



The Hellgate Static

March 2020



Hellgate Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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Upcoming Events

April 27	Riverbank Run
May 23	Grizzly Triathlon Swim-Bike-Run
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day
June 28	Missoula Marathon
July 4	W7PX Special Event Station
October 16-18	Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air
October TBA	Western Montana Dirt Derby
December 5	Skywarn Recognition Day
December 14	Christmas Dinner

Officers:

President: Mike Leary, K7MSO
Vice-President: Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S
Treasurer: Dick Walton W7XT
Secretary: Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA

Standing Committees:

Emergency Coordinator: Jerry Ehli, N7GE
QSLs, Awards: Bob Henderson, N7MSU
Webmaster: Mike Leary, K7MSO
Radio License Exams Contact VE:
Paul Shuey, N7PAS
Static Editor: Terry Cook, KF7BQ
Bluetooth_one@hotmail.com

Repeater Advisory Committee:

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S (Chair)
Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA
Tom Hellem, K0SN (Re-elected)
Paul Shuey, N7PAS (Re-elected)

March Meeting Program

Bryce Nordgen AF7RQ will have a presentation about the current state of amateur radio emergency communications preparedness in our area, and what would be necessary to increase our level of service by establishment of a local ARES team.

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service® (ARES) consists of licensed amateurs who have voluntarily registered their qualifications and equipment, with their local ARES leadership, for communications duty in the public service when disaster strikes.

Bryce will discuss the requirements for amateurs interested in participating in ARES. The program requires a significant amount of training and preparation by amateur radio operators, to equip themselves with the skills required to allow them to be an effective, deployable asset in the event of a local disaster or incident.

Please Note: The March meeting will be held at Missoula City Fire Station # 5, located at 6425 Lower Miller Creek Road.

ARES – The Amateur Radio Emergency Service

The program at the upcoming meeting, by Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, will be about the possibility establishing an Amateur Radio Emergency Service® team in the Missoula area. Doing so will allow us to be better positioned to assist local agencies and the public, in the event of disasters or emergencies requiring communications support.

As we all know, one of the reasons for the existence of amateur radio is *“the recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary noncommercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications.”*

For us to be able to provide the quality of service expected by governmental and non-governmental agencies such as the American Red Cross, CERT and others, we will need a sufficient number of trained and capable radio amateurs who can be deployed quickly and efficiently.

In many cases providing quality service may require more than just an operator with a portable radio. Today, amateurs have a wide variety of digital modes and methods to provide rapid and accurate transfer of forms, files and images that can be of assistance to officials managing an incident.

If we are to embark on this project, it will require a us to recruit a sufficient number of local amateur radio operators willing to commit to training and equipping themselves to be deployable.

There are approximately 280 amateur radio operators just in Missoula and many more in the outlying area. We should be able to with some effort, recruit enough additional interested and motivated amateurs to fulfill our mission with respect to providing emergency communications.

If you have an interest in emergency communications, please try to attend the March meeting at Missoula Fire Station #5 (Miller Creek Station) and bring an interested friend.

Two Meter CW Class and Practice

The HF Committee CW class for interested operators are being held on Tuesday and Friday evenings at 7:00 PM on Two Meters simplex at 146.415 MHz.

Glacier-Waterton International Hamfest

Registration is now open for the 86th Annual hamfest to be held July 17-19 2020. Registration fees have been reduced this year to help offset increases in fees for campground use. Hamfest registration can be done online at www.gwhamfest.org and clicking on the registration tab. Remember you must contact the Glacier Meadows Campground to reserve a camp site. Full services are going quickly so don't delay. You can call them during normal business hours at 406-226-4479 or make reservations online at <https://glaciermeadowrvpark.com/>

ARRL Opposes FCC Plan to Delete the 3.4 GHz Band

From ARRL News 02/25/2020

ARRL has filed comments opposing an FCC proposal to delete the 3.3 – 3.5 GHz secondary amateur allocation. The comments, filed on February 21, are in response to an FCC *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* () in WT Docket 19-348 in which the FCC put forward a plan to remove “existing non-federal secondary radiolocation and amateur allocations” in the 3.3 – 3.55 GHz band and relocate incumbent non-federal operations. The FCC’s proposal was in response to the MOBILE NOW [Making Opportunities for Broadband Investment and Limiting Excessive and Needless Obstacles to Wireless] Act, enacted in 2018 to make new spectrum available for mobile and fixed wireless broadband use. ARRL noted that amateur radio has a long history of successful coexistence with primary users of the band.

You can read the full article with additional information [here](#).

Great Falls Area Amateur Radio Club – Spring Thaw Event

The Great Falls Area Amateur Radio Club will have their 6th Annual Spring Thaw event on Saturday, May 2nd. Spring Thaw is a Ham Swap meet that is free for all to attend.

You can clean out your shack of unneeded gear or look for that unique piece of radio equipment you have been wanting. There is no cost to sell, so clean out your shack of unneeded gear. Outside Tailgating is the preferred method, so bring your small table if you need to display anything.

This year, they will be changing up the format a little. Starting at 7 AM and running until 9 AM, they will have a no host breakfast available at the Gold Dust Casino.

Beginning at 9:30 until 1 PM, the Spring Thaw will be held at the Cascade County DES Office, located at 6th St NW and 1st Ave NW in Great Falls. Every Licensed HAM that attends will be entered into a Prize Drawing to be held at 12:30 PM. You must be present to win.

Argusfest

Sorry This issue was too late to remind everyone of Argusfest on Saturday Feb. 29th I hope those who attended had a good time

New Central Montana 2 Meter Repeater

There is a new repeater in north central Montana. The Great Falls Area Amateur Radio club has placed a new 2M repeater in Fairfield, 35 miles west of Great Falls. It is on a commercial tower on a high bluff with a great view of the Rocky Mountain front. The frequency is 147.26 MHz, +600, CTCSS 100 Hz.

Tentative February Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Eric NZ7S, Paul N7PAS, Andy KF7CBY, Tom K0SN, Larry N7GIS, Jackie KC7RBC, Jim N5CY, Dan KI7HLW, Richie N7QNZ, Visitor Candace Olson

Approval of January Meeting Minutes: Moved by Donna, Seconded by Paul N7PAS, approved

Treasurer Report: Dick Walton was not able to attend

Repeater Committee Report: Nothing to report, all repeaters are operational.

HF Committee Report: Report by Tom K0SN, HF tower is down. Both Icom radios are listed for sale. Tom K7QA, (not present at the meeting) has obtained a replacement generator for the club. It is like the old one, 5-6 years old and has built in overload protection.

Additional Discussion: Upcoming events, 25 April Riverbank Run; May 23 Grizzly Triathlon (swim, bike, run starts at UM Golf Course this year); ARRL Field Day – last full weekend of June.

New Business: Paul Shuey N7PAS made a motion that the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club express its appreciation to David Herzberg, for service above and beyond the call of duty for all he did in improving the Treasurer's Office and work done. The motion was seconded by Andy Commons KF7CBY and passed by the members present.

Wednesday night VHF net control assignments:

12 Feb. Eric NZ7S
19 Feb. Andy KF7CBY
26 Feb Mike K7MSO
4 Mar. Donna KC5WRA

Next Meeting: Monday March 9th at Missoula City Fire Station # 5, located at 6425 Lower Miller Creek Road.