



The Hellgate Static



February 2018 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO
HARC P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

Inside this issue:

- January Meeting Minutes
- Various short articles
- About the Letter to the ARRL Board
- The Letter Sent to the ARRL Board



Club Officers:

- President: K7MSO Mike Leary
mleary2001@yahoo.com
- Vice-president: NZ7S Eric Sedgwick
- Treasurer: K7MTD, David Herzberg
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- Secretary: 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

Chair: Eric Sedgwick

- David K7MTD
- Tom K7QA

Newly elected or reelected:

- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS

Upcoming Events

- 12 Feb – Meeting
- 12 Mar – Meeting
- 9 Apr – Meeting
- 21 April – Grizzly Triathlon
- 28 April – Riverbank Run
- 14 May – Meeting
- 11 June – Meeting
- 23 / 24 June - Field Day
- 4 July – W7PX Special Event
- 9 July – Meeting
- 15 July – Missoula Marathon
- 13 Aug – Meeting
- 10 Sep – Meeting
- 8 Oct – Meeting
- 19 / 21 Oct - JOTA
- 12 Nov – Meeting
- 1 / 2 Dec - Skywarn
- 10 Dec – Meeting / Christmas Party

See club website for more:
http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html

Remember 2018 dues are due!!!

January Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Daniel Somerlott KI7HLW, Jim Henningfeld, Dan Boldra N7DWB, Bryce Rowe KI7LMV, Elaine Case KS7LDS, Gary Bruce K7OIJ, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Jim Gillan KF7OFR, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jerri Shuey N7JGS, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, Dick Walton W7XT, Tom Hellem K0SN, Tom McGinley K7QA, Terry Cook KF7BQ, Greg Lee NL7WB, David Herzberg K7MTD, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Mike Leary K7MSO

Approval of last meetings minutes: Approved

Approval of Treasurer's Report: Approved

Repeater Committee Report: Paul reports that the links for 80 and 96 are down.

HF Committee Report: club surplus equipment – Paul N7PAS is working on the HT101, needs WD11 and WD12 tubes. Dick W7XT has the Kenwood TS 520 and has not been able to evaluate it, yet.

Recent Events: Skywarn went really well. We had two radios and two antennas. We used their TS-2000. We helped the WS make contact with other NOAA weather offices in the region on two different SHARES frequencies. The WS station needs their own antenna.

The HARC Christmas dinner was good. No complaints about food. Program by Bryce AF7RQ received lots of good comments.

Upcoming Events: The following events were approved for the club. TOSRV and Ovando Gran Fondo are cancelled indefinitely.

- 21 April : Griz Triathlon
- 28 April: Riverbank Run
- 23 – 24 June: Field Day
- 4 July: Special Event at the Fort
- 15 July: JOTA
- 19 – 21 Oct: JOTA
- 1 – 2 Dec: Skywarn
- 10 December: Christmas Party
- Trail Run: Bryce will get info

Net Control Operators:

Jan 10 Eric NZ7S
Jan 17 David K7MTD
Jan 24 Paul N7PAS
Jan 31 Jerri N7JGS
Feb 7 Donna KC5WRA

January ARRL Board Meeting: Dick W7XT presented on proposals to be brought before the ARRL board in its January meeting. Some items are cause for concern. Motion made to have HF Committee draft letter expressing clubs alarm about these certain proposed policies to be considered by the ARRL board at their January meeting. Motion passed.

Adjournment



The Hellgate Static



February 2018 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO
HARC P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

2018 begins with six successful License Candidates

From K7VK, Vick
January 8 session Congratulations to:

General:

KI7LMV Bryce

Technician:

KI7THN Lynn

KI7THO Michael

KI7THP Richard

KI7THQ Ernie

Thanks to HARC Volunteer Examiners: **K7OIJ, N7GE & N7PAS**.

The **next scheduled examination session is February 12, 5:30 PM.**

International Grid Chase Contest – during All of 2018!

From K7VK, Vick

This ARRL **year-long contest**, <http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>, is underway. Five Hellgaters are making lots of contacts as of the end of January. In **second place** for Montana is **K7MTD**, Dave. Catching up quickly in fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh places are **K0SN**, Tom; **NZ7M**, Sid; **W7EE** (xN7DXT), Gary and **K7QA**, Tom. You too can join in the fun. Make those contacts, HF & VHF and get them submitted to the ARRL's LoTW (<http://www.arrl.org/logbook-of-the-world>).

Former Hellgate ARC Member is Colorado's 11th Mountain Goat

From K7VK, Vick

Former Hellgater, **K7PX**, Steve Schlang is the latest **Summits on the Air operator (SOTA)** and the 11th in Colorado to achieve **Mountain Goat** award status. Steve completed his 1,000th summit-point on January 25. He scrambled up 175 summits making the minimum of 4 radio contacts on each and did this just short of two years of active SOTA activations, a real accomplishment. SOTA info at: <http://www.sota.org.uk/>.

Many in HARC remember Steve's summer and winter campouts with his home-built radios. Having moved to Colorado he didn't let up scrambling summits. Congratulations Steve!



K7PX at 14,100'

Photo by Steve, wG0AT and he says: "Some Ham Radio OPs prefer to sit in their warm basement to operate their gear ...but then there's Steve who instead likes to play radio at 14,110' in sub zero temps (-20F) in 20-40 knot winds barely able to stand up? "Fun" is in the eye of the beholder - someone once said."

About the Letter Sent to the ARRL Board

HARC's HF Committee composed a letter to Northwest Division Director Jim Pace, K7CEX, stating our position on some of the current controversies surrounding actions of the ARRL Board of Directors and Officers in the past two years, or so. The letter was composed after considerable research, and a careful consideration of other letters, and, in at least two cases, email exchanges with authors of letters or statements. Many such letters, along with a good deal of related material, can be found at <https://www.myARRLvoice.org>.

The letter was received graciously by Mr. Pace, who responded immediately, and at some length. There followed a cordial dialogue with Mr. Pace via email. We took issue with some of his responses. However, he assured us that our views would be taken into account as he considered his participation in the Board meeting. That meeting took place in Newington CT, Jan. 19th through the 20th.

The minutes of that meeting, which have been published on the ARRL website, do show that some complaints about the League's leadership had effect. The principal results were, first, that the motions to amend the Articles of Association and Bylaws were tabled. They are to be reconsidered at the July meeting. Meanwhile, a committee is to study them and make recommendations. Presumably, that committee will take criticisms like ours into account. A second important action also appeared to be an immediate response to criticisms: the Board voted to strike two Bylaw provisions which critics had charged were designed to "muzzle" Board members. We also expressed dissatisfaction with H.R. 555, the bill on the power of Home Owners' Associations to restrict amateur radio operations passed by the House and now before the Senate. Nothing in the minutes shows any consideration of that legislation occurred.

Finally, ARRL President Rick Roderick, K5UR, published a response to criticisms like ours on the ARRL website on Jan. 15th. A link will be found under the "Other Voices" tab on the website listed above. We recommend that you read that statement. The "Note" is petulant, condescending, insulting and misleading. Speaking on my own behalf, I have so informed Mr. Pace, and told him that I believe that Mr. Roderick must immediately resign.

For those who may have missed the news, Tom Gallagher, ARRL C.E.O. for the past two years, resigned just prior to the January Board meeting, effective in March, citing the adverse effects on his income of the tax bill recently passed by Congress and signed into law by President Trump.

--Dick Walton, W7XT

Letter Sent to the ARRL Board

Jan. 11, 2018

Mr. Jim Pace K7CEX
ARRL Northwestern Division Director
P.O. Box 1602
Centralia WA 98531

Dear Mr. Pace:

We write in behalf of the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club of Missoula, Montana to express the Club's concern about proposed changes to the ARRL Articles of Association and Bylaws. We have been troubled by some of the actions taken by the League since Tom Gallagher's assumption of the CEO position. It is our opinion that some of the changes to the League's basic documents to be considered by the Board of Directors at its upcoming meeting portend further objectionable events.

By the standards of urban areas we are a small club, counting about 40 members, most of whom belong to the ARRL, some Life Members for many years. We are, however, a very active organization, one emphasizing public service. For example, we provide communications for several local athletic events, such as the YMCA River Bank Run and the Missoula Marathon. The latter event draws nearly 6000 runners from all over the U.S. and several foreign countries. It was recently voted the nation's premiere marathon. The communications we provide are essential to assuring the event's safety. For five years we provided critical communication for the Ovando Gran Fondo, a charity mountain bike ride benefitting the Missoula Symphony Orchestra. There is little cell phone service in the area of the ride and it is fraught with hazards, including the possibility of encountering grizzly bears. Hence, the VHF network of 16 or more stations covering the ride's nearly 60 mile course was invaluable: the Symphony Board and management would not have conducted the event without our service.

We believe in the value of amateur radio and have frequently demonstrated that value to our community. We would like to believe that amateur radio's future is in good hands, but recent actions of the League, and these proposed policy changes give us some doubts.

Many others have expressed in writing criticisms of some of the League's recent actions or failures. We urge you to pay careful attention to those criticisms and recommendations, according them proper respect. David Siddall's letter of January 9th we

believe worthy of special notice for its judiciousness and the experience his recommendations reflect. We ourselves attempt no exhaustive list of complaints; rather, we will focus on but a few of the items of contention particularly concerning to us. Most of these items arise in the proposed changes to the *ARRL Articles of Association and Bylaws*, including those submitted by Mr. Liscenco. We do wish to make a point germane to the League's participation in the preparation of H.R. 555, as well.

It is proposed that Article 12 of the *Articles* be amended to impose a duty to abide by the *ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors*. We object to that measure, given the infirmities of the Policy. We discuss those infirmities below. Here we only note that the change proposed asserts that, "Directors, Vice Directors and Officers may be subject to removal or other appropriate sanctions for cause by vote of the Board of Directors as provided in the Bylaws." "For cause" implies only that reasons need be given, but the qualification is without substance unless the reasons that may be invoked are enumerated. Fairness and due process require that the types of reasons to which the Board would refer be clearly stated.

The language of Bylaw 2 suffers from the same deficiency. In addition it provides one faced with a revocation motion only "an opportunity to respond in writing." This is far too weak a defense provision given the seriousness of the action under consideration. One so charged must not only be given the chance to respond to the allegations in writing but: (a) to see the allegations in writing; (b) to be told who makes the allegations; (c) to cross examine the complainant(s) and any persons called by the claimant to support his allegations; (d) to present testimony in his behalf, and (e) to be represented by counsel.

We believe that there are serious flaws in the proposed *ARRL Policy on Board Governance and Conduct of Members of the Board of Directors and Vice Directors*. Our copy shows this as "Appendix B." We do not recommend that the entire code be discarded; on the contrary, it has some reasonable and valuable features. However, the policy as proposed has two major faults: on the one hand, it attempts too much by being overly broad and vague, and on the other it offers too little in the way of provisions for defense against charges of violation.

In its second paragraph the policy statement asserts that, "Board members should conduct themselves and perform their duties with integrity, collegiality and care." In its attempt to cash out these vague notions, we find that they apparently imply, or include, "good faith, care and loyalty." The attempt to specify the "responsibilities" that these "legal duties" engender includes this gem: "Supporting actions taken by the Board even when the Board member did not or does not personally support the action taken..." Compliance with this duty lies beyond the capacity of the normal, healthy psyche, requiring that the Board member bifurcate himself into the "personal" being who objects to the measure approved by the Board, and the "public" being who endorses it. Perhaps a skilled actor could give a convincing appearance of the required "support," but most of us could not; more importantly, the intent of the language is not to require merely an appearance, of support, but its actuality.

The imposition of "collegiality" and "loyalty" duties is highly objectionable, being rife with the likelihood of serious abuses. Most any disagreement can lead to charges of lack of collegiality. Loyalty duties are defensible only in organizations where there is an orthodoxy, like religious orders, or organizations under constant threat. The ARRL meets neither of these requirements, though the language of the code sometimes gives the impression that its authors believed that the League meets both. For example, "Standards of Conduct," 1(b) states, "A member should take no action that could adversely affect the reputation or credibility of the ARRL, or discourage membership in the organization."

The policy statement's vagueness is compounded in its "Standards of Conduct" section when it adds to the broad and fuzzy concepts discussed above "dignity" and "professionalism."

As for allegations of violations of this code of conduct the proposal specifies how complaints are to be made, but offers nothing meaningful about their defense. In fact, the proposal states that complaints are to be handled, "...in accordance with Article XIII of the Bylaws." We are unable to find Article XIII in any version of the Bylaws included in the proposed language we have. There is a point 13 (Arabic numeral) that clearly does not apply. We are unable to discern any plausible enumeration of the elements of the Bylaws that would yield an applicable Article XIII.

The lack of specific language to consider increases our concern about the fairness and due process of any disciplinary proceeding brought on the basis of this code of conduct. Please refer to our comments about the proposed changes to the language of Article 12 of the *Articles of Association and Bylaw 2*. Mr. Pace, you may be sure that the League membership will be suspicious of any action taken against a Director or Officer on grounds of violations of the code in the form proposed, including these vague standards and the wholly inadequate defense provisions, especially when Board Members and Officers also are not permitted to disclose details of such actions in sufficient measure to assure the members that those charged were given fair treatment.

We turn now to the changes proposed by Mr. Liscenco, Hudson Division Director.

He would add to the Board of Directors the League's President and three Vice Presidents. We would find that acceptable only if these Officers are non-voting for all purposes.

He would add to the Executive Committee "one Vice President appointed by the President" and "the additional Vice Presidents" without voting rights. We are concerned that this may further dilute the voice of the membership in the governance of the League.

Mr. Liscenco would award the President and Vice Presidents voting rights on the Board of Directors except when their own positions are being filled. Again, we are afraid this dilutes the power of the membership in the governance of the League.

His proposal for modification of Bylaw 25 follows the logic of his earlier proposals to add to the Board's membership. We have serious reservations about this, and about his proposed amendment of Bylaw 40 for the same general reason.

It is germane to the overall subject to note here that we find nothing in the Bylaws about attendance at Board meetings by the membership. Are the Board's meetings open when not properly declared to be in executive session? If not, they certainly should be. It follows that full provisions for member attendance should be made in planning the meetings. As it stands, we were unable to find on

the League website an agenda for the January 18th Annual Meeting, or any information about its location and time. In fact, even the our copies of the proposed changes to the *Articles* and *Bylaws* were not obtained from League.

Finally, we would like to urge you to consult Mr. Fred Hopengarten's expert critique of H.R. 555. We believe his criticisms are extremely telling, and strongly support a recommendation that the League withdraw its support for the bill, and work, instead, for a bill that would actually achieve the protection of amateur radio licensees' interests. We can supply you with a copy of Mr. Hopengarten's statement if you lack one.

Mr. Pace we hope you will take our concerns into consideration in your discussion of these issues with Board members, and will have them firmly in mind in casting your votes. We cordially invite you to attend one of our monthly meetings as soon as your travel schedule permits.

Sincerely,

Mike Leary, K7MSO, ARRL Life Member,
President, Hellgate Amateur Radio Club;
P.O. Box 1038; Missoula MT 59806

Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S, Vice-President, HARC

Tom Hellem, K0SN

Tom McGinley, K7QA, Life Member, 40 years

Dick Walton, W7XT, Life Member, 40+ years¹

¹ This letter was prepared by the HARC HF Committee; Tom Hellem, K0SN, Tom McGinley, K7QA, and Dick Walton, W7XT. Walton served as principal author. Comments or questions should be directed to him at mtcwop@gmail.com.