



# THE HELLGATE STATIC



September 2009

## Tour de Cure Montana

From Lewis, AC7UZ

On September 19 a ride/fund raiser will be held. It will be a 100 mile ride, 56 mile ride, 23 mile ride, and 6 mile family ride. All will start at the Missouri River Head waters state park near Three Forks MT. They are hoping for 250 riders.

The ride will proceed to Manhattan then to Norris to Harrison to Lewis & Clark Caverns parking back to Three Forks and back to the start.

100 Mile Ride start at ..... 8:00 am  
56 Mile Ride start at ..... 10:00 am  
23 Mile Ride start at ..... 12:30 pm  
6 Mile Family Ride start at .... 10:30 am

The ride course has very poor to no cell phone coverage. 2 meter coverage should be the frequency used. Some of the riders may have diabetes so there will be 3 medical units, as well as a sag wagon and repair vehicle. 17 operators should cover the ride well as if we have 5 portable units to place with the medical, sag, and repair units.

This is a statewide ride and it is my hope that we can get at least 2 operators from each major city. Keep your gas receipts and you will be reimbursed for the costs.

Bozeman will be the prime club with Jerry Gregoire (406-522-7392, 406-570-7676) coordinating the operators.  
Lewis Ball (406-239-2405) as a contact for recruits.

# Tour de Cure



## The Local Club Resource

From Norm Fusaro, W3IZ ARRL Newsletter Editor

I am very fortunate to be in a position at ARRL which allows me significant interaction with our members. It is very fulfilling to be able to put a smile on someone's face by helping them find a solution to their problem regardless of the complexity. Sometimes it is not possible to be as helpful over the telephone or with e-mail so I will try to direct the individual to a local club where they may be able to get some side-by-side coaching. The local radio club is without a doubt the place where most of us received our ham radio education. The club is where we learned the jargon and techno-speak used on the air and where we met folks to emulate and folks who we swore we would never be like. Everything that we know about ham radio that didn't come from a book was probably learned at club meetings or late night Field Day chats over burnt coffee. Personally I have made many longtime friendships from my involvement in local radio clubs and I am sure many others can say this as well.

Clubs, by definition, are groups of like-minded people who share a common interest. In reality a club is an eclectic assembly of individuals each with a unique perspective of their activity. The dynamic of a club is no different than that of a large family. Think of your last family get-together and then take a look at your radio club. If everybody was the same, life would be very boring. In every club there is the usual cast of characters that add their distinctive flavors to the stew and make things interesting. It is diversity that makes a club work well. I have seen that no matter how varied the personalities are in a club, most of these personalities are also eager to help. Helping each other is characteristic of radio amateurs.

How often have you experienced something like this: Two hams will be in QSO, perhaps discussing an antenna installation or radio repair when another radio operator will break-in with a helpful suggestion? This situation may have happened to you or you may have even been the breaking station. The same thing happens (or should happen) at club meetings. If you need help with something the closest resource is your local club. On the surface the club may appear to be dysfunctional, but once you are involved you will find that it is actually very productive.

— continued page 3

# Events Calendar

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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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  
**September 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

September 2 <sup>nd</sup> - 9 <sup>th</sup>	Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday Celebration Event. <a href="http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/">http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/</a>
September 11-13 <sup>th</sup>	Northwest Automatic Position Reporting System (NWAPRS) Summer Gathering. Contact Dave/K7GPS at k7gps@arrl.net or (509)244-8484. <a href="http://www.nwaprs.info/">http://www.nwaprs.info/</a>
September 14 <sup>th</sup>	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm. Presentation by Eric NZ7S about HARC participation in the MRLA system. <a href="http://www.wr7mt.org/">http://www.wr7mt.org/</a>
September 19 <sup>th</sup>	Tour de Cure Montana <a href="http://tour.diabetes.org/">http://tour.diabetes.org/</a>
September 26 <sup>th</sup>	Spokane Hamfest - See flyer page 9. <a href="http://www.kbara.org/">http://www.kbara.org/</a>
October 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Bozeman Hamfest. Gallatin Ham Radio Club, Bozeman, MT. See flyer on page 9. <a href="http://www.gallatinhamradio.com">http://www.gallatinhamradio.com</a> Contact: Bob Leo, W7LR, w7lr@aol.com
October 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 4 <sup>th</sup>	ARRL Simulated Emergency Test <a href="http://arrl.org/">http://arrl.org/</a>
October 12 <sup>th</sup>	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm.
October 17-18 <sup>th</sup>	Boy Scout Jamboree on the Air, for more information contact Frank, W7PAQ fkissel@centric.net, <a href="http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/">http://www.arrl.org/scouts/jota/</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> & 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sundays	Montana Races Net, 3.947 MHz at 8:00 am <a href="http://www.mtraces.org/">http://www.mtraces.org/</a>
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) <a href="http://montanatrafficnet.com/">http://montanatrafficnet.com/</a>
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

Donnie, W7XY won the August meeting prize a 2 piece pliers set. As a bonus, Donnie also won 2 tickets for the Osprey baseball game on August 11<sup>th</sup> donated by Andy, KF7CBY

# Montana Section News

From Doug, K7YD

It's been a busy Summer here so far, work at home seems to multiply and before we know it, Fall has fallen.

Remember the "Tour De Cure" for September 19th. Contact the Bozeman club for information. Several mobiles will be needed with three races going on simultaneously. Some varied country will be covered, so stations for relay will be important.

FCC is again looking at BPL as a primary means of providing Internet access to rural areas. They have yet to comply with the Court's demand for fair and open reporting of their own staff's studies on BPL. Clearly, the FCC folks determined that the BPL technology available was a spectrum eating system that interfered with licensed services all the way to the VHF range. We know ARRL is watching through the legal system. Recently, the new White House has stacked the Commission with new members, bringing politics to the communications world. In an effort to be proactive, we as Amateurs must work to gather baseline readings of noise and spurious responses in our bands to give us something to point to should BPL be moved out into the country with less than effective research done ahead of time. So much of this is about money and politics folks, we don't want to deal from a position of weakness when the interference starts. So, borrow, lease or buy a calibrated Spectrum Analyzer and start with readings in areas around town, along power lines and in rural settings. Take pictures and build up a file for future use, we may need them to assist in defending our claims about interference. This isn't going to go away any time soon.

Good weather is all around us, time to do some outside maintenance. Tear down that antenna, check all the hardware for wear and breakage, get those antennas ready for the upcoming Winter. Cold isn't kind to antenna structures. It never hurts to check those tower section bolts for proper tightness also, as in some cases, they will work loose. Remember that Towers use Grade 5 or 8, fine thread bolts, not your average 39 cent hardware store fittings made of soft steel. Get the right parts and protect yourself and your investment in your antennas. Use the good stuff.

How many out there have a backup antenna? Now's a great time to put one together.

Hope everyone is having a great Summer.

73,  
Doug



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

## The Local Club Resource — continued

The Pareto principle, commonly known as the eighty-twenty rule is a simple expression that 80% of the effects come from 20% of the causes. As applied in the business world this would be 80% of the sales are driven by 20% of the customers. In a club the percentages may be slightly different but the fact remains that a small percentage of the membership is responsible for making things happen. This is not to suggest that eighty percent of the members do not participate, but without a "spark plug" some things would never get started. These people are the doers. The doers don't take no for an answer and are always willing to take on more responsibility. But where is the fun in jump-starting a project without someone telling you it would never work? Of course it would be much more fun without the negative comments but that goes against human nature. Ever since man tried to open a coconut with a rock someone was right beside him offering a thousand excuses why it won't work. "You'll smash your thumb." "The rock will break." "You should invent a wheel and roll it over the coconut." "Let's just eat the bananas." The cynics of the world are an essential part of society, and of our clubs. They challenge us and make us work harder to prove them wrong. Learn to accept these people but never let them distract you from moving forward.

You only get as much from a club as you put into it. A majority of the club bashers tend to be long time hams with a "been there, done that" attitude asking what a club has to offer them for them. To borrow from President John F. Kennedy, "ask what you can do for your club." Of course we took more than we had to offer when we were younger and inexperienced. But over the years we have gathered knowledge that we can share with the newcomers. Based upon my countless interactions with hams of all levels of experience, the novice has much to offer the old-timer even if it is just reliving the joy of discovery. The local radio club has something for everybody who is willing to get involved.

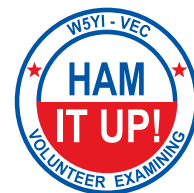
## Congratulations License Examinees!

### New License:

Betsy Gleason, KF7ECS earned her Technician licenses on August 10th. Congratulations and welcome to the world of Amateur Radio.

Thank you for the following VE's for participating in the test session:

Liz, W7GE  
Jerry, N7GE  
Steve, K7PX  
Lewis, AC7UZ  
Michael, AE7MH



The next VE exam session will be held at 5:30 pm September 14<sup>th</sup> before the meeting.

# **POLICY ON LOANING CLUB EQUIPMENT**

*From HARC Board of Directors*

As the club obtains more equipment, some of which is rather valuable, such as the generator, computer projector, HF and VHF/UHF radios, etc. This becomes a more important issue. Considering we continue to become more involved with community activities it is important to have equipment that meets our needs and is in good working order. We are also becoming more involved with Field Day and Sky Warn that will require more equipment than we typically have used. As we encourage new ideas and involvement with new events, and obtain new members with new ideas, having ample equipment in good working order becomes imperative.

In view of the above, the Board of Directors had their first meeting prior to the regular meeting on August 10th, and recommended the club adopt a policy that reads as follows: HARC equipment will be only used for club activities or events and not for individual or private activities. This item will be on the September 14th meeting agenda and will come to a vote at that time. If you have comments or suggestions that you would rather not express at our open meeting, please feel free to contact Elmer WG7P (240-8685) or Jerry N7GE (239-2223) and share your thoughts.

## **CHRISTMAS PARTY, DECEMBER 14, EAGLES LOUNGE**

*From Elmer, WG7P*

The Christmas party was originally scheduled for the Montana Club on North Reserve, but we were advised as of August they were no longer do banquets. The club decided at our last meeting that we have our annual Christmas party at the Missoula Eagles Lounge located at 2420 South Avenue W, behind Rosauers. It is a great location with a private room, an entry door to the outside, and rest rooms within the banquet room. We will have access to the remainder of the club who those interested.

At our next meeting on September 14 we will decide from the following: 8 oz. Sirloin, Chicken Cordon Bleu, Swiss steak, Stuffed Pork Chops, Meat Loaf, Lasagna, Fried Halibut, Chicken Strips, or Turkey Dinner, of which three will be on our Christmas party menu. Sirloin steak will be \$10.50 with all of the others under \$10, and includes tossed salad, potato, rolls, dessert, coffee, and gratuity. At that price, cost should not be a reason for not attending our Christmas Party. Last year 33 people enjoyed the evening and we hope this year we will have a larger gathering.

John Vugteveen W7KNT will present the evening's program on his Dxpedition to Palmyra Atoll and Kingman Reef in the South Pacific. Last year John presented the program on his Dxpedition to the Antarctica, which was enjoyed by all in attendance. In addition to John's program we will have our annual elections, and the infamous Gift Exchange. The rules for the exchange are already written and will be read and clarified prior to our exchange this year. Please reserve December 14th in your calendar and plan to attend this party.

## **TECHNICAL TOPICS AND INFORMATION**

*Originally published in The ARRL Contest Update for August 19, 2009*

If you have an old power tube and want to use it in an amplifier, the consensus is that the years of sitting allow contaminants to build up in the vacuum. That means the tube needs "gettering" - a period of heating to allow the contaminant absorbing materials in the tube to soak up the unwanted molecules. Ian GM3SEK relays the following procedure, obtained from an Eimac employee years ago and summarized here. While supplying the necessary cooling,

- Supply the filament at low voltage through a variable transformer or light bulb
- After some time, bring the filament voltage to the specified value for about 100 hours
- Apply the anode voltage through some current limiting means for another period of time
- Run the tube at a dissipation level near the specified limit for a few hours.

This allows the getter to experience a spectrum of temperatures, mopping up different species of contaminants at different temperatures. For example, the 3-500Z, has getters at the base of the grid and the base of the filament as well as sprayed on the anode. While this conditioning schedule is seemingly over-complicated and ultra-conservative, it should result in no surprises when putting the tube into service. Terms like "a few hours" are vague because different tubes require different treatment. If you are "burning in" a monster tube that will cost us \$50,000 to replace, be more conservative than with a \$50 tube.

# ***Getting to Know Our Club Members***

Articles featuring club members appear monthly as available. If you would be willing to write a brief article about yourself sharing some of your background and experiences please let K7VK Vick or WG7P Elmer know. Special thanks goes to the following past contributors: Elmer - WG7P January 2009, Bob - K7BA February 2009, Jerry - K7IMZ March 2009, Bill - W4YMA April 2009, Ruth - N7FMW May 2009, Mike - KE7IZG June 2009, and Lewis - AC7UZ July 2009. You may view each "Getting to Know Our Club Members" by going to <http://w7px.org/newsletter.html> and selecting the month that their article appears.

## ***This month: Liz Myers, WG7E***

When I was a little kid in the Iowa cornfields, I was selling shoes during the day and listening to my father talk on his shortwave radio at night. The radio was a formal, ornate stand-up model with a built-in player for phonograph records. The name "Silvertone" comes to mind, along with labels showing the RCA dog. English was the typical language on the shortwave band, and the reception was scratchy but audible. I don't remember what type of antenna was needed. I do remember that Dad talked with the British Isles, Eastern Europe, and faraway, exotic places like the (then) Belgian Congo. Postcards and greetings were exchanged, and I had a stamp collection that was the envy of my friends and classmates.

Fast-forward to the Appalachians, western New York and Pennsylvania, America's North Coast. My job description included the word "itinerant," and it was not unusual for me to drive a couple of hundred miles a day in the serious snow belts off Lake Erie, and south of Buffalo. My traveling companion at that time was a state-of-the-art (read: boat anchor) CB radio. Yep... anyone out there admit to having had one of those? Or, maybe STILL have one? It made me feel safe, and helped pass the time by talking to other drivers. A friend and I even joined REACT, wore reflective jackets, and served coffee on holidays at interstate rest areas. She lasted far longer than I did with such activities, but I continued to treasure and update my CB radios.

And so, into the 21st century and new adventures in communications. My husband, Elmer WG7P, and I put up a cabin in the Montana woods, off the grid, and wondered how we could live without a telephone. One of our first learning experiences was a Yagi antenna and later a "bag" phone that works quite well. I learned then that telephones had watts, like light bulbs. Yup, I'm blonde. We also learned quickly that it was safer to drive the roads used by loggers and firefighters if one had a radio that could receive channels from GYPO and certain agencies. Our next step was licensing, a preliminary visit to a meeting of the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club to find out all about that process, and eventually through our exams to the call signs we have today. With pride!

A couple of Liz and Elmer's Elmers have been Phil KJ7Z, and Jerry KB7QQ. Both have been patient, and generous with their time and equipment. Phil helped install our dipole, and Jerry and his sons engineered and put up our current tower and vertical. Keith K7KTR is also a source of information, and can put some perspective on the frustrations of this hobby. As with most hams, we still continue to learn more about radios every day, have a long way to go, and hopefully can be of assistance to others along the way. We both enjoy the variety of activities supported by HARC, and appreciate learning from all club members.

Finally, I rummaged through enough storage boxes that I found a picture of my Dad and one of his brothers sitting in front of the old radio, and think how much he would enjoy the fact that his little girl can tune in on conversations with people in some of the same places he once visited from his living room. With a more grown-up concept of geography, time zones, and cultures around the world, I still have a fresh sense of wonder that the wires in the yard can reach to places where it is already tomorrow morning, to countries with changed names, and yet to people who also enjoy this most basic form of distance communication.

73,  
Liz

## ***ARRL 2009 Simulated Emergency Test***

The ARRL Simulated Emergency Test is a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by ARRL Field Organization Leaders including Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Section Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. Many other Section Leaders like the Section Manager and the Section Traffic Manager may have a hand in planning the exercises and/or reviewing the results. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), National Traffic System (NTS), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other public-service oriented groups can be involved. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on the emergency-communications capability within your community while interacting with NTS nets. Although the main SET weekend this year is October 3-4, local and section-wide exercises may be held throughout the fall season.

# HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

## MINUTES August 10, 2009 MEETING

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

**INTRODUCTIONS** were made with 19 present

**MOMENT OF SILENCE**—There was a moment of silence for Silent Key Linda Reynolds N7GHA

**SECRETARIES REPORT**—MIKE KE7IZG — **Motion-Jerry N7GE, 2<sup>nd</sup> Kevin W1KGK** to approve July 13, 2009 minutes as presented-- **Motion passed**

**TREASURERS REPORT**—JERRY N7GE—**Motion Donnie W7XY, 2<sup>nd</sup> Mike AE7MH** to approve the Treasurer's report as presented—**Motion passed**

501C3 STATUS—Jerry advised the club that we have received final approval and now HARC has official 501C3 status. Jerry was recognized for all of his time and effort that he put into this project and a round of applause was given

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP—Liz WG7E reported we have 55 paid and life members

REPEATER—Bill W4PMA stated nothing new to report

NET OPERATORS—8/19 Bill W4YMA, 8/26 Eric NZ7S, 9/12 Jerry N7GE, 9/9 Lewis AC7UZ, 9/16 Kevin W1KGK

### OLD BUSINESS

STATIC—MONTHLY EDITOR, September= Mike AE7MH October= ? THANKS Mike AE7MH for the August Static, NO ONE WOULD VOLUNTEER to write September "Getting to Know" article

BLACKFOOT RIVER CLEANUP—Bill W4YMA—Bill gave a summary of what was collected from the river and thanked those who participated (Mike AE7MH, Kevin W1KGK, Lewis AC7UZ, Liz WG7E and Elmer WG7P), he also mentioned that we need to do better with our communications for next year

CHRISTMAS PARTY—Elmer WG7P—He stated that last year we looked at Perkins, Denny's, Joker's Wild, & China Garden in addition to the Montana Club. The Montana Club is no longer doing banquets. He said he contacted the Elks Lodge, China Garden and the Eagles Lodge and found the Eagles has the nicest facility and that we could have various dinners for \$10 or less including gratuities. **Motion Lewis AC7UZ, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jerry N7GE** to have the 09 Christmas Party at the Eagle's Lounge with a \$50 cleaning fee that would be refunded in we cleaned the room after the party. **Motion Passed.** At the September meeting we will select the three items that will be on the menu for the December 14th Christmas party.

MRLA—Erick NZ7S—Eric indicated he will make a report at the September meeting.

NOAA WEATHER ASSISTANCE—Donnie W7XY & Elmer WG7P—they stated they are putting together a list of possible contacts by town so they may call that person if the area of concern is near their town. It was also noted there were not many club members who replied to Elmer's email asking for assistance. They will continue to work on the contact list.

RIDE-DE-CURE—Lewis AC7UZ—Stated Todd Ganzel AE7V is coordinating the communications. Club members interested in going to the Bozeman area on September 19th to assist should contact Lewis.

GLACIER/WATERTON HAM FEST—Jackie KC7RBC & Lewis AC7UZ gave a report on the festivities. There were approximately six club members who attended the ham fest.

### NEW BUSINESS

USE OF HARC EQUIPMENT POLICY—Elmer WG7P—he stated the Board of Directors is recommending the club adopt the policy, "HARC equipment will be only used for club activities or events and not for individual or private activities." He said this will be on the September meeting agenda.

BOY SCOUT JAMBOREE, OCT 17-18—Frank W7PAQ has agreed to chair this event and will have more information at our next meeting.

ADVERTISING IN THE STATIC—the club was advised that if there is available space we might place an ad for Stitches (provided our hats, vest, jackets, etc. with club logo) or other vendors who provide club services if there were no objections. No one objected and it was mentioned that if there were more hats, vests, etc. it would provide more visibility for the club.

HELENA MOCK DISASTER DRILL—Lewis stated he would have more information available at our next meeting.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

An inventory is being compiled of Mike McCracken's (K7DER) donated equipment. A recommendation of equipment the club can consider retaining and a list of equipment the club can consider selling will be forth coming

**PROGRAM**—Antennas and related equipment was auctioned off

**GOOD OF THE ORDER**—Nothing

**DOOR PRIZE DRAWING**—Donnie W7XY won the 2 piece pliers set

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**—**Motion Steve K7PX, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill W4YMA** to adjourn—motion passed

# ***Rick's Radio and Electronic Parts Emporium***

*The following letter was received by the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club in July and was mentioned at the August meeting. If you are interested in the products offered by Richard, the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club promotion code is 1008.*

July 18, 2009

Hellgate Amateur Radio Club  
Atten: Mike Leary KE7IZG

Dear Mike,

I have a proposal that will benefit your members as well as your Amateur Radio Club. I have established a web store that is specifically designed to provide high quality new and used components to the Amateur "homebrewer" at affordable prices. To get a better idea of the range of products offered, visit our store at <http://rraepe.com/> Please keep in mind that the inventory is very fluid and new products are added on a daily basis.

*Where do these products come from?* Most of the electronic parts are new and come from inventory purchased from manufacturing operations, who for whatever reason are disposing of inventory. Many hard to find components (i.e. RF variable inductors) are removed from commercial HF transmitters. We are now in the process of "parting out" some commercial broadcast equipment, a great source of transformers, panel meters, and transmitting tubes. The radios offered are generally derived from SK estate sales.

We also have a comprehensive SK estate sale program. This program includes receiving the estate equipment, testing the equipment, repairing the equipment if needed and authorized by the estate, listing the equipment in our web store at an estate agreed to price, selling the equipment, and packing and shipping the equipment. This is all done on a commission basis. Our store is linked to e-Bay, QTH.com and QRZ.com which results in timely disposition at the best available prices.

We propose that you distribute this information to your members on an ongoing basis. In return, we will issue your club a Promo Number. This number will be unique to your club. You would then distribute this number to your members. Any member ordering from our web store, using this code, would receive an automatic 10% discount at the time of checkout. Our company will remit an additional 5% to the club for its general fund. I would rather spend our money in the form of a discount rather than advertising. Considering that there is no sales tax combined with our existing favorable pricing will result in a savings greater than 25% or more to the buyer.

It is my hope that this approach will encourage Amateurs building projects, which will only enhance our hobby.

Please contact me by telephone or email to answer any questions you may have.

Best 73's

Richard Hunt, K5FWQ  
2803 Cotton Stock Dr.  
Sugar Land, TX 77479  
Telephone: (281) 740-3432  
Fax: (281) 980-5930  
Email: k5fwq@yahoo.com  
Web Store: <http://rraepe.com>

# **HPM/140 Birthday Celebration Event**

The Hiram Percy Maxim Birthday celebration is back! This year, the ARRL is honoring the 140th anniversary of the birth of the League's first president and cofounder. Hiram Percy Maxim, W1AW, was born September 2, 1869 and died February 17, 1936, in a Colorado hospital of complications stemming from a throat infection; his widow died just nine days later.

The operating event is open to all amateurs, and the goal is straightforward: Find the stations adding /140 to their call signs, and contact as many as possible during the event period, September 2-9. Who is eligible to sign /140? ARRL members who hold ARRL appointments, ARRL elected volunteers (such as ARRL Directors and Section Managers), ARRL Life Members, ARRL Headquarters staff and VEs, AECs, QSL bureau workers and awards managers (who are ARRL members). The complete list of eligible positions can be found on page 20 of the September 2009 issue of QST. If you work at least 25 /140 stations, an attractive certificate can be yours! The certificate can be endorsed in increments of 25 QSOs, up to 100.

Time Period: 0000 UTC September 2 until 2400 UTC September 9.

Exchange: All stations signing /140 send RS(T), their appointment and their name; others send RS(T) and their name.

Eligibility: All amateur stations may participate. ARRL Life Members, and those persons holding ARRL appointments, elected positions or ARRL HQ staff, may add /140 to their call signs for the duration of the celebration. Volunteer Examiners, Assistant Emergency Coordinators, QSL Bureau workers, Registered Instructors and Awards Managers who are ARRL members are also invited to participate.

Miscellaneous: /140 stations may be contacted on any band or mode for credit. You can work a station once per band and mode. Repeater contacts are valid for credit, but please be considerate of the users during a repeater's busy periods. All /140 stations are encouraged to be as active as possible on local repeaters and nets. The certificate is available for making at least 25 contacts with /140 stations, with endorsement increments of 25, and a maximum endorsement of 100. To receive the award, send in a log extract with the date, time, band, call sign worked and exchange for each /140 contact. Include your name, call sign and address, and tell us how many /140 stations you worked. Mail everything to HPM/140 Celebration, c/o W1AW, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494. You can also send in your entry on a disk or CD in regular text format. All entries must be accompanied by a check or money order for \$5 (US) payable to ARRL. Please make sure your entry is postmarked by October 9, 2009.

## **Opinion: Field Day - What It Really Is**

*From ARES E-Letter for August 19, 2009*

The debate is always the same: "It's a contest!" argues half of all Field Day operators. "No, it's an emergency preparedness event," counters the other half. And so, back and forth it goes, year after year. I finally decided what Field Day is.

Field Day clubs happily announce their procurement of a 50 foot communications van from their OEM, and reserve the sheltered pavilion on the ocean with rest rooms and BBQ grills. Their planning meetings start in January, a full six months ahead of the event.

This is not realistic for an actual emergency. I live in south Florida, prone to disaster. When a communication crisis hits here, hams don't operate from pavilions, 50 foot air conditioned vans or even tents. Many end up in their own houses without commercial power nor outdoor antennas, which are blown down.

If you want to practice your skills as a disaster communicator, then you need to participate in the annual SET (Simulated Emergency Test), a nationwide exercise in emergency communications, administered by Emergency Coordinators, District Emergency Coordinators, Section Emergency Coordinators and Net Managers. The SET weekend gives communicators the opportunity to focus on their emergency-communications capability while interacting with NTS nets.

Back to Field Day: Planners consider who is going to bring the chili, what software should be used for logging and what call sign would bring the most prestige. Does this sound like planning for an emergency? No.

So Field Day must be a contest, right? Wrong. Even the most serious contest and Field Day operators admit that they are just out there to have fun. The camaraderie generated by getting the club and their families together to socialize is the main objective. Competition is not a priority.

So what is Field Day, really? Field Day is our annual public relations event. Your PIO should be the most important player. He/she should be inviting local and county officials like the Emergency Manager, Fire Chief, Police Chief, County Sheriff, hospital administrators, CERT leaders, and representatives from ARES/RACES groups. The media should be invited. So should the public. Prepare press kits, exhibits and hands-on projects for the kids in attendance. And be prepared to deal with the public as much as you do with your food menu. Have a Tour Guide on hand, and an Information Table, easy-to-understand handouts, and well-spoken representatives to discuss our contributions to the community.

We wonder why we heroes are so unsung. It's our own fault. We have to take advantage of the two days a year on Field Day when we can really blow our own horn - to let the public know we are here, what we do and why we do it. - Warren Rothberg, W4WR, former ARRL New Hampshire Section Manager and New England Division Vice Director



# SPOKANE HAMFEST



and  
**American Radio Relay League**  
**Washington State Convention**

September 26, 2009  
 University High School  
 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley WA 99216

Hosted by 8 Amateur Radio Clubs:



Kamiah Butte  
 Amateur  
 Repeater Assoc.



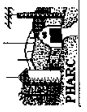
Panoramaland  
 ARC



NW Tri-State  
 ARO



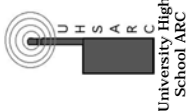
Inland Empire  
 VHF Radio  
 Amateurs



Palouse Hills  
 ARC



Spokane DX  
 Association



University High  
 School ARC

And Lilac City ARC

Raffle prizes: 1<sup>st</sup> prize, a Kenwood TS-2000 HF/6M/2M/UHF radio, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize an ICOM IC-718 compact HF radio, 3<sup>rd</sup> prize an ICOM IC-2200H 65W 2M mobile radio, along with many door prizes

Seminars & displays: "HF Contesting/QRP" by Dan, K7MM ~ "All About PSK31 & a Little About RTTY" by Bob, AC7GP ~ "Building a 2 Meter Quad Antenna" by Pete, W7OW ~ "IRLP" by Roy & Jan, VE7IS & VE7QE ~ "Junque" Auction by Wilse & Gimmie, WX7P & AL7LB ~ "Doug, KR2Q's 'When Giants Walked the Bands'" by LaMar, WA7LT ~ "Radio Test Gear" Table with Jack, AD7FO License Exam ~ ARRL NW Division Director Jim, K9JF ~ Commercial & non-commercial vendors Non-stop food ~ and much, much more

Admission \$5

Age 18 and under FREE

Commercial tables \$15

\$12 if paid before September 5<sup>th</sup>

Swap tables \$7.50

\$5.00 if paid before September 5<sup>th</sup>

Admission not included in the price of table space

Free off-street parking for cars & RV's

Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>

Vendor Setup: 7-9 PM

Saturday, September 26<sup>th</sup>

Vendor Setup: 8 AM

Open to Public: 9 AM - 5 PM

License Exam: 11:00AM

"Junque" Auction: 3:00PM

Raffle: 4:30 PM

Post Hamfest Dinner: 5PM

Timber Creek Grill Buffet

9211 E. Montgomery Dr.

Spokane Valley

Program advertising available: 1/4 page for \$40 to full page ad for \$120

License exam info: Mary, AA7RT at (509)991-2192 or aa7rt@arrl.net

# Bozeman HAMFEST

**October 3rd, 2009**

Sacajawea Middle School  
 3525 South 3rd Avenue

Bozeman, Montana

**GRAND PRIZE**  
 FT8800 Dual Band mobile,  
 Plus Door Prizes

Call W7ED for directions and information:  
 VHF 146.880 (100hz)

DOORS OPEN: 8 am

SEMINARS: 11 am - 2 pm

TEST SESSION: 2 pm

CLOSING: 4 pm

- Raffle: Plus Door Prizes
- Sale/Swap Tables
- Food & Snacks
- Seminars for All
- VE Test Session
- Hidden Transmitter Foxhunt

**ADMISSION \$3.00**

**TABLES: SWAP & DEALER: \$10.00**



Admission fee includes 1 ticket for door prize and one for preregistration prize if received before Sept. 3, 2009

## CONTACTS / INFORMATION:

e-mail: w7lr@aol.com

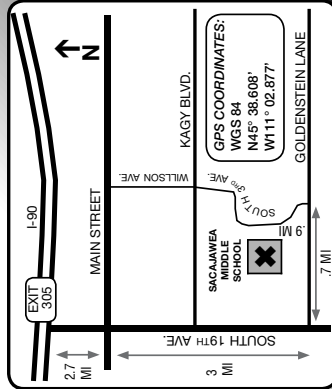
Website: www.gallatinhamradio.com

Telephone: (406) 587-3511 / (406) 586-8021

## Registration / Preregistration:

Don Regli  
 48 Sundance Trail  
 Bozeman, MT 59718

Hosted by: The Gallatin Ham Radio Club - W7ED  
 an ARRL affiliated club



# Amateur Radio Station WX4NHC Featured In National Commercial

From ARES E-Letter for August 19, 2009

WX4NHC, the Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center (NHC), is featured in a 60 second radio spot for Duracell batteries. The commercial, which begins airing this month, highlights the efforts of an all-volunteer army of ham radio operators for WX4NHC. Narrated by actor Jeff Bridges, it describes the important role that radio amateurs play during severe weather conditions -- enabling communications with emergency medical teams, police and fire departments -- when the power goes out. The narration underscores the importance of a reliable battery to power the portable ham radios, which are crucial to WX4NHC's work. Listen to the spot here.

"This commercial is being played nationally during hurricane season and will help promote awareness of Amateur Radio and the public service we do to provide emergency communications, especially during and after hurricanes, when we have experienced complete electrical and conventional communications blackouts for periods of days and weeks," WX4NHC Assistant Coordinator Julio Ripoll, WD4R, told the ARRL.



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>



**Hellgate Amateur Radio Club**  
**PO Box 3811**  
**Missoula, MT 59806-3811**