

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

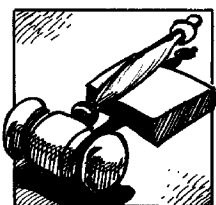
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

Happy New Year - January 2005

From The Pres...

It seems like just yesterday that I was writing the article for the January 2004 newsletter.



Where did 2004 go? And I'm started to get excited about what we'll be doing as a club in 2005.

Of course everyone should mark Field Day on their calendars (the weekend of July 25th). As mentioned earlier, we plan on being "out in the hills" somewhere this year. I'd love to see some sort of family-friendly camping type atmosphere where we just happen to do field day also. In addition to field day, Glacier Waterton Hamfest (www.gwhamfest.org) is July 16-18, 2004. And backing up a month, the Governor's Cup is almost always the first Friday in June, although their website hasn't been updated yet.

Moving forward again, I just got done requesting the callsign "K7L" for a large chunk of July. This is the call we'll operate on for any special events we'll do in relation to the Lewis and Clark (Cont. P.2 PRES)

JANUARY MEETING

Monday

JANUARY 10

Salvation Army Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.



In This Issue

From The Pres.....	1
JANUARY MEETING.....	1
Board of Directors.....	1
ARES Notes.....	2
Dues are Due.....	3
From The Editor.....	3
VE Exams.....	3
General Class Classes.....	4
Lewis and Clark County Interoperable Communications Project.....	4
EOC EQUIPMENT UPDATE....	5
Discounts To Radio Amateurs....	5
You Might Be A Ham If.....	5
Ham Of The Year.....	7

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

Here's an address that may be of interest to you. If you have the time, get a note off to Bill. I am sure he will appreciate it.

TNX.. Bob K7HLN

MSG William McGuire

917th CSG

FOB Endurance

APO AE 09345

Email N7MSI N7MSI@aol.com



(Cont from P.1 PRES)

bicentennial. Assuming we receive permission to use the call, I figure we'll operate as K7L/C or similar. The period I've (hopefully) reserved the call for includes both the scheduled dates for the Corps of Discovery II traveling tour (which was discussed last meeting) which will be here July 9th through the 17th. The dates also include the period during which Lewis and Clark were actually here in Lewis and Clark county - July 18th through the 21st. I'm going to try to get a historian as a guest speaker for our club meeting before then to give us a little better historical perspective on the corps and their travel through Lewis and Clark county.

And jumping all the way back (forward?) to January, 2004, Bruce, KD7UAF has been kind enough to arrange for Mark Adams of Northrop-Grumman to be our guest speaker at our January Meeting. Mark is the project coordinator for the Lewis and Clark County Interoperable Communications Project. We will be hearing an overview of the project and some updated status on it's progress. This should provide us a valuable overview of the purpose of the project and it's scope. It is my understanding that Mark isn't "a radio guy" so please don't intimidate him with the hard technical questions. We'll try to get one or more of the people who actually put the system together in for a future meeting to explain the nuts and bolts of how the system is actually wired together.

Of course, all of these events can't happen by themselves. I'll be asking for volunteers to help with all of these events. I'll also be asking some questions regarding what activities people would like to add to this list – primarily during the next few months until it gets warm again and we're busy with all of the planned activities.

I think that's all for now.

73's

Forrest

AC7DE.

**ARES Notes...**

It appears those of us in this part of the country made it through another year with a minimal amount of the unusual or unexpected getting in the way. The recent earthquake and tsunami in southeast Asia should serve as a wake up call, if for no other reason than it can also happen off the west coast of our country. The southeastern US was hit with four major storm events this past year, which really upset the "statistical guess-timations" of the weather prognosticators. From what has been reported recently, Montana is still locked in a severe drought situation, which has major implications for some time down the road.

The new county communications system is being seen as the communications cure-all for the many agencies that will be involved with it. The folks in Tampa, Florida felt that way about their new system during the hurricanes, when it worked pretty well. They were set back when the system crashed after the storms and shut down everything from city utilities to police, fire and EMS communications. The local hams responded and carried the load for several days while the new system was put back on line.

I would encourage those hams interested in emergency communications to be aware of the potential for unusual events occurring, and to be prepared to respond if requested to do so. At this time, we are not involved in the planning for any

local drills or exercises, and I am not overly optimistic that we will be asked to help with much other than the Governor's Cup and the Double Divide Bike Race in 2005. Continue to monitor the .82 repeater and check into the ARES net each Tuesday at 1930 hrs local time. Should something occur that is of interest, the repeater will be utilized as a means of getting that information to you as quickly as possible.

De Bob K7HLN



Dues are Due

CCARC dues are due! 20 bucks a year is a great deal to belong to a fantastic service organization like the Capital City Amateur Radio Club. Our trusted treasurer Dan KC7KKH will be glad to accept your dues at the next club meeting.

From The Editor

Happy New Year from your W7TCK Newsletter editor. I hope you had a great WARM Christmas. Did Santa fill your stocking with some nice new Ham

Radio gadgets? Unfortunately, mine had no Ham Radio gadgets this year. It was filled with more important items that come with recently moving into a new house. They are, however, indirectly related to Ham Radio. As many of you know, we (my family) recently moved into a house that has space for my fantasy ham shack. With that comes some construction work like framing up some walls and installing a couple of circuits to power my Ham Shack. The laser level/stud finder, and tool belt I received for Christmas is proving very valuable in building my new Ham Shack. Am I ready to plug in the radios yet? Not hardly. It may still be a couple of months, as my cheap labor is not



as abundant as I would like, and the funds are just trickling in. It's a "do as time and budget allows" kind of project. Stay tuned...

Thank you for your vote of confidence on re-electing your current CCARC officers. We enjoy serving you in our capacities. The "Railroad" committee has once again done a great job. HI

The recent tsunami and earthquake in Asia, once again show us the importance of being ready for anything. This may be the largest disaster since the flood in Noah's day. We are truly living in interesting times. It is also interesting that in the past months, there has been much mentioned concerning "go bags" and "48 hour bags." In the relief effort, there is one private ministry that is putting together "personal bags (48 hour bags)" for many of the victims. Be ready. Get your "Go bag" and a "48 hour bag" for each member of your household.

God bless you this New Year, and God bless America and keep us safe!

73,

John - K7JM Editor



VE Exams

Amateur Volunteer Examiner (VE) Examinations will be given on January 10, 2005 at 6:30 PM, prior to the CCARC meeting. The 2005 VEC exam fee is \$14.00. Those taking exams should bring a photo ID and a copy of their amateur license.



Due to the decreased number of applicants taking exams, VE exams will no longer be offered on a regularly scheduled basis. VE exams will now be offered monthly, just prior to the regular CCARC meeting, but on an appointment only basis. If no appointments are made, VE exams will not be scheduled for that month. Those wishing to take an

exam should contact John Geach, KS7R, 442-7107 at least two days prior to the CCARC meeting to schedule an exam.

This new procedure will allow applicants the opportunity to take exams monthly rather than the current bi-monthly schedule, while freeing up the VEs time when no one is interested in taking an exam. If you have any questions about this new procedure, please contact John Geach KS7R.



General Class Instruction Classes

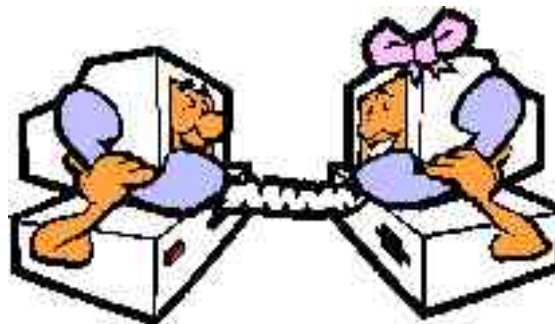
The CCARC will soon be offering classes to prepare students for the General Class Amateur written exam. Depending on student interest, morse code (CW) classes may also be offered at the same time. The General Class license requires you to pass both a 35 question written examination and a 5 word per minute CW exam. You don't have to take or pass both examination elements at the same time. If you pass one exam element, you have up to one year to pass the other.

Classes are scheduled to start in February and should last approximately 6 weeks. Those interested in the class should contact John Geach, KS7R, 442-7107 to register and for more information.

Lewis and Clark County Interoperable Communications Project

The FCC has mandated that Federal agencies that use two-way land mobile radio systems migrate to new digital equipment by 2005. In turn, a growing number of state and local agencies are expected to follow suit and Lewis and Clark county is doing public safety officials are doing exactly that.

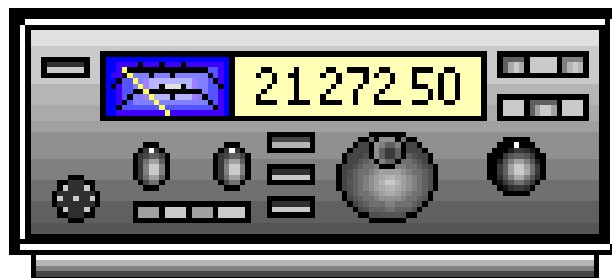
Our own Dan Hawkins (N7SHM) served on the governor's Statewide Interoperability Executive



Committee (SIEC) that established a strategic plan for public safety communication systems in Montana such as the one now undergoing testing here in Lewis and Clark county. The SIEC plan adopted APCO P25 as the standard for interoperable public safety radio systems in Montana. Using equipment compliant with the digital standard (APCO P25) will enable Federal, State, and Local agencies in our area to communicate not only within their own agency but between agencies on assigned frequencies and channels even when using different manufacturer's products.

In September of 2003 Lewis and Clark County was awarded an Interoperable Communications Equipment Grant from FEMA/Department of Homeland Security. As a result of the Grant, the County is implementing a new county-wide radio communications system.

At our January meeting, Mark Adams of Northrop-Grumman will be our guest speaker. Mark is the project coordinator for the Lewis and Clark County Interoperable Communications Project. Mark will be providing us an overview of the project and updated status on its progress. Bruce, KD7UAF



EOC EQUIPMENT UPDATE..

Paul Spengler, Lewis and Clark County Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinator, has ordered the new ham radio gear for the county EOC. The radios and accessories will be shipped early in January. Once they are received, Paul will be contacting me to get a crew together to remove the current equipment and get the new radios installed and working.

New antennas for the radios will be purchased later this year, after the new county radio system has been in operation for a while. That will give time to see what problems may be encountered, and to also choose the antennas that will work best at the EOC. Capital Communications will be doing the installation of the antennas.

More later.. de Bob K7HLN



Discounts To Radio Amateurs

The Phoenix Café, located at the Conaco Truck Stop east of Wal-Mart offers Amateur radio operators 10% off. Present your current operators license to receive 10% off your ticket.



You Might Be A Ham If...

- x Your watch is set to UTC.
- x Your license plate on your car is your Ham Call Sign.
- x You watch for clearance measurement signs on bridges and overheads while driving to make sure your antenna is safe.
- x If one of your child's first word was your callsign (in ITU phonetics).
- x Your future wife (unknown to you at the time) shows up at the Amateur Radio class you are teaching.
- x Your children refuse to ride in or drive your van, because it has that "tail" on the back end.
- x Your hubby refuses to allow you to have the radio on because it makes his headaches worse.
- x Your kids can identify your friends by their calls.
- x Your children talk of their "mom's weird hobby"
- x You have used coat hangers and duct tape for something other than hanging coats and taping ducts.
- x You window shop at Ham Radio Outlet.
- x Your ideal evening consists of flipping through the latest QST mag looking for technical inaccuracies.
- x You thought the concoction ET used to phone home with was stupid.
- x Your HT has more computing power than your PC.
- x You have ever saved the power cord from a broken appliance.
- x You are old enough to know what an 807 is.
- x The salespeople at Circuit City can't answer any of your questions.
- x You have the habit of destroying things in order to see how they work.
- x You have ever tried to repair a \$5.00 radio.

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.

VE exams are offered monthly, just prior to the regular CCARC meeting, but on an appointment only basis. If no appointments are made, VE exams will not be scheduled for that month. Those wishing to take an exam should contact John Geach, KS7R, 442-7107 at least two days prior to the CCARC meeting to schedule an exam.

W7MRI Repeater: 147.82 (-offset)
Net every Tuesday at 7:30 pm local time on the 147.82 (-offset) repeater.



Ham Of The Year

Congratulations to Dave White, WA7YFF for being chosen as CCARC's Ham Of The Year for 2004. David's countless hours of dedication to the Club and work with the MCU are much appreciated. Thanks Dave and again, Congratulations.!

Return Address: Newsletter Editor
Capital City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 271
Jefferson City, MT 59638

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