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All new licensees 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.

Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club August 25, 1994.

Called to order August 25, 1994 at 19:35 MDT.

Mark KB7IPH President presiding.

Harold gives the Treasurers report which is accepted by the club.

Minutes read by Don and accepted as read.

Introductions of those present.

Will setup a club station at Gary Ax's Sept. 18th 1PM.

Get an inventory of what the club has.

Mark KB7IPH will be the club librarian.

Next meeting on Sept. 22 at 6:30 at Eagles with dinner. John Vugteveen will give presentation on DX expedition to the South Sandwich Islands.

Card passed around for the family of Silent Key Harold K7JZO (Kay Seven--Jay--Zeed 00000).

Howard KG7QU report on the 147.20 repeater in the Swan Valley.

Sept. 10th. Hiway Clean up.

Sept 17th. VE Testing.

Sept. 4th. Huckleberry 100 bike tour Ham Radio communication provided.

W7VOS reports Hams have and may be needed for communications on Little Wolf Fire.

Wayne KE9XR volunteered to become the club Emergency Communication Coordinator with assistance from Rod W7VOS.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:52.

Submitted by Don KC7AJT

Editor filler on club meeting:

The Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order by President Mark Skeels at 7:30 PM. The meeting was held at our regular location in the Flathead County Justice Center Basement.

The minutes of the July meeting were read by club secretary Don Ross KC7AJT and approved as written.

The treasurer's report was given by club treasurer Harold Schneider W7BKM. We have \$595.90 in the general fund and in the repeater fund 464.33.

Introductions were made and each member gave a brief talk on what they have been up to in amateur radio. The attendance sheet was passed around and kept by Don Ross KC7AJT, club secretary.

The purchase of Darryl Christofferson's Kenwood TS520S was finalized, a check was written, and Ed Mahlum AA7TN brought the rig. Ed also brought a dummy load and morse code key. At the end of the meeting he did a presentation on how to tune up this radio with tubes in the finals.

A general discussion ensued about doing an inventory for the club. Another list was passed around and members each put down items they remembered that were owned by the club and who has them. Some items discussed were it was thought that N7SRX Bruce has a repeater that needs repair. It was thought we were going to have a get together at his house sometime to try to repair it. We might now try to get it to Gary Ax's KB7KXE (property manager) as we will probably be spending more time there.

It was thought Allan Thompson, Columbia Falls, might have a Drake radio. That Harry Lovering WA7PHB has a lot of the history stuff. By the way where were you Harry? Dwayne Lynn of Columbia Falls might have a bunch of magazines and books.

Mark Skeels KB7IPH volunteered to take on the duty of club librarian. **Way to go Mark!!! Thanks for the help.** Ed Mahlum also had all of the QST's from 1982 to present, donated to the club by Alma Dodd, Jack Dodd K7OIR's wife. These were hauled over after the meeting to Mark's van.

Tracy Robertson N7SPI will be getting Ed disks of the text of the newsletters he edited in years past. These can get to the librarian.

At any rate, keep thinking about who, where and what the club might own. Lets get it to our property manager or librarian.

The club now has a transceiver, tower, rotator, antenna tuner (coming) and George Hanson W7BKB donated a dummy load. **Thanks a lot George.** So plans were made to get it over to Gary Ax's and then on Sunday September 18th at 1PM to get together there assemble it and build a club station. It was then thought that once a month or so we could go out there and work the station as a group to introduce new hams and all around have some fun.

A card was passed around for the family of Harold Ward K7JZO who passed away August 18th. Many spoke about fond memories of Harold and there was much sadness about his passing. He will be long remembered. Ed AA7TN will send the card and it was requested by club members that we suggest that if the family needs help in selling Harold's radio gear that they send the information to Ed to be put in the newsletter.

Discussion next turned to the coordination for the September 22nd club meeting. This meeting will be held at the Eagle's in Kalispell. We will have dinner there at 6:30 with the presentation on the Sandwich Island DXpedition by John Vugteveen at 7:30. The presentation will last about 1 hour. This is our fall kick off meeting. George Hanson W7BKB and Ed Mahlum AA7TN will help coordinate the presentation and the media on the event.

George will see that it gets in the Daily Interlake and Tracy Robertson will see that it gets in the Bigfork Eagle. The newspapers will run Ed's work number 758-6807 so those planning to attend can RSVP. We need an accurate count so the cooks will know how many to plan for. Dinner is set to be a turkey dinner with all the fixings.

Ed has been in contact with John Vugteveen, and the club has agreed to pay his expenses here.

A list was sent around for the dinner and we had 27 signed up at the end of the meeting. This will be talked up on the nets over the next two weeks and Ed will get the final count to the Eagles.

Howard KG7QU gave a report on the new repeater in the Swan Lake area. It is at 147.02 with a positive offset. It will be linked full time with 146.62 and so have all the same capabilities. This repeater will be of great service providing radio access along remote highway 200. By being linked to 146.62 it will have 911, and phone patch capabilities. It is up on a tower. At a private residence. Thanks to Howard, KG7QU; Mark, KO8N; Butch, N7SPM; Skip, KA7SOW; LV, KB7UFK; John, KA5LXG; Marteen, and others for their fine work on this project. If you need to know how to get a wire through a conduit, talk to Howard about vacuum cleaners, garbage bags, tennis balls and string.

September 10th will be the highway cleanup. Meet at Streeter's Corner a mile North of Bigfork at 10 AM for breakfast. We will get started at about 11AM. Lets have a good turn out. This clean up provides an opportunity for us to help the community and to give amateur radio a good name.

September 17th ham tests will be given at 1PM at the Daily Interlake building.

September 4th Sunday we will meet at the Whitefish High School to provide communications for the Huckleberry 100. Meet at 8AM. We will use the repeaters.

Rod Stickney W7VOS was contacted by Kim Potter regarding hams maybe being needed to help with communications because of the forest fires burning locally. Rod alerted amateurs on the nets. We did get some volunteers and a list was given to Kim Potter. It was thought we might be needed to help man the roadblocks. However, we were not contacted back. It is known that the sheriff's radios just can't get out like our amateur communications can in several remote areas of the valley.

A discussion ensued that it was time for us to get more active as amateurs and more prepared to be of assistance in emergencies. **Wayne Ristine volunteered to become the club coordinator for emergencies.** Thanks a lot Wayne. He will contact Kim Potter and will work with Rod. Mark Skeels KB7IPH had a manual on RACES. It is now in Wayne's hands. Wayne will start a review and we will probably be sending out a RACES sign up form in a club newsletter for everyone to sign up. We will be coordinating with the Bigfork repeater group too. Wayne will do a report in October.

John KA5LXG brought maps for the Huckleberry 100 and they were handed out at the end of the meeting.

New Jobs:

Wayne Ristine KE9XR will be emergency coordinator for our club. His retirement is not lasting long. He is also providing coffee and cookies after our regular ham meetings. Thanks Wayne.

Gary Ax KB7KXE has assumed 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. We should have pictures, history, and other stuff. Maybe now is the time to get it all over to Gary.

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. Roger needs to get us a recap of his expenses so we can reimburse him.

Mark Skeels KB7IPH has become club librarian. Let's get him all of our extra magazines, books, history stuff, etc. Thanks a lot Mark.

10 meter net opening up on CW.

The 10 meter net that is meeting on Monday nights after the 146.76 net is having some fun. Not only are they getting some sporadic E contacts, but they are getting in some code practice. Anyone who wishes feel free to join in on the fun. We can just pass the CW around as on a regular net and if nothing else send your call sign.

The more CW operators the better. Especially in contests where often we can score twice the number of points.

Club Purchases a Radio

After some discussion it was motioned by Tracy Robertson N7SPI that the club purchase Darryl Christopherson's Kenwood TS520S for \$300. Motion was seconded by Ollie Coburn KA7LLI. It was thought the radio could be loaned to newcomers and used in contests and other club activities. The club now has a tower, a tribander, a nice rotator, and a rig.

Club gets an antenna tuner

Mark Skeels filled us in on the Field Day Contest. The winner was Wayne Ristine KE9XR with 92 contacts in one hour. After looking over the list of prizes Wayne chose the MFJ-941E Versa Tuner II - 1.8 to 30MHz, 300 watt PEP antenna tuner. Wayne then promptly donated his prize to the club. **Thanks again Wayne!!!**

September Presentation and Dinner meeting at the Eagles.

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.

We have finalized on the location of the meeting. It will be at the Eagles. We will work together with George Hanson W7BKB to mobilize a promotion committee and get it out to the local community. The dinner will start at 6:30PM. We will be having a turkey dinner for 7.95 each. Dinner will include turkey, mash potatoes, vegetable, salad bar, and dessert. The slide show will follow. Should be a fun evening for the whole family and all of us. A good way to kick off the fall before the cold sets in. See you there!!!

August Presentation:

Ed Mahlum showed us how to tune up the Kenwood TS520S the club purchased from Darryl KG7MO.

Word of the Month:

Not enough time. Oops!!!

Minutes of Board of Director's Meeting

August 25, 1994
7:00PM at Justice Center

Present: Mark Skeels KB7IPH, Don Ross KC7AJT, Harold Schneider W7BKM, and Ed Mahlum AA7TN.

1. It was agreed to reimburse Ed Mahlum for newsletter expenses.
2. Mark KB7IPH talked to the county about our meeting schedule. We will have the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7:30PM for our November and December club meetings.
3. 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.
4. Club history, where are the records? Club inventory, who has the files? Bring any history you might have to club meetings. It will be a riot going through that stuff and it will help us get it altogether too.
5. Agenda developed for Club Meeting. Presentation and Field Day Report.
6. Paid Darryl Christofferson \$300 for 520S radio.
7. Gary Ax was paid 10\$ for gas used at field day.
8. Bill for field day prize still to come will be for MFJ Versa Tuner II antenna tuner.

Irv Ball Picnic:

Those who attend had a great time at Irv Ball K7MEA's home on Flathead Lake on Sunday August 21, 1994. This is what is sometimes called

the Big Arm Picnic. We began to gather around 11:30 AM. Many of us were talked into the location near Polson on 146.52. It was a smoky Sunday up in Kalispell because of the fires up by Star Meadows but the air was clearer down Polson way. The temperature was nice and had cooled off to around 80 degrees.

First on the Agenda was potluck. The salads and desserts were mighty tasty. Next came swimming, eyeball gso's, rest, relaxation, and a little gear exchanging. Some of those attending were Darryl KG7MO, wife Ardis N7WKF and kids; Ed Mahlum AA7TN, wife Joy and family; Don Ross KC7AJT and son Mannie; Tracy Robertson N7SPI; Jim O'Neill KB7ZGJ, Harry WA7PHB and Dorothy KA7LTA Lovering; Bob W7IPB and Darlene Williams; John WB7OUS and Vonda WB7WNM Klempell from Plains; Jerry Nelson K7IMZ; Lewis Ball KB7UNW from Missoula; Keith Ball KB7YUH from Missoula.

Huckleberry 100

Tracy Robertson N7SPI and Tom Unger N7WKT were first on the scene at The Whitefish High School to help out with the 3rd annual Huckleberry 100. Larry KB7WIX and Greg Magone KB7QPS also showed up to help. Other hams began checking in on the radio on 146.76 and 146.62 around 8:30 in the morning.

John KA5LXG and Mary KA5QGJ Blair checked in and became mobile bicycle participants. Don Ross KC7AJT and Ed Mahlum AA7TN met at the Kalispell airport at 9:45 and went up to fly surveillance for the beginning of the tour. Wayne Ristine KE9XR came down from Rhodes Draw to help out at about 9:30 as riders began to pass along Farm-to-Market road. Greg KB7QPS and Larry KB7WIX brought up the rear following the slower riders on their way to Foy's Lake. Bob Williams W7IPB joined up early in Kalispell. Riders went down Farm to Market, over Sheep Herders Hill, along to Whale Bone drive, over to Foy's Lake road, to Herron park. This is where many took their first break. They hoped to make Bigfork for lunch.

Reports estimated 100 or so riders. We helped out as people had flat tires, falls, break downs, lost their way, or in other ways needed us. Cloude W4EWZ, Bob W7IPB, and Tom N7WKT even helped some of the bikers out with a German Shepherd at the corner of Fairmont and Hwy 35. W7IPB helped with some tools from the back of his rig to fix one of the riders bikes and get them back on the road. All in all we were very helpful and got a lot of good pr for hams. Most of the riders expressed their appreciation.

Highway Cleanup

Saturday, September 10, 1994 the following hams got together to clean up the section of highway 35 that we hams applied for under the Montana Volunteer Highway clean up act. This also gives us good PR. The sign states who is responsible for keeping that section of the road clean and mentions the 146.62 and 146.76 repeaters for visiting hams to use. Bruce Hoveland N7SRX, Howard Gamett KG7QU and XYL Kim, Vern Wheeler N7SPK, Butch and Elvie Bonnell, Fred Gloschat N7ZUY, Tom Unger N7WKT, John KA5LXG, XYL Mary KA5QGJ, and daughter Betsey, Don Ross KC7AJT and son Mannie, Giles Baughman KB7WIW, Al Ross W7FR, Wally McPheeters N7GUP, Mark KA6YSC and JoAnne N6SLM Miller, and Ed Mahlum AA7TN and sons. We all met together at the Corner Kitchen for breakfast first. I was late getting there and so had to miss out on some of the fun and fellowship. Each of us had a breakfast fitting our desires and then we headed out to put on orange vests, grab garbage bags and hit the ditches. What finds we had! There was a brand new 700 by 15 tire and wheel all aired up. There were crescent wrenches, gas caps, pipes, corvette hub caps, beer cans, bottles, pop cups, news papers, and sticks.

The good news is we can still report from the actual small amount of garbage compared with the humongous amount of traffic that goes by on that stretch, that there are still many more conscientious people than jerks.

After the cleanup about half of us went up to the 62 repeater site and unloaded one of those green armidillo remote phone buildings.

This may sound simple but this unit weighs about 2 tons. John Blair had gotten the unit and had hauled it to the site on his tandom trailer. With the use of three come-alongs, some pipe, and planks to roll it off on, we managed to inch it down over the next 40 minutes. These buildings are quite interesting, well insulated, all weather proof buildings. Inside are several electrical outlets, a breaker box, electric base board heat, and thermistatically temperature controled fan vent system.

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.

Ham Exams:

According to Darrel, KG7MO, the next exams will be held ????????, 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.

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 frequencities nobody else is going to do it for us.

For Sale or Trade:

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 goody for sale:
Tempo S1 5watt 2M handheld just \$ 80.00.

Ed Mahlum AA7TN 755-6673 is looking for a buyer for his Hustler 4BTV vertical antenna for \$80. He also has a new Kenwood PB-8 battery for \$35, a PB-6 for \$20 with BC-6 charger.

Bill Brady AA7HM 257-2297 has a Cushcraft AOP-1 OSCAR Satellite antenna system. It contains the 416TB uplink, the A144-20T downlink, the A14T-MB mounting boom, and all necessary hardware. He is looking for about \$150.00.

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