



# The Hellgate Static

## September 2020



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

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### Upcoming Events

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)

### September Zoom Meeting

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

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, September 14th, contact Mike Leary at [mleary2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mleary2001@yahoo.com) and request an invitation.

Stay healthy and we hope to see you there.

## William E. Farrell W4YMA Silent Key



William (Bill) E. Farrell, W4YMA, became a silent key, August 27<sup>th</sup>.

Bill was an active amateur radio operator for many years. He served terms as both president and vice president of the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club, and participated in numerous club activities through the years.

Bill was always a friendly face at the monthly meetings and checked in regularly on the weekly two meter vhf nets.

We will miss him.

Bill wrote this for the series “Getting to know you” published in the Hellgate Static:

By Bill Farrell -

Many of you may recall that I celebrated my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday last year by going to Las Vegas.

Prior to going, I e-mailed the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce to see if there were any special Leap Year, Leap Day Birthday events planned in Las Vegas as I would be celebrating my 18<sup>th</sup> birthday. They e-mailed me back to say that I shouldn't bother coming, as I wouldn't be able to get into many, if any, of the events there. In my reply, I reminded them: Leap Day comes only once every four years. Their return e-mail was one word! “Amazing”

All of the above to say, in my “18 Leap years” I have covered a lot of ground and accumulated a lot of memories and accomplished quite a few things. I have been truly blessed to have seen and participated in numerous events, radio related.

I worked for RCA Global Communications for over 10 years during which I was a construction Engineering Assistant, New York City; Station Office Manager, Paumalu, Hawaii; and finally Office Manager, San Juan, Puerto Rico. My mentor was Thomson H Mitchell, President of RCA Global Communications, a wholly owned subsidiary of RCA. Mitchell felt he was beholden to the Name “William E Farrell” who was Professor of Steam and Mathematics at Annapolis U S Naval Academy. I was my uncle's name sake and Mitchell was to say “thanks to the Professor through me”

RCA Global Communications was THE original RCA until the FCC made them divest themselves of the manufacturing aspect of the company due conflict of interests.

RCA was originally founded by the U.S. Navy, General Electric, and United Fruit Company. All of which were in response to the British Marconi Wireless Company which had the first world wide network of radio stations. The United States Navy didn't want their world-wide communications carried by a foreign nation, so that was the driving force behind establishing a US Communications company.

My first overseas assignment was to dismantle a Marconi Receiving station located in Koko Head volcano crater on Oahu, Hawaii, and relocate it to the Paumalu Ridge on Oahu's North shore. While on Oahu, I was privileged to know and work with Ralph Thomas KH6UK (SK), who was the first to EME from Hawaii to Annapolis, MD, US Naval Academy on 440Mhz.

As a commercial operation, RCA Global had a number of firsts: the first to utilize SSB as an HF communications method, first with ARQ ( Automatic Error Correction transmissions), first to use Dual diversity signal comparison (using space diversified antennae), and first to establish 1200 Baud HF circuit direct between Hawaii and New York City with 99.9% accuracy rate. Previously 55 Baud was the normal rate for Teletype. At 1200 Baud, data could now be transmitted. Dual frequency and space diversified antennae were the basis for being able to do this. I was involved in a lot of data transmission and data processing both at the transmitting and receiving end of the circuit. 'Reorganizing' is another familiar term in my employment lexicon. Puerto Rico was needing the talents I had developed and used in Hawaii so the "Powers That Be" moved me again.

In Puerto Rico, within six months I brought the District into profitability for the first time in its 40 year history. For me it was simple. I used the FCC accounting procedures that had not been used previously.

On a personal tack, I got my Private Pilot's license (120 minutes to solo) and developed a couple of inventions related to aviation safety, which I patented, one of which the FAA used in a safety training sessions in the early '70's. Also in Puerto Rico I was introduced to the term "Downsizing" and for many, many years ran ahead of the 'tsunami of downsizing'. RCA downsized me! I went to Grinnell Fire Protection as Finance Manager of Puerto Rico, The Caribbean, Central and South America.

Also in Puerto Rico, a huge turning point in my life was made. I was introduced to sobriety and have practiced that way of life now for over 37 years.

With Grinnell again downsizing struck. Grinnell's headquarters being in Providence, RI, I thought I might get on there with my field experience. It was not to be, and I found myself in Rhode Island, unemployed. I got on with the Electric Boat Division of General Dynamics as an auditor of Nuclear Submarine construction in Groton, Connecticut, where I worked for a period of 10 years. Unofficially, I was the employee-assistant for drug and alcohol situations. To my duties of auditing the aspect of Property Management was added. This opened the door to another opportunity closer to my home, I had been commuting about 120 miles a day, and the job was with Aetna Life & Casualty Insurance in Fall River, MA (a two mile "commute"! ) As administrator in Aetna, I was involved with the community in many ways, one of which was Fall River's alcoholism prevention task force. This lead to my eventually getting a National Certification as a Drug and Alcoholism Counselor.

That Certification opened another door to work in a Nationally recognized treatment center in Newport, RI. Managed Care Insurance and its restrictions to length of time in a treatment facility caused "Downsizing" to strike again.

A job offer developed in Florida so I went to Charter Glade Hospital in Ft Myers, Florida as Supervisor of the Alcohol Treatment unit of that Psychiatric Hospital. In a very short time (90 days) the hospital went into Chapter 11 ( I guess they were all nuts in the accounting department!) and I was on the streets of Ft Myers, Florida looking for work.

A non-profit organization was opening a residential treatment facility for juveniles and need a counselor so there I went. SWFAS (South West Florida Addiction Services) and I were to share a number of 'dances' in the counseling field. Within a year of employment "downsizing" was part of a weekly managers meeting and so out I went to the State of Florida where a new Juvenile program for addicted youth was being cobbled together out of a number of social service departments.

I signed up with a lot of misgivings. And a "red-tape nightmare" it was! It didn't take long for me to know I was in the wrong place! From there I went to another State operation...Department of Unemployment (I had a lot of experience there!), and once a gain I was doing a long daily commute until a car accident ended that. A few years hiatus battling cancer, then back into the job market where I worked as an auditor in a medical device manufacturing company (Sims-Portex) but downsizing had not gone to sleep...Sims closed and moved to Mexico!

What to do! SWFAS on the scene again with a job as counselor for hurricane survivors. While working in the field, I was diagnosed and treated for Adult AD/HD which enabled me to complete writing and publishing a book on that life's journey.

A couple of years hurricane counseling then I, myself, was a victim of Hurricane Wilma in 2005, so I looked for hurricane free areas and came to Missoula, Montana where my friend and college days Fiancé Betsy lives. We have re-connected.

Here in Missoula, I have had a few moves in the employment field, but now am fairly settled in attending school as a Post Baccalaureate Senior at the University, recently initiated into  $\Phi\Kappa\Phi$ , am majoring in Journalism Radio & TV Production and working part time.

I don't know what I will do with another degree... I'll cross that bridge when I get to it

'So there you have it Sports Fans' .

Bill Farrell – W4YMA.

## The Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Two Meter Transmitter Hunt



Mike K7MSO ready to go



Terry KF7BQ, Dan KI7HLW and Jackie, KC7RBC discuss the hunt.

HARC held its first transmitter hunt in several years, on August 28<sup>th</sup>. Jackie, KC7RBC was the fox and had about nine participants searching for her. We had some problems with a transmitter that over heated and folded back to low power but still had a good time. Terry, KF7BQ and Dan KI7HLW were the first to find her. Dave K7MTD, was second and Mike K7MSO took 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

Thanks to everyone who participated, we hope to have additional hunts in the near future.

## **ISS Gets a new Crossband Repeater**

The International Space station is now equipped with a new two meter / 70 Centimeter crossband repeater. It operates on an input frequency is 145.990 MHz (you also need a 67 Hz tone) and the output frequency is 437.800 MHz.

The repeater consists of a specially modified Kenwood D710GA transceiver. This should be fun to use, but will redoubtable be crowded as operators become aware of it.

Editor Note: shortly after being operational the repeater was working well but became swamped with signals there are somereports that the repeater is experiencing problems. We hope those can be resolved soon.

## **FCC Proposes Amateur Radio License Fees**

Amateur radio licensees would pay a \$50 fee for each amateur radio license application if the FCC adopts rules it proposed this week. Included in the FCC's fee proposal are applications for new licenses, renewal and upgrades to existing licenses, and vanity call sign requests. Excluded are applications for administrative updates, such as changes of address, and annual regulatory fees.

The FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) MD Docket 20-270 says:

"As such, several services in the personal licenses category will be subject to new fees. One such example is Amateur Radio Service licenses, which were not listed on the fee schedule in section 8 of the Act, but are now subject to fees under the broader mandate of the RAY BAUM's Act."

The ARRL notes:

"The Act requires that the FCC switch from a Congressionally-mandated fee structure to a cost-based system of assessment. In its NPRM, the FCC proposed application fees for a broad range of services that use the FCC's Universal Licensing System (ULS), including the Amateur Radio Service that had been excluded by an earlier statute."

"Deadlines for comments and reply comments will be determined once the NPRM appears in the Federal Register. File comments by using the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS), posting to MD Docket No. 20-270. This docket is already open for accepting comments even though deadlines have not yet been set."

<https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings>

Download the FCC Notice of Proposed Rulemaking at  
<https://www.fcc.gov/document/amendment-schedule-applications-fees>

Read the ARRL story at  
<http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-proposes-to-reinstate-amateur-radio-service-fees>

## Minutes – August 2020 meeting

Attendance: Mike K7MSO, Tom K0SN, Tom K7QA, Joe AG7FH, Paul N7PAS, Dick W7XT, Terry KF7BQ, Bryce AF7RQ

Approval of last meeting's minutes. Passed.

Approval of Treasurer's report –

Membership count took a good deal of work to get an accurate list. 42 Total. 5 life members, 34 participating members

Motion: to create a membership category: Honorary Members, who do not vote. Tabled to reconcile with Club Constitution and By-Laws.

Endowment: checking with a few financial advisors for advice.

Repeater Committee Report – might make a preventive maintenance visit to Point Six, depends on county and NWS permissions.

HF Committee - need to have generator that was smoking at Field Day checked out by professional.

Upcoming Events: Fox Hunt date / time TBD by Terry KF7BQ

VHF Net Control operators:

- 12 Aug Mike K7MSO
- 19 Aug Terry KF7BQ
- 26 Aug Eric NZ7S
- 02 Sep Donna KC5WRA
- 09 Sep Paul N7PAS

\*\*\* Next Club meeting: 14 September