

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

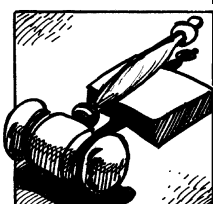
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

September 2004

From The Pres...

National Preparedness Month started September 9th, 2004. The US Department of



Homeland Security is encouraging every American to make emergency preparedness a priority in their life.

In keeping with this topic, the non-business portion of our club meeting will revolve around the topic of what each of us can do to

get prepared for an emergency situation. A major part of this program will be related to 72 hour kits and “Go Bags”. If any members have put together a 72 hour kit or go bag they would like to show off at the meeting, feel free to bring them.

Over the past year, one of my goals have been to get the club's Mobile Communication's Unit in the condition where we are confident that it is ready to go at a minute's notice – 365 days a year. For the most part, and with lots of help from club members and donations from the community,

(Cont. P.2 PRES)

September MEETING

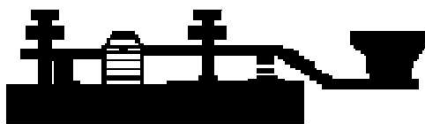
Monday

SEPTEMBER 13

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
- Newsletter Editor: John McDougall K7JM
- Training: John Geach, KS7R
- Technical: Don Heide, W7MRI
- Volunteer Exam Team Leader: John Geach, KS7R

In This Issue

From The Pres.....	1
September MEETING.....	1
Board of Directors.....	2
ARES NOTES.....	3
From The Editor.....	4
For Sale.....	4
Wanted.....	4
Upcoming Events.....	4
A LOOK BACK.....	5
MS Bike Tour.....	5
MS BIKE INFORMATION.....	6
New Echo Satellite.....	7
ARRL to Participate in National Preparedness Month	7
You Might Be A HAM If.....	8



ARRL is an official affiliate program of Citizen Corps, an initiative within the Department of Homeland Security to enhance public preparedness and safety.

(Cont from P.1 PRES)

we have for the most part succeeded. We're still working out a few kinks – and still trying to get the front window so it doesn't leak. But none of the kinks we have left really prevent the MCU from being used in an emergency situation.

To help put into perspective how much we've accomplished, let me share one example. At the first of the year, the MCU did not have a working DC power system. Governor's Cup and Field Day 2003 were operated using traditional power supplies operating from 120VAC from either the grid or from a generator. By the time Governor's Cup 2004 rolled around, we had the on-board DC system working to the point that we operated off of the MCU's power system, but still dependent on grid power. By Field Day, we had installed the club's solar panel and a charge controller so that we were able to operate the first portion of field day off of solar. For the Double Divide Ride, we operated entirely without any grid connection - 100% solar operation for both days. The solar worked so well that I feel confident that we could operate with similar traffic levels (and similar solar conditions) indefinitely, with only an occasional boost with a generator when solar conditions weren't great, or when nighttime operation was needed.

I mention this to indicate what level of preparedness we can attain as a club and individually. I will freely admit that I am less prepared than I need to be for some situations. My "Go Bag" needs some serious attention as it's been scavenged for this or that part over the last couple of years since I got it together. I need to have some winterstable food and liquids in my vehicles. And so on. Hopefully this month's meeting will help encourage each of us to look around and figure out what you need to do to be better prepared. In a lot of cases it's simply just getting everything together where it can be grabbed when needed.

Before I wrap up here, I do want to thank everyone who helped with the Double Divide Ride (and also those who had planned to help, but couldn't for one reason or another). My discussion with those who participated indicated that things went remarkably

smooth for as little firm information as we had this year. Next year will hopefully even be better. I'm sure this will be brought up at the meeting.

And one last thing. The Pre-Holiday Potluck is scheduled for November 5th. I need a volunteer to help coordinate this. Mainly to run around and make sure everything is lined up and to make sure it is mentioned at least a couple of times on the net. If you're interested, let me know.

I think that's all for now.

73's

Forrest
AC7DE

**ARES NOTES..**

Recently there has been discussion on the Internet and in ham radio publications about using 146.52 simplex as a calling frequency while traveling. Although it is a national calling frequency, it is not always monitored in areas that rely heavily on local repeaters.

I have had pleasant conversations on recent trips that were the result of monitoring 146.52. One was with a weather service forecaster traveling west on I-90 toward Seattle. I spotted his Indiana Ham Radio License plate and called him. He answered and we then rag chewed while traveling together for about 90 miles.

I heard a call near Missoula on 146.52 while on a trip a couple of weeks ago. It was a ham from southern Idaho traveling to Bull Lake near Troy for a special event operation. We visited on the air, and were joined by another ham on his way to a family reunion in Whitefish. It made the trip go a bit faster.

I have responded locally a number of times to travelers who were not sure of local repeater frequencies or tones. I wish it was more widely monitored around the country. I have attempted to make contact in the Midwest for local information on several trips and had no response. I had the

occasion to report an emergency situation in Twin Falls, and had an immediate response from a mobile unit that then went on the local phone patch to 911. From my experience, I think you are more likely to get a response in the western part of the country than anywhere else.

Consider monitoring 146.52 while traveling. Several of us regularly use it when traveling together. There very well may be some one who needs your help and doesn't have time to find local frequencies and program radios. Beside that, you may meet some real interesting people.

de Bob K7HLN



From The Editor

September greetings from your Newsletter Editor. Thank you for reading another edition of W7TCK News. I appreciate all of you that take the time to browse through it. I also appreciate you who give me feedback, you who submit articles, ads, wanted items, etc. Thank you for helping me fill the pages.



It now feels "Fallish" in the air! Did you get all of your summer time Ham projects finished, or are you like me, and rushing to beat the frost to do those outdoor projects? We still have plenty of nice days left to get our summer time Ham projects finished.

Most of my hamming has been put on hold for a while. We are in the process of putting our house on the market to sell and buying a nice acre of land near the top of the hill in Jefferson City. It has a beautiful view overlooking the interstate and of the Elkhorn Mountains. And YES, I can raise an antenna farm there!!! So, we (My lovely XYL and I) are busy cleaning up our house so it can be shown, and we are busy with all the necessary paperwork and other stressful things that have time-lines associated with selling and buying houses.

Fortunately, I have mobile radios and my hamming doesn't have to stop completely. Ham radio is such a versatile radio service and uniquely diverse hobby. There is seldom a reason that we must hang it up entirely in the busyness of our lives. I can still engage in HF mobile, APRS, VHF mobile or handheld. Out goes the more intricate aspects like experimenting, QRP, HF camping, browsing the millions of Ham Radio web sites, and programming PIC's. Oh well, I must reduce it to only a few aspects of the hobby for awhile. Stay tuned in the coming months/years??? of the Ham Radio activities at my new QTH. We are praying that our current QTH sells soon!

73 and God bless you all this fall,
John K7JM Editor



For Sale

Radio Shack HTX-420 2 Meter/70cm handheld transceiver; rubber duck antenna; lithium-ion rechargeable battery, wall wart charger, AA battery holder, 12V vehicle power adapter, belt clip, manual, original box; \$150, Bob K7HLN; 442-6118, e-mail: k7hln@mtnet.net



For Sale: Comet RS730 mobile antenna mount with NMO base. Mounts on rear hatch or door without drilling. Adjusts in three planes. Asking \$45. contact Bob K7HLN

Wanted

I would like to buy 50 ft of 450 ohm ladder line from some one please call me on the 82 repeater or cell phone 431-3500 Ralph wg7q



Upcoming Events

Some dates to remember:

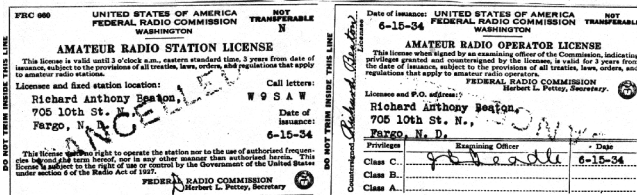
Sept. 25: Spokane Hamfest, University High School, Spokane Valley, WA

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



A LOOK BACK

Here are two licenses that were issued to me in 1934. Notice anything different about these documents? There are several things. These licenses were issued by The Federal Radio Commission. It just happened that my first ham license was issued at the same time the Federal Radio Commission became the Federal Communications Commission. At that time there was a separate license issued; one for the operator and another for his station.



Note that the license class was "C". This indicated that it was issued by mail. The 10 WPM code test was given by a ham who had at Class B or A license. The written test was given and witnessed by another person. The test paper was notarized and mailed back to the FCC. When they got around to it a couple months later you either got the licenses or a notice of failure.

Ham radio has been a lot of fun for me over the many years. Of course there were lapses in there.....WWII came along December 7th, 1941 and all hams were ordered off the air and equipment was to be dismantled! It wasn't until about 1946 that I was able to get back on the air. My license had expired during the war and I had to take the test all over again. In those days the FCC sent an examiner around once a year. We really have it nice now with the current VE system!

Ham Radio has something for everyone. Enjoy!

73'

Dick Beaton N7RB

MS Bike Tour



This year I am again riding in the MS150 bike ride for my brother in law who has MS. We go from Billings to Red Lodge then back to raise money for MS. If you would like to support me on my MS150 ride this year I would sure appreciate it. The little pain and agony I will go through on my 150 mile bike ride is nothing compared to what Mike is going through. Funds to: William Erhardt 2851 Festival Helena, Mt 59602



Just back from a 35 mile training ride.



Of course I have my APRS equipment and ride computer. We Hams are like tech junkies !!!!!



My Garmin GPS III Plus is under my seat with the antenna sticking out to get the satellites. Look for K7MT-11 with a bicycle system on APRS !!!!

Cheers,
Bill - K7MT

MS BIKE TO THE BEARTOOTH INFORMATION

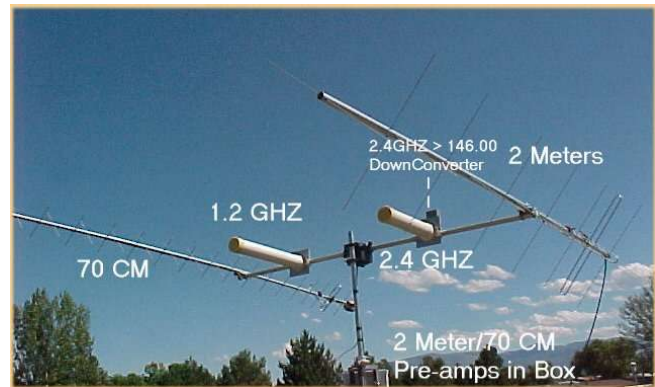
All America Chapter, Montana Division
1629 Avenue D., Suite 2-C
Billings, MT 59101
<http://www.nationalmssociety.org/MSBike-Montana.asp>

Phone: (406) 252-5927
Email: mtt@nmss.org
Web Site: www.nationalmssociety.org/mtt
Tour Dates: September 11 & 12, 2004
Length of Tour: approx. 150 Miles
Start Location: Pierce RV and Homes

The Bike to the Beartooths is two days of bicycling 150 miles of sweat and smiles, all the while raising money to help people who live with multiple sclerosis. We follow a scenic route from Billings, MT to Red Lodge, MT. The Beartooths Mountains bid you welcome at our accommodations at the Lion's Camp. Rest stops with food and beverages are provided every 12 miles. The ride ends at Pierce RV and Homes with a finish line celebration. The Bike to the Beartooths is a beautiful, fun, and challenging two day bike tour.

New Echo Satellite

As the newest Amateur Satellite (ECHO) becomes more operational, I took down my big 2.4 GHZ Dish and mounted my circular 2.4 GHZ (18 DB) antenna with Downeast Microwave 2.4 GHZ to 146.00 downconverter.



I have picked up signals on the 70cm and 2.4 ghz downlinks. 1.2 GHZ and 2 meters are up links to the ECHO satellite. Very strong signals on both the downlinks so this will work out just fine. Go ECHO !!!!!!! Bill - K7MT



ARRL to Participate in National Preparedness Month

NEWINGTON, CT, Aug 26, 2004--During September, the ARRL will be among dozens of organizations and agencies participating in National Preparedness Month. "The Ready Campaign," produced by the Ad Council in partnership with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS), is aimed at making citizen preparedness "a priority for every city, every neighborhood and every home" in the US. The League will combine its role in National Preparedness Month, which starts September 9, with its own "Amateur Radio Awareness Day" on September 18.



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

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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...

- You have ever taken radios and control heads with you while car shopping to make sure everything fit before you made a purchase.
- You continue to drive that old 70's or 80's land barge – It's ugly and guzzles gas, but there are plenty of good antenna locations and a real metal bumper for the HF antenna.
- You say 73 instead of saying goodbye on the phone.
- At night, when you pray, it starts off something like:
CQ CQ CQ GOD DE (Your Callsign)
- Your watch is set only to UTC
- Your license plate on your car is your Ham Call Sign.
- You Watch for clearance measurement signs on bridges and overheads while driving to make sure your antenna is safe.

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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!

First Class Mail