



# The Hellgate Static



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## **Club Officers:**

- President: K7MSO Mike Leary [Email](#)
- Vice-president: NZ7S Eric Sedgwick
- Treasurer: K7MTD, David Herzberg [Email](#)
- Secretary: Donna KC5WRA

## **Standing Committees:**

- Emergency Coordinator: N7GE Jerry Ehli [Email](#)
- QSLs, Awards: N7MSU, Bob Henderson [Email](#)
- Webmaster: K7MSO Mike Leary [Email](#)
- Radio License Examinations Contact VE: K7VK Vick, [Email](#)

## **Repeater Advisory Committee**

Chair: Eric Sedgwick

- David K7MTD
- Tom K7QA

Newly elected or reelected:

- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS

## **Upcoming Events**

- 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](http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html)

## **Remember 2018 dues are due!!!**

# February Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Mike K7MSO, David Herzberg K7MTD, Eric NZ7S, Terry Cook KF7BQ, Jackie Harrington KC7RBC, Tom McGinley K7QA, Peter Kearns KG7BDD, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Dick Walton W7XT, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Bryce Rowe KI7LMV

**Approval of last meetings minutes:** Approved

**Approval of Treasurer's Report:** Approved

**Repeater Committee Report:** \$1,000 budget request for Thompson Falls Repeater. \$700 of this is for an rf isolator. Eric NZ7S may have found a used one we can use. More to follow.

**HF Committee Report:** club surplus equipment – Tom K7QA has the 101. The TS 520 is on Dick's bench.

**Recent Events:** We received a cordial reply from our ARRL Director. He received other letters with similar concerns. The ARRL board tabled all motions to modify the By-Laws until July. Additionally, the ARRL CEO, citing taxes, will resign. You can follow this on [myarrlvoice.org](http://myarrlvoice.org).

**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:**

Feb 14 – David K7MTD  
Feb 21 – Eric NZ7S  
Feb 28 – Paul N7PAS  
Mar 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.

**Other business:** Dick W7XT suggested the club have a custodian for the club's equipment. It was pointed out that the club Constitution and By-Laws already assign this responsibility to the Treasurer. David K7MTD is working on this now.

**Program:** Dick W7XT on traffic handling

**Adjournment**

## SPRING is coming – Take Your Radio to Field!

from K7VK Vick

Spring is here and the snow is melting. Are you inching to get out into the mountains? It's a good time to get ready to take your radio to the field. **Summits on the Air** (SOTA) is a fun ham radio program specifically for portable operation. A short hike up Mount Jumbo, University Mountain or Blue Mountain with your radio offers a great view and fun radio time.

If you schedule your trip on the SOTAWatch2 page, <http://www.sotawatch.org/>, you are sure to have an HF pile up when you call CQ SOTA from a summit. If you have VHF, then it's good to announce your presence on the local repeater to 'drum up' contacts on a simplex frequency like 146.52 MHz. Better yet is to contact folks ahead of time announcing your trip plans. A good example might be the Wednesday night 2-meter net, 147.06 Mhz. For example, *'kx7xxx will be hiking to Mount Jumbo on March 24. Please talk to me on 146.52 MHz when I summit around 12:00 MDT.'* Remember you will get SOTA summit points for 'activating' and each radio operator making contact with you will get points for 'chasing'. Here are three recommended nearby summits:

### **1 point:** [Mount Jumbo W7M/LM-175](#)

The City of Missoula's Mount Jumbo Park, is a popular hiking and dog walking area with miles of trails and a SOTA summit. Two trails, one from the north and one from the south access the Mount Jumbo summit.

The approach from the north is an easy hike. The summit has good grassland area to set up antennas and operate including a few nearby trees, 10-30' tall. Views of the surrounding valleys, upper Clarkfork, Missoula and Bitterroot are excellent. Low power VHF/UHF simplex communications with the Missoula area hams is easy. Cell phone coverage is good.

Missoula Parks map: <http://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/207/Maps>

Note: this area is closed December 1 and reopens March 15 and later depending on elk and deer use.

### **2 points:** [University Mountain W7M/LM-145](#)

University Mountain is within the Pattee Canyon Recreation Area managed by the US Forest Service. An exception is that the SOTA summit is within Montana State Trust Land and a State Land Recreational Use License is advised. This license is available from sporting goods stores where hunting and fishing licenses are sold or at Montana FWP or DNRC offices.

Access the summit by two trails or a 'closed to motor vehicles' road used for hiking, mountain biking or winter skiing. The shortest route begins at the top of Pattee Canyon. Views are excellent. There are lots of large trees and open areas to install antennas and get away from the communication facilities. Low power VHF/UHF simplex operations are easy with Missoula area hams. Cell coverage is good. Map:

[https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/fseprd498473.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fseprd498473.pdf)

### **2 points:** [Blue Mountain W7M/LM-121](#)

This summer-active US Forest Service lookout is a popular hike, bike (mountain or motor) or horseback ride. Most times the final access road, 2 miles, is gated so a hike up this access road or a trail on the northside, approximately 1.25 miles reaches the summit. Follow the Blue Mountain road over 10 miles to reach the junction of the lookout road. The trail is approximately 800' farther up the main road, north. It is well defined and signed. The trail is on

the cool forested north side of the mountain, so it is a good alternative hike in the heat of summer.

There are good views from the summit with trees and open areas to setup antennas. Low power VHF/UHF simplex communication with Missoula is easily achieved. Cell phone coverage is good.

Map: [https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE\\_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5447235.pdf](https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/stelprdb5447235.pdf).

Pull on those hiking shoes, grab your portable radio and hike those summits! More info is at: [www.sota.org.uk](http://www.sota.org.uk)