

## How do I get 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.

## The next club meeting will be moved!!!!

Dick Lindeman KC7ALP reserved a pavillion at Woodland Park for our July meeting. Harrold Schneider W7BKM got down to the parks department and paid the \$20 for the pavillion's use. This is an impromptu potluck, so everyone bring your own utensils and a little food that we can share. Probably a good idea to bring enough for yourself to get full.

We can have the Pavillion starting at 5:30 PM. So come to a meeting with a different twist. We can potluck and pass traffic outdoors. If the weather is bad we can reconitour at the usual meeting place: the Flathead County Justice Center.

Keep your radios on 146.76 for late breaking news.

### Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club June 23, 1994.

The Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order by President Mark Skeels at 7:30 PM.

The minutes of the May meeting were approved as written in the June club newsletter.

There was no treasurer's report because Harold Schneider could not attend the meeting.

Old Business was postponed until after new business so we could deal with Field Day Preparation last.

Under new business it was motioned and approved to hold the July meeting at Woodland Park at 6:30 PM on the fourth thursday of the month, July 28th. Dick Lindeman KC7ALP volunteered to contact the parks department to get us a pavillion.

A reminder was made that the Glacier Waterton HamFest will be this July 16 and 17th.

Ed Mahlum and George will be coordinating on getting the John Vugteveen presentation lined up for September.

Last minute commitments were made for field day. Don Ross KC7AJT brought maps. Gary Ax KB7KXE will tow the trailer with the tower, balun, guy wires and the main beam antenna to the site. Larry KB7WIX, Barb KB7YMS, and Greg Magone KB7QPS will bring extra coax and a block and tackle to help raise the tower. Wayne Ristine KE9XR will provide the TS440S, power supply built in antenna tuner, mike, and keyer for the main station. Mark Skeels KB7IPH will bring the newly aquired club rotator, control, and cables. Ed Mahlum will bring the field day kit, consisting of rules, dupe sheets, pencils, pens, and log books. Harry Lovering WA7PHB will bring a 2100 watt generator and Don Ross KC7AJT a 3200 watt Kawasaki generator. Gary Ax KB7KXE has extension cords, plug ins, and fuel, for generators. The club will reimburse him for fuel costs. Ed Mahlum will bring his TS530S as a backup rig. Carlos KD6WBD will be bringing a satelite station, packet equipment, two meter and six meter stations. Ed Mahlum AA7TN will get the pop. Don Ross KC7AJT will bring ground rods. Harry Lovering WA7PHB has our field day signs. Greg Magone KB7QPS has already gotten us into the newspapers. Barb Magone KB7YMS will prepare our public information table. Don Ross has arranged for the Porta-potti. Harry Lovering WA7PHB will bring us a dipole for 80 and 40 meters that we can run as an inverted V.

We will use 146.76, 146.62, and 146.50 simplex as drive in frequencies. Giles Baughman KB7WIW will bring extra rope and coax.

Mark Skeels filled us in on the Field Day Contest. This contest is for club members as of June 25th field day. Whoever gets the most contacts in one hour will win a prize. There will be a handicap on point scoring as follows: Those who will run from 9PM to Midnight and from 5AM to 9AM Sunday will receive 1 point for each contact. Any other hours will get a bonus of 1.5 for each contact. There will be no counting the hours from 12 until 2PM on Saturday because these hours will be established by Wayne Ristine KE9XR and Jeff Christiana AA7UW to establish a calling frequency for us. Those working from midnight until 5AM will get a 5 contact bonus because of the late night work. Also all CW contacts will be multiplied at 1.5 times.

Tracy N7SPI let us know that his boss at the Bigfork Eagle volunteered to run a story on the field day. The Magones will be taking pictures and will provide a picture. Watch for it the Wednesday after field day, June 29th.

George brought up about the Columbia Falls Boogie to the Bank runs coming up at the end of July and they would like hams to help out with communications.

## **June Presentation:**

Field Day preparations.

## **Word of the Month:**

Antennas. We went over plans for raising the tower with our beam for 10-15-20 meters and putting up an inverted V for 40 and 80.

### **Field Day:**

Don Ross KC7AJT and son Emmanuel, Wayne Ristine KE9XR, Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Gary AX KB7KXE, Ed Mahlum AA7TN, son Daniel, Mark Skeels KB7IPH, Greg and Larry Magone

Don Ross KC7AJT and son Emmanuel got up to the Ashley Mountain field day site on Friday night June 24th. It was hot on Friday and Saturday around 90 degrees Fahrenheit. Carlos Abereu KD6WBD, Jeff Christiana AA7UW and family were the first ones up on Saturday morning, arriving about the same time as Wayne Ristine KE9XR. Next up was Ed Mahlum AA7TN with his two sons followed by Mark Skeels KB7IPH, Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Gary Ax KB7KXE and wife Lori. By 9AM Larry, Barb, and Greg Magone KB7WIX/KB7YMS/KB7QPS with Giles Baughman KB7WIW arrived, followed by Vern Wheeler N7SPK.

Wayne setup highest on the mountain top with a fold out camper trailer. He began to setup his camper as the main station. He setup the TS440S and power supply on the table. Ed provided the log. Don Ross gassed up his Kawasaki generator and after some trouble getting it started, we got it moved about 200 yards from Wayne's trailer. It was a quiet generator and ran real steady. The reason we had trouble getting it started was because Don had rewelded one on its braces the day before, and in doing so he had to tilt it on its side. This allowed gas to drain from the carburator and to soak the air filter.

Next Gary backed the trailer with the tower on it back up to the site. In the center of the mountain top were the cement blocks that had been the foundation of the lookout tower. Everybody helped get the tower up. We slid it back off of Gary's trailer (actually the trailer was borrowed from Harry Lovering's brother) while Wayne assembled the beam. Next Mark unboxed our new rotator. We quickly discovered we didn't have the right mounting plate on top of the tower, but ingenuity and necessity was the mother of invention. Thanks to Dave Christiana, Gary Ax, Wayne Ristine, Don Ross and Mark Skeels we found a way to use bolts and clamps to get it securely mounted. Next year we will have a plate bolted on the top and properly mount the rotator. Once the rotator was mounted on top of the tower we mounted the mast. Gary got in his truck and pulled the trailer forward. Gently we eased off the tower, and got it propped up on the clubs ladder so we could mount the beam. Then we attached four guide cables. After securing the cables around nearby trees, Larry Magone under the direction of Mark began to pull up the tower

with the block and tackle he brought. Mark guided the tower up. With at least two guys on each of four guy wires we eased her up and Mark lined her up. Then we fixed the guy wires firmly in place.

The coax from the beam was unrolled to Wayne's trailer and attached to the TS440S and we were on the air a couple of minutes past noon.

The antenna was pointing almost due South. We still had to get the rotator hooked up to this new beautiful control, but we didn't have the wiring diagram. Mark Skeels headed home and after an hour he was able to radio the directions to us. Vern Wheeler was onsite with the soldering gun and quickly six wires were soldered into the proper position. We still made 40 contacts in that first hour. Most of the time there were three people manning the station. We took turns operating the rig, logging the calls, and filling in the dupe sheets. With the rotator, the beam and the location the responses to our CQ's came fast and furious. Sometimes we were averaging three a minute. In the afternoon 20 and 15 meters were the choice bands. We worked 20 meters well into the evening.

It is hard to describe in words the setup of the satellite system. It was an amazing sight and enough to make any experimenter's heart glow with energy. Carlos had brought up his fifth wheel and it was jammed with goodies. Carlos brought up his own mounting tower. On this was mounted two rotators that allowed the antenna's to be moved up and down and left and right. On these rotators were mounted four beams all pointing in the same direction, but two mounted horizontally and two vertically. Carlos brought his own generator and several deep discharge lead acid batteries. His station included a computer with color VGA monitor, attached to TNC, two meter, six meter, and a duplexed rig for working the satellites. His antennas were pointed at the sun. Then with the aid of a computer program, and the approximate latitude and longitude, we knew what the elevation and angle of the sun was. This was used to set the angle of elevation and angle of horizon on the rotators. In that way we could find the satellites. We began to receive big news from Carlos later that afternoon. He was able to work several satellites, get our packet, but some of the most exciting was that 6 meters had simplex openings into Nebraska and Arizona.

At about 4PM we switched from Don Ross's generator to Harry Loverings. This gave Don's a chance to cool down and we could gas it up. We ran Harry's for the next two hours and then switched back to Don's.

We sent the message to our section manager and we got the W1AW bulletin at 7:45PM. We also worked W1AW.

Around 9PM Mark made it back up. The night shift was pulled by Wayne Ristine, Jeff Christiana, Vern Wheeler, and Mark Skeels. At midnight we started up Harry's generator that was right next to Don's. Then on a light signal we switched over to Harry's. We let Don's cool down and then regassed it up. At 12:30 we switched back to Don's and headed down to Carlos' to get in on Oscar 10 that had just come over the horizon. It was in position for the next 9 hours and allowed us to make several satellite contacts accross the US. Carlos showed us on his computer the area he could work from the satellite. We watched his radio duplex into the OSCAR 10 transponder 23000km away. I felt like I was making my first QSO.

Contacts slowed down through the night but were back strong Sunday morning. Not everything went exactly as could have been hoped. The wind began to blow and the rain set in strong at about 7AM Sunday morning. At 10AM we started to break down Carlos' station. It was cold and wet, and a lot of the guys looked like ducks. By 11:30 we decided that it would be for the best to break down the main station. There was some debate as to whether or not to leave the tower and beam up. We were afraid it would be too slippery and it was raining hard and the wind was blowing strong. But together we decided to have a go at bringing it down and together we all did it. It was a tough job and everyone got soaked but by 1:30PM we were all headed down.

Carlos shipped his logs to Wayne Ristine, and Wayne used those plus the logs from our 1A station to put all of the information into his computer. Wayne's computer checked for dupes and allowed us to get our final score tallied.

It was agreed to meet at Jason's for breakfast and a preliminary field day review on July 9th. All were invited. This was announced on all of the local nets.

## Board of Directors and Field Day Review Meeting:

Meeting was held on July 9 at 9AM at Jason's East. Breakfast was ate and a good time was had by all. It was agreed to send a thankyou card to the Ranger for the District that included our field day site of Ashley Mountain. Don Ross will get a card that we can all sign at our July 28th meeting at Woodland Park.

Wayne Ristine KE9XR had finished filling in the field day summary sheet and it was ready to be sent in. The group went over all of our bonus points, the proof, and the field day packet. The packet was approved for sending in. Total field day points for the FVARC club was 2978. Wayne did a lot of work compiling this information and for this the club owes him a sincere thankyou. **Thank you Wayne!!!** As he keyed in all of the logs, it be came apparent that next year we will definitely want to use a computer for logging.

Here are some more statistics. We had 59 CW QSOs and 971 SSB. All of these were non duplicated. Carlos' packet, satellite, and 6 meter VHF gave us another 59 QSOs. Our total points with wattage multiplier was 2178. Adding 800 bonus points gave us the 2978 total.

The only state we didn't work was Idaho. We had the Virgin Islands, Alaska, and Hawaii. We got all of the Canadian provinces except Prince Edward Island.

In our biggest hour we did 92 QSOs. Wayne Ristine at the phone. Second biggest hour was 68 QSOs with Don Ross, and Greg Magone had a 50 QSO hour. Slowest times were in the morning. We need CW operators for next year. Some of the novices and techs didn't work. It was agreed that they should have and that it is a great place to learn.

We need three in the shack at a time. One to operate, one to log, and one to help catch calls. Harry Lovering has begun to receive QSL cards and Wayne Ristine agreed to take them and to respond to them. He has the logs in his computer as to who worked when.

Next year we would like to have a SSB and CW station, a novice station, and packet, satellite, and VHF. We would like to add a vertical for 40 and 80 meters. Gary Ax has volunteered to be our property manager. The tower, beam, rotator, and gear is at his house. **Thanks a lot Gary KB7KXE!!!** It was further suggested that next year the main barbecue be on Saturday evening. That way we all won't be in such a hurry to get out of there like we are on Sunday afternoon. The food committee will be taking this up.

## New Jobs:

Wayne Ristine KE9XR will be taking over for Don Ross on providing coffee and cookies after our regular ham meetings. Thanks Don and Wayne.

Gary Ax KB7KXE will be assuming the position of club property master. He has good space and will be storing our antenna's, tower, rotator, and what not out at his place. Now is a good time to take an inventory and anyone who has any of the club's stuff, let's get a hold of Gary or a club officer.

Roger Swearngen N7EYU is still receiving one tape a month from the ARRL. He copies these and then Ed AA7TN has been storing them for a rainy club night.

### Field Day Prize:

Mark is still trying to figure out what to do about this one.

## N7JKF - Ted Mikita Field Day Report

What a strange Field Day. I enjoyed participating but was rather

disappointed in our total results. We were shooting for #1 USA in 1B category and expected to set the world on fire. We didn't!

What we lacked in results we made up in enthusiasm. Son, Ted Jr - N7AYG and I were on top of Sunday mountain about noon on Wednesday starting our set up. We used many new items (maybe too many?) for the first time this year. Tower #1 was 30' with 40M yagi 45' A.G. and A3 tribander at 35' A.G. and Butternut vertical (for 80M only) at tip top. Tower #2 was 30' with A4 tribander at 35' A.G. The towers were aligned at 170 degrees, phased and shunted for 80M concentration in USA. The A4 tribander was permanently aimed at CA, the A3 with rotor and power splitter worked the midwest and east coast at the same time. We used computer logging for the first time as well as a brand new IC737A with built in tuner.

As usual we had a hellish wind and rain storm Sat. PM which the club no doubt experienced on Ashley. This made QRN bad on all bands. In general our incoming sigs were "weak to moderate" and we could never seem to get the handle and roll a good hot run with pile-ups for longer than 15-20 minutes. Very discouraging!

With all our ups and downs we managed 937 non-dupes QSO's (920 on CW and 17 on SSB). Our band totals were 170 - 15M; 452 - 20M; 227 - 40M and 88 - 80M. Our total points (w/bonus) was 4514, down by 17% from FD93, however, the second best we have ever done. If propagation was down we may still stand a chance in the final standings.

We hope FVARC had a terrific FD94. 73's Ted - N7JKF.

## **Hold Incoming Welfare Traffic**

During a disaster we hear many Amateur Radio stations passing welfare traffic. It is the easiest traffic to pass, there is no time limit and it is the most visible part of emergency communications.

Many times an operator will sit on a 40 or 20M frequency because they have everything set up for a phone patch into a specific area of the country. Sometimes operators are given free long distance accounts to place those calls. Everyone can hear the anguish in the voices over the phone, and the caller thanks the radio operator over and over for their dedication and service.

That kind of instant gratification can be intoxicating for the rest of the Amateur Radio community to the point of passing welfare traffic without considering the consequences. Experience in disaster communications has shown that most welfare traffic is supportive, but not necessary. In fact, holding on to that initial query will probably get you an answer faster than if you had actually sent it.

### **Incoming vs Outgoing**

Let's divide it up. There is incoming welfare traffic where a party sends a message within the disaster area; and there is outgoing where the party within the disaster sends a message to the outside. What does it take to run an outgoing message? It takes an operator in the disaster area and anybody on the outside willing to pass it.

But incoming is much more intensive. Not only does the operator on the inside accept the traffic, they either find a runner or run it themselves. Rarely are either of these choices viable options. You cannot leave your station, the person next to you already has 20 things to do, and the phone lines must be left open for civilian disaster relief agencies.

Thus, incoming welfare traffic is a luxury. The victim will get word out eventually, even originate their own outgoing message. If they are dead, they are dead; your message will not help them. If they are injured, then a disaster relief agency will attend to them; but if you are a thousand miles away, what more can you do? By sending that message, you tax the relief efforts even more.

We were not thinking. The Amateur Radio response to the Northridge Earthquake in Los Angeles was replete with bad habits. many operators sent and accepted incoming welfare traffic on many of the HF nets and on packet; there were very few "outgoing-only" nets. In the San Francisco Bay Area, one Amateur Radio operator provided his phone number to a local TV station so that people could contact him to send incoming welfare traffic.

We were not thinking about what passing incoming traffic took away from those truly in need. Many of the stations accepting the incoming traffic used local phone lines to contact the disaster parties, and in the first few days the success rate was terrible. In doing so, however, it meant that someone who had an emergency-or priority-related traffic could not use the phone lines because they were tied up needlessly.

Do not originate or accept incoming welfare messages the first week after the disaster. Instead, stand by to originate and accept outgoing messages. For yourself, and all others who live in disaster prone areas, save a lot of calls and welfare messages by making arrangements with a relative or friend who lives several hundred miles away from the area. The arrangement to make is that all family members in the disaster area will call this relative or friend in the outside area and leave word with them as to their situation. Everyone else both outside and within the disaster area is told to call that outside area person for up-dates, information, and to pass messages.

### **Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting**

May 21, 1994  
9:00AM at Jason's East

Present: Mark Skeels KB7IPH, Don Ross KC7AJT, Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Jeff Christiana AA7UW, and Ed Mahlum AA7TN.

1. It was agreed to reimburse Ed Mahlum for newsletter expenses.
2. Approval was made for Mark Skeels to purchase a new president's organizer box.
3. Mark KB7IPH talked to the county about our meeting schedule. It was found that we will be able to have the 2nd Thursday 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.
4. Mark Skeels will look at the language of the by-laws to see that we are on track. Maybe later this year, or next we will form a by-laws committee to see what can be changed and maybe free ourselves up a bit from any bureaucracy and have more fun.
6. Club history, where are the records? Club inventory, who has the files? Bring any history you might have to Field Day. It will be a riot going through that stuff and it will help us get it altogether too.
9. Agenda developed for Club Meeting. Presentation and Field Day Discussion.

### **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.

### **Form 610:**

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:**

The new 1994 Montana Callbooks are available at the meetings for \$5.00 each. If you missed your chance to get one contact FVRG PO Box 808, Bigfork, MT 59911. \$8.00 includes shipping and handling.

### **10 Meter Net:**

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.

### **Ham Exams:**

According to Darrel, KG7MO, the next exams will be held September 17th, Saturday, at 1PM at the Daily Interlake Building in Kalispell. Bring a copy of your license for upgrading, a current photo id, \$5.75, and some pencils. If you have any questions about time and place call Darrel 756-8633 or Ed AA7TN at 755-6673.

### **Ham Ventions:**

Glacier Waterton Hamfest - Three Forks Campground located 16 miles west of East Glacier, Montana. This was a fun one. Your editor missed but was filled in by others. It had it all: 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.

Greg Magone KB7QPS is real excited about upgrading to General. Congratulations Greg.

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 Frequecny; 146.64(-).

**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 it we don't work together to preserve our frequencies nobody else is going to do it for us.

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:

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

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

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