

# Smoke Signals

ITARS, KD5SDJ

October, 2003



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## Presidential QRM

September has been a busy month for me, so busy that I even forgot the simplex net last week. Fortunately, the club has had better luck.

The City of Beggs has agreed to let us put our repeater at their water tower. Thanks to the good work of Joel, KC5UGY, the mayor and city council approved overwhelmingly our proposal to locate our antenna on the water tower and the re-

peater itself will be in a container at the base of the tower.

The repeater is in my shed at the moment that I write this, back on air after being off for awhile. The controller has been giving me some trouble, hopefully though it is fixed now. I hope to have all the kinks worked out by the time the City of Beggs is ready for us.

The antenna is only 30 feet in the air but I encourage every-



one to try it out from different locations. Hope to hear everyone on 147.225 MHz.

Hope to also hear everyone on the simplex net on 146.550 MHz Thursday at 8:00 pm. I will try and be there too this time.

73 all, Bill, NI5X.

## From the Editor

You know, I have a sister in law who called the television station to complain on a commercial she had seen on TV.

Have you seen the one that advertises the sub sandwich? It has two guys sitting and eating, one with a regular sub, the other with a toasted sub. At one point one guy asks the other, "What,

were you raised by Wolves?"

Reflecting deeply for a moment, one guy envisions of his childhood where he was nursing on a momma wolf. For some reason this upset my sister in law to no end! She called the TV Station, lodged a complaint, and then proceeded to call everyone in the family to

complain about it.

Why do I think this is relevant? I don't, I just thought it was interesting. Stephen Wright once said, If at first you don't succeed, destroy all evidence that you tried, and he also said, A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking. I'll be darned, I think that's where I am right now!

Dave Lugo W5TAZ

# Progress on the 147.225 ITARS Repeater

As our little club forges forward, we are making progress on the repeater project.

As you know, Jim Benson, NS5U bought and donated a repeater to us some months ago. The repeater is a Motorola and has a output power of 110 watts.

Along the way we have acquired the cans, or band pass filters, whenever we could find and afford them.

Once we had enough stuff we applied for the frequency pair and was given the rights to the 147.225—147.825 pair. Bill, NI5X ordered the rocks and installed them and tested it. Merlin, WB5OSM was gracious enough to help tune the thing up and we were ready to go on the air.

Initial tests were promising! We had some great check ins from folks that were quite a distance away. One fella from Sand Springs, Tom, KD5BOW and another ham from Drumright!

Now I know your thinking, that's not that big of a deal. But you have to realize, we were only up in the air 10 feet! Plus we were only running 10-15 watts out from the Beggs area!

After a couple of weeks running it like this, we realized it needed to be up in the air more to be used any at all. With the help of Joel KC5UGY and his son, who is part monkey I might add, Randy Trail, Bill, NI5X and Tom, KD5BOW we put 2 antennas up, J-Poles.

This made the repeater more useable for us but we still didn't have much range. It did however secure our frequencies and we received our certificate from ORSI.

With limited use, mostly by me as someone would pass by or in the evenings rag chewing with my neighbors, we left it on air 24—7 and gave it a good testing period.

During this time we tried different antenna combinations and configurations. We finally settled in with a Super-J built by Tom, KD5BOW. It worked pretty well and gave coverage to the north of Okmulgee County and south to Okmulgee City.

At this time the repeater has been taken down for preparations to move it to the permanent site. Bill, NI5X has it and is going to open the cans and polish them for optimal performance.

We are hoping that sometime within the month we will be able to get it up at the new site in Beggs.

At last months meeting we talked about what other hardware we would need to mount it with.

Joel, KC5UGY went to see the Mayor of Beggs, Bill Wilburn and had a long talk with him. They sat down and Joel discussed the prospect of us placing the repeater on their water tower in the city limits of Beggs.

This water tower is an old one and sits just to the west of the downtown district. It looks like the old water towers you see next to the old railway stations. It is on a hill and sits about 100-125 feet above the town. The tower is visible from a far distance away from any direction.

Tom, KD5BOW took a reading at ground level and it shows to be 944 feet above sea level. Add the 100–125 feet above that and this puts us in a descent location for a fair repeater.

We still have plenty of work to do, but I'm sure we will get it done! I have been told that some folks in Okmulgee County didn't think we would get it up, I'm glad to surprise them. Everyone is welcome to use the repeater and in the future maybe we can change the controller and bring a phone patch back to our area.

We are still having trouble setting the duplexers to the proper place as none of us have any experience with them at all. We have reached out to some folks and asked for some help and they have agreed to set them for us.

About all we have left to do is get the feedline and we are working on that at this time. We will keep you advised of our progress as we go and I'm sure we will have it on the air soon.

**DE W5TAZ**

# *We are at the crossroads of the great highways*

By Bonnie Crystal, KQ6XA

## **Future and History**

The time has come for the Amateur Radio Service in USA to graduate into the 21st century. Many countries have recently graduated, boldly taking the road into the future. Will USA meet the challenge at this junction?

The future is vibrant with rapid advancements in communications systems that were beyond realization for mid-20th century hams.

Steeped in the tradition of 19th-century-born pioneers, morse telegraphy once stood proudly etched in the stone of international law as a rite of passage.

Tradition and Equality In America, as great as our system of government is, we still have found the need for change. Our laws and society have grown more civilized as they evolve into a more just equality for all people; away from domination of the minority by the majority.

We once legally discriminated against anyone who was different, we disenfranchised anyone who was not part of the status quo, and we marginalized minorities. In my lifetime, I have watched those barriers come crashing down. Now we are reaping the benefits of advancement, spurred on by some of the best and brightest among those that were once outcasts.

**Lost: 30% Of All Highly Qualified Operators:** As a musically talented youngster at the age of 8, morse code was easy and fun for me. Since then, I have helped 50 others to develop their own talent for morse.

Some of them mastered it easily... but 15 intelligent, motivated people of those 50 did not have the talent for morse. The untalented included a Physicist, a Broadcast Engineer, an RF Design Engineer, a Founder of a high-tech instrumentation company, a high school science Teacher, an emergency radio Dispatcher, a Patent Attorney, and other individuals of high caliber.

These people are not wimps when it

comes to acquiring new knowledge. Most of them could pass the Extra written exam; all were intelligent and hard working. But they simply were not musically or audibly talented in beep deciphering.

They knew exactly why they wanted to operate HF. After all, HF communications is a driving force at the core of Ham Radio. But Ham Radio turned them away. They are gone, we lost them.

Is 30% important? Statistically speaking, 30% is a minority. Are we to continue to disenfranchise this untalented minority, especially when it includes some of the best and brightest?

For many years, I have watched us lose too many of those highly qualified radio operators and radio experimenters as a result of the morse testing requirement barring them from HF.

We legally discriminated against them for not having the talents of the status quo. Who knows, maybe we lost the person who would have invented a technology for amateur HF voice in a 500 Hz bandwidth!

## **Clinging to the Past?**

Although my code speed has diminished slightly over the years from a once contest-honed 45WPM, I still love operating CW with a straight key, a bug, or a keyer... QRP and QRO. Perhaps, after our older beep-beeping generations are gone, there will be fewer ops out there making the music of CW on the air.

Does that make me sad? No. Time marches on, we accept change and embrace it. There was a day when the talent for sending morse was truly needed in radio. That day ended many years ago. Now it is time to let CW stand on its own as a noble mode.

## **Test Knowledge Not Talent**

Sending and receiving morse is the only talent test that has ever been



required for hams. If we are to continue to fall into the trap of testing for talent, why not test the operator's talent with keyboarding at 40WPM? Or perhaps the talent of rapidly tuning a mobile antenna for low SWR? These talents are much more appropriate to today's amateur radio and emergency services needs. Amateur radio examinations should focus upon testing the applicant's knowledge about amateur radio.

## **Tough Written Test as a Filter?**

Some say that after the morse test is abolished soon, we should establish some other sort of magically difficult test to filter out undesirables from the amateur radio service...

There is no legitimate test anyone has ever conceived that will filter out undesirable people. Only the inertia of good operators continuing to provide peer support, and beaming as shining examples in the amateur community, can have that effect.

## **Morse is Hi story**

Morse is a wonderful part of radio's history. Let us honor it, with the respect it deserves, and no longer use it as a tool for oppression.

Now it's time to push onward together and take the superhighway into the future.

**Bonnie KQ6XA**

Straight and to the point! DE W5TAZ

# Heavy Rain Falls in Okmulgee County

The last weekend and the first week of September was a wet one for Okmulgee County residents. Heavy rain from a tropical depression and a cold front which became slow moving to stationary over the region made for dangerous conditions.

Spared from the brunt of the rainfall, most of Okmulgee received a good soaking rain with only minor flooding in the area. The Northeast corner of the county was not so lucky.

Mounds and Kiefer was experiencing minor flooding with the most severe going to Kiefer. Road ways were blocked off, Creek County Emergency Management was called out to help evacuate some areas of towns.

The Director of Creek County Emergency Management said it was a minor inconvenience to some east homes but the watershed worked pretty well handling the 12+ in of rain that fell in our basin.

I contacted Chief Jim Wall of Sapulpa and asked about their situation. Jim said "I'm not aware of the extent of the flooding that occurred in and around Kiefer.

As far as the City of Sapulpa, we escaped the serious flooding that usually occurs with this kind of rainfall.

It is our conclusion that because the watershed west of the Sapulpa area did not receive the heavy rainfall, Polecat and Rock

Creeks were able to stay within their banks.

We did experience some minor street flooding. According to the rainfall amounts that I have seen, if that band would have been a few miles to the west, we would have had a major flood event.

Our gauge at the station measured 6 1/4 inches. We were extremely lucky this time... "

Jim Wall

Co-Director, Sapulpa Emergency Management .

It could have been worse! The ground was very dry as we were about 5 inches short of normal with the rain fall, had the ground not have been quite so thirsty..... **Dave Lugo, W5TAZ**



A w e s o m e  
photo of hur-  
ricane Isabel  
as seen for-  
ward if the  
bow of a sea  
b o u n d  
freighter at  
sea

# The Hurricane Watch Net

Amateur Radio Serving the National Hurricane Center Since 1965

Although not realized by all, the Amateur Radio Services, in many ways, serve the same master that Emergency Management serves.

This past month as I searched information on Hurricane Isabel, I found a couple of web sites that may be of interest to you. Both of these web sites are very informative and a lot of useful information which can be found on them.

<http://www.hwn.org/>

On this one you can find everything from current conditions to weather statements and hurricane data. Doppler radar sites from around the USA can be viewed here also.

Find out how the Amateur Radio Operators play a vital role in the reporting of conditions in the stricken areas.

Being involved In Emergency Management, most of us enjoy watching the weather. I have even heard a few folks in our ranks wish for "The Big One" to hit our area. Although I don't quite agree with their desires, maybe these web sites will help them satisfy their wants and needs.

**Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center**

<http://www.fiu.edu/orgs/w4ehw/>

Very good web page! On this page there is all kinds of articles, past and present for you to read.

As with the other page you can hyper-link to current data from around the country that is very useful to the avid storm chaser.

One thing I found on this web page was an emergency antenna which can be built out of twin lead TV antenna wire. If this is built to the resonant frequency, it can be transmitted on. Weather you plan on transmitting or not, it will make a great little emergency scanner antenna which will not take up much storage space.

Luckily Isabel weakened before she made landfall, however she did do major damage in North Carolina and Virginia. Although there was some loss of life, clean up time will be significant for the affected region.

I did hear one story that had a profound impact on me!

At the Arlington National Cemetery came a story of the sentries posted at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. For the first time in history they were told to "Stand Down" due to the approaching dangers from Isabel. The sentry was Quoted as saying "that order went in one ear and straight out the other"! They stood their ground and stayed at their post despite the dangerous storm. Men of Honor! I love it!

**Dave Lugo W5TAZ**



# Time to Disagree

Michael Meltzer (K2SDD)

There are plenty of things with which I strongly disagree that new hams are taught and even tested on when they take the radio exams. I cannot say that I am smarter than those who came up with the following rules but after 47 years in ham radio I have noticed what does and does not work. Here are some examples:

1. I continue to hear people attempting to contact friends over repeaters by using the tried but not-so-true method known as the "One-By-One." This consists of you giving your friend's call once followed by your call once. For example, "KS8NDY from K2SDD." But then only two seconds later they will probably say, "Nothin' heard. K2SDD clear of the repeater, CLICK!" What is wrong with this picture? Do you really think the average person is sitting next to the radio waiting for your call and thinking, "Oh, perhaps Wendell will call me this week. I'd better sit here with my ear pressed up against the loudspeaker just in case, because my life is so lonely and empty that I have nothing else to do but to wait for his call. Sigh!" Silly, isn't it? Real people are occupied, and usually it is with something that makes noise such as running water, or the vacuum cleaner, the TV, or if driving a car, road noises and the broadcast radio. Your puny little one-by-one call has to compete for your friend's attention with so many

distractions that most of the time it will pass by without being noticed.

Then why do so many people use the very unsuccessful one-by-one method when seeking a friend on a repeater? The answer is simple. The ARRL, in their great wisdom, has convinced the FCC to require that it be taught to beginning hams that way, and that it shall then appear as such on the radio exam. Their (poor) logic is that repeaters offer audio signals that are so sharp and clear that a call will always be correctly heard the first time. This sounds just lovely, but in practice it does not work.

Well then what does get your friend's attention? I have had excellent results using the "K2SDD CALLING METHOD" and so will you. Here it is. First, key up the repeater; it may (or may not) identify (ID) and if it does that will help you to alert your friend that someone is on the repeater and about to make a call. You should, however, be aware that many radios have a "Battery-Saver" function that puts that radio into a sleep state during times of no activity. Therefore your friend's radio may require a second or two of signal before it awakens and that means that you must delay speaking until at least a second or two after you have pressed your transmit button. In addition, your own radio may also be in a sleep state, so when you attempt to "kerchunk" the repeater you may have to key your microphone for at least a second because a quick pulse on the button may not be sufficient to awaken your own radio's transmitter.

Okay, now the second step: Slowly and clearly say your friends call three times and your call one time. This is called a "Three-by-One." He/she is much more likely to hear this than a little one-by-one, and yet very

often this will still be only enough to get his/her attention and make them wonder, "Did I just hear someone calling me?" But by now you will have stopped calling so this is what you do.

Step three: Wait about 15 to 20 seconds which should give your friend enough time to turn down the TV volume, or to walk closer to the radio or, if holding a handheld radio, to lift it closer to his/her ear. Now you will give another call, but this time a one-by-one should be sufficient.

And finally (step four), if there is no answer, wait at least a minute before you give up and turn off your radio. That is, unless your friend is an Olympic track star and enjoys jumping over tables and chairs in an attempt to reach the radio before your self-imposed deadline expires. If after using the "K2SDD CALLING METHOD" you still receive no response you can be quite certain that either your friend is not around in Radio Land, or that he did hear you but was too busy to respond, in which case he may call you back later in the day.

I am not so stubborn that I would let my students fail the Ham Radio Exam just to prove a point so during radio classes that I have taught I always tell my students that the answer to the FCC's related question is "One-by-One," but in actual practice hams should use the "Three-by-One method" because that is the one that works.

2. Although I like most of the recommended words that are used in the phonetic alphabet (i.e. Alpha, Bravo, Charlie, Delta) there are a few that are very mushy sounding and difficult to understand. When heavy QRM makes it difficult to copy, Echo, Golf, and Mike will not cut it. I would like to see them replaced with England, Germany, and Mexico as these words contain much crisper sounding syllables. I also feel that the phonetic alphabet would be further improved if Kilo became Kilowatt,

**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, pho-  
tos, for sale page and much  
more.**



# Time to Disagree

Continued

Tango became Tokyo (pronounced as Toke-E-Oh), and Victor to Victoria. Sierra also needs to be changed because too many ignorant people think it is spelled with a "C". Santiago has worked well for me. 3. New hams are taught that it is wrong to use CW (code) expressions on phone. For example they are told

that they should not say QRM but should say "interference" instead. Don't say, "Thanks for the QSO." Say, "Thanks for the contact." For over 50 years we hams have had our own lingo, a lingo that made us feel special. And then one day some old men took it upon themselves to rid us of this because, I suppose, they wanted to make it easier for unlicensed, short wave listeners who monitor us on scanners to

understand us. How many SWL's do you think do not already know the meaning of QSL or 73? All right, so these are the opinions of just one person (me) out of two million hams worldwide. Perhaps you do not agree with me in which case please offer to me your side of the argument or for the next decade I may continue to do it my way.

73 de Mike, K2SDD

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
American Airlines Net 9PM 147.000	Gater Trader Swap 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 ARC</b> 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	Tulsa ARES/ <b>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	Bartlesville ARES 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 Sim-</b> 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	Gater Trader Swap 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**

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



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

**Indian Territory  
Amateur Radio  
Society  
Club Officers**

**The ITARS club  
meeting will be  
held  
at the  
Sunshine Café  
in Mounds the  
second Monday  
of the month at  
7:00 pm.  
October 13th**

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.

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Bill Griffin, NI5X

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**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.**