

SPURIOUS EMISSIONS

Hermiston Amateur Radio Club KC7KUG

P.O. BOX 962, Hermiston, OR 97838

Web page: www.kc7kug.org Club E-Mail: kc7kug@kc7kug.org

October 2002

October Meeting:

The October meeting will be at the HFD station #3 at 1930 hrs local, Oct 14th. This meeting is important and all members are encouraged to attend. At this meeting the nominations for 2003 officers will be presented for the election at the November meeting. Be there and make your nomination!

Joe will be presenting a proposal for the by-laws as the by-laws committee was dissolved due to the lack of participation in a timely manner. If you have any recommendations for the by-laws send them to Joe at the club e-mail address.

This month Whitley will present a video program after the business meeting. The short program this month will prove to be very interesting and helpful to those operators and their families whether at home or at a remote site working on equipment or camping.

September Potluck:

Well.....you should have been there. The food was delicious, the weather was good, there was plenty of room at the park and those attending had a good time. There was good conversation, sharing of technical subjects and other hobbies and a visitor that caught everyone's attention.

There was no official headcount taken but I believe there were about 12 or 13 people present and one visitor. After much conversation and interesting discussion the visitor was the first to leave while others bid him a distant farewell.

A big thanks to Mike, AB7OC, for the pictures taken at this year's potluck.



West McNary Park was the location for the club picnic.

As you can see from the picture above plenty of sunshine and for those not wishing to sit in the sun....there was shade available also. There was plenty of interesting discussion will everyone taking part.



Lots of talk and a few flying arms. "He's over there"!!!!

Who is over there?? Well I believe our visitor is about to arrive. At the request of other users of the park we were asked to see if we could help them out.

Matt and Joe soon escorted the guest to our picnic area for some brief chitchat with our members and their families. Our friend had



It was small but could have taken a big bite. OUCH!!

been sleeping in the sun when another park user almost stepped on it. What a surprise. I think Matt and Joe can tell you the little fellow wasn't happy about being awakened. Too young to have a noisy rattle but coiling and striking at anything close by, he was able to leave plenty of venom in a celery stick. Finally he was given a short ride back to the desert where he belonged.

Club net:

The Hermiston ARC weekly club nets are on Monday evenings at 1930 hrs local, except meeting night, and are open to members and non-members. This is a good time for discussion and ideas about items of interest and club projects.

Weekly nets are on the 147.020+ and 147.160+ repeaters, which are linked for this net. Presently the 449.325 is not linked for net due to some technical problems but remains open for use by everyone as a stand-alone repeater.

HARC Breakfast:

The regular monthly club breakfast will resume this month at the Hermiston Eagles lodge. Breakfast will begin at 0800 hrs local and members, non-members and member families are welcome. There is plenty of room and lots of good food.

Spokane Hamfest:

Wondering what to do with all those ol' boat anchors? Wanting to hone your emergency preparedness skills? Curious about that new EchoLink that reaches around the world on two meters? Then the **SPOKANE HAMFEST 2002** ARRL Eastern Washington Section Convention on October 12 is the event for you.

Brennan Price, N4QX, ARRL Headquarters Editorial Dept. & Product Review, Editor of Repeater Directory: CC&R's Bill Hr 4720 ~ Marshall Johnson, KK7CW ~ Dan Hearn, N5AR: Recent Research on Quad Antennas ~ Rod Ekholm, KC7AAD: EchoLink ~ Jack Tiley, N7RWJ, Agilent Technologies: Cellular Phone Systems & Technologies ~ Scott Harvey, KA7FV V: Packet/Satellite ~ Jim Reeves, WA7RVV & Ron Reeves, N7QXO: Automatic Position Reporting System ~ Robin Fox, Sr. Forecaster, National Weather Service ~ ARRL & ARES/RACES Forums

Three grand raffle prizes Yaesu FT-100D, Kenwood TH-F6A, ICOM IC-V8000, main door prize Yaesu FT 1500M plus countless other prizes ~ Silent auction ~ "Country Store" ~ "Test Gear" table ~ Fox hunt ~ License exam ~ Free testing of all HT's courtesy Agilent Technologies ~ DXCC card checking ~ Bingo

Friday, October 11: vendor setup, 6PM-9PM
 Saturday, October 12: 7AM doors open to vendors, volunteers
 9AM-5PM doors open to public, license exam 3PM, Silent Auction 4PM
 6:30PM Buffet dinner, Old Country Buffet Restaurant, 12209 E. Sprague Ave., Spokane (NW corner of Sprague & Pines)

SPOKANE HAMFEST 2002 REGISTRATION
 October 12, 2002
 The New University High School
 12420 E 32nd Ave Spokane WA 99206

Name _____ Call _____
 Address _____
 Phone number or E-mail address _____

Please make checks payable & mail to:

Spokane Radio Amateurs
 PO Box 141731
 Spokane WA 99214-1731
 _____ Registrations @ \$5 each \$ _____
 Children under 16 & adults over 95 free
 _____ Commercial table spaces @ \$10 each \$ _____
 _____ Noncommercial table spaces @ 10each \$ _____
 If you need power with your table, check here _____
 Total.....\$ _____

Tables available while they last, & admission not included in price of table. Tables free to clubs. Talk-in frequencies: 147.24 Mhz (+offset), 146.52 MHz
For information contact:

Bill Craze, KC7YSF
509-218-1110
Spokanehamfest @yahoo.com
<http://www.kbara.org>
Lodging & camping: <http://spokane.areaguides.net>

It Seems to Us . . . Radio Smog

By David Sumner, K1ZZ
ARRL Executive Vice President
September 18, 2002

Editor's note: Typically, only ARRL members get to read the "It Seems to Us ..." editorials that run each month in QST. We're posting this editorial by ARRL Executive Vice President David Sumner, K1ZZ, that appears in the October 2002 issue of QST in the hope that both ARRL members and nonmembers might appreciate it and find it informative.

Much in the news in mid-August were reports of a major scientific study of an "Asian brown cloud" of toxic haze hovering over the most densely populated portion of that continent and threatening other parts of the world. The harmful effects of the haze on health and weather appear to be substantial: respiratory disease, drought in some areas and flooding in others, acid rain, and reductions in crop yields to name but a few. On a more encouraging note, scientists also know how to reduce the pollution and its effects: the use of cleaner energy sources and better stoves, and reduced burning to clear fields and forests.

The issue, which is really one of economics, is how to get hundreds of millions of individuals, families, and businesses to make these changes in how they live when the cost is far more immediate and tangible than the benefit. For an impoverished family, cooking its meal

as cheaply as possible is a matter of survival. If cow dung is available as a "free" fuel it's a rational decision for the family to use it--but when multiplied by one hundred million, one family's tiny stove becomes an environmental calamity.

There is an obvious parallel between pollution of the Earth's atmosphere and pollution of the radio spectrum. Like the atmosphere, the radio spectrum is a precious natural resource shared by all. Like pollution, radio waves respect no political boundaries. Like the smog that fouls the air in many cities, electronic smog fouls the radio spectrum as a consequence of human activity--and like toxic haze, radio smog is an economic rather than a technical issue. We know how to control it; the debate is over whether it's worth the price to do so, and who should pay.

We're used to hearing public policy debates about air and water pollution. While people may disagree on costs vs. benefits in some instances, no one can possibly dispute that, for example, the quality of life in London improved dramatically after Parliament curtailed coal-burning in 1956. If someone were to suggest today that Londoners could save money by switching back, they would not be taken seriously--to put it mildly. The same would be true if someone were to suggest that their community could save money by dumping its raw sewage into the river. Such thoughts might have been acceptable 100 years ago, but not today. We've made too much progress, at too great a cost, to go back.

Unfortunately, the same cannot be said of spectrum policy. In some ways we do indeed seem to be going backwards, or having to fight against pressures in that direction.

Many sources of radio smog are unintentional. Switch-mode power supplies are not designed to generate radio interference. Unfortunately, in some cases they are not designed not to. They could be, and if either consumers or governments insist on it they will be.

Line noise is a big problem for many amateurs and other radio users. Power lines are not supposed to emit RF energy, and if they do it's a sign something's wrong. Some power companies care, and know what to do. Others either don't know or don't care (executive

bonuses being more important than overtime pay for linemen, perhaps). The FCC can make them care, and in several recent cases has done exactly that by threatening enforcement action.

Radio smog also results from putting RF where it doesn't belong. RF has this wonderful property: it wants to radiate. And it *will* radiate from any conductor you introduce it to, unless the conductor is either shielded or balanced. So, why would anyone deliberately put RF on a conductor that is neither shielded nor balanced if they didn't want it to radiate? For the same reason that the destitute Asian family uses cow dung to heat its dinner: economics.

What we're talking about here are plans to use power lines to distribute broadband digital signals to homes and offices. The wires are already there, the reasoning goes, so why not use them? Utilizing existing infrastructure in new and creative ways is good for business and good for society. Offering competitive choices to consumers lowers prices and improves service. How can anyone be opposed to that?

Here's how. A broadband signal is RF. Sent down an unshielded or imperfectly balanced line, it will radiate. Putting security concerns aside as someone else's problem, this creates a new and pervasive source of interference to radio reception. In other words, this competitive choice would transfer to all of society a cost--in the form of reduced utility of the radio spectrum--that is not imposed by other, more environmentally friendly ways of providing broadband service. Our poor Asian family may not have any choice but to pollute. We do.

Is it possible to do power line communications without causing interference to over-the-air communications? Count us among the skeptics. What may be a fine transmission line at 60 Hz looks more like an antenna at HF. And that's a matter of physics, not economics.

Writing in the Summer 1994 issue of *EPA Journal* about London's historic "pea-soup" fogs that gave rise to the term "smog" in 1905, David Urbinato said: "At the turn of the century, cries to reduce the smoke faced a tough opponent. Coal was fueling the

industrial revolution. To be against coal burning was to be against progress. 'Progress' won out. Not until the 1950s, when a four-day fog in 1952 killed roughly 4000 Londoners was any real reform passed."

New sources of radio smog are no more acceptable than are new sources of the visible kind. At the turn of the new century our policymakers should--no, must--be able to distinguish real progress from cow dung.

ARES/RACES/UMESRO

If you are interested in emergency communications contact Gary Cooper, N7ZHG, the EC/DEC for Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Gary can be reached on the 146.780- repeater or the 145.490- repeater with a tone of 67. Check out the UMESRO web page. You can find it at <http://ares.csepp.net>

Reminders:

*Check out our web page, use it, leave a comment, idea or ask a question.

*Come to the meetings, check into the club nets. It is important as we have many issues at this time; repeater upgrades, nominations and elections, and committee projects.

*Check your license expiration date.

*Encourage your friends and past members to join the rest of us and support our club and our club projects.

*Wants/Sales let me know and we can list them in the newsletter.

*ARRL membership dues can be paid through the club.

*HARC membership dues can be paid at the meeting, breakfast or sent to the club post office box.

See the following page for form.



HERMISTON AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
PO Box 962
HERMISTON OR 97838



Welcome and thanks for taking an interest in the Hermiston Amateur Radio Club. The HARC is an ARRL affiliated club (since April 1983) and enjoys the many benefits of belonging to such an organization. As a member of the HARC you can join or renew your membership to the ARRL by simply filling out an ARRL application form available from the club secretary. The league will actually pay the club if you are a first time applicant to the ARRL or a renewing member after an absence of two years or more.

The Hermiston Amateur Radio Club sponsors many activities that may interest you. We help set up and participate in several parades in Umatilla and Morrow Counties. Weekly two-meter nets to discuss amateur radio news and related events. Monthly club breakfasts, meetings, field day and our annual Christmas Dinner only to name some of the club events. The club has the support of the community and local officials. There are numerous events and activities sponsored by the HARC, ARRL and local Organizations needing amateur radio operators to support their events. Let's support the local club, community and national organization.

The HARC monthly breakfast is the Sunday before the Second Monday of the month at the Hermiston Eagles lodge meeting at 0800 hrs and serving breakfast at 0830 hrs. The Regular monthly meeting is on the Second Monday of the month at the Hermiston Fire Department at 1930 hrs. The station location for the meeting will be announced in the newsletter and on the club net or call on one of the club repeaters for more information (147.02 +, 147.16 +, 449.325 -).

HARC annual dues: (Circle the appropriate dues being paid)

Regular: \$25.00, Family: \$30.00, Senior: \$20.00, Sr. family: \$22.50, Student: \$5.00, Associate: \$15.00 (non-voting)

Name.....Call Sign.....Class.....
Name.....Call Sign.....Class.....
Phone.....e-mail.....
Address.....
City.....State.....Zip.....
ARRL Member: Yes.....No.....

What are your interests in amateur radio?
.....
..... What kind of
activities would you be interested in?
.....
.....

Applications and dues may be sent to: HARC, P.O.Box 962, Hermiston, OR 97838

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