

July 2010

The HELLGATE STATIC

Monthly newsletter of the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 3811 Missoula MT 59806-3811

Meetings: The Hellgate Amateur Radio Club (HARC) <http://www.w7px.org> meets monthly on the 2nd Monday of every month. Next meeting is July 12 at Missoula Fire Station #4 3011 Latimer Street, just off West Broadway, North of Quality Supply 7:00 pm. Please encourage any and all "hams" to attend.

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

President	WG7P Elmer	wg7p@hughes.net
Vice-President	NZ7S Eric	nz7s@msn.com
Secretary	AE7MH Michael	Ae7mh@arrl.net
Treasurer	N7GE Jerry	n7ge@bresnan.net
Repeater Committee	NZ7S, Eric (Vice-President) NN8A, Byron and N7PAS, Paul (Thru 2010) W7XY, Donnie & KE7WR, Kevin (Thru 2011)	nz7s@msn.com arl3051@wildblue.net fort@montana.com kgoffe1@msn.com
Awards	N7MSU Bob	n7msu@arrl.net
Exams VE	K7VK Vick, K7PX Steve	k7vk@arrl.net
Contacts	N7GE Jerry	
Membership	WG7E Liz	lizm@montana.com
Newsletter Editor	KF7ECS Betsy this month	Rotates Monthly
Webmaster	K7MSO Mike	mleary2001@yahoo.com



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Do you know the threats to our hobby?
JOIN and SUPPORT THE ARRL, our greatest
advocate
for amateur radio.
Become a member. <http://www.arrl.org/>

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MINUTES JUNE 14, 2010 MEETING

MEETING called to order at 7:00 PM by ELMER WG7P

INTRODUCTIONS were made with 21 present

SECRETARIES REPORT—Elmer WG7P

Motion by Paul N7PAS, 2ND Bob K7BA to approve the minutes as per Paul's N7PAS monthly correction (under New Business, July 4th Special Events Station, second sentence, "a TV with a computer connection" was changed to "A computer monitor"), **Motion passed**

TREASURERS REPORT— JERRY N7GE—**Motion Betsy KF7ECS, 2ND Lewis NQ7D** to approve the Treasurer's report as presented—**Motion Passed**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No committee reports

NET OPERATORS—6/16 Mike K7MSO, 6/23 Elmer WG7P, 6/30 Donna KC5WRA, 7/7 Jerri N7JGS,

OLD BUSINESS

STATIC—JULY EDITOR, BETSY KF7ECS, send article, sales, etc to betsyfgleason@msn.com (July Static won't be out until just prior the July 12th meeting) **THANKS VICK K7VK** for the June Static

NAME BADGES—ELMER WG7P stated there is a signup sheet for those who might be interested in a name tag

FIELD DAY 2010—ELMER WG7P-- signup sheet is available for those interested

TRAILER—LEWIS NQ7D—Nothing to report, other than Lewis has not been able to find a convenient and secure location to store the trailer

TOSRV—BOB N7MSU thanked those who assisted with the project and reported everything went smoothly

GLACIER-WATERTON HAMFEST—MARTY N7VGY reported that people had volunteered to take care of the coffee, and that pre-registration would close on June 15th

MISSOULA SYMPHONY'S "CYCLE FOR SYMPHONY"—BILL W4MA reported that the nature of this event did not lend itself well for HARC'S involvement

RIDE-DE-CURE—LEWIS NQ7D reported that Cody KL0RN will be assisting, and he would like to have additional volunteers for the September 11th event

JULY 4TH SPECIAL EVENTS STATION—FORT MISSOULA—BOB N7MSU passed the signup sheet, and stated they would be using a Balloon Antenna that would be functional and attract attention. They would also be using a computer monitor along with the radios that would hopefully generate additional interest. Bob stated he would need approximately \$40 in addition to the \$40 already in the approved budget. **Motion Wilmajean KD7HP, 2ND BOB K7BA** to approve an additional \$40 for the Special Events Station—**motion passed**

MISSOULA MARATHON—LEWIS AC7UZ stated he could use another 10 people to assist with the marathon on July 11th

NEW BUSINESS

No new business

PROGRAM—JUNE PROGRAM—LARRY K7GIS showed the club how he had installed a 2 meter antenna to use with his hand held when he is traveling on his motorcycle. He also showed a ladder line antenna he used when he was camping.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION—MARTY N7VGY had a DVD of the Glacier Waterton HAMFEST showing its history over the past 75+ years. There were many old photos and narrations of many of the events and activities over the years. Many of our club members have been regular attendees. Lewis NQ7D said his first time attending was in the early 1980's, Jackie KC7RBC has been attending the hamfest every year since 1999, Marty N7VGY has been a regular since 1992 and currently is one of the directors of the hamfest. Our member with the longest yearly attendance was Wilmajean KD7HP who started attending the hamfest in 1977.

JULY PROGRAM—Eric NZ7S, Jerry N7GE, and Steve KK7UV will set up communication stations in the parking lot for members to view

ANNOUNCEMENTS –Elmer WG7P indicated that he and Liz would be out of town from July 1-21, thus if there are any problems or questions contact Eric NZ7S or Jerry N7GE.

BUY OR SELL?--nothings

GOOD OF THE ORDER--none

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING—METRIC NUT DRIVERS AND COMPASS—Lewis NQ7D was the big winner

MOTION TO ADJOURN—**Motion Mike K7MSO, 2nd Jerry N7GE**—**Motion passed**

Message Board:

From Frank Kisselbach W7PAQ: "I will be on Melita Island Boy Scout Camp from July 2nd through August 16. I will have my FT897 and a Carolina Windom. I will be teaching the Radio merit badge and would appreciate contacts via SSB or CW or Digital with the Scouts. Most of my operating time will be in the afternoon and evenings. Any help would be appreciated."

Licensing Exams are held prior to the monthly meeting at 5:30pm and monitored by HARC volunteer examiners

FIELD DAYS 2010 A SUCCESS

Field Days 2010 started at 7:00 AM on Saturday, June 26th at Paradise Falls with several members partaking in a little breakfast. Plans were being made for expediting the setup, strategies discussed for making contacts, and in general how to have a lot of fun at Field Days.

Setup started at 9:00 AM, with Lewis NQ7D, Donnie W7XY, Jerry N7GE, Eric NZ7S and son Wyatt, Tom K0SN, Larry K7GIS, Bruce WB7OTC, and Elmer WG7P by putting up the club's beam and dipole and organizing the Chapel for radio operation. The club antenna trailer certainly makes it easier to set up the beam and dipole. Before long, the antennas were ready and were being attached to the club's radios in preparations for the start of Field Days.

Lewis set up an Education Class on a "circuit simulation program" that is free and was in the February 2010 QST magazine. Lewis had CDs available for those who were interested. Liz had a Public Information Table including the club's brochure, membership board, guest register, and other related information.

Inside the Chapel, Lewis was starting Field Days by operating the HF rig with Betsy Gleason logging in the contacts using our computer, which makes compiling our contacts and submitting our entry to ARRL a lot easier. Others taking their turn at the radio and computer during the afternoon were Bob K7BA, Tom K0SN, BillW4YMA, Liz WG7E, Mike K7MSO, Eric NZ7S, Bruce WB7OTC, Donnie W7XY, Kevin W1KGK, Donna KC5WRA, Elmer WG7P, Paul N7PAS, Jerri N7JGS, and others we might have forgotten. Mike N7WKR, Bill W4YMA, Mike K7MSO, Tom K0SN, and Eric NZ7S were some of the members that kept thing going during the early morning hours.

As 6:00 PM neared, Jerry N7GE fired up the grill and started cooking burgers, brats and dogs for the people that had gathered for dinner. Jerry did a great job behind the grill, and there was plenty of good food enjoyed by all in attendance. There were lots of left-overs that would be enjoyed by those manning the radios throughout the night.

Daisy, the Myers's Golden Retriever even got into the act by doing a little singing along with Wyatt Sedgwick. The two of them played ball throughout the afternoon. Daisy was so happy for Wyatt's attention that she wanted to share her milk bones with her new friend. There was a little reluctance from Wyatt but she thinks he might have given it a little try.

Operations were ended around noon with approximately 410 contacts, which was about 300 more than last year. Bob N7MSU and Tom K0SN had quit a few CW contacts. The operation was dismantled, equipment put away, and another Field Day came to an end. All in all,

Field Days were a success with everyone enjoying themselves, completing our goals of a 24 hour operation, and having a dinner that was enjoyed by those in attendance.

Special Events

July 11 is the Missoula Marathon awarded "Best Overall Marathon" from readers of Runner's World Magazine, January, 2010 issue. HARC is participating, by annual invitation, once again in this event. We keep the runners safe. Contact NQ7D Lewis 549-1450 to volunteer and be an integral part of this nationally acclaimed fabulous upcoming event.

Glacier-Waterton Hamfest

Third weekend in July

- *Glacier Hamfest is just over the horizon. Get your applications to*
 - > *George, AA7GS in Great Falls. Also, verify your campground*
 - > *reservations just to be sure you don't arrive at Hamfest and find*
 - > *your site taken. Contact Connie and remind them you intend to*
 - > *show up. Hopefully, we'll have some nice weather for the week.*
 - >
 - > *This weekend is the ARRL VHF contest. Pack up your VHF and*
 - > *UHF gear, head off to some mountain top for a weekend of*
 - > *scanning the horizon for weak signals from a place far away for*
 - > *some hopefully abnormal propagation. Directional antennas are*
 - > *a big help, lots of gain isn't a requirement though. Even the FM*
 - > *simplex freqs are busy; you'd be surprised what will work. Above*
 - > *all, have fun.*
 - >
 - > *Some interesting articles have been published in QST in*
 - > *reference to using an above ground counterpoise with a vertical*
 - > *antenna installation. Read the information and you might find a*
 - > *unique way to improve your antenna installation and put more*
 - > *signal where you might want it.*
 - >
 - > *Lightning season is here, remember when you leave the shack,*
 - > *disconnect and ground your equipment inputs. Use good*
 - > *grounding techniques and common sense. Montana receives*
 - > *its share of big storms, protect your investment in your gear.*
 - >
 - > *The ARRL offers a great insurance program for your equipment,*
 - > *antennas and rotators. The price is reasonable and coverage*
 - > *is easily available. Take a look.*

>
> *MTN-W7MPK, QNI-1747, QTC-52*
> *IMN-W7GHT, QNI-374, QTC-45*
> *MSN-K7YD, AE7V, QNI-113, QTC-5*
>
> *73 all,*
> *Doug, K7YD*
>
> -----
> *ARRL Montana Section*
> *Section Manager: Douglas R Dunn, K7YD*
> *k7yd@arrl.org*
> -----

For further enlightenment of Ham communication and knowledge

The July 2010 edition of World Radio Online magazine is live and posted free at: <http://www.worldradiomagazine.com/>.

This edition is full of interesting features and columns including:

- * Northern Exposure: Repeater Links across the Yukon
- * HSF: A Newly-Discovered Antenna Secret
- * 10/10/10: Several DX "New Ones" Are a Step Closer
- * Krusty Ol' Kurt Solves A G5RV Mystery
- * Everyone Should Have a "Go Kit," Shouldn't They?

In addition, you'll find regular columns including: QCWA, Propagation, Trail-Friendly Radio, Rules and Regulations, YLs, Hams With Class, Hamfests and Special Events, Contest Calendar, EmComm and You and DX Predictions.

Memories from the Heart – Unknown Silent Key

It is 4am- and after taking a nap when I arrived home this afternoon, I now realize that my entire sleep schedule will be chaotic the entire weekend.

With numerous ham chores to do- one being wiring a mic connector from my audio processor to my FT950 transceiver- and struggling to remember where mic connector screws are- you know- the one you ALWAYS loose- that real small one that is on that connector- I gaze at the box and trays of parts I acquired from our club- clearly from a silent key who donated his possessions to our esteemed organization.

I stepped back and realized- that box that nobody wanted at the club auction- in addition to numerous items which were once a silent key's treasured collection of needed necessities--is sitting on my work bench. Hmmm.

I slowly and methodically opened up each small drawer housing a lifetime of parts that, one day, would surely be needed by the proud owner.

In a strange way I felt like I was invading his privacy. After all- this was a lifetime collection of his treasures that I am certain, one day, he felt there would be a need for.

I felt sad for a moment- that nobody had wanted this individual's treasures- and that it was conceivable- that they could have been lost forever if for the fact that I didn't buy them.

Fuses, strain relief connectors, a multitude of different microphone connectors- adapters of every sort and size for any given need- some parts I have no idea what they would be used for today- but I am sure this individual realized their value.

As I continue to open each drawer- I see history unfolding as I see a Lafayette 9v battery charger and a 5 pin mic connector, crystals and audio isolation transformers that, perhaps today's ham radio operator would not have any idea as to what they were for.

A roll of 914 diodes looks back at me as if to say, I am here if I am needed. Plastic alignment tools ask if it is time to go to work. I do not reply.

Old bulbs wonder if they will ever offer a needed glow to that radio that no longer shines brightly.

Nested amongst the parts I find a DB9 serial connector- and the old and dusty rf chokes next to it somehow ask ... what is this strange part next to me?

I may not ever use what I have had the fortune to acquire from this unknown individual- But in answer to some comments as to why I bought that junk.. take a moment and listen to each drawer of parts tell you their history- and realize that- years ago- this hobby we all relish was SO much more than it is today. The hams of yesteryear- as important it is for you to have a power supply or microphone- it was AS important for them to have these items. Perhaps more important.

To the unknown silent key, your memories and treasures continue to live on.

K7KTR

<http://www.k7ktr.com> Keith T Rogers, Dixon MT

73's to all

Betsy KF7ECS