

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

Helena, MT

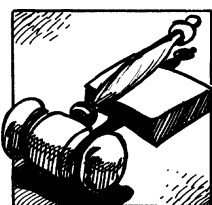
John McDougall K7JM – Editor

May 2004

From The Pres...

We need a few good volunteers.

We've got a lot of things coming up this summer, and we need some help doing them.



First, on the third Saturday of May (the 15th), we will be (finally) building our DF kits. This will begin at 11:00a.m., right after Hardee's. The location will probably be at the Salvation Army, but listen up on the .82-repeater for changes. In addition to people showing up to finish up their builds, **we also need people to bring soldering equipment and supplies** so that those without them will be able to use them to assemble their kits.

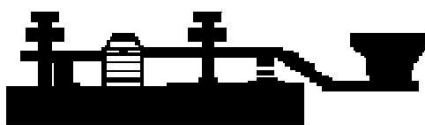
Next, we have scheduled for the evening of the fourth Saturday of May (the 21st), our club pre-summer Picnic, tentatively to be held at the fairgrounds. This has been Moved from the 15th due to many conflicts on that evening.

We need someone to take charge of this event. The person

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MAY MEETING
Monday
May 3
Salvation Army Church
1905 Henderson
7:00 pm.

VE Exams
6:30 Sharp



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Board of Directors

- Pres: Forrest Christian, AC7DE
- Vice Pres: John Curry, K7EBL
- Sec.: Rich Weddle, KC7VVZ
- Dan Stinson, KC7KKH
- Newsletter Editor: John McDougall K7JM
- Training: John Geach, KS7R
- Technical: Don Heide, W7MRI
- Volunteer Exam Team Leader: John Geach, KS7R

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Read the President's column and **GET INVOLVED TODAY** with Ham Radio

(Cont. from **PRES** p.1)

doing this will be responsible for arranging for the fairgrounds, for locating appropriate grills, and making announcements on the net promoting the event. If we can't find someone we may have to cancel this event.

After the Picnic, we have the Governor's Cup coming up. This is scheduled for June 5th. Bob Solomon, K7HLN tells me that **we could use a few more operators on the Governor's Cup**. If you haven't volunteered, contact Bob and ask what you can do to help. We'll be dedicating the program for the normal club meeting on May 3rd to discussing the Governor's Cup. If you are planning on helping, please attend this meeting if at all possible, and pass the word around that even if you aren't a member of the club, you should probably be there.

And finally, The Fourth Full weekend in June (26th-27th) is Field Day. **We need a volunteer to coordinate this event**. This person will be responsible for coming up with a plan for field day operations and coordinating the club's participation in this event. If the club operates similarly to last year, (almost) all that would be needed is to arrange for the trailer to be brought in and to ensure sufficient radios/power supplies/antennas/coax/etc. are available, and to publicize the event. As with the picnic, we need to find someone to coordinate this event in order for the club to be able to participate.

73's

Forrest

AC7DE

From The Editor

We are entering into what is a very busy season for me. I will be leaving for my oldest daughter's college graduation near Seattle a few days after May's radio club



meeting. You can bet I will be bringing Ham Radio with me. Look for me on HF mobile, on 2 meters, or spot me on the map with my TinyTrack APRS tracker.

Then June includes the Governor's Cup, kids out of school, weddings, etc. After that, July. July is vacation time! Yeah. As is our family's tradition, we trek up to Glacier Bible Camp right outside of beautiful Glacier National Park in Hungry Horse, MT. What a great place to enjoy His creation. If you want an adventure, spend your 4th of July at Hungry Horse, MT. Let's just say that there are NO RULES when it comes to fireworks! Everyone in town gathers on U.S. Highway 2 and goes bananas with the fireworks. It's great!

Then, we come home for a few days to recuperate. Next, we are off to Glacier-Waterton Hamfest.

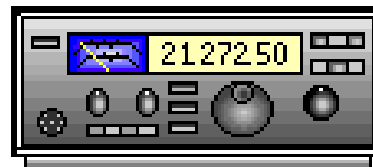
This is a fun event for the entire family. My lovely XYL enjoys the ladies crafts and sales, my harmonics love all the kids activities, I enjoy the seminars and the tail-gate sales going on all over the campground, and visiting with old friends. If you are in the market for a new piece of equipment, there are vendors ready to make you a great deal.

August will hopefully be filled with lots of camping. I enjoy bringing my HF gear and throwing up a 40 meter dipole in the trees. I have lots of fun working the world while sitting at the lake.

Whatever you do this summer, I encourage you to plan early then DO IT! This can be a most enjoyable Ham Radio summer time if you CHOOSE it to be. So, what are you waiting for. Choose, to have a great time with Ham Radio this summer.

See you at the May meeting and God bless you all.

John K7JM - Editor



ARES News

GOVERNOR'S CUP 2004

With only one club meeting left before the Governor's Cup on June 5, we will use the May meeting to discuss plans for our participation in the Governor's Cup activities. If you have signed up to work the event, try to attend the meeting so that you will be aware of what will be happening. If you wish to volunteer and have not yet done so, please contact Rich KC7VVZ or Bob K7HLN to obtain a registration form.

Little has changed since last year, other than the individual coordinating the event. The bib colors and the numbering system remain the same. Start times also stay the same, so there will be little difference in what we have done before. We do want to be sure that all radio operators are on the same page as far as procedures and information reporting. We will review this information at the club meeting.

Assignments and reporting times will be available at the meeting. If you can't attend the meeting, contact Bob K7HLN or Rich KC7VVZ to get that information. We will also call an informational net on the .82 repeater Friday, June 4 at 1900 hrs to go over last minute details.

Check in with Race Control when you get on station and be sure to check out when you are finished. Do not leave your assigned location until the sweep, Don W7MRI, has gone by on the long courses, or until all runners have gone by your location on the short courses (5 & 10 K).

After you are through with your assignment, stop by the Race Control Unit across from the Civic Center, or at the MCU at the Finish Line on South Park Street, if your schedule permits.

de Bob K7HLN



Upcoming Events

Some dates to remember:

May 1: Great Falls ARC Swap Meet, Westgate Mall, Great Falls

June 5: Governor's Cup, Helena

June 12: ARRL June VHF QSO Party

June 19: ARRL Kid's Day

June 26: Field Day, location to be announced

July 4: Lewis & Clark Special Event Station, Missoula ARC, Fort Missoula (guest operators welcome)

July 16-18: Glacier Hamfest, Three Forks

Campground, HWY. 2, west of East Glacier, MT

Sept. 25: Spokane Hamfest, University High School, Spokane Valley, WA



DIDJA NOTICE?

On page 4F of the Governor's Cup Pre-Race Magazine in the Helena Independent Record for Sunday, April 25, is a list of the various levels of sponsorship for the 2004 Governor's Cup. The Ham Radio Club is listed as one of the three Contributing Sponsors. The other two are the Great Falls Clinic and the Western Montana Clinic of Missoula, both pretty impressive company.

It is satisfying to have our participation in the event recognized as being important and having that much value to the over-all event. CCARC has for many years been involved with the races, providing untold numbers of volunteer hours and support. The race organizers constantly tell us they couldn't do it without our help.

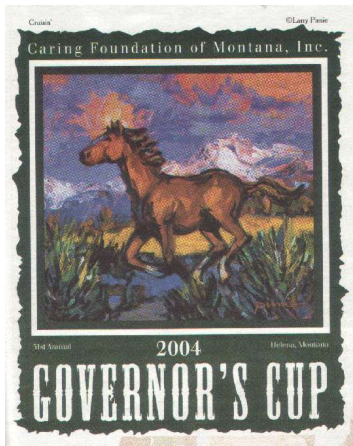
Thanks to all of the hams who have volunteered in the past and an early "Thank You" to all who will be helping this year. de Bob K7HLN



Anderson Powerpoles

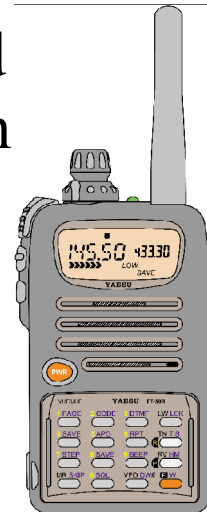
Read about these great power connectors in this issue.





* ATTENTION *

The CCARC May 3rd meeting is the last meeting before the Governor's Cup Races. Please, attend this meeting as important information will be discussed concerning our involvement in the races. Get involved in this important community outreach.



Also, Please read our President's column in this issue concerning some other vital areas that need some member involvement.



WE COUNT ON YOU
VOLUNTEER TODAY

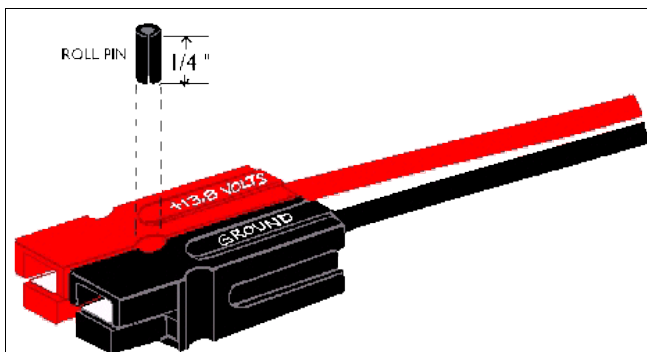


Anderson Powerpoles

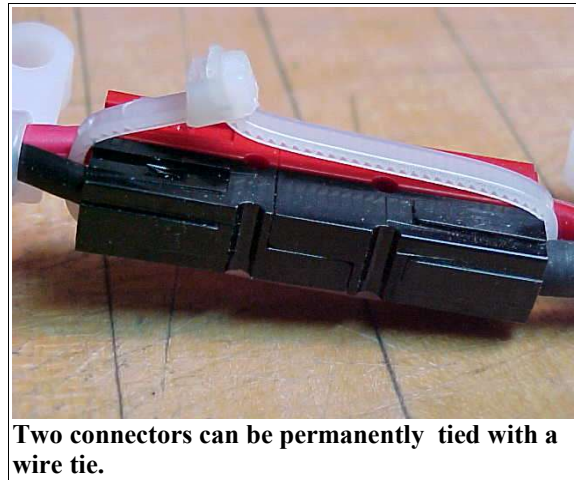
Would you be frustrated if your new kitchen appliance or new power tool did not come with a power plug? Are you frustrated or confused when you open your new 12 Volt radio gear to find that it has no power plug? In this day of "plug and play", why doesn't our 12 Volt gear and accessories have some sort of plugs on them?

Do you have multiple schemes for your 12 Volt power distribution? If you brought your radio to a friends house or to his car, would you have to jerry rig the power connections? Are you relating to any of this?

Problem solved! Here comes the Anderson Powerpole connectors. For higher power rigs, high-amperage DC power supplies and bus-wiring, the Anderson Powerpole is the emerging national ARES/RACES standard. The Anderson Powerpole is genderless, so you don't need adapters to plug a battery into another source to recharge. The 15, 20, and 30 Amp rated contacts for Anderson Powerpole use the same housing, so are interoperable, just use the right fuse. The plastic parts are the same for both sizes. The barrel area (which holds the wire) of the 15-ampere silver-plated contact is smaller than that of the 30-ampere contact, but the contact area is the same.



For the vast majority this is the suggested correct configuration: "Housings should be mated according to the diagram above, viewing from the contact side (opposite the wire side), tongue down, hood up, RED on the LEFT, BLACK on the RIGHT. Also notice the 3/32-inch-diameter roll pin, 1/4 inch long, is used to keep the housings from sliding apart."



Two connectors can be permanently tied with a wire tie.



As shown here, an additional set of connectors on one end allows endless number of devices to be connected (of course keeping in mind the amount of current being drawn). I put two sets on all of my equipment. (Ed.)

This information and more is found on this great web site: **Powerpole Ideas: Get Everyone Connected!** Nov. 6th, 2003, By Steve KB1DIG & Kim KB1GTR at

<http://home.comcast.net/~buck0/app.htm>

Powerpole connectors can be purchased locally for \$1 per pair from Don - W7MRI.

Email: w7mri@mt.net Phone: 458-9416 or on the Internet at various outlets.

GET CONNECTED

The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the Capital City Amateur Radio Club.
P.O. Box 1112
Helena, MT 59624

CCARC Web Page: www.w7tck.org
Editor's 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 pm local time on the 147.82 (-offset) repeater.

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e-mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

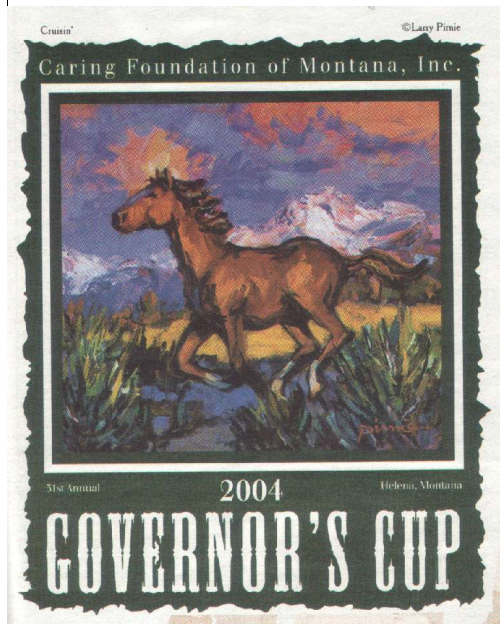
All expressions of opinions and all statements of supposed facts are published on the authority of the author and are not to be regarded as expressing the view of CCARC.

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!

GET INVOLVED



HAVE FUN VOLUNTEERING WITH HAM RADIO

First Class Mail