

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

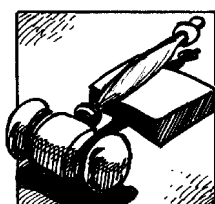
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

May 2005

From The Pres...

Before I get into the rest of my column, I should mention the program for the Club



Meeting this month. As is typically the tradition for the last club meeting before Governor's Cup, the majority of the business will be related to this event. In addition, we have other events and activities which we need to discuss. I would encourage anyone interested in helping with Governor's Cup to attend this meeting.

Last month in my column I talked about a tower I was putting up for work. In the column, I discussed the reasons why I chose this particular tower and mentioned a little about the assembly. In this article, I'll go into a bit more detail about the whole erection process. But before I do, I need to describe in a bit more detail how the tower is put together.

The Trylon tower comes in 8 foot sections. You can buy each section either pre-assembled or broken down. Unless you have

.(Cont. P.2 PRES)

MAY MEETING

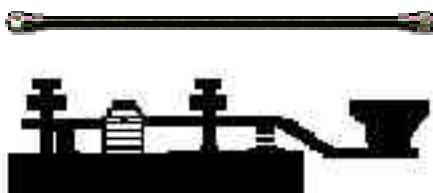
Monday

May 7

Salvation Army
Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.



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

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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)

the specialized hardware needed to assemble the hundreds of broken-down pieces into sections, you really need to buy the pre-assembled version.

In our 56' tower, 7 sections are assembled together to form the main part of the tower. Three stub legs, (one per tower leg) are embedded in the concrete foundation and attach to the bottom section. These stub legs are approximately four feet long, and do not touch the bottom or sides of the hole (or the rebar for that matter).

In order to get the stub legs properly aligned you attach them to the bottom section of the tower and suspend the entire 8 foot bottom section over the hole, with the stub legs suspended in mid-air in the foundation hole – all the time ensuring it is level and will stay level during the concrete pour. We did this by building a form for the portion of the concrete which is above ground level and then using the form as a base to build another set of supports which actually held the tower. It's difficult to explain without pictures, but the way we did it worked better than I expected it to. Leveling also wasn't as bad as expected since we leveled the form and as result the supports were also level. It took us a bit to figure out exactly where we could test for a true level since the sides of the tower slope inward. I would do things slightly differently next time to avoid some issues with finishing the concrete, but the overall process worked very well.

When we had everything ready, including the rebar cage which was put in the hole earlier, we poured the concrete. This sounds a lot more active than it is in this case. A hole just under 6 feet in all 3 dimensions takes a lot of concrete to fill.

Essentially the cement truck backed up and we watched it dump pretty much a full truckload into our hole, with some minor pushing around of cement to help it fill the hole evenly. Did I mention that there is a lot of concrete in that hole?

After the concrete pour was completed and the finish work was done we let the concrete cure for a couple of weeks before really messing with the tower any further. When we were comfortable that

it was cured enough for the next stage, we pulled the bottom section off of the stub legs and then attached it to the bottom of the other 6 sections. At this point, we had all 7 sections pre-assembled together on the ground. Overall the sections went together fairly well, although the bottom two sections took a bit of work to get them together. I would say that I am very glad we did this on the ground as opposed to one at a time in the air. We also made sure all the bolts were tight before proceeding.

The next stage required some assistance from a Crane. We called one of the local crane rental companies and scheduled a time for a crane and an operator. When the crane showed up, we attached the crane to the top of the tower with some slings. The crane operator then picked up the tower from the ground and moved it into place inside the stub legs, where the bolts were attached. This took a lot less time than I was expecting, and went really well. The legs slipped right into place with only a little bit of persuasion and the bolts lined right up as expected. Overall, the whole process took less than an hour.

Like I eluded to above, since the tower has been up, we've been doing some additional prep work – like getting an enclosure ready for our equipment and getting some electrical work done and similar. As of today, we put up the radios.

Overall, I would say that I am very impressed with this tower. Would I put another one up? Definitely. I would probably consider a Rohn or equivalent for shorter towers under 40 feet or so, but for any tower of any significant height, I would probably pick a freestanding tower as my first choice, and would have no qualms about picking the Tylon in particular.

I think that's all for now.

73.

Forrest

AC7DE.



ARES Notes...

Operation Last Chance 1" is the multi-agency, multi-scenario Weapons of Mass Destruction exercise taking place at the Helena Airport, June 20 through 24. We have been invited to set up our Mobile



Communication Unit in the "show and tell area" near the large National Guard hanger, along with military, law enforcement, fire, and other emergency response units. Tours will be escorted through that area from 8 AM until 5 PM on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday to let people see the equipment and meet some of the people who respond to these types of events. We can set up and operate and otherwise be available to give out information or discuss amateur radio. If we have to be gone or cannot staff the trailer at all times, then we can lock it up and it will still be part of the static display.

There may be a couple of hours during the week when we will be asked to operate from the State Dept. of Public Health and Human Services EOC in the Cogswell Building and the County EOC in the Law Enforcement Center. This would be mainly to demonstrate how we provide communications and to check out the new radio gear in the county EOC.

We have also been invited to set up the trailer at the Fairgrounds during the Lewis and Clark Event in July to do much the same thing. We could also operate some of the special event from there, if we wished. We may be asked to assist with some aspects of the event, but that seems to be a slim possibility at this time. The multiple law enforcement and response agencies have their own communications, as well as having the Search and Rescue for communications support.

We should discuss this at the May meeting. If we do participate, it would provide some good public exposure. Even though some of us will be going to Hamfest during the July event, there should be enough operators in town to staff it part of the time.

We should also be able to help Red Cross if they need help during either of the events, as we have supported them the last several years.

de Bob K7HLN

From The Editor

May is here and so is Spring, I think! Only two weeks ago my QTH had about 14 inches of snow! I kid you not! Along with lots of snow, we had NO power for about three hours from 4 a.m to 7 a.m. Do I have a generator? YES! Do I have the necessary connections to plug it into my house to get the furnace or minimal lights running? How about water, as we are on a well! NO! We couldn't even flush the toilets. Could I readily find an AM radio with batteries? NO! Not without some searching. Could I locate my flashlight? Yes, I did find a couple of those along with candles. I had no idea if the rest of the world also had snow. I braved the highway and come into town for work at 5:30 A.M. and Helena had NO SNOW!



K7JM's QTH April 19

As a Ham, I take pride in "Readiness." Was I ready? Not a chance. I have been so busy remodeling my family room this past winter, I never adequately prepared for emergency situations. I did discover that I could manually light our stove burners which have electronic ignition but without water, that is quite limiting. I now plan to prioritize some time and plan ahead for some emergency preparedness. Enough talk, now is the time to actually do something about it. I have a go bag full of my ham radio goodies, but not one of those things would help me flush my toilet. How ready are you? It has been mentioned time and time again, do you have a radio handy with "good" batteries? Do you have a stand-by power source that you can "ACTUALLY" use? With Spring here and Summer just around the corner, take some time to prepare "your" house and family. We hams are sometimes ready to go out and "save the world" but if we are not ready at home, we won't be effective with the world. I found out the hard way.



Mid April Power Outage

Plan to attend the Glacier Waterton Hamfest July 15th through the 17th. It has become a tradition for my family and many members of CCARC. It is always a great time.

73 and God bless you all,
John K7JM - Editor

GOVERNOR'S CUP UPDATE

We are still in need of volunteer ham radio operators for the Governor's Cup, Saturday, June 4.

About half of the hams who volunteered last year have signed up so far. If you have not yet filled out one of the purple registration forms, Rich KC7VVZ and I have them. The forms are also the means to order the style and size of shirt you would like. This year there are tees and long sleeved mock turtleneck tees for volunteers. Sweatshirts are available for purchase at Race Headquarters for \$15.00 each. The costs associated with the shirts has caused them to cut back on the types of shirts they have for volunteers.

There are some changes in sponsorship impacting the Governor's Cup this year. Major financial support and sponsorship from Blue Cross/Blue Shield has been scaled back, with the Montana Caring Foundation on it's own as the organizational sponsor with financial and logistical support from other businesses and agencies. Corporate sponsors this year include Wells Fargo Bank, Budweiser Beer and ASICS Running Shoes.

Budweiser's sponsorship includes national advertising and promotion of the race as one of 40 major road races in the country, along with entertainment events on site on race day. ASICS, one of the largest running shoe retailers in the world, is providing financial assistance and the bibs for the event. The bib colors are the same, but will have a somewhat different layout. CCARC is considered to be a Contributing Sponsor, because of our long standing volunteer support and involvement.

We will be putting the assignments together about mid-May and will try to get them to you as soon as we can. Monitor the Tuesday night net as the race approaches for further updates.

de Bob K7HLN

Montana Section Manager

News last updated: Sun, April 3, 2005 Thanks to all who work so hard to make our traffic nets function. We have several ops who make time daily to meet the incoming traffic nets and take msg traffic for MT. It takes dedication and some skill to handle traffic for us. IMN is a CW only net and meets at 0300Z every night on 3647 khz. Drop bye and see how it's done. Listen and get the hang of their operation then check in and be "there" for us. I said it before...we need more EC's in MT. This appointment takes some skill in working with people and the different groups we deal with as "customers" out there in our state and local areas. It's a challenging job and requires a monthly report
Thanks to all 73 Doug, K7YD

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

CW Forever and Ever



Jim Hatherley, WAITBY SK

You must have, at times, thought into the past,
Where some things go out, while others last.
What comes to my mind is the Old Morse Code,
That has weathered the storms from any abode.

To talk with one's fingers is surely an art,
Of any info you care to impart,
In most conditions the signals get through,
While the same about phone is simply not true.

Those dits and dabs cut through the trash,
Of nearby noise or lightning's crash,
To the sensitive ears of the ham receiver,
Who records this data with ardent fever.

He knows he's doing something unique,
(in such poor conditions, that's quite a feat!)
To roger the message that came off the air,
These brass pounders sure do have that flair.

They say Morse ops are a dying breed,
But dot despair, there's always that need,
That when conditions get rough fir the new
automation,
Be rest assured there'll be need for your station.

CW is dying? believe it never,
This mode will be `round fir ever and ever,
But one thing is sure, that we really need,
Is to relay our knowledge to the younger breed.

To carry the torch, long after we're gone.
To send Morse Code through the air like a song.
When at last, Silent Keys pull that final lever,
We can rest in peace, ifs CW forever.

Morse Tips & Quips



"IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO START
LEARNING MORSE CODE!"

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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)

Glacier Waterton Hamfest Items...

The deadline for early registration is fast approaching. If you need an extra registration form, hit the website at <http://www.gwhamfest.org> Better yet, invite a friend who hasn't been to hamfest. Send your ham friends in the Northwest an e-mail or note inviting them.

Prizes:

The prize committee is doing a fine job of soliciting and buying prizes. We have received a donation of two Icom IC-V8 handhelds from Icom, and a Icom IC-718 All Band HF Transceiver and UT-106 DSP receive unit from Ben Grace of Bandhopper (www.bandhopper.com).

We look forward to seeing you in July!
On behalf of your directors,
de Tim KD7JZ

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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