



The Hellgate Static



April 2012

Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO

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Club Officers:

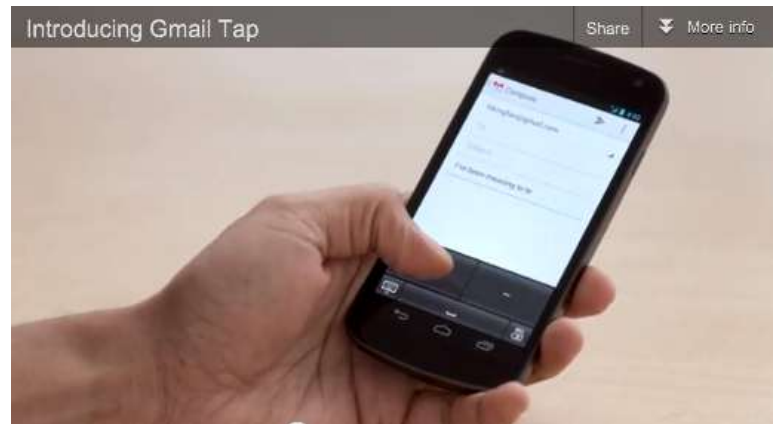
- President: WG7P, Elmer Myers
elmerm@hughes.net
- Vice-president: N7PAS, Paul Shuey
n7pas@bresnan.net
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- Secretary: WG7E Liz Myers
lizm@montana.com

Standing Committees:

- Emergency Coordinator: N7GE Jerry Ehli
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- Membership: WG7E, Liz Myers
lizm@montana.com
- QSLs, Awards: N7MSU, Bob Henderson
- Webmaster: K7MSO Mike Leary
mleary2001@yahoo.com
- Radio License Examinations
Contact: VE K7VK Vick,
k7vk@arrl.net
- Awards: Bob, N7MSU,
n7msu@arrl.net

Repeater Advisory Committee

- Committee Chair : N7PAS, Paul Shuey
n7pas@bresnan.net
- KJ7NL Walter walin1946@q.com
- NN8A Byron nn8aac7oj@gmail.com
- W7XY Donnie, fort@montana.com
- NZ7S Eric nz7s@msn.com



The future is here! Google plans to replace QWERTY keyboards on smart phones with Morse Code Keys! Download the app at:
<http://mail.google.com/mail/help/promos/tap/index.html>.

Upcoming Events

- 9 Apr – Club meeting.
- 21 Apr – Grizzly Man Adventure Race
- 21 Apr Grizzly Triathlon
- 28 April Riverbank Run
- 12 May YMCA Triathlon
- 14 May – Club meeting
- 19-20 May TOSRV
- 11 Jun – Club meeting
- 23-24 Jun Field Day
- 4 Jul Independence Day Special Event
- 8 Jul Missoula Marathon
- 9 Jul – Club meeting
- 20-22 Jul Glacier/Waterton Hamfest
- 28 Jul Blackfoot River Cleanup
- 13 Aug – Club meeting
- 10 Sep – Club meeting
- 8 Oct - Club meeting
- 20-21 Oct Jamboree On The Air
- 12 Nov - Club meeting
- 7-8 Dec Skywarn Recognition Day
- 10 Dec - Club meeting and Christmas Party

MINUTES

HELLGATE AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
MARCH 12, 2012
FIRE HOUSE #4, MISSOULA-- 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER—ELMER WG7P 20 members and 3 guests in attendance

INTRODUCTIONS BY CALL SIGN

SECRETARY'S REPORT—LIZ WG7E

APPROVAL OF MINUTES—FEBRUARY 13, 2012 MEETING —**MOTION: Eric NZ7S 2nd: Paul N7PAS Passed**

TREASURER'S REPORT— JERRY N7GE—**MOTION TO ACCEPT: Mike Leary K7MSO**

2nd Mike Ives AE7OF Passed

COMMITTEE REPORTS

REPEATER—PAUL N7PAS—no report

NET OPERATORS—**3/14 JERRY N7GE, 3/21 Eric NZ7S 3/28 Elmer WG7P 4/4 Mike Leary K7MSO**

4/11 Paul N7PAS

OLD BUSINESS

MEMBER INFORMATION 2012—COMPLETED INFO WAS CIRCULATED FOR CORRECTIONS AND FOR THOSE WHO HADN'T PROVIDED INFO IN PAST

HARC MEMBERS QUESTIONNAIRE—QUESTIONNAIRE AVAILABLE IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO COMPLETE ONE

PURCHASE USED 500 Hz FILTER (CW) FOR IC736—**TOM K0SN** Tom had one response from his inquiries so far. Used 500 Hz filters are rare; may have to settle for a used 250 Hz. New ones are available, but cost more.

FOLLOW-UP ON FEBRUARY PROGRAM, LOGBOOK OF THE WORLD—**TOM K0SN--** Several members have attempted downloads of this and similar programs with varying degrees of success. Suggest re-visit and review **LOW** at April meeting.

REPORT ON ARGUS HAMFEST—**Wilmajeon KD7HP** attended session for Traffic Handling; Jerry N7GE held testing session.

THANKS MIKE K7MSO FOR MARCH HELLGATE STATIC—HELPFUL IS MORE ARTICLES WERE SENT TO MIKE

OTHER ITEMS

NEW BUSINESS

INFORMATION PERTINENT TO POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF 600 WATT AMPLIFIER—**TOM K0SN—Cost would be \$600-\$1,000. Options were discussed; Recommend starting with an evaluation of antennas. Tom will head antenna committee.**

CLUB FOX HUNT—ANY INTEREST (<http://www.homingin.com>) Several members are interested in this activity; **Lewis NQ7D will continue to work on this.**

SIGN UP SHEET FOR GRIZ MAN ADVENTURE RACE

SIGN UP SHEET FOR GRIZZLY TRIATHLON—JERRY N7GE

SIGN UP SHEET FOR RIVERBANK RUN—JERRY N7GE

OTHER ITEMS

PROGRAM—BUILDING A QUICK RESPONSE EMERGENCY KIT—WILMAJEAN KD7HP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

78th ANNUAL GLACIER-WATERTON HAMFEST—JULY 20-22—registration forms available at head table

TOSRV MAY 19-20—Bigfork motels—Timbers Motel 406-837-6200 or Mountain Lake Lodge 406-837-3800

ANYONE NOT GETTING MY EMAILS—ELMER WG7P

NAME BADGES—ELMER WG7P—order sheet at front table

BUY OR SELL— Dale Carson has items to sell; Mike K7MSO will post this information in the Static

PROBLEMS OR ISSUES WITH YOUR EQUIPMENT OR PROGRAMS??

GOOD OF THE ORDER: (1) Michael KF7NGM asked if anyone was familiar with software defined radios?

Andrew KF7QOH and Michael KF7NGM will bring information about software-defined radios to a future meeting (www.flex-radio.com). (2) Dean KV6CQC is looking for people who can help with MBIS

MOTION TO ADJOURN Mike Ives AE7OF 2nd Wilmajeon KD7HP Passed

Respectfully Submitted,

Liz

WG7E

Announcing the 2012 Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Hamfest,
Will take place on Saturday, June 9, 2012
At the American Legion Hall in Post Falls, ID
More details soon at our website www.k7id.org
And another reminder to you about one month in advance.
Hope to see you there!
73,
Ed AI7H,
KARS Hamfest Publicity Committee

Hi everyone,

It's only a little over a month until the 6th running of the 7th area QSO Party HF operating event.

Why not dust off the Field Day gear and get on the air from a rare MT county. Or stay home and operate, but mark May 5 on your calendar!

Last year we had 29 of the 56 Montana counties on the air for the 6th running of the 7QP. This was down a few counties from the year before. Let's get 'em all on! Go portable and blow the carbon out of the generator or stay home and try out that new wire antenna. Or throw the rig in the mobile and activate several counties in your area. Visit the 7QP website: www.7qp.org for additional information.

Getting Ready for Summer Ham Events by Liz WG7E

I have several "grab-and-go-bags," most weather-related, and one with some radio gear. As the event season nears, it is time to review the items "dedicated" to this bag. They live here. My bag, right now anyway, is a tote bag. Something with a zipper would be nice, also waterproof and with proper carrying straps and lots of pockets. Something to save for.

The main item in my bag is a two-meter hand-held Alinco transceiver radio with five watts of power. It reaches the repeater quite well, and can also serve as my household radio for basic communications. It uses a rechargeable power pack that can be charged at home or in the car, with the proper cord. I find it easier to use a battery pack with six AA batteries. Batteries are sufficiently low-tech to suit my needs and allow me to focus on other activities during the day. I carry one extra battery pack, filled and ready to switch-out in seconds. I will practice making that switch at home, periodically, so it looks professional. The radio has a short "rubber-ducky" antenna and a telescoping one that gives better range. I will also practice changing these so they fit and work well.

Lots and lots of extra batteries are must-haves. I've learned there are no battery shops up the Blackfoot, or in the Swan Valley, or even on Mullan Road when needed. Batteries are a good thing. I swap them out at the

start of the season, retiring those that are “gently-used” to less important items, like clocks. I’ve also learned that a good ham is always prepared to loan batteries, and have actually been on both sides of this transaction through the years. “Remember to remove batteries during lengthy storage periods).

This year I have a plug-in, clip-on mike and ear buds. It will enable mostly hands-free operation. This is on my list of things-to-practice-to-make-look-easy. Another item dedicated to my ham bag is a wide belt so I can clip the radio on, and use both hands to drive, or use binoculars, or eat a sandwich.

Hopefully, this is sounding easy. I also always carry the manual for my radio. When someone tells me to use simplex instead of the repeater, I can make that happen. Let’s face it: not everyone uses these radios daily, and all models are different. (Sometimes I also use a manual to answer a question about the TV set at home). One nice part of the ham community is the opportunity to always be able to ask a question, or have help setting a frequency, or get suggestions, and to see equipment in operation.

More items that live in my dedicated ham bag: a tablet and pencil (how old-fashioned), a ball cap to shade the eyes, a safety vest, and a litter bag. I will add rain gear and extra/layered clothing to suit the day.

Along with my ham bag, I take a “ditty bag,” that all-purpose collection of items useful for a variety of excursions. Sunscreen, sunglasses, insect spray, water, protein bars, and of course a camera, watch, and cell phone. I’m ready to go! Oh, yes, some Oreos for good luck.



Tom Azarra W2LFB sk

Longtime ham, Tom Azarra, passed away in March. Respected for his knowledge of electronics and radio, Tom was always available for advice and troubleshooting gear for his ham friends in the Missoula valley. W2LFB grew up in New Jersey, before migrating to Missoula, and a licensed ham for 73 years