



The Hellegate Static



September 2017 Editor: Mike Leary K7MSO

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

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Club Officers:

- President: K7MSO Mike Leary
mleary2001@yahoo.com
- Vice-president: NZ7S Eric Sedgwick
- Treasurer: N7GE, Jerry Ehli
jehli@modernmachinery.com
- Secretary: Donna KC5WRA

Standing Committees:

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

Repeater Advisory Committee

Chair: Eric Sedgwick

- Tom K0SN
- Paul Shuey N7PAS

Newly elected or reelected:

- David K7MTD
- Tom K7QA

Upcoming Events

- 14 Aug- Meeting
- 9 Sep - OGF
- 11 Sep – Meeting
- 9 Oct – Meeting
- 14 Oct - JOTA
- 13 Nov – Meeting
- 2 - 3 Dec - Skywarn
- 11 Dec - Meeting

See club website for more:

http://www.w7px.org/meetings_and_events.html

August Meeting Minutes

Notes for July Meeting

Attendance: Donna Pecastaing KC5WRA, Elaine Case KS7LDS, Gary Bruce K7OIJ, Mike Curtain W7MJC, Sandra Pond KF7GZR, Dean Pond N7DLP, Jason Lindsay K1JAL, Tom McGinley K7QA, Dick Jones W7JDX, Dick Walton W7XT, Bryce Rowe KI7LMV, Larry Stipe K7GIS, Bryce Nordgren AF7RQ, Eric Sedgwick NZ7S, Mike Leary K7MSO, Jerry Ehli N7GE, Rich Kingdon K7QNZ, Jackie Harrington KC7RBC

Approval of last meetings minutes: June and July minutes were approved.

Approval of Treasurer's report: Both June and July reports were approved.

Repeater Committee: 146.90 repeater is down while we are swapping into the Missoula County building. How much to spend to fix it will be brought up at the next meeting in September. Missoula County pays for us to stay in the building for 146.80 repeater. Jason K1JAL works for the company that owns that building.

HF Committee Report:

- A. CW tower is still at the Fort since Field Day.
- B. Trailer is O.K. now.
- C. Club equipment inventory – Dick W7XT will come up with a list of big ticket items. Eric NZ7S will go through what he has and test it.

Recent events: None

Presentation: Dick W7XT on Ovando Gran Fondo assignments.

Net Control Stations:

Aug 16 David K7MDT
Aug 23 Jim N7XPO
Aug 30 Jason K1JAL
Sep 06 Donna KC5WRA

Other items:

Dick W7XT made motion to buy 5 tracker bags for bicycles. Motion approved.

Motion to adjourn: Approved.

HF Bands Affected by Solar Flares

From the ARRL website:

Solar Flares Spark Radio Blackouts, Auroral Displays Possible

09/07/2017

NOAA's Space Weather Prediction Center ([SWPC](#)) has issued a strong (G3) geomagnetic storm watch for September 7 through September 9. The SWPC said the watch for September 7 remains in effect due to the arrival of a coronal mass ejection (CME) and the effects of a CME on September 4.

“Additionally, a G3 watch is now in effect for the 8 and 9 September UTC days in anticipation of the arrival of another CME associated with the X9.3 flare (R3 — strong radio blackout) on 6 September at 1202 UTC (0802 ET),” the SWPC said early on September 7. “Analysis indicates likely CME arrival late on 8 September into early 9 September.” The September 6 flare is being called the strongest in more than a decade.

Its effect on HF radio propagation has adversely affected the Hurricane Watch Net ([HWN](#)), currently operating on 20 and 40 meters as Hurricane Irma sweeps through the Caribbean.

As of September 7 at 1400 UTC, the solar flux index stood at 127, the sunspot number at 27, the A index at 11, and the K index at 4. All HF conditions are being deemed as no better than fair. The possibility of extended auroral displays could work to the benefit of VHF and UHF operators who aim their antennas north to take advantage of “buzz” mode. SWPC posts a [30-minute forecast](#) of visible aurora.

The SWPC said the September 4 CME arrived at the *DSCOVR* spacecraft on September 6 at 2308 UTC, and “a sudden impulse was observed at several of Earth's magnetometers” at 2348 UTC due to the effects from the shock arrival at Earth.

“While solar wind speed initially reached speeds of around 600 km/s and total interplanetary magnetic field strength (IMF) increased to around 14 nT, the Bz component [of the Sun's magnetic field] was directed northward in the early stages of the event — an unfavorable orientation for escalating geomagnetic responses,” the center said. “However, the potential for geomagnetic storming still exists as the CME continues passing over Earth.

An S1 (minor) radiation storm warning has been extended to September 8 at 0600 UTC. This could have a minor impact on polar HF propagation. The SWPC has observed S2 conditions over the past day or two.

The September 6 X9.3 flare followed an X2.2 flare (also R3) at 0910 UTC. The source region for both flares was Region 2673 on the Sun.

