

## **Big May Presentation:**

Harold Ward (K7JZO) 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.

## **Why am I not getting a Newsletter?**

Did you pay your dues to FVARC, P O Box 7541, Kalispell, MT 59901?

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. **If you're not getting the newsletter and you should be contact Ed Mahlum at 300 Leisure Drive, Kalispell 755-6673.**

## **May 21st 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**

April 28th, 1994  
6:45pm

Received report of new licenses in the area from the ARRL.

Harold Schneider reimbursed Ed Mahlum \$27.72 for newsletter expenses.

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

Welcome was given to Mary Lou Brown NM7N, Vice Director for the ARRL Northwestern Division hailing from Anacortes, Washington. She was treated to dinner by the club.

Mark KB7IPH talked to the county about our meeting schedule. It was found that we will be able to have the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:30PM for our November and December club meetings. The board of directors approved and he will confirm with the county.

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.

Is it time for a club inventory? What does the club own?

## **Minutes of FVARC Meeting 4-29-94**

Time: 19:30 MST

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Skeels. Twenty-six people were in attendance.

Minutes of the March 24th, 1994 meeting were approved as found in the newsletter. Except one change was noted. Harry Lovering WA7PHB was checking on a field day

site up Truman Creek not Patty Creek.

#### 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.

#### **Old Business:**

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.

Remember if you want QST magazine and to help the cause of Amateur Radio then join the ARRL. And when you join the ARRL 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.

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:**

John Vugteveen W7KNT has scheduled September 22, 1994 to be with us. John is an avid DXpeditioner and will be presenting a program on the South Sandwich Island DXpedition. He has shown this program at 17 conventions, including Dayton, NorthWest DX Convention, WIMU. He has had many compliments from the XYL's also, so do bring your XYL. This is not boring. Everybody be there. The entire program will be about 1 hour and includes color slides with full stereo background music. it will cover two major DXpeditions that John participated in, including travel to Europe, Ascension Island, Falkland Islands, The Antarctic, South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, Hawaii, Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atol in the Pacific.

John would like us to consider a dinner meeting and we will discuss this in May.

In August we will work together with George Hanson W7BKB to mobilize a promotion committee and get it out to the local community.

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.

The tape for April did arrive and because of the presentation by Mary Lou Brown we will have it for viewing if needed in May. It is on the SAREX project - Amateur Radio and Space. Other topics we will be seeing are on:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 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        |

Ed Mahlum (AA7TN) has new form 610 with expiration date of 8/31/96 via the W5YI VEC testing team here in the Valley headed up by Darryl Christopherson KG7MO. They will not process the old forms any longer.

#### **Montana Callbooks:**

John Blair KA5LXG brought the new 1994 Montana Callbooks to the meeting. If you missed your chance to get one contact FVRG PO Box 808, Bigfork, MT 59911. \$8.00

includes shipping and handling.

Hopefully, John will be able to bring them to most meetings.

## **Field Day:**

Harry Lovering (WA7PHB) checked with the Forest Service about permission to use a spot up Truman Creek for our Field Day location. The Forest Service said we did not need a permit, to follow the prevailing rules, so everything seems like a go.

Don Ross (KC7AJT) and Darryl Christopherson (KG7MO) will probably be bringing campers, a transceiver and generator to help setup a Novice, Technician Plus, CW station.

Also, a new fellow from Lakeside, Carlos Abreu (KD6WBD) is interested in working satellite for us.

The Club will also have up its 20-15-10 meter beam. Right now the tower, beam, coax, and equipment is stored at Gary Ax's house. Gary (KB7KXE) has offered his place for a Sunday a couple of weeks before field day so we can all get out there and do a couple of test runs. **Thanks alot, Gary!**

**Mike Tuszynski** (N7SPJ) is a member of both our 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.

## **Our April Presentation**

Mary Lou Brown NM7N, Vice Director for the ARRL Northwestern Division hailing from Anacortes, Washington, gave us a great presentation on her Dxpedition to St. Pierre Island up by Nova Scotia.

When considering going on a DXpedition she has found it wise to think of the following:

1. How are you going to get there? They flew via Halifax, Nova Scotia.
2. Where to stay? She checked her callbook and located a ham who lived there, Ron Thompson (FP4EK). Ron suggested the Hotel Robier or the Road Motel. The Hotel Robier was no longer accepting hams because of a bad experience with them. **The old rotten apple spoils the barrel situation.** The Road Motel was full. Finally they found rooms at the Hotel Dupont that had five rooms.
3. Remember not to cause other guests problems like TVI.
4. How do you get the proper licensing? In this case they used the ARRL forms to get the reciprocal licensing needed through France. One of the members was from Mexico, two from the US, and one from Canada. All got permission to operate.
5. How are you going to get your equipment there? Mary Lou had two ski bags of antennas, 2 rigs, power supplies, suitcases and clothing. An airplane would be difficult. She took her 18 foot RV as far as Pittsburg, and barely made it. The RV blew a head gasket. From there she rented a VAN and made it in 48 hours to the Halifax airport.

It was a fine slide show and narration. Mary showed how they setup the antennas. How they made do with the local conditions and gave us an interesting view of another place on our planet. They were able to work the East Coast and Europe great, but had trouble with NW US, Japan, and Africa.

## **New Business:**

Don Ross (KC7AJT) told us that the 10 meter net was starting to take off on Thursday nights at 9:30 PM at 28.470. In fact they have added Monday night to their schedule,

after the local 146.76 net. Lets get on it support it, and see what happens to 10 meters around here at night.

Glacier Waterton Hamfest - Three Forks Campground located 16 miles west of East Glacier, Montana. Early campsite registration can be sent to Three Forks Campground, Inc., PO Box 124, East Glacier, MT 59434 phone (406) 226-4479. Camping is \$8.00 per day for two people and \$1.00 for each extra person per day. You are welcome to bring your own portable generator.

Look for Saturday night supper, ARRL and RAC speakers, QLF contest, high speed CW contest, QCWA meeting, junk auction, swap tables, dealer displays, transmitter hunts, Sunday Breakfast, DXCC seminar, VEC upgrade exams, bingo, and children's diversions.

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.

Holiday Inn Westbank, Idaho Falls, Idaho - WIMU '94 - Wyoming Idaho Montana Utah Regional Hamfest and ARRL Idaho Section Convention - August 5-7, 1994. For more information contact Robin Stewart (N7NHF) at (208) 529-5157. For motel reservations call 1-800-432-1005 and ask for WIMU room rates. Talk in Frequency; 146.64(-).

## Word of the Month

Was not held due to presentation.

## April Presentation Part II:

Mary Lou (NM7N) next gave us a run down on the current goings on with the ARRL.

**Remember encourage all hams to join the ARRL, it is our best voice to help our existence.** Some may love HF, others DX, some VHF and UHF, some packet, some satellite, some CW, some computers and repeaters; but if we don't work together to preserve our frequencies nobody else is going to do it for us.

I. The ARRL and the Red Cross have agreed to provide each other with addresses annually to keep track of Emergency Coordinators (ECs) and Red Cross Chapter addresses. We will take our directions from the Red Cross and use their forms for handling traffic.

II. Amateur Auxillary Official Observers (OO). Official Observers help police our bands for violations of FCC rules. The ARRL has worked with the FCC to tighten the rules concerning OOs. There will now be a single point of entry for presenting documentation of violations, the FCC will keep the OO posted as to progress, and the FCC will try to protect the OO from litigation.

III. Spectrum - In the UHF bands amateurs are only secondary users. We are not allowed to interfere with the primary user. The ARRL continues to be our best source to protect from frequency losses and to avoid high license fees. So far the Federal government has been responsive because of our emergency work and credited technical development ability.

IV. Vanity Call Signs - ARRL is looking for the phasing in of three four month windows. The first window would let you get a call back you once held. The second window is for Extra Class licenses. The third window is for Advanced. The second year would be for everyone. The ARRL is recommending that the FCC wait two years before releasing a call that was once held. The ARRL wants the FCC to call the \$7/year charge a processing fee, rather than a licensing fee, to avoid the concept of the federal government charging hams license fees.

V. Packet Operations - Only the originator and first receiving station will be held accountable for material that violates the FCC part 97 regulations. It is up to the first receiving station to remove from that station any material that does not comply with the rules.

VI. Recommendation by the ARRL to FCC to make the Extra class operator's license good for a lifetime.

VII. The ARRL is recommending to the FCC that they only allow the issuance of a club call sign when it can be shown that a club has at least 4 members.

Harry (WA7PHB) moved to adjourn.

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

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.

George Hanson (W7BKB) is president of the Treasure State Chapter #104 of the Quarter Century Wireless Association QWCA. He conducted their meeting held in Bozeman on Saturday April 9th. They will meet again in July at the Glacier/Waterton Hamfest and again in October. He will be president until October of this year. He will be available at our May meeting to give us a run down on the goings on.

#### **A SHORT HISTORY OF QWCA**

The Quarter Century Wireless Association began its existence on November 14, 1947 during a 10 meter round table QSO. It was thought that old-timers could form a club of amateurs who had been licensed 25 or more years earlier. Its first meeting was held on December 5, 1947. To be eligible you must have been licensed at least 25 years before applying. It is necessary that proof of licensing be provided. This can be done from 1) a copy of your first license; 2) your first call listed in a published call book; 3) a QSL card, with postmark to confirm your contact; 4) a letter from someone who knew you and will write a note stating that they knew you as a licensed amateur in a given year. To help its prospective members QCWA has a library of callbooks from which your first year of licensing may be found if all other means fail.

Dennis Caldwell (KB7MZZ) is the new water meter reader for Columbia Falls. Good going Dennis. He got a plug in the Hungry Horse news about amateur radio.

#### **Local Bulletin Boards for HAM Radio**

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|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Amateur Radio BBS 756-0393 | Jeff Christiana SysOP AA7UW |
| Flathead Flyer 756-1369    | Don Ross SysOp KC7AJT       |
| MO's BBS 756-8294          | Gregg Maroney SysOp         |