



# The Hellgate Static



January 2014 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO  
HARC P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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## **Club Officers:**

- President: NQ7D, Lewis Ball  
<mailto:ac7uz@q.com>
- Vice-president: W7XT Dick Walton
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli  
[jehli@modernmachinery.com](mailto:jehli@modernmachinery.com)
- Secretary: Maggie KF7KEE/Donna KC5WRA

## **Standing Committees:**

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

## **Repeater Advisory Committee**

- Committee Chair: W7XT Dick Walton
  
- Tom K0SN
- N7MSU Bob Henderson  
[n7msu@q.com](mailto:n7msu@q.com)
  
- Newly Elected or reelected:
- W7XY Donnie Fort  
[fort@montana.com](mailto:fort@montana.com)
- Paul Shuey N7PAS  
[N7PAS@bresnan.net](mailto:N7PAS@bresnan.net)



Jerry N7GE selected a bottle of wine at the Christmas party

## **Upcoming Events**

- 13 Jan – Club meeting
- 10 Feb – Club meeting
- 22 Feb – Argus Hamfest
- 10 Mar - Club meeting
- 14 Apr - Club meeting
- ??-?? Apr Montana QSO Party
- 19 Apr Grizzly Triathlon
- ?? Apr Grizzly Adventure Race
- ?? - ?? May 7QP Contest
- 10 May Riverbank Run
- 12 May - Club meeting
- 31 May – 1 June Tour of the Swan River Valley
- ?? YMCA Triathlon
- 09 Jun - Club meeting
- 28 - 29 June Field Day
- 04 Jul W7PX Special Event
- 13 Jul – Missoula Marathon
- 14 Jul - Club meeting
- 18 - 20 Jul Glacier Waterton Hamfest
- ?? July Blackfoot River Cleanup
- 11 Aug - Club meeting
- 08 Sep - Club meeting
- 20 Sep - Ride for the Symphony
- 13 Oct - Club meeting
- ?? October JOTA
- 10 Nov - Club meeting
- ?? Dec Skywarn
- 08 Dec - Club meeting

See club website for more meetings and events:

[http://www.w7px.org/meetings\\_and\\_events.html](http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html)

### ***Unapproved HARC .Minutes October 14 2013***

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance:

Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Mike Leary K7MSO, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Randy Martinez KG7FIK, Frank Kisselbach W7PAQ, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Lewis Ball NQ7D, Bill Farrell W4YMA, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, and guests from Hamilton Jim Brummit N0XPO, Kathy Brummit KC0AJ0

The use of e-mail to contact members and interested hams was discussed. Jerry N7GE will send out an e-mail to all on the largest list to ask if they want to be contacted for everything or for some things only or wish to be removed from the e-mail list.

Eric NZ7S moved approval of Sep minutes. Paul N7PAS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Treasurer Jerry N7GE reported an ending balance on 9/30/2013 of \$874.10.

The balance included a donation from Gran Fondo of \$500.

Maggie KF7KEE moved to accept the Treasurer's Report. Lewis NQ7D 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed.

Lewis NQ7D reported that there is interference on 147.040 frequency without the 88.5 tone on the repeater. It was suggested that welding the tower joints would correct the problem. Paul N7PAS stated that welding would make it impossible to take down the tower or to move it. Lewis reported that switching to the 90 repeater went well on the Rockin' Race.

Net Control Operator Schedule -- Oct 16 Bill W4YMA, Oct 23 Mike K7MSO, Oct 30 Lewis NQ7D, Nov 6 Donna KC5WRA

Old Business – Jerry N7GE will coordinate the Christmas Dinner/Party at the Eagle's. He will e-mail the menu choices to us to vote on the top three. Payment will be due at the next meeting for our dinners.

Lewis NQ7D brought up that the "unapproved minutes" have been published in the Static. Eric noted his concern. A discussion followed. Maggie KF7KEE will e-mail the "unapproved minutes" to Eric. The minutes will be distributed prior to the meeting and after approval with corrections, the minutes will be posted in the Static. Maggie KF7KEE moved to re-visit the approval of the Sep minutes. Bill W4YMA 2<sup>nd</sup>, Passed.

Eric NZ7S reported that the Equipment List is in process.

New Business -- Jerry N7GE moved to have the club purchase two new trackers to add to the five the club already owns. The price is \$279 each or 2 for \$558. Bill W4YMA 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. It was suggested we wait until we have collected the annual dues before purchasing the trackers. We won't need them until the TOSRV in May.

Paul N7PAS requested the Club Mailing Address be included in the front page of the Static.

Eric NZ7S reported on JOTA coming up on Oct 18. Frank will bring PSK Station and QSL cards for the chapel. Rich will be running the Geo cache portion. Perhaps Dean KJ6CQC or another ham may be able to help the Scouts with the Radio Direction Finder. Mike K7MSO and Wayne KE7BPU have arrow hand-held antennas as an alternative. Set-up of tower will be Fri 3:30 to 4. Wayne KE7BPU will help. There will be 2 voice stations. Eric is hoping for 30-50 scouts. The following have agreed to help with JOTA – Frank W7PAQ, Rich K7QNZ, Eric NZ7S, Bill W4YMA, Mike K7MSO, Wayne KE7BPU

The Club received a thank-you letter from TOSRV for our help with the event.

Maggie KF7KEE reported that the Rockin' Race went well. It was not a club event but the following hams helped – Dean KJ6CQC as net control, Lewis NQ7D, Donna KC5WRA, Maggie KF7KEE

Thompson Peak repeater work and the Skywarn event are on hold during the government shut-down.

Donna KC5WRA moved to adjourn. Paul N7PAS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed

## Approved November Meeting Minutes

### Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Minutes November 11, 2013

Lewis Ball NQ7D called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance:

Lewis Ball NQ7D, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Bill Farrell W4YMA, Sandra Pond KF7GZR, Donnie C Fort W7XY, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Steve Herg (new tech), Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Bob Henderson N7MSU, Jerry Nelson K7IMZ, Greg Watson KG7DNT, Mike Leary K7MSO, Tom Hellem K0SN, Kelly Foster KD5GEF, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Guest Speaker Trent Smith NOAA

Guest Speaker Trent Smith NOAA spoke to the club about weather.gov which has 122 offices throughout the United States and US Territories.

Trent uses computer art. "NWS chat"

Global Forecast Solution (GFS) – a weather forecasting model that has fast resolution

NAM – Whole World Map

ECMWF – European Model

There are many weather models –UK, Canada, Japan

The Global Satellites are half the distance between the earth and moon

Doppler Radar upgraded (uses vertical and horizontal waves) for 3D resolution

Big Caveat – we live in mountains, radar does not pick up valley information well,

Spotters are very useful

Dec 7 is Skywarn Recognition Day, hams can help out

Minutes – Discussion about how or when to disseminate unapproved minutes. Lewis NQ7D read the September minutes. Donnie moved to accept as corrected. Donna KC5WRA 2<sup>nd</sup>. Approved.

Jerry Ehli N7GE, HARC Treasurer gave his report as of October 31, 2013.

Paul N7PAS moved to accept. Donna KC5WRA 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Paul N7PAS reported 7 people passed their tech exam prior to the 11/11/2013 meeting.

6 - Technician and 1 - General

The Repeater Committee had nothing to report.

Christmas Party will be Dec 9th @ 6pm at the Eagle's Lodge. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> is deadline to order and pay for dinner. There will be a White Elephant gift exchange with a top limit of \$10 value. Still working on getting a speaker.

Net Control Operator Schedule – Nov 13 Bill W4YMA, Nov 20 Paul N7PAS, Nov 27 Mike K7MSO, Dec 4 Donna KC5WRA, Dec 11 Mike K7MSO, Dec 18 Dick Walton W7XT

Bob Henderson N7MSU presented the Nominating Committee report.

President – Lewis Ball NQ7D

Vice President – Dick Walton W7XT

Secretary Team – Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA and Maggie Lough KF7KEE

Repeater Committee – Paul Shuey N7PAS and Donnie C Fort W7XY

Bill W4YMA moved to accept report. Tom K0SN 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Mike K7MSO mentioned that 2014 marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of ARRL. A suggestion was made to promote ARRL at Field Day.

Paul N7PAS moved to adjourn. Donnie W7XY 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

## *Unapproved December Minutes*

### **Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Christmas Meeting and Party Dec 9 2013**

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Sedgwick NZ7S about 7:30 after a great meal by the Eagles Lodge. Introductions were made but not recorded. There were approximately 28 people present.

Minutes for November were presented on back of agenda. Donnie Fort W7XY moved to approve the minutes. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2nd. Passed.

Treasurer Jerry Ehli N7GE presented his report.

Bill Farrell W4YMA moved to approve. Maggie Lough KF7KEE 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

New Business:

- Maggie Lough KF7KEE moved to maintain club dues for 2014 at \$25.00. Bob Henderson N7MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.
- A minute of Silence was observed for Dennis Barthel W7DHB who recently became a silent key.
- Nomination committee presented the slate of officers for election. Floor was opened for additional nominations. There were none so election officially became a closed ballot. Donnie Fort W7XY moved to accept slate of officers as presented. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Motion passed.
- Elected officials are President Lewis Ball NQ7D, Vice- President Dick Walton W7XT, Secretary Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Treasurer Jerry Ehli N7GE, Repeater 1 Donnie Fort W7XY, Repeater 2 Paul Shuey N7PAS.

Meeting adjourned.

Lance Collister N7GJ presented the program on his 2013 DXpedition to Clipperton atoll. Very interesting.

A White Elephant gift exchange was conducted. All had fun.

**Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.**



Kelly Foster KD5GEF unwraps a box of Hershey's s'mores.



Paige got the Viagra clock, which was very popular!



Bob N7MSU checks the authenticity of a scented candle



More than 20 hams and guests attended the Christmas party



Lewis NQ7D unwraps a present



Gary KG7DNT proudly displays the soldering iron he unwrapped

## Skywarn 2014

From 7 – 8 Dec several club members volunteered in shifts for the annual National Skywarn Recognition Day out at the National Weather Service's office at the Missoula International Airport. There were around 200 contacts overall and 22 were NWS stations. This earned us a Certificate. Participants were: KE7BPU Wayne, K0SN Tom, N7GE Jerry, N7MSU Bob, NQ7D Lewis, W4YMA Bill, NZ7S Eric, K7DNT, KC7KEE Maggie, and N7PAS Paul,

- Jerry

### Candidates Successful at the October and November Exam Sessions

The October 14 session had **KG7FIK** Randy pass General Class. Seven candidates were successful at the November 11 examination session and had their new call signs on the FCC website the very next day. Congratulations to General Class: **KG7GOI** Gary and Technicians: **KG7GOJ** Timothy, **KG7GOK** John, **KG7GOL** Shawna, **KG7GOM** Steve, **KG7GON** Chuck and **KG7GOO** Dalton.

Thanks to Volunteer Examiners: **N7GE** Jerry, **NQ7D** Lewis, **N7PAS** Paul, and **K7VK** Vick.

The next HARC sponsored examination session is January 13, 2014. It will be held at a new HARC meeting location, Missoula Fire Station #5 at 6501 Lower Miller Creek Road, 5:30 PM.

### First Ever Contact with South Sudan

Congratulations to **W7GJ** Lance for his recent first ever contact from North America to South Sudan via six meters. Lance's feat was via Earth-Moon-Earth moon bounce. This contact brings Lance's total countries worked to 189 on six meters and 135 via six meter EME. Wow.

### Montana and Missoula Area Ham Census

There are 675,000 ham radio operators in the USA. Montana has 3090, Seventh fewest of the 50 States. By License Class: Novice 4% Technician 48% General 21% Advanced 11% and Extra 16%

Approximate hams in the Missoula area: 330

Percentage with non-seven numeral call signs: 13%

The most common prefix: N7 at 12% followed by KE7 at 11%

The most common licensee name: Robert

## Walker Mobile

Where there is a will, there is a way. Bill W4YMA fitted a 2 meter rig and a battery to walker he had to use for a while. He also made a 2 meter yagi.

“I got a one page(front & back) article from QST a couple of years ago...I have enough wire if you want I can build you one??? 9.8 Db gain. I was on the net tonight and found I can only shoot through 'windows'...walls are to much!! The real reason I wanted to do this antennae is so I can track ISS and QSO with them! We'll see how THAT goes!”

Bill

