

# W7TCK NEWS

## Capital City Amateur Radio Club

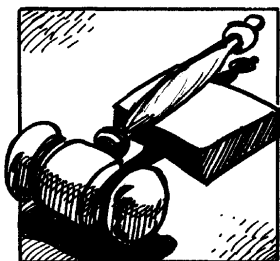
Helena, MT

JOHN McDOUGALL K7JM - EDITOR

AUGUST 2003

### From The Pres.

I've had one busy summer. But this is good because it's been



filled with a lot of recreational activities instead of endless work like I sometimes get stuck with during the summer. And it's also good because a lot of the fun has been related to Ham Radio. Between Governor's Cup, Field Day, the Glacier-Waterton Hamfest, and the couple of emergency operations we've participated in I also hope each of you have also had a full summer so far Ham-Radio wise.

The next event on the calendar (other than the club meeting on the 4th) is what I hope to be our first annual CCARC end-of-the-summer picnic. This is intended to be a social gathering at which we can all get together and celebrate the "survival" of yet another busy summer season. We haven't set a date or location yet, so come to the club meeting and/or listen to (See PRES. Page 2)



### August MEETING

Monday

**August 4th**

**Salvation Army  
Church**

1905 Henderson

**7:00 PM**

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**Volunteer Exam Team  
Leader: John Geach,  
KS7R**



**(PRES. Cont. from page 1)** the net on the .82 repeater on Tuesdays for more details as they become available. We are currently leaning towards holding this on an evening during the second half of the month, and most likely on a Friday or Saturday. That said, we will be soliciting input from the club members at August's club meeting.

While I am on the subject of the club meeting, for the program I will be putting on a presentation on working the digital HF modes with just your HF radio and your sound-card equipped computer (and a suitable cable you can build yourself). This will include modes such as PSK-31 and RTTY. This will also be useful to those club members without HF data privileges (I.E. Technician class licensees) as this can also be applied to several newer programs which do APRS on 2 Meters with your sound card.

There is one last thing I feel I should mention. The Elkhorn Endurance Run, which we normally provide communications for, is coming up prior to the September meeting. To date, we have not been contacted by the organizers. However, it is not uncommon for us to not be contacted until just a couple of weeks before the event. For those of you who are unaware, this event is an ultra-marathon which consists of 50K and 100K races through the Elkhorn mountains just to the south. This is some of the most rugged country in the area and provides some unique communications and access challenges for us to overcome. If you are interested in participating in a very unique experience, mark September 6th on your calendar. In some cases operators will need to go up with a group leaving Friday due to the limited

access to some of the checkpoints. Again, listen to the net on the .82 repeater for more information as it becomes available.

As always, comments, questions and/or suggestions are always welcome at [pres@w7tck.org](mailto:pres@w7tck.org).

73's  
Forrest  
AC7DE



## From The Editor

**H**ave you been getting a lot of Ham Radio activity in this summer? It has been a HOT one. I have been spending my WARM afternoons and evenings remodeling our family kitchen for the past month. This has severely dampened my Ham Radio activity. The main event for the month for me was the Glacier-Waterton Hamfest. The Glacier-Waterton



Hamfest has been one of the main highlights of my summer for the past few years. It is a great place to rekindle those old acquaintances and make some new ones. There is always plenty of treasures to be gotten from the numerous "Tail-gate" sales,



**Some of CCARC's finest enjoying the cool of the evening at the Glacier-Waterton Hamfest.**



**Don, W7MRI guarding some of his precious treasures as a sucker, or I mean a prospective customer checks over the goods.**

and if you're out for a NEW toy, there are always vendors on site ready and willing to make you a deal. But for me, one of the greatest assets of this year's event was the COOL nights. And I mean cool! What a great night sleep I got while actually having to have blankets on during the night, right Rich? Rich, KC7VVZ actually braved the cool night air in a tent. I didn't hear Rich complain too much about the cool night.



**Something for everyone at Glacier-Waterton Hamfest including face painting for the kids.**

Some of the activities offered this year, were seminars including Emergency Preparedness, QRP, and APRS. Several "Bunny Hunts" were done. Great activities for the kids (Harmonics) and relax, relax, relax.

The Harmonics (Kids) enjoyed crafts, face painting, treasure hunts, and even kit soldering. The YL's had a bazaar, and many YL's were involved in every activity that was available. There was something for everyone.

Mark your calendar for next year. You won't be sorry you did. Happy Hamming and God bless you all this warm summer. Pray for rain.

73, John K7JM (Editor)



## ARES News

The Jimtown Fire, 10 miles northeast of Helena, started late Sunday morning, 13 July,

2003. The smoke plume was easily visible in town around noon. At 1240 hours, the

K7HLN called a QST as a "head's up" for possible activation of ARES and then activated his home station as the net control station. Shortly after that, Red Cross called, requesting a ham radio operator at their Headquarters in town and another operator at an evacuation registration center at the Lakeside Volunteer Fire Department #1, a couple of miles from the fire area. The Sheriff's Department had issued an evacuation order and was also alerting others in the area for possible evacuation. Ten minutes later K7EBL was called by the County DES and requested to have a ham



operator report to the County EOC in the Law Enforcement Center.

Volunteers were sent to the designated locations and were on station and in service less than an hour after the first request was received. Another group of operators was put on standby and asked to continue to monitor the repeater. Although several families were ordered to evacuate, no one checked into the registration location, nor did anyone check into the shelter Red Cross set up in East Helena. The Red Cross Emergency Response Vehicle (ERV) was in Missoula, so they did not have need for an operator to go mobile with that unit.

Following a meeting of the county ICS staff at the county EOC at 1800 hours, it was decided to demobilize the ham radio operators and to request that they continue to monitor the repeater for possible re-activation. It was reported at that meeting that the fire was being turned over to a Forest Service Type 2 Team the next morning and the county would be less directly involved with the fire suppression efforts, but would be providing law enforcement and other services.

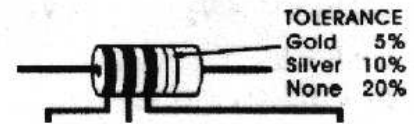
Contact was also maintained throughout the day with Salvation Army. They did not have units in the field, but were preparing to respond with Canteen Services on Monday. Assistance with communications was offered, but was not requested. The net was secured at 1856, and the repeater was returned to normal use.

Agencies receiving communications support were Lewis and Clark County DES; Lewis and Clark Council, American Red Cross; contact was also maintained with Salvation Army. Amateur operators actively involved were KC7VVZ, K7EBL, K7HLN, K7WES and W7MRI. Another eight operators were on standby and monitoring the repeater, should they be needed.

Thanks to all.. de K7HLN

## Resistor Color Chart

Use this handy resistor color chart to brush up on your resistor identification.



Color	1st Digit	2nd Digit	Multiplier
Black	0	0	1
Brown	1	1	10
Red	2	2	100
Orange	3	3	1,000
Yellow	4	4	10,000
Green	5	5	100,000
Blue	6	6	1,000,000
Violet	7	7	10,000,000
Gray	8	8	100,000,000
White	9	9	1,000,000,000
Gold	—	—	.1
Silver	—	—	.01



## Upcoming Events

Please note the following upcoming events. Mark your calendar.

### Aug. 9: Hellgate ARC

<http://riversdreams.com/k7vk/>

Contact: Lewis Ball, AC7UZ

6900 Butler Creek

Missoula, MT 59808

Phone: 406-549-1450

Email: [ac7uz@blackfoot.net](mailto:ac7uz@blackfoot.net)

Greenough Park, Missoula, MT

### Sept. 6: Elkhorn Mountain Runs, Clancy, MT

information: <http://www.elkhorn100.com>

The 12th Annual **Butte Amateur Radio Club** Trivia Net Picnic is this Saturday, 8/2/03, from Noon until 2:00 PM.

Location is The Cardwell Campground at the Cardwell Exit from I-90 East of Whitehall. The Campground charges \$1.00 per person for use of their facilities.

Bring whatever you wish to eat and drink and a little more for others. The Annual Trivia Net Cake will once again be provided by Myrtle, WB7OKP.

Amateur Radio related equipment for sale or trade will be welcome "tail gate style" and no fees are associated.

<http://community-2.webtv.net/a1file/doc/>



*Awards tracking* - A log helps you keep track of contacts required of DXCC, WAS, or other awards. Keeping a log lets you quickly see how well you are progressing toward your goal.

*An Operating Diary* - A logbook is a good place for recording general information about your station. You may be able to tell just how well that new antenna is working compared to the old one by comparing recent QSO's with older contacts. The logbook is also a logical place to record new acquisitions (complete with serial numbers in case you great is ever stolen). You can also record other events, such as the names and calls of visiting operations, license upgrades, or contests, in your log. (From ARRL Handbook)



## Radio History is Made at WRC-03 with 7-MHZ Realignment Compromise

**N**EWINGTON, CT, Jul 3, 2003--There's good news from World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 (WRC-03) for 40-meter enthusiasts. In an 11th-hour compromise, delegates to WRC-03, which wraps up officially July 4, agreed to move broadcasters out of 7100 to 7200 kHz in Regions 1 and 3 to make room for the Amateur Service. The agreement eventually will mean a 200-kHz worldwide allocation at 40 meters. Although the change does not go into effect until 2009, that's considered speedy in International Telecommunication Union (ITU) terms. Some of the timelines proposed during discussions on the 7 MHz agenda item would have held off the changes until 2033! The WRC-03 action on 7 MHz makes no change in the exclusive US 40-meter allocation. US amateurs will continue to enjoy the full 7000 to 7300 kHz band they now have.

## Keeping a Logbook

**A**t one time, keeping a log of your contacts was an FCC requirement. The FCC has dropped this requirement in recent years, but many amateurs, both new and old, still keep logs.

Why keep a log?

If keeping a log is optional, why do it? Some of the more important reasons for keeping a log include:

*Legal Protection* - if you can show a complete log of your activity, it can help you deal with interference complaints. Good record-keeping can help you protect yourself if you are ever accused of intentional interference, or have a problem with unauthorized use of your call sign.

The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the  
Capital City Amateur Radio Club.  
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CCARC Web Page:  
<http://www.w7tck.org>  
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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)**

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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

### **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!**



**Three of the Editor's Harmonics (and future  
hams) got away with some of Don's (W7MRI)  
valuable junk (I mean treasures) from the  
Glacier-Waterton Hamfest.**

**First Class Mail**