



# The Hellgate Static



February 2015 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO  
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## Club Officers:

- President: W7XT Dick Walton
- Vice-president: Eric NZ7S
- 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: Eric NZ7S
- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS  
[N7PAS@bresnan.net](mailto:N7PAS@bresnan.net)

Newly Elected or reelected:

- N7DXT Gary Watson
- KE7BPU Wayne Weber

## HARC Needs YOU



We need volunteers for many of the below events

## Upcoming Events

- 28 Feb Argus Hamfest
- ?? April Montana QSO party
- 18 April Grizzly Triathlon
- ?? May 7QP Contest
- 09 May Riverbank Run
- 31 May – 1 June TOSRV
- 27-28 June Field Day
- 4 July W7PX Special Event
- 12 July Missoula Marathon
- 17 – 19 July Glacier/Waterton Hamfest
- ?? July Blackfoot River Cleanup
- 19 Sept Ride for the Symphony
- ?? Oct JOTA
- ?? Dec Skywarn
- 14 Dec Christmas Dinner

See club website for more meetings and events:

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

## Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Minutes January 12, 2015 at Latimer Fire Station

Dick Walton W7XT called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Gary Watson N7DXT, Bill Farrell W4YMA, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Dean Pond N7DLP, Sandra Pond KF7GZR, Dick Walton W7XT, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Tom Hellem K0SN, Trent Smith KC0QBH, Larry Stipe K7GIS, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, James Claxton who just passed his Tech test, and Roy Babcock guest.

Paul Shuey N7PAS moved approval of the November minutes, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. Bill Farrell W4YMA moved approval of the December minutes. Dean Pond N7DLP 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Maggie Lough KF7KEE moved approval of the Treasurer's Report for December 31, 2015. Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

The election of the Treasurer had been overlooked at the December meeting. Dean Pond N7DLP moved the election of Jerry Ehli N7GE as Treasurer. Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. There are 2 vacancies on the Repeater Committee – Donnie Fort W7XY moved to Great Falls and Bob Henderson N7MSU resigned due to health issues. Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to elect Gary Watson N7DXT to replace Bob Henderson for a 2-year term. Eric Sedgwick NZ7S 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA moved to elect Wayne Weber KE7BPU replace Donnie Fort for a one-year term. Passed. Tom Hellen K0SN and Paul Shuey N7PAS are the other 2 members of the Repeater Committee. Eric Sedgwick NZ7S is Chair.

Jerry Ehli N7GE reported that 15 members had paid their dues for 2015 and there are 4 Lifetime Members.

Jerry Ehli N7GE reported on the Dec 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Skywarn event. 5 operators made 253 contacts including 37 weather stations. Trent Smith KC0QBH presented the Club with a plaque on behalf of the National Weather Service – The Blizzard Award.

The recommendation regarding the club laptop was postponed to February meeting.

Dick Walton W7XT announced K7MT will report on the status of packet systems in MT and his service in Antarctica for the Feb program, and recommended a Home Brew Night for the March program.

The following are the proposed events for 2015:

Grizzly Triathlon in early April

River Bank Run in April

TOSRV in May – Mike Leary K7MSO will take over from Bob Henderson as coordinator

Field Day June 27-28

Special Event Station July 4<sup>th</sup>

Missoula Marathon July 12

Blackfoot River Cleanup

Ovando Gran Fondo in Sept – Dick Walton W7XT will coordinate

Scout Jamboree Oct

Skywarn in Dec

Net Control Operators: Jan 14<sup>th</sup> Gary Watson N7DXT, Jan 21<sup>st</sup> Bill Farrell W4YMA, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> Dick Walton W7XT, Feb 4<sup>th</sup> Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA

Tom Hellen K0SN had a list of 6 items for sale from the estate of a Silent Key

Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to Adjourn. Dean Pond N7DLP 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Dick Walton W7XT gave an excellent program on Packet Radio after adjournment.

## Bulletin from the Front Office

With this issue of “The Static” we start a regular feature, a brief column by club president, Dick Walton, W7XT. The “Bulletin” will include news about upcoming events, reminders, and random radio thoughts that the president flatters himself in believing others would find of interest.

The February 9<sup>th</sup> club meeting will be a very special one. There will be little business to be transacted in order to make adequate time for a guest speaker, Bill Erhardt, K7MT. Bill is very prominent in Montana ham radio circles, known especially for his technical expertise. He’ll bring us up-to-date on the status of our packet radio network and the interoperation of packet and the Winlink system. He’ll also give us an account of his time spent working in Antarctica, illustrated by numerous slides. Take a look at Bill’s QRZ page. The main door prize that night will be a new hardbound copy of *The ARRL Handbook*.

The March meeting will be homebrew night—radio, not beer. Any home brewed item related to radio will qualify for exhibit and description. If it’s too big to bring in, or nailed to the wall, or buried in the ground, bring some pictures. Modifications also qualify.

RFI has become a major problem on the bands since the widespread adoption of digital consumer devices. I mean, of course, interference to our operation, not from it, the problem we worried about most back when I first got on the air. TVI was a big thing then. I regularly have QRN spikes across entire bands. One of the major sources I was able to trace to a Samsung refrigerator. Grounding the case has helped only slightly. It’s time to do some research. Maybe we should have a meeting program devoted to tracking down RFI and fixing it.

--73, Dick, W7XT

## Media Matters

Did you know that HARC’s website has been visited by people from 89 countries and has been visited by over 6,800 users in the last two years? You can see these facts and more if you visit our homepage at [www.w7px.org](http://www.w7px.org), go to the bottom and click on the revolving globe.

