



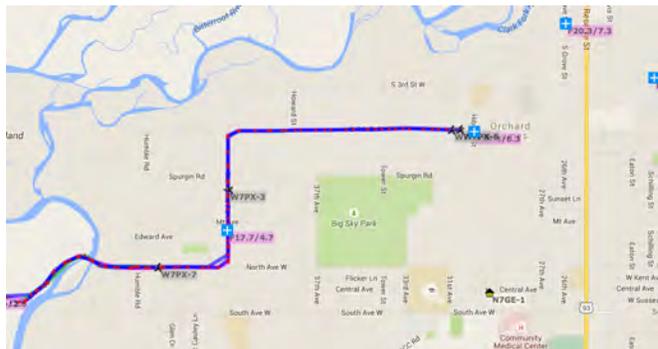
The Hellgate Static



August 2015 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO
HARC P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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APRS track during the 2015 Missoula Marathon.

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

Upcoming Events

- 19 Sept Ride for the Symphony
- 17 Oct JOTA
- ?? Dec Skywarn
- 14 Dec Christmas Dinner

See club website for more meetings and events:

http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html

HARC Meeting Minutes July 13 2015 Latimer Fire Station

- Dick Walton W7XT called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Dick Walton W7XT, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Sandra Pond KF7GZR, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Frank Kisselbach W7PAQ, Tom Hellem K0SN, Mike Leary K7MSO, , Gary Watson N7DXT, Steve Flood KK7UV, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ
- Minutes from June 9 2015 were presented.
- Jerry Ehli N7GE Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report for June 2015. Gary Watson N7DXT moved to approve the report. Sandy Pond KF7GZR 2nd. Passed.
- Dick presented information about a recent equipment donation. The equipment included an Icom Ic-735 transceiver, some VHF transceivers, and various other smaller devices. It is being inventoried, cleaned up and tested. Decisions about disposition will be made when this process is complete.
- Tom reported on Field Day results. We have significantly increased our contacts and points earned. 2011 2500 pts, 2012 4700 pts, 2013 4180 pts, 2014 4680 pts with CW, 2015 5454 pts with 1693 contacts.
- Steve reported on July 4th Commemorative Station at Ft Missoula in the Chapel.
- Jerry reported on the Missoula Marathon. 12 hams worked the event. 6 of the 8 available tracking units were attached to bicycles. The Race Director was very impressed with the APRS tracking. Next year their use will be expanded.
- Dick reminded us of the upcoming Ovando Gran Fondo event coming up on Sept 19 and passed around a sign-up sheet. There will be 200-250 cyclists on a 60 mile course including 2 optional "challenge routes", as well as possible bear encounters.
- Election of a new trustee for the club call W7PX was discussed. Bob Black K7BA who had held the position for many years passed away in Feb. Names put forth include Mike Leary K7MSO, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Vick Applegate K7VK. Erik Sedgwick moved to leave nominations open until the August meeting, and vote at September meeting. Jerry Ehli N7GE 2nd. Passed.
- Dick made a request for suggestions for programs and volunteers to present the program. Frank Kisselbach offered to do the August program on remote operations of a PSK31 home station a cell phone and WiFi connection.
- VHF Net Control Operators: July 15 Eric Sedgwick NZ7S; July22 Mike Leary K7MSO; July 29 Dean Pond N7DLP & Sandy Pond KF7GZR, Aug 5 Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA; August 12 Mike Leary K7MSO
- Frank invited the club to consider sponsoring an Explorer troop to train new hams and assist them in providing public service. He will bring more information next meeting.
- Dick brought up the possibility of having hams of MT put ghost towns on the air after Field Day as a QST event. People fascinated by ghost towns and pioneer history would be interested, as would county hunters. The idea was warmly received, so Dick will propose it to George Forsyth, the Montana SM.
- Sandy Pond KF7GZR moved to adjourn. Frank Kisselbach W7PAQ 2nd. Passed.

2015 Missoula Marathon

In the rainy, early morning hours of 12 July, 2014 14 HARC volunteers navigated around closed roads to their assigned stations, setup net control in Caras Park and conducted radio checks just before thousands of runners surged onto the streets for the 6 am start of the Missoula Marathon. The 147.00 MHz repeater was primary for net control and secondary was 146.90 MHz. Those radio operators who were stationed out along the race course did an excellent job of keeping net control advised of the lead runners for both the full and half marathons.

The APRS trackers really shined at this marathon. Net control was able to give radio operators a heads up before the lead runners passed by their locations. Additionally, the race director came over to net control and witnessed first hand just how well we were able to track who was in first or second place, minute-by-minute. Dave K7GPS even helped the director display the APRS website on his cell phone!

The net concluded operations by 11:30 a.m. and then the team met at Pizza Hut to discuss our participation in the event, enjoy some good pizza and some camaraderie. Special thanks go to the following volunteers: Eric NZ7S, Vick K7VK, Dick W7XT, Wayne KE7BPU, Bill W4YMA, Chris KE7MH, Keith K7MEA, Greg NL7WB, Jerry K7IMZ, Dave K7GPS, Mike K7MSO and Jerry N7GE.



Jerry N7GE, Mike K7MSO, and Dave K7GPS as net control for the marathon

Some locals involved in the Missoula Marathon

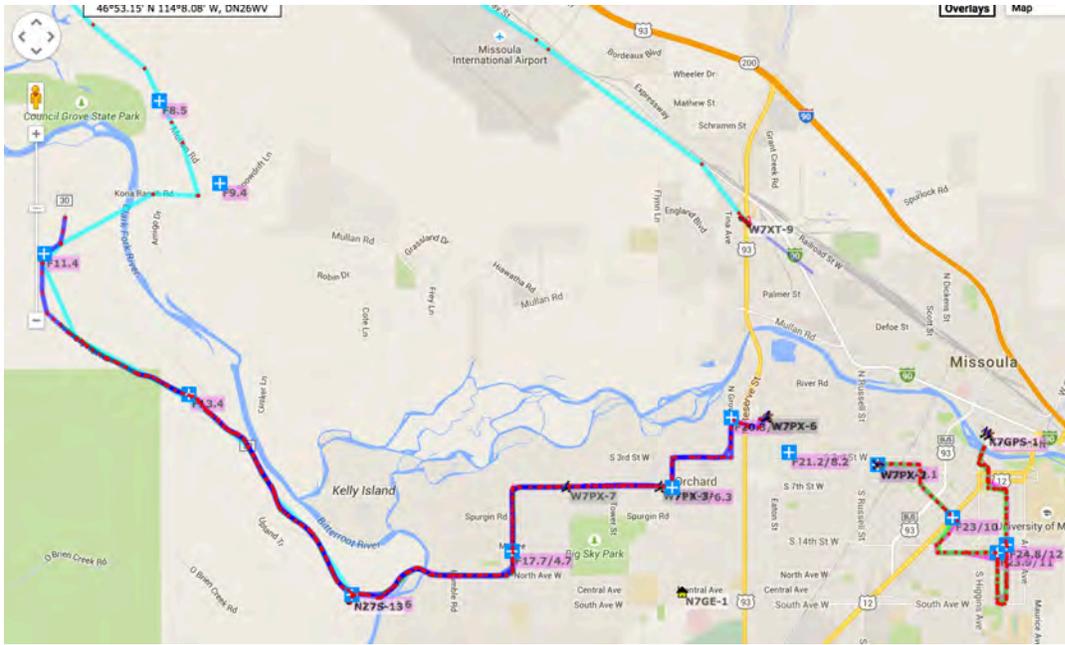


Above from right is Dave Dobbins, tech guru for Cascade Schools and a four-year member of Hellgate Radio, a ham radio operator club based in Missoula. Dobbins helped with tech support that included radio communications and GPS tracking for this year's Missoula Marathon. In the photo with him from the left is Jerry Ehli and Mike Leary.

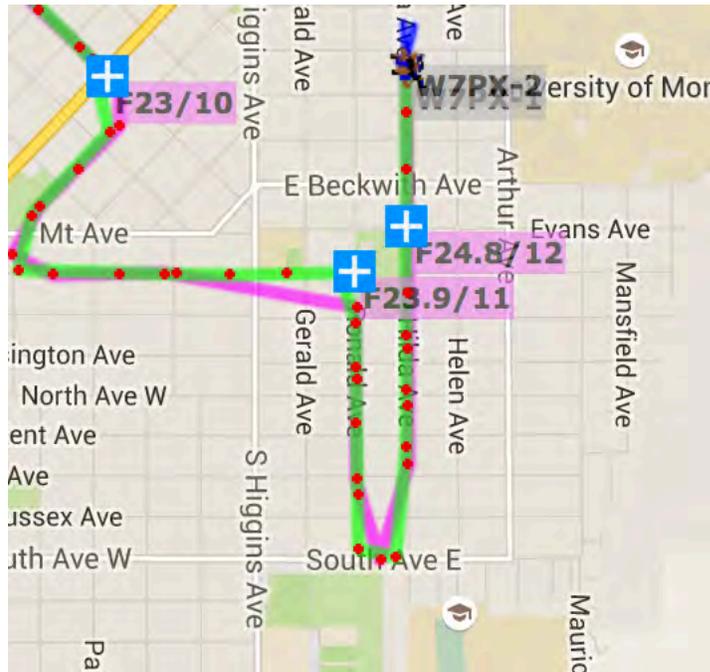


Unbeknownst to the Courier that there were several participants from the local area in this year's marathon, the editor was present to watch her daughter Sophie O'Brien compete. Right photo shows Sophie crossing the finish line. Her chip time was 3:37:44, a significant improvement from last year's 4:05. She placed 151 out of 1,304. She currently is training for "The Rut", a 50K trail run in Bozeman that takes place in September. Please submit your photos and information about events that involve local family and friends. Send to cascadecourier@mcn.net and include details about the event. The Courier will gladly publish your submissions as space allows. (Courier photos)

We even made the cascade Courier!



APRS Track of the Race



APRS tracks around Bonner Park

Your recent review of the club's Field Day reminded me of my first two Field Day's in Montana. Actually, they were the first two in the two year's after I was first licensed. That would have been 1971 and 1972. My memories noted in the following were triggered by a notation in the recent Static that mentioned that the club considered going to Coloma for Field Day this year.

I finished my degree work at Indiana University in spring semester of 1971. I had earned a Novice license during that last year in college. Marian and I moved early that June to Ennis. Marian had a summer job there. I, ultimately, found a job stacking hay on a ranch near Macalister. I desperately wanted to get on the air for Field Day. I wanted the true portable experience. I had a Radio Shack DX-150A receiver that worked pretty well for Novice work, and it ran on 12 VDC. My transmitter was a 15 W Ameco AC-1, and I had a handful of 80 m and 40 m oscillator crystals. Of course, as a tube rig, it needed 120 VAC. I experimented with a vibrator supply from an automobile radio receiver that I got at a junk yard. My skills were not quite up to making it all work at that point in my ham career. So, Field Day passed with me doing little more than listening to some of the action on my receiver while parked at some nearby fishing access.

Marian and I moved to Missoula at the end of the 1971 summer. We settled into UM married student housing at the south end of Arthur Street, and I set up my station on my study table in our little apartment. I actually made quite a few CW contacts the winter of 1971-72. I had upgraded my transmitter to a KnightKit T-60, which had a little more punch than the Ameco AC-1. It had a built in meter so that tuning up was a little more definitive. During that winter, I was befriended by Milburn (Mil) Parker (W7NEG, SK). We had a regular schedule on 15 m for code practice. We used 15 m at night when it was closed for long distance. That worked pretty well. I got my code speed up to the requisite level for the General/Advanced license, studied the theory, and traveled to Helena one day in early May to sit for the FCC administered exam. Sadly, I did not pass the Advanced portion, but I was successful in earning the General license.

Then came the nominal six week wait for the license to arrive from FCC offices in Gettysburg, PA. As Field Day approached, I wondered whether or not I would have my new license in hand for Field Day.

At the same time I sat for the FCC exam in Helena, a high school-aged fellow was also there from Missoula. He earned his upgrade, also. Like me, he was anxious to get something set up for Field Day. He said he knew a good spot at a ghost town called Garnet. He allowed that it was not that far from Missoula. I was not familiar with Garnet at that time. The young fellow and I drove up there, and I realized that it was a lot farther from town than I really wanted to go.

Meanwhile, the club was scouting locations, too. I went with Ken Gordon (W7EKB) and some other guys up to some commercial tower site on the back side of Mt. Sentinel. I believe that the club ultimately chose that spot.

My General license did not arrive before Field Day. In fact, it was not printed until July 21 that year and probably did not arrive in Missoula for a week or so after that. So much for the advertised six week wait. The print date was more than two months after the exam date and about two months to the day after the FCC notified me that I had passed the General test.

What did I do for Field Day that year? I am not really sure. I know that I was not on the air. I think that was the weekend that Marian and I moved out of married student housing into a little house on North Avenue west of Reserve Street. That started another phase of my radio life, but I will save those stories for another time.

What about Field Day 2015? My son, Robb (KD5RXS), and I set up in my basement, where it was cool. We got some of my HF equipment out of storage and put up my old Hustler 18V on a pipe I drove into the ground outside the basement window. That Hustler vertical was my main antenna at the North Avenue house over 40 years ago. Robb and I made a dozen or so contacts on 20 m during Saturday afternoon. I made a few more in the evening and one or two Sunday morning. Everything is packed up again and stashed in a closet. The experience, though, did challenge me to think about how I could set up an HF station permanently at my present location.

Feel free to share any of the above with the club via the Static or whatever.

Best regards,

Bob

WA7TZP (the same call that was assigned that day in July 1972)