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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, or you are getting it and shouldn't, then contact Ed Mahlum at 300 Leisure Drive, Kalispell 755-6673.**

Letter from the President

Greetings and a Happy New Year from The Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club. The board of directors and myself are in the process of planning an exciting year of activity for the club. The past year has been a good one for the club with the Field Day outcome we had place first in the state of Montana in 1A. We hope to have even a better showing in the next year.

One of the first thing we will be doing to setting up committees to help the officers and directors of the club meet the goals for the year. No one should feel left out because there will be a place for each and everyone that want to serve the club this year. I am suggesting the following committees to be a permanent part of the club structure:

1. Repeater Committee, this committee would be in charge of the club repeaters, they would help organize and work that would need to be done on the repeaters. They would also be charged with see if any updating would need to be done on the system, plus I would like to see them look into the possibly of more repeaters (maybe in different bands).
2. Education Committee, this committee would over see the training of new Ham Operators and helping existing Hams upgrade.
3. Presentation, this committee would be charged with the monthly presentations given at the meetings.
4. RACES, Emergency communications and coordination Committee.
5. Field Day, this is the committee that will make recommendations to Field Day operations and plan the 1995 Field Day for the FVARC.

Each committee will report to the club monthly, we will be setting these committees up at the January meeting, so pick the one you would like to be on and be there to volunteer.

I will not be able to be at the January meeting because I will be at the National Association of Home Builders Convention in Houston, Texas, but I will take my 2 meter rig with me and hopefully I will have a report next month about the Hams I talked to in Texas, plus I will be able to tour the Johnson Space Center. Wayne Ristine Vice President will be filling in for me. Let's have a good year and a lot of fun with Ham Radio.

Don Ross KC7AJT President

Silent Key

KA7OAO, Ray Gelin, passed away at his home in Hinkley, Utah. Many of us remember first meeting Ray in 1981 when he was a Flathead Valley resident. Ray quickly moved up the ranks and became an extra. His career goals took him to Utah where he worked as an electrician. He is survived by his wife, Suzi, and two daughters. Funeral Services were held Wednesday, December 28th, 10:00AM, at the Johnson Mortuary in Kalispell.

W7LMW, Don DeJong, resident of the Veteran's Home in Columbia Falls, MT passed away on January 17th in the morning. Many in our club knew Don and helped him get a station set up at the Home. I am suppose to receive more information to follow.

Sick and Hurting:

All others checking in seem well. Thanks be to God.

Away and Saying "HI"

LeRoy Gates KC5ICL sends greeting via Don Ross for best wishes in the New Year, from Nevada. LeRoy operates a West Glacier Campground in the summer and is looking forward to participating in the club come spring.

Donations:

N7CTS Jim Payne brought to the club an older working Oscilloscope. KB7IPH, Mark Skeels will be taking it home and seeing how it works. We will probably be seeing it up at our club station with our property manager Gary Ax. I don't think it will pick up the FOX channel. **Thanks Jim!!**

Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club December 10, 1994.

7:30 PM, December 8, 1994. KB7IPH Mark Skeels called the meeting to order. While waiting for stragglers he further elaborated on last months, word of the month, i.e. AM, FM, SSB. I think I have a perty good handle on what they are. Now I would like to see some presentations on how each one is generated with which particular electical circuits.

Treasurer's reports. W7BKM Harrold Schneider. We have a total of 704.30 of which 451.55 is designated for the repeater fund. We have 17 paid members so far for 1995. We have two dues. 15\$ for general fund and \$5 for the repeater fund and upkeep. All new hams get a years membership free.

Secretary reports was in the December newsletter. It was accepted as published.

Introductions:

There were 37 in attendance. All but four were hams. Ted Rosenberry, Clara Bouschor, Andrew Miller, and Anthony Eacker were all interested in how to become hams.

Education:

Classes: Five interested, need to figure a location and date. KB7IPH Mark Skeels will probably teach again but would like the help of some other elmers. KE9XR Wayne Ristine mentioned that the Flathead County Library has some ARRL study materials to help with your testing. These have been placed there by our club.

Club HF Staion:

KC7AJT Don Ross, gave a report on the club station. On Dec. 4 AA7TN Ed Mahlum, his sons Daniel and David, Don Ross, son Manny, KE9XR Wayne Ristine met at KB7KXE Gary Ax's house to finish setting up the club station. They needed to install two ground rods and an antenna tuner. When Wayne adjusted the direction on the beam he noticed that one of our Mast Clamps was cracked. KB7IPH Mark Skeels will contact AES and do a warranty claim on the Yaesu G800SDX for a GC-038 Mast Clamp.

Together they drove in the ground rods, and attached the ground wire for the station. They ran a separate ground wire for the tower to its own ground rod. They also attached the 50 foot of coax donated to the club by Rex Keeley (sp) in line with the tower. Now the tower can be raised and lowered to full heaight of 75 feet. K0YQX was our first contact. He came right back to us after we tuned up the rig. John in Mankato Minnesota, came back to us. He turned his antenna to us and then we turned more to him. He had us in the station log as an S9 +5. Second contact was KE6JRR 555 Santa Barbara 13 years old. All of his family are hams. He had gotten his extra class 5 months ago.

There was much thanks and appreciation to Gary's wife Lori. Going above and beyond the call, she prepared hot cider and red and green rice krispy treats. KE9XR Wayne Riistine volunteered to be called to make arrangements with Gary to take others out to show them how to use the station. Wayne can be reached at 257-4162. Come on out and learn to tune up a rig that has tubes for finals.

Repeaters:

Report on digipeater. N7NHS Maurice Austin told us that the expedition to put KAL up got more than snowed out. KB7WBD Carlos has it now but it is not working a hundred percent yet. Maurice has a good location for testing, but it is hanging up. Maybe problems with the new EPROM. K9RTX Dick Pelton was a major benefactor by allowing the use of one of his transceivers for this repeater. The repeater will be ID'd with his call. W7HGM Nick Poncelet also helped a lot especially in getting it up and down from on Mount Aneas. I am probably getting a lot of this mixed up. I would appreciate someone writing me a report if it is to out of whack. News I have is that the old transceiver was toast. Dick Pelton K9RTX had equipment he wasn't using and so he loaned it. People have not lost KAL, and they can use it. There is a new MFJ1270C TNC. I think it has been placed at the 146.62 repeater site. FCA will go up with KAL to Aneas eventually.

Banquets:

Banquet is set for the Eagles on April 8th. We will try to have people sign up in the January, February and March meetings. AA7TN Ed Mahlum, KC7AJT Don Ross and N6SLM JoAnne Miller will work on the arrangements.

Contests:

KE9XR Wayne Ristine gave a run down on the ten meter contest that started at December 9, 5PM. He told us how to make contacts and what was needed to exchange. Also, discussion of straight key night SKN, New Years Eve, and how that reporting would work.

Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services:

Wayne also passed a list around for people who want to be involved in our emergency preparedness work. Add your name to the list and find out how to help out as an amateur. Discussion of RACES and how to get involved. RACES in Montana meets as a net on the 1st and 3rd Sundays on 3947 MHz at 9AM. ARES meets at 8AM every Sunday morning on 3902 MHz. We register locally with Kim Potter. We will probably do this through the aid of Rod Stickney. Wayne will be looking into what it takes to become our official emergency coordinator for RACES. He knows his first step is to become a member of RACES. Presently the only known members involved are Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Rod Stickney W7VOS, and Harold Schneider W7BKM.

Presentations:

Ed Mahlum gave a report on the John Lennon virus. He explained how viruses are passed between computer systems and is interested if anyone has more information on this one. It caused quite a bit of work for him this last week. They still don't know where it came from, how it infects, how to really be sure you are rid of it, and if it is at all damaging.

Next meeting Wayne Ristine will give a presentation on RTTY.

Old Business:

Don Ross has made arrangements for the club to receive the 1994 1A Montana Field Day trophy. On January 17th Montana Traffic Net KA7SI, Don from Butte reported to Don that the trophy was at the engravers.

Election of Officers.

President Don Ross
Vice President Wayne Ristine
Secretary Ed Mahlum
Treasurer Barb Magone

One rotating board of directors with Tracy Robertson N7SPI going in and Mike Tusynski N7SPJ going out.

Nomination was made from the floor for Russ Larson to be added to the board of directors. Motion was made that all but board of directors position be accepted. Seconded. Tracy left the room and voting was done. Tracy Robertson N7SPI was elected to the board of directors.

New Business.

We still need to get a card to Carl Stoddard's family (our last silent key).

We wish to get a card to Kim Potter thanking for cooperation in helping provide the club with a meeting location.

Harry Lovering gave a report on a meeting with all the technicians for the different outfits with transmitters on Blacktail Mountain. Discussion was on interference, KCFW, the cellular phones, lightning strike that knocked out the weather service. There are over 150 transmitters up there. KALS is the only high powered station up there. The radar base is 150,000,000 watts. Our interference over the weekend was caused probably by ice build up on the antenna. Our rent may go up soon but we all think it is a great site and well worth it. Harry says he thinks there is a new spirit of cooperation and that there should be better communication among the players up there. Harry gets invited and he is our club trustee.

Harrold Schneider repeated that it is illegal to transmit without id'ing. Key it up and say your call and testing. Lets not kerchunk the repeaters.

Your Legal Rights:

Talk about interference. The higher the antenna the less interference to surrounding neighbors. Ed also mentioned that he is following the trials and tribulations of Mark Nadel, NK2T with the town of Hempstead, New York. In the latest Ralph Haller, Chief of the FCC's Private Radio Bureau told the Hempstead board of zoning appeals. "It has come to our attention that you have denied Mr. Hayden M. Nadel's application for a variance permitting him to maintain his amateur radio station's antenna at a height of fifty-five feet (versus the thirty feet permitted by the zoning ordinance). According (to) the text of the Board's decision...it based its determination largely on its finding that the 'proposed and existing antenna height of fifty-five feet' was resulting in interference to the home electronic equipment of Mr. Nadel's neighbors." Haller then cites PRB-1 and what local authorities may do under its provisions. But "They may not base their regulation of amateur service antenna structures on the causation of interference of home electronic equipment—an area regulated exclusively by the Commission...there is no reasonable connection between requiring Mr. nadel to reduce the height of his antenna and reducing the amount of interference to hsi neighbor's home electronic equipment. On the contrary, antenna height is inversely related to the strength of the radio signal that serves as a catalyst for interference."

ETC:

K7LLI Ollie Coburn mentioned the SKN night is coming up on the transition between new years. Ollie will be operating out of Granite Falls Ore with 3 watts and hopes to hear from some of us.

W7BKB George Hanson with QCWA was trying to help a fella find the first ham license plate issued in Montana. They think it was passed in 1959 legislature. If you can help out give George a ring at 892-5788.

Word of the Month:

Meter, how we measure the length of a transmitted wave. 300 divided by the band and vice a versa will give you the megahertz. For example $300/2=150$ (approximately 144MHz). $300/144=2.08$ meters.

Movie:

SAREX: Amateurs in Space. Contacts and downloading photographs from the space shuttle.

Meeting adjourned for coffee and cookies. Wayne's wife, Barb has been making the cookies. Thanks Barb. We have no problem eating them all up. 2100MST. Respectfully submitted Ed Mahlum

Special Events and New Years Eve Party:

Club members participated in contacting KM6IU, The Rose Bowl Special Event Station on December 31 at about 4:30PM at 14.260 at our club station out at Gary Ax's. A bunch of us got together, it was announced many times on the nets and at the club meeting, and shared our Christmas leftover cookies, punch, candy, and sandwiches. We also worked some straight key night. A good time was had by all. We all talked to the Rose Bowl and are looking forward to our certificates.

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

Jobs:

Club Trustee: WA7PHB Harry Lovering
Emergency Coordinator: KE9XR Wayne Ristine.
Coffee and Cookies: KE9XR Wayne Ristine.
Property Manager: KB7KXE Gary Ax.
Movies: N7EYU Roger Swearington
Librarian/Historian: KB7IPH Mark Skeels
QCWA Montana President: W7BKB George Hanson

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. There is considerable diversity within Amateur Radio. This is at the same time a great strength and our principal weakness. sometimes it seems as if we're 50 separate interest groups marching in 50 different directions, passing up opportunities for mutual support when it's needed and bumping into one another even when collisions could be avoided. We must work together better, and to do this we need to respect one another more. To do that, we have to understand one another, perhaps even ourselves, a little better.

Board of Director's Meeting

January 14, 1995

1:00PM at Finnegans

Present: Mark Skeels KB7IPH, Don Ross KC7AJT, Tracy Robertson N7SPI, Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Rod Stickney W7VOS, Gary Ax KB7KXE, Barb Magone KB7YMS and Ed Mahlum AA7TN.

1. Call for Bills and expenses needing to be Paid.
2. Treasurers Report. Approved \$342.05 in general fund, and 486.55 in repeater fund.
3. History and Inventory. Mark Skeels is Historian and Librarian, bring any history you might have to club meetings. We will get it to Mark's house then we can have a get together to go through it. Should be a riot. Gary Ax will be picking up the other club repeater from Bruce N7SRX.
4. Mark Skeels has looked at the language of the by-laws and has made recommendations for changes that may free ourselves up a bit from any

bureaucracy and have more fun. He will be getting us a copy in the near future and we will be submitting it to the full membership for approval.

5. Should the club buy a new set of books for the library? Outdated material is on hand their for licensing. Because we are low on funds we tabled this. Barb Magone will contact the ARRL about a club discount for purchasing books from them. Then we could have them on hand to sell to new interested folk that come to our meetings.

6. Setup Committes:

a. Repeater (resources repair and furture direction). Rod Stickney, Harry Lovering, Vern Wheeler, Nick Poncelet.

b. Education (training of Hams). Mark Skeels, JoAnn Miller, Mark Miller, Russ Larson.

c. Field Day (Decisions of operation status & organization). Wayne Ristine, Barb & Greg Magone, Gary Ax, Tracy Robertson.

d. Emergency Communications. Wayne Ristine, Rod Stickney, Harry Lovering, Jon Rashleigh, Mike Tuszynski.

e. Presentation (Program for Club Meetings). Roger Swearengen, JoAnn Miller.

7. List of Activities for the Year. Club dinner and a salute to Silent Keys of 1994, Jack Dodd, Harrold Ward, Carl Stoddard, Dick Stocking, and Ray Gelinas.

8. Future Presentations. January will be RTTY by Wayne Ristine, February will be Awards by Wayne Ristine, April will probably be at Wayne's shop with Carlos doing it on Satelite communication, May will be a Field Day preparedness at Gary Ax's.

9. Agreed to load Darrell Christofferson the clubs TS520S for use as a backup HF rig for the dog sled race in February. All who could help with the dog race were encouraged to contact Darrell KG7MO.

10. Gary Ax is working on a list of the club equipment.

11. Don Ross' Flathead Flyer BBS at 7561369 now has the

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 1995 Montana Callbooks are available from the Flathead Valley Repeater Group, PO Box 808, Bigfork, MT 59911. \$ 8.00 provides inserts for an existing book if you already have the cover and binders or \$10.00 includes shipping and handling.

Ham Exams:

According to Darrel, KG7MO, the next exams will be held January 21st, 1995 at 1PM at the Daily Interlake Building in Kalispell.

Bring a copy of your license for upgrading, a current photo id, \$5.90, and some pencils. If you have any questions about time and place call Darrel 756-8633, Ed AA7TN at 755-6673, or Harry, NV7K 755-9658.

Darrell is now filing the 610's electronically and keeping in touch with the W5YI Volunteer Exam Coordinator through MCI mail. He reports that in December he received the W5YI Software to send form 610's to W5YI. The version is "Beta", so he sent a test form to W5YI to see if everything works o.k. The report back from W5YI was positive. In the beginning only completely new licenses will be sent in electronically. Others who upgrade at the exams can begin using their new privledges immediatly with the proper identification. New licenses will be valid as soon as the FCC has it in their computer records. This can be checked by calling 1-800-322-1117.

As of December 20, 1994, the Technician Plus has become a 6th license class.

Ham Help Events:

Race to the Sky: KG7MO Darrell Chritofferson reports the race will start in Helena on February 11th. Hams around the state will be manning the following checkpoints; Rimini/DogCreek (Helena, Bozeman), Lincoln (Great Falls), Seeley Lake (Missoula), Holland Lake (Flathead Valley). All hams would be welcome to participate at any checkpoint. This is a great opportunity to get on-air traffic handling experience, meet fellow hams, and witness an exciting sporting event. The mushers usually arrive at Holland Lake around mid-day Monday (Feb. 13), and are done by Wed. morning. Cabin accomodations and food are provided. Stay as long or as little as you can.

KE7FZ Johnny is coordinating the Holland Lake sheckpoint. An organizational meeting was held Monday, January 9th at 6PM at the Pizza Hut in Bigfork.

From: DARRELL CHRISTOFFERSON KG7MO

Ed, we had a meeting at Big Fork this evening (1-9), KA5LXG, KE7FZ, KG7QU, N7WKF, N7ZUI and one other were there. The Race to the Sky dogsled race is beginning in February on Saturday the 11th in Helena. Radio operators from the Butte, Helena, Missoula and Kalispell areas will man checkpoints along the route. Kalispell area hams have usually taken the check point at Holland Lake. We will begin the monitoring probably on Sunday afternoon (the 12th), expecting racers to begin to arrive at Holland Lake on late Monday, mostly Tuesday, and possible on Wednesday. I will be one of the first one up there on Sunday the 12th in the afternoon, KA5LXG and KE7FZ (Johnny) will probably also be there then to set up the station in the conference room behind the main lodge.

We have most of the equipment arranged and will most likely use the 146.80 Clearwater Junction repeater for all comms with the other checkpoints. I would like to ask if we could use the club's TS-520 for an HF rig for 80M. We would like to have it as a back up of sorts. We have an HF antenna, but most HF rigs are tied up this year. We would also like to ask if there are any HAMs out there that would like to participate, please step forward, we can always use a little more help.

Last year, the radio operators were included as part of the "musher" teams, thus we received free food from the lodge. Wow! we ate like kings, I think I gained a couple of pounds, so what if I lost a little sleep! Anyway, drop me a line here or over the 2M link in the sky if you have any questions, etc.. Thanks and will culater.

Back to Field Day

My Field Day partner (son) N7AYG and I have always prided ourselves that since 1980 our FD score has always improved and year after year we're climbing the ladder to achieve our goal of #1 in 1B category. Well, in 1993 we had 5424 points and wound up in 3rd place. Our results for 1994 (as published on page 129 of Nov. 94 QST) gave us 2657 points and 8th place. Boy did we have egg on our face! But the egg wasn't all ours. ARRL had us listed in the high power (1) category whereas our entry form clearly indicated (barefoot) 90W (2) power. We contacted ARRL regarding this. We have just been notified by Warren Stankiewicz, ARRL's assistant contest manager, that it was their computer error and with (2) power our score should have been 4514, which placed us in 3rd place. This to be corrected and published in QST's "Feedback" column under DF 1994. Well, what the heck, no big deal, but what this means to us - we didn't lose any ground last year, and we didn't gain any. I guess we were just marking time getting ready for the big jump to first place in 1995. (HI). CU then.

P.S. Enjoyed the CW QSO's with KA7LLI from Seattle over the holidays. What he did with 1 watt was unbelievable. Now working all HF bands for CQ's Golden Anniversary Awards. (My tower is up and working FB). 73's, Ted Mikita N7JKF.

For Sale or Trade:

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

Frank Maycumber (son of Guy, who passed away two years ago) has been sorting out some of his Guy's gear. Frank has come up with a lot (I think hundreds) of tubes. Some tubes are from the 1920s. He has also got a nice handheld and brand new digital controller. If you are interested in giving him a call and helping him figure out what some of this stuff is he can be reached at 752-0554.

Ed Mahlum AA7TN 755-6673 has a new Kenwood PB-8 battery for \$35, a PB-6 for \$20 with BC-6 charger. Ed is also selling an ICOM 701 Transceiver, that receives fine, but will no longer transmit on 160, 80, or 10 meters. Other bands OK.

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.

The Lighter Side:

Q: How many Pentium designers does it take to screw in a light bulb?

A: 1.99904274017, but that's close enough for non-technical people.

Q: What do you get when you cross a Pentium PC with a research grant?

A: A mad scientist.

Q: What's another name for the "Intel Inside" sticker they put on Pentiums?

A: The warning label.

Q: What do you call a series of FDIV instructions on a Pentium?

A: Successive approximations.

Q: Complete the following word analogy: Add is to Subtract as Multiply is to:

- 1) Divide
- 2) ROUND
- 3) RANDOM
- 4) On a Pentium, all of the above

A: Number 4.

Q: What algorithm did Intel use in the Pentium's floating point divider?

A: "Life is like a box of chocolates." (Source: F. Gump of Intel)

Q: Why didn't Intel call the Pentium the 586?

A: Because they added 486 and 100 on the first Pentium and got 585.999983605.

Q: According to Intel, the Pentium conforms to the IEEE standards 754 and 854 for floating point arithmetic. If you fly in aircraft designed using a Pentium, what is the correct pronunciation of "IEEE"?

A: Aaaaaaaiiiiiiiiiieeeeeeeeeee!

TOP TEN NEW INTEL SLOGANS FOR THE PENTIUM

9.999973251	It's a FLAW, Dammit, not a Bug
8.9999163362	It's Close Enough, We Say So
7.9999414610	Nearly 300 Correct Opcodes
6.9999831538	You Don't Need to Know What's Inside
5.9999835137	Redefining the PC -- and Mathematics As Well
4.9999999021	We Fixed It, Really
3.9998245917	Division Considered Harmful
2.9991523619	Why Do You Think They Call It *Floating* Point?
1.9999103517	We're Looking for a Few Good Flaws
0.9999999998	The Errata Inside