

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

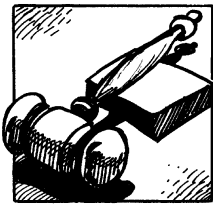
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

August 2004

From The Pres...

I've come down with a serious head cold which is making it difficult for me to put a coherent sentence together. But the show must go on. Please forgive any non-coherent parts and the briefer-than-usual article.



Many of the club (myself included) attended Glacier Waterton Hamfest a week or so ago. It seemed like everyone who attended had an enjoyable time. Next year's dates are July 15-17, 2005.

Our August meeting will be taken up by discussions on the Double Divide ride, which is Saturday and Sunday, August 14th and 15, 2004. This is a bicycle ride (not a race) from Helena to Lincoln on the 14th and from Lincoln to Helena on the 15th. We need several operators for this operation, and will be asking for volunteers over the next couple of nets and during the meeting. The following are the checkpoints/operator locations

(Cont. P.2 PRES)

AUGUST MEETING

Monday

AUGUST 2

Salvation Army Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.



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Board of Directors

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- Newsletter Editor: John McDougall K7JM
- Training: John Geach, KS7R
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- Volunteer Exam Team Leader: John Geach, KS7R

A Message From Harry

To the members of Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

We enjoyed our stay in Montana but, because of health reasons, found it necessary for a change to smaller acreage which we found in Oregon. We are not back on the air yet but hope to be soon. Thank you for the help in getting on the air when we moved to Boulder and hope you all have many good contacts in the years to come.

Email: hrmitch@msn.com

Harry KL7MZ and Marge AL7JW

(Cont from P.1 PRES)

which we need to cover, and the approximate times, with the caveat that we need to stay on station until the last bike rider goes through:

Saturday

Broadwater Activity Club (early morning)
(probably optional)
MacDonald Pass (8:30a - 10:30a)
Nevada Lake (10:00a - 1:30p)
Jct Hwy 200 & 141 (1:00p - 3:30p)
Lincoln (still determining times)
Sweep Vehicle (all day, they are providing driver & vehicle)

Sunday

Lincoln (early morning)
Flesher Pass (8:30a - 10:30a)
Silver City (10:00a - 1:00p)
Broadwater (still determining times)
Sweep Vehicle (all day, they are providing driver & vehicle)

We will also be manning some sort of net control for both days. Net control may get hectic since we will likely be needing to cover 3 repeaters at once.

One last thing. During the last meeting, we formally set the date for the Pre-Holiday potluck. It is currently scheduled for the evening of Friday, November 5th. Mark this on your calendars as if last year's event is anything to go by, this years will be an enjoyable time.

I think that's all for now.

73's

Forrest

AC7DE

ARES News

Good news for all of the hams who have had the experience of operating the ham radio gear in Paul Spengler's office. There now will be room to put your elbows on the desk!

The Lewis and Clark County Commission has approved the purchase of new ham radio gear in the



budget adopted for the next fiscal year. The money has been budgeted, but is not yet authorized for expenditure. Once that has occurred, we will work with Paul to get the new equipment purchased and installed. The

old equipment will be sold as surplus by the county. The ham radio community will be informed when the used gear will be available for purchase.

The new items will include an HF radio, a dual band VHF-UHF radio, HF multi-band antenna and dual band base antenna. Some of the existing equipment will remain, particularly power supplies. Just the difference in size and technology will make it a lot easier to operate from the county EOC.

If you have time to take either the ICS 100 or 200 courses, do so as soon as you have the opportunity. They are the basic ICS courses and will help you to have a better understanding of the process. Much of this information is also included in the ARRL Level 1 course on-line, which is strongly recommended for hams interested in emergency radio communications. This training will soon be required for Assistant Emergency Coordinators, with the Level I and II ARRL courses will be required for Emergency Coordinators, as a minimum.

If you have questions, please give me a call.

de Bob K7HLN

**From The Editor**

It is August! Summer is two thirds over. Are you enjoying it? So far, we have been blessed in that we have had no major fires. Keep alert though as only a few weeks of dry hot weather can truly change that reality. Only a few weeks ago, the hills were still a plush pillow of green, they are now ripe and golden and very flammable. Keep



your go bags near your door, you never know when we will be called out.

Quite a few CCARC members, friends, and families just had a wonderful time at this year's Glacier Waterton International Peace Park Hamfest. I'm not sure of any prizes being won by the local folk, but your Editor did walk away as the winner of the Beer Bottle Auction. See the related article in this newsletter. I know that many of us have been harping this for years, but PLAN on attending next year's Glacier Waterton Hamfest. There is something for everyone from the children, to YL and XYL, and for the OM's. There is even an event for your pet. Enough of that for this year.

How has your hamming been. It has been only a moderately Hamful summer at K7JM's household. You can be rest assured that I will be taking my gear on vacation in early August. Look for my signal on APRS, HF (CW or SSB), or VHF. Stay connected with Ham Radio.

Have a great rest of the Summer and may God bless you while you Ham through it.

73,

John – K7JM Editor



For Sale

Radio Shack HTX 2-Meter/70cm Dual Band FM Amateur Transceiver.



Includes Lithium-Ion rechargeable battery pack, charger, power cable for vehicle, clamshell for AA batteries. \$160 obo

Computer table/desk; 30"wide, 60" long, with drop shelf for keyboard, \$50

Larsen 2 meter ground plane base antenna, \$65

Contact Bob K7HLN

Upcoming Events

Some dates to remember:

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

Nov. 5: Friday. - CCARC Pre-Holiday potluck



What is flea speak at hamfests?

Flea speak is the jargon of second-hand vendors at a ham radio festival. Often it may have two meanings. Here is our guide.

Fleaspeak with english translation follows:

This rig puts out a BIG signal - It's 50 kHz wide.

This is a really good CW rig - It doesn't work on SSB.

This is a really good SSB rig - It doesn't work on CW.

This is a really good rig - It doesn't work on CW or SSB.

The transmitter is outstanding - It doesn't receive.

The receiver is really hot - It doesn't transmit.

This rig is really hot - It's stolen.

It seems to be a vintage regenerative type - It oscillates.

I just re-tubed it - Got 'em from questionable used tube stock.

I just aligned it - The slugs on the transformers are jammed.

I don't know if it works - It doesn't work, probably never has.

It doesn't chirp - It doesn't chirp because it doesn't transmit.

The audio sounds great - The 100 / 120Hz buzz is faithfully reproduced.

I just had it serviced - I sprayed WD-40 over all the wiring.

It comes with the original box - Just brush out the kitty litter.

Better buy it now, cause it won't last - No translation needed here.

Sure, it works at full power - It sucks all it can from the wall outlet.

This rig has wide frequency coverage - It drifts up and down and out of band.

Frequency stability is great - The VFO doesn't work - you'll have to use crystals.

Real popular rig in its day - There were whole HF nets on the repair and maintenance problems.

QST gave this one a really great review - The language broke new ground for profanity.

It might need a bit of tweaking - Marconi himself couldn't fix it, much less align it.

It was used in government service - It was stored outdoors on a wooden pallet.

The dial drive may need lubricating - The gears are stripped and the setscrew's frozen.

I plugged it in to check that it lights up - The light came from the two foot high flames.

I'm selling it because I have two of them - I'm getting rid of my parts radio.

You won't find one at a 'better' price - 'Better' defined as solely from the point of view of the seller.

This is a collector's item - The manufacturer just went belly up and won't honor the warranty.

It came from an estate sale - If you have any problem take it up with the original owner.

I had it on the air just last night - And you thought the woodpecker was gone?.

It worked last time I used it - If it still worked, I'd still be using it.

The only lightning damage was a fuse - The only lightning damage I recognized was a fuse.

I have the [?] somewhere, I'll send it to you, trust me - You'll never see the [?].

I'll help you carry it to the car - I'll do anything to unload this boat anchor.

It works O.K. on 80 meters - It had some parasitics but I got in and really screwed it up and now I want to unload it.

The tubes used by this rig are worth the asking price - The rig uses a rare 7360 beam deflection tube for a balanced modulator, but it's blown and you'll spend at least \$80+ to get a new one.

This is the rig of my dreams I really wanted one of these as a kid, but now I've got to let it go - As I've gotten older, I've learned what a hunka junk it is.

The signal quality of this rig was easily recognizable in its day - The high distortion and bad audio quickly identified this rig.

This rig will bring back the feelings and atmosphere of vintage ham gear - The bypass capacitors to the AC line put enough voltage on the chassis to give you a shock in the lips through the microphone, and it smokes so bad when you turn it on that you'll probably start coughing and wheezing.

I'd keep this baby, but my wife is making me clean everything out of the shack - I finally got around to giving this thing the proverbial heave-ho.

There are a couple of other people interested in it - Someone sat on it to tie his shoelaces while walking past the table.

You'd better buy it now, because I'm leaving soon - The previous buyer and his brother, Guido, are heading back toward the table and they aren't smiling.

SO SMILE NOW! - Hamfests aren't 'really' like this at all. Enjoy the rest of your day. - VK2TIP



The Beer Bottle Auction

A few years ago, an auction was started to help defray expenses the Glacier Waterton Hamfest incurred each year. The junk auction

continues to be a big drawing card at each Hamfest. The proceeds are still used to help forth the traditions of the Hamfest.

The biggest money maker in the auction each year is a bottle of "Olympia" beer that was donated to the cause by W7EKX in 1939. This bottle, still unopened, is suitably inscribed with stickers and tags that have been put on by some of the temporary owners during the past years.

Bidding for the honor of obtaining temporary ownership until the next year gets very intense. It is indeed a special privilege to be the last person to drop their change in the hat when time is called.

This year, the honor came to myself K7JM who had his hand held out for several minutes waiting for a hat to be passed around so I can throw in some change. Finally, the hat came to me and time was called.

The ole' bottle has been "enshrined" and "enclosed" through the years and I take the honor to present to you some of the details of "The Beer Bottle."

The bottle is enclosed in a case with a plexiglass door. It was made by VE5YK in 1988 to house the fragile old bottle. The outside of the case has several engraved labels identifying some of the past "owners" of the bottle.

Opening the door of the case reveals several objects inside. The bottle is additionally enclosed in a homemade stein. The stein is engraved on the bottom with "MADE BY FRED HAROLD CAPITAL CITY RADIO CLUB HELENA, MONT. 1968" The stein, which originated in Helena, predates the enclosure that the bottle is kept in, by ten years.

The bottle itself is located inside the stein. The bottle has a radio gram wrapped and taped around it with which the following message is typed (as far as I could make out.)

SORRY CANNOT ATTEND STOP AM SENDING THE ONLY AVAILABLE "BOTTLE" TO BE INCLUDED IN AUCTION OF RADIO GEAR STOP THIS BOTTLE IS NEW AND

RATED AT 25 WATTS OUTPUT STOP THE ONLY BOTTLE WITH MORE OUTPUT THAN INPUT STOP

W7EKX

The box housing the Stein and Bottle also has a business card book with many cards and messages from previous owners from past years. It also contains a list of all past owners. What an honor to be responsible for the bottle for the next year. I guess you will be seeing me at next year's hamfest since I promised to get it back. C U there.

John K7JM



The Case made by VE5YK in 1988



The Stein housing the bottle



The bottle itself with attach RadioGram



The Stein made by Helena's Fred Herold in 1968



Mementos from some of the past owners (including Helena's W7MRI)

The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

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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 pm local time on the 147.82 (-offset) repeater.

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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 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!

ARES Logo Usage

Excerpted from The ARRL Letter, Vol. 23, No. 29, July 23, 2004:

At its July 16, 2004 meeting, the ARRL Board of Directors established as policy that ARES groups and any group using the ARES logo shall formally acknowledge ARES as an ARRL program, including in their bylaws or other organizational documents, and agree to abide by all rules and guidelines the League establishes. Since both ARES and Amateur Radio Emergency Service are registered ARRL service marks, ARES groups are to utilize the R symbol in any printed or electronic media and note that the logo is used by permission. All ARES records, membership rosters and other data pertaining to the ARES program, wherever located, are the property of the ARRL.



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