



# The Hellgate Static

## April 2021



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 Hellem, K0SN  
Paul Shuey, N7PAS  
Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA (Re-elected)

### Upcoming Events (Tentative)

- April 24, 2021 [Riverbank Run](#)
- ~~May 2021 Grizzly Triathlon~~
- June 12, 2021 [Trail Rail Run](#)
- June 25 – 27, 2021 [Field Day](#)
- July 4, 2021 [Club Special Event Station](#)
- October 15 – 16, 2021 [JOTA](#)
- October 21, 2021 [The Great Montana Shakeout Drill](#)
- October ??, 2021 [Dirt Dash](#)
- December 4 – 5, 2021 [Sky Warn Recognition Day](#)
- December 13, 2021 [Christmas Dinner Party](#)

### April Zoom Meeting

Due to the current Corona virus crisis, the HARC April meeting is scheduled to be conducted remotely via zoom teleconferencing software on April 12th.

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, April 12<sup>th</sup>, contact Mike Leary at [mleary2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mleary2001@yahoo.com) and request an invitation.

Stay healthy and we hope to see you there.

## **Dale Carson N7XLB – Silent Key**

Dale R. Carson, Amateur Radio Operator, N7XLB, of Missoula, passed away at his home. Dale was active on DMR, especially on Brandmeister Network, Worldwide Channel 91, and frequently checked into the HARC, Wednesday night VHF Net.

## **HARC License Testing Session Plains MT**

The HARC Volunteer Examiner Team conducted license examinations in Plains MT on 27 Mar 2021. There were nine candidates taking tests. One Technician upgraded to General Class and seven of eight who tested for Technician Class were successful.

## **THE CHARLIE WIGGLY BULLSHEET**

News and Views from HARC's CW ops

By Dick Walton W7XT

If there is sufficient demand, HARC's HF Committee will offer a CW class again this year. Indications of interest should be conveyed to any member of the committee via email. Committee members are W7XT, K0SN and K7QA.

CWops is a worldwide club for CW operators. The club holds one-hour mini-contests three times each week. Local times now are Wednesday, 7-8 AM, 1-2 PM, and 9-10 PM. Average speeds for these contests are rather high, 32-36 WPM. Three times each year, however, the contest speeds were limited to a maximum of 20 WPM to give newer CW operators an opportunity to participate. The K1USN Radio Club of Massachusetts took on the job of offering slow speed contests early this winter. Now known as the "SSTs," these one-hour mini contests are offered on Sundays at 6:00 PM, local, and Fridays at 2:00 PM. The maximum speed specified is 20 WPM, but average speeds are much lower, probably 12-16 WPM. K7MTD, a graduate of HARC's CW class last year, is a regular participant. Bands for all these contests depend upon propagation and time. The activity occupies about 20 KHz, from 25 above the bottom of the band up.

Speaking of contests, the Seventh Area QSO Party (7QP) comes up the first two days in May, i.e., shortly before our May club meeting. Modes are CW, Phone and Digital. This is a low-key contest, one not requiring a great deal of skill to be enjoyable.

The CW traffic nets remain vital and active since the establishment of Radio Relay International a few years ago and its reorganization of a large portion of the ARRL sponsored National Traffic System. That shift brought some name changes, e.g., PAN, the Pacific Area Net, the highest level net in the western part of the country, became WAN, the Western Area Net. Area coverage and structure remained the same. Trans-Continental Corps, the group of operators who linked the Eastern, Central and Pacific area nets, became IATN, the Inter-Area Traffic Net. New net manuals were expertly prepared and are available for download from the RRI site, along with other helpful materials. Despite some wizards' pronouncements of CW's obsolescence it remains a vital means of emergency communication.

## The 15th annual 7QP

The 15th annual 7QP will run this year on Saturday, May 1. We have an outstanding record to uphold. Based on number of logs received last year, 7QP is the 3rd largest QSO party in the country and growing. For the past several years we have had all 36 Oregon Counties on the air. All kinds of 7QP info is available at [www.7QP.org](http://www.7QP.org).

One reason 7QP has been so successful it that we share the weekend with three other QSO parties: New England, Indiana and Delaware. We use the same exchange format, we have unique county codes, and we sort contacts that don't count in scoring so you can send your log to all four without having to edit your log. Just copy their whole exchange.

Covid 19 is still among us and will probably impact some of the multi-ops. I put a Covid-specific allowance for those who want to try a "distributed multi-op", the only constraint is that all stations must be within the same county.

Remember the Digital category or in mixed mode. Any digital contact counts 4 points! We can help out all those guys looking for Oregon on RTTY or PSK. Suggested frequencies: 80 kHz up on PSK; 86 kHz up on RTTY. The Digital modes provide another way to get more new operators with modest stations into the activity on HF. Unfortunately FT4 and FT8 will not work, the 7QP exchange is not compatible. And if you log on a computer, please email us a copy of your log even if you don't care to compete for an award. It helps us score the event. A convenient Web Form is available to paste your log into.

Suggestion: If you are not using a computer logging program, now is the time to get into it. I suggest using N1MM+. It's easy, it's FREE, and was used by 70% of all entrants last year. Even if you are using another program to track your QSOs, DXCC, etc, you can easily export your log from N1MM back into it when the contest is over. Not only that, there are three other QSO parties that also use our weekend. N1MM is the only one that will let you log their exchange as sent. You can then enter these by sending your log to them. It helps us and them too.

Whether you can participate this year or not, I'd appreciate your reply to confirm your email address (and note any duplication), and so we can make other arrangements to cover your county. Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Hood River, Malheur, Morrow, Sherman, Walawa, Wasco, and Wheeler remain as targets for expeditions and/or mobiles.

Talk it up when you can. Consider giving a talk to your local club about the 7QP. Your support and enthusiasm for this event is the backbone of the participation in Oregon. And remember to put May 1st on your wife's calendar so you don't get pre-scheduled.

I look forward to hearing from you and, as always, thanks for your support of the 7QP.

73,  
Dick Frey, K4XU  
Bend, OR  
7QP Chairman

## **ARRL Clarifies Effective Date For New \$ 35 License Fee**

The ARRL issued a bulletin clarifying the date at which the new fee schedule for amateur radio licenses will become effective.

Contrary to what you may have heard or read, the collection of application fees for the amateur radio service and certain other services will NOT begin on April 19, 2021.

Although April 19, 2021 is the date the rules in the FCC Report and Order adopted last December generally take effect – i.e., one month after the R&O was published in the March 19, 2021 Federal Register – certain parts of those rules, including collection of the application fees for the amateur radio service, will NOT begin on that date.

The effective date for new amateur radio fees has not yet been established. The FCC explicitly states in the published Notice that the fees will not take effect until:

- \* the requisite notice has been provided to Congress; AND
- \* the FCC's information technology systems and internal procedures have been updated; AND
- \* the Commission publishes [FUTURE] notice(s) in the Federal Register announcing the effective date of such rules.

The League's counsel for FCC matters estimates that the effective start date for collecting the fees will be some time this summer, but regardless of the exact timing we will have advance notice.

## **87th Glacier Waterton Hamfest**

Registration for the 87<sup>th</sup> Glacier Waterton Hamfest is now open. Glacier Waterton is the longest continuous running annual hamfest in the world.

July 16<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> 2021, Three days of amateur radio fun and prizes.

- Seminars
- V.E. Testing
- Hidden Transmitter Hunts
- Tailgate Swap Meet
- Craft Sales
- Children's Activities

If you registered for last years 86th Hamfest (2020) and opted NOT to receive a refund, there is no need to register again for this years Hamfest. Your registration is good for the 87th Hamfest!

Additional information and registration forms are available at: <https://www.gwhamfest.org/>

# Minutes – March 2020 Zoom Meeting

Attendance: Mike K7MSO, Paul N7PAS, Terry KF7BQ, Tom K0SN, Joe AF7GH, Tom K7QA, Bob K7EKG, Dick W7DX, Rich K7QNZ, Pat N9RV

**Presentation:** None

**Approval of last meeting's minutes. Passed**

**Approval of Treasurer's report. Passed**

2 items

- charged \$40 on safety deposit box from safety box
- Form 990 filed \$40 with govt
- Letter from IMZ 62 years.

**Dick W7XT motion to give Jerry Nelson Honorary Life membership. Passed.**

**Repeater Committee Report:** None

**HF Committee:**

FT-1000 for sale, got some bites

**Events:**

MARS Interoperability Exercises – Eric NZ7S will keep us advised

Fox Hunts – starting in May

Grizzly Triathlon – go / no go decision yet to be made

YMCA Triathlon – no word back, yet, on our participation

Trail Rail Run – Volunteers needed 12 Jun!!! 144 participants already signed-up!

Missoula Marathon - canceled They will do a “virtual marathon.”

**VHF Net Control operators**

- 10 Mar Eric NZ7S
- 17 Mar Terry KF7BQ
- 24 Mar Paul N7PAS
- 31 Mar Mike K7MSO
- 07 Apr Donna KC5WRA

\*\*\* Next Club meeting: 12 April