

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

August 2006



PRES SAYS...

DAVE WHITE, WA7YFF

First I must apologize to Bob K7HLN for neglecting to mention his contribution to Field

Day in last month's column. Bob and Barb were out there with the rest of us (and ahead of me) for the duration. Bob worked some 6m and 20m. He also worked the special event station out of Germany, DQ2006X. My apologies Bob.

Look forward this August to some simple fox huts! I have spoken recently with Jean McPherson about borrowing her Emergency Locator Transponders (ELT). Listen on the Tuesday night nets, 7:30pm, for more information.

Mark off Saturday, September 16th for Preparedness Fair at the Mall. We will be setting up a booth to show off our great hobby. Which reminds me, does anyone have a truck capable of towing the 5000 pound MCU?

The Elkhorn run was a great success, in spite of the fact that information was a little slow in coming the weeks before the race. Once race day arrived, things smoothed out nicely. Originally, we were planning on six aid stations with a minimum of twelve people. By the time race day arrived, seven of the original

twelve who expressed an interest in participating had to back out due to health reasons or military deployments. As things turned out, we were asked to provide communications for only four out of the six aid stations. The hardest two to get into, Wilson Creek and Elk Park, were manned by Elkhorn Search and Rescue (ESAR). Unfortunately, the race officials only had satellite phone communications with Elk Park, and then only when the

Verizon cell phone signal would reach into the finish line valley. My request for ESAR frequencies went unanswered. This contributed to the situation that I will go into detail later.



(See PRES P. 2)

Board of Directors

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WA7WFF

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Tod Glenn, N7JQW

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Rich Weddle, N7GC

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John Geach, KS7R

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McDougall, K7JM

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John Geach, KS7R

Technical: Don

Heide, W7MRI

**Volunteer
Exam Team
Leader:**

John Geach, KS7R

www.w7tck.org

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(Cont. from PRES P. 1)

My plea on the .82 repeater on Thursday evening for more volunteers was immediately answered by Don N3CWD from Townsend. Don is a retired Pennsylvania highway patrolman with lots of EmComm experience. He volunteered to ride horseback three miles into Casey Meadows. I had not met Don prior to this and it wasn't until after his station had shut down and he came back to the finish line that I finally got to have an eyeball QSO with him. Thanks for filling in on such short notice, Don. Communications with his aid station was all but flawless.

At the finish line I set up my 8900 in cross band mode. This allowed me to wander around the immediate area with my handheld on low power and only one battery all day. I used UHF to talk to my 8900, and it talked out first to the .82 repeater and then we switched to .52 simplex. Using simplex allowed much better communications to and from Race Control but at the sacrifice of losing communications between aid stations. Bob K7HLN on .82 and .52, and CI WU7R on 80m with his Caroline Windom, made themselves available in Helena for our link back to civilization. A major contribution to the good simplex was Todd's Buddy Pole configured for 2m and attached to my 8900.

Todd N7WD (formerly N7JQW) and Chuck WA7ECF walked a half mile into Jackson Creek with their HF NVIS and VHF equipment. They set up an NVIS at my location at the finish line and one at Jackson Creek. They spent quite a bit of time in the weeks before the race researching and experimenting with NVIS antennas. With the help of Ci WU7R, this NVIS experiment proved very successful. 80m NVIS on 5 watts proved a much higher quality signal back to Race Control

and back to Ci's house in the Helena valley than either the .82 machine or .52 simplex. Todd and Chuck will be giving a program at our meeting on Aug. 7th concerning their NVIS activities.

Sam KD7VWE and Blake KE7EWN walked one and a half miles into Teepee Creek. Communications on .82 was unacceptable into this location. .52 simplex was much better. But poor Sam and Blake. They had to walk the farthest. They had the worst spot for communications. They didn't have NVIS for backup. And they got to stay at their location for three hours after the last runner crossed the finish line. Since we didn't have reliable communications with Elk Park, we needed to get the Search and Rescue teams activated and on the trail looking for the last participant who had managed to slip behind the Sweep and had gotten herself lost. Sam had reported her missing in action around 7:00pm. ESAR wanted Sam and Blake, along with the aid station personnel to stay on station until the ESAR team arrived. It wasn't until about 10:30pm that a team of horse riders made it to Teepee Creek. Sam and Blake had to walk out in the dark, moonless night, amongst all the flying rodents.

I got report on Sunday afternoon that the runner was located, cold, hungry, and tired, just after first light on Sunday. She is doing well.

Despite all the mishaps in planning I believe this event went quite well. We cannot expect more planning, or more information to come our way should this have been an Emergency Communications event. If there is a fire, flood, earthquake, or other such tragedy back in the mountains, there are now six more of us trained on how to handle the unique solutions required to ensure proper communications through the mountains.

See you all on down the coax! 73,

Dave White, WA7YFF



ARES NOTES

BOB SOLOMON, K7HLN

QST, QST, QST

A Reminder: It is being widely recommended that all ARES volunteers complete the following courses, as a minimum:

IS 100: Introduction to the Incident Command System

IS 200: ICS for Single Resource and Initial Action Incidents

IS 700: National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction

You might also wish to consider the course entitled "Introduction to Hazardous Materials (HAZMAT) and Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD)"

It is not too late to sign up for one or more of the free ICS (Incident Command System), NIMS (National Incident Management System), EOC (Emergency Operations Center) or WMD (Weapons of Mass Destruction) courses being offered during the CREW Week (Community Responder Education Week), from August 28 through September 1, here in Helena. Classes will be available at varying times during the week at a number of locations around town. These courses are being required nationally by the Dept. Of Homeland Security for all disaster and emergency response personnel. This



concentrated week of training is a one time effort, and will not be repeated.

If you are interested in attending one or more of the classes, please contact Paul Spengler at 447-8285. Please give me a call, if you have questions.

de Bob K7HLN



FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MCDUGALL, K7JM

Helena CW Ops Rule at Hamfest

As many of you know, this year's Glacier-Waterton Hamfest was very successful. One small disappointment was the few number of tailgate sales. I always enjoy looking over other people's 'junque' and deciding which articles and pieces I can not live without. I consider the small number of tailgate sales as an incentive to start collecting my own 'junque' over the next year and bringing it up to the Hamfest. Low supply plus large demand equals \$\$\$ in my pocket. We will see if this comes into being next year.



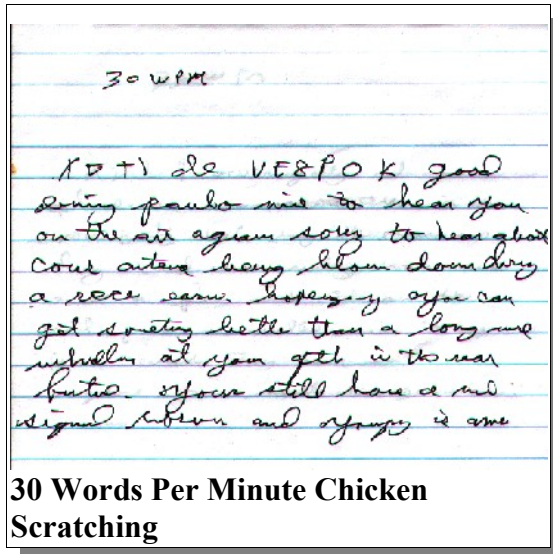
Ci - WU7R, John - K7JM, and Tim - KB7DMK listen as Sam - K7SAM starts the contest

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One of the most exciting parts of this year's Hamfest was the "High Speed CW Contest" put on by Sam, K7SAM. Ci, WU7R, asked if I was going to participate in this contest. I responded that it depends on what they mean by "High Speed!" But, with some coaxing and encouragement, I walked into the tent where the contest was to be had. With some more encouragement, Ci, and Tim – KB7DMK, also participated in the battle.



30 Words Per Minute Chicken Scratching

With nervous beads of sweat, and pounding hearts, and with writing instruments in our hands, we hear the session start with VVV VVV VVV. We then, all started to write some chicken scratching on our papers. Astonished and amazed, Ci Jones attained third place, Tim Sowa grabbed second, and I received first! CW rules, all other modes drool! Helena took a clean sweep of the awards which were CASH prizes. Yes, they gave us cash.

Oh, did I mention that there were only three participants in the contest? This means that there is no excuse for you not to

brush up on your Morse Code over the next year and join us at next years contest. YES, you can do it, and YES it is a lot of fun.

73 and God's blessings on you all,
 John, K7JM - Editor



REVISED NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

CCARC Proposes to Amend Constitution and Bylaws

(Revised Notice)

At its June meeting the CCARC decided to propose a series of wide-ranging amendments to its Constitution and Bylaws. Many of these proposed changes are editorial or organizational in nature. However, a number of the proposals would make significant changes to provisions of the Constitution and Bylaws concerning: 1) the duties and removal of officers, 2) what constitutes a quorum for conducting Club business, 3) the rights of the various classes of Club membership, 4) the prororation of dues for new members, 5) the allocation of dues, 6) the consequences of non- payment of dues, 7) Club accounts, and 8) standing committees.



Copies of the proposed changes may be seen on the CCARC website www.w7tck.org or may be obtained from Rich Weddle N7GC (443-3056 or rwmlou@qwest.net). The proposals will be discussed at the Club's July 10, August 7, and September 11 meetings and voted on at the September 11 meeting. Members unable to attend the September meeting

may vote on the proposal in absentia by one of the following methods: 1) Complete and mail the ballot which will be published in the August W7TCK News to Rich Weddle, 520 Stuart St., Helena, MT 59601. [To be counted the ballot must be received on or before September 11.] 2) Vote by radio on the Club's repeater (147.820) when polled at approximately 1930 hours during the September 11, meeting. 3) Vote telephonically by calling, Dave's (WA7YFF's) cell phone, 594-0124, at approximately 1930 hours during the September, meeting.

(Only current members will be eligible to vote on the proposed changes; so if you haven't already done so, be sure to pay your 2006 dues before the September meeting.)

If you have any questions about the proposed changes call Rich at 443-3056.



VE REPORT

JOHN GEACH, KS7R

June was a busy month for the Volunteer Examining Team giving two test sessions during the month. The reason for all the interest in taking June exams was the changing of the Technician question pool on July 1st. Bill Dooley KE7IDD and Karen Semple KE7ILN took their tests in June under the old Technician question pool. Ashby Jones KE7IMH was the first to take her exam using the new question pool in July. Everyone did an excellent job of studying and all passed with flying colors.

Ashby actually studied both pools and said she felt the new pool was easier to



Hamfest Harmonics have fun playing a parachute game at the Glacier-Waterton Hamfest. Bring your own Harmonics and let them join in the fun!

understand. Bill's wife, Pam is also studying the new questions and is reporting good success in taking the on-line exams.

Congratulations to the Helena Area's Newest Hams and look for them on the air. Thanks also to the Volunteer Examiners for their help in administering the tests.

The FCC and the Volunteer Examiners Coordinators rescheduled the Technician Question Pool, which was originally scheduled to expire next July. They have changed their original schedule for the expiration of the current General and Extra question pools. The ending date on each question pool has been moved up a year from the schedule that was originally published several years ago when the pools came out. The General Class Question Pool will expire next year on July 1, 2007. The Extra Class Question Pool will expire the year after on July 1, 2008.

De John KS7R

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W7TCK
Helena Montana USA
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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.

**AUGUST 2006
MEETING MONDAY,
AUGUST 7
Salvation Army Church
1905 Henderson**

7:00 PM



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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