



# HARC Static



Hellgate Amateur Radio Club

Missoula, Montana

April 2011

Editor: K7MSO Mike Leary

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## Club Officers:

- President: N7DWB, Dan Boldra
- Vice-president: NZ7S, Eric Sedgwick
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli
- Secretary: AE7MH Mike Henry

## Standing Committees:

- Emergency Coordinator: N7GE Jerry Ehli
- Membership: WG7E, Liz Myers
- QSLs, Awards: N7MSU, Bob Henderson
- Webmaster: K7MSO Mike Leary  
[mleary2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mleary2001@yahoo.com)
- Radio License Examinations  
Contact: VE K7VK Vick, [k7vk@arrl.net](mailto:k7vk@arrl.net)
- Awards: Bob, N7MSU, [n7msu@arrl.net](mailto:n7msu@arrl.net)

## Repeater Advisory Commtee

- NZ7S, Eric [nz7s@msn.com](mailto:nz7s@msn.com), Committee Chair
- KD7HP, Wilmajean [mt@yahoo.com](mailto:mt@yahoo.com)
- N7PAS, Paul, [n7pas@bresnan.net](mailto:n7pas@bresnan.net)
- W7XY Donnie, [fort@montana.com](mailto:fort@montana.com)
- KE7WR Kevin, [kgoffe1@msn.com](mailto:kgoffe1@msn.com)

## HARC Needs You !



We need volunteers for the following events:

## Upcoming Events

May 7 – 7QP Contest

May 14 – YMCA Triathlon

May 21-22 TOSRV

June 25-26 Field Day

July 4 W7PX Special Event

## March Club Meeting Notes

- Harc April 11, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Call to order.
- Eric Went over minutes of last meeting those minutes were passed around.
- Jerry gave a monthly update on the treasurer's report. We gained \$766.00 in come with a total balance of 1504.00
- Lewis made A motion to approve the treasures report as read, Byron seconded the motion, motion passed.
- Membership, at current Harc has 61 paying members, Liz updated on membership status, it was also noted we should find how many Harc members also have a membership to ARRL, a tally sheet was passed around.
- Old Business
- Todd went over upcoming race events requesting additional help.
- Tosrv is May 21, 22. Bill updated the group on the status of this race, also requesting help.
- BJ suggested we set up an editor, assistant editor etc.. and have a team of people that work on the Static every month as opposed to just one individual. Eric noted that no real vote needs to take place to put a committee in place for the news letter. Food for thought.
- On May 7<sup>th</sup> there will be a disaster drill at the Missoula Airport. Lewy noted that Missoula Aging Services is helping put this event on and that it might be a good idea for Harc to see if there is a place for us in the event.
- New Business
- Jerry noted that Vic wants to change / amend the bi-laws so that we have a section in those bi-laws that covers how to remove someone from membership of the club if needed. Jerry read over those proposed changes. Elmer also read the current bi-laws as they stand now. There was discussion on the matter and it was determined that we will table this for next month's meeting.
- The second proposed change is for the club news letter, Vic feels that there is some historic value in keeping the name of the news letter "The Hellgate Static." This as well has been tabled until the next meeting.
- It was noted that the last auction the club held did not follow the club bi-laws. Elmer read the rules, and it was noted that that most people did seem to mind the way the last to auctions went, simply because most of the items that sold were going to be put in a dumpster if not sold.
- Jerry noted that we should get rid of the gin pole as it the rope on it may not be safe. This was tabled until the May meeting.
- Net Opp 5-11 Donna 5-4 N7Pas 4-27 Todd 4-20 Todd 4-13 Eric
- Elmer motioned to adjourn, Paul Seconded the motion Meeting Adjourned :20:00 hrs
- Respectfully submitted,
- Todd "Soupy" Sayles
- K2GCN, Stand-in Secretary.

## PROPOSED CONSTITUTION/BYLAWS AMENDMENT

A proposed Hellgate ARC Constitution/Bylaws amendment to reinstate the official newsletter name as "*Hellgate Static*" will be voted upon at the May meeting.

K7VK Vick noticed that Hellgate ARC's most recent Constitution/Bylaws dated 2002 lists the official name for the newsletter as "*The Static*". However, historically the Hellgate ARC newsletters published from at least 1976 through recent times with few exceptions, have been titled the "*Hellgate Static*".

**Proposal:** amend the bylaws by striking the words "*The Static*" at every occurrence and replacing them with the wording "*Hellgate Static*".

### Section 1: MEMBERSHIP

... Newsletter subscriptions to ~~The Static~~ the *Hellgate Static* shall be available to individuals outside the Missoula area who do not wish to participate in club activities.

### Section 3: DUES AND SPECIAL ACCOUNTS

A. ... Student Members and Associate Members shall be eligible for membership at one-fifth (1/5) the rate of a Full Membership plus the cost of a subscription to the Club Newsletter, ~~The Static~~ *Hellgate Static*.

F. Every Full Member shall receive the Club Newsletter, ~~The Static~~ the *Hellgate Static*.

**Result:** If voted in the affirmative, the Hellgate ARC secretary will amend the Constitution/Bylaws official record, signed by appropriate HARC officers and the webmaster will post on the on the HARC website.

## 23 April Grizzly Triathlon

Hello to all. The HARC was again contacted to assist with the Grizzly Triathlon this year. They had just over 420 applicants this year who participated. Although it was a chilly 25 degrees at 8:00 AM at the start, the sky was clear and it warmed up to 54 degrees by 2:30 PM when the race was over.

The club participated by supplying communications along the course and many thanks to the folks that were able to help. Mike N7WKR, Greg NL7WB, Kody KL0RN, Dean N7DLP, Liz WG7E, David KB1BED and Eric NZ7S were out on the course at various locations. Todd K2GCN had the control station location at the start/finish line with Jerry N7GE as assistant.

There were minor glitches with radio equipment for some locations due to shadowing of the repeater and that was ironed out. Then there was a situation with a car that clipped one of the bike riders but she didn't appear to be seriously injured and even climbed back on the bike to finish the race. We have received no word as to the extent of her injuries but the police were involved to follow through with the incident.

### 23 April Grizzly Triathlon Continued

After the race was over, those volunteers that could, met over at Five Guys burgers and enjoyed a great lunch.

This was a great opportunity to help a group with their event and practice proper radio etiquette and to practice keeping track of participants along a course. We didn't even lose anyone all through the day.

A very hearty thanks again to the amateurs that were able to participate and thanks to the Grizzly Triathlon for the gifts that were donated to the radio operators. The Grizzly Triathlon group thanked us and also invited us again for next year.

73's from Jerry N7GE

### 23 April Grizzly Man Adventure Race

The Grizzly Man Adventure Race (GMAR) was conducted on the same day as the Grizzly Triathlon and I am happy to say that both events were fully staffed by HARC volunteers! For the GMAR five volunteers, W4YMA Bill, N7PAS Paul, K7VK Vick, KJ6CQC Dean and K7MSO Mike were scattered over miles of the Paws Up Resort and the Lubrecht Forest. Bill was net control at the Paws Up Cabin (with indoor bathroom and food), Dean and Vic were keeping tabs on who entered and exited the river portion of the event, and Paul and Mike were a couple of miles away at two different aid stations on dirt roads in the trees.

Since the river was a required event Dean and Vic were kept pretty busy while the outlying aid stations were a lot slower. Between participants Mike had some time to work some stations on HF (all those trees and no dipole – dang!). We used National Simplex 146.52 for most of the event and the 146.80 repeater as a backup. The repeater had no trouble covering the whole event area and even allowed the group to easily work NZ7S Eric who was helping with the other race miles away in East Missoula!

At the aid stations participants stopped, hole punched their passports as proof that they made it to the checkpoints, caught their breath, talked to the volunteers at the aid station, and almost all give a warm "Thank You" to the volunteers who make the race the success that it is.

The GMAR organizers have given us a very warm "Thank You" also and would like to see us again next year.

73's from Mike K7MSO

(Pictures on the next page)



W4YMA Bill and K7VK Vick study the topo maps at Grizzly Man Race



N7PAS Paul, K7MSO Mike, W4YMA Bill and K7VK Vick



K7MSO Mike, KJ6CQC Dean, N7PAS Paul, W4WMA Bill and K7VK Vick

## **ZZZZZZaaappppp! Ka Boooooommmmm!, Tis the SEASON**

from k7vk Vick

Any day now Missoula will have it's first thunderstorm of the season. It will surely be followed by many more. Play it safe. Properly grounded equipment and even disconnecting equipment could mean the difference in keeping you "on-the-air" or figuring out how you'll replace/repair your damaged equipment.

Here's a couple of good websites to view for grounding information: National Lightning Safety Institute <http://www.lightningsafety.com/> and fine three part articles *Lightning Protection for the Amateur Radio Station* at <http://www.arrl.org/lightning-protection>. The ARRL site has a wealth of protection information for ham radio.

### **30 April Riverbank Run**

The HARC was again contacted in the early spring to assist with the YMCA River Bank Run. We had adverse weather forecast for the weekend and MotherNature did not let us down. The annual Bloomsday race was scheduled for the same weekend as the River Bank Run so that probably affected the amount of participants but that did not seem to damper the enthusiasm of the participants that participated.

The start time was 9:00 AM as usual so we had our radio amatuer volunteers on station by 8:00 Am. Thanks to the efforts of our group N7DLP Dean, NL7WB Greg, KJ6CQC Dean, N7WKR Mike, KJ7NL Walter, N7GIS Larry, K7MSO Mike, and K7VK Vick with KC2GCN Todd and N7GE Jerry at the command center we were able to keep track of the racers with the usual efficiency. There were a few problems with the radio gear but we were able to overcome the obstacles at the command center and provide the communications that was required by the YMCA. There was only one racer that had a minor health issue but was able to finish the course on his own.

After the event was over, the volunteers were able to go to Tower Pizza and enjoy food and refreshments and discuss the days events.

We were invited to return next year and help with communications. The YMCA was again grateful for the efforts of the radio club. Thanks again to all the volunteers that were able to assist with this event.

73's  
N7GE  
Jerry

(Pictures on next page)



N7GE checks out the weather during the Riverbank Run from on top of the Wilma



KC2GCN announces the start of the race over the net



Wilma Command – N7GE Jerry and KG2GCN Todd

## MAKE USE of that REPEATER SQUELCH-TAIL

from k7vk Vick

A repeater squelch-tail is the one to a few seconds of "noise" that you hear after a station's transmission ends through most repeaters. It's actually an unmodulated carrier you hear after the "input" signal has stopped.

Not all repeaters have a squelch-tail, but for those that do, this unmodulated carrier squelch-tail can be used to signal a "reset" to the repeater after the carrier input drops out. If one is too quick to reply and doesn't let the repeater squelch-tail drop out, go silent, then the repeater can "time-out" and a "timed-out" repeater appears to be not working. The repeater reaches a pre-programmed time interval and switches itself off for a period of time. The repeater will then, after a pre-programmed time interval, return to service.

What's cool about a repeater squelch-tail is at least two-fold especially for hams using handhelds or where repeater coverage is spotty. First hearing the repeater squelch-tail after your "key up and announcement of your call sign," indicates that the repeater is working and is hearing your signal. And second, the squelch-tail can indicate the repeater's signal strength.

Repeater signal strength can be very useful to handheld users, distant mobile stations or where repeater coverage is spotty. If the repeater is "fuzzy or weak" it's a good chance that so is your input signal to the repeater. So, moving your antenna a few inches or a few feet can mean the difference between "hitting" the repeater or being "unintelligible". Listen to the repeater's signal for clarity or watch your "S-meter" and move to and hold on the position with the best repeater signal strength. Chances are this is also the best place for your transmission to "be heard".

Remember to always use your call sign when testing for the repeater squelch-tail. Simply say for example: "k7vk testing" or just "k7vk". Should someone wish to talk to you, they'll give you a call. Happy communicating!