



The Hellgate Static



October 2015 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO
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Club Officers:

- President: W7XT Dick Walton
- Vice-president: Eric NZ7S
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- Secretary: Maggie KF7KEE/Donna KC5WRA

Standing Committees:

- Emergency Coordinator: N7GE Jerry Ehli
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- QSLs, Awards: N7MSU, Bob Henderson
mailto:n7msu@q.com
- Webmaster: K7MSO Mike Leary
mleary2001@yahoo.com
- Radio License Examinations
Contact: VE K7VK Vick,
k7vk@arrl.net

Repeater Advisory Committee

- Committee Chair: Eric NZ7S
- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS
N7PAS@bresnan.net

Newly Elected or reelected:

- N7DXT Gary Watson
- KE7BPU Wayne Weber

Upcoming Events

- 17 Oct JOTA
- ?? Dec Skywarn
- 14 Dec Christmas Dinner

See club website for more meetings and events:

http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html

HARC Meeting Minutes September 14 2015 Latimer Fire Station

- President Dick Walton W7XT called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Jerry Ehli N7GE, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Bob Henderson N7MSU, Bill Farrell W4YMA, Mike Leary K7MSO, Lewis Ball NQ7D, Larry Stipe K7GIS, Dean Pond N7DLP, Sandra Pond KF7GZR, Gary Watson N7DXT, Sam Saroff KG7QDX, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Tom McGinley K7QA, Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Paul Shuey N7PAS.
- Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA moved to approve the Aug 10 minutes. Dean Pond N7DLP 2nd. Passed.
- Jerry Ehli N7GE Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report for August 2015. Maggie Lough KF7KEE moved to approve the report. Donna Pecastaing KC6WRA 2nd. Passed.
- Election of a new trustee for the club call W7PX was done by secret ballot. Bob Black K7BA who had held the position for many years passed away in Feb. Mike Leary K7MSO was elected. The FCC regulation stipulate that the trustee of a club call is to be appointed by a club officer; accordingly, President Dick Walton appointed Mike Leary to that office.
- Dick issued last call for volunteers for the Ovando Gran Fondo event coming up on Sept 19 and passed out instructions. There will be 250 cyclists on a 60 mile course including 2 optional "challenge routes", as well as possible bear encounters.
- VHF Net Control Operators: Sep 16 Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Sep 23 Paul Shuey N7PAS, Sep 30 Bill Farrell W4YMA, Oct 7 Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA.
- Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to adjourn. Wayne Weber KE7BPU 2nd. Passed.

Early Bird Special on Club Dues!!!

- - New members' dues \$23.00 (if paid at the time of testing)
- - Membership renewal for 2016 is \$30.00 if paid on or before 12/31/2015.
- - Membership renewal for 2016 is \$35.00 if paid on or after 1/1/2016.

Bulletin from the Front Office October 2015

Saturday, September 19th, HARC once again provided essential communications for the Missoula Symphony Association's *Ovando Gran Fondo*. This marked the fourth year of the event, and fourth time that HARC members have provided this important service. The OGF is a 57, or more, bicycle ride through the Ovando valley and mountains to the north and east. It is a major fund raising event for the Symphony. Because of the lack of cell phone service in the area, and the dangers of the ride--dangers including the possibility of encounters with grizzly bears, in addition to that of spills on gravel roads--the radio communication we provide is crucial to the safety and success of the event.

As we have done in the past, we set up our headquarters and net control station on the porch of the Ovando school. In former years we have utilized the 146.800 repeater on Blanchard Ridge and 146.800 simplex. This year that repeater's coverage was wholly inadequate, due to a change in its antenna made last spring. Efforts to install the previous antenna were frustrated by lack of access to the repeater site. Accordingly, we were forced to set up a portable repeater at a high point on the course, one that appeared to be open to most of the communications posts. This repeater operated on 147.000, and we also used 147.000 simplex.

Unfortunately, this arrangement did not work as well as anticipated. To some extent the unsatisfactory performance was difficult to explain. For example, when we were using the 146.800 frequency the operators at each end of the Challenge Routes were able to communicate via simplex. That did not work on 147.000; they were forced to exchange their information through NCS.

Alas, awkward communication routing was not our only problem. One of our club officers, who shall remain unidentified for present purposes, forgot the antenna supports for the sweep riders' bicycles. Consequently, we were unable to use APRS, much to the disappointment of our APRS expert, K7GPS.

Next year we "highly resolve" (to borrow a pungent phrase from Lincoln) to do better, the lavish praise we are given by the Symphony Association notwithstanding.

OGF HARC Stars

Dave Dobbins, K7GPS: Dave was our primary Net Control Operator. He set up the NCS and got it on the air before the first riders left Ovando. Dave resides in Cascade. He makes an extraordinary effort to help us with the OGF each year, driving to Lincoln after work on Friday, and coming on to Ovando at Oh-Dark-Thirty Saturday morning.

Vick Applegate, K7VK: Vick again served very capably at the important safety position we call X-Ray.

Keith Ball, K7MEA: Keith did double duty, first manning Charlie, the Kozy Korner junction, then moving to Lima. This was Keith's first year working with us. We hope he will be with us in the future.

Jerry Ehli, N7GE: “Ol’ Reliable” began the morning well before the gun went off by setting up the portable repeater, after which he moved to Delta, the start of Challenge Route One. He afterwards earned the gratitude of a rider by bringing her and her bicycle into Ovando from the lunch stop.

Tom McGinley, K7QA: Tom manned position Yankee, the fire road gate. Tom is new to the OGF, having returned to Missoula and HARC after many years in the big cities.

Glenn Meacham, KT7QA: Glenn served very capably as operator at India, the exit of Challenge Route Two. Glenn has worked with us all four years, usually at this position.

Bryce Nordgren, AF7RQ: Like Keith and Larry, Bryce did double duty. He began at Bravo and moved to Golf at noon. This was Bryce’s first experience with the OGF, and we hope he’ll be back.

Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA: Donna was posted at the lunch stop, Foxtrot, a position she has held down for the last couple of years.

Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S: Eric programmed the portable repeater and readied it for installation on site. On Saturday he manned station Hotel, the start of Challenge Route Two.

Larry Stipe, K7GIS: Larry, too, did double duty, first manning station Bravo, and then moving to Kilo, the Valiton Ranch, when Bravo was secured.

Gary Watson, N7DXT: Gary’s effort merits a special measure of gratitude. Not only does he now reside in Bigfork, necessitating an extra drive of 90 miles, or so, to reach Ovando, he also set aside a planned day of moving activity to work with us. As always, Gary’s service was as outstanding as his dedication.

Wayne Weber, KE7BPU: Wayne is another club member who deserves to be dubbed “Ol’ Reliable.” He is always front and center for our events. He has been on line at the OGF every year, this year expertly manning station Echo, the exit of Challenge Route Two.

On behalf of the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club, and especially those members who were unable to participate in our service to the Missoula Symphony Association this year, I want to thank these OGF HARC Stars for their work.

--73, Dick Walton, W7XT
President, HARC