

# W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

September 2006



## PRES SAYS...

DAVE WHITE, WA7YFF

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To miss quote Shakespeare, "The best laid plans of mice and men, go a wry when ere they can." I signed up to drive Fire Bus this summer.

That's where you get paid to drive a school bus full of wild land fire fighters around the Rocky Mountains for two weeks. As a driver, you get up at 5:00am and drive them up the side of a mountain and drop them off. Then you sit there for twelve hours until they come back and you drive them back to camp. So, for ten to twelve hours every day, you just sit in or near your bus with nothing to do except what you bring with.

I brought with some books and a my two VHF radios; my VX5 hand held and my FT8900 quad band. Unfortunately, I forgot to bring an antenna for my 8900. At 10:00 pm on the second night I in Lincoln, I got on the handheld and called CQ on 146.52. Low and behold, K7LMT, Bill Kornec answered me just before heading off for bed. I begged a swatch of coax from him and we met up at the jerky plant. The next day, I stripped back about 19 inches of the center conductor and folded the braid back for a dipole antenna and duct taped it to a near

by tree. I used my SWR meter to tune it. Thanks to Bill, I had a working mobile rig for the bus. Next year I hope to have a mobile HF system with me.

As of this writing I still don't have an emergency 2m j-pole antenna, but I will soon. This story of bad planning brings me to my next topic, the Preparedness Fair at the mall on Saturday, Sep. 16th, from 10:00 until 1:00 The MCU will be out

there with some literature and showing off some antennas. Please stop by and chat for a while and see what else you may need to do to be prepared.

Our county commissioners are planning some wide sweeping regulations. If you haven't been

(See PRES P. 2)



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**(Cont. from PRES P. 1)**

keeping up on it you may want to take a look. One of the many changes include a 50 foot height restriction on all residential structures. This is likely to include antenna towers. Of course, there is a federal law in place that would supersede this, but we wouldn't want such provisions adopted in the first place without appropriate exemptions for us Hams. The Commission is accepting written comments through this Friday, Sep. 8th. The club will be sending in a comment signed by all the officers this week, as well.

You can look forward to Tod N7WD, and Chuck WA7ECW, bringing us a program about NVIS (Near Vertical Incident Skywave) antenna's. This old style of antenna is gaining much new attention post Katrina and I believe is ideally suited for emergency communications through our mountains. Imagine a 300 mile range for voice with no dead spots in valleys with only 5 watts.

Lastly, we will be voting on the proposed bylaws changes this month. Everyone please take time to look over the changes which have been posted on the clubs web site, low these many months, [www.w7tck.org](http://www.w7tck.org).

October: state EOC tour.

73, Dave White WA7YFF



**ARES NOTES**

**BOB SOLOMON, K7HLN**

Those of you were not able to schedule the CREW Week Incident Command training are encouraged to take the courses on-line. They are offered free on the

Emergency Management Institute web site, which is at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/>

Consider taking IS 100, 200 and 700 as the basic courses and then IS 800 and 300, in that order. Once you find the course you wish to take, download the answer sheet, which you can use as a study aid as you go through the on-line material. When you are ready, take the final exam on-line.

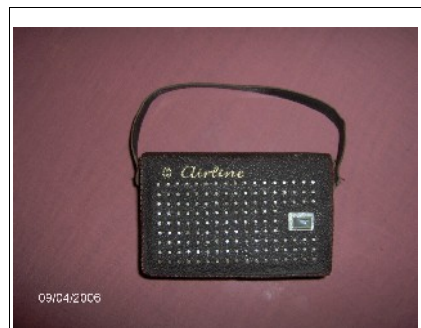
The ARRL Certification and Continuing Education courses are also available on line for a fee for both ARRL members and non-members. Courses available are:



Level 1 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-001), Level 2 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-002),

Level 3 Amateur Radio Emergency Communications (EC-003), Antenna Modeling (EC-004), HF Digital Communications (EC-005), Radio Frequency Interference (EC-006), Beyond Repeaters (EC-008), Antenna Design & Construction (EC-009), Ham Radio License Course (EC-010), Radio Frequency Propagation (EC-011), Analog Electronics (EC-012), and Digital Electronics (EC-013). To learn more, visit the CCE Course Listing page <<http://www.arrl.org/cce/courses.html>> or contact the CCE Department at <[cce@arrl.org](mailto:cce@arrl.org)>.

de Bob K7HLN



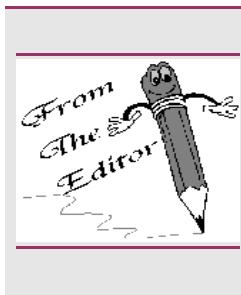
**K7JM's Latest Find**

# FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MCDUGALL, K7JM

Welcome to September. This summer has flown by and I only had a few chances to get out and have fun with Ham Radio. One great thing about Ham Radio, is that it can be included in other non-Ham activities. I am out of town quite often in the summer for my job. I decided to bring Ham Radio along with me. I brought my home rig, a power supply, an antenna tuner, and a roll of hook-up wire. I divided the roll of wire in two, tossed one part out the window, and threw the other part across the floor as a counterpoise. With varying degrees of QRN from near by, I was able to have fun making a couple of contacts.

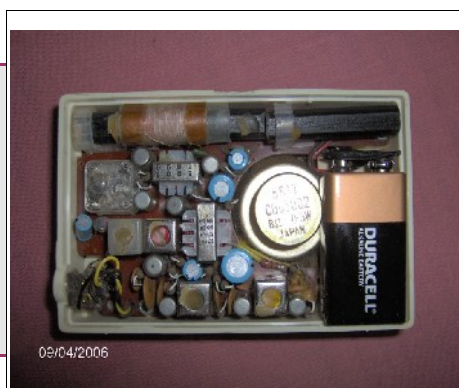
I went camping over Labor Day Weekend. I brought ham radio along and had some fun. I threw a 40 M. dipole up in the tree and worked from a battery with about 10-30 watts. I was able to make a brief contact with 8P6JD in Barbados. What Fun!



radio at a thrift store. What a beauty.



C9/C4/2006  
**Transistorized Radio without leather case**



09/04/2006  
**The goodies**

Thanks to all who make contributions to the newsletter by submitting articles, forsale, or any other items.

73 and God bless you all.

John, K7JM - Editor



C9/C2/2006  
**The Editors camp site setup. It is easy to set up a minimal station for week-end operating.**

Here is a recent find of mine. Many of you know that I like to find old radios of most any kind. I found this small AM transistorized



**Remember September 11**

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## VE REPORT

JOHN GEACH, KS7R

During the August CCARC Amateur Radio Volunteer (VE) Examination session, Pam Dooley of Wolf Creek passed her Technician Class exam with a perfect score. Pam is the XYL of Bill Dooley, KE7IDD who passed his Technician test in June. Bill reports Pam is always surprising him and shares his interests. She even helped him build an experimental helicopter in their living room and when completed, they took it outside and flew it! Look for Pam, KE7IRI on the air and congratulate "Helena's Newest Ham". De John KS7R



## THE TEST

BILL DOOLEY, KE7IDD

Still working on the CW. Will probably try a test, test in a couple of weeks. That should allow me to relax for a real shot at it. Below is the story of how my wife passed the Technician exam.... I refer to her as Miss Adventure. 73, Bill Dooley KE7IDD and Pam KE7IRI

### THE TEST

Miss Adventure was watching me work on the truck one morning last month. The truck was new and I had not changed the oil on it, as of yet. I figured it would be a simple straight forward job. Not a chance. The oil filter was on the drivers side of the engine, in the front, covered by enough sheet metal and hard plastic to prevent air from reaching it, much less my hand. I could just touch the end on the filter by weaving my arm through the fan, under the fan belt, and

between the power steering pump and some other device invented by an engineer who does not change his own oil.

In order to distract me from fully enjoying the misery of the moment, Miss Adventure was reading me questions from my Ham Radio Study Guide I had been studying radio theory for about a month and was getting ready to take an exam for an Amateur Radio License. I suppose she felt she was helping.

I have always felt that the oil should be changed when hot, so as to carry away as much impurities as possible. I am now rethinking this theory. Just as I was starting to put a little pressure on the hot filter, Miss Adventure ask me, "What is the maximum transmitting power an amateur station may use on the 24.950 Megahertz Frequency?" This caused me to hesitate in what I was doing. However,, leaving my fingers on the HOT oil filter left me with a couple of large blisters.

The blisters didn't last long as they were quickly cut away by sheet metal and sharp plastic as I jerked my arm back through the maze of sharp fan blades, etc. that securely gripped my arm just a second ago. Along with my new blisters I also lost about a square foot of skin and gained some nice bruises. Good start

I turned to Miss Adventure for sympathy or at least a bandage. While I gripped my arm which was dripping blood, she calmly asked, "What is Maximum Usable Frequency?" I advised her that maximum usable frequency is the number of times a person changing oil can use one curse word in a sentence. I doubt that is the correct answer. Anyway I dismantled the bottom of the truck in order to change the filter. After an hour or so I was done.

I began studying my lessons in earnest. The next day I went to Helena and passed

the test, only missing one question. "What are the upper and lower frequency limits on the 2 meter band?" "OOPS..... However I was justifiably proud of my accomplishment.

Miss Adventure instead of complimenting me stated that she could do as well since she knew most of the answers. She claims to have learned them while I was studying. Something about how I was shouting and cursing the correct answers as I would miss them in the practice sessions.

I sensed she was just belittling my accomplishment so I challenged her to take the test also. As she was taking the test I was sitting outside the room figuring out ways of injecting my newfound knowledge and status into passing conversation with my friends. Looked hard. I didn't have long to work on it however because the door opened after only 5 minutes.

I repressed my smile, and worked on a sympathetic look for Miss Adventure, because she had finished in half the time it took me... Poor Miss Adventure must have failed miserably. I tried to hide my glee as she walked out.

I was in the process of pouring on the condolences through my smile when the three test administrators walked out. "How bad was it?" I asked. One answered, "The reason it took so long is we checked it twice." Even better I thought as I worked at suppressing my glee. He finished his statement with the comment, "We don't get many perfect scores in that short of time." Oh Good.....

On the way home I was telling Miss Adventure that she only did so well because she had an excellent instructor. This theory wasn't flying well. We met a neighbor along the road and stopped for a moment. "How is it going Bill?" "What is new?"

"Well I did change the oil in the truck."

## FOR SALE

**Y**amaha 3000 watt generator. 120 Volts AC, 12 Volts DC battery charging system, super quiet, electric start. Will start and run large RV air conditioner, other electrical tools and accessories. Produces pure sine wave, can be used with computers and radios without worry. Will sell for \$1500 cash. Contact Bob K7HLN, 442-6118

**I**com 751A, works on warc bands including 60 meters, 160 to 10 meters. It has a new lithium battery, service manual, and original box. \$450.00. Icom 125 power supply new, \$200.00. Golden eagle 300 watt amp, 160 to 10 meters \$200.00. Clear speech speaker for noise elimination \$79.00 Call Ralph WG7Q, 431-3500



## ARES NET

**BOB SOLOMON, K7HLN**

**T**he Tuesday night net on the .82 repeater is once again being conducted as an ARES net.

A hearty "Thank You" is in order for Fran N7FFV, who has been the net controller for the last month. He stepped in on short notice and has done a good job. It is now time for another operator to come forward and give it a shot. We are looking for operators to take net control responsibilities on a rotating basis, for two to four weeks at a time. Let me know if you are interested in giving it a try, and we will get you on the schedule.

In the mean time, continue to check in on Tuesdays, and continue to monitor the .82 for any emergency QST's or announcements. Fire season isn't over yet.

de Bob K7HLN

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**W7TCK**  
Helena Montana USA  
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The W7TCK Newsletter is published by the Capital City Amateur Radio Club.  
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Helena, MT 59624

CCARC Web Page: [www.w7tck.org](http://www.w7tck.org)  
Editor's E-Mail: [jdmcdougall@juno.com](mailto: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.**

**SEPTEMBER 2006  
MEETING MONDAY,  
SEPTEMBER 11  
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**