



# The Hellgate Static



March 2016

Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO

HARC P.O. Box 3811, Missoula, MT 59806-3811

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## **Club Officers:**

- President: K7MSP Mike Leary  
[mleary2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mleary2001@yahoo.com)
- Vice-president: Wayne Weber  
KE7BPU
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli  
[jehli@modernmachinery.com](mailto:jehli@modernmachinery.com)
- Secretary: Maggie KF7KEE/Donna  
KC5WRA

## **Standing Committees:**

- Emergency Coordinator: N7GE Jerry Ehli  
[jehli@modernmachinery.com](mailto:jehli@modernmachinery.com)
- QSLs, Awards: N7MSU, Bob Henderson  
[mailto:n7msu@q.com](mailto:mailto:n7msu@q.com)
- Webmaster: K7MSO Mike Leary  
[mleary2001@yahoo.com](mailto:mleary2001@yahoo.com)
- Radio License Examinations Contact  
VE: K7VK Vick, [k7vk@arrl.net](mailto:k7vk@arrl.net)

## **Repeater Advisory Committee**

Chair: Wayne Weber KE7BPU

- N7DXT Gary Watson
- NZ7S Eric Sedgwick

Newly elected or reelected:

- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS  
[N7PAS@bresnan.net](mailto:N7PAS@bresnan.net)

## **Upcoming Events**

- 14 Mar Club Meeting
- 11 April Club Meeting
- 24 April Grizzly Triathlon
- 7 - 8 May 7QP Contest
- 7 May Riverbank Run
- 9 May Club Meeting
- 4 - 5 June TOSRV
- 13 June Club Meeting
- 25 - 26 June Field Day
- 4 July W7PX Special Event
- 10 July Missoula Marathon
- 11 July Club Meeting
- 8 August Club Meeting
- 10 Sept Ride for the Symphony
- 12 Sept Club Meeting
- 10 Oct Club Meeting
- 15 - 16 Oct JOTA
- 14 Nov Club Meeting
- 2 - 3 Dec Skywarn
- 12 Dec Christmas Dinner

See club website for more:

[http://www.w7px.org/meetings\\_and\\_events.html](http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html)

## Unapproved Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Minutes February 8 2016 at Fire Station #4

Mike Leary K7MSO called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance:

Mike Leary K7MSO, Wayne Weber KE7BPU, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Jerri Shuey N7JGE, Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Maggie Lough KF7KEE, Jonathan Farnsworth KK6RRP, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ. Bryan Gillespie KE7LJH, Tom Hellem K0SN, Larry Stipe K7GIS. D Morton KG7CBD, Tom McGinley K7QA, Tyrel Carver AF6GTS, Dick Walton W7XT, Kent Fullerton KG7ZNG, and Lynn Fullerton KG7ZNE visiting from Moiese, and guest Al Charters

Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA moved approval of Jan 11 2016 Minutes. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Maggie Lough moved to approve Dec 2015 Treasurer's Report. Jerri Shuey N7JGS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Maggie Lough moved to approve Jan 2016 Treasurer's Report. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed.

Discussion of coming year's budget was tabled.

Net Control Operator Schedule:

Feb 10 Rich Kingdon K7QNZ

Feb 17 Kent Fullerton KG7ZNG

Feb 24 Dick Walton W7XT

Mar 2 Donna KC5WRA

Mar 9 Paul Shuey N7PAS

New Business:

Mike reported that the Club Call Sign W7PX is up for renewal in August and he will renew it as Trustee

Argus Hamfest Feb 27 in Stevensville

Paul Shuey N7PAS reported that he will be teaching a Tech class for 3 weeks on Tues and Thurs from 6-9pm beginning Feb 23 at the Fire Station #4 on Latimer

Future Programs

Mar – Dick Walton will be asked to do the program on ARDuino and Raspberry Pi

Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA moved to Adjourn. Paul Shuey N7PAS 2<sup>nd</sup>. Passed

Next Club meeting: March 14

## Ghost Towns On The Air

Dick Walton, W7XT  
Hellgate Amateur Radio Club  
Missoula MT  
[WaltonRE@rewalt.me](mailto:WaltonRE@rewalt.me)

### Montana Ghost Towns On The Air

There are 40 or more notable ghost towns in Montana, some of them, like Virginia City, still regularly occupied, most of them, like Coloma, entirely abandoned, or nearly so. Across the country there is considerable interest in ghost towns. There are websites devoted to information about them, with illustrations, and arrangements for visits to the towns, as well as reports of those experiences. A prominent example is <http://www.ghosttowns.com>. See <http://www.visitmt.com/things-to-do/history/ghost-towns.html> for a special site devoted to Montana.

Two books on Montana ghost towns are currently in print: William W. Whitfield, *Montana Ghost Towns and Gold Camps*, and Donald C. Miller, *Ghost Towns of Montana*. These have excellent write-ups on the many significant sites in our state.

I believe that putting some of our Montana ghost towns on the air would be an enjoyable and beneficial activity for the Montana ham radio community. Special operating events like those I envision are quite popular, as those for counties, islands, mountain summits, National Parks, and other notable entities clearly demonstrate. Operations from ghost towns would necessarily be Field Day style, and for all but the hardest Montana mic and key jockeys, would take place during the good weather months. Given the number of interesting ghost towns we have and sufficient interest on the part of the state's ham operators, these events might occupy us for three summers, or more.

Pulling the project off would require that it be an official enterprise of the Montana ham radio clubs, acting in concert, with the activity endorsed and publicized by the ARRL. The effort could be greatly assisted by the State government as a form of tourism promotion. State sponsorship would enable the printing of QSL cards, attractive certificates, the creation of a website, and other such items.

This idea arose in the Hellgate Amateur Radio Club of Missoula this past summer. There was a good deal of support for the proposal then, and a recommendation that it be pursued. The task at present is to make the state's other clubs aware of the idea and to assess those clubs' interest in it. If interest warrants, a small steering committee might then be formed composed of representatives from across the state. The committee's charge would be to develop the idea further, attempt to garner State government support, and win the endorsement of the ARRL. A tentative schedule could then be drawn up for bringing these once vital places to life again, if only for a day or two.