

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

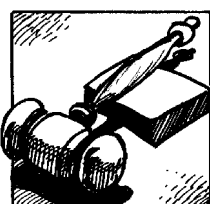
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

March 2005

From The Pres...

I'm working on this article (yet again) away from home. I've been traveling quite a bit for work the last couple of weeks. I just got back from a Wireless ISP conference in Chicago. Right this second, I'm in a hotel room in Billings and will be doing some work here tomorrow. After this, I will be back in Helena for just a couple of days (including the day of the club meeting) and then will be heading to San Jose for another work-related conference.



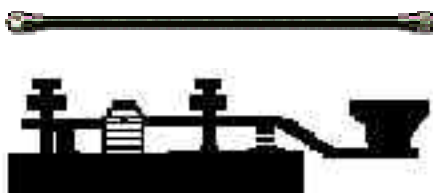
Because I'm working on this remotely, this will probably be one of my shortest articles yet. I'm sure our talented newsletter editor will come up with something probably even more interesting that my drivel to fill the unused space.

Last I heard, Dan Hawkins will be at our March meeting to talk to us about P25 and possibly some trunking (haven't had a chance to reconfirm this week). P25 is the digital mode that the interoperable Public Safety radios

.(Cont. P.2 PRES)

March MEETING

Monday
March 7
 Salvation Army
 Church
 1905 Henderson
 7:00 pm.



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Board of Directors

- Pres: Forrest Christian, AC7DE
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- Tres.: Dan Stinson, KC7KKH
- Newsletter Editor: John McDougall K7JM
- Training: John Geach, KS7R
- Technical: Don Heide, W7MRI
- Volunteer Exam Team Leader: John Geach, KS7R

Upcoming Events

- Some dates to remember:
- Governor's Cup. June 4th**
 - Field Day. Weekend of June 25**
 - K7L/C Special Event Station. Dates in July to be Determined**
 - Glacier Waterton Hamfest. July 15-17, 2005**

(Cont from P.1 PRES)

use. Even if you aren't interested in public safety radio, this should be interesting since it will give some insight into a different way to transmit voice over the air that is via digital means. It sounds like planning for Field Day is going well. I am excited about some of the things I am hearing coming out of the committee. I'm not going to steal their thunder and tell you what I've heard so far I'll let them let you know as they feel it is relevant but I will say that from what I've heard it sounds like it's definitely going to be fun for all. You will definitely want to mark this event on your calendar.

And finally, I would like to remind everyone to think about what they would like to see us do in regards to the special event station. It sounds like there is a group of people who would like to operate from their homes during the time period in question. There also seems to be another group which would like to do some sort of group activity. I have something in mind so that both groups will be accommodated. But I still would like to hear some opinions regarding what club members would like to see.

I think that's all I have for now.

73's
Forrest
AC7DE

ARES Notes...

Volunteer Opportunity:
ARES Emergency
Coordinator (EC)

Must be licensed amateur radio operator with interest in emergency communications and community emergency response activities. Should have time available for training, planning meetings and exercises. Should be familiar with Incident Command System and its application. Familiarity with emergency response community,



including police and sheriff's departments, city and rural fire departments, emergency medical responders, elected officials, and local and state government desirable. Working knowledge of involved voluntary agencies, such as Red Cross and Salvation Army, desirable.

Should have time available and interest in coordinating radio communications for the Governor's Cup Races and other events. Ability to prepare at least an article a month for CCARC newsletter and other articles and reports as needed for state or national ARES. Should have ability to interpret amateur radio operations and procedures to interested individuals and agencies.

Should be able to respond to EOC or other designated location within 30 minutes of notification. Requires ham radio station capabilities at home, in personal vehicle, and portable as needed. Applicant should have completed ARRL ARECC Level I Course, and plans to complete Level II and Level III. Completion of ICS 200 is also desirable. Individual needs to work closely with CCARC board and membership, as well as hams who do not belong to either CCARC or ARRL.

Membership in ARRL and CCARC required. Appointment is made by Montana ARRL Section Manager with concurrence of State Emergency Coordinator.

Please contact Bob K7HLN for further information, if you are interested. I am ready to give it up.

From The Editor

Welcome to March. If this winter is any indication of what Spring is going to be like, be better be prepared for a long dry summer. Moisture levels are already at critically low levels. Pray for rain and snow as we desperately need it. Burning season was to start the first of March but that may be on hold because of the already severely dry conditions. What was covered with two feet of



snow in December, is now dry dusty ground. Be prepared and be careful.

ON a positive note, RF has emanated from my new QTH. I say “new” but I have been here for four months already with no ham shack in sight yet. I managed to set up a modest APRS station in our home office, with RF coming from a hand held sitting on the floor with a telescoping antenna sticking out the top of it. Look for my station on your computer screen or on www.findu.com. The remodel job of my shack is coming along slowly as time and funds allow. Stay tuned...

Have a great Spring, God bless you for reading this and pray for rain and snow!

John K7JM - Editor



My Big Left Toe... (and the art of CW)

My wife, Ashby, and I spent the first two weeks of February last year in the Caribbean sailing with friends on their boat. Jan, the wife, had obtained a ham radio license in hopes of being able to use it to send and receive email, but she hadn't upgraded to General because of having to learn Morse Code. I hadn't thought of amateur radio since I was about twelve years old—fifty years ago! But the conversation I had with her whetted my appetite.

Upon our return to snowy and cold Montana, I bought a copy of *Now You're Talking* and read it. I got on-line and looked for an examination site, and I discovered the Missoula Amateur Radio Club gave exams monthly. In March, I went to Missoula and obtained my Tech License. The next week, I went to Hardee's on Saturday morning and started my affiliation with the Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

When I was young, my real interest had been in Morse Code. So I have pursued that interest using CW. A year after I started, I find myself almost exclusively using CW at about ten to twelve words

a minute. I obtained my Extra Amateur License and am an Authorized Examiner under W5YI and ARRL VEC's. I primarily use radios I have built from kits for almost daily QSO's, often using QRP at about five watts.

Let me assure you that CW is very difficult for me. I continue to practice daily and almost drive my wife nuts, but I am determined to get good at it. In the movie *A League of Their Own*, Tom Hanks says, “Of course it's hard; if it wasn't everybody would do it.” This is my experience with Morse Code. But even though it is not easy for most of us, *everybody* can do it if they want to.

If you are interested in either learning the code or improving your ability to use it, I would enjoy hearing from you and getting together with you—we can mentor each other! Also, don't worry about your equipment or lack of it, we can figure out ways around that. In many places, for example, there is a two-meter CW slow speed net for beginners—we could do that in Helena! Also, many of us have stuff we can lend each other to make it work for you.

Sure, you'll feel like an idiot some of the time because of the lack of speed and accuracy, but you know what? Everybody who uses CW has been through that same humbling experience. Feel free to call me at 442-0345 days or 449-2667 at night if you are interested in this fascinating part of the wonderful hobby of ham radio. Or you can come to the Saturday meeting at Hardee's and talk with me. You can't miss me—I'm the one with a big left toe from sending bad code (hi hi). I guarantee you can do it if you want to.

Ci Jones, WU7R





Picture of me running comms on a convoy. I took a trip up to Mosul to deliver a Tacyon satellite internet system. What do you think of those high tech ballistic glasses? Hey don't laugh, this is a war not a fashion show. February, 2005

MSG William McGuire
917th CSG
FOB Endurance
APO AE 09345

Email N7MSI N7MSI@aol.com

Montana Section Manager

Montana held an emergency exercise last month. It consisted of a combination of RACES and ARES groups, handling traffic over the state. Each of the state DES divisions were represented and traffic was moved on 75 meters between field units and the State DES. The new message form, ICS213 was used exclusively with limited success. It's simpler than the old standby NTS message format and all should be aquanited with it for the future.

A copy can be obtained from Bill, KC7CIS our Assistant Section Manager for RACES. Should a message be intended for transmission to an out of state location, one would want to encapsulate it inside of an NTS format and send as such, to allow movement via the automated traffic system we now use for long haul traffic.

More and more HF mobile stations have been coming on line here in the State. As we add these new capabilities, our response to emergency

communication needs can be broadened as we add flexibility. I'd encourage anyone who's interested in HF mobile to give it a try. There are different issues involved with this part of the hobby, antenna and vehicular noise problems to solve, but it's all interesting and certainly, an education. During any field response, it's important that at least one HF mobile be available to flash information to our SEC and myself to allow for timely staffing of personal and equipment.

My thanks to all who make Montana such a great group to represent.

73

Doug, K7YD

ARRL Montana Section
Section Manager: Douglas R. Dunn, K7YD
k7yd@arrl.org



What do Those Weird Numbers Mean?

Here's something from the Signalharbor site. What do those weird numbers mean?

Glen Zook, K9STH, posted this to the Heathkit mailing list:

Many amateurs already know that "73" is from what is known as the "Phillips Code", a series of numeric messages conceived for the purpose of cutting down transmission time on the old land telegraph systems when sending text that is basically the same.

In the April 1935 issue of QST on page 60 there is a short article on the origin of 73. This article was a summation of another article that appeared in the "December Bulletin from the Navy Department Office of the Chief of Naval Operations". That would be December of 1934.

The quotation from the Navy is as follows: "It appears from a research of telegraph histories that in 1859 the telegraph people held a convention, and one of its features was a discussion as to the saving

of 'line time'. A committee was appointed to devise a code to reduce standard expressions to symbols or figures. This committee worked out a figure code, from figure 1 to 92. Most of these figure symbols became obsolescent, but a few remain to this date, such as 4, which means "Where shall I go ahead?". Figure 9 means 'wire', the wire chief being on the wire and that everyone should close their keys. Symbol 13 means 'I don't understand'; 22 is 'love and a kiss'; 30 means 'good night' or 'the end'. The symbol most often used now is 73, which means 'my compliments' and 92 is for the word 'deliver.' The other figures in between the forgoing have fallen into almost complete disuse."

One of the chief telegraphers of the Navy Department of Communications, a J. L. Bishop, quoted from memory the signals that were in effect in 1905:

- 1 Wait a minute
- 4 Where shall I start in message?
- 5 Have you anything for me?
- 9 Attention or clear the wire
- 13 I do not understand
- 22 Love and kisses
- 25 Busy on another circuit
- 30 Finished, the end-used mainly by press telegraphers
- 73 My compliments, or Best Regards
- 92 Deliver

Now days, 22 has become 88 (love and kisses). I don't know when this came about. 30 is still used in the newspaper and magazine business to indicate the end of a feature, story, or column. And, of course, 73 is still used by amateur radio operators to mean "best regards".

Making any of these numbers plural (73s, 88s, etc.) is incorrect since they are already plural. 73s would mean best regardses and 88s would mean love and kisseses. Those make no sense.

Anyway, the subject of where 73 came from comes up periodically and this article reinforces the "Phillips Code" origin.

Submitted by Dan KC7KKH

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.

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.**

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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!

73

88

and other weird numbers!

(see page 5)

First Class Mail