



# The Hellgate Static

## May 2021



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

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### 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 Hellem, K0SN

Paul Shuey, N7PAS

Tom Mc Ginley, K7QA (Re-elected)

### Upcoming Events (Tentative)

- **June 12, 2021 [Trail Rail Run](#)**
- **June 25 – 27, 2021 [Field Day](#)**
- **July 4, 2021 [Club Special Event Station](#)**
- **July 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> [Glacier Waterton Hamfest](#)**
- **October 15 – 16, 2021 [JOTA](#)**
- **October 21, 2021 [The Great Montana Shakeout Drill](#)**
- **October ??, 2021 [Dirt Dash](#)**
- **December 4 – 5, 2021 [Sky Warn Recognition Day](#)**
- **December 13, 2021 [Christmas Dinner Party](#)**

### **May HARC Meeting**

We will be back to having monthly meetings and license class testing in person starting this month. They are on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each Month. (May 10th)

Meetings will be held at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,, 3026 South Avenue West, across the street from Big Sky High School. Use the North entrance as all others will be locked.

Testing will began promptly at 5:30PM, and end at 6:30PM.

Meeting area will be set up between 6:30-7:00PM and meeting will began at 7:00PM (Business & Program).

Cleanup and Sanitizing will be done from 9:00-9:30. Volunteers may assist.

## **New in Person Meeting and Testing Location**

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints has graciously allow us to use their South Ave Building for our meetings.

The building is located at 3026 South Avenue West, across the street from Big Sky High School. Please use the North Entrance, all other doors will remain locked.

Please Note: This building remains under the County mandate of social distancing and masks. This means that at this time mask are required inside the building. Do not move the chairs once they are set up.

Adherence to the current church rules is the only way we will be able to to keep using this facility. Please note also that as time goes on these requirements will eventually be relaxed.

Testing area will be set up between 5:00-5:30PM and Testing will began promptly at 5:30PM, and end at 6:30PM.

Meeting area will be set up between 6:30-7:00PM and meeting will began at 7:00PM (Business & Program).

Cleanup and Sanitizing will be done from 9:00-9:30. Volunteers may assist.

Please note also that this facility has been calendared for our use for the next 24 months and if we do well may be extended.

## **THE CHARLIE WIGGLY BULLSHEET**

News and Views from HARC's CW ops

By Dick Walton W7XT

Rumor has it that two of the graduates of last year's HARC CW class have moved on to the CW Academy, a project of CWops, an international club discussed in last month's "Charlie Wiggly Bullsheet." CW Academy is widely acclaimed for its training, which successfully brings students to 20 WPM capability.

This past weekend the sponsors of this "Bullsheat," HARC's HF Committee, who happen to be dedicated CW operators, participated in the country's largest QSO party, the 7QP. Preliminary score reports are favorable. K7QA stood in second place in the CW only, assisted, high power category, while W7XT was similarly positioned in the comparable low power class. K0SN, working with N7IP, Bob Tabke, looks to be high in their category, also.

One might naturally wonder, then, do contests improve operating skills? More particularly, would a novice CW operator be well advised to have a go at contesting? The answer to both these questions is a strong, "affirmative." In a subsequent "Bullsheat" we will develop this assertion. Meanwhile, we suggest listening to some contest activity, particularly the slow speed events sponsored by the K1USN radio club. Interested readers might also download and install a copy of Morse Runner, a free Windows program from Afreet Software. It's a fine contest simulator.

The big contest-like event on the horizon is Field Day, of course, always scheduled, as one of HARC's old-timers used to say, for the last rainy weekend in June. The last weekend in May, rain or shine, will bring the CQ WW WPX. Details, as always, can be found through the invaluable WA7BNM Contest Calendar.

A Reminder: If there is sufficient demand, HARC's HF Committee will offer a CW class again this year. Indications of interest should be conveyed to any member of the committee via email. Committee members are W7XT, K0SN and K7QA.

## **2021 Transmitter Hunt Season**

We will be stating the 2021 season once again. This year we intend to have two hunts each month, on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. The rules for this hunt are as follows:

Participants should check in prior to the hunt on the 146.90 repeater. Unlicensed persons are welcome to participate without checking in.

- For this hunt, the fox's callsign will be announced at the beginning of the hunt.
- The hunt will be held on the simplex frequency of: 146.560 MHz
- The transmissions will begin at: 7:00 PM Local Time
- The hunt may continue for 2 Hrs, longer at the fox's option.
- The fox will transmit for approximately one minute and then be silent for 4 minutes.
- The fox will not significantly change transmitted power levels during the hunt.
- The fox will be in a location accessible by the public, without charge and will not be inside of a building.
- For this hunt the fox will be within the Missoula Valley, and in a place accessible by vehicle.
- For this hunt, participants can begin the hunt from anywhere he or she prefers.
- After the first hour of the hunt, the fox may at his or her discretion, provide hunters with clues to the fox's location.
- With this being the second transmitter hunt that the club has done in quite a few years, we would like the hunt to be fun for all. If you have suggestions on how we can improve this or future hunts please let us know.
- Drive carefully and observe all traffic statutes during this hunt, for everyone's safety.
- Have fun, we are all novices at this and the object is to have a good time.

## **MARS – SHARES – Amateur Radio 60 Meter Interoperability Exercise**

**When:** The first week of each month. 1200 Hrs (12 noon) and 2000 Hrs (8:00 PM) local time.

**Where:** 60 Meter Channel 1 5330.5 MHz (dial frequency) **Upper Sideband.**

**Why:** This purpose of this exercise is to encourage amateur radio operators to be aware that they may be called upon to provide information about local conditions to Army MARS, Air force MARS and SHARES stations during times of disaster, terror attack or other emergency.

**How:** Listen on the frequency and check in with Army or Airforce MARS net control stations when requested. They will request your location and may request information about conditions at your location.

## Minutes – April 2021 Zoom Meeting

Presentation: None

Approval of last meeting's minutes.

Approval of Treasurer's report.

Repeater Committee Report:

HF Committee: FT-1000 for sale, got some bites

Events: MARS Interoperability Exercises – Eric NZ7S will keep us advised

Fox Hunts –

Grizzly Triathlon – go / no go decision yet to be made

YMCA Riverbank Run – Volunteers needed 24 April!

Trail Rail Run – Volunteers needed 12 Jun!!!

Missoula Marathon - cancelled

VHF Net Control operators -

14 Apr Mike K7MSO -

21 Apr -

28 Apr -

05 May Donna KC5WRA

\*\*\* Next Club meeting: 10 May In person, at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints,, 3026 South Avenue West, across the street from Big Sky High School.