



The Hellgate Static

August 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: Joe Geldrich, AG7FH

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

- **August 6nd Transmitter Hunt**
- **August 16th Transmitter Hunt**
- **October 15 – 16, [JOTA](#)**
- **October 21, [The Great Montana Shakeout Drill](#)**
- **October ??, 2021 Dirt Dash**
- **December 4 – 5, [Sky Warn Recognition Day](#)**
- **December 13, Christmas Dinner Party**

August HARC Meeting

Program by Dick Walton W7XT, Amateur Radio Traffic Handling and the Radio Relay International Traffic Nets (formerly National Traffic System.)

We are back to having monthly meetings and license class testing in person. The meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each Month (August 9th.)

Meetings will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 3026 South Avenue West, across the street from Big Sky High School. Use the North entrance as all others will be locked.

Testing will begin promptly at 5:30PM, and end at 6:30PM.

Meeting area will be set up between 6:30-7:00PM and meeting will begin at 7:00PM (Business & Program).

Cleanup and Sanitizing will be done from 9:00-9:30. Volunteers may assist.

Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA Silent Key



Working the Ovando Gran Fondo



Donna at 2013 Grizzly Triathlon

Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, longtime HARC member and club Secretary, passed away at St. Patrick Hospital on July 4th.

Donna was licensed in New Mexico prior to moving to Montana and upgrade to general class soon after. She was a very frequent net control operator for the HARC Wednesday night VHF net and was also a member of the Montana Traffic Net on 80 meters. A dedicated and enthusiastic HARC member, she participated in Tour of the Swan River Valley, Ovando Gran Fondo and many other activities.



Donna loved to play piano at the yearly HARC Christmas parties. Having been a piano teacher for many years, she also graciously gave of her time and talent playing piano at local rest homes.

We will miss you and that wonderful smile, Donna.

THE CHARLIE WIGGLY BULLSHEET

News and Views from HARC's CW ops

By Dick Walton W7XT

Amateur radio operators, at least of the American sub-species, tend to fall broadly into two groups, sometimes called, rather facetiously, “tinkerers” and “talkers.” The first emphasize experimentation and building in their pursuit of the hobby; the second devote their time to exercise of their radio equipment. There are now very few, if any hams¹ who are exclusively technical experimenters; in radio's early years, however, there were only tinkerers. Even in the old tube equipment, discrete component days, there were a good many talkers, and with the advent of widely available commercial equipment they became the vast majority of the ham population. The most exclusive segment of this group today make up the market for commercially produced wire dipoles.

For the most part, our two terms now designate categories of emphasis in hobby activities. Within each there are sub-categories of various sorts. In this installment of the CWBS I will say a few words about one variety of talker, the traffic handler. With this species of the ham genus I am well acquainted, being a card carrying, officially recognized member. How did that happen, and why?

I first heard of hams when I was about the same age as my youngest grandchild is now, that is to say, a third grader at the old Paxson School. Coming into town from the west on old Highway 10 one day with my father, I noticed a sign by the side of the road somewhere along where the business establishments now begin. It read something like, “Calling Frequency 3910.” I asked my father what that meant and he said only that it was “for the hams,” which told me almost nothing.

Several years later I heard amateur radio signals for the first time at a friend's house, acquired an old radio in a wooden cabinet, a set that had a short wave band, and began to listen regularly. A year or so after that, I passed the novice test, turned much of the earnings from my after school job (72 ½ cents an hour) into radio equipment and became a devotee of the hobby. College and a professional position brought the curtain down on that phase of my radio career. I even let my license lapse.

Several years after returning to Missoula a sudden impulse brought me to drag my old receiver out of storage, dust it off, and tune around the bands. That led me to brush up my knowledge, take the necessary tests, and recover my license and my old call. My equipment confined me to CW, phone operation by that time having mainly migrated to SSB. One evening I stumbled upon a slow CW traffic net. I began to check in (QNI) from time to time, and soon made the acquaintance of Judge William Smith, W7GHT. With his tutelage I became a regular and weekly Net Control Station (NCS) on IMN, the Idaho Montana Net. The work the net did in dealing with the great southern Idaho flood of the Snake River hooked me on traffic handling.

I had discovered that ham radio's purpose was not merely personal amusement; rather, it provided an essential public service, one especially important in times of disaster. Fulfilling that obligation, I learned, required considerable knowledge, skill and practice, a new and welcome challenge.

¹ One now frequently sees “ham” in reference to amateur radio all in capital letters, apparently in the erroneous belief that the word is an acronym. No one knows for certain how we came to be called “hams” and our hobby “ham radio,” but the best bet is that when commercial and governmental use of radio was taking off, radio experimenters were often the source of QRM, some of it quite deliberate, earning them the moniker “ham,” a derogatory term for bad actors.

July 2 Meter Transmitter Hunt Results

For the July 19th hunt, Mike K7MSO was the fox, and was using the club transmitter hunt controller. Terry KF7BQ found him in 26 minutes followed within seconds by Aaron N7BIO, They were followed by the team of Paul N7PAS and Dave K7MTD, Joe AG7FH and Eric NZ7S.

The next hunts will be Friday August 6th and Monday August 16th. Have fun and bring a friend .

If you are interested in being the “fox” at one of our hunts, contact Terry KF7BQ.

Participants may check in prior to the hunt on the 146.90 repeater. Unlicensed persons are welcome to participate without checking in.

- For this hunt, the fox’s callsign will be W7PX.
- The hunt will be held on the simplex frequency of: 146.560 MHz
- The transmissions will begin at: 7:00 PM Local Time
- The hunt may continue for 2 Hrs, longer at the fox’s option.
- The fox will transmit for approximately two minutes and then be silent for 1- 4 minutes.
- The fox will not significantly change transmitted power levels during the hunt.
- The fox will be in a location accessible by the public, without charge and will not be inside of a building.
- For this hunt the fox will be within the Missoula Valley, and in a place accessible by vehicle.
- For this hunt, participants can begin the hunt from anywhere he or she prefers.
- After the first hour of the hunt, the fox may at his or her discretion, provide hunters with clues to the fox’s location.
- We would like the hunt to be fun for all. If you have suggestions on how we can improve this or future hunts please let us know.
- Drive carefully and observe all traffic statutes during this hunt, for everyone’s safety.
- Have fun, we are all novices at this and the object is to have a good time.

FCC Considers Allowing FM Modulation on 11 Meter Citizens Band

Cobra Electronics, a major manufacturer of 11 meter Citizens Band radios has petitioned the FCC to allow frequency modulation to be used as an alternative to the currently authorized amplitude modulation and single side-band modes. So far the FCC seems to be receptive to the idea. FM is allowed in most European countries that have a 27 MHz Citizens Band.

August Meeting Program

Program by Dick Walton W7XT, Amateur Radio Traffic Handling and the Radio Relay International, Traffic Nets (formerly National Traffic System.)

Meeting Notes – July 12, 2021 meeting

Attendance: Paul N7PAS, Mike K7MSO, Rich K7QNZ, Joe AG7FH, Terry KF7BQ, John W7KRZ, David K7MTD, Tom K7QA, Tom K0SN, Dick W7XT

Testing Session: There were no testing candidates this month.

The meeting was called to order by President, Mike K7MSO.

Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Dick W7XT gave a report on the passing of Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, club Secretary on July 4th. All members present observed a moment of silence for Donna.

Joe AG7FH was elected to be club Secretary.

Dick K7XT gave the Treasurer report and also reported on some equipment donated to the club.

Paul N7PAS on behalf of the repeater committee, reported that all HARC repeaters are working well.

Tom K7QA of the HF Committee reported on Field Day.

Terry KF7BQ gave a report on the July 2nd fox hunt. The next hunt takes place on July 19th.

August hunts will take place on the 6th and 16th of August.

Mike K7MSO will do a program for the September Meeting, on HF digital Modes.

Wednesday Night VHF Net Controllers

July 14 Mike K7MSO

July 21 Paul N7PAS

July 28 Mike K7MSO

August 4 Terry KF7BQ

*** Next Club meeting: 9 August