



# The Static



**Hellgate Amateur Radio Club**

**Missoula, Montana**

**August 2010**

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## **Club Officers and Volunteers:**

President: WG7P, Elmer Meyers,  
[wg7p@hughes.net](mailto:wg7p@hughes.net)

Vice-President: NZ7S, Eric Sedgwick,  
[nz7s@msn.com](mailto:nz7s@msn.com)

Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli,  
[n7ge@bresnan.net](mailto:n7ge@bresnan.net)

Secretary: AE7MH, Michael Henry,  
[ae7mh@arrl.net](mailto:ae7mh@arrl.net)

Membership: WG7E, Liz Myers,  
[lizm@montana.com](mailto:lizm@montana.com)

Awards, QSLs: N7MSU, Bob Henderson,  
[n7msu@arrl.net](mailto:n7msu@arrl.net)

VE Contact: K7VK, Vick, [k7vk@arrl.net](mailto:k7vk@arrl.net)

## **Upcoming Events**

Aug 09 – HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m,  
VEC testing starts at 5:30 p.m.

1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays - Montana RACES Net,  
3.947 MHz at 8:00 a.m.

Saturday – Montana QCWA Net, 3.935 MHz at  
8:30 a.m.

Daily – Montana Traffic Net, 3910 khz at 6:30  
p.m. MST <http://montanatrafficnet.com>

Every Sunday – ARRL Montana Section HF  
Information Net 3880 khz at 8:00 a.m.

Every Tuesday – Coffee at Arby's South, 2:00  
p.m, give a shout on 147.04 MHz to see if  
we are meeting.

Every Wednesday – HARC VHF meets on  
147.04Mhz (+ offset) at 9:00 p.m.

Every Saturday - "Ham" breakfast, Paradise  
Falls restaurant, 7:00 a.m.

W7XY Field Day on You Tube, by Andy, KF7CBY  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mssVPQFKeyw>

## **HARC and the Missoula Marathon July 11<sup>th</sup> by Lewis, NQ7D**

The Missoula Marathon 2010 was a success again thanks in part to the following operators:

	Marathon	
Bill W4YMA	Andrew KF7JCP	Vick K7VK
Kevin W1KGK	Bob N7MSU	Mike N7WKR
Betsy KF7ECS	Jackie KC7RBC	Dick W7XT
Larry K7GIS	Bruce WB7OTC	Andrew KF7JCP

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## HARC and the Missoula Marathon July 11<sup>th</sup> (continued)

### Half Marathon

Jerry N7GE

Bob N7MSU

Most of the operation was using the 146.520 Mhz simplex, and 146.90 Mhz repeater. Bill Farrell, W4YMA, and Jerry Nelson, K7IMZ, acted as relays.

There were about 2,400.5 marathon runners, 1,400 full marathon runners, 35 relay teams, many walkers and bicycles on Sunday. On Saturday over 200 children completed their 1.2 miles for their marathon.

Walkers started at 5:00 a.m. And the bicycles started at 5:50 a.m. Then with the firing of the ROTC cannon the full and the half marathon started at 6:00 a.m. Several records were set.

Thanks for all the help,

## Sky Warn Very Radio Active by Donnie, W7XY

We have worked with the Weather Service for many years gathering information to prove their information. We always went out to the Weather Service and used their radios to gather the information. The area was in most cases from Hamilton to Kalispell and some from Idaho. We used two meters most of the time. Now there is HF, VHF and UHF plus APRS at the Weather Service. Once when a gear was stripped at Point 6 on the radar we furnished the only information for a while. Lewis Ball and I worked that date for them out at the station activating Sky Warn.

About two years ago Peter out at the Weather Service ask three of us to be able to log into the service of the Weather Service and join their chat rooms. When other people help us we do it from one of these stations so as not to plug up and cause problems with their service. A group of people logging in and out would really cause confusion and it is not needed. Have now found out that one station logged in seems to work best as they watch that station for reports. In most cases we run it from my station. At first I didn't really know what we where supposed to do and rounded up reports from the areas that they requested and had them call the reports into the local station. Then they hinted that I could put the information into their service as well as they could. So I started doing it and it has really been a real help to them. They advise me as to what areas they need information from and I start locating Hams in that area and getting reports and posting them. Then I found out that people from all over the country was watching the information I was posting and using it to form forecast for their area if information was there that they needed. It has really helped when the radar has been acting up or they are wanting to see if the weather is doing what it looks like on their screens. Hail reports and high wind really helps them to do aircraft warnings and etc. They also like damage reports. So if Sky Warn is activated then people are requested to go out to the Weather Station and use the equipment there and acquire the info they request. If they just want me to do it from home I log in and round up what I can using my equipment and the people I can contact. The problem is that if it happens during the work week then it is hard to find people to help. On holidays people seem a little sparse also. That not only pertains to local but people all over the area. So far this year I have gathered information for them bout 15 times of about eight hours shifts. One week I did it three times and this week looks like it will be 4 times.

In some cases they may want Sky Warn activated plus my home station going to activate reports out to the Weather Service and also posting reports from around the state. So far we have done it this way about three times since I set up my station to do this.

I enjoy doing it but am gone sometimes so Lewis Ball is working with me for a backup plan.

Donnie Fort W7XY

## HARC Special Events Station July 4<sup>th</sup> by Bob, N7MSU

July 4 found HARC hams busy celebrating our country's independence and demonstrating radio skills at the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. Hundreds of visitors stopped by the old chapel to witness ham radio in action.

The HF station operators made 45 QSOs in SSB, CW and PSK31 modes, while onlookers asked questions about the amateur radio service and looked over the vintage radio display. A ½ wave 20 Meter vertical wire antenna, built by KK7UV, and held aloft by red, white and blue balloons, was a fine RF radiator, attracted attention across Fort Missoula, and garnered patriotic comments from many hams we contacted.

Thanks to Steve KK7UV, Jake KE7ONP, Craig KE7NO, Eric NZ7S, Lewis NQ7D, Steve K7PX, Paul N7PAS and Bob N7MSU for all their help in making July 4, 2010 a great Independence Day Special Event at Fort Missoula.



Uh...ya all better stand back



## Meeting Minutes for 12 July 2010

Meeting called to order by Vice president Eric NZ7S at 7:00 PM. Introductions were made around the room. Michael AE7MH was not able to attend the meeting and present the secretaries report but a copy of the minutes for the June meeting were distributed for review. Eric called for approval of the minutes and Bob N7MSU made the motion with Paul N7PAS second. The motion was voted on and passed.

The treasurers report was presented by Jerry N7GE and reviewed. A motion to accept the report was made by Donnie W7XY and seconded by Bob N7MSU. The motion carried.

Eric gave a report on the 147.04 antenna and advised that he had a different antenna to try before a new antenna was ordered.

Net Operators for July and August were;

07/14 Jerri KF7GZS

07/21 Mike K7MSO

07/28 Donna KC5WRA

08/04 Paul N7PAS

08/11 Kevin W1KGK

The editor for the static for August will be Mike K7MSO.

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July report was presented by Bob N7MSU.

The report for the Missoula Marathon was given by Lewis NQ7D. Suggestions were requested for the event next year.

Other items discussed was the Skywarn event that lasted three days. Donnie W7XY worked long hours to keep the weather service updated on what was happening around our area.

New Business discussed was the upcoming Blackfoot River cleanup and the sign up sheet was distributed.

Other items discussed for new business was 1<sup>st</sup> nite and that the organizers would like the club to participate in the event this December.

The program for the evening was off the grid stations presented by Eric NZ7S and Steve KK7UV.

The drawing for the give away of a lightning arrestor and compass was held.

The meeting was adjourned prior to going outside so the folks that had to leave had that opportunity. The motion was made by Donnie W7XY to adjourn and seconded by Bob N7MSU.