

W7TCK NEWS

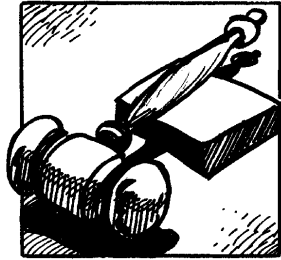
Capital City Amateur Radio Club Helena, MT

JOHN McDUGALL K7JM - EDITOR

JUNE 2003

From The Pres.

I'm going to dispense with my normal longwinded-ness and keep this short for once.



We've got a lot going on over the next couple of months. First up is our monthly club meeting to be held June 2nd. The program will primarily be related to Governor's Cup and the other events mentioned below. We will also be holding a special VE test session before the meeting.

Governor's cup is on June 7th. You should find a lot of needed information enclosed if you plan to work this event. In addition, I'd highly recommend that anyone planning to work the race attend the club meeting. Tracy Koder from Blue Cross/Blue Shield will be at our club meeting to talk to us about the race. In addition, Bob (K7HLN) will be providing additional information at the meeting which isn't necessarily contained within this newsletter.

We will also be talking about Field day which is on June 28-29. Bring your ideas for field day with you to the meeting. We will also be discussing Hamfest and possibly sites for the club picnic.

I think that's all for now.

73's
Forrest
AC7DE

NOTICE ABOUT DUES

It has been asked by our beloved treasurer if I would mention that Dues are \$20 a year. The dues for the first year of membership is pro-rated according to the time of the year the membership began. Each subsequent year, the dues are \$20 EVEN IF YOU SUBMIT THEM LATE. That is: If you don't get your dues in for three months, you were still a member for those months and still owe for the whole year. This is fair and proper. Thanks!

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JUNE MEETING

Monday
JUNE 2nd
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**

From The Editor

I have just returned from a fun week-end of camping out at the lake. The great out-doors is a perfect place for Ham Radio Fun! I prepared my duffle bag of all my necessary Ham Radio goodies (It is strongly suggested that all Hams have some sort of a bag of necessities that they can grab on the way out the door incase of an emergency or operating event). Since I had to work at my job, I had to run back and forth from the lake to work. And since I had to do this, we had to bring two vehicles to the campsite. I threw my duffle bag in the trunk of my car and we headed out to the camp site. Early the next morning I had to run into town as planned to go to work. So, no Ham Radio that day. The next day was Sunday. Our family likes to go to church on Sunday, so we came into town for church. Since we had an extra vehicle out at the camp site, we figured we would drive both into town and then only take one back to the lake. Great! All worked out as planned. ALMOST... Sunday night was going to be my night to "Play Radio." I love to throw a 40 meter dipole into the trees and operate PSK or CW or SSB. This time, I planned on operating my QRP Rock Mite. One watt to the world from the lake-side camp-site. BUTTTT. My duffle bag.... It was uh... in the trunk of my car.... which was at home now in my drive way!! It felt as if a piece of my life was left behind at home.

The week-end turned out great anyway. I was with my family, the weather was great, the kids had a blast playing in the woods, and we enjoyed watching the deer mosey on by as the sun was setting. The point is this though... Are you active enough in this wonderful hobby that if you are without it, you miss it? If not, I urge you to get more involved in this ever faceted hobby. There are so many areas in Ham Radio, that there is



something for everyone and for anytime. Enjoy Ham Radio and may God bless you while you are doing it. 73, John K7JM Editor



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: Glaciator-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>



Governor's Cup Races

We are going to have a race!" That has been the mantra for the last month of the folks planning the 2003 Governor's Cup Marathon and other activities. The time for meetings and planning is over, it's race time!

The ham radio operator assignments are included in this newsletter and hopefully they are reasonably self explanatory. We will try to have at least two operators at each location. Aid station locations are much the same as they have been the last several years. There will not be a medical rover ham operator this year. St. Peter's Ambulance Service will stage a unit at the half marathon start to work from there as needed. There will be another ambulance staged at the

finish line, as well as a unit on duty at the hospital. St. Peter's Emergency Department will have emergency room nurses and an emergency room physician staffing the medical tent to treat runners with problems more serious than blisters or sunburn.

Maps and detailed descriptions of the race courses will be distributed at the June club meeting. Please try to attend, we will be discussing the our support of the races in detail. If you cannot be there, contact Bob K7HLN at 442-6118 and arrange to pick up the materials. The maps and other race information can be also be found on the Governor's Cup web page, www.govcup.bcbsmt.com

This is not only a chance to provide community service, it's a chance to practice our skills as radio operators and traffic handlers. To that end, amateur radio support for the event will be managed in an Incident Command System (ICS) manner. Bob K7HLN will be the Incident Commander, John K7EBL will be the Logistics manager, Cliff KC7QLM will handle Operations.

Logistics will see to it that there are enough operators and equipment so that we have adequate coverage. Operations will manage the radio traffic by controlling the net and the reporting of information to Race Control and the finish line. This is much the same way we have done this task for several years, but we are trying to make it run in much the same way we would be working during an emergency.

Be sure you have a copy of your FCC license and a photo ID with you. If you have a fluorescent vest, wear it. If you have a set of the magnetic signs, display them on your vehicle. Let people know



who we are and what we are doing. Show your colors!
Bob-K7HLN

Correction

OOPS! After several rewrites and a lot of editing, the assignment sheet for the Governor's Cup was printed and on it's way to John K7JM to be inserted into the newsletter.

Then I found that I had made an error on Scott's call sign. I am truly sorry and offer my apology. I will be careful and will try to minimize mistakes in the future. de Bob K7HLN

From Our Section Manager

We're in need of several voluteers for Section appointee positions. Pls contact K7YD or N7VMR for suggestions on different jobs available.

The Idaho Falls Hamfest was attended by several MT amateurs. A great show and effort on the part of the Idaho Falls Clubs. Lots of swap tables and good food. We'll be looking forward to next year's gathering. Perhaps better weather?

Thanks to efforts by Terry Whiteside, W7WWW the Spectrum Protection Act is now on its way to committee for consideration in preparation for this year's congressional session. Terry has worked diligently with our elected reps to bring this all-important legislation to the top of the heap. A great accomplishment!

Dont forget Glacier Hamfest, the third weekend of July. As always, the social event of the year here in the Northern Rockies. Bring your friends and family, enjoy fantastic views of Glacier Park and our friendly bunch always gathered at Three Forks Campground.

The Father's Day Picnic is being held this year in Miles City. Always a great get-together. Mark your callendars.

Doug, K7YD

Five Channels Granted at 5 MHz

In a compromise with government users, the Commission decided to give amateurs five discrete 2.8-kHz-wide channels in the vicinity of 5 MHz instead of the 150-kHz band ARRL had requested. In its Notice of Proposed Rule Making a year ago, the FCC appeared inclined to go along with both ARRL requests. The changes to Part 97 go into effect 30 days after publication in The Federal Register, which has not yet happened.

The granting of just five spot frequencies--5332, 5348, 5368, 5373, and 5405 kHz--at 60 meters was less of a surprise given opposition expressed last fall by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). The NTIA had cited a possible need for the requested band by federal government users and proposed the five specific frequencies for amateur use on a secondary basis. The FCC has granted operation on USB (2K8J3E emission) only, with a maximum effective radiated power limit of 50 W relative to a 0 dB gain antenna--a half-wave dipole. The channels--each with a maximum permissible bandwidth of 2.8 kHz--will be available to General and higher class licensees.

"While the new amateur privileges at 5 MHz are not as flexible as we had hoped, we recognize that much has changed since the ARRL petition for rulemaking was submitted to the FCC in the summer of 2001," Sumner said.

"Federal agencies with homeland security responsibilities have renewed interest in HF radiocommunication."



The Report and Order is available on the FCC's Web site,
http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-03-105A1.doc.

Field Day 2003

Field Day is just a couple of weeks away. This year it falls on June 28 and 29. While weren't able to commit enough people to the key positions needed for a formal Field Day operation, Field Day will still arrive with or without our involvement. The "Club" is now planning a "Low Key" field day event. The event will be held at the Salvation Army Church grounds. Please, come by and get involved. We know that there are many new members that would love to get involved in field day one way or another but don't know where to start or how to get involved. This informal operating event will great fun for all who stop by. Remember to bring a copy of your FCC licence.
 John-K7JM

Jungle Internet

Laotian villagers in the remote, mountainous, snake-infested jungles of northern Laos got on the Internet for the first time last month. Located northeast of Thailand, Laos is one of the poorest nations on earth. Average income is only \$23 per month.

They did it by using pedal-powered stationary bikes to charge huge batteries which provide the electricity needed to operate the five custom-built computers located in different villages.

It is the first time a human-powered computer has ever linked a Third World village to the Internet by wireless remote. One minute of pedaling yields five minutes of internet access.

The new technology will allow Phon Kham farmers to increase profits on their surplus rice and

other vegetables by obtaining pricing from neighboring markets.

And women weavers in the villages have already begun weaving textiles for export. They hope to find partners among expatriated Laotians who will help them market their handicrafts and receive reasonable returns.

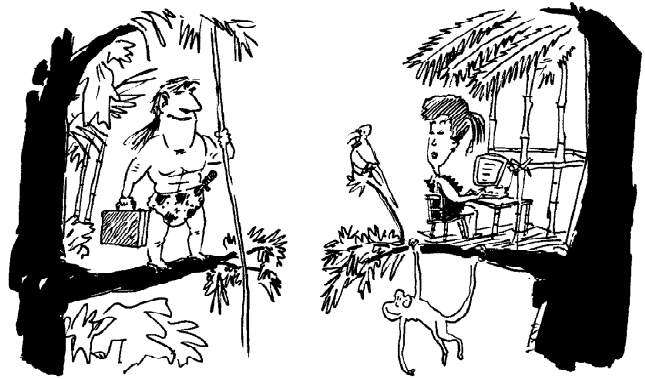
A dozen computer engineers from Laos, Sweden, Thailand and the United States worked together to design the system. Lee Felsenstein of Palo Alto, CA, the inventor of the Osborne-1 PC, came up with a PC which he calls the Jhai Computer. Jhai means “hearts and minds working together” in Laotian. Since it runs on only 12 watts — compared to typical computer’s 90 watts — bike power is up to the task.

The Jhai PC has no moving parts and is waterproof. The plastic-encased computer is smaller than a laptop and built to survive the Laotian swirling dust, searing heat, and monsoon rains.

The five PCs link to the Internet using an inter-village Wi-Fi digital data network and a distant connection to a local phone system. Microwave signals are line-of-sight beamed to an antenna nailed to a tree atop a nearby mountain ridge. It is then routed to a solar-powered repeater station transmitting to a network/telephone interface and a dial-up Internet account at a hospital many miles from the nearest jungle village.

A Linux-based Lao-language graphical desktop and Lao-language office tools have been developed by a Laotian IBM engineer based in New York. The Jhai Computer not only does e-mail, but also two way telephone using the Voice-Over-Internet Protocol, or VOIP.

The Jhai Computer represents a communications solution for the over 600 million people living in the Least Developed Countries of the world, where



only one person in 100 has access to a telephone.

Toward that end, the developers are thinking of making the system available to other remote locations. The Jhai Foundation is holding discussion on the possible introduction of the system in remote parts of Indonesia, Turkey, Iran, Cambodia, Bangladesh, and Southern China. On the web see: <www.jhai.org>.

The Jhai Foundation is an American 501(c)3 non-profit organization, begun in 1997 by Lee Thorn, a bomb-loader during the American war in Laos, and Bounthanh Phommasathit, a Lao refugee from the American bombing. (From W5YI Report, March 1, 2003. Thanks Dick, N7RB for this info. Ed.)



For sale:

Portable generator; 1100 watt Coleman Ultimate, Subaru Robin engine; weighs 23 pounds 120/240 volts AC, 12/24 volts DC charging circuits. \$350

Anttron 8010 base antenna, 180-10 meters, breaks down into three 6' pieces, \$90

Contact: Bob K7HLN, 442-6118

Have FUN

With HAM RADIO



**The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the
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.

W7MRI Repeater : 147.82 (- offset)

**Net every Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. local
time on the 147.82 (- offset)**

Return Address: Newsletter Editor

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!

Congratulations to Bob-K7HLN for having completed all three of the ARRL ARECC Courses.



Bob says:

“They have done a great job with them. I would recommend the Level 1 Course as a good introduction into emergency communications and amateur radio operations for any ham radio operator.”

Great job Bob!

First Class Mail