



# The Hellgate Static

## December 2019

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



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### Upcoming Events

- 6 -7 December – Skywarn Recognition Day
- 9 December – Christmas Dinner

### 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  
**Radio License Exams Contact VE:**  
Paul Shuey, N7PAS  
**Static Editor:** Terry Cook, KF7BQ  
Bluetooth\_one@hotmail.com

### Repeater Advisory Committee:

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S (Chair)  
David Herzberg, K7MTD  
Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA  
Tom Hellem, K0SN  
Paul Shuey, N7PAS

### December Meeting Program

The HARC Christmas Dinner/Meeting will be held on December 9th at the Eagles Lodge on South Ave (behind Rosauers). Cash bar at 5:30, meeting at 6:15 and dinner at 6:30.

This year, Lance Collister, W7GJ, will present an interesting program on his recent 6 meter EME DXpeditions. Lance has activated many rare and exotic locations around the world.

This year, Lance activated two rare DXCC that have never been on 6m EME before. Nobody in the USA has contacted S7 on 6m for many years, it also is still quite rare in Europe, Africa, Asia and other countries.

In May he traveled to and activated FH53kt in Bolivia on 6 meter EME as CP1GJ.

In September Lance activated La Digue Island, Seychelles as S79G also on 6 meter EME.

Don't miss this exciting program.



## 2019 SKYWARN™ Recognition Day

December 7, 2019 from 0000z to 2400z

SKYWARN™ Recognition Day was developed in 1999 by the National Weather Service and the American Radio Relay League. It celebrates the contributions that volunteer SKYWARN™ radio operators make to the National Weather Service. During the day SKYWARN™ operators visit NWS offices and contact other radio operators across the world.

Object For all amateur stations is to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN™ Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.

Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site (“sunny”, “partly cloudy”, “windy”, etc.). Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append “NWS” to their call sign (e.g., N0A/NWS)

In Western Montana, this event will be held at the Missoula Weather Forecast Office, 6633 Aviation Way in Missoula, Montana. The call sign is WX7MSO.

Eric Sedgwick NZ7S is coordinating this event.

## ARRL Field Day 2019 Results

All the planning and hard work put into Field Day 2019, by the HF Committee and all that participated, paid off with an exceptional score. HARC ranked 16<sup>th</sup> in class 2A (multi-operator clubs under 150 watts.) Thanks and congratulations to all that participated in this event.

## CW Class

The HARC HF committee is currently seeking amateur radio operators interested in learning morse code or upgrading their CW skills. If you are interested in learning morse code or refreshing your skills contact Dick Walton W7XT.

## Montana DMR Net

The new Montana State Digital Net meets every Saturday at 7:00 PM local time, on “Montana Statewide” Talk group 3130. The net allows us to all stay connected, encourage the use of DMR and just have a good time. All amateur radio operators are invited. If you are using a local repeater to check into the net please use time slot 1 to keep our repeater owners happy.

## HARC HISTORY – 70 Years ago

By W7KG Vern Phillips (SK)

(W7KG (former W7NPV) Vern Phillips was President of the Hellgate ARC in 1951.)

### MISSOULA – 1949 to 1951

The Hellgate Radio Club of Missoula met once a month at W7FX's radio business. The club's newsletter was called "QTQ" and it carried brief news printed on the back of a penny postal card. "QTQ" was sent to the membership and the cards were placed in a hat at the meeting where one was drawn for an attendance door prize.

The club was public-service minded as evidenced by its regular participation in the ARRL Field Day, emergency communications tests, hamfests and "goblin patrols", besides being involved with traffic handling on various nets.

Major frequencies in use in the area (all used AM except 3.520 Mc):

- 1.985 Mc – Hellgate Phone Net and the Inland Empire Emergency Net
- 2.406 Mc – Law Enforcement base station transmitters and mobile unit receivers
- 3.520 Mc – Treasure State Net (CW)
- 3.995 Mc – Montana Phone Net and International Before Breakfast Club
- 27.05 Mc – "Diathermy Dodger's Net"
- 39.xx Mc – Law enforcement mobile units transmitters and base station receivers
- 144.138 Mc – Two Meter Net

Some of the more active Missoula stations were: W7CJB, W7COH, W7DSN, W7ELY, W7FOM, W7FX, W7FXV, W7HDM, W7IBH, W7JOI, W7KGF, W7KHZ, W7KLJ, W7LEP, W7LEQ, W7MAK, W7MJY, W7MKG, W7MVT, W7NCS, W7NDW, W7NEG, W7NMJ, W7NPV, W7NRJ, W7OCR, W7OHH, W7OOY, W7ORJ, W7OVG, W7OXT, W7PGF and W7PX. (W7IBH was at the end of this list for pre World War II hams with the exception of W7PX)(W7IBH and W7OOY were the only YIs).

Two meter activity was mainly on 144.138 Mc because of crystal control. Most of the rigs were war surplus SCR-522s running from PE-103 dynamotors and using "J" antennas. The SCR-522 with dynamotor was quite a hefty rig and took up a lot of space for only 8 watts output on AM phone.

27.05 Mc was in the amateur eleven meter band which was shared with the Diathermy service. Diathermy equipment was notorious for its instability and broad band-width. In order to operate, you became a "diathermy dodger". It was a popular band for hidden transmitter hunts because you could run any mode including modulated CW and, without the need of a control operator, the transmitter could be hidden and be left "on". The first hunter to find the "bunny" keyed the transmitter with their call sign. One particular hunt had gone on for a long time and hadn't been found until finally it started getting dark and one of the hunters saw a light up in a tree. The light was coming from a flashlight bulb on a 2-turn loop of wire which had been used to tune the transmitter up and had been left hanging over the final coil.

"Goblin Patrols" aided the police and sheriff's departments on Halloween nights. Off-duty officers were assigned to ride along with amateur mobiles to supplement law-enforcement. It was good experience for both parties

2.406 Mc base stations had very good coverage even to mobile units in neighboring law-enforcement agencies. The major problem was that it was a cross-band situation. The mobile units transmitted in the 39 Mc band and could hear the base station on 2.406 but the cars could not talk to each other for mutual aid.

## November 2019 Tentative Meeting Minutes

**Attendance:** Jackie Harrington KC7RBC, Donna Pecasting KC5WRA, David Herzberg K7MTD, Terry Cook KF7BQ, Dick Walton W7XT, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Mike Leary K7MSO, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jim Hoffman N5CY, Paul Cheselske KD7QJG, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, John Ashall KK4LZX, Tom McGinley K7QA, Tom Hellem K0SN, Dean Pond N7DLP and Sandra Pond KF7GZR

In observance of Veterans Day, attendees were asked to be recognized for their military service to our country. We are proud and thankful to have many veterans in our organization. Thank you.

David K7MTD, reported on the Great Montana Shakeout which went quite well, and also talked about the 2 meter simplex experiment, which proved that we have some work to do if we want to have robust local communications in the absence of repeaters.

Terry KF7BQ, made some suggestions to increase membership and participation in the club.

**Approval of March meeting minutes:** Approved

**Treasurer's Report:** Tabled until next month

**Repeater Report:** By Paul, 146.90, 147.04 and 146.96 repeaters are all up and working.

**Club Officer Nominations:** President Eric Sedgwick, Vice-President Mike Leary, Secretary Donna Pecasting, Treasurer Dan Somerlott, Repeater Committee Paul Shuey

**HF Committee Report:** Our generator was examined by "Larry's Tractors & Trailers" There is nothing wrong with it but it is too small to handle our needs reliably. A motion was made by Paul that we look into acquiring a larger generator and possibly selling this one, seconded by Terry and passed by the body.

**HF Committee Additional Discussion:** Dick K7QA The club has a additional antenna available. The HF committee will be offering a CW class for those interested. The results if ARRL Field Day 2019 have been published. HARC placed 16 in the nation for Class 2A. We were 1<sup>st</sup> in the northwest and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the west for Class 2A. Great work for those who participated.

**Upcomming Events:** Dec 6-7 Skywarn recognition, December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner.

**Wednesday night VHF net control assignments:**

November 13 David K7MTD

November 20 Mike K7MSO

November 27 Paul N7PAS

December 4 Donna KC5WRA

**Next Meeting:** Monday December 9<sup>th</sup> Christmas Dinner.