



The Hellgate Static

June 2020



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

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Upcoming Events

June 6	Trail Rail Run
June 27-28	ARRL Field Day
July 4	W7PX Special Event Station CANCELLED
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

June Zoom Meeting

Due to the current Corona virus crisis, the HARC June 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 connecting 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, June 8th, contact Mike Leary at mleary2001@yahoo.com and request an invitation.

Stay healthy and we hope to see you there.

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)

WHERE has the SNOW MELTED?

By K7VK Vick

Are you anxious to get out in the mountains and are wondering where the snow has melted? Maybe contemplating a “Summits on the Air” activation or a Field Day high-point? The National Weather Service has a pretty accurate prediction of current snow coverage. After bringing up the following link, just click on the most recent date below the ‘Snow Analyses Overlays’, image. That will download a kmz. Clicking on that .kmz will load Google Earth with snow coverage data. Zoom-in on the location of interest and you will see what the predicted snow coverage is. It’s pretty cool. Here’s the Link:

[https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/earth/.](https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/earth/)

National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center

Home News Organization

National Snow Analyses 3D Interface

Instructions

Below are several links to “.kmz” files suitable for viewing with KML interpreters (such as Google Earth). Software and plugin information can be found [here](#). More information on these products can be found [below](#).

Information for Internet Explorer users
Information for Safari users

Snow Analyses Overlays		Snow Reports and Stations	
June 1, 2020	22 KB	June 1, 2020	338 KB
May 31, 2020	22 KB	May 31, 2020	338 KB

nohrsc_nsm_2020....kmz

Glacier Waterton Hamfest News

The Glacier Waterton Hamfest will be held this year however it will be scaled back due to Corona virus concerns. The registration fee will be waived for this years attendees, and those who have already pre-registered can have their fee applied to next the 2021 hamfest or may request a refund. Drawings for the major amateur radio prizes will not be held this year.

Amateur Radio Testing Reopens in Montana

Amateur radio volunteer examiners in Billings and Helena and Great Falls have resumed in person testing sessions. Some testing sessions are being held outdoors, weather permitting. The extra class question pool will be refreshed July 1, 2020.

HARC Dues Holiday Resolution

In virtue of the club's relatively healthy financial situation; of the Covid-19 epidemic's curtailment of club activities; as a reward to faithful members of the past few years; and in hopes that it may encourage club membership, the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club resolves:

- (a) That all members whose 2020 dues are current as of July 1st, 2020, irrespective of the date on which the dues were paid, shall be declared as being fully paid for the 2021 year, as well;
- (b) That the Club Treasurer shall record those members as paid for 2021 on the club rolls;
- (c) The members are reminded that contributions to the club's treasury are always welcome.

2020 Trail Rail Run

The Trail Rail Run is being held on June 6th, for Montanans only. However, the "usual ham crew" is from the Spokane area with a few Northern Idahoans. Due to COVID restrictions, we are anticipating the need to fill positions with MT hams. I am coordinating with Dan Croskrey (ham coordinator) to fulfill our shared objectives of making sure this run is supported, and ham radio is viewed as a capable resource which can be relied upon under "challenging" circumstances. There's a lot of things still up in the air, but one thing we know for sure is that we need volunteers!

This is a really cool event which is a little different than HARC-normal. Instead of a spreadsheet, you sign up online. Click here: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/MT/StRegis/TrailRailRun#15670> the task password is "operator1". This is to weed out non-hams trying to sign up for a ham position. Signing up makes sure there's some pulled pork for you at lunch/dinner and it's where you put in your T shirt size.

The 50-mile race length and the multiple simultaneous events does some things to the timing of aid stations. Aid stations to the West (closer to the start) open and close earlier and aren't open for very long total. Aid stations to the East open somewhat later, but are open till the end. Hence, the latest stations have morning and afternoon shifts. Even though the race takes all day, you're not necessarily stuck there all day--unless you sign up for both shifts. We have options to fit any schedule!

The main repeater is 70cm, and there's a simplex fallback channel. An HT is adequate for many stations, but some require a mobile. This is indicated in the attached information. Check before signing up and make sure you have gear appropriate for the aid station you sign up for. And as always, be prepared for wildly changing weather. You'll be outside or in your rig.

You're not going to regret your day in the woods! This is my favorite event since we're no longer doing TOSRV or OGF.

Thanks, and have a great day!
Coordinator, Bryce AF7RQ

Temporary Rule Waivers Announced for 2020 ARRL Field Day

ARRL Newsletter 05/28/2020

With one month to go before 2020 [ARRL Field Day](#), June 27 – 28, the ARRL Programs and Services Committee (PSC) has adopted two temporary rule waivers for the event:

1) For Field Day 2020 only, Class D stations may work all other Field Day stations, including other Class D stations, for points.

[Field Day rule 4.6](#) defines Class D stations as “Home stations,” including stations operating from permanent or licensed station locations using commercial power. Class D stations ordinarily may only count contacts made with Class A, B, C, E, and F Field Day stations, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows Class D stations to count contacts with other Class D stations for QSO credit.

2) In addition, for 2020 only, an aggregate club score will be published, which will be the sum of all individual entries indicating a specific club (similar to the aggregate score totals used in ARRL affiliated club competitions).

Ordinarily, club names are only published in the results for Class A and Class F entries, but the temporary rule waiver for 2020 allows participants from [any Class](#) to optionally include a single club name with their submitted results following Field Day.

For example, if Podunk Hollow Radio Club members Becky, W1BXY, and Hiram, W1AW, both participate in 2020 Field Day — Hiram from his Class D home station, and Becky from her Class C mobile station —

both can include the radio club’s name when reporting their individual results. The published results listing will include individual scores for Hiram and Becky, plus a combined score for all entries identified as Podunk Hollow Radio Club.

The temporary rule waivers were adopted by the PSC on May 27, 2020.

ARRL Field Day is one of the biggest events on the amateur radio calendar, with over 36,000 participants in 2019, including entries from 3,113 radio clubs and emergency operations centers. In most years, Field Day is also the largest annual demonstration of ham radio, because many radio clubs organize their participation in public places such as parks and schools.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many radio clubs have made decisions to cancel their group participation in ARRL Field Day this year due to public health recommendations and/or requirements, or to significantly modify their participation for safe social distancing practices. The temporary rule waivers allow greater flexibility in recognizing the value of individual and club participation regardless of entry class.

ARRL is contacting logging program developers about the temporary rule waivers so developers can release updated versions of their software prior to Field Day weekend. Participants are reminded that the preferred method of submitting entries after Field Day is via the [web applet](#). The ARRL Field Day rules include instructions for [submitting entries](#) after the event. Entries must be submitted or postmarked by Tuesday, July 28, 2020.

The ARRL Field Day [web page](#) includes a series of articles with ideas and advice for adapting participation this year.

Ham Radio Distancing

By K7VK Vick

In this time of 'social distancing' we radio operators can 'hunker-in' in the ham shack or we can get outside to operate from a summit or a Park. Two fun amateur radio programs fit 'social distancing' well: Summits on the Air (SOTA) and Parks on the Air (POTA).

The POTA website is: <https://parksontheair.com/>.

The SOTA website is: <https://www.sota.org.uk/>.

Both those websites have detailed information about the programs and, nifty 'spotting' and 'scheduling' tools. Both programs have log-tracking for points and awards.

It is easy to stay very radio-active 'chasing' Parks and Summits and/or getting out 'activating' Parks or Summits with your radio.

Go for it and keep that 2-meter 'social distancing'.

Tentative May Zoom Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Not recorded

Approve the May meetings minutes: Moved by Paul, N7PAS, 2nd by Terry, KF7BQ. motion passed.

Treasurers report: By Dick, W7XT Dick introduced a couple of resolutions that would

1.) create a dues holiday for HARC members who are in good standing as of July 1, 2020. 2nd by Terry KF7BQ

2.) Help facilitate the purchase of a club HF transceiver suitable for field day use. 2nd by Tom KOSN

The text of the resolutions are attached. Both were passed by the members present.

RESOLUTION NO. 1: In virtue of the club's relatively healthy financial situation; of the Covid-19 epidemic's curtailment of club activities; as a reward to faithful members of the past few years; and in hopes that it may encourage club membership, the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club resolves:

(a) That all members whose 2020 dues are current as of July 1st, 2020, irrespective of the date on which the dues were paid, shall be declared as being fully paid for the 2021 year, as well;

(b) That the Club Treasurer shall record those members as paid for 2021 on the club rolls;

(c) The members are reminded that contributions to the club's treasury are always welcome.

RESOLUTION NO. 2: In the previous year, in anticipation of Field Day activities, the club charged the HF Committee with the task of selling the club's several HF transceivers, fully operational or not, but excluding the excellent Elecraft K2. The Committee was further charged to use the money realized to acquire a more modern, serviceable radio for club use. Those radios have now been sold, but the new radio has not been obtained for lack of success in making an acceptable deal, or having deals fall through. Therefore, the club

now resolves:

(a) That the HF Committee shall have flexibility in making a financial arrangement beneficial to the club for purchasing a satisfactory HF transceiver;

(b) That the net cost of the radio acquired by the committee shall not exceed \$2500.

(c) That the Committee is therefore authorized to use club funds to purchase a package of equipment, including the desired transceiver, provided that any, and all, expenditures above \$2500 are recovered by sales within one year from the date of purchase.

Repeater Committee Report: By Paul N7PAS and Eric NZ7S

HF Committee Report: Field Day, Tom K0QA will inquire with MT DNRC to see if Mt Sentinel can be used again this year.

Other Business: Bryce AF7RQ, announced that the 2020 Trail Rail Run needs amateur radio volunteers for 10 aid stations. The event takes place June 6th

Awards: Andy is working on the "Worked All Hellgate Award"

Health & Welfare Net – Andy will be net control. Mondays, 146.90 repeater at 12 noon local.

Suggestion that we post meetings / events on Meetup.Com.

VHF Net Control operators:

- 13 May Andy KF7CMY
- 20 May Terry KF7BQ
- 27 May Mike K7MSO
- 03 June Donna KC5WRA

Next Meeting: Zoom Monday June 8th.

--- 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

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.

** 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:

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