

## How do I get a Newsletter?

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

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.

## Silent Key

It comes with deep sadness to acknowledge the passing of Carl Stoddard W7EQB. Carl had been hurting the last year or so and many of us had visited him. Carl kept many of the early pin ball and newer electronic game machines running. He knew more about electronics in his little finger than I'll probably ever know. I have fond memories of Carl and he was one of my early Elmer's. He and Nick Poncelet helped me build the power supply I needed to put an old AM 6 meter military rig on the air in 1966. Carl passed away on October 9th around 5:30 PM.

## Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club September 22, 1994.

Flathead Amateur Radio Club Meeting Called to order 6:40 PM at Eagles Club by Ed AA7TN Vice President.

Only two piece of business were discussed. We voted to buy 100 feet of coaxial cable with the suggestion to buy the cable from Kalcom. And KC7AJT Don was announced as the clubs newest General Class License Holder.

Dinner was then served with a selection of salads, turkey, stuffing, potatoes, and gravy and reportly much Bravo Serria took place durning dinner.

After dinner John Vugteveen W7KNT stared his presentation on this DXpeditions to The South Sandwich Islands, Palmya, and Kingman Reef.

He started out with arrival in England and sight seeing around some of that country. From England they picked up RAF transportation to Ascension Island where and then on to the Falkland Islands where they crash landed. While there they had a briefing on how to watch out for land mines left over from the 1982 war. The team then moved to Port Stanley where their gear and the boat waited to take then to Thule Island in the South Sandwich Islands. After many days of watching Icebergs they reached Thule Island. When it was decided they could start to land they started loading their Zodiacks (rudder boats).

The first boat out was swamped near shore loseing some of the equipment. After finding a suitable landing site the party got the

rest of their equipment on shore to be met by those furious fur seals and peskey Penguins. A walk of about 1 mile was required to get the equipment to the operating site. It was thought that they might be able to use the Argentina's Corbeta Uruguay scientific station but it was found the station was destroyed in the 1982 war. All but the survival hut. The tents and antennas were setup and stations of the VP8SSI DXpedition were put on the air.

Things went good for a couple of days then the information that an Antarctica Hurricane was on the way, most of the rest of the time was spent shoring up tents and putting antennas up again and again (nothing like high winds and cold temperatures. After about ten days of operation the boat showed up again and it was off to South Georgia for operation with things like a dock and heated buildings to work out of.

Palmyra is a island in the Pacific Ocean about 960 miles southwest of Honolulu it is about 6 miles long and about 2 miles in width this was quite a change from the Antarctic.

Kingman Reef is 33 miles northwest of Palmyra and is about 90 feet wide and 120 feet long and about 5 feet above sea level at high tide. These areas presented different chalange like sharks and sea anemones.

Thanks to John for his presentation and a donation will be sent toward his next expedition..

Are you ready to go??  
**Submitted by Don KC7AJT**

#### **Editor filler on club meeting:**

The Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club meeting was called to order by Vice-President Ed Mahlum AA7TN at 6:30 PM. The meeting was held at the Eagles in Kalispell. It was a dinner meeting with our fall kickoff presentation by John Vugteveen.

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

The treasurer's report was not given. Our club treasurer Harold Schneider W7BKM was ill and unable to attend the meeting.

A delicious meal was served including salad, turkey, potatoes, cranberries, dressing and ice cream.

Club inventory????

Tracy Robertson N7SPI got Ed a disk of the text of the newsletters he edited in years past. These will be gotten 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.**

#### **Club Station K7LYY**

The club now has a transceiver, tower, rotator, antenna tuner and a dummy load. 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. So we all arrived at Gary Ax's. Wayne Ristine KE9XR, Tom Ristine KB9ENW, Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Ed Mahlum AA7TN, Don Ross KC7AJT, Mark Skeels KB7IPH, and Gary Ax KB7KXE.

The first order of business was to get the tower up. Gary and Wayne worked on building a plate for mounting our Yaesu rotator, while the rest laid out guy cable and began to assemble the 20-15-10 meter beam. Then Gary used a tractor to help unload the tower, and all of us helped to swing it into position. With the tower in the tractor

bucket we were able to mount the beam on the rotator. Then we attached the coax, antenna rotator control wire, and guy wires. With the aid of the tractor we stood the tower and antenna up. We attached the guy wires to three trees at different points on a triangle. We did not have enough coax to get to the transceiver that is inside of Gary's shop.

The club was given the go ahead to purchase 100 feet of coax, some ground wire and two ground rods for the club station setup.

Gary is our equipment trustee and so this will work out fine. We have our field day signs and other equipment on location at his site.

It was thought that a date would be picked for a Sunday in October to give it a second go around at the club station. All are invited to attend.

### Vugteveen Expenses

Ed has been in contact with John Vugteveen, and the club has agreed to pay his expenses here. John has asked us to donate \$100 to DXpeditions in memory of Joannie Branson in care of Jerry Branson AA6BB.

### Mistakes in previus newsletter.

It was wrongly reported that the new repeater in the Swan Lake area is at 147.02 with a positive offset. It is actually at 147.20 with a positive offset. It is not in the Swan Area but 45 miles south at the summit. And it covers higway 83 not highway 200.

### Emergency Coordinator

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 Flathead Valley repeater group too. Wayne will do a report in October.

### Ted Mikita Report:

For Q5R9:

Just returned from an 8 week fantastic fishing trip to Alaska. You'll never know how pleased I was to read about the club's FD results in the July-Aug Q5R9. It sounds like everyone had fun - that's the way it should be. It appears you've already started plans for FD95, and that's also the way it should be. I personally would like to offer my congratulations to you guys on an "unbelievable" performance - over 1K QSO's by a relatively inexperienced "contesting crew" is unheard of especially with propagation on the downhill. That's about 100% better than I remember the club ever doing, including the peak-cycle years. Your enthusiasm and determination really paid off - and look out for next year.

Two items were mentioned in your report which I would like to comment. 1. WE NEED CW OPERATORS FOR NEXT YEAR. 2. SOME OF THE NOVICES AND TECHS DIDN'T WORK. The answer is fairly simple. Operate in the "2A + free-Novice station" category. have seperate stations (rig, ants, ops) for SSB, also for CW, and you are entitled to a "free" Novice station (rig, ants, ops) which does not change your category from 2A. You have 3 Xtmtrs going simultaneously. Have an experienced operator set up the Novice station and get them started then turn it over to the N-T's to operate at their comfortable speed. All QSO's they bring in will be pure "gravity" and a big bonus compared to no Novice station. (You are not eligible for the free station in 1A; must be 2A and above category). Also gives everyone a chance to

operate!

Aboutoperating CW - YES, YES, YES. The club outperformed us on QSO's this year 1030 to 937, yet we outscored you 4514 to 2978 strictly because we operated 98% CW. With twice the points you would only have to make 46 QSO's per hour to equal Wayne's 92 record QSO's. With the narrower CW sig there seems to be more "room" on the CW bands and during the wee-hours it's easier to pull in weak CW sigs, especially with a sharp CW filter.

One final comment - you waste valuable operating time copying the W1AW bulletin during the contest (7:45PM Sat). If you have someone with a mobile HF rig the bulletin can be copied at 8:00AM CW or 9:00AM SSB before the contest starts. Every year we copy at 8:00AM on 20M and it's done! Also gives you time to program the bulletin into a keyer memory for later transmission as a "relay message" (10 points bonus).

Again congratulations to you all for a super job, and especially to Wayne Ristine, Don Ross, Greg Magone and Carlos Abereu for their truly fine performance.

73's, Ted Mikita  
N7JKF/N7AYG Team  
1B - 2 Op.

### **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.

### **September Presentation and Dinner meeting at the Eagles.**

John Vugteveen W7KNT presented a program on the South Sandwich Island DXpedition. This program had been presented at 17 conventions, including Dayton, NorthWest DX Convention, WIMU. It was extremely interesting. The entire program lasted about an hour and a half and included color slides with full stereo background music. It covered two major DXpeditions including travel to Europe, Ascension Island, the Falkland Islands, The Antarctic, South Sandwich Islands, South Georgia, Hawaii, Kingman Reef and Palmyra Atol in the Pacific. There were many compliments from the XYL's also.

**Join us next month for our regular meeting** which will include:

### **Introductions:**

## **Word of the Month:**

**Video:** Last Word from Kuwait

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

October 27, 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. 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. Bill for field day prize still to come will be for MFJ Versa Tuner II antenna tuner.

### **Highway Cleanup**

Saturday, October 29, 1994 meet at Corner Kitchen for Breakfast around 10 AM.

### **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 November 19th at 1PM at the Daily Interlake Building in Kalispell. Our last upgrade was Don Ross KC7AJT to general class. Way to go **Don!!!**

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 if we don't work together to preserve our frequencies 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.

### Nicad Batteries

Can someone give  
: me some technical information about NiCads? How do you take care of them?  
: Do you leave them in the charger until you need them? Is there such  
: thing as "the memory effect" with NiCads? ...

Here's info on the subject I posted a week or so ago:

Subject: Nicad Batteries - The Official Word  
Newsgroups: rec.bicycles.tech

Awhile back, John Stevenson of MBUK emailed me asking about the "memory" effect in nickel-cadmium rechargeable batteries. I recently acquired an engineering handbook published by Sanyo, maker of "Cadnica" brand nicads. I thought the information would be of general interest.

In the following, "C" is the amp-hour capacity of the battery. For example, if you have a 5 A-hr battery, a charging rate of "0.1C" is 0.5A.

From Sanyo's handbook:

"Nickel-cadmium batteries have a "memory effect" in which the voltage drops by 2 levels during discharge after shallow charge/discharge cycles. In application when discharge end voltage is highly established, apparent decreases in capacity and operating voltage are shown."

A graph shows a series of discharge curves (voltage versus time) for a battery under the following conditions: (1) Fresh battery, (2) First discharge after 100 cycles, (3) Second discharge after 100 cycles, (4) Third discharge after 100 cycles. The "cycles" consist of a 0.1 C charge for 10 hours followed by a 1C discharge for 10 minutes. The "discharge curve" is measured after a final 0.1C charge for 16 hours followed by a discharge rate of 1C.

The four curves are almost identical. As near as I can read the graph, the first discharge after 100 memory cycles drops to 1V after about 63 minutes, compared with about 66 minutes for the fresh battery.

Bottom line: Yes there is a memory effect, but it is very small and not worth worrying about.

Other Nicad tidbits:

Charging:

"As long as a Cadnica battery is charged at an input rate below the specified value [typically 0.1C] internal gas pressure remains at a low level. However, heat generated by gas recombination causes a rise in cell temperature. When overcharging is repeated often, heat deteriorates the cell and shortens its service life."

So don't overcharge excessively. It's OK to leave your battery on the charger overnight (up to 18 hours or so if the battery was well-discharged) but don't hook it up to the charger and go away for a week.

(Actually, my lighting system is supposed to have circuitry to prevent overcharging, but I don't depend on it.)

Discharging:

"The number of cycles Cadnica batteries can withstand depends on the depth of discharge... When the cell is discharged to a greater depth, the number of cycles decreases."

Some folks have recommended that occasionally you intentionally completely discharge your nicads to eliminate the memory effect. The above implies that that's a bad idea.

Storage:

"Cadnica batteries can be stored at temperatures ranging from -30 degC to 50 degC without essential deterioration in performance. The organic materials, such as gasket or separator, may deteriorate or become deformed at high temperatures during prolonged storage. Thus it is recommended that Cadnica batteries be stored at temperatures below 35 degC if there is a possibility of prolonged storage surpassing 3 months." [35 degC = 95 degF]

"Either charged or discharged Cadnica batteries may be stored indefinitely. ... Though the capacity is recovered with a couple of charge/discharge cycles in either case, the capacity of a discharged battery is more quickly achieved."

Unlike lead-acid batteries, nicads are perfectly happy being stored in a discharged state. In fact, they prefer it.

"Batteries should be recharged prior to use after prolonged storage."

The reason for that is that various cells in the battery can lose their charge at different rates. If you then use the battery without recharging, the weakest cell can become reverse-charged by the other stronger cells. That can kill a battery.