



The Hellgate Static



April 2015

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Club Officers:

- President: W7XT Dick Walton
- Vice-president: Eric NZ7S
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- Secretary: Maggie KF7KEE/Donna KC5WRA

Standing Committees:

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

Repeater Advisory Committee

- Committee Chair: Eric NZ7S
- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS
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

- 18 April Grizzly Triathlon
- 2 - 3 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

March Meeting Minutes

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Minutes March 9, 2015 at Latimer Fire Station

Dick Walton W7XT called the meeting to order and honored the passing of longtime, very active member Bob Black K7PA by asking for personal stories, and a moment of silence. Bob had been custodian of the club license.

The following were in attendance: Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Dick Walton W7XT, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Tom Hellem K0SN, Philip Richardson WA7OPY, Larry Stipe K7GIS, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, David Hooper KB1BED, Dean Morton KG7CBD, Steve Schlang K7PX, Steve Flood KK7UV

Due to miscommunication, there were no minutes for the February meeting.

Maggie Lough KF7KEE moved approval of the Treasurer's Report for February 28. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2nd. Passed. The Executive Committee prepared a prospective budget including mileage for repeater maintenance.

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S reported that the repeater can go back on Blanchard. Missoula County is paying the lease fee. The Repeater at Thompson Peak out of Superior is close to being up and running. Paul Shuey N7PAS will be meeting with the Forest Service the first week in April. Need a good set of duplexers. UHF will be kept at Lolo Pass and will be linked to 90

The following are the events for 2015:

Grizzly Triathlon April 18th, Mike Leary K7MSO lead, could use 12-14 hams, have 8 so far

River Bank Run May 9th, Mike Leary K7MSO and Jerry Ehli N7GE coordinators

TOSRV May 31st- June 1st – Mike Leary K7MSO coordinator

Field Day June 27-28 perhaps at a different location this year

Special Event Station July 4th

Missoula Marathon July 12

Blackfeet River Cleanup

Ovando Gran Fondo in Sept – Dick Walton W7XT will coordinate

Scout Jamboree Oct

Skywarn in Dec

We have 24 members. We usually have at least 40 members. Dick appointed Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, and possibly Kelly Foster K6LLY to come up with a plan to encourage more members.

Net Control Operators: Paul Shuey N7PAS March 11th, Jerri Shuey N7JGS March 18th, Dick Walton W7XT March 25th, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA April 1st, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S April 8th

The program was Home Brew Night with Paul Shuey N7PAS, Dick Walton W7XT, Larry Stipe K7GIS, and Steve Flood KK7UV sharing their innovative projects.

Adjourned

Bulletin from the Front Office

April 2015

April marks the start of our public service activities year. Consequently, it's a good time to begin checking out the equipment that we use. If you need help programming a transceiver, or are unsure about its operation in some other regard, bring the unit to any of the next couple of meetings and someone familiar with your radio will give you some help.

Programs for the next few HARC meetings are pretty well settled. At the April meeting we will take a look at traffic handling. Urs Trooly will give a general overview of the subject and members with experience in the art can then contribute to a question and answer format discussion. We begin the run up to Field Day in the May meeting with a low-key presentation on contest operation. Our objectives for Field Day this year will be to increase our score (as always), and to increase participation, particularly at the operator desks.

While tuning across the CW segment of the 40 meter band this past weekend I heard a puzzling call, "CQ BW." A couple of exchanges made it clear that this was some kind of contest, or at least contest style event. Then I heard W7GKF respond to the CQ and listened to the ensuing QSO. That call was familiar, but I couldn't place it; the name that went with it, "Bill", sounded right, too. A quick check on QRZ reminded me that W7GKF is Bill Waters, former member of the UM Chemistry Department. That solved one mystery, but what about that "BW"? It surely couldn't be "CQ Bill Waters," could it?

If this was a contest it would be listed on the WA7BNM Contest Calendar. Sure enough; there was a CW event whose linked information cleared up the mystery. It was rather more a QSO party than a contest, one for members of the First Class Operators Club, an organization based in the UK. One of the club's previous outstanding members was Bill Windle, to whose memory the event was dedicated: hence, "CQ BW."

It turns out that there is a very similar US based organization, "The CW Operators Club," founded in 2010. Membership requirements for both these clubs are rather stiff. You can't just sign up and pay your dues. You must be nominated by a member, then successfully complete several QSOs with other members who can vouch for your ability to carry on a QSO at 25 WPM or faster. Any HARC members belong to either of these exclusive organizations?

--73, Dick, W7XT

ARRL International DX Contest Winners!

Congratulations to ARRL International DX Phone Contest, March 2014 Winners from the Hellgate ARC. KJ7NL, Walter, won the Montana Section high power single operator assisted category. KE7NO, Craig won the Montana section low power single operator category. Also N9RV, Pat from Potomac won the Montana section single operator unassisted category. Handsome certificates showed up in their mailboxes from the ARRL. Congratulations to all.

New and Upgrading Amateur Radio Operators

From VE K7VK

Several candidates were successful at the Hellgate ARC volunteer examination sessions held on February 28 & March 9. Congratulations to new Technicians: KG7RPD Gerry; KG7RWB Daniel and KG7RWC Michael; Upgrading to General is KG7CBD Dean.

The next scheduled examination session will be held at 5:30 PM, April 13 just prior to the Hellgate ARC meeting at Missoula Fire Station #4.

Happy Birthday N7FMW Ruth

From K7VK

Congratulations to N7FMW Ruth who turned 90 in February. Ruth was a long time member of the Hellgate ARC but has moved North near Big Fork, MT. She is an enthusiastic supporter of the Hellgate ARC, the volunteer examiner program and amateur radio. She held numerous positions in the club including Vice President and assisted in administering nearly 100 volunteer examination sessions in the Missoula area. Ruth is a proficient CW operator and loves to work RTTY. An avid quilter, Ruth quilted a bedspread using T-shirts emblems from most all of the public service events that Hellgate ARC participates.

Belated HAPPY BIRTHDAY RUTH!

K7BA Bob SK

From K7VK



Long-time Hellgate ARC supporter K7BA Bob Black died on February 18. He was 84. Bob was a leader in the Hellgate ARC. He had been President, was Emergency Coordinator at both the State and local level, and promoted the establishment of the existing Hellgate ARC repeaters and repeater sites that still exist today. Bob began the Hellgate ARC's participation in and lead several public service events including the Tour of the Swan River Valley and the annual celebration of the Lewis and Clark expedition on Lolo Pass. As an avid DXer, he worked many countries and served as net control on several public service nets including the Maritime Mobile Net keeping track of sailboats across the oceans.

Bob retired as a career pilot in the US Air Force, taught aerial photogrammetry classes at the University of Montana and worked as a transportation engineer forester for Plum Creek. He had an amazing technical grasp of electronics, radio and repeater functions and the political savvy to make things happen. Bob was a good friend and helping hand, 'elmer' to all hams. He administered over 100 volunteer examinations for the Hellgate ARC sponsored program. Bob held callsigns KA7DDV and then for many years KC7HP until selecting the vanity call of K7BA. Bob was first and current trustee of the call sign W7PX for the Hellgate ARC. Bob is a tremendous loss to many of us as a mentor and sincere friend. He will be immensely missed. A memorial will be held July 2 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 11 AM followed by placement of the urn at Western Montana Veterans Cemetery at 2 PM.

73 our dear friend. *** - * -