The Hellgate Static
August 2025

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT. 59806-3811
Web: www.w7px.org

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Officers:

President: NZ7S
Vice-President: W7RPG
Treasurer: KJ7YHG
Secretary: K7MSO

Appointed Positions:

Emergency Coordinator: contact_us@w7px.org
QSLs, Awards: contact_us@w7px.org
Webmaster: contact_us@w7px.org
Asst Webmaster:
License Exams Contact VE:
harc.ve.testing@gmail.com
Static Editor: editor@w7px.org

AD-HOC HC Committee:
W7XT, K0SN, K7QA, K7MTD, N7NHS
Buy-Sell Operations hfc@w7px.org

AD-HOC Club Librarian:
K7MTD

HARC August Meeting Program:
No Program

RADIO; TESTING EXAMS AND MEETING

The testing and meeting are on the 2nd Monday of each Month.
We are having in-person, electronic testing and monthly meetings.
The Radio license Exams are from 5:30-6:30PM.

Meetings start at 7:00PM and may last till 9:00PM depending on Program & Business.

Both 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.

Published: 31 July 2025 @ 10:00 PM by KK7RWD

HARC Testing & Attendance by N7PAS

14 July 2025 Exam Testing Results

Congratulations to:

1. **Jonathan Carl** of Missoula passed his **Technician** and **General** exams**.** His new call is **KM7BQA**
2. **Bill Fortney** of Missoula passed his **Technician** exam. His new call is **KM7BQB**
3. **Roger Hamel** of Kalispell passed his **Technician** exam. His new call is **KM7BQC**

14 July 2025 Attendance

Attendance: N7PAS, W7RPG, KK7YBW, K7MSO, K7INJ, KJ7YHG, N7GE, NZ7S, K5MH, K7QA, W7XT, K7GPS, KM7AOO, KQ6TT, KK7RWD

Visitors:

NOTE: 15 Members / 0 Visitors present.

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes by K7MSO

14 July, 2025

Meeting called to order at 19:03.

Last meetings minutes for June approved.

Treasurer's report: KJ7YHG mentioned that investments were doing good. Some expenses were paid for Field Day. Nothing to approve.

Repeater Committee report: Two new repeaters have arrived. K7GPS suggested that the club consider a GMRS repeater. Very popular in AZ. Stepping stone to ham radio.

HF Committee: Many boxes at the KGVO storage site have been labeled.

Events for 2025

- HARC Net every Saturday morning @ 9:00 AM on 147.04 repeater including buy / sell.

HARC Discussion List

- Great article in *The Static* by K7QA. Small discussion on locations for next year.

VHF Net Control Station assignments

• Aug 06	N7PAS	Sept 03	N7PAS
• Aug 13	W7RPG	Sept 10	
• Aug 20	K7MSO	Sept 17	
• Aug 27	N7JGS	Sept 24	

Next club meeting 11 August, 2025

Meeting adjourned at 19:55.

Presentation: None. Discussion on what to do with new repeaters.

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
AGENDA – 11 August 2025

PROGRAM: None

Meeting called to order at 7:__ PM **(10 needed for business)**
Introductions. Please make sure you signed the attendance sheet Quorum Y/N ____

Last meeting minutes, July: _____ Motion to approve minutes: 1St_____ 2nd____
Discussion _____ Vote: P/F/T

Treasurer's report: KJ7HYG, _____Motion to approve report: 1St _____2nd _____
Discussion_____ _ Vote: P/F/T

Repeater Committee Report: W7RPG, _____Motion to approve report: 1St _____2nd _____
Discussion_____ _ Vote: P/F/T

HF Committee Report: K0SN, _____Motion to approve report: 1St_____2nd_____
Discussion _____ Vote: P/F/T

Events for 2025:

HARC Net every Saturday morning @ 9:00 AM on 147.040 Repeater – Buy/Sell – During.

HARC Discussion List

1. Sept 06 Fox Hunt – Is there any interest in doing it this year. _____
2. _____
3. _____

VHF Net Control Station assignments:

August	06	N7PAS	September	03	N7PAS_	October	01 N7PAS
August	13	W7RPG	September	10	?_____	October	08 ?_____
August	20	K7MSO	September	17	?_____		
August	27	N7JGS	September	24	?_____		

Reminder: Backup is always the next person in line as the net control.

Good and Welfare.

***** Next Club meeting: September 08 2025**

Is there any other business?

_____ Meeting Adjourned at _:__ PM.

August 2025

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club

Calendar of Events

Board: NZ7S, W7RPG, KJ7THG, K7MSO

Editor – KK7RWD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater.
3	4	5	6 ERC Net 7:30 on 146.900-88.5T BARC Net 8:15 on 146.720-203.5T HARC Net 9:00 on 147.040-No Tone	7	8	9 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater.
10	11 HARC Testing 5:30 & Meeting 7:00PM	12	13 ERC Net 7:30 on 146.900-88.5T BARC Net 8:15 on 146.720-203.5T HARC Net 9:00 on 147.040-No Tone	14	15	16 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater
17	18	19	20 ERC Net 7:30 on 146.900-88.5T BARC Net 8:15 on 146.720-203.5T HARC Net 9:00 on 147.040-No Tone	21	22	23 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater
24	25	26	27 ERC Net 7:30 on 146.900-88.5T BARC Net 8:15 on 146.720-203.5T HARC Net 9:00 on 147.040-No Tone	28	29	30 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater
31						

Posted by Wayne KE8JFW on July 17, 2019 at 6:23 pm

One of the great things about Ham Radio is its ability to bring people together. Whether congregating at a hamfest, attending an educational seminar, making a QSO with a station across the Atlantic, or teaming up with friends on an antenna project, Ham Radio is at its best when we're able to share the excitement of this great hobby.

Nowhere is this more true than at Amateur Radio club meetings that occur every day across the U.S. and around the world. Both new and experienced operators gather to organize Ham Radio events, discuss technical issues, listen to expert presentations, volunteer in the community, perform licensing exams, swap stories and gear, and generally promote the importance of Amateur Radio to anyone who will listen.

If you're newly licensed and have been reluctant to join a club, rest assured that you won't find a more welcoming community than Ham Radio folks. Where do you start? Click here to search for an **ARRL-affiliated club** (out of nearly 2,500 in the U.S.) in your area.

Elmers Everywhere: Jumping into the Amateur Radio hobby without a mentor can be like diving into deep water without a life preserver. For many new Hams, the difference between sinking to the bottom and blissfully floating along is the wise guidance of an Elmer. Joining an Amateur Radio club gives you access to not just one, but a group of **Elmers**—experienced operators who can help you get off on the right foot. Additionally, clubs often present speakers—either in person or via the Internet—on current Amateur Radio topics.

"If you are a new Ham, joining a local club can help you get on the air and be successful much faster than if you tried to do it on your own," said Tom Sly, WB8LCD, Ohio Section Affiliated Clubs Coordinator for the ARRL. "Most clubs have members who can offer a lot of practical knowledge on setting up the technology to work for your intended purpose. Learning from the experience of others will drastically reduce the learning curve to set up a working station and become proficient in the operating skills necessary."

Serve the Community: Many clubs offer opportunities to participate in **public service activities**, in which members provide communications for community events such as walks, runs, bike rides, concerts, and parades. You can also learn more about how to get involved in using your license to provide emergency communication services. Furthermore, you can play a role in activities that let others in the community see the value of Ham Radio.

Meet Cool People: Talk to a Ham and they'll tell you some of the closest friends they've ever made have come thanks to their interest in Amateur Radio. Think you may be the only inexperienced operator in the crowd? Think again. Club members run the gamut from Hams on the DXCC Honor Roll to those still waiting to make their first QSO—and every skill level in between.

"Most active Hams belong to several clubs," Sly said. "Although Amateur Radio is by nature a 'technical' hobby, communicating with others is the basic premise of the technology, and communicating with other local club members gives you the opportunity to get to know the other Hams in your area."

Broaden Your Horizons: Whether you're a newbie or a longtime Ham looking to get back on the air after years of inactivity, joining an Amateur Radio club can introduce, or reintroduce, you to the wide-ranging aspects of the hobby. Those who find a particular area of interest may then decide to join more specialized groups, such as **AMSAT** (Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation) or **QRP ARCI** (QRP Amateur Radio Club International).

"Joining a local club will help you recognize all the different ways you can participate as a Ham, whether it's DXing, contesting, fox hunting, moonbounce, VHF/UHF, QRP, satellites, or any of the other activities that Hams pursue," Sly said. "Being part of a local group will also give you the motivation to move through the license classes to become a General or even Amateur Extra, opening up the broadest operating privileges available across the bands."

Stay Up to Date: Through meetings, websites, and newsletters, Amateur Radio clubs serve as valuable resources for what's happening in the Ham Radio community, both locally and worldwide. Get the latest news on contests, equipment, gear for sale, operating events, and more from people who know.

Enjoy Yourself: For most Amateur Radio enthusiasts, the answer to "Why are you a Ham?" is simple. Because it's fun! Participation in an Amateur Radio club is a great way to enhance your enjoyment of the hobby. Events like picnics and Field Day help build a spirit of comradery and fellowship among club members.

"I've known Hams who got involved with a local *active* club and ended up having the time of their life with all the activities and areas of interest to participate in—and all it took was getting involved with a group which was willing to look at and try new things," Sly said. "Being involved in a local Amateur Radio club is the best catalyst to becoming fully immersed in the Amateur Radio hobby."

For a good look at all you can get out of an Amateur Radio club, visit the PCARS (Portage County Amateur Radio Service, Ohio) **website**. Check out the **club newsletter** to see how active PCARS is. The group was honored as the Dayton Hamvention® Club of the Year in 2018.

Staying at Home? There's No Reason Why Amateur Radio Operators Can't Stay Connected

Posted by Wayne KE8JFW on May 12, 2020 at 5:54 pm

While the COVID-19 outbreak gives Hams a chance to work on their stations alone and contemplate future projects in the solitude of the shack, there are still plenty of ways to keep your distance but still keep in touch with what's happening in the Ham Radio community. *Here are a few suggestions:*

Care for a Rag-chew?

Our hobby was made for social distancing. While we can't gather in person at hamfests and club meetings (yet), reaching out to Hams who may be isolated is as easy as finding a solid signal and responding to a CQ, or calling CQ and waiting to see who jumps in for a friendly conversation.

Right now everyone has a story to share about the pandemic. You could be there for an operator who needs a welcoming ear. Not into drawn-out exchanges? Making even the briefest of contacts with Hams in our communities, throughout the U.S., and around the world connects us all. In light of the many peripatetic DXers who are temporarily homebound, a popular DXpedition calendar (mostly vacant for April) said it best with this message: "MAKE BAND ALIVE. REDISCOVER THE PLEASURE OF QSOING EACH OTHER! #stayhome."

Participate in a Contest

As the wide world of college and pro sports grinds to a virtual standstill, Amateur Radio contesting continues to flourish. For those new to the contesting game, now's a great chance to get your feet wet. If you're using this time to hone your Morse code skills, take a moment to read these OnAllBands articles: **CW Contesting: Getting Started** and **Making QSOs for Real and Tips on Better Scores**. You'll find many CW contests—like the "Get Your Feet Wet Day" hosted by the **CW FISTS Club**—waiting for you, along with **State QSO Parties** and the **Hamvention® QSO Party** on May 16. Seasoned operators will want to take note of the **CQ World Wide WPX Contest, CW**, on May 30-31.

Take Part in Social Media

Visit **DX Engineering's Facebook page** and hit the "like" button to join the tens of thousands of Hams from around the world who regularly view DX Engineering posts on new products, Facebook Live feeds on digital Ham Radio and other topics, links to educational articles, and humorous memes that only Hams will understand. And when there's a hot topic or antenna/station/mobile radio photo worthy of comment, don't hold back. Be sure to add your opinion to the conversation. Remember, we're all friends here.

Join an Amateur Radio Club

Your local Amateur Radio club wants you! And even though they're likely not meeting in person at the moment, many still hold online presentations (via Skype, Zoom, etc.) on Ham Radio topics you may find useful. Best of all, when it's time again to gather, you'll have a welcome group of kindred spirits to share the hobby with and

ask questions. Here are a few **more reasons** to pursue club membership. Looking for a local club to contact? Click **here** to find one near you from the more than 2,500 ARRL-affiliated clubs.

Join the ARRL: The American Radio Relay League is the largest membership association of Amateur Radio enthusiasts in the U.S. When you become a member, you're supporting a non-profit organization that has been working on behalf of Ham operators since its founding in 1914. In addition to publishing numerous **reference books**, ***QST*** magazine, and **On The Air** magazine for new Hams, ARRL gives voice to the concerns of Hams through lobbying the U.S. Congress and the Federal Communications Commission.

Stay Active and Think Forward

Take a good look at your station. Have your **coaxial cables** and connectors seen better days? Do you have the **right tools to prep your coax for installation of connectors**? Are you itching to add a **UHF/VHF rig** as you suffer through the less-than-stellar demise of **Solar Cycle 24**? Is this the year you finally buy that **HF linear amplifier**? Has the pandemic made you think more about upgrading your emergency preparedness with an **HF** or **digital Go-Kit**?

If you're a contester, check out this **article** from Ward Silver, N0AX, on small station upgrades that will make a big difference in performance, including adding **INRAD** and **Heil headsets**, antennas, radial systems, audio processors, voice keyers, and more.

Reach Out to a Friendly Voice

The DX Engineering team reports that during the COVID-19 outbreak, many customers—from newly licensed operators to DX veterans—have appreciated the opportunity to simply talk with another Ham. Feel free to reach out to DX Engineering's Elmers. Ask questions. Tell them about your plans for your dream station. Rest assured, they'll be available for you today and long after the crisis is over. After all, they're Hams, just like you.