



# The Hellgate Static

## November 2020



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

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### 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)

### Upcoming Events

December 5 Skywarn Recognition Day  
~~December 14~~ Christmas Dinner (Canceled)

### **November Zoom Meeting**

Kevin Kerr, W1KGK, the new Amateur Radio Emergency Service District Coordinator, will give us an update on activity and plans for the Western Montana District. Kevin will also discuss plans for an AREDN mesh network node in our area.

This should be of interest to all area amateur radio operators. Please attend if you can.

Due to the current Corona virus crisis, the HARC November meeting is scheduled to be conducted remotely via zoom teleconferencing software on November 9th.

Watch for an invitation to the meeting in your Email, it will contain the meeting ID, a password and a link to the meeting. Be sure your microphone is enabled.

If you have not received an invitation by Monday morning, November 9th, contact Mike Leary at [mleary2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mleary2001@yahoo.com) and request an invitation.

Stay healthy and we hope to see you there.

## **2020 Christmas Dinner Canceled**

The HARC Christmas dinner, has been canceled due to concerns over the recent spike in Covid19 illness. We hope everyone stays well, and will look forward to the return of our annual Christmas Dinner next year.

## **Third HARC Transmitter Hunt**

In last month's STATIC, I mistakenly stated that the transmitter hunt would begin at 7:00 PM, while the rules posted on the club website indicated a start time one our earlier at 6:00pm. My apologies to those who came out at 6 PM and could not hear the fox.

This was the last hunt of our season, we will resume transmitter hunts in the spring.

We have received the Byonics foxhunt controller and will have it programmed and ready to go when we start hunts again in the spring.

## **Summits On The Air Videos**

Here's the latest Summits on the Air (SOTA) video presentation by WG0AT explaining a lot about the program. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YY0ehQvmbqg>

Some action videos: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-wiyuBO8q7U> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HkeZhnJo1g4>

He has a lot of YouTube videos featuring mountain top radio activations and SOTA.

In this presentation you'll also see K7PX, Steve exHARC enthusiast who moved to Colorado a few years ago.

## **FCC Headquarters Relocates**

*10/19/2020*

FCC Headquarters has moved. The new address is 45 L St. NE, Washington, DC 20554. The change is effective immediately. The FCC announced plans to move last spring, but the transition was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The FCC, like many federal agencies, has its own zip code, so there will be no disruption in mail delivery sent by USPS to the former address. The FCC still prohibits the delivery of hand-carried documents, and all COVID-19 restrictions or instructions regarding access to FCC facilities remain in place at the new location. "The FCC continues to balance its efforts to be accessible to the public with the need for heightened security and health and safety measures and encourages the use of the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to facilitate the filing of applications and other documents when possible," the FCC said in an October 15 [\*Public Notice\*](#).

Most FCC staff continue to work from home and are not expected to be physically present in their new offices before next June.

## **Nationwide Red Cross Emergency Communications Drill, Joint Exercise with ARES**

From The ARES Letter October 21<sup>st</sup> 2020

Waterman, K4CJX, Winlink Administrator, Winlink Development Team

The Nationwide Red Cross Emergency Communications Fall Drill is a joint exercise with ARES set for November 14, an evolution of the highly successful Spring Drill that had hundreds of participants from some 40 states and Puerto Rico.

The Fall Drill will be a Winlink-specific event with the following goals: (1) pass traditional Red Cross (ARC) forms from as many states and as many radio amateurs as possible to one of six Divisional Clearinghouses, and (2) bring as many radio operators as possible up to a "basic" level of Winlink proficiency. [To prepare, there is a twelve-week series of Winlink Workshops held each Thursday at 0100Z on Zoom. Join the [SEC-ARES](#) group for announcements and discussions. Include your name and call sign when registering on SEC-ARES.]

*Winlink Proficiency Goals* have been written, a Winlink Technical Support Team has been formed, and *Metrics for Drill Success* have been developed. The proficiency goals are established as a training guideline and references online training resources. Many hams new to Winlink should find these resources helpful.

Over 300 radio amateurs have signed up for the event and more than a hundred were on a Briefing Call on October 5. There will be one other Briefing Call, in early November. This event is open to all radio amateurs; if interested in more information, contact [Mike Walters, W8ZY](#), for ARES-related questions or [Wayne Robertson, K4WK](#), for Red Cross-related topics.

## **SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020 - Making Adjustments for COVID-19**

From The ARES Letter October 21<sup>st</sup> 2020

Since 1999, the annual SKYWARN Recognition Day celebrates the long relationship between the amateur community and the National Weather Service program. The purpose of the event is to recognize amateurs for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service.

Normally each year, radio amateurs participate from home stations and from stations at National Weather Service (NWS) forecast offices with the goal of making contact with as many offices as possible. However, this year, due to COVID-19 restrictions, participation from NWS forecast offices will be minimal at best. The focus will shift to contacting as many SKYWARN trained spotters as possible during the event.

Radio amateurs who wish to participate may sign up for a SKYWARN Recognition Day number by completing the form found on the SRD 2020 website. During the event, operators are encouraged to exchange their name, QTH, SRD number, and current weather conditions with other participating stations. See the event website for the full operating guidelines.

[SKYWARN Recognition Day 2020](#) will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC December 5.

## Minutes – October 2020 Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Mike K7MSO, Tom K0SN, Tom K7QA, Dick W7XT, Jackie KC7RBC Terry KF7BQ, Joe AF7FH, Jerry AF7AO, George KJ7OKW, Paul N7PAS, Andy KF7CBY, Dan KI7HLW, Rich K7QNZ

Approval of last meeting's minutes. Passed

Approval of Treasurer's report

- Club liability ins
- Anticipated expenses
- Still selling equip

Repeater Committee Report

HF Committee

- Generator repair cost
- Starting CW class in January, need to buy practice keyers

Previous Events:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Fox Hunt

Cancelled Events

- Riverbank Run
- Dirt Dash
- Christmas Dinner 14 Dec Cancelled

Upcoming Events:

- 3rd Fox Hunt 16<sup>th</sup> Oct
- MT Shakeout emergency exercise ???
- JOTA 16 Oct contact Eric NZ7S
- Skywarn 5 Dec

Andy KF7CBY received the Worked All Hellgate Award. Congratulations Andy.

VHF Net Control operators:

- 14 Oct Mike K7MSO
- 21 Oct Eric NZ7S
- 28 Oct Andy KF7CBY
- 04 Nov Donna KC5WRA / Paul

\*\*\* Next Club meeting: 9 Nov