

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

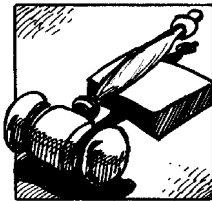
Helena, MT

John McDougall K7JM – Editor

July 2005

From The Pres...

Before I get started, I would like to remind everyone that the July meeting isn't until July 11th due to the Holiday on the 4th. We will be having a standard business meeting, and will be discussing Field Day and possibly Special Event station details, although some of the latter will be handled on the July 5th net.



I've got several things to go over in this article, so I'll just plow through them. Let's start with Field Day. I would say that we had one of the best (if not the best) field day since I've been a member of the club. I didn't have the opportunity (due to various reasons) to stay overnight at the site, but what time I did have up there was definitely enjoyable. Kudos to our Field Day committee consisting primarily of Ci (WU7R), Rich (N7GC) and Dave (YA7FF).

I mentioned last month that Clark, ND7A had done lots of work on the club's trailer, including

.(Cont. P.2 PRES)

JULY MEETING

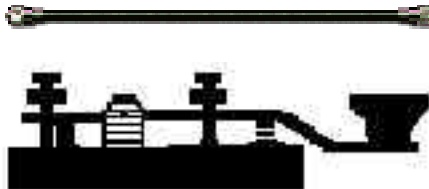
Monday

July 11

Salvation Army
Church

1905 Henderson

7:00 pm.



In This Issue

From The Pres.....	1
JULY MEETING.....	1
Board of Directors.....	1
Upcoming Events.....	1
ARES Notes.....	2
From The Editor.....	4
Field Day 2005.....	4
Governor's Cup Summary.....	5
VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.....	6
MCU Needs.....	7

Board of Directors

- Pres: Forrest Christian, AC7DE
- Vice Pres: John Curry, K7EBL
- Sec.: Rich Weddle, N7GC
- Tres.: Dan Stinson, KC7KKH
- Newsletter Editor: John McDougall K7JM
- Training: John Geach, KS7R
- Technical: Don Heide, W7MRI
- Volunteer Exam Team Leader: John Geach, KS7R

Upcoming Events

Some dates to remember:

- K7L/C Special Event Station.**
- Dates in July to be Determined**
- Glacier Waterton Hamfest. July 15-17, 2005**

(Cont from P.1 PRES)

hopefully fixing the front window leak that had plagued us for so long. From my observation at field day during the rains we had, it appears that this is definitely fixed. I thought that leak would never be fixed.

In regards to the K7L/C special event station. I am still hammering out details for the special event station itself. Mainly, I'm working on locating an appropriate spot or spots to operate the club station from. The period I indicated to the ARRL is July 9-23, but I figured it would operate off and on during this period. My intention is to let people know more details on the July 5th net (if I am successful in remembering net when it is on), and possibly at Hardees. Note that the above applies just to the operation of the K7L/C callsign.

Part of the special event is an opportunity for individual stations operating from **within Lewis and Clark county** (either fixed or mobile within the county) to operate with a /LC suffix. I'm sorry about those of you who are in Jefferson and/or other counties, but this was suggested to help the county hunters out there have an opportunity to work Lewis & Clark County. Feel free to work mobile, or participate in the Special Event Station itself. If working this is of interest to you, please keep in mind the following: The period is July 9th through the 23rd, local time. Please keep logs of all contacts you make with the /LC suffix, preferably in electronic format and preferably something that can spit out a cabrillo format file. Stations working /LC stations who want a certificate can send a 9x12 SASE to 50 11th Avenue, Helena, MT 59601 (or alternatively via AC7DE) within 30 days. There will be no fee for the certificate. They will need to list all the stations they have worked with band and mode (including possibly K7L/C) and the certificate will have appropriate endorsements for each station. If they just want your card and aren't interested in a certificate, feel free to handle QSL's directly also. One final note. I have indicated that stations will be generally operating 25kHz down from the top of each band. For example, if you are operating 20M SSB, the band ends at 14,350 khz so you should work at

approximately 14,325, subject to frequency availability. This applies equally well to CW. If you happen to be on the same time as someone else, move up or down far enough to ensure adequate spacing. For those PSK31 (and other data) operators out there, feel free to work anywhere in the appropriate band segment for your mode. One thing I do want to mention is that I will be generating and filling in the certificates electronically. Thus the request for electronic logs. Most logging programs will export cabrillo format files, so I'm hopeful that I can get most of the logs in that format. If you can't do a cabrillo format file, or just don't have a logging program, please don't feel like you can't participate. I would ask that you do try to get the logs (if at all possible) in some sort of electronic format, even if it's just a spreadsheet or word processing file with the callsign, band, and time. Plus, there are several free logging programs which do support the cabrillo format. If you have internet access, do a google (www.google.com) search for "free cabrillo logging", and several will be listed.

More details on the special event station should be available soon at www.w7tck.org/lc. (Hopefully by the time you read this). Stay tuned for more details on the Special Event Station itself.

I think that's all for now.

73's

Forrest
AC7DE

**ARES Notes...**

LAST CHANCE 1, July
20 through July 24, 2005

Operation Last Chance 1, a multi-agency, multi-scenario WMD biohazard exercise involved over 100 agencies from all levels of federal, state, and local governments, as well as the private and volunteer sectors. It was the largest WMD exercise ever



conducted in Montana. Planning and control of the exercise were managed by an Incident Command team that worked for about a year putting it together. Exercise operations also had its own Incident Command structure, which changed lead agencies and Incident Commanders each day of the exercise.

It was held at the Rocky Mountain Emergency Training Center at the Helena Regional Airport and other locations, such as the state and local EOC's, state and local health departments, private and governmental hospitals and other related agencies state wide. It involved responses by all of the state's Haz-Mat teams, Montana and Idaho National Guard Civil Support Teams, local police and fire units, emergency medical and federal law enforcement agencies.

ARES was to participate only the second and third day of the event and was not considered to be an active player in the exercise. We had been requested by the event planners to set up the Mobile Communication Unit (MCU) as part of a static display of emergency response equipment. The "show and tell aspect" was to have been our only role at the exercise site. Video of the trailer and the hams setting it up was featured on newscasts locally and on all three statewide TV networks that evening.

ARES was originally requested to provide operators at the County EOC to assist with telephone and cell communications. Once the exercise began, Bob K7HLN and Rich N7GC reported to the EOC and were asked to provide a ham radio link from the Lewis and Clark County EOC to the Airport location on the second and third days of the exercise. The mission of hams staffing the MCU at the airport changed substantially when we were later asked to provide a direct link from the EOC to the Incident Command Post (ICP).

The Incident Commander (IC) and the key players in the airport exercise changed each day. On Wednesday, Bruce KD7UAF shadowed the IC and provided him a direct radio link to the EOC at the County Law Enforcement Center. This worked extremely well, with Bruce staying right with him

during the developing events of the day. The IC requested support staff from the EOC as a simulated message and then asked for an Administrative Assistant to handle his radio and cell phone communications as a real time message. With no staff from the EOC available, Dave WA7YFF was assigned as his Administrative Assistant. Later in the day, the other two ARES operators at the Airport, Sam KD7VWE and Tom WA9YFF, swapped positions with Bruce and Dave. That gave all of them an opportunity to observe the IC and the ICP staff function within the ICS structure. Dave was also dispatched earlier in the day as a courier to deliver maps from the County GIS unit at the City- County Building to the ICP.

On Thursday, ARES was not scheduled to participate in the exercise. Bob K7HLN received a call from Paul Spengler, requesting an operator to monitor exercise radio traffic for the minimally staffed EOC. A QST was put out on the .82 repeater and Dave WA7YFF responded to the EOC to monitor radio traffic during a simulated raid by the FBI and county Special Events Team (formerly known as SWAT) on a suspected meth lab. It turned out the lab was associated with the earlier exercise biohazard scenarios.

Bob K7HLN participated in the evaluation on Friday morning that looked only at EOC operations. A number of comments were voiced complimenting the response of the ham radio operators during the exercise. Other hams volunteering during the exercise included Teresa KD7URD, Scott N7KJ and Dan KC7KKH. Hams volunteered approximately 80 hours of service during the event. Bill K7MT was part of the exercise management team, coordinating their communications. He was also a resource for the hams at the airport.

de Bob K7HLN

From The Editor

You will probably be reading this well before the club meeting on the 11th. My family and I are on vacation so this had to be written early. My thanks to all who contributed articles and got them to me early.



How is your Ham summer going? We certainly had our share of different activities that we could have been involved with in this last month. Governor's Cup was a huge success. So was our involvement in Last Chance 1. Then there was Field Day. It was definitely a Ham Radio Highlight. We had a great time with leisurely operating and lots of fellowship. This month's newsletter is packed with a lot of information. I hope to include a lot of Ham activity photos in next month's Newsletter. Get involved. Ham Radio is FUN!

God bless you all and I hope to see many of you up at Glacier Waterton Hamfest. It's not too late to make plans.

John K7JM - Editor

Field Day 2005

I thought that I should write something for the newsletter while this past weekend is still in good memory, such as it is. However, I don't have any of the vital statistics tallied up as yet, so those will come later, perhaps even in this same newsletter.



This year we returned to the traditional site (so I have been told) of Field Day, the Quigley Group Use camp site on McDonald Pass, a.k.a., the 'old Cromwell Dixon' site. The site has been improved by the Forest Service with a permanent outhouse, drinking water pump, and a fence to keep out the cows. Some of us arrived Friday mid to late afternoon to start the setup. A few folfers played through our camp sites but were other wise

pleasant and quiet. I was concerned that they would be a problem if their numbers continued to grow over the weekend and as our sites -and equipment, increased, so I called in local law enforcement for clarification on who should be there and who we should be quiet about. A deputy showed up and said that although he did not know the specific regulations the Forest Service had regarding such matters, he thought the contract we had weighed heavier than the folfers' long standing tradition of use. The deputy said he would send a 'Forest Service L.E.S.' to see me Saturday morning. Well, the 'LES' never showed, but neither did the folfers. I noticed a few through out Saturday playing in areas well away from us, but they were never a problem. If I had known how inconspicuous they would be on Saturday and

Sunday, I would not have bothered the Deputy on Friday. Once again, let me state that the few folfers that I did speak with were pleasant and polite.

We got off to a slow start on Saturday. Rich (N7GC) was the only one operating by 12:00 noon out of the tent on his own rig and Ci's (WU7R) Butternut guyed to the ground. Soon we had two other stations on the air and collecting points; Ci and John M. (K7JM) were going strong on a CW station using Vaughn's radio and, initially, Bob's (K7HLN) Outbacker mounted on a large aluminium tripod, then later, the club's old military dipole. (I found a copy of the military Field Manual for the dipole. It has a chart showing the proper lengths for every frequency from below 160m up through 18m, compensating for the coil of wire at each end.) It had a very nice 1.5 SWR on 160 Friday night, 80m Saturday morning from my Kenwood in the MCU, then finally, for rest of the event on 40m Saturday afternoon replacing Bob's Outbacker. Later in the afternoon, Forrest (AC7DE) set up a PSK-31 station with his laptop, Yaesu, and R7 from the MCU. It was the first time I have ever heard or seen PSK-31. It operates very much like my TNC/Laptop based CW, but it looks better doing it. I love the "real time broad band waterfall display".

Molly (with Dick's (W7RJM) help, I'm sure,) organized a great supper. Rain had us unplugged for about an hour before supper, but it stopped in time to start cooking. We all got to cook our meat on Bob's grill and enjoy the 35 or so people that showed up for what we all knew was the best part, the food and fellowship. Since it is difficult to key a mic with a fork in your hand, and CW is hard enough without a fork in your hand, all transmissions stopped and 'eyeball QSO's' with the locals took precedent.

Just after supper, Bob (K7HLN) setup his camper and rig, working 6m from his loop antenna mounted on the back of his camper and HF from his Outbacker. I finally settled down after supper on my Kenwood and Forrest's R7 from the MCU. I worked a little 40m phone and some 20m phone until very early Sunday morning.

After some sleep, I got up to find that Bob was working 6m and said that 10m was open. I started in on 10m and spent the rest of the morning there. My daughter, Sarah (age 11), even logged three contacts on 10m. Rain dampened some of the spirit each of the three days were up there, but really just gave us an excuse to unplug the antennae visit with each other. By Sunday noon we were all ready for some warm food and hot showers. It didn't take long to get the equipment down and stowed. The guys working with the tent did a great job wrestling it into submission. I think the real gem of the technical side of the event was the wireless LAN that Forrest set up between the MCU, the two stations in the tent and Bob's camper. We used FDLOG, a software package that has been developed over twenty years by hams specifically for Field Day. About five years ago it was ported over to PERL script and is now available for any platform that runs PERL, including Windows, Linux and Mac. We used the Windows version on dedicated laptops that were located at each station. Paper backup was available, but was only used for notes. The system automatically sends each logged contact to each laptop. If any laptop goes down no data is lost. When a laptop comes back up, it is automatically, and immediately, updated with contacts from the others. Each station can

also see what other bands are in use, no more running back and forth to see who is on what band. When all is said and done, the program kicks out reports that are formatted for the ARRL and can be sent off. (I need to do that right away.)

Well that's my report. If you missed Field Day, you missed an event that was very enjoyable. There was plenty of food, fellowship, and fun, and of course, lots of very short QSO's. We logged 169, but more than that, you missed out on education and experience that is at the very core of the existence of amateur radio. We have the privileges we do in order that we will be able to communicate when no else can. If we don't exercise those muscles, we'll loose them. The hobby has a vast array of facets; from antiques to inventions, phone to PSK31 to FSTV, handi-hams to hikers, mobile to mountain topping, HF to giga-hertz, DX to next door. Each facet is ultimately used to serve the public in time of emergency. Please consider taking one of the 365 days of next year and exercising your public service muscles. The public may need you, the hobby needs you, this club certainly needs you.

Respectfully submitted,
Dave White, WA7YFF



Governor's Cup Summary

Brief description of activity: Provided radio communication support for the 32nd Annual Governor's Cup Races, consisting of five long distance events (Marathon, Marathon Masters, Marathon Relay, Half Marathon, Marathon Walk) and two short events (5K and 10K), with a total of 5319 participants.

Hams track the first five runners in each category until they cross the finish line in downtown Helena. Their locations and times are available in hard copy to race officials, PA announcers and the media. Once the first five in each category have finished the race, hams at aid stations then go into a "health and welfare traffic" mode and monitor race participants for any problems. Operators at each aid

station stay on station until the last runner and "sweep" have passed their location.

Places or areas involved: From Marysville, an old mining town about 18 miles northwest of Helena, on dirt and paved roads into downtown Helena, as well as events within the city limits.

Number of amateurs participating: 29 amateur radio operators and 2 "no-call" family members

Event start date/time: 05:00 Saturday June 4, 2005

Total person-hours: 135 person-hours

Number of repeaters used: 2

Estimated person-power cost: \$ 1350 (person-hours times \$10/hr)

Estimated cost of equipment used: \$ 25,000 (hand-helds, repeaters, etc.)

Total estimated cost of service: \$ 26,350 (add amounts above)

Nets and/or frequencies used (including repeater call signs): W7TCK Governor's Cup Race Net, 147.850 Belmont Repeater (callsign W7MRI)

Back-up: 146.850 Hogback Repeater, with phone patch (callsign W7CK)

Simplex net: 146.520

Crossband repeater into finish line area

Number of messages handled: approx. 250 (about 90 percent tactical, 10 percent logistics)

Names of agencies receiving communications support: Montana Children's Caring Foundation, Inc.

Please list call signs of amateurs who were major participants: AC7DE, K7EBL, K7HLN, K7IZB, K7JM, KB7HSA, KC7GIO, KC7HEF, KC7KKH, KC7KUB, KC7QLH, KC7QLM, KC7VVZ, KC7WLK, KC7ZPK, KD7UAF, KD7URD, KD7URE, KD7VHV, KD7VHY, KD7VWD, KD7VWE, KD7VWG, N7OT, W7MIT, W7MRI, W7RJM, WA7YFF, WU7R

Other comments: Approx. 450 miles were driven by hams in support of the event.

The Capital City Amateur Radio Club is recognized as a contributing sponsor by the organizers for our continuing support for the event.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...

On Saturday, July 16, there will be an on-the-water event taking place on Holter Lake and in the Gates of the Mountains. Named "Musical Currents", the event is a part of the local Lewis and Clark Bicentennial Celebration. It features musical presentations at 10 sites along the waterway, with performances by groups and individual artists from 1600 until 2100 hours.

Four boats departing from the Gates of the Mountains Boat Club will transport passengers to the event, as will private water craft from the Gates of the Mountain Marina and the boat launch areas on Holter Lake. Only a limited number of boats will be able to launch from the Gates Marina with an unknown number of private craft will coming from the Holter Lake boat ramps.

The law enforcement and emergency services communities have a response plan that can ramp up from regular patrol status to full scale emergency operations, as circumstance warrant. Agencies involved are Lewis and Clark Sheriff's Department (LCSO), Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks (FWP), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), U. S. Forest Service (USFS), Coast Guard Auxiliary, Lewis and Clark Search and Rescue (SAR), St. Peter's Ambulance Service and the Red Cross. They will be in service from 1100 hours until 0000 midnight.

We have been asked to stage at Holter Lake Campground to be available in the event of a communications failure. Both Hogback and Belmont repeaters should be useable from there.

We have also been asked to stage an operator or two at Rescue Base at the Gates of the Mountain Boat Club to assist with communications on the two meter ham radio that is in that vehicle, if needed. It would also be a good idea to have an operator or two monitoring the repeaters in town, should a relay be needed.

Since many of us will be at Hamfest, we are in need of someone to tow the MCU to Holter Lake Campground, to set it up, and return it to Helena, late Saturday night or early Sunday morning. The MCU needs to be in place at 1100, and may be needed until 0000 (Midnight). Teresa KD7URE and Sam KD7VWE have volunteered as operators, but have no way to tow the MCU. A truck with a seven pin/electrical brake connection is needed. While waiting in the staging area, it would be a great opportunity to operate on HF with our Special Event call sign. BLM will provide space and electrical power at the campground administrative site, which is the LCSO operations base on the north end of the event.

One or two operators are needed to stage at the Gates Boat Club, to be available if needed.

LCSO Command location for the operation will be located there at Rescue Base, with rescue and transport resources staged, should they be needed.

Please let me know if you are able to help. We have been asked to be a part of this operation, I don't want to tell them we can't do it because we can't get volunteers.

De Bob K7HLN



MCU Needs

Thanks to Clark's effort last winter, the MCU is in the best shape it has seen in years, maybe even better than when we got it. It is now time to consider taking the next step and stocking the MCU so that it is truly a grab and go unit with everything we may need to operate in an emergency situation for up to three days (giving us time to get restocked). Even the Civilian Emergency Response Teams (CERT) are told by the Feds to be self sufficient for 72 hours. A few of us put our heads together (via email) and came up with the following list. These are presented in no particular order. If you can supply any of these items, please get them to the MCU directly, or to Dave WA7YFF, Forrest AC7DE, Bob K7HLN, a Monday night meeting, or to a Saturday Biscuits

and Gravy at Hardee's. If you can think of anything else you would like to have in the MCU if *you* have to stay there for 24 hours, please include that, too. If we end up with too much stuff, or duplicate items, we'll have door prizes for the monthly meetings, gifts for the next new/upgrade ham, or return the items to you.

- ✓ a CW key and keyer
- ✓ a TNC?
- ✓ topo maps, maybe the Gazetteer from DeLorme at 1:250,000. Maybe some L&C at 1:100,000
- ✓ topo map software and/or pics from USGS on the laptops
- ✓ 4 or 6 fluorescent traffic cones to be placed around the MCU when it is in
- ✓ operating situation.
- ✓ a portable floodlight of about 500 watts.
- ✓ two or three older laptops which have serial (for radio control interface),
- ✓ USB, PCMCIA (PCCard), and LAN ports.
- ✓ dried food for 2 people for three days (because of freezing temps, no
- ✓ canned goods)
- ✓ tea bags, or ice tea mix
- ✓ Gator Aid mix
- ✓ hot chocolate mix
- ✓ 10 cup coffee maker (when 24 cup is too much)
- ✓ fire squisher, ABCD
- ✓ wrist Rocket (Sling Shot)
- ✓ 6 to 9 guy wires 25' long ea
- ✓ antenna Analyzer
- ✓ blankets, 4
- ✓ electrical tool kit
- ✓ electronic tool kit
- ✓ indoor three prong 6' extension cord
- ✓ head phones (not the little ones)
- ✓ adaptors of all sorts, RF & audio
- ✓ a small microwave oven
- ✓ 2 gallon gas can

Respectfully submitted,
Dave WA7YFF

The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the
Capital City Amateur Radio Club.

P.O. Box 1112
Helena, MT 59624

CCARC Web Page: www.w7tck.org
Editor's E-Mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

CCARC Regular meetings are at 7:00 pm on the
first non-holiday Monday of each month at the
Salvation Army Church 1905 Henderson.

VE exams are offered monthly, just prior to the regular
CCARC meeting, but on an appointment only basis. If
no appointments are made, VE exams will not be
scheduled for that month. Those wishing to take an
exam should contact John Geach, KS7R, 442-7107 at
least two days prior to the CCARC meeting to schedule
an exam.

W7MRI Repeater: 147.82 (-offset)
**Net every Tuesday at 7:30 pm local time on the
147.82 (-offset) repeater.**



Food, Fun, & Fellowship at Field Day

Return Address: Newsletter Editor
Capital City Amateur Radio Club
P.O. Box 271
Jefferson City, MT 59638

e-mail: jdmcdougall@juno.com

All expressions of opinions and all statements of
supposed facts are published on the authority of
the author and are not to be regarded as
expressing the view of CCARC.

Biscuits and Gravy

**Come to Hardee's on Saturday. Every Saturday
morning between 9:30 and 11:00, as many as
twenty hams show up for "EYEBALL" QSOs.**

COME JOIN THE FUN!

First Class Mail