

Late Breaking News - April Presentation:

Mary Lou Brown NM7N Vice Director for the ARRL Northwestern Division hailing from Anacortes, Washington will be giving our April Club Presentation. She will be coming with news concerning the latest goings on between the ARRL and the FCC. It is rumored that she is also in possession of a video. You don't want to miss this. The last time a representative of the Northwest Division visited our club she presented us with a tremendous update on her travels in Russia and the status of amateur radio there. This is a big one for us. So come one and come all.

A Big Thankyou to Don Ross (KC7AJT), Michelle Cosner (KB7TPD) and Mark (KA6YSC) and JoAnne Miller (N6SLM) for folding the newsletters, stamping them, labeling them, and getting them out in the mail. Also to Jeff Christiana (AA7UW) for significant contributions of material and phone numbers of members.

March 19th W5YI VEC Testing Session

was held at the Daily Interlake Building in Kalispell, MT. Fourteen examinees were in attendance. KG7MO Darrell Christopherson, N7SRX Bruce Hoveland, AA7TN Ed Mahlum, and AA7UW Jeff Christiana were the examiners. One student passed 20 wpm code, one student passed 13 wpm, one student passed 5 wpm, there were 6 new technicians, 2 new tech pluses, and 1 new general.

Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting

March 24th, 1994
6:45pm

Received report of new licenses in the area from the ARRL. All new licenses and new members in the area will receive the newsletter free for at least two months.

All first time licensed amateurs receive the newsletter free for one year. Harold Schneider reimbursed Ed Mahlum \$62.49 for newsletter expenses.

Ed Mahlum, Harold Schneider, and Mike Tuszynzki in attendance. Agenda developed for Club Meeting.

Minutes of FVARC Meeting 3-24-94

Time: 19:30 MST

Meeting was called to order by Vice-President Ed Mahlum. Twenty-seven people were in attendance.

Minutes of the February 24th, 1994 meeting were approved as found in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasury is now at 2002.66
Repeater fund is now at 458.26

Introductions. Each person in attendance gave call sign (if any), name, where from, and described interest in Amateur Radio.

George Hanson (W7BKB) Is President of the Quarter Century Wireless Club. I believe this is for the Montana Division or some such. George will have to straighten me out on this one.

Motion was made by Tom Unger N7WKT to send out newsletters

to all new Hams in the valley. It was seconded by Larry Hayden KC7BEO. Motion passed.

We need to get Sam Scull a newsletter. Harry Lovering (WA7PHB) motioned to send newsletter to Sam Scull. Tracy Robertson (N7SPI) seconded. Motioned Passed.

Old Business:

More discussion was held on changing the meeting night. It was generally agreed that the location and time here at the Flathead County Justice Center was good. We can't quibble with the County's generosity of no rent. Also, it is large, well-heated, has facilities available. In November and December we will have a joint month meeting most likely on the 1st Thursday of December at 7:30 PM.

The Board of Directors has been asked to change our by-laws and to bring it to the club for a vote, to indicate that we will now hold elections on the first club meeting of the new year. We will look at the language of the by-laws see what can be changed and maybe free ourselves up from a bit of bureaucracy and have more fun.

Update: Technician Classes are over. Most of the 7 students were at the testing session on March 19, and most passed. We are looking for some more club members.

Dues or don'ts :

Membership fee of \$20 is now due. This includes \$ 5 for the repeater fund. If you are out of the area and do not wish to contribute to the repeater, then the membership fee is \$ 15. New Hams get their first year membership free in our club.

It was again mentioned to plan to get your new or renewal membership in the ARRL through the club. Harold Schneider will be bringing forms to each meeting. In this way the club receives \$5 for each new member, and \$2 for each renewing member. Ed Mahlum and Harold Schneider have the forms.

Don Ross (KC7AJT) got coffee fixings and cookies for our meeting. It was ready to go after the meeting in the snack room. It was great to socialize and have something to wet the whistle with. Thanks Don. Don will be handling this program for us for a while. So look for coffee, tea, water, cookies next month too.

Ralph Ulrich will be available this fall for a presentation on SSTV.

Big September Presentation:

Ron Wachsmith gave us another run down on John Vugteveens great presentation. Everybody be there. As most of you know we are looking at a great presentation on DXpeditions. It has finally gotten close to happening and it looks like it is for the September 22nd club meeting.

Ed (AA7TN) was going to call John Vugteveen, W7KNT from Stevensville, who did an excellent presentation for the Missoula club. We voted to cover his expenses. He has a dual slide projector presentation and music. The show lasts for about one hour. We also could all get together with him for some supper at the Outlaw Inn before the meeting. This has now been very well confirmed. In August we will work together with George W7BKB to mobilize a promotion committee and get it out to the local community.

Big May Presentation:

Harold Ward (K7JZ0) was with Ted Mikita and his son as they logged about 2 QSO's a minute for 24 hours on last years field day. Well now we get to find out how it was done from them first hand.

At our May Club meeting Ted Mikita (N7JKF) will be doing a presentation on "Contesting - SSB and CW" with particular emphasis on Field Day. This should be an appropriate and timely topic as Field Day is June 25-26. Ted will cover operating procedures and special tips for the top US CW/SSB contests (Field Day, CQ WW-DX, Novice Roundup, etc.) and how to get involved and be successful. Special emphasis will be placed on visual aids, do's and don'ts, operating shor cuts, and even how to hold your pencil. The results of everyone in Montana who participated in FD93 (clubs and individuals) will be reviewed and discussed. Be sure to attend the May meeting to get prepared for Field Day.

Roger Swearngen N7EYU has volunteered to team up with the ARRL to provide a VHS tape relating to HAM Radio for each or any club meeting where there is time. The ARRL has some fifty tapes and beginning in April, Roger will make sure there is one on hand for viewing at club meetings if time allows.

Roger took a survey and is going to compile a list of what we want to watch first. Thanks Roger.

Update on Videos

The results of the survey are in. Roger N7EYU has given us the following:

The ARRL has a lending library of videotapes available to amateur radio clubs like ours for use in special programs. Titles from the ARRL library cover a broad range of amateur radio activities and interests. Those attending the March FVARC meeting were surveyed to discover their interest in several topics available through the ARRL library.

The results of that survey also paint a good picture of our varied interests as hams. Here is a list in rank order of what club members are most interested in:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Space & Satellite | 7. Field Day |
| 2. Antennas | 8. Amateur Television |
| 3. DXpeditions | 9. Desert Storm Hams |
| 4. Norther Lights | 10. TV Interference |
| 5. Emergency Response | 11. ARRL History |
| 6. Packet Radio | 12. Handi-Hams |

Watch for video tapes on these topics and more at upcoming FVARC meetings!

Ed Mahlum (AA7TN) has new 610 form via the W5YI VEC testing team here in the Valley headed up by Darryl Christopherson KG7MO. They will not process the old forms after March 1st 1994.

If you are looking for the new Montana Call Books, arrangements are being made to get some to the April 28th club meeting.

THINK about Field Day Location. We talked about the gravel pit up Patty Creek drive. Forest Service land. We would need a permit, but good location for getting out.

Harry Lovering (WA7PHB) is going to check with the Forest Service.

New Business:

Don Ross (KC7AJT) is starting a 10 meter net on Thursday nights at 9:30 PM at 28.470. Lets get on it support it, and see what happens to 10 meters around here at night.

Spokane - Inland Northwest Hamfest and Computer Show - at the Spokane Interstate Fair Grounds, N. 404 Havana Street, Spokane, Washington. Date June 18 and 19, 1994. It is ARRL approved. Unlimited Parking for autos and RV's. Setup Friday the 17th. On site food.

Seaside, Oregon - SEAPAC Northwest Division Ham Convention - June 4th and 5th - Seaside Convention Center - Post Office Box 219142, Portland, Oregon 97225-9142 - All major exhibitors - Beginners, Emergency preparedness, Digital communications, General Interest, Education.

Adopt a highway

Cleanup was held on April 9th. All who participated met at the junction of Hwy 35 at the little white church. Breakfast was enjoyed at 10 AM and then we hit the ditches. A big thanks to all who were able to help out. Howard Gamett KG7QU (head chief and connection with highway department, and crew - John & Mary Blair KA5LXG//KA5QGJ, Vern Wheeler N7SPK, Ed Mahlum AA7TN and sons, Don Ross KC7AJT and son, Jon Rashleigh KB7ZML and friend, Tom Unger N7WKT, Wally McPheeters N7GUP, Al Ross WF7R, Lloyd and Val Ellingsen KE7VK//N7ISV, Giles Baughman KB7WIW, Darrell & Ardis Christopherson KG7MO//N7WKF, Dick Pelton K9RTX, and Larry, Barb, and Greg Magone KB7WIX/KB7YMS/KB7QPS. Not much of interest was found except for one \$100 bill (just kidding)!

Code Practice on 146.62

Anyone interested in helping out with code practice on the 146.62 repeater contact John Blair (KA5LXG) or Tracy Robertson (N7SPI). You will link to the repeater autopatch through your own telephone and then play the tapes. This was a big help to those who were practicing to pass their exams.

Mike Tuszynski (N7SPJ) is a member of both the club and Flathead Search and Rescue. He will keep us posted. Flathead Search and Rescue is looking at revising their affiliation with other communication groups in the Valley (read amateurs). We have not been used in the past because of requirements for first aid training, meetings, etc, that most of us can't attend. Mike is saying that because Flathead Search and Rescue is realizing there are a lot of areas they cannot communicate out of with their radios, they might need our help.

Shut-ins

W7LMW Don DeJong is recovering from a hip injury in the Columbia Falls Veterans home. He expects to be getting on the air from a station there. If you are up that way stop in. Also, Carl Stoddard, W7EQB is house bound and would appreciate visitors or calls 752-2510.

Silent Key

Many of us were saddened to hear of the passing of Jack Dodd K7OIR. Jack died on March 30. He had been battling cancer for about 9 months. He was very active on the nets. Many of us remember that he was in charge of the telephone company, PTI from about 1975 to 1985. Jack was born in Herrick, South Dakota in 1920. He served with the Calvary

and due to a leg injury was transferred to communications. He was awarded the bronze star for passing traffic continually for over 36 hours. When he let up he had to be moved because his legs had become temporarily paralyzed. Jack was active on all modes and will be missed.

Word of the Month

A new word of the month was picked from Harry's hat by Russ Larson (KC7HJ). It was "antenna". Some discussion and much was really known by those attending. Russ talked about a new TNT Antenna that he had gotten from Antenna's West in Provo, Utah. Tom Unger also has one. They are about 168' long and are like an offset dipole. The "NT" stands for "no-tune" and Russ has his working without a tuner on 80/40/20/17/12/ and 10 meters. With a tuner he can work 15 and 75 meters. The antenna uses a balun and comes with good quality 52 ohm cable. It also has an RF choke near the feed point to keep RF from coming back to the rig. Tracy (N7SPI) mentioned that there is a black insulation over the wire. Tom Unger said it hides the antenna well in neighborhoods where the neighbors may not be super friendly to an antenna farm. Sounds like Antenna's West is worth checking out. Good quality.

Tracy (N7SPI) moved to adjourn.

Meeting adjourned 20:55 MST. Respectfully submitted. Ed Mahlum Vice President. Jeff Christiana Secretary.

The following is a list of the current paid up members for 1994.

Larry Hayden

1602 1st St E #3
Polson, Mt 59860
883-8114

K C 7 A J T

Donald Ross
810 5th Ave W
Kalispell, MT 59901
756-7171

K C 7 A L P

Dick D Lindeman
P O Box 362
Kila, MT 59920
755-0308

W 7 B K M

Harold R. Schneider
POB 577
Whitefish, MT 59937-0577
862-4962

W 7 B K B

George Hanson
P.O. Box 1727
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
892-5788

N 7 C T S

Jim Payne
145 Mission View Dr
Lakeside, MT 59922
857-2194

W 7 E Q B

Floyd C. Stoddard Sr.
POB 667
Kalispell, MT 59903-0667
752-2510

N 7 E Y U

Roger Swearngen
P O Box 506
Kalispell, MT 59903

K 7 H O P

Gareth D. Potter
113 Indian Trail Road
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-8515

K C 7 H J

Russ Larson
P.O. Box 124
Somers, MT 59932
857-3304

W 7 H G M

Nick A. Poncelet
1845 Airport Road
Kalispell, MT 59901

W 7 H A H

Francis D. Shepard
561 Groff Lane
Stevensville, MT 59870

K B 7 I P H

Mark & Sandra Skeels
3485 Whitefish Stage Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-0073

W 7 I P B

Robert T. Williams
101 Blacktail RD Box 475
Lakeside, MT 59922
844-2465

K 7 J Z O

Harold Ward
455 Martin Camp Rd.
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-4751

N 7 J K F

Ted Mikita
POB 157
Fortine, MT 59918-0157

K C 7 K A

Dale E. Underwood
1230 4th St. West
Kalispell, Mt 59901
756-8203

K A 7 L L I

Oliver G. Coburn
137 Springcreek Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-2251

K A 5 L X G // KA5QGJ
John & Mary Blair
POB 164
Swan Lake, MT 59911-0164
886-2370

W 7 V O S // W7WXU
Rodney & Dorothy Stickney
594 Blaine View Ln.
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-4850

K G 7 M O // N 7 W K F
Darrell & Ardis Christopherson
145 Managhan Ln.
Kalispell, MT 59901-7227
756-8633

K A 7 V C K
Samuel W. Cox Sr.
4995 Blankenship Rd.
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
387-5746

W B 6 N R L
Larry and Terry Rich
285 Emerald Drive
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-5353

K B 7 W I S
Bob Holding
1970 Four Wheel Drive
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-7990

K 7 O I R
Jack R. Dodd
516 North Parkway Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-6444

K B 7 W I V
Frank M Conners
P O Box 38
Columbia Falls, MT 59912
892-5420

W A 7 P H B // KA7LTA
Harry & Dorothea Lovering
1370 Three Mile Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-8388

N 7 W K T
Tom Unger
1290 Lion Mountain Dr.
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-3023

N 7 S P I
Tracy Robertson
1038 South Main Street
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-1795

K B 7 W I X / KB7YMS / KB7QPS
Larry, Barb and Greg Magone
1270 Karrow Ave.
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-4066

N 7 S R X
Bruce Hoveland
417 Crane Mountain Rd.
Bigfork, MT 59911
837-4771

K B 7 Y C F
Irwin A Bennett
1565 Church Drive
Kalispell, MT 59901
257-3175

N 7 S P K
Vernon Wheeler
218 E. Evergreen Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-4709

K B 7 Y C G
Steve D Skyberg
P O Box 1681
Whitefish, MT 59937
892-4107

N 7 S P J // N7WRO
Michael & Susan Tuszyński 135 W.
Valley Acres
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-1768

K B 7 Z M L
Jon Rashleigh
P O Box 2016
Whitefish, MT 59937
862-1376

A A 7 T N
Edwin J. Mahlum
300 Leisure Dr.
Kalispell, MT 59901
755-6673

K C 7 T J
Ivan O'Neil
312 Crestview Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
752-7454

K 7 U V K
Ralph P. Ulrich
1300 Melita Island Rd.
Big Arm, MT 59910
849-5578

If there are any **screw ups** on this list please let Ed Mahlum AA7TN 755-6673 know. We want this list right. Thank you.

Feel free to bring stuff to the Club Meetings that you would like to sell or trade.

Russ Larson KC7HJ 857-3304 has the following goodies for sale:

400 channel Radio Shack Pro 2006 (their best scanner) like new for \$ 289.00.

Tempo S1 5watt 2M handheld just \$ 80.00.

Introduction to Jack and Lois McGinley, W7TWH and W7TWG:

They have a Drake TR-3 currently in storage, needs electrolytics, any ideas where to find? Jack and Lois have two sons, also hams and they would like to keep a sked or 'phone patch' if any area hams would find it convenient until Jack gets established with his own rig. Should be on two meters with a Tempo-One soon. Give a listen. Lord willin' and the creeks don't rise...they'll be at our April meeting. Give them a big WELCOME!

Fillers:

No more free newsletters.

We have been sending out newsletters to about 75 hams that are on one or the other of the mailing lists that are in the Valley. But beginning with the April newsletter, the newsletter will only be sent to paid up members of the FVARC.

Montana Callbooks:

Montana Callbooks were at the printers as of December 10th. Should be ready by now. Contact FVRG P O Box 808, Bigfork, MT 59911. \$8.00 includes shipping and handling.

Do Amateur Radio (and Yourself) a Favor:

Make this your New Year's Resolution Number one: Write a letter NOW to your representative and senators asking them to sign on to a bill that would make Amateur Radio a congressionally recognized, national resource. This measure, if passed, would recognize amateurs' efforts in emergency communications, support us as "national policy" and would call for regulations that "facilitate" Amateur Radio operation as a "public benefit." This is not a "motherhood and apple pie" motion. There is real substance here, with significant, tangible benefits for Amateur Radio. (For the complete text of the joint resolution, see July 1993 QST, page 74, or write to ARRL HQ for a copy.) There's only one way it will happen: if we make it happen.

So far Rep. Pat Williams has signed House Joint Resolution 199 as a cosponsor. However, neither Conrad Burns or Max Baucus have put their signatures on Senate Joint Resolution 90.

Send them each a letter. Address to The Honorable Conrad Burns, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510 and The Honorable Max Baucus, Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

An interesting idea appeared in the March

QST. We might want to have our own local contest.

We could create a contest that would be open to Novice, Technician and Technician Plus licensees only. The contest could begin on a Saturday at 8AM and run six hours until 2PM. The object would be to work as many stations as possible in Flathead Valley County. We could make five frequencies valid for the the contest: 28.150 MHz (CW), 28.400 MHz (SSB), 144.105 MHz (CW), 144.205 MHz (SSB) and 146.44 MHz (FM). All contacts would have to be direct-no repeaters allowed. Each CW and SSB contact would be worth two points. FM contacts would be worth one point. During each contact, each station will have to exchange a signal report, its location and a contact number. For example, "W7XXX, this is WA7STA. You're 59 in Columbia Falls, Contact number 7."

By using single frequencies we should create some mini pileups. This would give our newest hams the experience of making contacts in some congestion. Other hams can act as advisors or become roving stations, making contacts in one area, and then moving on. This might give us all a little practice for field day.