



The Hellgate Static



December 2015 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO

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

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See club website for more meetings and events:

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

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 Meeting Minutes November 9 2015 Latimer Fire Station

- Attendance: 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, Mike Leary K7MSO, Larry Stipe K7GIS, Frank Kisselbach W7PAQ Tom Hellem K0SN, Gary Watson N7DXT, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Tom McGinley K7QA, Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Dick Walton W7XT.
- Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to approve the Oct 12 minutes. Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA 2nd. Passed.
- Jerry Ehli N7GE Treasurer presented the Treasurer's Report for September 2015. Maggie Lough KF7KEE moved to approve the report. Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA 2nd. Passed.
- Eric Sedgwick NZ7S reported that JOTA was successful, although lower turnout than hoped for, and included some Girl Scouts also. Contacts included Redondo Beach
- The Christmas Party/Dec Meeting will be held at the Eagles on Mon Dec 14. A no-host bar at 5:30pm with piano music by Donna Pecastaing will precede the dinner and a White Elephant exchange will follow.
- Gary Watson N7DXT reported the Nominating Committee presents the following candidates for the Club Officers: Vice President – Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Secretary – Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, and Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Repeater Committee – Tom Hellem K0SN and Paul Shuey N7JGS
- Lewis Ball NQ7D and Dick Walton W7XT have proposed a home brewing activity which will be discussed further at January meeting. Dick also suggested one Club meeting have someone come in to train us on CPR and/or First Aid.
- There was some discussion on fixing the portable antenna which Eric is storing.
- VHF Net Control Operators: Nov 11 Mike Leary K7MSO, Nov 18 Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Nov 25 Paul Shuey N7PAS, Dec 2 Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Dec 9 Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Dec 16 Paul Shuey N7PAS, Dec 23 Mike Leary K7MSO, Dec 30 Dick Walton W7XT Jan 6 Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA.
- Paul Shuey N7PAS moved to adjourn. Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA 2nd. Passed.
- Frank Kisselbach presented the program on remote operations of a PSK31 home station a cell phone and WiFi connection.

Bulletin from the Front Office
December 2015

In October I circulated a warning about Windows 10, just as it was beginning to appear on retailers shelves as standard equipment in new PCs, and popups urging its adoption were assaulting PC users. My email message to all HARC members included, I believe, a link to the website of WA8LMF, the primary source of detailed information about the dangers of Windows 10 (“Windows 10 Info” at wa8lmf.net).

Over the Thanksgiving weekend I tackled the problem of ridding my Windows machines of the crapware that had been installed by Microsoft in the guise of “important upgrades” to Windows 7 and 8.1. These little routines at first place a small Windows icon in the system tray. Clicking on it produces the message “Upgrade to Window 10.” Later, a more insidious piece of code will be installed inviting you to upgrade, and giving you only the alternative to immediate replacement of your operating system, “Later.” Click on “Later” and an entire Windows 10 image will be downloaded to your hard drive, about 3 gigabytes worth. And you thought that “Later” meant, “No, don’t do anything now!” On the contrary, Microsoft meant, “Download Windows 10 so that you can upgrade more quickly later.” ‘Insidious’ is too kind a term for this sort of deceptive manipulation. It was encountering that sleight of hand that moved me at last to take the steps WA8LMF recommends, and for which he provides handy scripts.

There are four Windows 7 or 8.1 machines at our QTH, my wife’s desktop, a laptop I use for computer control of my rigs, a “netbook” size computer I use when traveling, and a dual boot machine with Windows 7 and Ubuntu Linux on it. On all four I ran Stephen’s CMD file that removes the offending code that Microsoft had slipped onto the disks.

There were 8 such files. Two or three of them were immediately announced as available “important upgrades” upon rebooting! It took two executions of the CMD files and an alteration of the Registry (assisted by another script provided by WA8LMF) to get rid of this crapware more or less permanently.

All told, it took two or three hours of effort to cleanse these four computers of features Microsoft regards as enhancements. In fact, what they represent is an attempt by that technology giant again to redefine the PC, this time to their advantage. Windows 8 appeared to be based on the idea that the PC, and other consumer computing devices, like smartphones, were largely entertainment and information delivery devices—to the dismay of those of us who use ours to run programs to control radios, log QSOs, or write and test code. I am not sure what the conception beneath Windows 10 may be, but that operating system’s features, and the accompanying Microsoft license agreement, imply two things: first, the PC is being regarded as a dynamic, highly personalizable advertisement presentation device, an idea exploited by Google; second, data storage and manipulation for individual computers is, apparently in Microsoft’s view, a largely untapped profit center.

The complexity of the personal computer, whatever OS it runs, makes consumers no more knowledgeable about their workings than they typically are about those of their automobiles. Consequently, they are not equipped to make sound decisions about their

PCs. When Microsoft announces an operating system change our attitude is that it must be better—it's new!

As for this QTH, we'll be moving entirely to Macs (unless Apple follows in MS's tracks), and Linux. Until then, we're immunizing our Windows machines against MS's attempts to capture our information for their own purposes. I suggest that you log on to WA8LMF's website, download and carefully read his "Windows 10 Information" file, and decide for yourself whether you want to accept being moved to Windows 10. Do diligently follow his directions if you wish to decline Microsoft's self-serving attempts to "improve" your computing experience. I found the scripts to have accomplished their stated purpose, and to have created no problems.

--73, Dick Walton, W7XT
President, HARC

Thompson Peak Pics

Paul Shuey N7PAS sent in these photos of him and Eric NZ7S working on the new Thompson Peak repeater this fall.



