

THE HELLGATE STATIC



October 2010

53rd Jamboree on the Air

by Frank, W7PAQ

The 53rd Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) will be held at the chapel at Ft. Missoula on Oct. 16th and 17th from 9AM until 4PM each day.

This is also the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America and the patch recognizes that birthday. William Boyce brought back Sir Baden Powell's Handbook for Boys from London, England in 1910 after he was lost in the fog and a Boy Scout helped him find his hotel. Boyce offered to reward the scout, but the boy replied "I am doing my Good Deed as a Scout".

This event is usually attended by both the Boy Scout Cub Scouts (ages 7-10) and the Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies.

We usually teach the scouts their phonetics and allow them to use them on the radio with other scouts around the world, or at least in the United States.

The JOTA is an international scouting event organized by the World Scouting Bureau in Switzerland.

There will be JOTA cards available to all participants allowing them to log their contacts.

Here is a picture of the 53rd JOTA patch that the leaders can order from the national BSA office in Irving, TX.

Only 3 people have signed up to help with this event. If you are able to assist, please contact Frank W7PAQ at 549-6312 or fkissel@centric.net



by Bill, W4YMA

The inaugural Believe in Girls (B.I.G.) Expo 2010, sponsored by Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming, is a day-long event inviting girls of all ages and their families to participate in exciting hands-on activities and learn about resources and opportunities available in their community.

The Believe in Girls Expo will be an opportunity for community organizations, non-profits and companies of all sizes to provide girls positive growing and learning experiences. From healthy living to the outdoors to arts and financial literacy, the event will showcase activity booths and exhibitors, as well as feature keynote speakers, entertainers, workshops, and plenty of food and fun!

HARC will be running an event station at the Missoula Fairgrounds, my plan is to have an HF station using my inverted U antennae on a fiberglass pole, and two VHF stations on the air, one on simplex and the other using the Repeater. This way the girls can talk with the boy scouts at the Fort. With three rigs on the air, we can entertain the girl scouts and introduce them to different aspects of ham radio. Maybe even do a little CW with NQ7D who will be at the Fort Missoula with the Boy Scout event.

Only 3 people have signed up to help with this event. If you are interested, please contact Bill W4YMA at 207-1764 or billfarrell@hotmail.com

Events Calendar

Oct 2 ND	Argus Hamfest 11 am - 4 pm. Location is at Masonic Lodge, Stevensville, turn east at 4 way stop. 300 Church Street. Breakfast at the Frontier Restaurant in Stevensville around 8 am - VE testing
Oct 11 th	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm. Program to be presented by Bob Reid, Missoula County Director of Emergency Services. http://www.w7px.org/
Nov 8 th	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm. Program to be presented by Lance W7GJ, 6 meter EME DXpedition to 3D2. http://www.w7px.org/
Dec 13 th	HARC monthly meeting at 7:00 pm, VEC testing starts at 5:30 pm. Program to be presented by Dr. Steve Running PhD, Noble Prize Winner -- Global Warming / How information is obtained. http://www.w7px.org/
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, Paradise Falls Restaurant, 7:00 am

Congratulations to Bill, W4YMA who won the 25 piece Ball Hex and Key with Clip toolkit at the HARC September 13th meeting

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

Eric, NZ7S nz7s@msn.com
Vice President

Michael, AE7MH ae7mh@arrl.net
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 mleary2001@yahoo.com
Webmaster

Repeater Committee

Paul, N7PAS (2010) n7pas@bresnan.net
Byron, NN8A (2010) .. .arl3051@wildblue.net
Donnie, W7XY (2010-2011) fort@montana.com
Kevin, KE7WR (2010-2011) . .kgoffe1@msn.com

Phase Shift Keying

by Frank, W7PAQ

Around early 2000, the basic technology used in our wireless networks was adapted for use by amateur radios. The initial interfaces were available only as kits that required a little bit of skill in assembling the interfaces. That didn't last long and by early 2001, off the shelf interfaces were readily available. The software to support PSK came in the form of DLLs and was incorporated into many programs such as MixW, DX4WIN, and my favorite, HamRadioDeluxe. Now all you need to operate PSK is a sound card and an interface to your computer for your radio's PTT. And even this requirement was simplified with the announcement of the Signalink interface that includes a sound card and a cable interface to almost all the common radios. The Signalink unit uses a single USB port that adds a new sound card to your PC, leaving the normal sound card available for use by other programs.

There are multiple versions of PSK each adding additional speed and error correction technology, much like the technology in our LANs. The most common modes are PSK31, PSK63, and PSK125. The bandwidth and power for PSK31 is amazing. I run usually 50W or less and have made lots of QRP contacts. The typical computer display showing PSK signals is referred to as the Waterfall and it is not uncommon to see 20-30 conversations floating across the screen. For example, using the frequency of 14.070.00 in USB mode, you will see multiple signals from 14.070.00 to 14.073.00 on your screen. Simply by pointing your mouse to one of the stations calling CQ, you can begin to have a qso. The software allows the use of macros for the common exchanges and a split screen allows you to copy the transmission of the other ham while typing your next response. Once you start using PSK63 or higher, you will need lots of macros with your text messages allowing you to keep up with the impressive speed. I can touch type and I can usually stay ahead using PSK31, but not with PSK63 or PSK125.

The recommended frequencies for PSK are 1.807, 3.580, 7.035, 10.140, 14.070, 18.100, 21.070, 24.920, 28.120, and 50.250. If you listen to any of these frequencies you will hear a series of tones that indicate PSK is in use. 30M use to be of little use to me for DX since very few DX stations operated on this band. Now I actually have a chance at DXCC on 30M simply because of PSK. Even with the poor band conditions I have been able to make lots of contacts. One word of caution about using PSK. You need to watch your ALC very carefully. I usually have my ALC barely moving. Set it too high, and you will overdrive your signal and splatter across the band. And you will hear about it from your fellow PSK operators.

What I really enjoy about PSK are the various clubs, contests, and awards available for making PSK contacts. My favorite clubs are the European PSK Club (EPC), and the PODXS club. Simply by applying and receiving a club number, you can begin to submit your logs (no qsl cards required, only your "Scout" honor that you have worked the station) and work towards the hundreds of awards to hang on your shack wall. The EPC awards can be earned by running a free program available from the website that analyzes your log and submits the requests for the awards. The awards arrive via email and are spectacular. I use 4x6" photo quality paper to print the awards.

The HamRadioDeluxe program is available as a free program. I have donated to the author simply because I recognize the quality and effort the developer has put into this program. It comes with three separate programs: A rig control program, a logging program, and the DM780 program. The rig control program is great for operating the smaller radios such as my Yaesu FT-897 where each button does multiple things and the display is small. Using the rig control program I can easily change power, frequency, mode, and almost all of the setting for the radio using a full screen interface. As an aside, the author dedicated the program to the Digital Equipment Corporation's DEC 780. Of course having worked for IBM I would have preferred DM360, but that was his choice.

DM780 isn't just a PSK program supporting PSK31, PSK63, and PSK125. It also supports, QPSK, Contestia, CW, DominoEX, Hellscriber, MFSK, MT63, Olivia, RTTY, THOR, and Throb. I use to operate almost exclusively RTTY. Now PSK has taken over my favorite mode of operation and it's not uncommon for a PSK contact to request a RTTY or CW contact. One click of the mouse is all it takes to change modes. The program also includes the RSID support. Reed-Solomon ID is a short 16-tone MFSK transmission which identifies the mode in use. The RSID lasts for less than two seconds and I keep it enabled so I can identify when some of the exotic modes such as Olivia are being used. A small window with the mode and frequency pops up allowing you to instantly change to the mode and frequency.

I would be happy to help anyone interested in learning and operating this fascinating aspect of amateur radio. Just let me know and I will make time available.

Enjoy

Frank Kisselbach, W7PAQ

Event to Contact USS Nautilus

By Bill, W4YMA

KF7ECS (Betsy) and I went to the Fort early on August 17th set up an antennae I had built, an inverted U that covers 20 meters.

I was going to use 40 feet of PVC pipe supported at the base and guyed. Assembling all this went well until we tried to 'tilt it up' then the middle joint broke and had to be strengthened. A friendly passer-by helped and we got it up. All went well until I took the co-ax and walked it over to the rig at the Chapel, that pulled the antenna down and set us back a bit!!!

Lewis, NQ7D came about that time and we salvaged about 15 foot of the antenna and used that to get on the air.

It loaded well and we got good reception.

My mic got dropped on its "head," shattering the element inside. I have a spare mike but couldn't find it, so I have ordered another and you know I'll find my spare when the new mic comes in Hi Hi... All that being said, we couldn't work voice.

I could get out via CW but got no response from the special event station.

Here is a copy of the e-mail I sent to the special event station before the event. I did not get a reply from them.

To: kk6fz@arrl

This is regarding the special event planned for Aug 17 1600z-2359z San Diego via USS Midway Museum Radio Operations Room commemorating, among other things, the SSN Nautilus sailing under the polar ice cap in 1958. My cousin, Commander Joe Farrell, was Navigation Officer on board the SSN Nautilus at the time.

I, myself, worked on the SSN Nautilus when she was in EB at Groton, Connecticut for overhaul in 1972 so the Farrell's have had their hands on the boat in many ways.

I am building an antennae I hope will allow me to contact the special event station Aug 17th, listen for me on 14.320 W4YMA/7 Missoula, MT.

Do you know if any of the crew from the SSN Nautilus will be on hand for the commemoration? In particular, Joe Farrell, it would add something that the Farrell's QSO at that time.

73's
Bill Farrell
W4YMA



CHRISTMAS GIFT EXCHANGE RULES

People who bring a gift will draw a number. Number 1 will pick the first gift. Each person thereafter when called (from lowest to highest number) will select a gift, open it and then decide if they want to keep it or trade with another person (there is no limit on the times a gift can be exchanged, as there is typically one that is most desired). When all numbers are called and all gifts are gone, number 1 will decide if they wish to keep their gift or trade with another person, and that will be the final trade. Number 1 is the most desired number as they will have the pick of all the gifts. The higher numbers are better as you have more to select from. If someone trades with you, you are stuck with that gift unless someone else trades with you further into the exchange.

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

Meeting Minutes for September 13, 2010

Fire House #4, Missoula

Meeting Called to order by Elmer, WG7P at 7pm

Introductions were made with 22 attendees

Secretaries Report— Mike, AE7MH **Motion Dean, N7DLP, 2nd Paul, N7PAS** to approve meeting minutes for August, 9th, 2010, as published with a corrections by Elmer, WG7P, Net operator for 9/1 was supposed to be Lewis, NQ7D, and Bill, W4YMA's antenna for his event station was an inverted U antenna, not an inverted V. **Motion passed**

Treasurers Report— Jerry, N7GE **Motion Liz, WG7E, 2nd Betsy, KF7ECS** to approve Treasurers Report as presented. **Motion passed**
Committee Reports

Membership — Liz, WG7E – New brochures for the club have been printed, and the club presentation board has been updated with pictures from this years club events.

Repeater — Eric, NZ7S - The new antenna has been ordered for the 147.04 repeater, however it is back ordered. There is a work party planned for Saturday, September 25th to install the new antenna (with the hope that the antenna will arrive in time). The work party will meet at the National Weather Service office parking lot at 8 am and drive to the repeater site.

Net Operators — 9/15 Mike, AE7MH - 9/22 Donna KC5WRA - 9/29 Dean, N7DLP - 10/6 Paul, N7PAS - 10/13 Larry, K7GIS

Old Business

Static — Monthly Editor, October **Mike, AE7MH** Thanks Mike, AE7MH for September

Tour de Cure – Bill, W4YMA – Kody, KL0RN – and Mike, AE7MH attended the Tour de Cure event. The three of us were teamed up with SAG wagons (support and gear vehicles), manned with a driver, amateur operator and a medical person. Radio operators and volunteers from around the state participated in the event. No major emergencies or injuries occurred. Money raised during the event had mixed reports, but according to the event web site, excess of \$95,000. Please see October Newsletter for more information.

Boy Scout Jamboree, Oct 16 & 17 (100th anniversary) – Frank W7PAQ – The use of the Club's vertical antenna has been requested and approved. The goal is to use 2 meters and HF to make contacts from Ft. Missoula. **Motion** to use the club call sign for this event by

Mike, K7MSO and 2nd by Frank, W7PAQ – Motion Passed

Girl Scouts Believe in Girls Expo – October 16th, Missoula Fairgrounds – Bill, W4YMA: Bill will be setting up his inverted "U" antenna, this time made using fiberglass poles instead of PVC pipe. HF contact and 2 meter repeater and simplex contacts will be attempted with the Boy Scouts and others. This event will use the W4YMA call sign. Betsy KF7ECS, Donna KC5WRA and Bill W4YMA have already volunteered to host this event, however any additional volunteers will be appreciated!

Other Items - None

New Business

Report on Glacier Hamfest – Jackie, KC7RBC – BJ KD7HP, Marty N7VGY, Dan N7DWB attended the event along with an approximate total of 296 other visitors. Special guests included the founder of QRZ, Fred Llyod, AA7BQ in his 22 ton, million dollar mobile rig, The Zed. To see Fred's comments, visit: <http://qrzlog.blogspot.com/2010/08/montanas-glacier-waterton-hamfest.com>

Use of Club call sign W7PX – Elmer WG7P – For next meeting, everyone is asked to think about the recommendation presented at the September 13th meeting, "The HARC call sign W7PX can only be used for approved club events and with club approval." Robert Black is the Club Call sign trustee.

Christmas Party – Elmer WG7P – This year's Christmas party is to be held on Monday, December 13th, the normal meeting night for December. Elmer is assembling the menu choices to present at the October meeting. This year when you make reservations you will be asked to pay for your meal to reserve your dinner spot at the party. The gratuity will be included in the cost of the meal. Once you make reservations, refunds for not attending will not be available, although you may transfer this meal to another person who has not already made reservations. The normal white elephant gift exchange will also take place with the rules being published in an upcoming newsletter.

Other Items – Betsy KF7ECS – raised the question as to why the Wednesday Night VHF net is held at 9 pm. For some people, 9 pm is later than they are able to participate but others like the 9 pm time. It was mentioned that the time was set at 9 pm because of other nets that take place on Wednesday night and 9 pm was the next available time for most people whom also participate in other nets that take place at earlier times on Wednesday evenings. Lewis NQ7D is going to contact some of the older members and perhaps will be able to shed light on the reason for the 9 pm start time.

Program: Great presentation by Frank, W7PAQ on PSK 31

Announcements – None

Buy or Sell? - None

Good of the Order - Nothing

Door Prize Drawing – 25 piece balls Hex and Key with Clip tool kit – Bill, W4YMA

Motion to Adjourn - Paul, N7PAS, 2nd Eric, NZ7S - **Motion passed**

Tour de Cure

By Michael, AE7MH

While this event is not an event sponsored by the HARC, three member of the Hellgate radio club were able to attend and support the Tour de Cure - Montana for 2010.

The three of us carpoled to Three Forks, Montana and then to the Missouri River Headwaters State Park where we were welcomed and introduced to our lodgings provided at the state park.



Lodgings were gratefully accepted, however we later learned that we had not prepared adequately for the environment that was provided. This was no fault of the tour or the provider of the lodging, as I had jumped at the opportunity to have access to a camp trailer when it was offered. Hind sight being 20/20 as they say, I could have sought other accommodations.

The evening of our arrival was filled with learning and great conversation. Jerry, KD7WLX provided us with a communications manual with last minute updates for the event along with some last minute plan changes. I even received a crash course in how to operate a hand held that I purchased from the club at the Argus Ham Fest 2 years ago.

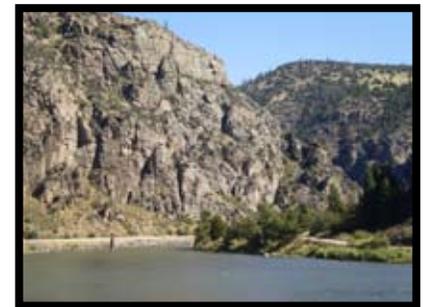


Jerry, KD7WLX put a large amount of effort to producing and updating a communications manual that was distributed to most volunteers prior to the event. This manual contained QST's with a date of the updates or changes, the Comm Plan which had a list of frequencies to be used by the event, Protocol - clear and to the point list of expectations and directions of what is expected, the Schedule listing check points, comm operators and time line, Volunteer List, Equipment Check List, Maps, and finally the Schedule of Rides. The final edition of the manual had 16 pages, and some might say contained more information than was needed. I would disagree, the information contained allowed anyone with what ever skill level they possessed, to read through and have a good understanding of expectations and of how the event was going to take place.



Kody, Bill and I were assigned to work with the SAG vehicles. On board each vehicle was a medical support person, an amateur radio operator and a driver. Different SAG vehicles had different functions, I had a bicycle mechanic on board, Kody had one of the event coordinators on board. Most of the people driving the SAG wagons were familiar with how to perform basic repairs.

Volunteers for this event arrived from all over the state, including many people from Missoula. Speaking with several people, there are a few that are interested in ham radio and were very happy to see that operators from Missoula were participating in the event communications.



Thanks to Bill, W4YMA for most of the pictures taken during this event. As you can see, the weather was great, skies were blue, scenery was fantastic, and all of us had a great time.



The following are excerpts from email that I have received about the tour:

From Jerry Gregoire, Coordinator for Amateur Radio Communications

Dear Comm Team

Thanks to all of you who participated and those who came but were unable to help the day of the ride.

Our TdC brought in over \$120k for diabetes! I thought it was for the nation -- No it was the ride you worked. Great Job!! And a Kudos from Trina Adams!

Next year the TdC is on 9/10/11. Hope to see you!

From Trina Adams, Associate Manager, Montana Area American Diabetes Association - Tour de Cure

I want to thank you so much for all your hard work in helping make Tour de Cure 2010 a huge success! It is because of your dedication and enthusiasm the Tour de Cure is a success.

I just received the Day Of Event Numbers and the final total as of today is: \$121,609.77. That is 11609.77 above our goal of \$110,000! Way to Go TEAM!

Jerry, Thanks again for helping keep the riders safe with all your HAM radio support. You and your team do a great job!

Thanks again for all you support and hard work. I am proud to have all of you as part of the American Diabetes Association Montana Team.

From Bill, W4YMA

The Ride de Cure had the best Logistics manual that I've seen for events in which Hams are asked to participate.

In the future, sleeping accommodations, should be made by us in that they are not adequately provisioned to do and provide the comforts of home like heat and comfortable sleeping.

Riding in the SAG wagons was a good time to network and spread the hobby of ham radio.

I'll do it again next year.

From Bill, K7MT

Thanks Jerry,

I really enjoyed myself and just had a wonderful Day. I will be back next year if not on a Wild Land Fire to help out. Put me in the same place as that was just cool..

Two favorite moments:

First picture Fred about 4 years old rode the entire 50 miles with his Mom who was a diabetic and his Dad on a tandem bike. He was just happy eating his Cheerios the entire way.



Second picture is a panoramic I took with my Kodak Z981. Its my run and gun camera and does a great job. I have been working on panoramas and this one came out pretty good...





Sometimes What Goes Around Just Keeps Coming Around

Kurt N. Sterba

It was more than 10 years ago that Krusty Olde Kurt reviewed an antenna that originated in England called the *Crossed Field Antenna*.

It used a principle new to antenna design based on the Poynting Vector. One of these was installed in Egypt. Just 21-feet tall, it replaced a 211-foot broadcast tower and allegedly produced a radiated field 6-dB stronger. A 30,000 watt transmitter replaced a 100,000 watt transmitter and gave the same coverage. Kurt commented that if there was 70,000 watts lost in the original installation, it must have been pretty hot at the transmitter site.

There was considerable disbelief in the antenna engineering community. It wanted certified field strength measurements that proved the claims. Unfortunately these were not available. *Not available?* A broadcast station in operation with no field strength measurements made?

In the U.S. one has to supply field strength measurements in eight different directions and at several distances before going on the air with programming. What kind of engineering was done to install this antenna, anyhow?

To answer the questions the manufacturer arranged to have a group of engineers from the U.S. come to the transmitter site and verify the claims. A representative of the online magazine *Antennex* was among those armed with field strength meters and other test equipment.

A date was set but, unfortunately, it could not be met because of "government entry problems." The problems were never solved and the independent evaluation never happened.

A new station was to be built on the Isle of Man where verifiable measurements *would* be made. There was construction delay-after-delay and finally the project was scrapped after the government began to wonder if the performance claims were true. Again, those elusive field strength measurements were not made.

Two Years Later . . .

An antenna using the same principles appeared two years later in the U.S. called the *EH Antenna*. It was only 2/100 of a wavelength high as compared to a dipole at 50/100 wavelength long. And it allegedly had near 100 percent efficiency – just like a dipole. Again, it worked on this new principle of crossed fields. Because of this, conventional antenna concepts do not apply. Another miracle antenna but, as before, field strength measurements were not available.

But, at last, verified tests were made. And these are the only verified tests Kurt knows about. They were run at radio station WKQV-AM in Eatonton, Georgia. The *EH* was tested against WKQV's standard vertical. The reported result: The *EH* antenna is woefully inefficient and does not by any means radiate as well as a standard vertical.

. . . And Today

While browsing the Internet recently, Krusty Olde Kurt happened upon an antenna for sale called the *Super "C"*. It is "a radical change in antenna design . . . The first fundamental

change in over 50 years." And what is this marvelous antenna? A small antenna – only 3-feet high and 6-feet wide – that performs as well as a full size antenna.

How does it do this? By using the same principle as used in the *Crossed Field Antenna* and the *EH Antenna*. There is a very short vertical mast. At its top is a wire mesh basket looking like an upside down waste basket. At the base of the mast is a flat wire mesh plate with a hole in its center. These two parts form a capacitor that creates a large electric field. The short mast creates a magnetic field. The two fields combine to form an electromagnetic wave.

Kurt can tell you that *this is not so*. A radio-frequency electric field produces a magnetic field. The magnetic field produces an electric field. This process continues as the field radiates into space. You can't form an electric field all by itself, then produce a magnetic field all by itself, and then combine them to form a radio wave. The radio frequency electric wave produces its own magnetic field and the two gallop happily off into space.

We are told that ordinary antennas are "magnetic field dominated" whereas the *Super "C"* is "electric field dominated" because of the intense field generated by the capacitor current.

"Maxwell and Poynting, pioneers in electromagnetic radiation in the late 1800s, developed the basic equation $E \times H = S$. The *E* vector *crossing* or interacting with the magnetic field vector *H* produces electromagnetic radiation *S*. Both fields must be present. If one antenna has a large magnetic field 10H and a small electric field 2E, radiation is $10H \times 2E = 20S$. If instead, the antenna has a large electric field, 10E, and a small magnetic field, 2H, radiation is still 20S."

Again Kurt is here to tell you that this is *baloney*. The ratio of *E* to *H* is easily found from Ohm's law which works in space just as well as it does in our circuits here on earth.

We all know that $E/I = R$. The impedance of free space is 377 ohms. So the electric field strength, *E*, divided by the magnetic field strength, *H*, equals 377 ohms. You can't have a giant electric field and a tiny magnetic field. Their ratio will not equal 377 ohms so they cannot exist in space.

Kurt does not think that the *Super "C"* can change the impedance of space.

In Conclusion . . .

What we have here is another attempt to foist off this wacky idea with a lot of pseudoscientific explanations. It flies in the face of basic engineering principles.

The only verifiable independent test on record casts doubt on its efficiency. The fact that it is patented (patent No. 5,796,369) does not mean it's a good radiator.

Kurt's advice is to just keep your current antenna. Especially if you know it works.

Kurt welcomes questions of general interest from readers and will answer them in his Kolumn. Write to him at: WorldRadioOnline@gmail.com.



Section Letter

Hello to all Montana members:

I've been absent from this column for some weeks now. Thanks to those who sent their get well wishes and emails. Now, I'm walking on a new knee and feeling much better.

A reminder to all who can make it, the Argus Barker Hamfest, late Summer edition is scheduled for October 2nd in Stevensville, MT. Doors will open about 11 am, entry fee is \$3, pay at the door. We'll have breakfast at the Frontier restaurant on Highway 93 North before hand and then adjourn to the hamfest afterward. Bring your "stuff" and sell or trade, but above all, have fun. This will be the last gathering for us here in Montana before the Winter weather closes in and shuts us down for the year. Hope you can come. There will be testing so bring your present license and a photo ID if you wish to test for upgrade or a new ticket.

Montana Packet is coming alive, a little at a time.

With Winter moving in, we already have snow on the mountaintops with access becoming scarce. If you have plans and are set up to install a remote node, now is the time.

If you haven't yet, take a look at our statewide APRS system. A lot of magic has recently gone into the worldwide resource with connections and routing via HF radio and the Internet. There's a lot to learn and see. It just takes a TNC and radio, some APRS software and you're off. Give it a try.

A big pat on the back goes out to Terry, W7WWW, and Bob Rightmire, WA7YNU, of Billings for their efforts on the City of Billings' new "Distracted Driving" ordinance that takes effect on Halloween. They rode this thing down and made sure the new law didn't affect Amateur Radio operations while in motion in a vehicle. Keep in mind though that while in the city limits, amateurs also need to have a mounted phone in the vehicle for cellular operations. Several meetings and readings were required to pass the ordinance in acceptable form. Great job Terry and Bob!

Thanks

73

Doug, K7YD

ARRL Montana Section Manager: k7yd@arrl.org

2 Meter HARC Info & Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Net

by Betsy, KF7ECS,

At our last HARC meeting on Monday, September 13, I broached the subject of having weekly check ins at another time. We do meet at 7:00 pm for our monthly Monday evening meetings which 20 +/- attend, so I thought if we could possibly do our check ins at 7:00 pm as opposed to 9:00 pm on Wednesdays or another day at 7:00pm more folks would be inclined to participate either as a net operator or just to check in. Please give this considerable thought in that we might encourage those who don't participate to do so. If you can't be at the next HARC meeting, please address your thoughts on this subject to Elmer Myers WG7P, e-mail elmerm@hughes.net.

Congratulations License Examinees!

Congratulations to Dustin, KF7LWW who tested for his Technician license on September 13th.

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

Liz, WG7E
Vic, K7VK
Paul, N7PAS
Michael, AE7MH



The next VE exam session will be held at 5:30 pm October 11th before the meeting.

A VE exam session will also be held on October 2nd at the Argus Hamfest in Stevensville, Montana!

Argus Late Summer Hamfest!

Argus is having another Ham Fest on Saturday, October 2 at the Masonic Lodge in Stevensville. The event will start at 11 am with an entry fee of \$3 to cover rental of the space. Breakfast gathering at the Frontier Restaurant will start around 8 am.

The Masonic Lodge is located at 300 Church Street, if you are arriving in Stevensville from Highway 93, proceed to the 4 way stop in the middle of town, turn east and look for all the antennas in within the next block! The Frontier Restaurant is just north of the traffic light to Stevensville on Highway 93. The restaurant is located on the east side of the highway and is set back from the road.

Volunteer Examiners will be present to offer testing for those whom would like to obtain an Amateur Radio License as well as those whom are looking to upgrade.

Bring your "stuff" and sell or trade, but above all, have fun.



Is amateur Radio important to you? Do you know the threats to our hobby?
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