

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

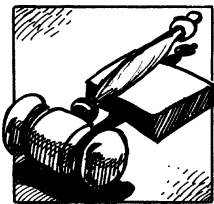
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

October 2004

From The Pres...

As the weather turns colder, I always start to think about what I have to get done before the first real cold snap. This past weekend, I completed some weatherproofing on a new entrance door I installed earlier in the year and put away the water hoses and did some other stuff around the yard. I'm also toying with (finally) putting up the R7 within the next couple of weeks so I can use it over the cold winter months.



In my day job, we also do a lot of pre-winter checkups. We have equipment outside in enclosures with heaters and exposed antennas, etc. We try to visit each site and make sure everything is mechanically sound, working, and waterproof for the winter months. We find a lot more problems with water penetration during the winter than during the summer – probably because the water is in solid form most of the time and as a result, can “seep” into things easier during the day than if it

(Cont. P.2 PRES)

October MEETING

Monday

OCTOBER 4

Salvation Army Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.

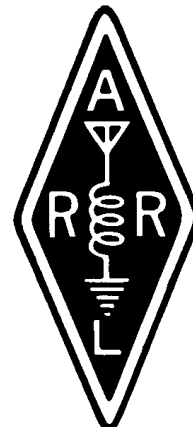


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Board of Directors

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(Cont from P.1 PRES)

was just dripping off like during the summer.

I mention this because this applies equally well to ham radio gear. If you have a tower or rooftop-mounted antennas, making sure that everything looks good for the winter will help prevent that trip up the tower or roof when there's snow and ice about. Checking out the mechanical aspects of your mobile rig will also help prevent that -40°F coax repair job. Of course mentioning a vehicle also brings up all the non-ham radio stuff that has to do with keeping a vehicle running during the winter months in Montana.

One of the other things which fall brings is JOTA, or Jamboree on the Air. This event is a great opportunity for us to show off Ham Radio to the next generation. Last year was a great success, with quite a few local Scout troops participating. Our goal was to give each scout (boy and girl alike) the opportunity to make a contact with another scout somewhere in the world via Amateur Radio. Although I'm not 100% sure every scout which visited actually got to talk to another scout somewhere else, but if we didn't meet our goal, we were darn close.

This year, the club will again be participating in this great event. Our club's JOTA participation will take place on Saturday, October 16th. The exact times will be announced as plans firm up with the scout troops. Anyone who would like to share an aspect of the hobby with the Scouts is welcome. Whether it's mobile HF operations, or CW, or just bringing a QSL card collection to show off, anything will be appreciated. And finally, there are just a couple of small additional things I need to mention. The first is that the Pre-Holiday Potluck is scheduled for the evening November 5th. I still need a volunteer to help coordinate this. This is a **simple** job – just announcing it on the net and making sure the building and a couple of other things are lined up.

It's also getting close to the end of the year and our officer elections. We will be setting up a nomination committee this coming meeting so that they have time to find candidates for any vacant (or non-vacant) office. In addition, I would mention

that the Ham of the Year award committee will be deliberating over who deserves the award for this year. I'm sure your input would be welcome in either of the above categories.

I think that's all for now.

73's
Forrest
AC7DE

**ARES Notes...**

It has been a while since local ARES registration information has been updated. If you are interested in being an ARES volunteer and have not filled out a registration form in the last month, please contact me to get one. I'll have them at the October club meeting, as well. There are some minor changes, mainly asking for information about training related to emergency radio operations. A new ARES roster will be prepared from the updated information.

Recent experiences around the country have pointed out the need for information about the background and preparation of people volunteering as radio operators. Just because you have a license and want to play doesn't mean you will be permitted into an EOC or emergency communication operation. Since shortly after the towers fell on 9-11-01, background checks and official agency photo id cards have become commonplace, due to higher levels of security. This was true for the ham operators assisting with the Space Shuttle Columbia recovery operations and the most recently with radio operations assisting in the areas hit by hurricanes.

The need for experienced and trained operators has been proven time and again. Just because you want to participate doesn't mean you can. Get as much organized training as you can, such as the ARRL courses, or those offered on-line by the Department of Homeland Security. There are also courses offered locally through county and state Disaster and Emergency Service agencies.

Please contact me if you have questions about the requested information or the training being suggested. Try to check in regularly on the Tuesday night net and also monitor the .82 repeater for ARES information and updates.

73.. de K7HLN

From The Editor

October! Fall of 2004! Are you Y2K prepared??? It just seems like it was yesterday that we were all getting ready for Y2K and now it is almost 2005.



What kind of Ham Radio activities do you have planned for this fall? The weather has been perfect for those last minute outdoor projects. As for myself, I am in the middle of a big move. We have sold our house and are buying another. One with enough bathrooms for my 4 daughters!!! And, a place with big enough area where I will be able to build my dream Radio Shack and work shop.

I have been rolling around a lot of options in my mind as to what a great shack might consist of. I am not talking about equipment here, only the shack. I will have enough square footage to work with. It will probably split in two areas. One area for my Ham gear (the Radio Shack part) and one area for my electronic work space. If you have any ideas, I am sure open to them.

Since my life is very consumed with my family moving, please, bear with me in the size of the newsletter. It may be a couple of pages smaller than usual (unless I get lots of great contributions that always help fill up the pages).

My family and I are taking a break from all the packing and going to Spokane for a weekend for their annual Harvest Festival at the surrounding farms. If you want some good Fall fun, take a trip, you will enjoy it. God bless you all and thanks for making the Newsletter Editor "job" easy.

73,

John – K7JM Editor

For Sale



RFOR SALE: GAP Verticle Antenna. This antenna is in excellent condition and currently in use at 3249 Floral Blvd, Butte, Montana. Further information is available from Phil Bickford, KC7JGQ, at 406-494-0550.

Upcoming Events

Some dates to remember:

Oct. 16: Saturday – JOTA at Salvation Army

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

ALL ABOARD!

Many hams seem to be interested in trains and railroads, whether it be miniatures or the real thing. For those interested in the full sized version, there will be a steam passenger train through Helena eastbound on Monday, October 11, and westbound on Saturday, October 16. It should be in Helena around noon each way and will stop for a short time at the Helena Depot.

The engine for this train is to be the Southern Pacific 4449, considered one of the most beautiful of the steam era streamliners. It was the motive power for the Bicentennial American Freedom Train tour of the country in 1975 and 1976. There will be a diesel engine behind the steam locomotive for dynamic braking and back-up power, as required by federal regulations. The train will probably have 17 to 20 cars, with as many as 5 dome cars.

For those hams working with the scouts during JOTA at the Salvation Army on October 16, it will come by as it leaves town westbound. Listen for the steam whistle and get outside or to a window to watch it go by. If you are scanning, listen for it on MRL mainline frequencies 160.335 and 160.950. There may be some other frequencies in use for onboard operations, as well.

de Bob K7HLN

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!

What is JOTA?

JOTA (Jamboree-on-the-Air) is an annual event in which Boy and Girl Scouts and Guides from all over the world speak to each other by means of Amateur (ham) Radio. Scouting

experiences are exchanged and ideas are shared via radio waves. Since 1958 when the first Jamboree-on-the-Air was held, millions of Scouts have met each other through this event. Many contacts made during JOTA have resulted in pen pals and links between Scout troops that have lasted many years.

JOTA is held the third weekend in October of each year. JOTA takes place starting Saturday at 0001 hours local time to Sunday, 2359 hours local time, though some activity continues over from Friday to Monday to take advantage of long distance (DX) time differences.



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