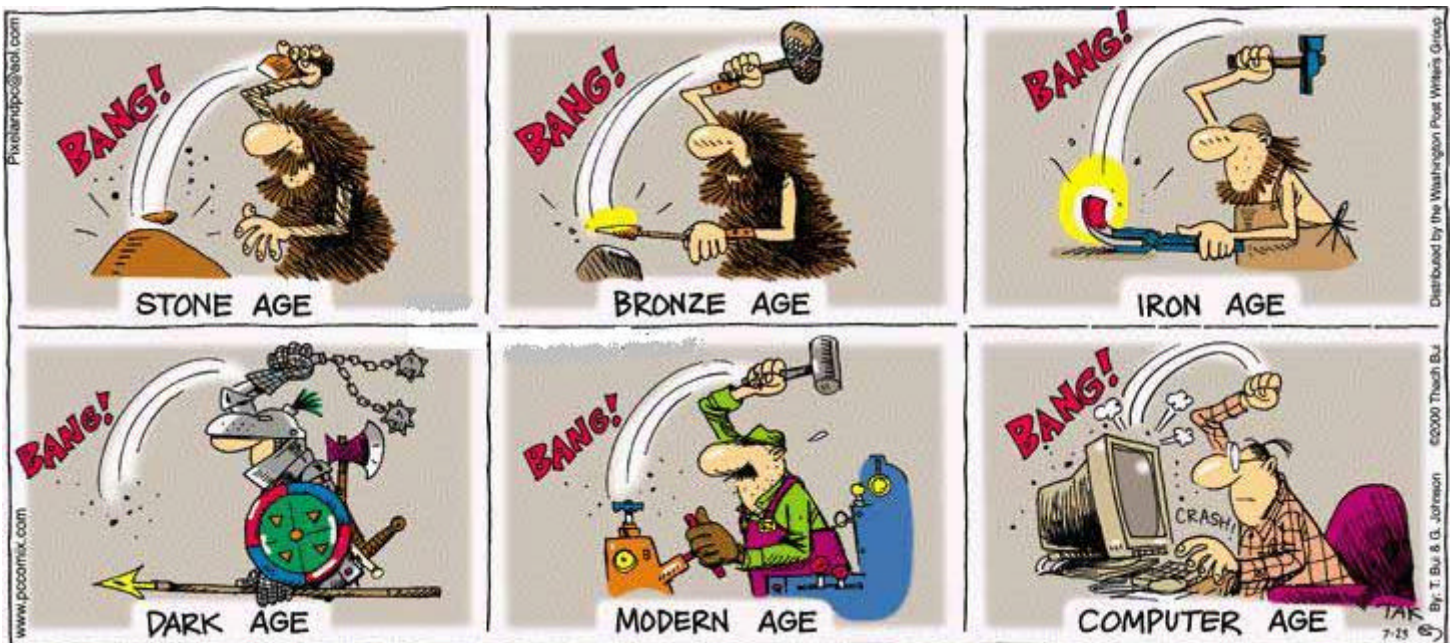
tive days. When issuing a heat alert or advisory, EMSA or NWS will provide local media outlets with health and safety information relating to hot weather, and the Tulsa Area Emergency Management Authority (TAEMA) will notify area public safety agencies of the increased danger. Basic heat exertion prevention tells us to drink plenty of water, at least 8 glasses a day or if you drink bottled water, drink 8 of the small 8-10 ounce bottles a day. Remember that our bodies sweat and this is how we cool off, if we run out of water and stop sweating, we have a problem in the extreme heat real fast. Living in a mostly rural county we must remember to call our friends to check on them and encourage them to call all their friends to check on them. This seemingly minor use of your time could prevent a loss of a loved one for someone close

to us! **Preventing Heat-Related Illnesses** High temperatures and humidity can cause life-threatening conditions for persons of all ages and levels of health. The Tulsa Heat Coalition recommends individuals take the following precautions to prevent heat-related illnesses: **Reduce outdoor activity.** Avoid exercise during the heat of the day. Stay well-hydrated by drinking plenty of water (limit caffeinated beverages and alcohol which can contribute to dehydration). Eat smaller, more frequent meals instead of three big meals each day. Wear lightweight, light-colored clothing. We need to also ask individuals to check on friends and neighbors who may be more susceptible to the heat, such as senior citizens and persons with existing medical conditions. Persons with poorly ventilated or un-air conditioned homes are urged to seek relief from the heat (especially during the warm afternoon hours) at libraries, shopping malls, community

centers or churches. Seniors, low-income families and persons with serious illnesses may need special consideration and need to be checked on often. **Danger Signs & Symptoms of overexposure to heat include:** Painful muscle cramps, Clammy or flushed skin, Heavy perspiration, Headache, Nausea or vomiting, Faintness and Fatigue. Persons exhibiting the symptoms listed above should move to a cool place, drink small amounts of cool water and contact their doctor or call 911 for emergency help. **Symptoms of heat stroke**, the most serious heat-related illness, include skin that's red or hot to the touch, increased heart rate and body temperature, rapid or shallow breathing and unconsciousness. If you experience these symptoms or notice them in someone else, call 911 immediately.

**Please remember your friends and neighbors, remind them to check their pets and stay cool!**

**W5TAZ**



# Get Off Your High Horse

Continued By Christian Slater-Kellogg, KG4QBN

I had the amateur radio tuned to 146.520. I had one QSO. Even were I using the repeaters along the way, in most cases I have to be within 20 miles of the repeater. I don't carry a cell phone and there is a hundred mile stretch between Corydon, IA and Evansville, IA with no repeater coverage. If I had a problem or stopped to help another motorist, the Ham radio was useless.

On the CB it was a different story. I was talking to the truckers most of the trip. They are mostly nice people, and yeah the vocabulary can get...ah... colorful to say the least. I knew where all the speed traps were. I

did stop to help one motorist in Illinois. She had a two flat tires, one on the car and one in the trunk. I got on Channel 9, and no Smokey's were in range, so back to Channel 19. A trucker answered my call and relayed a request for a tow truck into the nearest town, 30 miles away. Within 10 minutes I was called back by a trucker going the other way telling me a tow truck was on the way. The interesting thing was I knew about this poor lady 10 miles before I reached her from the truckers going the other way. Also just as the tow truck was about to leave with the car back to town, a state trooper pulled up. He

had been 70 miles away when he got the relayed message, from CB users, that there was a stranded motorist. I saved the lady some time and worry because I used my CB to get her some help.

What this all boils down to is this: we can't afford not to widely promote Amateur Radio. We also should not condemn others because they are not hams, because we were in the same place once upon a time. Let everyone decide for themselves what is suited to them and give them the encouragement and camaraderie Hams are supposed to be known for.

## I.T.A.R.S. Ham Calendar

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<b>American Airlines</b> Net 9PM 147.000	<b>Gater Trader Swap</b> M & F 3.898 MHz @ 6:00 PM <b>1st Mon</b> BAARC Meet 7PM <b>2nd Monday</b> Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society meet 7:00 pm <b>Broken Arrow</b> ARC Net 8:00PM 146.910  <b>SWOT 2 M SSB</b> Net 9 PM 144.250  <b>OKDXA Net</b> 6:30 PM 3.860	<b>Tulsa ARES/ RACES</b> Net 9PM 146.880  <b>3rd Tue Tulsa Amateur Radio Club</b> 3rd Tuesday of the month @ 7:00 PM  <b>4th Tue</b> TRO Meet 7:30PM	<b>Bartlesville ARES</b> Net 8PM 146.760 <b>Pawhuska ARES</b> Net 9PM 146.985 <b>ATV Net</b> 8PM 147.045/421.250/9 13 <b>6 Meter FM</b> Sim- plex net 9 PM 50.590 <b>TESTING</b> Third Wednesday in odd numbered months 7:00 PM Tulsa, Contact Merlin Griffin WB5OSM @ 622- 2277	<b>TARC Thursday night net</b> 8:00 pm 145.110, and the UHF link system  <b>10 meter SSB Net</b> 9 PM, 28.305 If busy net will move up 5 KC to clear freq	<b>Gater Trader Swap</b> M & F 3.898 MHz @ 6:00 PM  <b>TARC TTT Net</b> 9 PM 145.110  <b>K5LRS Swap/Sell</b> 8 PM 146.940	<b>TARC</b> YL Net 8PM 145.110 <b>2nd Sat</b> <b>Salv Ar HF Net</b> 8AM 3.900 <b>Last Sat</b> <b>American Airlines</b> Meet 9AM <b>TESTING</b> <b>First Saturday 9:30</b> <b>AM Broken Arrow</b> Contact Jack Eg- bert N5EOO @ 918.664.1574 <b>TESTING</b> <b>Last Saturday</b> <b>10:30 AM Catoosa,</b> Contact Don Feigel, N5JK @ 455-6208



**INDIAN TERRITORY  
AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER**



**Indian Territory  
Amateur Radio  
Society**  
P.O. Box 548  
Beggs, Ok. 74421  
[www.qsl.net/kd5sdj](http://www.qsl.net/kd5sdj)

*Smoke Signals is the Official  
Newsletter of the  
Indian Territory Amateur Radio Society*

Visit the ARRL  
at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)



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 it's 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.

**Indian Territory  
Amateur Radio  
Society  
Club Officers**

**President:**

Bill Griffin, NI5X

**Vice President:**

Tom Moore KD5BOW

**Secretary:**

Carol Moore, KD5ESM

**Treasurer:**

Joel Meeks, KC5UGY

***The ITARS club  
meeting will be  
held  
at the  
Steak and Egg  
restraint in  
Okmulgee the  
second Monday  
of the month at  
7:00 pm.  
August 11th***

**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.**