

W7TCK NEWS

Capital City Amateur Radio Club Helena, MT

JOHN McDUGALL K7JM - EDITOR

MARCH 2003

From The Pres.

As we near the end of the coldest part of the winter and start moving into what at least most of the world considers to be the "Spring" months, it is time again to start to look forward and start planning our summer events. Over the next few months we will be talking about each event at each club meeting to solicit input and in some cases set up committees to handle specific events.

The first major event this summer is the Governor's Cup which will be held on June 7th. I've asked Bob, K7HLN to again take the lead in the seemingly endless planning required for this event. I'd also like to take a second and thank him publically for his work in past years for making CCARC's role in this event a success and in advance for the work he will be doing this year. Although it is still too early to talk specifics, I am sure we'll need lots and lots of operators like in past years. If you're interested in participating be sure to mark this date on your calendar.

Also on the plate for this summer is Field Day. It is scheduled for June 28th and 29th. Over the past couple of years, I have perceived a growing desire among club members to do something different for field day than we have done the past few years. In addition, it appears the ARRL is attempting to shift Field Day back closer to it's emergency

operation roots. For example, they have added a "Class F" station which is for stations operating from an Official Emergency Operations Center (EOC). With this in mind, we will be soliciting comments and discussion at the March club meeting about what the consensus of the club is on field day and/or a separate club picnic later in the year.

While we are talking about our March club meeting, I should probably tell you about the program we have planned. This month we will be hearing from Roger Stone who is the Executive Director of the Lewis and Clark District of the American Red Cross. He will be talking about the role of Red Cross in the community, and will be discussing how Amateur Radio can assist the Red Cross in emergency situations. As many of you know, the club helped assist the Red Cross with communications between their Helena headquarters and their Emergency Response Vehicles during the bad fire season we had a couple of years ago.

And finally, I'd like to again mention that I am very interested in hearing any suggestions from you, the members of the club, on activities you would like to see or any other general suggestions. Feel free to drop me an email at president@w7tck.org with any comments you may have.

73's
Forrest
AC7DE



MARCH MEETING

Monday

March 3rd

Salvation Army Church
1905 Henderson
7:00 PM

VE Exams

6:30 Sharp



Board of Directors

Pres: Forrest Christian, AC7DE

Vice Pres: John Curry, K7EBL

Sec.: Rich Weddle, KC7VVZ

Tres.: Dan Stinson, KC7KKH

News Editor: John McDougall, K7JM

Training: John Geach, KS7R

Technical: Don Heide, W7MRI

Volunteer Exam Team

Leader: John Geach, KS7R

CCARC Dues

Have you paid your dues for 2003? If not, you are encouraged to "get them in." Dues are the main source of income for the club, and without them, the many activities that CCARC is involved in would not be possible. Dues to CCARC are even tax deductible. Dues are only \$20 a year, which is a very low rate for such an organization as CCARC. Dan KC7KKH our trusted treasurer would be glad to accept your dues at the next meeting. If you can't make it to the meeting, send them to our P.O. Box address listed at the top of the last page of this newsletter. Be sure to include your call sign on the check if you have one. If you are not up on your dues, this may be your last issue of W7TCK news. K7JM John

From The Editor

Three down. This is the third issue that I've gotten out so far. Thank all of you that contributed articles, suggestions, and encouragement. Please, keep them coming. If you have FOR_SALE items, please get me the information at least two weeks before the next meeting so I can get them into the next newsletter. 73 and God Bless you ALL, John K7JM

Field Day Input Wanted

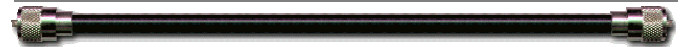
Every year on the fourth full weekend in June, thousands of hams take to the hills, forests, campsites and parking lots to participate in Field Day. The object of Field Day is not only to make contacts, but to make contacts under conditions that simulate the aftermath of a disaster. Most stations are set up outdoors and use emergency power sources. (ARRL Handbook)

CCARC wants your input of where to hold Field Day for 2003. Should Field Day 2003 be in town where we have some exposure to the public, should it be up in the hills? Should we make it a family weekend event or concentrate on the P.R.

end of it? We need your input for this annual Emergency Preparedness Exercise. Please, let Forrest AC7DE, your President or John K7EBL, your Vice President have your input. Field Day 2003 can be the best field day ever. K7JM John

"As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country." Prov. 25:25

HAM = Help All Mankind



Ham Of The Year

KC7VVZ (Rich), our resident lawyer and Secretary, makes all the minutes and notes accurate and lawyer readable. We appreciate Rich's contribution to the club. Thanks Rich for all you do for the Club and for the Ham community.



KC7VVZ - Rich Weddle -
CCARC Ham Of The Year

WX Frequencies

There are 7 NOAA Weather radio frequencies: 162.400, .425, .450, .475, .500, .525 and .550. In montana they are used as follows:

- .500 Bozeman
- .450 Browning (soon operational)
- .500 Conrad
- .550 Great Falls
- .400 Havre
- .400 Helena
- .500 Lewistown

Most 2 meter receivers can receive them. (I have all seven programmed in each of my 2M rigs. Ed.)

- Forrest W. Christian AC7DE

For Sale

- 400 watt hf amplifier \$50.
- Two meter 160 watt amp for \$75.

Call Ralph wg7q 443-4629.
Cell 431-3500.

E-mail n7skn@aol.com



The REAL Phonetic Alphabet

OOPS.. Several very kind members pointed out my blunder in the phonetic alphabet that I posted in last month's newsletter. Here is the **REAL** phonetic alphabet. Congratulations to those that knew it was in error. John K7JM

The Phonetic Alphabet

A - Alpha	N - November
B - Bravo	O - Oscar
C - Charlie	P - Papa
D - Delta	Q - Quebec
E - Echo	R - Romeo
F - Foxtrot	S - Sierra
G - Golf	T - Tango
H - Hotel	U - Uniform
I - India	V - Victor
J - Juliet	W - Whiskey
K - Kilo	X - X-Ray
L - Lima	Y - Yankee
M - Mike	Z - Zulu

Upcoming Events

Please note the following upcoming events. Mark your calendar. Thanks Bob K7HLN for passing this info along.

April 26: Eagle Rock ARC Hamfest, National Guard Armory, Idaho Falls, ID. Information: <http://mycable.cableone.net/wa4vrv/hamfest.htm>

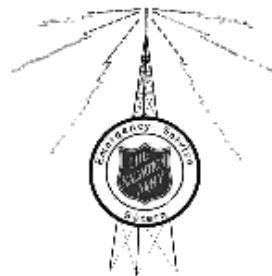
June 7: Governor's Cup Races, Helena: Information: <http://www.govcup.bcbsmt.com>

June 28-29: ARRL Field Day, Helena: Location to be determined

July 16-20: Glaciar-Waterton Hamfest, Three Forks Campground, west of Browning, MT information: <http://www/gwhamfest.org>

Sept. 6: Elkhorn Mountain Runs, Clancy, MT information: <http://www.elkhorn100.com>

The Salvation Army



SATERN

The Salvation Army provides CCARC with our meeting location. Many may not realize that The Salvation Army provides emergency assistance which includes SATERN - Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network. During

CCARC's February meeting, Envoy Steve Stanearth of our local Salvation Army, gave a presentation of The Salvation Army's history and their work in Helena. In brief:

The Salvation Army is motivated by a Love for God and a concern for the needs of all humanity. This motivation is expressed in the work of The Salvation Army.

(See **SATERN** next page)

(SATERN cont.)

Its purposes are to:

Preach the Christian Gospel,

Teach Christian truths,

Provide basic human necessities, such as food clothing and shelter,

Work to promote spiritual, moral, and physical well being.

SATERN

Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network

The purpose of the Salvation Army Team Emergency Radio Network (SATERN) is to train and acquire personnel skilled in emergency communications and message handling, who will support Salvation Army operations in local, regional and international disaster situations.

More information can be found at their website at <http://satern.org/>



Time to upgrade!

With so many exciting modes out there, NOW is the time to learn that code and upgrade. A whole new exciting world is out there waiting. Single Side Band, CW, Slow Scan TV, PSK31, QRP, HF mobile, etc, etc, etc.

Talk To The World On Ham Radio!

Learn the code, study the theory and regulations.

Ham Radio is FUN!

Elmers

Many ham radio operators learn to get on the air through the buddy system. An experienced ham, called an "Elmer," teaches one or more newcomers about Amateur Radio on a one-to-one basis. Elmering became a ham tradition many years ago. It was first documented in ARRL's monthly magazine, QST, in a story that

was meant to be a public thank you from an appreciative student whose mentor's name was Elmer. Elmers are there for you as you study your exam, buy your first radio and set up your station. Many watch with pride as their newly licensed friends make their first on-the-air contacts. (ARRL Handbook)

CCARC is looking for a few good Elmers. We are currently involved in a Technician's Class licensing class. These prospective hams will need the one on one guidance that most of us received when we were first licensed. Pass it on and be an Elmer.

If you are interested in being an Elmer, please contact **John Geach, KS7R** at 442-7107 or come to the Technician class which is at Hardee's meeting room every Thursday evening at 7:00. The more you give, the more you will get. I promise you. John K7JM

HELP

I would like to talk to some one that could give me advice on putting filters in the Icom 751A. Thanks Ralph wg7q 443-4629

ARES News

What is a Communication Emergency?

A communication emergency exists when a critical communication system failure puts the public at risk. A variety of circumstances can overload or damage critical day-to-day communication systems. It could be a storm that knocks down telephone lines or radio towers, a massive increase in the use of a



communication system that causes it to become overloaded, or the failure of a key component in a system that has widespread consequences.

Examples are easily found. Violent storms and earthquakes can knock down communication facilities.

Critical facilities can also be damaged in "normal"

circumstances: underground cables are dug up, fires occur in telephone equipment buildings, or a car crash knocks down a key telephone pole. Hospital or 911 telephone systems can fail. Even when no equipment fails, a large-scale emergency such as a chemical or nuclear accident can result in more message traffic than the system was designed to handle. Some emergency operations can occur in areas without any existing communication systems, such as with backcountry searches or fires.

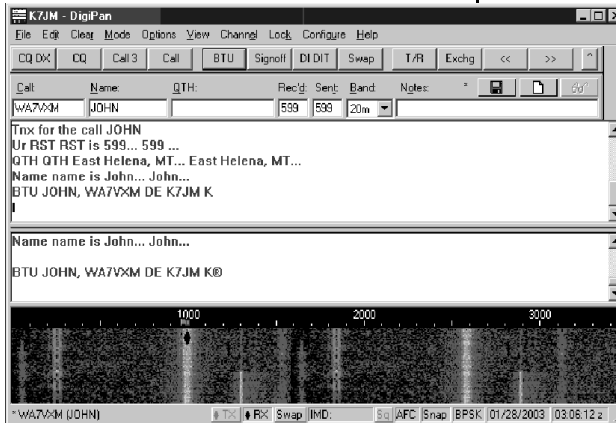
What makes a good emergency communications volunteer?

Emergency communications volunteers come from a wide variety of backgrounds and with a range of skills and experience. The common attributes that all effective volunteers share are a desire to help others without personal gain of any kind, the ability to work as a member of a team, and to take direction from others. Emergency communications volunteers need to be able to think and act quickly, under the stress and pressure of an emergency.

Edited from ARRL ARECC Level 1 Course
(Continued next month)
Bob K7HLN

The Fun Of PSK31

One of the funnest (is that a word?) modes that has come around in a long time is PSK31. Go find last months newsletter and take it out of the garbage. Build up a set of cables as described in the newsletter and download the latest copy of Digipan or other PSK31 software from the Internet.



Digipan's operating screen

PKS31 is a keyboard to keyboard communications mode used primarily on HF. You type and it transmits to the other station and displayed on his screen and vice versa. The neat thing about PSK31 is the 31 part. Your signal is approximately 31 Hz (yes Hertz) wide. You set your XCVR on one frequency and 20, 30, or more stations can occupy the same space as **one** SSB station. Signals are identified by small

railroad track like traces on your computer screen. Decide which one you want to talk to and click on it with your mouse and you are automatically on that frequency. Look at the picture of the Digipan screen shot. Each vertical trace is a station. There are at least 8 stations showing with room for lots more. These are all in the audio pass band of your receiver. COOL!

I encourage you to download a copy of Digipan or other software. Search the Internet for PSK31 or Digipan. Go to <http://www.digipan.net> to download the latest version. Ask questions if you need help on setting it up. There are several club members that run PSK31 including myself. IT IS FUN!

The most popular frequency is 20 meters 14.070 MHz. Listen for a warbling sound. That is the sounds of PSK31. Dig in and HAVE FUN!
John K7JM

Preparedness Fair

LDS Church on 6th avenue near Capital
Saturday April 1st.
10a.m. - 3 p.m.
Presentations on various emergency preparedness topics including:
72 hour kits, County Emergency Plans, First Aid, and many others.

CCARC will have a booth at this event. If you are interested in helping man the booth, contact Forrest, AC7DE at president@w7tck.org

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Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

P.O. Box 1112
Helena, MT 59634

CCARC Web Page:

<http://www.w7tck.org>

Editors E-Mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

CCARC Regular meetings are at 7:00 PM on the
first non-holiday Monday of each month at the
Salvation Army Church 1905 Henderson.

The CCARC Volunteer Exam Team conducts
sessions at 6:30 PM in Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep,
Nov, and at special times as announced.

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All expressions of opinions and all statements of
supposed facts are published on the authority of the
author and are not to be regarded as expressing the view
of CCARC

Biscuits and Gravy

**Come to Hardee's on Saturday. Every
Saturday morning between 9:30 and 11:00, as
many as twenty hams show up for
"EYEBALL QSOS.
COME JOIN THE FUN!**



IRLP

IRLP (Internet Radio Linking Project) is alive
and doing well in the Helena area. Tune to
147.550 FM to listen or join in the QSO's from
folks around the world. Basically, the internet is
used as a backbone to link repeaters. Need more
information ? On the web at: <http://www.irlp.net>
Enjoy. Bill K7MT

First Class Mail