



# The Hellgate Static



May 2015

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HARC P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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Race food: After the Grizzly Triathlon David KB1BED, Wayne KE7BPU, Mike K7MSO, Donna KC5WRA, Rich K7QNZ, and Bob N7MSU enjoy some burgers and fries at Five Guys.

## **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)
- QSLs, Awards: N7MSU, Bob Henderson  
[mailto:n7msu@q.com](mailto: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

## **Upcoming Events**

- 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)

## April Meeting Minutes

HARC Meeting Minutes April 13 2015 Latimer Fire Station

Dick Walton W7XT called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Dean Pond N7DLP, Sandra Pond KF7GZR, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Wayne Weber KE7PU, Bob Henderson N7MSU, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, Tom Hellem K0SN, Mike Leary K7MSO, Dick Walton W7XT, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Gary Watson N7DXT.

The Mar 9 Minutes were reviewed and corrected. Maggie Lough KF7KEE moved to approve the minutes as corrected. Bob Henderson N7MSU 2nd. Passed.

No Treasurer's Report due to absence of Treasurer.

8 hams are needed for Grizzly Triathlon April 18. Donna, Bob, Rich and Paul volunteered.

The River Bank Run is May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mike volunteered to help Donna with her radios.

Wayne reported on Membership Recruitment. He recommended offering new hams their membership dues minus their testing fees. After discussion, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA moved to change dues policy to pro-rate dues to ½ (of \$30) as of July 1. Dean Pond N7DLP 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed. Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to offer new hams reduced membership dues of \$23 (\$30 minus \$7). Wayne Weber KE7BPU 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Dick suggested several options for upgrading the Club computer or purchasing a new one. They have to work with the software we use during Field Day and other ham events to record contacts. Mike will investigate and report back at May meeting. Dean Pond N7DLP moved to purchase a computer for this purpose. Tom Hellem K0SN 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

We discussed considering a different location for Field Day, with better range to increase our ability to make more contacts and be more competitive. Tom, Dick, Vick, Wayne, and Bob will get together to decide.

VHF Net Control Operators: April 15 Jerri Shuey N7JGS; April 22 Paul Shuey N7PAS; April 29 Gary Watson N7DXT; May 6 Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA.

Program: Handling formal traffic; outline and discussion.

May's Program will be on Contesting with Tom talking about CW, Bob talking about Phone Operating, and going over the basics.

Good of the Order/Welfare

Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to adjourn. Bob Henderson N7MSU 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

**Bulletin from the Front Office**  
**May 2015**

The May meeting of the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club will feature a presentation by Tom Hellem, K0SN, "Contest Operating; A Gentle Introduction." Tom will cover the basics of contest operation in order to help get us in shape for Field Day, an emergency preparedness exercise which has become U.S. ham radio's most popular contest.

Your president, unlike Tom, is not a dedicated or expert contest operator. I am, rather, what might be called a contest "dabbler." When a major contest, like ARRL Sweepstakes, is on I may get in and give it a run for an hour or two, or sometimes the better part of a day, just for the fun of it. It's a good test of operating skills and of the capabilities of one's station.

Speaking of the station, the RFI saga at W7XT recently took an interesting turn. At this QTH I have a level of QRN that I did not experience at the QTH I occupied for more than 30 years down in the Lewis and Clark neighborhood. While it was not a particularly good radio location in many respects, the noise that I had to endure was rather easily identified and cured. There were some leaking insulators on a power pole in the alley once, and there was always a wave of RFI when the streetlights would come on. Intermittent streetlights were a frequent problem. I rather made a nuisance of myself, I expect, by identifying such offenders and notifying the power company, who would replace the failing bulb in a day or two.

Here the major RFI problem has been more or less constant, at least since we bought that new refrigerator. Bringing my portable HF receiver into its immediate presence produced a terrible racket from the speaker. Now I may have discovered the reason for this continuing offense against my U.S. government licensed desire to enjoy the HF bands. The refrigerator suddenly stopped frigerating, requiring moving its contents into camp coolers topped with dry ice. The repairman who came quite promptly informed me that this unit, like most contemporary devices of its type, did not control the speed of the compressor motor by voltage, but by the frequency of the motor's current. That meant that the house AC was converted to pulsating DC, as is done in ordinary power supplies, but these square waves of electrical energy were varied in frequency. A marvelous invention, the repairman thought.

My view of this electrical innovation was quite the opposite. Square waves are RFI poison. What immediately came to mind for me was the way my spikes of 40 over S9 noise marched across the spectrum of the ham bands. When I offered that this sounded to me like a recipe for an ungodly amount of radio interference the repairman volunteered the interesting information that when these units first came out they would wipe out any TV in the same room. That problem had been solved, he believed. For him I had news. Now I have to come up with a solution. Encasing the blasted box in aluminum sheeting has been ruled out by the head of the household. It would clash with the kitchen's color scheme, I was informed. Has anyone tried tying knots in the power cord?

--73, Dick, W7XT

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## 2015 Grizzly Triathlon

HARC volunteers enjoyed another great day helping with the 2015 Grizzly Triathlon. Bob N7MSO and Mike K7MSO were net control. As usual, the transition area where racers exit the pool and mount their bikes/ dismount there bikes then run proved to be pretty hectic, with more than one near bicycle collision or spill. Next the race went past Vick K7VK, who was stationed on the north end of the Van Buran street foot bridge near a dangerous dog leg turn that can cause some bicycle accidents. Wayne KE7BPU was in the East Gate Shopping Center Parking lot where the race turned East on Highway 10. Then Paul N7PAS was stationed at Easy Street before the road passes under the I90 bridge and Donna KC5WRA was parked on Brickyard hill east of East Missoula. Rich K7QNZ provided an excellent pair of eyes for safety concerns from the great vantage point near Marshall Grade Road. Kelly K6LLY and David KB1BED were at the turn-around point near the intersection of highways 10 and 200. Steve was stationed way up Kim Williams Trail at the turnaround point for the run part of the race. Afterwards the HARC volunteers swapped stories at the 5 Guys restaurant.

## New and Upgrading Amateur Radio Operators

From VE K7VK

Two candidates were successful at the Hellgate ARC volunteer examination session held on April 13.

Congratulations to **KG7SXV**, Dennis for passing both the Technician and General exams with perfect scores and to **KJ6CQC**, Dean for upgrading to Amateur Extra.

Thanks volunteer examiners: **K7PX** Steve, **K7VK** Vick and **N7PAS** Paul.

The next scheduled examination session will be held at 5:30 PM, May 11 just prior to the Hellgate ARC meeting at Missoula Fire Station #4.

## First Hellgate ARC Woman President

**N7FMW** Ruth who turned 90 in February became the Hellgate ARC's first woman President in 1993. She recently acquired a new VHF handheld so we're hoping to hear her on the net again in the near future.