



The Hellgate Static

September 2019



Hellgate Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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Upcoming Events

- 12-13 October – Bitterroot Musers Dirt Derby
- 18-19 October – Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air
- 6-7 December – Skywarn Recognition Day
- 9 December – Christmas Dinner

September Meeting Program

Officers:

President: Mike Leary, K7MSO

Vice-President: Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S

Treasurer: David Herzberg, K7MTD

Secretary: Donna Pecastaing, KC5WRA

Standing Committees:

Emergency Coordinator: Jerry Ehli, N7GE

QSLs, Awards: Bob Henderson, N7MSU

Webmaster: Mike Leary, K7MSO

Static Editor: Terry Cook, KF7BQ

Radio License Exams Contact VE:

Paul Shuey, N7PAS

Repeater Advisory Committee:

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S (Chair)

David Herzberg, K7MTD

Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA

Tom Hellem, K0SN

Paul Shuey, N7PAS



A worldwide radio email service that uses radio pathways where the internet is not present, and is capable of operating completely without the internet--automatically--using smart-network radio relays. Winlink provides its users email with attachments, position reporting, weather and information bulletins, and is well-known for its role in emergency and disaster relief communications. Licensed Winlink operators/stations use both amateur radio and government radio frequencies worldwide. The system is built, operated and administered entirely by licensed volunteers. Support for the system is provided by the Amateur Radio Safety Foundation, Inc., a US 501(c)(3) non-profit, public-benefit entity.

Volunteers Needed

The HF committee is looking for volunteers to help prepare for the sale of remaining club surplus equipment. We will need to clean up equipment, take photos for advertisements, prepare the equipment for shipping etc. This is a club project and should not fall on just a few people who have already donated a great deal of time to getting this equipment to a safe storage space, inventorying and pricing it.

This may be the last chance for club members to get first chance to purchase items before it goes onto national websites where it will likely be sold quickly. Contact An HF Committee member to sign up, or to purchase items.

Summits on the Air (SOTA)

from K7VK Vick

SOTA is taking your HAM-RADIO portable to a summit and making contacts. That's what K7MTD Dave and K7VK Vick did at the end of August. The two activated Blue Mountain after a 2.5 mile hike to the summit. They set up an end feed single wire antenna and hooked up Elecraft's KX2 & KX3 transceivers. They made 24 contacts using the 40, 30 & 20 meter bands. Dave recorded two 'Summit to Summit' (S2S) contacts with Wishbone Mountain in Arizona and Torrey Mountain near Dillon Montana earning 24 S2S points. On Torrey was AE7AP Rob and AE7AQ Barb using 40 meters. Local two-meter contacts were with N7PAS Paul; K7PTL Mike and KR7Q Dennis.

A Montana SOTA milestone occurred on July 27 when AE7AP Rob reached 1,000 activation points receiving Montana's first "Mountain Goat" award. Rob reached that goal activating 212 summits. Congratulations!

Rob's SOTA story can be viewed at this long URL:

http://www.pnwsota.org/sites/pnwsota.org/files/downloads/K7ATN/PNW%20SOTA%20Newsletter%20Sep-Oct%202019_0.pdf

Montana Fall season is typical for crisp mornings and bright blue skies. It's a good time to get outdoors and go HAM-RADIO portable! For more SOTA information see: <https://www.sota.org.uk/> or visit with K7MTD or K7VK.

Two Meter Band Safe for Now

The 144 – 146 MHz Amateur Radio segment has been removed from a French proposal to study spectrum additional for Aeronautical Mobile Service (AMS) applications. France had included the band, which comprises the entire 2 meter band in ITU Region 1, for consideration as a European Conference of Telecommunications and Postal Administrations (CEPT) position for World Radiocommunication Conference 2019 (WRC-19). Heading into a just-ended CEPT Conference Preparatory Group (CPG) meeting in Turkey this past week, France was holding firm on the proposal to have AMS share 144 – 146 MHz with Amateur Radio. The CPG meeting considered CEPT ECC positions on this and other issues for WRC-19.

The International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) had called the French proposal for 144 – 146 MHz "unsound" and contended that sharing of the current amateur allocation with AMS radio systems would not be possible "without a significant likelihood of mutual interference."

YARC Provides Communications for Cycle Greater Yellowstone Bicycle Ride

The Yellowstone Amateur Radio Club provided communications assistance for the 2019 Cycle Greater Yellowstone bicycle ride, August 10-16th. The 300 rider event follows a different route every year. This years event was a six day 325 mile ride through the greater Yellowstone Eco-system, starting at Red Lodge and traveling through Absarokee, Cooke City, ending at Clark Wyoming.

This year was the first year that the club used an AREDN microwave link to assist with the race to allow club members to gain experience with the AREDN equipment. The link provided access for an iGate where RF was spotty for APRS. Two video cameras and a couple of IP phones were also operated on the AREDN link for testing and practice.

August 12^h, 2019 Tentative Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Jackie Harrington KC7RBC, David Herzberg K7MTD
Terry Cook KF7BQ, Dan Somerlott K17HLW, Tom McGinley K7QA, Tom Hellem K0SN,
Dick Walton W7XT, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Mike Leary K7MSO, Jim Hofmann N5CY, Jerry Shuey N7JGS,
Paul Shuey N7PAS, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, Visitor and future ham Ladanle Olson.

Test results: Three tests administered to two candidates, all were successful.

Approval of July meeting minutes: Approved. Moved by Donna, second by Mike.

Treasurer's Report: By David. Approved on a motion by Donna and second by Dick.

Repeater Report: Paul reported that one section was removed from the 147.040 tower on point 6 during the July repair trip. The 146.90 repeater is currently down because Missoula County is redoing the inside of their building. They are hoping to have things back in order late fall. No progress in relocating the 146.80 repeater.

HF Committee Report: 1.) Dick reminded the membership that the club has a lot of valuable equipment for sale and that it will soon be advertised nationally. Members wanting first shot at purchasing any of this equipment should respond right away.

- 2.) The club's Icom 736 is broken. Tom Hellem is looking at it now.
- 3.) The club generator that failed at field day may have to be replaced.

Monthly Program: Sonya McCloney, of Bitterroot Mushers was on hand at the August meeting to present a request for assistance with communications support for their 2nd Annual Western Montana Dirt Derby, a dryland dog race. The race will be wellled October 12th and 13th at Lubrecht State Experimental Forest. The response was favorable. Some club members will check the area out, to determine what will be required to provide assistance.

Wednesday night VHF net control assignments:

Aug. 14 David K7MTD
21 Mike K7MSO
28 David K7M TD
Sept.. 4 Donna KC5WRA

Next Meeting: Monday September 9th.