



The Hellgate Static

September 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: Joe Geldrich, AG7FH

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

- **September 20th Fox Hunt**
- **October 15 – 16, [JOTA](#)**
- **October 21, [The Great Montana Shakeout Drill](#)**
- **October 30-31st 2021 Dirt Dash**
- **December 4 – 5, [Sky Warn Recognition Day](#)**
- **December 13, Christmas Dinner Party**

September HARC Meeting

Program by Dick Walton "Traffic Handling and Radio Relay International."

We are back to having monthly meetings and license class testing in person. The meetings are on the 2nd Monday of each Month (September 13th.)

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 begin promptly at 5:30PM, and end at 6:30PM.

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

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

Gary Bruce W7OIJ - SK

Gary Floyd Bruce, W7OIJ (76) passed away from cancer on August 4, 2021. He passed away in his home in Plains, Montana surrounded by his family.



Gary was born on June 25, 1945 in Los Angeles, CA to Floyd Bruce and Edith (Webb) Seymour. He married Ruthe Elaine Case on February 21, 1975. He adopted Ruthe's child, Tammy Jeanne Bruce, and they had three additional children together: Julie Mae Kocourek, Brian Vance Bruce, and Lisa Jane Smith.

His battle with cancer and other serious medical issues showed his courage in facing life challenges with a smile. Despite the pain, Gary continued to be of service to others and maintained a positive attitude through the very end. His faith in God helped him endure the difficult times.

Gary loved anything that involved using his hands. When he wasn't spending time doing networking on his computer, he was outside building anything and everything you could think of. He was quick to help others in the community with whatever they needed. He loved to teach others and show his work or new ideas he had come up with.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Tammy Jeanne Bruce, his mother Edith Minnie Belle Seymour, his father Floyd Bruce, and his father-in-law, Sam Elroy Case.

He is survived by his wife of 46 years Ruthe Elaine Case, his daughters Julie Mae Kocourek (Chris) and Lisa Jane Smith (Ash), his son Brian Vance Bruce (Melody), and five grandchildren.

Gary's QRZ bio is a testament to his love of Amateur radio:

I earned my original license in 1958 at the age of 13. Except for the year following my original license (KN7OIJ) I have been continuously licensed as K7OIJ.

Morse code has always been an obstacle in climb up the Ham License ladder. Thus I remained a Technician for a number of years before moving on to General Class and later the Advanced.

Although my practice written exams indicated that I would likely pass the Extra Class written, 20wpm seemed to be beyond my capabilities. So it was not until the codeless exams came forth that I obtained my Extra Class. But even then, it was not until my wife passed her Technician Class was I spurred into action. Knowing her as I do, it was a certainty that she would rapidly advance to General and then Extra. My ego could not allow her to eclipse me on the license front.

Since that time, she and I have been very active in local Ham Radio activities. We especially like offering communications for events such as the Trail, Rail Run, a run along old trails and railroad routes from Mullin, ID to St. Regis. Or the Seven Lakes Leg Ache, a 75 mile bicycle run just outside of Spokane, WA.

We have also become VEs for W5YI and GLAARG. I am currently a custodial VE for GLAARG so we have the opportunity to offer local testing to remote areas around us.

To add a bit of perspective to our area, our county, with an area of 2790 sq miles, has a population density of less than 5 people per sq mile.

(Road Island is less than 1300 sq miles. Delaware is less than 2500)

There are NO TRAFFIC LIGHTS in the entire county.

Our largest city has a population of less than 1400.

(Gary Bruce's QRZ Bio Continued)

We are (in Plains) 38 miles from the closest 4 lane highway and 75 miles from the closest McDonalds.

Our county has no zoning or building codes. (I don't have to ask anyone's permission to erect a tower.) To build a house we do need a septic field permit and inspection. The electric company will inspect the service entrance prior to providing electric service, and the propane company will perform a leak test before hooking up the propane tank.

2 Meter Transmitter Hunt Results

The August 6th fox hunt was a short one with only a few participants checking in. Mike, K7MSO was the fox, and in spite of taking a few precautions such as not having his easily spotted car present, he was found by all hunters in less than 30 minutes. KF7BQ found the fox in 11 minutes, with the team of Paul N7PAS and David K7MTD coming in at 28 minutes followed just a minute later by Aaron N7BIO.

The September 3rd hunt was only attended by 2 teams of hunters (holiday weekend) Terry KF7BQ and Paul N7PAS along with Jeri N7JGS, Eileen KD7TUF and Jody KD7TUE.

If you are interested in being the "fox" at one of our hunts, contact Terry KF7BQ.

Participants may 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 W7PX.
 - 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 two minutes and then be silent for 1- 4 minutes.
 - The fox may reduce transmitted power after at least 30 minutes into the hunt, and announcing the reduction in power.
 - 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.
 - 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.
- * Please note that we have changed the rule that previously required the fox's transmit power to remain unchanged through the hunt. The new rule allows the fox to reduce power after at least 30 minutes and announcing that a reduction in power is taking place.

September Meeting Program

Program by Program by Dick Walton “Traffic Handling and Radio Relay International.” If you have ever considered handling messages over amateur radio, especially those emanating from disaster areas or health and welfare traffic, this is a program for you.

August Test Session Results

Tim Jacobs, KJ7ZJC upgraded to General Class

Ben Cerise passed Technician Class exam

Ken Myers passed Technician Class exam

Jim Adelt passed Technician Class exam

Congratulations to three new amateur radio operators and a new General Class Licensee.

Meeting Notes – August 9th, 2021 meeting

Attendance: Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Terry Cook KF7BQ, Joe Geldrich AG7FH, Tim Jacobs KJ7ZJC, Aaron Nelson N7BIO, Tom McGinley K7QA, Tom Hellem K0SN, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Visitors, Randy Crete N4TDT, Craig Berger KO4KVX, Eileen Jackson KD7TUF, Jody Jackson KD7TUE, Elliot Morris N5ESW, Mel Hiscock K5MH

We had a moment of silence in honor of Gary Bruce, W7OIJ of Plains Montana. Gary became a Silent Key on August 4th. He and his Wife, Elaine Case, KS7LDS, frequently attended HARC meetings even though it required a long drive from Plains to do so. Gary was always willing to help anytime he could and will be missed.

Minutes of July meeting: Approved

VEC Report: By Paul N7PAS Three applicants passed Technician Class and one upgrade to General Class.

Treasurer's Report : Treasurer Dick Walton was not in attendance.

Repeater Committee Report: All repeaters up and running.

HF Committee Report: Some activity with surplus equipment and parts.

Program: Postponed to September meeting

New Business:

Discussion about increasing club membership. Mike K7MSO suggested having a drawing for a door prize at meetings. Some discussion but no decision made.

Eileen KD7TUF mentioned that the Bitterroot Amateur Radio Club meets at BJ's restaurant on 3rd Monday and meals are available before meeting. The American Legion also has an amateur radio club in the Hamilton area.

EricNZ7S has been contacted by a representative of the Bitterroot Mushers . They would like to have HARC assist with communications for their 2021 “Dirt Dash” dog cart race at Lubrecht Forest, October 30th and 31st.

Aaron K7BIO showed his home-brew 2 Meter “Tape Measure Yagi” which has been quite successful in the local fox hunts.

Wednesday Night VHF Net Controllers

August 11 Mike K7MSO

August 18 Terry KF7BQ

August 25 Paul N7PAS

September 1 Mike K7MSO

September 8 Eric NZ7S

*** Next Club meeting: 13 September