

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

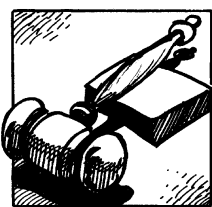
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

July 2004

From The Pres...

Now we've past the longest day of the year and start seeing our days get shorter and shorter, I am starting to look at what we are going to do as a club over the next few months. Our summer activities are almost over and we're starting into getting things ready for the winter months. But before I go into the future activities, I need to mention one activity which is in the past at this point.



The Club's operation during field day this year was a great success. We operated as a "3 Foxtrot" station, which means we had 3 transmitters working at the same time from an EOC (or in our case Alternate EOC) location. Although I don't have a total for the number of contacts we made during the operation, I feel I can safely say it's quite a few more than we've had for the past few field days. I think this is partially because the band conditions were just about right for Field Day, and partially because we had

(Cont. P.2 PRES)

JULY MEETING

Monday

JULY 5

Salvation Army Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.

VE Exams

6:30 Sharp



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Board of Directors

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CCARC Logo wanted

Does anyone have a computer graphic of the CCARC logo as shown below? Contact John – K7JM at jdmdougall@juno.com



Wanted: Graphic of CCARC logo

(Cont from P.1 PRES)

operators working on all 3 radios a large portion of Field Day. Kudos to Vaughn, N1XV for getting everything coordinated for this event.

Coming up is our July meeting. I've had several people mention to me that they would like to see a demonstration of PSK31 and would like to understand better how it works. As a result, I'm planning on bringing my PSK31 setup and, assuming 20M is open, demonstrating a PSK31 QSO. Even if it is not, it should be a good tutorial for those of you who are not familiar with PSK31.

Also in July is the Glacier Waterton Hamfest, which is July 16-18, 2004 near Glacier National Park. This is essentially the last event of the summer. More information is on the web at <http://www.gwhamfest.org>. Several of us will actually be going up on the 15th. If you'd like to camp with the rest of the Helena group and aren't sure where we normally end up in the campground, ask someone who has gone in the past to draw you a map of the campground and where we normally camp.

We will probably begin having our work days again in August or September. I would like some ideas from the club members on what they would like to do as a group. I do have one makeup day for the DF antenna kits planned – but not scheduled. Other than that, we have an open calendar. This means we can do whatever the club wants as far as these activities – whether it is building antennas or doing something else entirely.

About the only other thing we have planned at this point is our 2nd annual Pre-Christmas potluck which will be the third Saturday in November. I am looking for someone to chair this event, so if you're interested in doing this please let me know before the meeting this week, as I'll be asking for volunteers during the meeting.

I think that's all for now.

73's

Forrest

AC7DE

ARES News - How are your phonetics?

I am not asking about some obscure portion of your anatomy, but I am interested in how well you know the Standard ITU Phonetics. By definition, a phonetic alphabet is used on voice modes to make it easier to understand letters of the alphabet, such as those used in call signs. The call sign KA6LMN is Kilo Alpha Six Mike Lima Norway.



Using standard phonetics in ham radio is becoming increasingly important because of the widely diverse agencies with whom we are now interacting. Many of them use their own variation of the ITU version, with some letters changed locally. Examples from our city and county police and fire agencies are Boy for (B) Bravo, Frank for (F) Fox-trot and Robert for (R) Romeo. Common variations among hams are Kilowatt for (K) Kilo and Zed or Zanzibar for (Z) Zulu. Don't use an improvised phonetic that is not easily recognized, such as some of the home grown attempts that regularly make their way into some of our QSO's. I worked a guy whose last three are RHD, who calls himself the "Red Headed Duck". That probably means nothing to someone with English as a second language or has never seen a red headed duck.

ARRL and many other agencies are stressing the need to be consistent and uniform in the use of phonetics. As amateur radio becomes more involved in homeland defense and other community activities, our ability to communicate with a wide range of agencies is simplified when we are all using the same alphabet. Our editor has recently printed the ITU alphabet in this newsletter, and it can be found in radio books, such as "Now You're Talking", and on the Internet. If you are rusty or having trouble remembering it, take a few minutes to review and practice it.

73.. Bob, Kilo Seven Hotel Lima November

From The Editor

It is July! What is your Editor up to? The Club just finished a very successful Field Day weekend. Thanks to all who participated. I'm sure it was great. I, however, was out of town for Field Day. Our family had a big wedding up in the small town of Shelby, MT during Field Day! Of course, you can be sure that I brought my HF gear with me! The weekend was VERY hectic with setting everything up for the wedding, rehearsal, rehearsal dinner, pictures, sound, music, flowers, decorating the church and hall, doing the event, breaking it all down afterwards, etc, etc, etc. What does this all have to do with Field Day??? And did I operate??? The question I have is "Did YOU operate Field Day this year?" If not, WHY not? Field day is, besides other things, an "Emergency Preparedness Exercise." It is OK to operate in less than ideal conditions (like a wedding.) So, back to the question, Did I operate? A resounding YES! I got SEVEN contacts operating a 1 C (mobile) station. You might be saying "You've got to be kidding!" And I will say, "No, I'm not, and I bet I had more FUN and had more experience operating under less than ideal conditions than you did if you did NOT operate Field Day! So, I ask you again if you didn't operate Field Day, WHY NOT?"

Now that I have you feeling guilty about not operating field day, or have you saying "Hah, I DID operate field day and had a blast," my next question is ARE YOU GOING TO THE GLACIER-WATERTON HAMFEST? This is definitely a highlight of the season. Of course, we understand that not everyone can take the time out of their schedule or have the finances available to go to the Glacier-Waterton hamfest, but if you do, are you going? I guarantee you will have a good time seeing old friends, making new ones, getting rid of old junk, getting some new Junque, buying that piece of new gear, participating in the seminars, buying a hat with your call on it, selling or buying in the YL crafts, getting your face painted in the kids activities, eating more than your



share of burgers, etc, etc, etc. SEE YOU AT THE HAMFEST.

Your Newsletter Editor will not be at the July club meeting. It is VACATION time. As is the tradition of our house, we (my lovely XYL, Harmonics, and I) trek up to Hungry Horse, Montana and attend our Family Bible Camp. Therefore, I will miss Forrest's demonstration of PSK31. You definitely don't want to miss it. PSK31 is a fun easy mode that just takes a couple simple cables from your computer sound-card to your HF (High Frequency) radio. You then communicate keyboard to keyboard via HF. As I said, it is an extremely fun and easy mode. Much PSK31 software is available for free over the Internet. Check it out.

Have fun this month with Ham Radio, and may God bless you,

73, John – K7JM Editor



For Sale

If you have some great "stuff" to get rid of, e-mail the Newsletter Editor at



jdmcDougall@juno.com with complete information at least two weeks before the next club meeting and I will post it here. OR bring it up the the hamfest with you and set up your tail-gate sale.



Upcoming Events

Some dates to remember:

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

W7PX--Lewis and Clark Special Event

The Hellgate Amateur Radio Club invites you help it celebrate the Lewis and Clark Expedition and Independence Day on July 3 and 4, 2004. This message is being sent to other clubs along the Lewis and Clark Trail and hope you can join us.

This is our third Lewis and Clark Special Event, having previously operated W7PX from Lolo Hot Springs (2002) and Lolo Pass (2003), two other important benchmarks for the Expedition.

On July 3, 1806 the Expedition left Travelers Rest in two groups. Capt. William Clark went south and east. Capt. Meriwether Lewis took his group northeast. Capt. Lewis' group camped that night along Grant Creek in present day Missoula, MT, before proceeding east on July 4, 1806. The Expedition reunited 3 weeks later on the Missouri River near the present-day Montana/North Dakota Border, before they headed home to St. Louis.

This year's Special Event will operate from the Historical Museum at Fort Missoula. If you or your members are in the Missoula vicinity, they can find us at the Fort, and the talk-in frequency is the 147.040 Mhz repeater.

On HF we will be on or near 28.360, 21.360, 14.260 and 7.260 Mhz SSB. We will also take CW contacts on request. For more details check our website <http://pweb.amerion.com/k7vk/>. Thanks for your help.

Bob N7MSU



QRP Hamfest Seminar. Will you be in 2004's pic?

Broadband over Power Line:

Why Amateur Radio Is

Concerned about Its Deployment

Radio amateurs are not opposed to broadband services. On the contrary, they tend to be early adopters of new technology. However, there are ways to deliver broadband that do not pollute the radio spectrum as Broadband over Power Line (BPL) does. These include fiber-to-the-home, cable, DSL, and wireless broadband. The ARRL--The National Association for Amateur Radio-- is supportive of broadband access for all Americans; however, it opposes the use of BPL as a solution to achieving this goal.

What is Broadband over Power Line?

BPL is the delivery of broadband Internet signals using electrical wiring to conduct high-speed digital signals to homes and businesses. BPL systems are designed to deliver Internet services using medium voltage power lines as the distribution medium and generally use the frequency range between 1.7 and 80 megahertz (MHz).

What is the status of BPL?

BPL has been deployed at several locations around the country for testing purposes. After receiving over 5100 responses to an April 2003 Notice of Inquiry in ET Docket No. 03-104 (most of which were from radio amateurs and others opposing BPL because of its potential interference to licensed radio services), the Federal Communications Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) in ET Docket No. 04-37 with new requirements and measurement guidelines for BPL systems. The NPRM was released on February 23. The deadline for comments is May 3, 2004.

The Concern: Broadband + Power Lines = Interference

Because power lines are not designed to prevent radiation of RF energy, BPL represents a significant potential interference source for all radio services using this frequency range, including the Amateur Radio Service. Overhead electrical power lines and residential wiring act

as antennas that unintentionally radiate the broadband signals as radio signals throughout entire neighborhoods and along roadsides. Interference has been observed nearly one mile from the nearest BPL source. Broadband over Power Line: Page 2 Why Amateur Radio Is Concerned About Its Deployment
What about regulations already in place to protect Amateurs?

The FCC Rules require that unlicensed emitters such as BPL systems must protect licensed radio services from interference, and that they must accept any interference to their operation that is the result of normal operation by licensed radio services. However, in practice it is often difficult to resolve such interference problems in the field.

The present FCC Part 15 limits, which BPL must comply with, are set with short-duration and narrowband emissions in mind. Such emissions, like those from a garage door opener, have a small potential to cause harmful interference. The same limits cannot be applied to long-duration, broadband emissions without greatly increasing the risk of harmful interference. At existing FCC Part 15 rules limits, BPL signals radiated from these power lines have a significant potential for interfering with nearby radio receivers. Instead of the radio signals one would normally hear, one will hear either tones or noise radiated from the BPL system.

Has the interference potential been proven? The ARRL laboratory has made observations of BPL radiation at a number of trial areas. The lab's findings of interference and related information are available on the Web at www.arrl.org/bpl. There have been other observations of radio-frequency interference at BPL test sites in the US and are a matter of public record in Docket 03-104.

In late 2003, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) performed measurements of BPL radiation at a number of test sites. ARRL has also commissioned independent measurements of BPL field strengths based on objective,

international standards. The results of both of these studies are to be published soon. Although BPL proponents dispute these claims of interference to licensed services, they have provided little in the way of calculations or measurements of BPL radiation levels. Until now, BPL systems have been limited to small, little-publicized test areas. Even so, the number of complaints of actual interference is growing steadily and efforts to resolve them have had limited success.

Others at risk

- ◆ The "short waves" - the only part of the radio spectrum that supports long-distance, intercontinental radio communication. The short waves are used for international broadcasting, aeronautical, maritime, disaster relief, and other services including the military.
- ◆ The "low-band VHF" frequency range that is heavily used by volunteer fire departments, police, and other first responders.
- ◆ Depending on their distance from a BPL system, some public safety and federal government radio systems could receive harmful interference.

ARRL – The National Association for Amateur Radio
www.arrl.org • Newington, CT 06111
March 2004

The Phonetic Alphabet – Revisited

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

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.

You Might Be A HAM If.....

1. You factor in a few extra hours on a business trip so you can visit a ham radio retail establishment
2. You ever fell off a ladder while putting up an antennas
3. You ever put up an antenna in a snow storm
4. Your teenager things all your friends are weird
5. You have many other interests, but over the years keep ham radio as a core activity
6. You keep 6146's in your sock drawer
7. Your local Radio Shack knows you by your callsign
8. You begin your dinner prayer at the table with "This is (your callsign)."

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!

First Class Mail