



The Hellgate Static

April 2020



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

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Upcoming Events

April 27	Riverbank Run rescheduled see below
May 23	Grizzly Triathlon Swim-Bike-Run
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day
June 28	Missoula Marathon Please note, a decision will be made May 7 th whether or not the marathon will take place.
July 4	W7PX Special Event Station
October 3	Riverbank Run (rescheduled)
October 16-18	Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air
October TBA	Western Montana Dirt Derby
December 5	Skywarn Recognition Day
December 14	Christmas Dinner

Officers:

President: Mike Leary, K7MSO
Vice-President: Eric Sedgwick, NZ7S
Treasurer: Dick Walton W7XT
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)
Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA
Tom Hellem, K0SN (Re-elected)
Paul Shuey, N7PAS (Re-elected)

April Zoom Meeting

Due to the current Corona virus crisis, the HARC April meeting is scheduled to be conducted remotely via zoom teleconferencing software.

If you haven't downloaded zoom on your phone or computer, you may want to do so, in advance, it will make your connection to the meeting a little faster.

Watch for an invitation to the meeting in your Email, it will contain the meeting ID, a password and a link to the meeting. Be sure your microphone is enabled.

If you have not received an invitation by Monday morning, April 13, contact Mike Leary at mleary2001@yahoo.com and request an invitation.

Stay health and we hope to see you there.

HARC CW Class Moving Along

HARC's CW class, a project of the HF Committee, is making marvelous progress. Three of the group, who had been working on learning the Morse Code for some time themselves, are now already at the stage of making CW, on the air, contacts. Joe, AG7FH, already has his first CW QSO QSL in hand. Dave, K7MTD, has more than half a dozen QSOs to his credit. Bryce, AF7RQ, has yet to report his recent results.

As this report is being written this advanced group was preparing to participate in a CW contest, the Sasquatch Stomp, a low-key event on Friday, April 3rd. Unlike most CW contests, the Stomp is a good humor gathering of brass pounders much more intent on having a good time and meeting new people than racking up a big score. In fact, the points awarded for QSOs are negative! The aim, so far as score is important at all, is to hit the rock bottom, the lowest score in the contest.

Our class members will be competing with one another. The winner, the one with the score deepest in the hole, will be designated the Official HARC Sasquatch by the HF Committee.

Those who were starting from scratch at learning the code soon ran into a familiar snag. The sounds of the letters, numerals, and special signs of the radiotelegraph code can be mastered only by practice and more practice. Our esteemed educational theorists disdain "drill and practice" as a learning method, but it is the only way to learn a good many things, like the vocabulary and grammar of a new language, for example, or playing a musical instrument. Those with the grit and determination to power through this stage are amply rewarded and may justifiably be proud of their accomplishment.

Glacier-Waterton International Hamfest

Registration is now open for the 86th Annual hamfest to be held July 17-19 2020. Registration fees have been reduced this year to help offset increases in fees for campground use. Hamfest registration can be done online at www.gwhamfest.org and clicking on the registration tab. Remember you must contact the Glacier Meadows Campground to reserve a camp site. Full services are going quickly so don't delay. You can call them during normal business hours at 406-226-4479 or make reservations online at <https://glaciermeadowrvpark.com/> As this issue of the Hellgate Static went to press, the hamfest is still on. Please check the website frequently for any updates.

The First remote All-Online Amateur Radio License Exam

On March 26th 2020 a remote test working group ran an "all-virtual" amateur radio technician license exam for the first time in history! With support from W5YI-VEC and FCC Chairman Ajit Pai.

Joseph Talbot sat the exam and his FCC Technician license callsign KJ7NNU was granted on March 27.

Since 2010 there have been other exams sessions carried out remotely but they have had an in-person proctor present at the exam session. This was the first remote online Technician exam session carried out with everybody online.

Stay tuned, we hope to have a scalable solution available for broader use soon!

Field Day 2020 — A Time to Adapt

from ARRL.ORG

03/27/2020

Many individuals and groups organizing events for [Field Day](#) 2020 have been contacting ARRL for guidance on how to adapt their planned activities in this unprecedented time of social distancing and uncertainty.

“Due to the unique situation presented this year, this can be an opportunity for you, your club, and/or group to try something new,” ARRL Contest Manager Paul Bourque, N1SFE, said. “Field Day isn’t about doing things the same way year after year. Use this year to develop and employ a new approach that is in line with the current circumstances.”

Social distancing and state and local requirements very likely will impact just how — and even whether — you are able to participate in Field Day this year. ARRL continues monitoring the coronavirus situation, paying close attention to information and guidance offered by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)). If social distancing means that Class A with a 30-member team set up in a city park won’t work this year, then it’s time for a Plan B. Part of the Field Day concept has always been adapting your operation to the situation at hand. At its heart, Field Day is an emergency communication demonstration. Field Day rules are flexible enough to allow individuals and groups to adjust their participation and strategies in a way that still addresses their needs while being fun. Some possibilities:

- Encourage club members to operate from their home stations on emergency power (Class E).
- Use the club’s repeater as a means for individual participants to keep in touch during the event.
- Family members interested in operating Field Day and unable to participate as part of a larger group may want to consider setting up a portable station in the backyard with a temporary antenna.

One big impact this year will be a decline in public visibility and any interaction with the visitors. Prudence may dictate dispensing with the ham radio PR table to attract passersby, should you set up in a more public location. It’s okay not to score all the bonus points you may have attempted in the past. Local and served agency officials may be unwilling to visit, which is understandable under the circumstances. Do be sure to reach out to them as part of your preparations and remind them that you look forward to continuing your working relationship with them in the future.

The impact will differ from place to place, so ARRL recommends that all amateur radio clubs participating in Field Day stay in regular contact with local or state public health officials for their advice and guidance on hosting Field Day activities.

Demonstrating an understanding of the health crisis we all face and your willingness to adapt will show that you and your club or group are good working partners with local or served agencies.

“With any emergency preparedness exercise, it’s not about adapting the situation to your operation, it’s about adapting your operation to the situation that presents itself,” Bourque said. “Try something different. Learn something new about how you prepare. It may be a challenge, and you may have to ask yourself if you’re up to the challenge. We hope to hear you on the air over the June 27 – 28 weekend.” — *Thanks to Paul Bourque, N1SFE, and Dan Henderson, N1ND*

Great Falls Area Radio Club - Spring Thaw Canceled

Spring Thaw 6, hamfest which was scheduled to be held on 2 May in Great Falls is now canceled. With the national health emergency and extension of the social distancing requirements running through 30 April.

2020 Hamvention Canceled

The Hamvention Executive Committee has decided to cancel Hamvention for this year. This decision is extremely difficult but with around two months until the gathering and the current Coroa virus crisis, the committee felt that it is the only prudent choice.

FCC Offices Closed Some Employees Working From Home

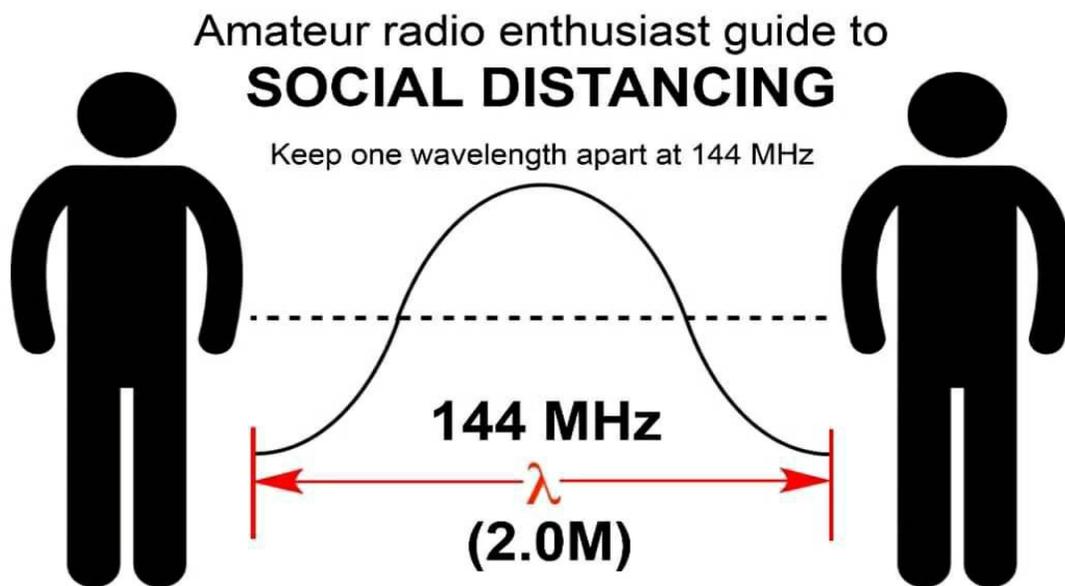
If you are waiting on the FCC to issue a new or renewal License... or possibly any FCC action, you may want to take a patience pill.

ARRL FCC Counsel, David Siddall, K3ZJ, posted that the FCC will be shuttering their offices, and personnel will be telecommuting until further notice. What affect that will have on operations, I don't know, but I would suspect that new licenses and renewals may be delayed.

SEA-PAC Convention Canceled

With approximately 60 days until the event, the Executive Committee has made the decision to cancel the SEA-PAC convention for 2020. Convention fees paid will be refunded.

This conclusion is based on the deadly seriousness of the virus, the rate of expansion, and the recovery time after the crisis apex is achieved. But more importantly, it is based on the genuine concern for the health and safety of the attendees, vendors and presenters.



Tentative March Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Donna Pecasting KC5WRA, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Dick Walton W7XT, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jeri Shuey N7JGS, Andy Commons KF7CBY, Tom Hellem K0SN, Tom McGinley K7QA, Jackie Harrington KC7RBC, Mike Leary K7MSO, Kevin Kerr W1KGK, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Mathew Walter (new Tech.)

Test Results: Two tests administered with both candidates passing.

Program: ARRL Montana Section Manager Paul Stiles KF7SOJ, and Section Emergency Coordinator Jim Fuller N7VR, presented a program about the Amateur Radio Emergency Service, ARES. Jim will likely soon appoint an Emergency Coordinator (EC) or District Emergency Coordinator for this area.

Approval of January Meeting Minutes: Moved by Donna, Seconded by Bryce, approved.

Treasurer Report: By Dick Walton, who mentioned that some surplus equipment was sold at Argus fest for \$155. Tom Hellum has also sold some other surplus which brought \$360.00, and the club's Icom 736 was sold for \$250.00. HARC will reimburse Dick Walton \$500 for the cost of the generator he purchased on behalf of the club. The report was approved on a motion by Donna and second by Paul.

Repeater Committee Report: By Paul, all repeaters are operational.

HF Committee Report: Dick announced that the CW class is still going on Tuesday evenings at 7:00.

Wednesday night VHF net control assignments:

11 March. Eric NZ7S
18 Feb.
29 March Mike K7MSO
01 April Donna KC5WRA
08 April Andy KF7CBY

Next Meeting: Monday April 13th.

--- Classified For Sale / Wanted ---

FOR SALE:

Astron RS-35M linear power supply \$125
Yaesu FT-890AT transceiver, with matching PS \$500
CW filter--recent alignment.
Pyramid PS-26KX adjustable voltage power supply \$50
Icom PS-125 power supply- companion to several
Icom transceivers \$125

TenTec 238 antenna tuner—highly efficient \$250

Bencher BY-1 CW paddle \$100

MFJ CW paddle—similar to Bencher \$50

Vibroplex single lever CW paddle \$100

Contact: Dick Walton, W7XT, mtcwop[at]sign[dot]gmail[dot]com

FOR SALE:

Vertical antennas:

Comet GP-3. (2 M) \$75

Comet GP-15. (2 M, 70 cm, 6 M). \$125

Cushcraft Ringo Ranger (2 M). \$40

Beams:

Cushcraft A270105, 5 element, (2 M, 70 cm). \$100 *

HyGain VB-214, 14 element, (2 M). \$125 *

* With Ham Rotor, CDE Control box, 8 conductor wire, add \$150

Tuners:

MFJ-949E, High frequency 160-10M, 300 watt. \$100

Icom- AH-4, automatic tuner High frequency. \$170 *

* Icom AH-4 includes 150 feet # 12 copper wire.

Radios:

Kenwood TS-570S, with CW filter, \$300

Classic Station rig:

Drake 'C' line TWINS, L-4B 2,000 Watt AMPLIFIER, MN 2000 **

** R4C has all 15 crystal slots filled for wide frequency coverage.

** R4C has all 3 CW filters, (1500, 500, 250 cycles).

** R4C has operational Noise Blanker.

** T4Xc has full power out 175-225 watts 10m-160m.

** T4Xc comes with 4 or 6 spare Final tubes.

** AC-4/MS-4 Power supply with Speaker included w/Twins.

** Shure 44 mic goes with the Twins.

** Power supply for L-4B included with Amplifier.

** Heathkit Cantenna HN-31 included with station.

** Have spare tubes (circuits) for the Twins

Prefer to sell Drake Station as one unit for \$1,500.

Will sell Twins for \$800.

Will sell L4B (with Pwr Spply) for \$650.

Will sell MN2000 tuner for \$200.

Extra Drake gear:

R4c receiver with CW filters, (1500, 500, 250 cycles). \$375.

MN-4 Tuner, 300 watt. (3 output SO-239). \$150.

WV-4 VHF wattmeter. \$75.

AC-4/MS-4 Power Supply. \$150.

Misc.:

Extra HealthKit Cantenna HN-31 (1 Kw dummy load) w/oil. \$60.

Shure 44 mic (Swan logo). Drake plug. Very good. \$40.

All the gear is clean and works very well. Good audio, great reception.

Contact: KB7QQ, Jerry

406-240-6804

sawtoothmt[at]sign[dot]gmail[dot]com