The Hellgate Static
March 2026

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

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Coming Events 2026

Mar	09	HARC Testing and Meeting
Apr	13	HARC Testing and Meeting
Apr	24-25	Forestry Days(?)

HARC March Meeting Program:

NONE

Officers:

President: NZ7S
Vice-President: KK7BIP
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

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: 28 Feb 2026 by KK7RWD

HARC Testing & Attendance

09 Feb 2026 Testing

Congratulations to:

1. **Brennan C Goossen** of Ronan passed his **Technician** exam. His new call sign is **KM7EHJ**.
2. **Paul Eikens** of Missoula passed his **Technician** exam. His new call sigh is **KM7EGL**.
4. **Steven J Harbor** of Florence passed his **Technician** exam. His new call sigh is **KM7EGJ**.

09 Feb 2026 Attendance

Attendance: KK7NOM, AG7FH, K7MSO, AI7F, KI7BDA, WA7YYB, N7BIO, W7RPG, KK7BIP, N7PAS, KJ7PCR, KM7BQB, N7NHS, KC7YGH, KI6TBC, KK7RWD, KF7GZR, N7DLP, K7QA, K0SN, KM7DVR, AI7XI, W7XT, K7BWW, NZ7S,

Visitors: Loretta Dynan W7LSD, Nick Shoutz KM7OWL, Andy Commons KF7CBY. Katie G Simpson – Investagator,

NOTE: 25 Members / 4 Visitors.

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Meeting Minutes

09 February, 2026

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Last meeting's minutes (Dec):  Approved

Treasurer's Report:  Tabled, not present

Repeater Committee Report: Won't be able to perform maintenance up at Point 6 until July.

HF Committee Report: Some items were brought in to the meeting room for pickup.

Winter Field Day:
- Great attendance.   Good social event.  Had strong RFI between the two transceivers.
Forestry Days at Fort Missoula
- The Museum would like us to hold an event during Forestry Days in April.  Maurice N7NHS
will coordinate.

Jamboree on the Air
- N7NHS will coordinate in October

Local CW Net for training
- KK7N0M asked if we can get a local CW net started.
- K7QA recommended CW Academy by CW Ops

Presentation
- N7NHS has setup an All Star Node at his QTH in Turah.  It allows analog 2m FM access to
other All Star nodes around the world via the internet.  Users select other nodes using
DTMF tones.

Wednesday Night Net Ops:
04 Feb  N7PAS    04 Mar  N7PAS
11 Feb  K7MSO    11 Mar  K7MSO
18 Feb  NZ7S     18 Mar  KM7BQB
25 Feb  N7JGS    25 Mar  KF7CBY
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HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
AGENDA – 09 March 2026

PROGRAM:

Meeting called to order at 7:__ PM **(09 needed for business)**
Introductions. Please make sure you signed the attendance sheet Quorum Y/N ____

Last meeting minutes, Feb: _____ 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 2026:

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

HARC Discussion List

1. . _____
2. . _____
3. . _____

VHF Net Control Station assignments:

March	04	N7PAS	April	01	N7PAS
March	11	K7MSO	April	08	_____
March	18	KM7BQB	April	15	_____
March	25	KF7CBY	April	22	_____
			April	29	_____

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

Good and Welfare.

_____

***** Next Club meeting: April 13 2026**

Is there any other business?

_____

_____ **Meeting Adjourned at _:__ PM.**

March 2026

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club

Calendar of Events

Board: NZ7S, KK7BIP, KJ7THG, K7MSO

Editor – KK7RWD

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01	02	03 Digital Net (C4FM) 7PM-8PM 146.900	04 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	05	06 Coffee 8AM (unoffical) City Brew Brooks	07 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater.
08	09 HARC Testing 5:30 & Meeting 7:00PM	10 Digital Net (C4FM) 7PM-8PM 146.900	11 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	12	13	14 Breakfast 8AM (unoffical) Claim Jumper HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater
15	16	17 Digital Net (C4FM) 7PM-8PM 146.900	18 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	19	20 Coffee 8AM (unoffical) City Brew Brooks	21 HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater
22	23	24 Digital Net (C4FM) 7PM-8PM 146.900	25 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	26	27	28 Breakfast 8AM (unoffical) Claim Jumper HARC Saturday Net 9:00AM on 147.040 Repeater
29	30	31 Digital Net (C4FM) 7PM-8PM 146.900				

New 60-Meter Frequencies Available as of February 13

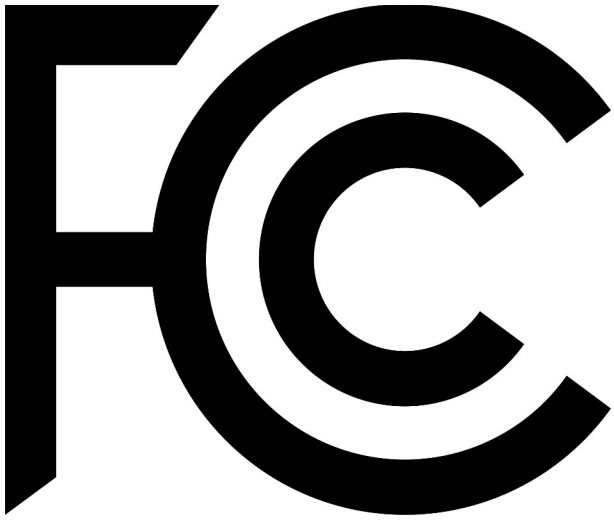
01/15/2026

The new 60-meter frequencies approved by the FCC in December will become available to amateurs as of February 13, 2026 (0000 UTC), along with new power restrictions on those frequencies. It's a bit confusing, as different rules apply to different segments of the band. The changes result from the FCC's action to approve a worldwide 60-meter amateur allocation made by the World Radiocommunication Conference in 2015 (WRC-15). See https://tinyurl.com/mt8p8jpa

As of February 13, FCC-licensed amateur operators holding General Class or higher licenses may operate on a secondary basis anywhere between 5351.5 and 5366.5 kHz, subject to a maximum bandwidth of 2.8 kHz and maximum transmit power of 9.15 watts ERP (effective radiated power). For the purpose of computing ERP, the transmitter PEP (peak envelope power) is multiplied by the antenna gain relative to a half-wave dipole antenna. A half-wave dipole is presumed to have a gain of 1 (0 dBd). Amateurs using other antennas must maintain in their station records either the antenna manufacturer's data on the antenna gain or calculations of the antenna gain.

Here's the confusing part: The existing 60-meter channels centered on 5332, 5348, 5373, and 5405 kHz remain as secondary amateur allocations with maximum power of 100 watts ERP. However, the old channel at 5358.5 kHz is eliminated as it is now part of the new 5351.5-5366.5 kHz subband and subject to the lower power limit.

For all 60-meter transmissions, emission bandwidth is limited to 2.8 kHz or less and amateurs must not cause harmful interference to, and must accept interference from, stations authorized by the United States (NTIA and FCC) and other nations in the fixed service; and all other nations in the mobile service (except aeronautical mobile). Data or RTTY emissions in particular must be limited in transmission length so as not to cause harmful interference. Digital mode operators must be familiar with offsets in order to stay within the authorized frequencies.



From the ARRL Letter for February 19, 2026

FCC Requires That FRN Contact Information Be Updated Within Ten Days of a Change

ARRL reports that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) adopted changes to its rules to require that every holder of an FCC Registration Number (FRN) update their contact information in the CORES system (email and postal addresses) within ten business days of a change.

Because every FCC licensee—including amateur radio operators—must have an FRN to file applications, this requirement applies to all licensed amateurs. FRN contact information is handled separately and apart from contact information related to a license in the License Manager System. Both records must be kept up-to-date, and each requires a separate update.

Until now, no specific deadline existed for updating FRN or license contact information. Instead, the amateur rules at sections 97.21 and 97.23 provide that a license may be suspended or revoked "if FCC correspondence is returned as undeliverable because of an incorrect address/email." These provisions remain in effect as well as the 10-day deadline applicable to FRN information.

If your FRN information is current and has not changed, no immediate action is required, but you must adhere to the 10-day rule for future changes. It is recommended to periodically check both the CORES and License Manager Systems to ensure contact information is accurate, even if no changes have occurred.

The new deadline [section 1.8002(b)(2) of the Commission's Rules] became effective on February 5 as part of a proceeding that was limited to further constraining robocalls. Although the proceeding focused on robocall issues, the 10-day update requirement applies broadly to all FRN holders. On February 6 the FCC confirmed in a Public Notice that the new deadline applies to all FRN holders. The amendment replaces language adopted in 2001 that required FRN holders to keep their contact information up-to-date but had not imposed a deadline for doing so.

Numerous requests for clarification from non-robocaller interests led the FCC to issue a Public Notice on February 6 (see also PDF) clarifying that fines imposed on those subject to the robocall rules for not keeping contact information up-to-date do NOT apply to licensees such as radio amateurs, but that the 10-day deadline does apply to all FRN holders.
See the following resources for updating FRN and license information.

FCC Tutorial on updating FRN information:
https://apps.fcc.gov/cores/html/Update_FRN_Information.htm
ARRL information on how to update license information:
https://www.arrl.org/call-sign-renewals-or-changes
For assistance, call the FCC FRN Help Desk: (877) 480-3201 (available 8 AM to 6 PM ET).

92nd Annual Glacier Waterton Hamfest

Join us for the Oldest Continuous Running Hamfest in the world! Always the third full weekend in July. Held at The Glacier Meadow RV Park, Essex, Montana. Mark your calendar for the 92nd Annual Glacier Waterton Hamfest! 17 - 19 July 2026! Mark your calendar and make your reservations now.
GWHamfest.ORG
stay@gmrvpark.me

K7GPS Looking For Housing

The wife and I will return to the Missoula area this summer but due to my Aunt's passing last summer, our normal summer residence "deal" is no more. We're looking for a 1-2 bedroom apartment or house, furnished, with off-street parking for us to call home from early June to late September (about 3.5 months total). If anyone plans to leave for the summer, or knows a neighbor heading for Europe or Antarctica, and needs somebody to watch their place, please let us know. Look forward to the summer club meetings and fellowship. 73. Dave K7GPS & Becky. Phone 406-468-5130. Email k7gps.dave@gmail.com.

POTA Workshop Photo 2026

Winter Field Day January 24th-25th 2026

This January, our club participated in the Winter Field Day event that is held on the last full weekend of January of each year. This event is the winter version of the ARRL Summer Field Day event. The goal of both events is for radio enthusiasts to pack up their radio gear and take it out for use in adverse conditions such as camping or just to a nearby park.

Our club has participated in both events for the last few years. Our main goal for Summer Field Day is to make as many contacts as we can. To help with that, we set up a station on top of Mt. Sentinel. For past Winter Field Day events, we have chosen to set up at Harpers Lake campground east of Missoula. Both locations were chosen to help reduce noise that we hear on the radio, and Mt. Sentinel also helps improve radio performance. This year, we had a different goal in mind, try to get as many club members involved as possible.

Here is *the Good, the Not So Good, and the Something to Think About* after action review .

The Good….

We set up at Fort Missoula with the purpose of promoting more participation from club members. The museum was kind enough to let us set up in St. Michael's Church, which is part of the exhibits at the fort. We have used it for other events in the past, and it has worked out well. This year, we had a great turnout of people who came to the event. At one point, there were 14 people gathered in the church, and we believe that the total number involved in the entire activity was 24 people.

For equipment, we used several radios, but not all at the same time. We set up four antennas: one end-fed half-wave antenna tuned for 80 meters, one 60-foot random wire antenna, set up on a mast next to the church, one 20-meter quarter-wave vertical, and a 40-meter dipole antenna. We also included a two-meter station set up that we were able to work stations on single-sideband and FM. When we were done, we were able to work stations on all of the ham bands except those above the two meters and the 160-meter band.

We had power available to use in the church, and that was greatly appreciated because there is a heater installed in the building. It kept the building nice and warm for the entire event. We even had to turn it off at one point because it was too warm. For powering the radios, we chose to use two batteries that N7NHAS had used in his RV. We used them for both days without charging them up.

The Not So Good….

The several radios that I mentioned were causing issues with each other. When one radio would transmit the other would get terrible feedback. In past activities we have used similar antenna and power supply set ups and never noticed any issues. We were able to work around this issue by limiting the amount of power that we used to transmit with.

We used a program for logging called HAMRS to log our contacts during the event. It is a portable logging software that can be used as an app or web browser. We used it on a laptop and a Windows tablet for each station that we had set up. Our main problem was that it did not connect with the radios to record the frequency that the radio was on. When we were searching for other event stations, we had to be careful to record the frequency in our log. Other logging software we use, N1MM for summer field day, will do this automatically.

When there were numerous visitors in the cabin, it was challenging to hear the radios. To address this issue, we connected headphones that the operator could use. This setup is similar to the one we employ at Summer Field Day, although we lacked headphone splitters. Consequently, only one individual could listen to the radio. This presented two drawbacks. First, it was helpful for one person to operate the radio while another could record the contacts. Secondly, with only the two headphones in use, any other member present was unable to participate.

We feel that we did not have very good conditions for operating the radios to make contacts. We felt that we could hear other stations pretty well, but they could not hear us. It was also noted that we had a fairly high noise floor at the Fort. Both of these observations were the result of things that we did not have any control over.

Somethings to think about….

Our antenna setup proved to be quite successful throughout the entire event once we overcame the challenges I mentioned earlier. We engaged in discussions about the strategies we would employ differently in future endeavors. Some of the proposed changes included elevating the antennas on slightly taller towers, utilizing a dipole antenna with three poles, and aligning the antennas at a 90-degree angle to each other if they are on the same mast. Additionally, we explored the possibility of utilizing the extendable tower that our club owns. However, we opted not to use it this weekend due to the uncertainty surrounding its deployment in the field. We were concerned about driving on the grass and potentially creating large ruts.

Locating one of the two radios in a different building, which is further apart, was also considered. The club has done this for previous summer and winter field days.

With the right equipment, it's possible to connect two or more radios to a single antenna. For instance, the club's Yagi antenna is designed for multi-band operation. Typically, only one radio is attached to it, but by using a duplexer or multiplexer, we could utilize two or more radios.

We can network the two computers together to create a single log for a single mode of operation, such as Single Side Band. This approach would help reduce duplicate contacts. We usually don't encounter this issue because when we run multiple stations, one operates on voice, and the other operates on CW. Combining the logs later would not cause duplicate QSO's. This year, we had two radios operating on voice.

There was a Cub Scout event near our location this year. They had portable toilets brought in for their event and were kind enough to let us use them.

Prepared by Adam Davis

Silent Key – Vick Applegate K7VK

As many of you have commented, I too am in deep sorrow with the loss of our friend Vick Applegate - K7VK. There are so many things that I could say about how much I learned from Vick. I always enjoyed his company and had great respect for his knowledge and advise.
To that end, I wanted to create a montage of video clips and still images that would help me remember the wonderful times that I was privileged to enjoy with Vick.
The link below is public. If you enjoy the video and know someone who may enjoy remembering Vick also, please share the link and or download the video for your remembrance of him.
- KR7Q

https://www.montanaartqwerks.com/My-Ham-Radio-Page-de-KR7Q/2025-HAM-RADIO-PHOTOS-VIDEOS/IN-MEMORY-OF-MY-FRIEND-VICK-APPLEGATE-K7VK/i-tQTtLFD/A