

W7TCK News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

October 2006



PRES SAYS...

DAVE WHITE, WA7YFF

Ah October, Halloween and Hamfests. The 10th Annual GHRC Hamfest in Bozeman,

October 14, 10am - 3pm at Sacajawea Middle School in Bozeman. Complete details and info available at: www.gallatinhamradio.com. Admission is a whole two dollars. We are also invited to breakfast that morning about 8:00, so plan on leaving here early. For those who can't make it all the way to Bozeman, coffee at Hardee's is always available.

For this month's meeting, we will meet at the Salvation Army church building at 7:00pm, as usual. However, at about 7:15, we will caravan out to Ft. Harrison and take a tour of the State Emergency Communications Center, a.k.a. SECC. Those of us who have the proper credentials (see Bob K7HLN) could be asked to operate the amateur station at this location during and emergency. The club's call sign is used at the SECC to identify itself via APRS. You can go to <http://db.aprsworld.net/datamart/search.php> and type in W7TCK, or any other call sign that is transmitting an APRS signal, and see a map of it's current location.

Please be on time for this month's meeting. No one will be allowed pass the gates at Ft. Harrison with out Homer Young's escort.

As we settle in for the winter (such as it is), allow me to remind you that our beloved hobby has a myriad of niches. Just to name a few, there is CW, PHONE, SSTV, FSTV, SatCom, EME, QRP, RTTY, HF Digital Phone, APRS, HF maritime, IRLP, EchoLink, RC, MARS, contesting, DXCC, IOTA, WAS, WAC, aurora and meteor scatter, FSK, AirMail, nets, DX, repeaters, experimentation, DF'ing, HF Mobile, HF portable, mountain topping, PSK31, EmComm,



(See PRES P. 2)

Board of Directors

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Tod Glenn, N7JQW

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John Geach, KS7R

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boat anchors, CAT, antenna design, and many others. I hope that I have listed some acronyms you had forgotten, or better yet, that you don't even recognize. Dive into your old hobby and find something new to share with the rest of us. How 'bout building your own 40m USB QRP for NVIS EmComm work (with PSK31 interface, of course)? First one to build one AND make an out of county contact wins.

It's all just for fun - until the 'big one' hits. Then it's life or death.

73, Dave White, WA7YFF



ARES NOTES

BOB SOLOMON, K7HLN

From The ARES E-Letter, September 20, 2006,

Rick Palm, K1CE, Editor

RED CROSS REQUIRING BACKGROUND CHECKS

The Red Cross said their national policy requires everyone that works in a Red Cross Shelter to have a background check on file. This includes persons that are signed up at the last minute. The Red Cross has a contract with an on-line company that performs background checks. There is a fee for each background check and the Red Cross is currently picking up the cost. The results are only sent to one local Red Cross office. The Web site is <<http://www.mybackgroundcheck.com/arcvts>> and you must select the state map and then the local chapter.

After requests for clarification on this

policy from ARRL HQ, Red Cross supplied this statement:

BACKGROUND CHECKS FOR AMERICAN RED CROSS VOLUNTEERS AND EMPLOYEES

In the aftermath of a huge visible disaster such as Hurricane Katrina there are several post-evaluations that occur looking at systems, procedures, protocols and overall response to determine what systems could be more efficient. Recently, the American Red Cross established a policy mandating that all volunteers undergo a criminal background check, just as their employees have done in the past. The intent of this policy is to safeguard the clients, volunteers and employees. The organization has contracted with a private company to perform these background checks and has provided a means for their volunteers to apply for the background checks without disclosing any confidential information to a Red Cross volunteer or employee. Prospective volunteers can go to a secure online website and only need to submit their full name and social security number to the contracted company. No additional information is needed.



The overall results of the background check are not shared with the Red Cross. The only information provided is that a person has successfully completed the background check with no adverse information or that a person has potentially adverse information and that additional research is required. When additional research is required the contracted company will notify the prospective volunteer and will address the issue with no Red Cross intervention.

Several people have indicated the desire to go to their local law enforcement agency rather than use the private contracted company.

Because the American Red Cross is not a governmental agency, as required by their guidance of impartiality, it is unlawful for a law enforcement agency to share this information with the Red Cross. This requires them to use the private, contracted firm. Also, many have expressed concern about the use of their security number, however this is required to be assured that the background check is being performed on the right person. The Red Cross has gone to great lengths to make sure the prospective volunteer is not giving out their social security number to anyone other than the contracted company and then only through a secure, encrypted website.

Unfortunately, in this day and age it is critical that the American Red Cross and other agencies, employers and organizations perform due diligence in researching the people who will represent them. We hope volunteers, who have provided blood, sweat and tears in helping fulfill the mission of the American Red Cross will understand the importance of performing this due diligence.

Any questions regarding this program can be directed to backgroundchecks@usa.redcross.org or 1(800)507-3960.



FROM THE EDITOR

JOHN MCDOUGALL, K7JM

Welcome to Fall. Jefferson City (my home QTH) has already experienced the season's first snowfall.

Or, maybe I should say, "the last snow fall of the summer" as we had a few inches of snow just days before the official first day of Fall. With this brief bit of snow, came the reminder that Winter is coming and there are some things we Ham Radio Operators need to



do before Winter sets in. Have you check your antenna system to see if it can ride out the next winter? How are all of your coax connectors and outdoor coax runs? Is that generator ready for the next power outage? My lovely Xyl reminded me that we need to get our generator off of the back of the camper and up to the house where it can be used in case of a power outage which occurs quite frequently in Jefferson City.

As our beloved President stated in his article, there are plenty of Ham Radio activities to be down during Montana's long winter. Try our that new mode, build that kit you have been eying, upgrade that license and get on HF. As for me, my winter will be filled with Ham Shack construction. As many of you may recall, I am currently remodeling a portion of our house that will eventually house my Ham Shack. I have been busily working on it in the last few weeks. Some of you also doubt that it will actually ever get done. I

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am making good progress and it should be done by the end of the decade. :)

I have acquired most of the furniture I will need for the shack. Some time ago, I found a great horse-shoe shaped desk top at the Habitat For Humanity Thrift Store that will turn into the operating position of the shack. Most recently, I found a wonderful deal on a Technician's workbench that will fit perfectly into a space I was reserving for a desk to be used as a workbench. Look at the photo of this wonderful workbench with two very nice shelves. I hired my daughter to hold the shelves up for the photo, because I

hamfest in the past. It is a good time with some good seminars. My last year's find was a MFJ antenna analyzer. It will come in handy when I start erecting antennas for my new Ham Shack.

Remember that elections are coming up soon. Also, we will be voting on some constitution changes soon. And the end of the year, brings in the time to renew our CCARC membership.

That is about it for this month from your Newsletter Editor. As always, your contributions are very welcome and a big thank you to all of you who contribute



The Editor's daughter holding the shelves up of his new \$25 workbench for the future Ham Shack

disassembled them to move the bench. What a prize and for a steel of a price of twenty-five bucks. I definitely have incentive in finishing my shack.

As mentioned in our President's column, the Bozeman hamfest is October 14. I plan on attending that hamfest. A good number of Helena area hams have attended the

items for it. Photos are very much welcome also. I won't be at the October's CCARC meeting as I have another meeting I need to attend. See you all at Hardees on Saturday, or at the November meeting.

73 and God bless you all,

John, K7JM - Editor

Membership Application

(Fill out and give to Treasurer or mail to P.O Box 1112, Helena, MT 59624)

Date: (Month\ Day\ Year) _____ \ _____ \ _____

Name: _____ Call: _____ License

Class: _____

Mailing Address: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip code: _____ E-Mail address: _____

ARRL Member?(Check One) Yes _____, No _____ (See www.arrl.org)

Dues: \$20 per year. See treasurer for mid year proration of first year. Amount Paid _____

Membership type:(Check one) New _____, Renewal _____

Welcome to the Capital City Amateur Radio Club. Within the “Club”, you will find a very diverse cross section of interests in Ham Radio. From Contesting, to Award Chasing. From High power stations to QRP minimalist to emergency communications, and everywhere in between. Please, let us know what interests you currently have in Ham Radio. If you are like most, they will probably change over time. There are so many hobbies within the hobby of Ham Radio. Please, circle any items you are involved in, or interested in, or would like more information about. If you would like a presentation on any items, please note it. This will help make our club more interesting for all. **Our meetings are on the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Salvation Army Church, 1905 Henderson**

Thanks and 73. John, K7JM – Newsletter Editor.

- Contesting
- Amateur TV
 - SSTV
 - ATV
- Dxing
- Satellite
- RDF/Fox Hunting
- Digital Operations
 - Computer/Radio interfacing TNC
 - Packet
 - RTTY
 - PSK31
 - APRS
 - Other _____
- Radio Control
- Design/Building
 - Antennas
 - Equipment
- QRP (Low Power)
- General Operation
 - HF
 - VHF/UHF
 - Mobile VHF

- Mobile HF
- Awards Chasing
- Public Service
 - Traffic
 - ARES(Amateur Radio Emergency Services)/RACES(Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services)
- How to build (Workshop format)
 - Soldering
 - Installing Equipment
 - Mobile Installations
 - Setting up
 - a station
 - new equipment
 - test instruments

Comments: _____



Capital City Amateur Radio Club
W7TCK
Helena Montana USA
www.w7tck.org



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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.

**OCTOBER 2006
MEETING MONDAY,
OCTOBER 2
Salvation Army Church
1905 Henderson**

7:00 PM



**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