



# The Hellgate Static



September 2016 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO

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

## **Inside this issue:**

- August Meeting Minutes
- Summits On The Air
- HARV VE's Pass Milestone

## **Club Officers:**

- President: K7MSO 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>
- 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**

- 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)

## Minutes August 8, 2016 meeting

Introductions: Mike Leary K7MSO called the meeting to order. The following were in attendance – Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Dick Walton W7XT, Sid Frissell NZ7M, Paul Shuey N7PAS, Marc Matheson KD6KR, David Herzberg KI7FGN, Gary Duncan KG7WYQ, Jonathan Farnsworth KK6RRP, Larry Stipe K7GIS, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Elaine Case KS7LDS, Gary Bruce K7OIJ, Tom McGinley K7QA, Bruce Charles KT7S, Susan Charles KA5VQV, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, Tom Hellem K0SN, Bill Farrell W4YMA

Approval of last meeting minutes Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA moved, Gary 2nd, Passed

Treasurer's Report tabled.

Repeater Committee Report by Eric Sedgwick NZ7S

147.04 Point Six - back up after a fuse blew

146.80 Blanchard Mtn - Paul and others going up this weekend

146.90 Point Six - operational

444.8 Point Six - operational for 04/control for 04

145.01 Point Six Packet

146.96 Thompson Peak – Thursday Inspection

Appointment of HF Committee – Tom, Dick, Tom appointed

Tom made motion to approve \$250 in budget for aluminum tubing. Donna 2nd, Passed.

Dick was appointed auditor

Recent Events

Field Day – was great, many came out, Mike has good feelings about it, Beam worked great, dipole worked well, Field Day needs to be re-organized. Help Mike help us – sign up

Fourth of July – many people at Fort stopped by

Missoula Marathon- Jerry reported trackers on, clarification needed on medical issues at Missoula Marathon stops, good event and pizza after

Upcoming Events

Ovando Gran Fondo (10 September)

Trackers ready early

Signup early

250 riders

HARC is essential to them

Mechanical

Medical Care

Minor – 1st aid by sweep riders

Significant injury that requires treatment

Injuries requiring medical teams/call 911/ambulance is in Ovando

Report all problems (we log everything)

JOTA (15 October)

Skywarn (2/3 December)

VHF Net NCS assignments:  
Aug 10 - Mike Leary K7MSO  
Aug 17 – Dick - Rich  
Aug 24 – Dave  
Aug 31 – Bill Farrell  
Sept 7 - Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA

New Business: Paul pointed out that the Net Preamble does not include the time as Zulu time or local time. David Herzberg KI7FGN moved to make local time for the net, Dick Walton W7XT 2nd, Passed

\*\*\* Next Club meeting: Sept 12

Program: David KI7FGN about Raspberry Pi, airplanes and where they are located, by 2020 all airplanes will be required to have locaters in plane

Good and Welfare.

Adjournment Donna moved, Dave 2nd, Passed



### **Summits on the Air – Scrambling up mountaintops with Ham Radio**

From K7VK

Do you love to hike/climb mountain peaks? Maybe it's time to take your ham radio with you. Summits on the Air (SOTA) is a Worldwide program catching on in the US and Montana. It is a continuous ham radio event where each mountain summit is assigned award points based on elevation within a large area (association) and hams communicate from and to these summits. Both hams on the summit and in the valley floors (home stations) accumulate 'points' for SOTA awards. Hams communicating from their home, 'chasing' can earn Mountain Hunter and Shack Sloth awards. Those hams communicating from the summits, 'activating' earn Mountain Explorer and Mountain Goat awards. Amateur bands utilized: HF, VHF, UHF & microwave.

Montana has 2608 summits and most of those have never been 'activated' by hams. Lake-Missoula Counties for example has 180 summits. Here's a link to the .pdf SOTA manual for Montana: <http://www.sota.org.uk/ARMViewer/W7M>. The manual explains the program details and lists the summits in Montana. Each summit is assigned a unique designator and has 1-10 points assigned to it. When a ham puts a summit on the air, 'activated' a mini-pile up occurs. It is fairly relaxed much like Field Day.

If you are a hiker or enjoy 'chasing' stations, then consider Summits on the Air. It's easy to do. The SOTA websites allow one to see the activity or schedule a visit to a summit, SOTAWatch2. Like to go to a mountaintop? Take your ham radio and hand out points for the contacts.

For additional information, see <http://www.sotawatch.org/index.php> and click the tabs beginning with 'website' for an introduction. Questions about the program? Either follow the suggested links or locally contact K7vk@arrl.net.

Now, go chase or activate a Montana mountain.

### **Big Year for Hellgate ARC Volunteer Examiners (VEs)**

From VE K7VK

Earlier this year the Hellgate ARC Volunteer Examiners (VEs) administered their 300th examination session! Since 1982 we have seated 1318 candidates. Sixty-three percent of the candidates have upgraded or received new licenses. How quickly do new candidates receive their new licenses? Usually within 2 days of passing, a result of our ability to electronically submit same-day examination results and the fine work of W5YI-VEC staff. We also at times have used the ARRL-VEC.

Technician licenses are 65% of the total followed by General Class 25% and Amateur Extra Class, 10%. Many of the successful candidates have attended the fine training classes taught by N7PAS, Paul.

Currently 10 active VEs administer the HARC sponsored examination sessions. N7GE, Jerry and K7PX, Steve (recently moved to Colorado) have attended over 100 examination sessions and K7VK, Vick over 200 examination sessions.

What happens to the examination fees? These can be used for reimbursable expenses such as: examination papers, printing, pens/pencils, certificates, envelopes, postage and VE mileage. The remainder of the fees are sent to the National VECs, W5YI Group. None of the fees are retained by the HARC.

Examination sessions are regularly scheduled at 5:30 PM, just prior to the Hellgate ARC meeting at Missoula Fire Station #4. The next one is September 12. We will also attempt to schedule special sessions for candidates not able to make the regularly scheduled examinations. Need one? Just phone or email.