

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

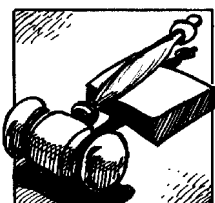
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

June 2005

From The Pres...

By the time you read this, chances are the club's participation at Governor's Cup will be over. I'd like to thank everyone who participated in this yearly event, and I'd especially like to thank Bob, K7HLN for his service in organizing the club's participation in this event over the past few years. Because of his leadership, our participation in this event has progressed to the point where it operates like clockwork each year.



While I am handing out sincere compliments, I'd like to mention that I had the opportunity to look over the work that Clark, ND7A has done to the Club's trailer. I am very impressed. All the windows have been re-sealed and it looks like the water leak

around the front window which has plagued us for years is finally gone. He also fixed several other problems that he found and improved the cable entry system.

.(Cont. P.2 PRES)

JUNE MEETING

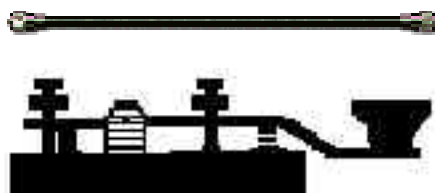
Monday

June 6

Salvation Army
Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.



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Board of Directors

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- 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)

Overall, the MCU is in better shape than it has been for a long time. Thank you, Clark.

Moving right along, we've got Field Day coming up the weekend of June 25th. Without stealing too much thunder from the Field Day committee, I will say that they have made reservations for both Friday and Saturday night at the Quigley group use area on MacDonal pass. I am excited to see Field Day return to this traditional site and from what I have heard, it sounds like this is going to be the best Field Day we've had in a long time. However, volunteers are needed to help with quite a few items, so please contact either Ci (WU7R), Rich (KC7VVZ) or Dave (YA7FF) to find out how you can help. I'm sure there will be more discussion on this at the meeting.

Planning is proceeding on the K7L/C special event station for July. It sounds like we'll be operating as a club during the Corps II event approximately July 9th through July 17th. In addition, there will be an opportunity for club members to operate with their own call sign from locations within Lewis & Clark County as part of the event. Look in this space next month for more details.

While I'm mentioning events, I will mention the Glacier Waterton Hamfest, July 15-17 th. More details are on the hamfest site at <http://www.gwhamfest.org>. I've been several years in the past and will probably have skip this year due to my already-hectic summer schedule, but I know many club members are planning to attend. This is a really fun time for all.

And finally, because of the amount of discussion I expect the above items and others to take during the club meeting, our program will be dedicated to business items related to these events. I expect to start having non-business programs again during our July or August meetings.

I think that's all for now.

73's

Forrest
AC7DE

ARES Notes...

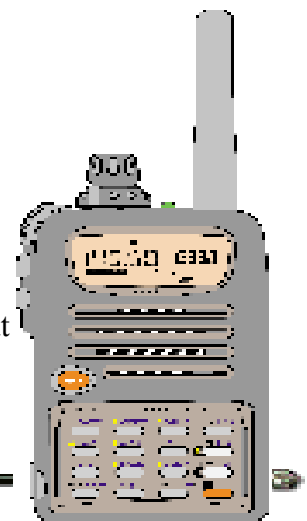
This is being written a week before the Governor's Cup Races, so we should have another successful event in the books about the time you are reading this. The number of ham operators this year will be slightly less than 2004. We have 30 hams and two "no-call" family members signed on as volunteers. Thanks to all who give of their time and equipment to help with the race communications. I will have a summary of race statistics at the club meeting.

I will also have more information about "Last Chance One", the WMD exercise coming up in June. We will have gate passes into the vehicle display area for the operators who signed up at the last club meeting. Dave WA7YFF, will be with the MCU at the Airport for all three days and Bruce KD7UAF will be at the County EOC for two of the days of the drill. They will both need assistance and breaks every once in a while. If you signed up to help and can free up some time, please do so. There will be lot of nifty toys to check out at the airport!

I will also have an update, of sorts, on the Lewis and Clark activities as they may affect us. Right now we are a back-up communication resource. The big puzzle for all of the agencies involved is trying to guess what numbers of people to expect. The response is much less than originally expected, but could pick up as events come on line. The impact of out of state tourists appears to be much less than planned for originally.

Please monitor the .82 repeater and check into the Tuesday night net. We will use the net as a vehicle to get information to you about what is happening.

73.. Bob K7HLN



From The Editor

As was previously said a couple of times, this is being written before Governor's Cup. This is my second year participating with the race and am excited to be a part of it. I very much enjoyed last year and this year should be even better since I have on "under my belt" now. I encourage you to get involved in Ham Radio activities. There are so many different facets of Ham Radio. Even one for you! Field Day is always a blast, get involved. How about an antenna raising party as featured in this issue. Then there is Glacier-Waterton Hamfest. It is a must. How about "on air" activities. If you have listened to the net on Tuesday night, you could "feel" the excitement from K7MT and K7HLN over their 6 and 2 meter activities. Fill your summer activities with Ham Radio. It's FUN!

God bless you all. I hope to see you at field day or the hamfest.

73,

John



Montana Section Manager

It's been a busy month for your Section Manager, I've had some issues to deal with that have taken a large part of my time. I appreciate your patience.

The Billings club spent a busy weekend in support of the annual Peaks to Prairie race from Red Lodge to Billings. The event was well attended by local Amateurs and sounds like everyone had a great time.

Additionally, the Broadview area was the scene of a mock disaster drill. Billings again responded and was there for communications support, although as it turned out, there wasn't much for them to accomplish.

The Bozeman club held one of their fine license classes a while back and had some successful candidates. One was the Park County DES Coordinator, who received the call KE7DHX. The classes consist of a weekend of study with Jack, N7ODN in charge, a week of review at home and then testing the following Saturday. The club has had many pass the tests and move on into the hobby. A great job done in Bozeman!

The Annual Father's Day Picnic is to be held this year at Fort Peck. Always a great group there, be sure and attend if you can. Contact Loren, AA7MT for details.

73 all

Doug, K7YD

For Sale...

Astron RS 35 M, 35 amp power supply with volt and amp meters. Excellent condition \$100.00



Dentron Super Tuner 160 - 10 meter antenna tuner rated at 1 KW. \$50.00

Microcraft Morse-a-Word CW reader and Morse-A-Keyer keyboard. Make offer.

Contact John Geach KS7R, 442-7107 for more information.



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

It's Antenna Party Season

Shown here is a photo from the recent antenna party at Dick Munro's house. Note the near ground level placement of the antenna and tower for safe assembly. The real scary part, for which there are no pictures, was the folding ladder on the roof of the garage with certain person, or persons, making final adjustments to the antenna. The antenna and rotator worked right from the start, which was good. The high point of the day was the lunch that Molly put together for the troops. It was superb!



Participants shown, in clockwise order from the top, were Ci WU7R, Dave WA7YFF, Dick W7RJM, John KC7WLK, Rich, KC7VVZ, and Dwight KC7ZPK. Photo was taken by Bob K7HLN



CW PROCEDURE

Sometime back, someone asked me if I knew of a source that explained a typical CW QSO. I'm not sure where I dug this up but hope it is helpful.

John K7JM Editor

The best **cw** operator observes certain operating procedures regarded as "standard practice," as follows:

1) **Calls.** A short, snappy call is usually the most effective. Standard practice for years has been the "three by three," that is the station being called three times followed by the called station three times, thus: W0DX W0DX W0DX DE W1AW W1AW W1AW AR. But much depends on the circumstances. In a contest, a "one by one" may be more effective. The general principle is to *keep it short*, so as not to clutter up the air with unnecessary QRM.

CQ. One hears many stations calling CQ over and over without signing. Three CQs followed by one or two identifications repeated not more than three times should be sufficient under any circumstances. Use a general CQ *only* when you are willing to work any station who answers you. Listen on the frequency first; don't plop on a QSO in progress.

The directional CQ: The best way to find some specific state, country or place is to *listen* and *call* when what you are looking for is heard. Directional or selective CQs usually just cause unnecessary interference. However, occasionally they

work, and it is preferable to call a selective CQ than to call a general one and not answer if the station replying is not what you want.

Example: A station looking for Vermont might call: CQ VT CQ VT CQ VT DE W4IA W4IA W4IA K. Keep such calls short. Repeat frequently if no results. And remember, always *listen* first to avoid causing QRM.

Hams who do not raise stations readily may find that their sending is poor, their calls ill timed or their judgment in error. When conditions are right to bring in signals from the desired locality, you can call them. Short calls, at about the same frequency, with breaks to listen, will raise stations with minimum time and trouble.

2) **Answering a Call:** Call three times (or less); send DE; sign three times (or less); after contact is established decrease the use of the call signals of both stations to *once only*. When a station receives a call but does not receive the call letters of the station calling, QRZ? may be used. It means "By whom as I being called?" QRZ should not be used in place of CQ.

3) **Ending Signals and Sign-Off:** The proper use of AR, KN, SK and CL ending signals is as follows: AR - — End of transmission. Recommended after call to a specific station before contact has been established.

Example: W6ABC W6ABC W6ABC DE W9LMN W9LMN AR. Also at the end of transmission of a radiogram immediately following the signature, preceding identification.

K — Go ahead (any station). Recommended after CQ and at end of each transmission during QSO when there is no objection to others breaking in.

Example: CQCQCQDE W1ABC W1ABC K or W9XYZ DE W1ABC K.

KN — Go ahead (specific station), all others keep out.

Recommended at the end of each transmission during a QSO, or after a call, when calls from other stations are not desired and will not be answered.

Example: W4FGH DE EL4A KN.

SK — End of QSO or communication. Recommended before signing *last* transmission at end of a QSO.

Example: SK W8KNB DE W5BCD.

CL I am closing station. Recommended when a station is going off the air, to indicate that it will not listen for any further calls.

Example: SK W7H1J DE W2JKL CL.

4) *Testing:* When it is necessary to make test signals on the air they should continue for not more than ten seconds and must be identified by your call letters. Avoid excessive testing, but *always* listen before using any frequency for this purpose. Use a dummy load if possible.

5) *Receipting* for conversation or traffic: Never receipt for a transmission until it has been entirely received. "R" means *only* "transmission received as sent." Use R only *when all* is received correctly.

6) *Repeats:* When part of a transmission is lost, a call should be followed by correct abbreviations to ask for repeats. When a few words on the end of a transmission are lost, the *last word received correctly* is given after "?AA, meaning "all after." When a few words at the beginning of a transmission are lost, "?AB for "all before" a stated word should be used. The quickest way to ask for a fill in the middle of a transmission is to send the last word received correctly, a question mark, then the next word received correctly. Or send "?BN [word] and [word]

Do not send words twice (QSZ) unless it is requested. Send single. Do not fall into the bad habit of sending double *without a request* from fellows you work. Don't say "QRM" or "QRN" when you mean "QRS."

General Practices

Here are a few recommended general practices to make your CW operating more proficient:

1) Use the "double dash" or "break" sign (BT) to separate thoughts or sentences in a rag chew, instead of punctuation.

2) Make full use of CW abbreviations to shorten transmissions. *Avoid such* inanities as "over to you" and "how copy?" on cw. They are unnecessarily long and HW? says the same thing.

3) Use the letter R in place of a decimal or a colon in time designations. (E.g., 3R5, MHz, 2R30 PM.)

4) "Break in" is helpful in all cw operation. Being able to hear the other station between the spaces in your sending enables him to "break" you if he is not receiving you, thus preventing "blind" transmission. It also enables you to hear a called station if he comes back to someone else, preventing unnecessary calling.

5) "Swing" in sending is *not* the mark of a good operator. Send evenly, *watch your spacing*. It is very easy to get into the habit of running your words together. Correct your errors; the other guy is no mind reader.

6) A long dash can be used for a zero in casual ragchewing, but avoid it in call letters and formal messages.

7) It is good practice to repeat unusual words and things you want to make sure the other operator receives. A question mark after a word means that you intend repeating it.

8) Be sure you identify as required by FCC regs.

Good Sending

Assuming that an operator has learned sending properly, and comes up with a precision "fist" —not fast, but clean, steady, making well-formed rhythmical characters and spacing beautiful to listen to — he then becomes subject to outside pressures to his own possible detriment in everyday operating. He will want to "speed it up" because the operator at the other end is going faster, and so he begins, unconsciously, to run his words together or develops a "swing."

Perhaps one of the easiest ways to get into bad habits is to do too much playing around with special keys. Too many operators spend only enough time with a straight key to acquire "passable" sending, then subject their newly-developed "fists" to the entirely different movements of bugs, side-swipers, electronic keys, or

ruination of what might have become a very good "fist."

Think about your sending a little. Are you satisfied with it? You should not be — ever. Nobody's sending is perfect, and therefore *every* operator should continually strive for improvement. Do you ever run letters together --- like Q for MA, or P for AN — especially when you are in a hurry? Practically everybody does at one time or another. Do you have a "swing"? Any recognizable "swing" is a deviation from perfection. Strive to send like tape sending; copy a W1AW Bulletin and try to send it with the same spacing using a local oscillator on a subsequent transmission.

Check your spacing in characters, between characters and between words occasionally. A visual recording of your fist will show up your faults as nothing else will. Practice the correction of faults.

Using Break-In

The technical requirements for cw break-in are detailed elsewhere in this *Handbook* (see Chapter 11). Once this part of it is accomplished, the full advantages of break-in operation can be realized. Unnecessarily long calls are avoided, QRM is reduced, more communication per hour can be realized. Brief calls with frequent short pauses for reply can approach (but not equal) break-in efficiency.

With break-in, ideas and messages to be transmitted can often be pulled right through the holes in the QRM and QRN. "Fills" are unnecessary. Neither operator need send for any period of time without being copied. Once you get used to it, break-in is a "must."

In traffic-handling circles, the station without break-in is considered at best an indifferent traffic-handling station. But even in day-to-day QSOing, break-in can be a great advantage.

In calling, the transmitting operator sends the letters "BK" at intervals during his call so that stations hearing the call may know that break-in is in use and take advantage of the fact. *He pauses at intervals* during his call, to listen for a moment for a reply. If the station being called does not answer, the call can be continued.

With a tap of the key, the man on the receiving end can interrupt (if a word is missed). The other operator is constantly monitoring, awaiting just such directions. It is not necessary that *you* have perfect facilities to take advantage of break-in when the stations you work are break-in-equipped. After an invitation to *break* is given (and at each pause) press your key — and contact can start *immediately*.

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!

First Class Mail