

W7TCK NEWS

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

Helena, MT

JOHN McDOUGALL K7JM - EDITOR

MAY 2003

From The Pres.

As the weather gets warmer, many of us (myself included) start thinking about adding antennas and doing other ham-radio related outdoor projects. I'm personally hoping I'll finally get a couple of HF antennas in the air this year so I can actually work HF from my home instead of having to work mobile.

Because a lot of the projects some of us will be tackling over the next few months will involve working around power lines, I have arranged for representatives from NorthWestern Energy to visit us during the club meeting on the 5th. They will be making a presentation on safety around utility lines. I'm sure it will be informative and a much needed review for some of us.

In addition to our personal projects, summer tends to also bring on many club and other Ham-Radio related activities. There are two main ones we are working on at this point.

Governor's Cup is on June 7th this year. We still need lots of volunteers to work during the

race. If you'd like to participate please contact Bob, K7HLN or you can email me at the address below and I'll pass on the message.

Field Day is June 28th and 29th this year. However, we have been unable to locate enough volunteers to fill the Incident Command team for this event. Basically, there are three positions we need to fill in order for us to be able to plan for and operate a club Field Day station (Cont. **PRES.** p.2).



**MAY
MEETING**
Monday
May 5th
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**



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(PRES. Cont from p. 1)

The three positions are as follows: First, we need a person to be in charge of planning. This individual will be responsible to develop the overall plan for field day. Secondly, we need a person to handle Logistics. This person will primarily be responsible to ensure the items (and human resources) which are needed for field day are located and obtained and actually end up at the field day site. And finally, we need someone who will be in charge of operations. This person will be primarily responsible for actually running the field day operation.

These three people will essentially be in charge of the field day operations. They will be responsible to meet or otherwise communicate as much as necessary to ensure that Field Day is planned appropriately prior to the event. They will also be responsible on Field Day to ensure the operation goes as planned (or at least somewhat as planned). And finally, they will be responsible for ensuring any post-Field Day paperwork is completed and submitted.

Filling these positions are critical. Unless we can find volunteers to act in these roles, we may have to cancel the club's field day operation. If you are even remotely interested, please contact me either via the email address below, or just before the club meeting on the 5th.

As always, any questions and comments are welcome. I can be reached via email to president@w7tck.org.

73's
Forrest
AC7DE



From The Editor

Spring is upon us. Many of us are anxiously waiting for the rains to subside so we can start on those long awaited outdoor projects we have been planning all winter.



Do you have a new antenna system going up? Or maybe a new tower? Do you need help getting a station connected together to get on the air? Let us know at our monthly meeting or come by Hardees on Saturday mornings. There are many hams around that are waiting to help you with your "project."

Spring is also the time for "Spring Cleaning." When you come up with you stack of Junque that is too good to throw away, but you don't know what to do with, keep W7TCK News in mind. Get me the info about the stuff you want to sell, trade, or give away, and I will be glad to post it here.

Remember Field Day is coming up soon. This is the Ham "Event" of the summer. The club is in very much need of some volunteers to fill some key positions if we expect Field Day to happen.

Summer is also the time for Hamfests. I strongly encourage you to try to make it to at least one Hamfest this summer. You will have just done your spring cleaning and you have gotten rid of all your stuff so you will definitely have room for some new and improved "Stuff." I hope to be making the annual trek to the Glacier-Waterton Hamfest on July 16-20. This Hamfest usually happens the same weekend as the Elkhorn Mountain Run but this year it doesn't so it is YOUR opportunity to attend the Hamfest if you haven't been able to in the past.

Believe it or not, Garage Sales are also a great place for some recycled junk. I have recently

picked up an RF Signal Generator, an OLD Hallicrafters Civic Patrol receiver, and most recently an Atlas 215X SSB HF transceiver. It's amazing what you find out there, and those running the garage sales don't know what they have. Or do they?(Junk!) :) When I picked up the Atlas HF rig, they thought it was a CB rig and they had a CB antenna hooked up to it. HI HI. A teenage girl told her mom that someone (me) was buying her (the teen's) CB radio. One man's junk, another man's treasure.

Anyway, the point of all this is, get out of the shack, get some fresh air, and enjoy some other aspects of the hobby. IT'S ALL FUN!

73 and God bless you all,
John (K7JM) Editor



ARES News

WISCONSIN MANDATES ARRL EMCOMM CLASSES FOR ARES/RACES OFFICIALS

Wisconsin has become the first ARRL Section to make the basic ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course an ARES/RACES leadership job requirement. Wisconsin Section Emergency Coordinator Dr Stan Kaplan, WB9RQR, has announced that ARES and RACES leadership personnel in Wisconsin must complete the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications course (EC-001) by June 30, 2004, and all three course levels by June 30, 2005. "We are seeing the marked difference this training makes, both here in Wisconsin and across the United States," Kaplan said in announcing the upgraded requirements. "It is a 'Good Thing' and will help you be a much better emergency communicator and a much better leader of communications teams." Kaplan said there's "just no question" that completing the AREC courses

will help ARES/RACES leadership members to serve the public better.

The change affects all Wisconsin district emergency coordinators, emergency coordinators, assistant emergency coordinator, liaison emergency coordinators and others in the state's ARES/RACES leadership. That even includes Kaplan, who also serves as Wisconsin's RACES chief radio officer, and Wisconsin Section Manager Don Michalski, W9IXG.

Still under discussion in Wisconsin is a proposal to require all ARES/RACES members to pass the Level I Amateur Radio Emergency Communications class.

excerpted and edited from ARRL Letter, Vol. 22,
No. 16, April 17, 2003
Bob K7HLN



Tactical Call Signs

There was considerable discussion at the April club meeting about the correct procedure for signing at the end of a radio conversation when tactical call signs were being used. Tactical call signs are often adopted during an emergency, or during large public-service activities, such as the Governor's Cup. Names like "Medical Tent", "Red Cross Staging" or "Half-Marathon Start" quickly identify each function, and eliminate confusion when working with other agencies for whom amateur call signs are meaningless. They also help prevent confusion when several operators may take turns at a position.

The use of tactical call signs is a good idea, but it in no way relieves you of the obligation to identify

your operation under the FCC's Rules for normal station identification. You must still give your FCC assigned call sign at the end of your communication, and at least once every 10 minutes during the contact. For more information, refer to Sec. 97-119, Rules and Regulations, Amateur Radio Service, Federal Communications Commission.

This information is edited from the ARRL Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Course, Level 3. The Part 97 document is a governmental regulatory document, and as such is less than totally specific. I have tried several other sites for clarification, but still have some questions left unanswered.

de Bob K7HLN



Governor's Cup Races

Ham operators are still needed to assist with the Governor's Cup Races, Saturday, June 7. There are several aid station assignments on the Marathon Course, as well as several locations on the shorter races in town, that need to be filled. If you can only help for a short period of time, we will do all we can to accommodate your schedule.

Volunteers will receive one of the several styles of shirts available from the Montana Caring Foundation and Blue Cross/Blue Shield. The race sponsors are also providing laminated ID badges for the hams working the event.

Complete information with assignments and maps will be included in the June newsletter. The Governor's Cup Race web site can be seen at <http://www.govcup.bcbsmt.com/index.html>. To volunteer or to get information about helping with ham radio communications, please contact Bob K7HLN at 442-6118 or e-mail k7hln@mtnet.net

Upcoming Events

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

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>



Annual CCARC Classes Are A Success

The 2003 CCARC Technician License training classes ended on April 3 with a specially scheduled VE test session. This year's class was one of the largest in CCARC history with seventeen students. Five class students passed their Technician exams on April 3rd and received their new call signs several days later. Congratulations to the following new Helena Hams: Barbara Jones KD7VHY, Ed Mohler KD7VHV, Clark Riesland KD7VHW (Clark also passed his written General exam), Erick Rocha KD7VHX and Andy Thompson KD7VHU.

Thanks also to the following class instructors who volunteered many hours of their time to make this year's classes a great success: Bob Elliott N1ET, Cliff Smith KC7QLM and Forrest Christian AC7DE.

Other class members are studying to take their VE exams prior to the changing of the Technician Class question pool on July 1st. Due to the question pool change, the CCARC VE team will offer two VE exam sessions prior to July 1st. VE exams for all Amateur License Classes will be given before the May 5 and June 2 CCARC meetings. Exams will begin at 6:30 PM at the Salvation Army Church. From John KS7R



For Sale

Ameritron AL84 - four tube HF amplifier. 160 through 15 meters with instructions for adding 10 meters. Can be wired for either 120 or 220 volt AC. Good condition. Price \$300. For more information contact Lee at 266-4035.



The Amateur's Code

I was first licensed in 1973. As a new ham, I was leager to get a copy of "The Radio Amateur's Handbook". This was and still is THE standard manual of Amateur Radio communication. In the front of this and every Handbook, is the Amateur's Code. In this world of ever increasing selfishness, vulgarity, self centeredness, Hams are drawn away from acting the way we should. FCC Special Counsel Riley Hollingsworth consistently warns the Amateur community about getting involved with "Bad" Amateur practices. He reminds us that more people than ever are listening in to our conversations. Our future rests on the way we interact with each other and others. Here is the

Amateur's Code as presented in the current Handbooks:

The Amateur's Code

The Radio Amateur is **CONSIDERATE**...never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL...offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE...with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY...slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

BALANCED...radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed of family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC...station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

Original Amateur's Code written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.

John K7JM



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P.O. Box 1112
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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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Return Address: Newsletter Editor
Capital City Amateur Radio Club
3841 Gradestake St.
East Helena, MT 59635

e-mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

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!**

OUR SECTION MANAGER

Hello to all Montana members: March was a busy
month for our state membership. In Helena, our
ARES folks responded to a sudden snow-melt
flood in Lewis and Clark County, March 12, 13
and 14th. Rising temperatures had upset the
gradual melt of last Winter's snow-pack and filled
streams quickly to the point of flooding. K7HLN,
our EC for that county represented the local club to
the EOC. A fine job by the entire W7TCK group.

Section Manager
Douglas R. Dunn, K7YD
216 Fiddle Creek Rd
Livingston, MT 59047-4116
406-222-3400
k7yd@arri.org

First Class Mail