



The Hellgate Static



November 2015 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO

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

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Paul N7PAS and Eric NZ7S pose with this year's JOTA patch during Jamboree On The Air 2015.

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

- ?? 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 October 12 2015 Latimer Fire Station

President Dick Walton, W7XT, called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance: Jerry Ehli, N7GE; Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S; Wayne Weber, KE7BPU; Maggie Lough, KF7KEE; Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA; Bob Henderson, N7MSU; Mike Leary, K7MSO; Lewis Ball, NQ7D; Frank Kisselbach, W7PAQ; Dean Pond, N7DLP; Sandra Pond, KF7GZR; Gary Watson, N7DXT; Bryce Nordgren, AF7RQ; Paul Shuey, N7PAS; Rich Kingdon, K7QNZ; guests from Plains - Cathy Ledbetter KE6UTO; Jim Fey KO6UW; and guest Gary Duncan.

Lewis Ball NQ7D moved to approve the Sept 14 minutes. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2nd. Passed.

Jerry Ehli, N7GE, Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2015. Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA, moved to approve the report. Dean Pond, N7DLP, 2nd. Passed.

Dick noted that at the September meeting, at which Mike Leary, K7MSO, was elected and duly appointed trustee of the Club call, W7PX, he had forgotten to offer the members the opportunity to thank those who had stood for election. In addition to Mike, the others were Wayne Weber, KE7BPU, and Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S. The dedication of these three was acknowledged with a round of applause.

Dick led discussion of the Ovando Gran Fondo event held on Sept 19. The Symphony was very appreciative of our assistance and made a generous donation to our club. Mrs. Wright, one of the riders, hauled in to Ovando from the lunch stop by Jerry Ehli, gave an individual contribution of \$20. Dick confessed to having overlooked the work of Patty Ehli, KB7MOX, as logger for the event in his write-up for the *Static*. He commissioned Jerry Ehli to convey the club's gratitude to Patty for her service.

Dick reported that he had gotten a call from a lady about helping with a fundraising run. He sent her a copy of our policy on considering such requests and pointed out to her that it required that acceptance required approval by a vote of the club members. He told her we were not meeting before her run and could not vote on helping. He explained to her that such a vote was necessary because approval of a commitment by the club must entail commitment by the individual members. Eric and Paul reported on the status of the HARC repeaters. Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S, informed the club that the 80 repeater on Blanchard requires an improved antenna, but that there are no plans to do the work this fall. That repeater is of great value for the TOSRV ride early in the summer, and the OGF in September. Paul Shuey, N7PAS, has led the effort to install a repeater above Superior (Thompson Peak). Paul explained how the repeater came to be. The FWP approved it in April. Two weeks ago on Saturday, the Repeater Committee went up and installed it on site. VHF antenna is working - 146.96 tone 88.5. Paul advised, "Don't use it on 50 watts if you're near there." Paul is working on a UHF antenna so that this repeater can be linked to the local 90 machine. Finally, Dick informed the members that he was contacted by the president of the Bitterroot Club, who would like to coordinate with us on a repeater installation. A further report will be made when details are available.

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S reported on JOTA (Jamboree on the Air – National and Worldwide Event) for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts, to be held at Fort Missoula in the Chapel from noon to 4 pm, Saturday, Oct. 17th. Wayne, Frank, Mike, Rich will assist Eric and Dean McCollum will provide the opportunity to find the hidden radio signal.

Dick appointed Jerry Ehli, Donna Pecastaing, and Jerri Shuey to the Christmas Dinner Planning Committee.

Dick appointed Gary Watson and Tom Hellem to the Nominating Committee for 2016 Officers. Nominations are to be made at the November meeting, with the election held at the December meeting.

The program tonight will be a discussion of proposed upcoming programs. In November, Frank Kisselbach will redo his August program that was interrupted by the Power Outage. Frank will demonstrate remote operations of a PSK31 home station using a cell phone and WiFi connection. Other program suggestions were a presentation by the president of the Big Sky Contesting club, Pat Barkey, a discussion of county hunting, and the possibility of putting Montana ghost towns on the air. Our Section Manager has not gotten back to Dick about this.

Argus Barker's annual HamFest is this weekend in Stevensville.

VHF Net Control Operators: Oct 14 - Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S; Oct 21 - Lewis Ball, NQ7D; Oct 28 - Mike Leary, K7MSO; Nov 4 - Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA.

Three door prizes were awarded.

For sale – Jerry has ICOM 746. Dick has three or four portable shortwave receivers.

Jerry Ehli moved to adjourn. Paul Shuey 2nd. Passed.

HARC Shines During Field Day 2015!!!

#	Call	Score	Category	QSOs	Power Mult	GOTA Call	Section	Participants	Club
1	W7R	8,034	2A	2,215	2	W7Y	WWA	21	Pacific Cty ARC
2	W7PX	6,044	2A	1,693	2	N7DXT	MT	18	Hellgate ARC
3	N7LE	5,348	2A	1,555	2		OR	11	Central OR DX Club
4	N7KE	4,500	2A	1,317	2		WWA	30	
5	W7PIG	4,412	2A	980	2	W7SXM	WWA	40	Stanwood Camano ARC
6	W7VNE	3,732	2A	911	2		MT	7	Anaconda ARC
7	K7W	3,674	2A	900	2		WWA	5	Pacific NW QRP Group
8	W7VMI	4,474	2A	878	2	W7OZT	WWA	33	Vashon Maury Island RC
9	W7ACS	3,984	2A	753	2	W7AW	WWA	85	PSRG & Seattle ACS
10	KL7AA	1,925	2A	695	1		AK	28	Anchorage ARC
11	AB7HP	1,552	2A	651	1		ID	20	Hewlett-Packard Boise ARC
12	W7ED	1,934	2A	536	2		MT	40	Gallatin Ham RC
13	W7JQ	1,244	2A	376	2		WWA	22	RF Wireless ARC of Burley
14	N7LC	1,640	2A	337	2	W7W	EWA	35	Lilac City ARC
15	W7A	1,254	2A	332	2		WWA	14	Maple Valley ARC
16	W7FLO	2,244	2A	313	2	W7L	OR	44	Central OR Coast ARC
17	N7IG	1,850	2A	312	2		WWA	10	South Kitsap ARC
18	W7YAK	1,076	2A	303	2		MT	5	Yaak ARC
19	NC7G	1,342	2A	277	2	WA7ST	WWA	15	Highline ARC
20	W7GHJ	1,688	2A	246	2		EWA	25	Northeast WA ARC
21	W7POE	1,492	2A	221	2		WWA	4	WPPS RC
22	KL7AN	1,080	2A	210	2		AK	16	Moosehorn ARC
23	N7OY	1,298	2A	209	2	W7GC	OR	38	Lincoln Cty ARC
24	W7EAT	608	2A	177	2		EWA	3	

Larry Lambert, N0LL, Lance Collister, W7GJ, Nail Down Fred Fish Memorial Awards 6 and 7

From the ARRL: <http://www.arrl.org/news/larry-lambert-n0ll-lance-collister-w7gj-nail-down-fred-fish-memorial-awards-6-and-7>

10/27/2015

Larry Lambert, N0LL, and Lance Collister, W7GJ, are the latest 6 meter enthusiasts to qualify for the [Fred Fish Memorial Award](#). They represent the first Magic Banders to receive the award since 2011. For those who are unfamiliar with this operating achievement, the Fred Fish Memorial Award honors Fred Fish, W5FF (SK), the first radio amateur to work and confirm all 488 Maidenhead grid squares in the 48 contiguous United States on 6 meters. Those duplicating Fish's accomplishment qualify. Lambert, who has received FFMA #6, got into ham radio while in high school in Kansas (he was WN0TRO) and made his first 6 meter contact in 1969 on AM with a Knight Kit TR-106.

“Being self employed and having an expert knowledge of propagation at 50 MHz was a big help in getting to 131 countries and FFMA,” Lambert said. His last grid square was FN67, which he checked off recently by working VE9IQ in New Brunswick. He gives partial credit to his power company with responding to his line noise complaints for his VHF successes. His antenna is just 5 elements on a 12 foot boom. “I'd like to have a good 6 meter beam someday, but I only have two towers and the winter north winds are bad,” he explained. He has a 6 meter beacon which he calls “one of the top propagation beacons in the world.”

Collister, who has received FFMA #7, started out in ham radio on VHF in 1966 — his first contact was on 2 meter AM, when he was WN3GPL. His final grid square also was FN67, made on JT65 moonbounce (EME) and on his birthday. He realized he was close to completing his goal a few years ago, after he started sorting through his QSL card collection and realized he'd already worked many, and he began closely following operations from rare grid squares.

“Being located in a northern corner of the country, it was especially challenging to connect with rare grids on the East Coast,” he said. “The northeastern USA is particularly difficult, because all the Es clouds must line up above the Canadian border to provide a propagation path back there, and usually it seems most of the summer Es clouds are over the central or eastern half of the country, below 45° latitude.” So, EME was the answer in his case.

Both Lambert and Collister would agree: 6 meters is truly the Magic Band.

Jamboree On The Air 2015

Saturday, October 17th saw another successful Boy Scout and Girl Scout Jamboree-on-the air event at historic Fort Missoula's chapel. HARC club members arrived early on Saturday and soon had our tower up and ready for the scouts. The club members ran two stations from noon until 4PM. Most popular was the SSB station that allowed the scouts and adults to talk to other scouts...primarily here in the USA. The other station was a demonstration of PSK running over the Internet.

The largest contingent of cub scouts was from Pack 15 in Florence, they rarely miss this event. The number of Daises and Brownie Girl Scouts was way up from prior years. Additionally the scouts and parents were also able to participate in a Fox Hunt and Geo-caching experience.

Even though there wasn't a home Griz football game, attendance was down a bit due to the school holidays before and after the event. After all, how many warm and sunny days do we get in late October??

This event was the 58th annual JOTA and it is always held on the third weekend of Oct. Our HARC has been a sponsor of this event since 2004.

Thanks to Eric Sedwick for coordinating this event at Fort Missoula.

Bulletin from the Front Office
November 2015

My regular Net Control shift on IMN this week created a minor crisis for me. In addition to serving as IMN NCO, my duties include acting as liaison to Regional Net 7 and the FARM net. (For those not familiar with these nets, the FARM net, 3937 Khz, 7:00 PM local time, runs on SSB, while IMN and RN7 are CW nets.) I have yet to be given any traffic on FARM, but regularly get a message or two on RN7 to take back to IMN or to MTN. Tuesday night NCS on RN7's second session (10:30 PM) announced that he had 8 pieces of traffic for IMN from PAN, about twice the count for what I've come to regard as a busy evening.

The messages were in the form of what is called a "BUK" in CW-ese, that is, a group of messages whose text and header, excepting the message number, are all the same. One need only copy the header and the text once, and then the message number and address for each. I copied the "BUK" of 8 quickly and without difficulty, having to ask for repeats of only a couple of words because of static crashes.

What then was the problem? Normally, I would take this traffic to IMN the following night, the next IMN session. But I was scheduled to go off to central Montana to chase the wily wapiti early Wednesday morning, not to return until Friday afternoon. Hence, a dilemma: do I postpone the hunting trip, or cancel it altogether, or simply postpone taking the traffic to IMN until my return?

The character of the messages was the key to the resolution. They were examples of what we call "ham spam," that is, stock messages of no great importance generated by operators who love to send and receive traffic. You have all probably received one or two, a reminder to renew your license, for example, or congratulations on an upgrade from someone you've never heard of. Such traffic is not worthless; it does at least keep the nets busy and operators in practice. But delivery can safely be postponed. Problem solved: I'd go hunting and hold the traffic until Friday.

Maybe, though, I ought to have stayed home and taken that traffic to IMN on schedule. The stinking elk were completely uncooperative. All I got out of my hunting expedition was several hours of driving and a wallet lightened by the expense of a couple of nights in a motel and some barely palatable restaurant meals.

--73, Dick Walton, W7XT
President, HARC