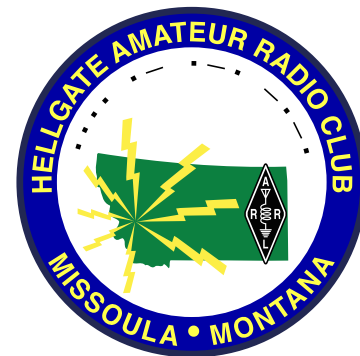


THE HELLGATE



STATIC

SEASONS GREETINGS



December 2009

National Weather Service/ARRL SKYWARN Recognition Day: December 5

The 11th annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) will take place this year on Saturday, December 5. Radio amateurs will operate from many National Weather Service (NWS) offices around the United States. The purpose of the event is to recognize Amateur Radio operators for the vital public service they perform during times of severe weather and to strengthen the bond between radio amateurs and their local National Weather Service office. The event is cosponsored by the American Radio Relay League and the National Weather Service.



Traditionally, hams have assisted the National Weather Service during times of severe weather by providing real-time reports of severe events and storm evolution. The assistance that radio amateurs provide to the NWS throughout the year is invaluable.

SKYWARN Recognition Day this year will be held from 0000 UTC to 2400 UTC on Saturday, December 5, 2009. (5 pm Friday to 5 pm Saturday MST) To learn more, check the NOAA Web site. <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mtr/hamradio/> -- Steve Ewald, WV1X, Supervisor, Field Organization Team

In Western Montana, this event will be held at the Missoula Weather Forecast Office, 6633 Aviation Way in Missoula, Montana. The call sign is WX7MSO.

Object For all amateur stations to exchange QSO information with as many National Weather Service Stations as possible on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6, and 2 meter bands plus the 70 centimeter band. Contacts via repeaters are permitted. SKYWARN™ Recognition Day serves to celebrate the contributions to public safety made by amateur radio operators during threatening weather.



SKYWARN

Exchange: Call sign, signal report, QTH, and a one or two word description of the weather occurring at your site ("sunny", "partly cloudy", "windy", etc.).

Modes: NWS stations will work various modes including SSB, FM, AM, RTTY, CW, and PSK31. While working digital modes, special event stations will append "NWS" to their call sign (e.g., NOA/NWS).

Event and QSL Information: The National Weather Service will provide event information via the internet. Event certificates may be requested from: SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Road, Goodland, KS 67735. Simply enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope with a list of NWS stations worked.

If you would like to operate at the local NWS Skywarn station, or you would like to ask questions, please contact Jerry, N7GE or Elmer Wg7P. Jerry can be contacted at jehli@modernmachinery.com or call (406) 239-2223., Elmer can be contacted at elmerm@hughes.net or call (406) 240-8685.

Events Calendar

December 4 th - 5 th	National Weather Service Skywarn Operating Event
December 14th	HARC Christmas Party at the Eagles Lodge - The Eagles Lodge will open at 5 pm for the club meeting and dinner. (No VEC testing this evening)
December 25 th	Christmas Day
December 31 st	ARRL Straight Key Night
January 1 st	New Year's Day
January 11th	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm.
1 st & 3 rd Sundays	Montana Races Net, 3.947 MHz at 8:00 am http://www.mtraces.org/
Saturday	Montana QCWA net, 3.935 MHz at 8:30 am
Daily	Montana Traffic Net, 3910 kHz at 6:30 pm MDT (00:30 GMT) http://montanatrafficnet.com/
Every Sunday	ARRL Montana Section HF Information Net, 3880 kHz at 8:00 am
Every Tuesday	Coffee at Arby's South, 2:00 pm, give a shout on 147.04 MHz to see if we are meeting.
Every Wednesday	HARC VHF Net meets at 147.04 MHz (+offset) at 9 pm
Every Saturday	"Ham" breakfast, Lucky Strike Casino Restaurant, 7:00 am

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club is a 501(c)3 not for profit organization. Information concerning Tax Deductible donations of funds or equipment, or donations of any other kind, should be addressed to:
Hellgate Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 3811
Missoula, MT 59808-3811

Meetings held 2nd Monday of each month, 7:00 pm at Missoula Fire Station #4, 3011 Latimer off of West Broadway near Quality Supply. HARC members have a chance to win the Door Prize.
You must be present to win!

Visit our web site at <http://www.w7px.org/>

Club Officers & Volunteers

Elmer, WG7P elmerm@hughes.net
President

Bill, W4YMA billfarrell@hotmail.com
Vice President

Mike, KE7IZG .. michael.leary@umontana.edu
Secretary

Jerry, N7GE n7ge@bresnan.net
Treasurer

Liz, WG7E lizm@montana.com
Membership

Bob, N7MSU n7msu@arrl.net
Awards

Vick, K7VK k7vk@arrl.net
Exams VE Contact

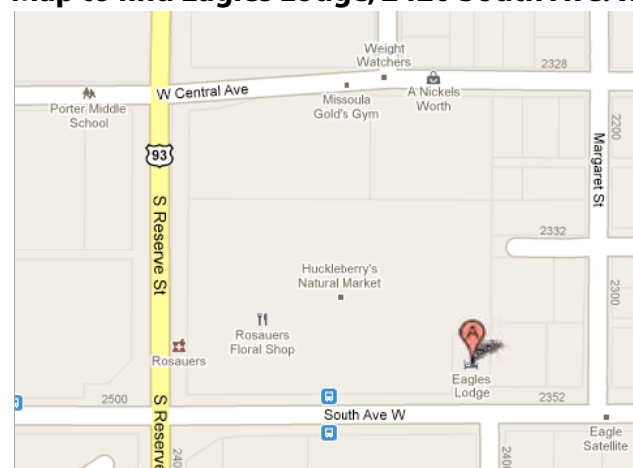
Mike, AE7MH ae7mh@arrl.net
December Newsletter (rotates monthly)

Mike, KE7IZG .. michael.leary@umontana.edu
Webmaster

Repeater Committee

Bill, W4YMA billfarrell@hotmail.com
Eric, NZ7S nz7s@msn.com
Byron, NN8A arl3051@wildblue.net
Paul, N7PAS n7pas@bresnan.net
Donnie, W7XY fort@montana.com

Map to find Eagles Lodge, 2420 South Ave. W.



Bob, N7MSU won the November meeting prize wire clipper, wire clamps, and an EXACTO knife set

Montana Section News

From Doug, K7YD

Montana is enjoying a long Indian Summer, be sure to get out and enjoy it before Winter returns and we're stuck in the house for a few months. Holiday season is almost upon us, hope you can take time to enjoy the company of friends and family at this time of year.

Patti, KE7VDN and I visited the "Bean Feed" put on by Todd, AE7V and his XYL at their home in Worden, MT, last weekend. Amateurs attended the gathering from all over the Eastern part of our state. It was a great time and enjoyable to meet new hams and those we haven't seen in a while.

Thanks to Todd and Natalie.

I'd like to again ask all amateurs in MT to read and understand the paper by ARRL on "Appropriate Use" posted on the League website. It has been made clear by FCC what is acceptable and what isn't. Keep in mind that working outside the guidelines of Part 97 may expose you to an enforcement action and possible forfeiture of funds, should the offense be judged as serious enough. I believe there will be further actions by FCC in the future that may clear up some of the confusion, but until there are changes we should follow Part 97 as written.

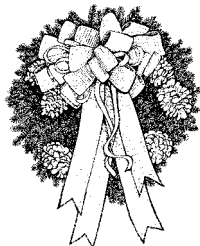
Grounding in many Amateur stations is poor or even nonexistent. We must remember that one ground rod with a single #12 stranded wire attached isn't sufficient to protect our equipment from a surge or static discharge near your station. Use of a "ground source" made up of 3 or 4 8 foot rods driven close to each other and wired or strapped together with large copper (not aluminum!) conductors is necessary to provide needed protection. Clamps can be used, but "exothermic" also known as "Cad Weld" techniques are lower resistance and require no maintenance. Wire from your equipment location with heavy gauge copper wire or strap (an inch wide is sufficient in most cases). Stranded wire exhibits reactance to high peak current flows and shouldn't be used. Even a network of copper wire buried in the ground near the station location would be of tremendous help in dissipating a large surge. The trick here is to keep the surge away from the station area and pass it to ground quickly. Ground towers at their bases, coax braids and even look at discharge devices on your rotator cables. Check out Polyphaser's website and information pages for further background, there's a wealth of good advice there.

ARRL CW Sweepstakes were held last weekend. I hope many of you got a chance to join in on the fun. Phone Sweepstakes come up shortly, so get ready for some more action. It's an easy contest, just work as many as you can. Check out page 95 in the November QST for more info.

Thanks to all

73

Doug



Hellgate ARC Elections - 2010

From Vick, K7VK

The Hellgate ARC nominating committee recommended the following nominations for 2010 at the November meeting.

President	Elmer Myers	WG7P
Vice President	Eric Sedgwick	NZ7S
Secretary	Michael Henry	AE7MH
Treasurer	Jerry Ehli	N7GE

(Vote for 2)

Repeater Committee	Kevin Goffe	KE7WR
Repeater Committee	Paul Shuey	N7PAS
Repeater Committee	Donnie Fort	W7XY

The committee, K7VK Vick and N7MSU Bob found the task easy this year as nominees were willing to serve the Hellgate ARC. Thanks to them all for their enthusiastic acceptance of this nomination.

The election will be held at the December 14 meeting, the annual Christmas Holiday Party. Additional nominations may be made prior to voting at this meeting.

Many thanks to our current officers for their dedication and contribution of countless hours serving, supporting and administering the activities of the Hellgate ARC.

K7IMZ & K7VK Seniors of the Year

From Vick, K7VK

Missoula Aging Services recently selected K7IMZ Jerry Nelson and K7VK Vick Applegate to receive Seniors of the Year Awards. The awards "recognize Missoula County seniors who exemplify the contributions older adults make to their community." The presentations were made at a special reception on November 18. Also sponsoring the event were The Mountain Water Company and the Springs at Missoula.

Jerry and Vick were active in the Digital TV volunteer program assisting seniors with the conversion of analog TV to the new digital TV reception. "It involved more fun than work and was rewarding to see folks smile when the new signals came through."

Jerry and Vick became involved with the program when the FCC approached the Hellgate ARC with a proposal to place amateur radio operators with seniors needing assistance. Missoula Aging Services volunteer coordinator, Curtis Hammond is very enthused with volunteers and especially promoted the Hellgate ARC members involvement. Thanks to the Missoula Aging Services and the Hellgate ARC for making this service to older adults possible.

Meeting Attendance

From Elmer, WG7P

HARC 09 RANKING MEETING ATTENDANCE														11-10-09
NAME	CALL	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	GET TO KN U
Ball, Lewis	AC7UZ	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		July 09
Farrell, Bill	W4YMA	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Ap 09
Myers, Elmer	WG7P	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Jan 09
Myers, Liz	WG7E	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x		Sept 09
Fort, Donnie	W7XY	x	x	x	CTYC	x	x	x	x		x	x		
Ehli, Jerry	N7GE		x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x		
Flood, Steve	KK7UV	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x		
Kerr, Kevin	W1KGK		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		
Shuey, Paul	N7PAS	x	x	x	x		x		x	x	x	x		
Stipe, Larry	K7GIS	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x		x		
Black, Bob	K7BA	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x			Feb09
Henry, Michael	AE7MH		x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x			
Leary, Mike	KE7IZG	x	x		x		x	x	x	x	x			Jun 09
Harrington, Jackie	KC7RBC	x		x			x	x	x	x	x	x		
Henderson, Bob	N7MSU		x	x	x	x	x	x				x		
Moore, Kody	KL0RN	x	x			x		x	x	x				
Sedgwick, Eric	NZ7S		x	x		x		x	x			x		
Gleason, Betsy	KF7ECS						x		x	x	x	x		Oct 09
Nelson, Jerry	K7IMZ	x	x	x				x				x		
Schlang, Steve	K7PX	x			x	x	x		x					
Wade, Norman	AE7NW		x	x		x				x	x			
Boxell, Mike	N7WKR					x	x	x				x		
Commons, Andy	KF7CBY		x	x	x		x							Mar 09
Hill, Merrill		x	x			x				x				
VanAlstein, Byron	NN8A	x	x		x	x								
Applegate, Vick	K7VK	x			x		x						x	
Nelson, Craig	KE7NO					x	x				x	x		
Hooper, David	KB1BED	x	x		x									
Lindborg, Dick	W7OHH									x	x	x		
Scott, Ruth	N7FMW	x	x										x	May 09
Boldra, Dan	N7DWB									x	x			
French, Wilmajean	KD7HP									x	x			
Kisselbach, Frank	W7PAQ					x						x		
Bowman, Bob	KJ7XV											x		
Hellen, Tom	K0SN								x					
Collister, Lance	W7GJ												x	
Lee, Greg	NL7WB		x											
TOTALS		19	24	17	17	20	19	17	19	20	22	19		19.4 AVE
		32%	40%	28%	28%	33%	32%	28%	32%	33%	37%	32%		32.3% AVE

As we look at the graph above, maybe our meeting attendance isn't too bad. The title "Ranking" might be misleading in that what we did was list those that attended every meeting up to November, then 10 of the 11 meetings, etc. We currently have 60 paid members and our average meeting attendance was approximately 32%, ranging from 28 to 40%.

During the year we had 37 or our members or 62% attend one or more meetings from January to November. There were 16 members or 27% that attended 6 or more of the 11 meetings. There were 9 or 15% that attended 4 or 5 of the meetings and the remaining 12 or 20% attended at least 1 meeting.

What does all of that mean?? I'm not sure but it is interesting to look at, and when you read information about volunteer organizations it is typically mentioned that about 20% of the members are active and do most of the work. We might be a little above the curve.

If you have ideas or thoughts as to what might make our meetings more interesting or meet the needs of our members, put your thoughts and ideas in an email or note and send to Elmer WG7P at elmerm@hughes.net.

Event Participation

From Elmer, WG7P

2009 EVENT PARTICIPATION

NAME	CALL	Argus Hamfest	Grizzly Triathlon	Grizzly Man Adventure	River Bank Run	YMCA Triathlon	Tour of Swan River Valley	Field Day	W7PX Special Event July 4th	Missoula Marathon	Blackfoot River Cleanup	Boy Scout Jamboree	Ride De Cure	Skywarn recognition	Christmas Party	STATIC
Ball, Lewis	AC7UZ	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X				
Farrell, Bill	W4YMA		X	CHR	X	X	X	X	X	CHR	X					
Myers, Liz	WG7E	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X						
Myers, Elmer	WG7P	X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X						
Henry, Michael	AE7MH	X	X		X		X	X		X	X					X ⁴
Ehli, Jerry	N7GE	X	CHR		CHR	CHR		X								
Schlang, Steve	K7PX		X	X			X	X	X							
Stipe, Larry	K7GIS		X	X	X	X		X								
Sedgwick, Eric	NZ7S	X			X		X			X						
Black, Bob	K7BA		X		X		X									
Fort, Donnie	W7XY						X	X	X							
Boxell, Mike	N7WKR						X	X		X						
Commons, Andy	KF7CBY		X				X		X							X ³
Henderson, Bob	N7MSU				X		X		X							X ²
Leary, Mike	KE7IZG				X		X				X					
Moore, Kody	KL0RN		X		X							X				
Applegate, Vick	K7VK			X	X											X ¹
VanAlstein, Byron	NN8A						X	X								
French, Wilmajeane	KD7HP	X														
Flood, Steve	KK7UV	X														
Gleason, Betsy	KF7ECS							X								
Hooper, David	KB1BED	X														
Kerr, Kevin	W1KGK	X								X						
Kisselbach, Frank	W7PAQ										CHR					
Lee, Greg	NL7WB									X						
McCloskey, Bruce	WB7OTC							X								
Nelson, Craig	KE7NO								X							
Nelson, Gerry	K7IMZ							X								
Reynolds, Dusty	W7DGR							X								
Shuey, Paul	N7PAS										X					
Vugteveen, John	W7KNT	X														
Wade, Norman	AB5CN	X														
Walton, Dick	W7XT	X														
TOTALS		16	11	5	13	6	12	17	7	9	6	5	2			4

CHR = Chairman of the event

Static Newsletter Editors for 2009

- | | | | | | |
|---|-------|----------------|---|--------|--|
| 1 | K7VK | January, May | 3 | KF7CBY | March, April |
| 2 | N7MSU | February, July | 4 | AE7MH | June, August, September, October, November, December |

The above chart shows the various activities that the HARC have been involved with this past year. The chart shows that 18 or 30% of our members participated in at least 3 of our activities. The average for volunteer organizations is 20% participation, so we again are a cut above the average. Thanks to all who help at our events.

December 14th Christmas Party!

From Elmer, WG7P

Remember our Christmas Party coming up on December 14 at the Eagles Lodge. If you haven't made reservations and would like to do so, please contact Elmer at elmerm@hughes.net or 240-8685. If you have made reservations and will not be able to make the party please let Elmer know as well. Remember to bring a Gift Exchange item not to exceed a value of \$10.

The Eagles Lodge is located at 2420 South Avenue, W. in Missoula, MT. See the map on page 2.

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES November 9, 2009 MEETING

MEETING called to order at 7:00 PM by ELMER WG7P

INTRODUCTIONS were made with 19 present

SECRETARIES REPORT—ELMER WG7P — **Motion-Donnie W7XY, 2nd Bill W4YMA** to approve October 12, 2009 minutes as presented— **Motion passed**

TREASURERS REPORT—JERRY N7GE—**Motion Lewis AC7UZ, 2nd Kevin W1KGK** to approve the Treasurer's report as presented—**Motion passed**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP—Liz WG7E—no report

REPEATER—Bill W4YMA—no report

NET OPERATORS—11/11 Kevin W1KGK, 11/18 Paul N7PAS, 11/25 Vick K7VK, 12/2 Betsy KF7ECS, 12/9 Kevin W1KGK

OLD BUSINESS

KEEPING THINGS FUN—Elmer WG7P reminded people that we will keep our meeting fun, informative, and free of negative or personal comments.

STATIC—MONTHLY EDITOR, December= Mike AE7MH THANKS Mike AE7MH for the November Static

Several members again this month expressed appreciation to Mike for the nice job he has done for the past several months.

CHRISTMAS PARTY—Elmer WG7P circulated signup sheet for the December 14 Christmas Party to be held at the Eagle Lodge, behind Rosauers. Menu choices were steak \$10.50, chicken cordon bleu \$9.50 and fried halibut \$8. Contact Elmer for reservations. It was decided by a show of hands that the side would be a baked potato. It was also decided by a show of hands that the Eagles Lodge would be open for us at 5 pm, and our meeting would be at 5:45 and dinner at 6 pm. Election of officers and repeater committee members will take place that evening. Gift exchange (\$10 limit) will take place. Kevin W1KGK volunteered to bring a screen larger than 4 X 4 to the dinner for the program presentation.

BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE—Frank W7PAQ submitted a written report stating that approximately 75 scouts attended this event.

CLUB BUSINESS CARDS—Michael AE7MH—cards are printed but Michael was absent. Each member will receive 10 cards and can receive additional as needed.

AUCTION DONATED ITEMS—Elmer WG7P stated that the items approved at the last meeting will be auctioned off at one of our future meetings.

SKYWARN—Jerry N7GE—Distributed a signup sheet and indicated we were going to operate from 5 pm Friday, December 4, through 5 pm Saturday, December 5. Jerry stated we were going to operate multiple radios using phone, cw, Echolink and IRLP.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—Vick K7VK—Vick stated he and Bob N7MSU were presenting the following nominees for the HARC 2010 officers and repeater committee members; President-Elmer WG7P, Vice President-Eric NZ7S, Secretary-Michael AE7MH, Treasurer-Jerry N7GE, and repeater committee-Donnie W7XY, Kevin KE7WR, and Paul N7PAS. Additional nominations will be asked for at the December meeting/Christmas Party. Elmer stated it would be good to have multiple candidates for the various positions.

OTHER ITEMS—Elmer WG7P stated that there was an Equipment Inventory available for anyone to review, and particularly chair people of our various events.

NEW BUSINESS

IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS TO BE PASSED ON TO 2010 OFFICERS—programs, what could make meeting better, new activities for 2010, problems or issues that should be addressed, goals we might want to consider—what you would be willing to do—send to elmerm@hughes.net Elmer reminded people to give some thought to this and submit as requested

OTHER ITEMS—Bob N7MSU (the old Gatekeeper) presented a certificate to Elmer WG7P for meeting the requirements of the Worked All Hellgate Award. Bob stated Elmer was the second person to receive this award after Vick K7VK.

Bill W4YMA circulated an article on EMP and asked those who would be interested in building a tube radio to sign the back of the article.

PROGRAM— Lance W7GJ presented a slide show concerning his Dxpedition to Rarotonga in the Cook Islands this past summer. It was a great

HARC Meeting Minutes—continued page 7

HARC Meeting Minutes—continued from page 6

presentation showing many of the problems encountered as well as the great success that he had working 6 meters.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ITEMS FOR MONTHLY AGENDA—Elmer WG7P indicated that if you would like an item or topic placed on the agenda please contact him by the Wednesday prior to the meeting. This would give people a heads up rather than be surprised at the meeting.

VETERANS' DAY NOVEMBER 11TH—Elmer asked that we remember and give thanks to the 24 million veterans living in the United States, and all of the men and women that currently serve in the military.

FIRST NIGHT—Jackie KC7RBC stated we would not be participating in First Night this year.

BUY OR SELL—

Elmer stated that we need a microphone for our Icom 706.

Lewis AC7UZ was looking for a #36 radio tube

GOOD OF THE ORDER—Nothing

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING— Bob N7MSU won wire clipper, wire clamps, and an EXACTO knife set

MOTION TO ADJOURN—Motion Jerry N7GE 2nd Donnie W7XY to adjourn—**Motion passed**

Now You Know! - US Call Signs Not Issued by the FCC

If you're an American ham, chances are that your call sign was issued by the Federal Communications Commission. A "no brainer," right? Well, if you're an American ham who happens to be stationed at Guantanamo Bay or at one of the US bases in the Antarctic, your call sign is not issued by the FCC -- it's issued by the base commander. Guantanamo Bay (or Gitmo as it's commonly called) uses the KG4 prefix, followed by a two-letter suffix; this block is reserved exclusively for American hams at Gitmo. As for Antarctica, the Antarctic Treaty, signed on December 1, 1959 (and entered into force on June 23, 1961), established the legal framework for the management of Antarctica, including allocation of amateur call signs; the National Science Foundation received their block on July 1, 1959. US military hams in Japan and Korea are also issued special call signs:

KA2AA-KA9ZZ -- reserved for US Army-authorized amateur stations in Japan.

KC4AAA-KC4AAF -- reserved for the National Science Foundation's use at the South Pole.

KC4USA-KC4USZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at their Antarctic bases.

KG4AA-KG4ZZ -- reserved for US Navy-authorized amateur stations at Guantanamo Bay).

KL9KAA -- KL9KHZ -- reserved for assignment to US personnel stationed in Korea.

The 40 call signs having the first two letters AF, KF, NF or WF and the letters "EMA" following a numeral are available to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The FCC once issued call signs to hams who lived in the Caroline Islands and the Marshall Islands. Even though these entities -- former United Nations Trust Territories -- now have their own sovereignty (and DXCC prefixes), the FCC will not issue call signs in the following blocks:

KC6AA-KC6ZZ -- KC6 was two DXCC entities: The Eastern Caroline Islands and the Western Caroline Islands. The Eastern Carolines became the Federated States of Micronesia (V6) and the Western Carolines became the Republic of Palau (T8).

KX6AA-KX6ZZ -- the former Marshall Islands, now the Republic of the Marshall Islands (V73).

You can find out more on the FCC's Web site.

Now you know!

Youth@HamRadio.Fun: Fall Magic

From Duncan MacLachlan, KU0DM, ARRL Youth Editor

The late months of the year are characterized by football and leaves -- and great times for Amateur Radio. We are weeks into the contest season, with no end in sight. This is also a good time to start experimenting indoors as it cools down outdoors.

Social Networking and Ham Radio -- Part 1

Since the dawn of the Internet, hams have been using the pipes that we now rely on to push their passion for a time-tested hobby. As computers became cheaper, smaller, faster and easier to access the group of those creating and consuming content has grown significantly and continues to grow. With more than 6 billion plugged in worldwide, the Internet has become a vehicle for pushing special interests and reaching a base of interested users.

If there is one thing we have learned since the dawn of Internet, it is that access is more important than interest. For a company or organization to succeed, it is more important to get the name out than it is to create a good product or support a good cause. Publicity equals success; making your company or organization more accessible generates the interest. Many hams have embraced the Internet because of this. I believe it fair to say that the Internet has made our hobby more accessible and generated more interest; however, we continue to scratch our heads about why youth aren't flocking to ham radio.

One look at the young people in ham radio today can throw the idea that we aren't interested "out the window." You have to look at where hams have been pushing our hobby: It's mainly through content on personal Web sites, clubs and organizations -- the list goes on. But what we don't see a lot of is ham radio on social networking sites, such as Facebook.

Before I go much further, let's define "content." On the Internet, anytime you post a picture or write a comment on a blog, you are creating content. If you sign up for your local club's Internet forum and make a post, you just created content and that makes you a producer. Anytime you read something online or view a picture, you are consuming content. You are a consumer as you read this article.

There are a large number of consumers who are ham radio operators, but a small number of producers who are ham radio operators. The publicity that a group or cause gets on the Internet isn't determined by its consumers, but rather the producers. In other words, say chess has 100,000 producers and 400,000 consumers, while Amateur Radio has 50,000 producers and 600,000 consumers. Based on this, chess would be the more public, more accessible hobby.

Another popular Web site, Twitter, is a great example of this. On a Saturday afternoon, "football" is a very popular word. There are many people producing content that has to do with football (usually in the form of short comments), and thus it attracts attention. From there it snowballs; as content is produced and becomes more available, the number of consumers increases. But the number of producers increases as well, because more people thinking about football and making comments about football.

What we as hams can do is sign up for these social networking sites. Join Facebook and Twitter and produce content that has to do with Amateur Radio. The easier it is for someone to accidentally stumble across Amateur Radio, the better chance we have at increasing the number of people that consume Amateur Radio content.

Some hams do this exceptionally well: My editor, ARRL News Editor S. Khrystine Keane, K1SFA, seems to be on Facebook a lot; in fact, it's the best way I know of to get a hold of her (the chat function works really well and is quicker than e-mail). She says she uses it for socializing and ham radio -- most of her Facebook friends are hams, with a few friends from high school and college, as well as sorority sisters and former camp counseling buddies thrown in.

TRY, TRY AGAIN

"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that it won't work."

— Thomas Alva Edison

Lamp Shade UHF/VHF Antenna

By Bob Evans, WB0SVS

This simple low-cost project is a spin-off from my Tri-band Portable/Emergency Antenna known as the "EE-3" that is used by RACES/ARES/Skywarn groups nationwide. It will provide 1.5:1 or less SWR on 2 meters thru 70 cm. This is an easy project for anyone capable of sawing and drilling soft aluminum material. Remember to use low power when using this antenna, in order to minimize RF exposure to yourself and to others around you. For more information on the tri-band EE-3, visit <http://www.ee3.editme.com>.

The lampshade itself becomes the ground plane, performing well when a medium-sized conical shaped shade is used, providing an omni-directional pattern. I have used it for Skywarn spotter reporting during thunderstorms when an outside antenna is risky.

List of Materials

- 1/16" X 1 1/2" X 48" aluminum strip from home improvement or hardware store
- Custom SO-239 with threaded stud obtainable from Gateway Electronics (314) 427-6116 or the author
- Suitable telescopic rod with 3mm female thread (from Gateway Electronics or author)

Construction

- Cut a piece of 1/16" thick aluminum to 1 1/2" by 3 inches*. Drill 1/4" diameter holes on centerline 1/2" from each end. Open one hole to 5/8" with a chassis punch, or file to size.
- Insert custom SO-239 into the hole and drill four attach holes to suit your fasteners. Install fasteners and a suitable telescopic rod.
- Remove the nut from lamp hoop and place the bracket onto stud and replace nut. Connect coax and route it along lamp hoop with a twist-tie to hold it in place. Connect your radio and enjoy!

* may vary with your lampshade

Extend telescopic rod to proper length for the frequency chosen

19 1/4" for 2 meters

12 1/2" for 1 1/4 meters

6 1/4" for 70 cm

For a single band version, use a common SO-239 and solder a 5/32" O.D. brass tube to the stud. For 70 cm trim tube to 6 1/4". For higher frequencies use full 12" length and place a 1/8" O.D. tube inside the 5/32" tube, extend to lengths noted above. Add a brass round head machine screw at top to finish it off.



Signal Makers

Across

- 1. Ant. meas.
- 5. Cousin of 38-across
- 10. Caucasus region prefix
- 14. Part of DE, on phone
- 15. Lid like
- 16. PW1 maker
- 17. Part of 23 across
- 18. Eastern zone-36 prefix
- 19. NA or SA, e.g.
- 20. Encoder, in a way
- 22. Last stage, with 62 across
- 23. Measuring dev.
- 24. W5LFL's employer, once
- 26. SDR part
- 29. Band booking
- 31. RX starter
- 36. Prefix with -band
- 38. Parasitic array

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20				21							22			
			23				24		25					
26	27	28		29		30			31		32	33	34	35
36			37			38	39	40			41			
42					43					44				
45					46						47			
48				49				50	51			52		
				53		54	55		56		57			
58	59	60	61			62		63				64	65	66
67					68						69			
70					71						72			
73					74						75			

- 41. Part of a score, maybe
- 42. Political pundit?
- 45. Apple spray
- 46. Theories
- 47. Lisbon prefix
- 48. Seminal radio textbook author
- 50. Equipment seller
- 52. Homer's neighbor
- 53. Eastern zone-28 prefix
- 56. Dir., for one
- 58. Dit dah doer
- 62. See 22 across
- 67. Tea type
- 68. Dig, so to speak
- 69. Eight in some circles
- 70. HS denizen
- 71. Part of some joints
- 72. Dayton digs

- 73. QSL bureau process
- 74. Put up, as a crank-up, say
- 75. Lodges

Down

- 1. DVM predecessor
- 2. "QSY!"
- 3. "___ Thing"
- 4. Q followers
- 5. JD1 name
- 6. "Get ___!"
- 7. It's a gas
- 8. Probably contains a 41 across
- 9. W5 sect.
- 10. KP4 name
- 11. Harbor vessel
- 12. Turin prefix

- 13. Apache or Cheyenne, e.g.
- 21. Gates' job
- 22. Hole goal
- 25. Span's partner
- 26. Amateur 24 across partner
- 27. Having two parts
- 28. RIT button
- 30. Swindles
- 32. 90 degrees
- 33. Illegal lighting?
- 34. Belfast prefix
- 35. Cut down
- 37. School session
- 39. Ready for firing
- 40. "Gee!"
- 43. Kink companion
- 44. Gut bug

- 49. MI, MO and MT QP mo.
- 51. Give in
- 54. Water walker
- 55. Bratislava prefix
- 57. CD followers
- 58. SB-401, 301, 201 and 101, once
- 59. EME artifact
- 60. Y2K part
- 61. Menu option
- 63. CPU part, abbr.
- 64. EP place
- 65. Take home
- 66. SM-land rugs
- 68. Took the cake, say

WG7P Earns All Hellgate Award

From Bob, N7MSU



At the November 9 club meeting Elmer WG7P received the coveted ALL HELLGATE AWARD. In his presentation, the Gatekeeper N7MSU pointed out that this was quite an achievement, considering only one other ham, Vick K7VK, had been able to garner the award since its initiation in 2007. In accordance with award rules, Elmer had provided the necessary documentation for review by the Gatekeeper in October. Congratulations Elmer!

The All Hellgate Award was established by the club to encourage radio communications with and among HARC members. Among the requirements, the applicant must document QSOs with at least 25 dues-paying members and participation in at least 2 HARC events. Any ham interested in this award, should review the rules in detail on the HARC website and/or discuss them with the Gatekeeper.

Canada Ham Community to Commemorate the 2010 Winter Olympics

Members of the Vancouver Olympics Amateur Radio Group will be activating three special event stations to promote and commemorate the Vancouver Winter Olympic and Para-Olympic Games to be held in February and March of 2010.

The special activity is already under way and will continue through March 2010. Operations will be on all bands and modes. VG7W will operate from December 1st of this year through January 31st of 2010. VG7G takes to the airwaves on February 1st and continuing through March 31st 2010. The Vancouver Olympics Amateur Radio Group says that it will be consolidating all contacts and intends to post them electronically to the ARRL's Logbook to the World. In addition, commemorative paper QSL cards for those who want them will be available at the conclusion of the events in April 2010. Cards received via the QSL Bureau will be returned the same way. In addition to the commemorative operation radio amateurs will also be handling many of the logistics for the games. Word is that most of this will be short range communications on the 1.3 meter or 220 MHz band using FM and numerous local repeaters. (OPDX)

Hellgate ARC Volunteer Examiners to Begin 27th Year

From Vick, K7VK

The amateur radio license volunteer examination program began in Missoula in 1984. Since then, 1088 candidates have been examined. Fifty-six percent have been successful, either upgrading or becoming new licensees. Success under the current license structure is technician, 68%; general 22% and amateur extra, 10%.

Examinations precede each Hellgate ARC meeting. In addition, we can schedule additional examinations for those with special needs or date conflicts. Our examinations schedule, program description and VEs are listed on the W7PX.org website. Contact one of the examiners or Vick, K7VK at (406) 549-0027, if you require a different schedule.

Fees for the each candidate are \$14.00. The fees allow additional examinations to be taken as long as the candidate continues to pass each next level examination. The FCC establishes the fee schedule. Collected fees, less expenses are returned to our Volunteer Exam Coordinator, W5YI-VEC or in a few cases the ARRL-VEC. Reimbursable expenses can be used only for such things as copies, mailing, volunteer examiner (VE) mileage, room rental, etc. Any excess fees must be returned to the National VEC. None of the fees can go to benefit the Hellgate ARC.

Examinations are administered by a minimum of three VEs. Our volunteer program currently has 12 active examiners. Our newest VE is AE7MH, Mike. Over the years our program has included 32 VEs. Several have moved away and sadly, four are silent keys.

Thanks to all the VEs that have contributed to this program and to the Hellgate ARC for its support.



Is amateur Radio important to you? Do you know the threats to our hobby?
JOIN and SUPPORT the ARRL, our greatest advocate for amateur radio.
Become a member today, for more information visit <http://www.arrl.org>



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