



THE HELLGATE STATIC

November 2009

Six-Meter Mountain Top Birthday

By K7VK, Vick

K7PX, Steve and K7VK, Vick recently hauled W7GJ, Lance to Bare Cone Lookout South of Darby for his Birthday celebration (wine and song only as no women would go along). Lance agreed to operate six-meters from this rare grid, DN25, to work K7CW, Paul (also his Birthday) near Seattle. Paul and other stations were anxious to confirm contacts from DN25.

We arrived mid-day at nearly 8,000' and began setting up Lance's not so portable 8-element, 43'-boom, six-meter antenna. The day was beautiful, just ahead of a very windy cold front, upwards of 30 mph. We'd use WSJT7 digital modes of JT65 for ground wave, D-layer skip and moon-bounce, and JT441 for meteor scatter. Solar panels and a 12-volt battery supplied power (barely) for Lance's Elecraft 100-watt radio and laptop computer.

After a couple hours of set up and sight seeing, the musical tones of the digital modes resonated from the laptop. Signals were strong, (a 3-element beam would probably have worked just fine, hee hee). K7CW and other contacts in Arizona, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico & Washington were soon confirmed. Lance almost worked W1JJ on moon-bounce as well, but an unmentionable forgot to plug-in the preamp. Hey, the air is thin at this high altitude.



At sunrise the next morning (yes, the antenna survived the wind), while Steve and I consumed coffee and egg sandwiches, Lance worked stations by bouncing RF signals off meteor trails. Meteor scatter is a rapid-fire mode and the computer screen lit up signal traces and decoded call signs and signals reports in an instant. Amazing.

W7GJ, Lance will be presenting "South Cook Island DXpedition" at the November HARC meeting. He will be available to answer questions regarding these exciting digital modes.

73 & Happy Birthday Lance!

Events Calendar

November 1 st	Daylight Savings Time Ends
November 7 th	Radio Club of America QSO Party http://www.radioclubofamerica.org
November 7 th - 9 th	ARRL November Sweepstakes http://www.arrl.org/contests
November 8 th	High Speed CW Contest http://dl3bzz.de/html/hsscconte.html
November 9th	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm.
November 11 th	Veterans Day
November 26 th	Thanksgiving
December 4 th - 5 th	National Weather Service Skywarn Operating event
December 14th	HARC Christmas Party at the Eagles Lounge (No VEC testing this evening)
December 25 th	Christmas
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



Customize hats, coats, vests and more with the HARC logo and your call sign. The possibilities are endless!

Paul, N7PAS won the October meeting prize a Multimeter.

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
November 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

HAS THE CLUB DONE ANYTHING IN 2009?

by Elmer, WG7P

As time passes by, one begins to wonder have we really done anything this year? At first glance one would say, not really, but as we take a closer look, the club can stand high with its accomplishments thus far this year. The club has 60 paid members, and as you read this article you might ask, am I doing my part to help the club.

The club has participated in 12 community activities including the Grizzly Triathlon, Griz Man Adventure Race, Riverbank Run, YMCA Triathlon, Tour of the Swan River Valley, Field Day, W7PX Special Events Station at the Fort's July 4th, Missoula Marathon, Blackfoot River Cleanup, Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air, Ride-D-Cure, and Sky Warn Recognition Day to be held December 4 & 5. The Griz Man Adventure Race, the YMCA Triathlon and the Ride-D-Cure are first time events this year for the club.

Because of the untiring efforts of Jerry N7GE the club has finally acquired 501-C-3, nonprofit status. This is definitely a benefit for our club. This non-profit status might encourage individuals to donate to the club, as it could be a tax deduction for that individual. Thanks to Jerry!!

The club adopted prioritized goals for 2009, and at the top was to review the possibility of the HARC joining the MRLA association. MRLA stands for Montana Repeater Link Association and some of the repeaters currently linked together are Billings, Bozeman, Three Forks, Helena, and Great Falls. Eric NZ7S chairs this committee along with Jerry N7GE, Vick K7VK, Bob N7MSU, and Kevin W1KGK. They have done some preliminary work, and will continue their efforts through the winter with the hopes of making a recommendation to the club early next year.

Several of the other goals were to revise the Repeater Etiquette policy, conduct classes for those interested in becoming new hams, consider serving as a sponsor for a Boy Scout Venturing Crew, review our awards program, and do more with emergency preparedness. The club did revise the Repeater Etiquette Policy that was adopted at our meeting on October 12th. If interested one could review the policy on our web site www.w7px.org. Our hopes are that it might be more helpful to new ham radio operators, and deliver the message that we encourage and welcome licensed operators to use one of our four repeaters.

The club did become a sponsor for a Boy Scout Venturing Crew designed to serve coed scouts 14-21 years of age. This might help to foster interest in our hobby, and could result in a source of new members. Kevin W1KGK is in the process of organizing a class for those interested in becoming ham radio operators. Bob N7MSU chaired a committee with Vick K7VK and Byron NN8A to review the Worked All Hellgate Award and make recommendation to the club for revisions. The suggested revisions were adopted earlier this year. One must

contact a minimum of 25 paid members and participate in at least two club activities. All the details can be reviewed on our web site. Byron NN8A conducted two programs for club members on emergency preparedness, and reviewed many of the changes that have taken place as a result of Homeland Security. Several members took three of the on-line FEMA courses and became ARES members.

Knowing the club had equipment housed at various locations, and in view of the fact we have purchased a generator and a computer projector, an inventory of our equipment was done. We now have a list of our equipment showing where it is housed, what it is, including model and serial numbers. This should help to maintain our equipment and locate it when necessary. The club also adopted a policy that state "HARC equipment will be only used for club activities or events and not for individual or private activities".

It was felt the club needed to do more to communicate with our members and to promote the club to the public. Bob N7MSU had a committee to review our QSL card, and as a result new cards were approved and are now available. Liz WG7E, membership chair, developed a new brochure with the help of several other members, and now it is available to distribute at our events and meetings. Wanting to be recognized when we were out and about helping with community events, a new magnetic car door sign was designed and purchased. The club purchased 16 for club use, but many members purchased their own set; a total of 40 signs were purchased.

In reference to member communications we have had a Static each month thanks to the editors, Vick K7VK, Bob N7MSU, Andy KF7CBBY and Michael AE7MH who has done the last several months. We have tried to have an article entitled "Getting to Know Your Members" each month. They have been interesting and allow us to get to know our members a little better. We have sent emails prior to each meeting with an agenda and minutes of the last meeting. If you are not able to attend our meetings, you can at least read about what we are doing and the decisions we have made. We also distribute agendas and minutes at our meeting along with other information from time to time. We have set up the meeting room at Fire House #4 so everyone can see each other, have had a door prize drawing at each meeting, and have attempted to have some treat to nibble on.

We have received equipment from various sources throughout the year. We have retained much of that for club use and the remaining has been auctioned off at our meetings. The club adopted an Auction Process that was designed to give members an opportunity to purchase the equipment at a good price, thus helping our local members and keeping the

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equipment in our local area. It has also raised a few dollars for the club treasury.

Several other things we have done were to (1) work with the FCC and the Missoula Aging Service with the Digital Television Transition that took place earlier this year. Vick K7VK chaired this activity, and he along with Jerry K7IMZ was a great help to many of our senior citizens. (2)The club met with the Missoula City Council when they were considering a cell phone ban that had implications to local hams. Due to the efforts of Donnie W7XY and Jerry N7GE our thoughts were known and this did have an impact on the changing of the wording that made an exception for ham radios. (3)Jerry N7GE and Elmer WG7P met with county officials to discuss our role in assisting with local emergencies. It was clear that 9/11 has made a change as to how local hams can be involved. It was obvious that training would be required, an invitation would be necessary, and that hams would operate according to their directive.

Field Day this year was operated the full 24 hours and included a pot luck dinner on Saturday. Participation was pretty good, and thanks to Steve K7PX many CW contacts were made. Our application was submitted to ARRL and we are looking forward to seeing how we compared to other clubs our size. Our contacts were down this year, probably related to propagation. We hope to improve our antenna situation and number of operating stations for next year.

I guess as we review this article we see the club has made some accomplishments and done some neat things, and hopefully made a positive impact on our community. Unfortunately only about 20% of our members have helped with all of these activities. One might wonder what we could do as a club if more members helped and made an effort to work together.

Congratulations License Examinees!

License Upgrade:

Daniel W Boldra, KD7NFO became a new General class operator! Dan's new call sign is N7DWB.

Congratulations to the participants of the October 12th VEC session.

Thanks to the following VE's for participating in the test session:

Liz, W7GE
Jerry, N7GE
Lewis, AC7UZ
Michael, AE7MH



The next VE exam session will be held at 5:30 pm November 9th before the meeting.

Montana Section News

From Doug, K7YD

Fall has come upon us, with snow in the yard yesterday. Time to button up your home and outbuildings for Winter's approach, no doubt soon to follow.

September 15, 16 and 17 was "Operation Vigilant Guard" here in Montana, in reaction to a severe 6.9 Earthquake scenario in the Helena area. ARES and RACES personnel responded to the State DES office in Helena, providing communications with outlying areas and towns as requested by DES personnel. Several of our Montana hams were on duty at the DES, in Great Falls and Butte areas, hospitals, relay points and local DES offices. Results were very gratifying and our people did a great job. Support we are now receiving from DES personnel is very helpful and represents an exponential improvement over the past. Hams stood by on frequency for hours during the 3 day event to support their local staffs and relay stations were out to bridge the gaps where needed. I sat in on the "hotwash" meeting in Helena after the exercise completed. Our support folks received nothing but praise from State personnel. My thanks to Bill, K7LMT, Todd, AE7V, Kevin, AD7AJ and George, AA7GS and their crews for a job well done. Ham radio shown brightly during the exercise and we now have requests to provide lists of equipment needed to improve capabilities of the DES station, KF7EOK.

Last Friday, RACES and US Army Mars staffs met in Helena for an executive meeting. Discussion was on finding ways to work in harmony and supportive methods during emergency events. ARES/ RACES offer unique services as do the Mars programs. Planning was centered around WL2K and some data systems that could be used in compliment, and our ability to move message traffic during emergencies "when all else fails". Thanks to those who made the trip, we all learned from it.

Packet Radio is resurging around the Country. It is a unique communications system and can be very helpful during emergency events. If you have some old Packet gear still around gathering dust, pull it out and become part of the network. Same frequency, 145.010 MHz, with data deviation at 3 kHz. For more information contact myself or Todd, AE7V.

A few weeks ago, SM's and staff from all over the country participated in a phone conference with Laura Smith, Enforcement Officer at the FCC. During the 90-minute chat, she discussed FCC's attitude toward Part 97.113. This has to do with use of Amateur Radio by an outside entity for communication during a breakdown of "normal" comm facilities. Laura made clear that FCC intends to enforce the rules and seems to indicate a narrowed view of "Appropriate Use" of the frequencies we hold so dearly. This is an issue we all should be aware of and the consequences of working outside of the rules. Listening to comments from other SM's, it's clear that in many states, rules have been ignored by Amateurs, commercial/government and religious groups. Especially where Amateurs themselves are employed or somehow are connected to one of these organizations. Bottom line is, be very cautious using AR freqs for messages that may benefit an outside entity. Don't decide you can declare an emergency on your own just to help out some group or another. We all know we must work within Part 97, so be aware, we are all responsible to protect the hobby.

Thanks to all
73
Doug

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

MINUTES October 12, 2009 MEETING

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

INTRODUCTIONS were made with 22 present

SECRETARIES REPORT—MIKE KE7IZG — **Motion-Norman AE7NW, 2nd Paul N7PAS** to approve September 14, 2009 minutes as presented-- **Motion passed**

TREASURERS REPORT—JERRY N7GE — **Motion Lewis AC7UZ, 2nd Donnie W7XY** to approve the Treasurer's report as presented—**Motion passed**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP—Liz WG7E—no report

REPEATER—Bill W4YMA—reported that Byron asked to postpone his expenditure request until early next year.

Eric NZ7S reported that he had worked on Blanchard 80 and purchased some necessary items at a cost of \$85 to make the necessary repairs. He also indicated he had shut off the link from 80 to 90 and that the 444.8 repeater was not working properly. These deficiencies will be taken care of next year.

Motion Donnie W7XY, 2ND Norman AE7NW to reimburse Eric \$85 for the items he purchased to make the necessary repairs. There was discussion as to whether the equipment purchased met FCC regulations, appreciation to Eric for his efforts, **Motion passed.**

NET OPERATORS—10/14 Kevin W1KGK, 10/21 Betsy KE7ECS, 10/28 Bill W4YMA, 11/4 Elmer WG7P or Liz WG7E, 11/11 Kevin W1KGK

OLD BUSINESS

STATIC—MONTHLY EDITOR, November= Mike AE7MH December= ? THANKS Mike AE7MH for the October Static, Several members expressed appreciation to Mike for the nice job he has done for the past several months.

CHRISTMAS PARTY—Elmer WG7P circulated sign-up 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 with fries \$8. Contact Elmer for reservations. Election of officers and repeater committee members will take place that evening as well. Gift exchange (\$10 limit) will take place.

BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE OCT 17 & 18—Chairman Frank W7PAQ circulated sign-up sheet, and stated set up would be at Fort Missoula at 8 AM Saturday. Operations with the scouts would take place from 9 AM to 4 PM Saturday and Sunday.

MRLA REPORT—Chairman Eric NZ7S indicated his committee would continue to review the idea of HARC joining MRLA and would make a report early next year. Questions were raised as to why the club was considering the idea of joining MRLA, and would we be using current repeaters. Elmer indicated that the club had selected the question of joining MRLA as one of the yearly goals, and the committee was not ready to make any recommendation at this time.

RIDE-DE-CURE—Lewis AC7UZ stated he and Kody Moore participated in this event, which went very well considering it was the first year.

CLUB BUSINESS CARDS—Michael AE7MH stated the cards were printed but not on the type of paper that he requested, thus they were being re-printed.

REPEATER ETIQUETTE -- Elmer WG7P--**Motion Norman AE7NW, 2nd Lewis AC7UZ** to adopt the proposed Repeater Etiquette Policy that was presented at the September meeting. Elmer stated the paragraph "In An Emergency" was moved closer to the top of page one as suggested.

Motion BJ KD7HP, 2nd Liz WG7P to amend the motion to include the words "or break break" after the word emergency in sentence two of the paragraph "In An Emergency"—**Motion passed.**

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Motion Lewis AC7UZ, 2nd Paul N7PAS to amend the original motion to have paragraph "Power" read "use the minimum power necessary to deliver a good signal to the repeater or other radio"—**Motion passed.**

Original motion as amended twice **Passed**

OTHER ITEMS—Betsy KF7ECS asked if we kept track of number of check-ins for the Wednesday night net. The answer was no. She then asked why the HARC had the net. It was stated the purpose was to keep those who participate familiar with the protocol used during traffic nets. Lewis AC7UZ volunteered to maintain a record of the number of check-ins for the Wednesday night net, and to keep Mike KE7IZG advised of revisions to the Wednesday night roll call.

NEW BUSINESS

NOMINATING COMMITTEE—Elmer WG7P announced Vick K7VK will chair this committee and present a slate of officers at the November meeting. Elmer advised if any member was interested in serving as a club officer or a member of the repeater committee or had suggestions, to get that information to Vick. Elmer hoped there would be multiple candidates for the various positions.

AUCTION DONATED ITEMS—**Motion Jerry N7GE, 2nd Donnie W7XY** to keep the first two items on the list presented for club use and auction the other items at a future club meeting—**Motion passed**

OTHER ITEMS—Jerry N7GE announced Skywarn will be held at the NOAA weather station December 4 & 5, beginning Friday afternoon about 4 PM. We are going to try to operate around the clock until Saturday afternoon.

PROGRAM—an auction of items approved at the September meeting were auctioned following the bidding process approved at the same meeting. All items were purchased by club members and many bargains had, as was hoped when the bidding process was approved.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lance W7GJ will present the November program on his Dxpedition to E51 Rarotonga in the Cook Islands
Reminded members about the Worked All Hellgate Award
Thank you notes were sent in relation to Mike's K7DER's equipment

BUY OR SELL.

GOOD OF THE ORDER—Nothing

DOOR PRIZE DRAWING— Paul N7PAS won the multi-tester

MOTION TO ADJOURN—**Motion Donnie W7XY 2nd Bill W4YMA** to adjourn—**Motion passed**

Club Elections

By Elmer, WG7E

Officers and two repeater committee members for 2010 will be elected at our annual Christmas Party on December 14th at the Eagles Lodge on South Avenue behind Rosauers. Vick K7VK has agreed to chair the Nominating Committee. Vick will present a slate of officers at the November meeting and nominations from the floor will be called for on December 14th.

If you are interested in serving as an officer or repeater committee member or would like to nominate someone, please contact Vick at k7vk@arrl.net or 549-0027. It would be fun to have multiple people for the various offices on the ballot for 2010. There are no prerequisites for any of the offices, just an interest in serving the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club and promoting the hobby.

As we ask people to consider serving as one of the officers or repeater members we hear the, I've done that in the past, I'm too busy with my business or family, I just don't have the time, I just don't have the knowledge, I'm too old, etc. I suspect we all could use one these excuses but that probably won't benefit the HARC. Consider giving a little time and do your part to promote the HARC.

Three People Killed While Erecting Antenna

from The ARES E-Letter for October 20, 2009

This letter has been printed as a reminder that we ALL have to remember that safety has to be our first priority!

A man, woman and their 15 year old son were killed while trying to erect a 50 foot vertical antenna at the home of the man's mother, Barbara Tenn, KJ4KFF, in Palm Bay, Florida. The deceased were not licensed amateurs.

"It happened in an instant," Palm Bay Fire Marshal Mike Couture said in a statement. "It is an unfortunate set of circumstances that led to the most tragic result."

According to police reports, Melville Braham, 55, Anna Braham, 49, and their 15 year old son Anthony were putting up an antenna -- Tenn's second -- at night when they lost control of the antenna and it crashed into nearby overhead power lines. The impact sent 13,000 volts of electricity through the pole the three were holding. A family friend, a 17 year old boy, was on the roof at the time of the accident. He and the couple's daughter, who was in the house at the time, were not injured.

The mother was pronounced dead at the scene. When paramedics arrived, the father and son were not breathing; rescue crews immediately tried to resuscitate them. They were transported to a hospital where they later died.

Neighbor Jim Vallindingham told television station WFTV that he called 911 when he saw the fire in the back yard and then he ran over: "I had no idea it was electrical until we got over there and saw the three people laying on the ground. So I called 911 a second time to tell them there were casualties. You know, there were people on the ground. So [the 911 operator] told me that's electric, you back away don't touch anything."

Couture said that night was not the best time to be attempting to put up an antenna. "It wasn't the best time, meaning it was night time. Obviously, in darkness, and trying to do something like this and not being keenly aware of where the power line is in the backyard, [was not a good idea]," he said.

Neighbors said that Tenn, an ARRL member, used Amateur Radio to talk with her family in Jamaica. -- ARRL Letter

And The Training Kept A Rollin' . . .

from The ARES E-Letter for October 20, 2009

A reminder to all ARES ops that they should have the following certifications as a minimum level of competency in ARES emcomm facets. These are pursuant to the recommendations of the former ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee.

- ARRL's ARECC Level 1 -- [click here](#) for information and a syllabus.
- ARC combined course in Adult CPR/First Aid Basics
- ARC online Introduction to Disaster Services
- FEMA IS-100 (Introduction to Incident Command System)
- FEMA IS-200 (ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents)
- FEMA IS-700 (National Incident Management System)

Except for the first two, all courses are free of charge, and CPR/First Aid may be free to members of the American Red Cross. CPR/First Aid is the only course which requires periodic refreshers and the only course which must be taken in person rather than on the Internet. Where FEMA courses exist in more than one current version - aimed at somewhat different audiences - any of the currently-available versions will suffice.

The American Heart Association (AHA) also offers excellent courses in Basic Life Support, and for more ambitious students, Advanced Cardiac Life Support.

Keep In Mind

By Elmer, WG7E

CHRISTMAS PARTY—December 14th at Eagles Lodge, 2420 South Avenue West, behind Rosauers. Dinner will begin at 6 PM with choice of 8 oz. steak (\$10.50), chicken cordon bleu (\$9.25), or fried halibut with fries (\$8). Please let Elmer WG7P know if you are interested in attending, elmerm@hughes.net, or 240-8685. There will be a gift exchange (\$10 limit). John Vugteveen will present the program on his Dxpedition to Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef in the South Pacific.

NOVEMBER PROGRAM—Lance W7GJ will present the program at our November 9th meeting at Fire House #4. He will give a presentation about his Dxpedition to E51, Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. It should be a great program, plan to attend.

WORKED ALL HELLGATE AWARD—Remember if you are planning on obtaining this award you have until December 31. If you want it presented at our Christmas Party, you better get moving. You must work 25 of our current members and participate in two club activities. You can get the details and list of current member on our web site www.w7px.org under awards.

REPEATER ETIQUETTE—The club adopted a new Repeater Etiquette Policy at our meeting on October 12th. You can read this on our web site at www.w7px.org. We hope this will be more helpful to new hams and deliver the message that we welcome and encourage licensed hams to use our four repeaters.



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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