

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

January 2006



PRES SAYS...

DAVE WHITE, WA7YFF

First and foremost I must thank everyone who voted

for me and apologize to those who didn't. Regardless of who you did or didn't vote for, I hope and trust that we will all work hard to improve this already great club.

President Christian (Ret.) started his tenure wisely with a list of proposed improvements he presented to us over time for our consideration.

I, too, have some ideas and goals that I will present. My first idea was actually the last one on Forrest's list, and that is to visit the by-laws to determine if there is any need for updates or improvements. I'll propose that this be discussed in committee rather than by the rank and file. In this way, I hope to keep the meetings short and have more time for "eye-ball QSO's" after the meetings.

Perhaps the biggest hope I have is to increase active membership. If we can get just half of our members to show up at the same meeting, we will have doubled our attendance. But, we need to give ourselves a reason to show up! To that end, I suggest we find another location in which to meet. A place that is handicapped accessible is a must; fresh coffee and donuts would be a

big plus; Saturday morning access would make it perfect. (Hey, I can dream, can't I?)

Todd N7JQW, has set up a new web site at our old address, www.W7TCK.org. You folks have got to check this out. There are message boards, a page for pictures, news and upcoming events, past news letters, buy/sell sections and more! This is a great place to list all of our old 'stuff' so we can buy some new 'stuff'. Give our fellow

members a chance to buy it before it goes on eBay.

Please bring to the meeting . . .

. . . someone who hasn't shown up for a while, or, better yet, an old ham who would be a new member.

. . . an idea for a program/project

. . . an idea for increasing



Board of Directors

President:

Dave White,
WA7YFF

Vice President:

Tod Glenn,
N7JQW

Secretary:

Rich Weddle,
N7GC

Treasurer:

John Geach,
KS7R

Newsletter

Editor:

John McDougall,
K7JM

Training:

John Geach,
KS7R

Technical:

Don Heide,
W7MRI

Volunteer Exam

Team Leader:

John Geach,
KS7R

www.w7tck.org

Table of Contents

Pres Says.....	1
ARES Notes.....	2
From The Editor.....	3
Dues for 2006.....	3
Hot Links.....	4
Easy HT accessories.....	4
Kids Day.....	4
NorthWest Director SK.....	5
Area Silent Keys.....	5
January 2006 Meeting January 2.....	6

participation

... a possible new location for our monthly meetings

... something to brag about (a new piece of equipment, and old one, a resent DX contact, a new QSL card), anything to share that exemplifies to you what is enjoyable about ham radio.

I have committed to having a great year. Care to join us? I love Ham Radio.

Your Servant, Dave WA7YFF

ARES NOTES...

BOB SOLOMON, K7HLN

As we begin a new year, it is time to mark the calendar for those events that are a big part of our local ham radio activities. Be sure to mark the date for the regular club meeting, which is the first Monday of each month. If it is a holiday, then the meeting will be the following Monday. One of the first things happening is the class for new hams, starting January 17. John Geach KS7R is the coordinator and lead instructor. Contact him if you are interested in helping with the nine week class.

Saturday, June 3 is the date for the Governor's Cup this year. We have been a major supporter of this event for many years. We can use as many ham operators as wish to volunteer to provide communications from aid stations, at Race Control near the Civic Center, and at the Finish Line on Park Street. We will be asking for volunteers about six weeks before the race. We can also use the help of non-ham family members or friends, as well.

An important date to reserve is Field Day, the fourth full weekend in June,. That's when hams throughout North America conduct 24 hour field operations under simulated emergency conditions. Our site hasn't been set for this year, but there are several locations that could provide for some interesting operating conditions. Early in July, Lewis and Clark Bicentennial events will take place in the Lincoln area and along the Continental Divide. These activities will be along the return route of the expedition and are expected to generate quite a bit of interest. I am sure we will be asked to assist with back-up communications, as we were this past year.



July 14th through the 16th is the annual Glacier-Waterton Hamfest, held just outside of Glacier National Park at Mountain Meadow RV Park. There are a lot of things to do, including fox hunts, seminars, a flea market for swapping, selling, and buying radio gear, as well as just visiting and relaxing. There are several events focused around food, including a hamburger fry, a barbecue, and a great Sunday morning breakfast. And that doesn't even begin to take into account the fun and food that the Helena group has in our camping area.

Some things that we cannot schedule. We should be prepared to be activated for emergency or back-up communications any time of the year, whether here in Montana, or elsewhere around the country. We are a component of the county's emergency response plan and can be asked to respond at any time. There may be drills and exercises, as well as floods, wildland fires, and other emergencies. And has been the case in recent years, we may also be asked to assist with a bicycle or running

event that we had not thought about.

Hopefully, we are ready, or nearly so. Only time will tell. Happy New Year.. de Bob K7HLN

FROM THE EDITOR...

JOHN MCDUGALL, K7JM

Happy New Year! I hope and pray that you had a very Merry Christmas and that you will have a great New Year. First, you may notice that the newsletter has a different format. I thought it would be a nice fresh change, but has so far has been very frustrating as the program I use to do this newsletter is not exactly free of bugs and strange anomalies. So, you may see different changes during the next months, or might see the old format suddenly re-appear. Please, bear with me.

Did the new year bring any new toys to anyone? As our new president suggested, bring something to the club meeting this Monday and show it off. Most who read this newsletter realize what a scrounge I am, and am always looking for bargains. Part of my Christmas presents this year (last year now!) was an old Tektronix 7704A oscilloscope. I acquired this scope for 50 bucks! It has 4 trace capability with a bandwidth of 100 Mhz. Currently these scope are running used for about \$395 plus and new were most likely thousands. Mine also came with the roll around scope stand. The scope is LARGE though and will most likely not make it to the club meeting.

Another gift I got for Christmas, was a butane powered soldering iron. I use one

of these at my job and it is so handy, I decided I needed one for myself. It heats up quickly and will do most any outdoors soldering job the Ham is likely to encounter. Have you ever drug your extension cords out to install your mobile rig, or set up your antenna, only to find after all that work, your iron doesn't have enough umph to compete with the cool weather or wind? This small portable butane iron does.

No new rigs were in my stocking this year. I need to concentrate on getting my shack built before I start wishing for a new rig.



I hope you are ready to have a great fun filled Ham Radio new year. Explore that new mode that you have been interested in, build that new project that you have been eying, upgrade to that new class of license you have been wanting, learn the Morse code that has been so elusive, come to a Ham Fest that everyone has

been talking about, participate in a volunteered event like Governor's Cup that will make you feel great by helping others, help teach that class that you want your buddy to attend, then be an Elmer to that buddy to guide him/her along, participate in emergency communications for that disaster that may happen, decide to finally have a go-bag ready before that disaster happens. Have a wonderful Ham Radio filled year.

73 and God bless you all in 2006,

John, K7JM – Editor

Dues for 2006

Dues are only \$20 a year. Get them in early and support YOUR Capital City Amateur Radio Club

**Capital City
Amateur Radio Club**

**Capital City
Amateur Radio
Club**

HOT LINKS

DAVE WHITE, WA7YFF

"Hot Links! Get your Hot Links here!"

If you would like to see a web cam of my ham desk, complete with audio. Good for letting a newbie see and hear what it looks like. Let me know and can arrange to be there calling some CQ's.
<http://206.127.115.144:8080/>

Satellite status - www.amsat.org/amsat-new/satellites/status.php

US repeaters - www.artscipub.com/repeaters/

If you have any links you would like to share, post them to the boards on www.W7TCK.org, or email them to the newsletter editor at jdmcdougall@juno.com

EASY HT ACCESSORIES

BILL MCGUIRE, N7MSI

Ok now that Santa brought you a new HT or you just want to help out your old HT here is two easy tips.

Use Digital Camera Universal Screen Protectors on the screen of your HT. I got mine at Staples. These screen protectors prevent scratching, wear and damage. These also reduce screen glare and enhance view. The protectors have a mild adhesive on one side that will not leave any residue and are very easily

trimmed with a single edged razor blade for a costume invisible fit.

There is no reason to spend big bucks for a HT case. Use a digital camera case. They are small and often have an accessory pocket that can easily hold an extra battery. Most have double zippers to allow the antenna and a speaker mike cord to stick out when zipped up both sides. Provide protection and security for your new HT at an affordable price.

73,N7MSI

KIDS DAY

WWW.ARRL.ORG

NEWINGTON, CT, December 22, 2005--

The second Sunday in January is the day to turn your shack over to the kids for some ham radio fun with a purpose. The first running of Kids Day 2006 begins

Sunday, January 8, at 1800 UTC and continues until 2400 UTC with no limit on operating time (the second Kids Day will be Saturday, June 17).



K7JM and his harmonics on Kids Day

Call "CQ Kids Day." The suggested exchange for Kids Day contacts is first name, age, location and favorite color. It's okay to work the same station more than once if the operator has changed. Suggested frequencies are 14.270-14.300, 21.380-21.400 and 28.350-28.400 MHz. Contacts via VHF repeaters are okay too, with permission from the repeater owner. Observe third-party traffic restrictions when making DX QSOs.

All participants are eligible to receive a colorful certificate, which becomes the youngster's personalized "sales brochure" for ham radio. The League asks everyone taking part in Kids Day to complete a short survey and post comments afterward. Doing this provides access to download the certificate page, or participants can send a 9x12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Boring Amateur Radio Club, PO Box 1357, Boring, OR 97009.

NORTHWEST DIRECTOR SK

WWW.ARRL.ORG

NEWINGTON, CT, Dec 19, 2005--
ARRL Northwestern Division Director Greg E. Milnes, W7OZ (ex-W7AGQ), of Hillsboro, Oregon, died December 17. He was 66. Milnes reportedly had suffered a heart attack a day earlier while returning home from a trip.

"It's a great sadness that we all feel here at the League at the passing of Greg Milnes, our Northwestern Division Director," ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, said today. "I've worked with Greg for a number of years, and I know he was conscientious and tried to do the best for Amateur Radio, and it's going to be a real loss on our Board of Directors."



ARRL Northwestern Division Director Greg Milnes, W7OZ, SK.

AREA SILENT KEYS

DOUG, K7YD-SECTION MANAGER

October has been a tough month for MT Amateurs. We lost two Hams, both of whom were a large part of the activities in our state. Darryl Thomas, N7KOR of Great Falls, passed away from the complications of cancer early in the month. He was the Section Manager for MT for several years. Darryl was also instrumental in the Glacier Hamfest, and served on the board for multiple terms. His contributions on all fronts will be missed. In addition, Ben Grace, WA7BEF from Clancy, passed two weeks ago from cancer. Ben participated in the traffic nets and RACES. He also was designer/manufacturer of the "Band Hopper" mobile antennas. His technical ability was unsurpassed, and he was always available to take on a challenging problem for anyone who would ask. Benny was a fine gentleman and is missed by all of us. Doug, K7YD

Capital City
Amateur Radio Club

Capital City
Amateur Radio
Club



Capital City Amateur Radio Club
W7TCK
Helena Montana USA
www.w7tck.org



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.

**January 2006 Meeting
Monday, January 2
Salvation Army
Church
1905 Henderson
7:00 PM**



**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