

How do I get a Newsletter?

Did you pay your dues to FVARC, P O Box 7541, Kalispell, MT 59901? Club dues are \$20 for the year (January through December). They will be prorated after June according to the month you join. 15\$ is club fund, 5\$ is repeater fund.

Many people use the club's repeaters but don't pay the dues that support the repeaters. If this describes you and you feel even a little guilty we could use your support.

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 from Don KJ7IZ.

Don Ross KJ7IZ (that's right I have a new callsign)

I received the license in the mail 2 weeks to the day from testing and I received the call by phone 3 days before I received it in the mail.

Well another month has passed and it's about time for another meeting. Last month when you were having your meeting I was in Houston, Texas at the Builders Show. I took my HT and my Magmount with me and worked some 2 meter and 70 cm repeaters meeting some nice Hams deep in the heart of 5 land. While in Texas I spent one sunny day at Galveston and stopped off at the Johnson Space Center for a tour.

Our officers have been busy with planning for a year of Ham activities. Plans are underway for Field Day, annual banquet and plans are in works for improvements at the 146.82 repeater site. We would like to add an open phone patch to the repeater. The patch would be for local calls only and would be open to all who wanted to use it. The club owns the phone patch but we will be needing the cost of the phone line. At this time we would like to ask all local hams who would like to use the patch to donate \$10 a year for the purpose of paying for the phone line. I believe it would be a nice feature to have this kind of phone patch in the valley.

73's

Silent Key

None-Praise the Lord.

Sick and Hurting:

All checking in seem well.

Away and Saying "HI"

None.

Donations:

None.

Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club January 26, 1995

Meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Vice-President Wayne Ristine. Motion was made and seconded to accept secretaries minutes as placed in newsletter. Motion was made and seconded to accept treasurer's report. The club has a total of \$913.60 including the repeater fund.

Introductions:

Were suspended with for the following presentation from Kim Potter.

Presentation by Flathead County Emergency Disaster Coordinator.

Kim Potter started by reminding us of disasters that have occurred in our region. In 1981 there was a derailment of a BN Freight train at Snowslip, just across the road from three forks campground. We are going to revisit it. This will be an international event. This will probably be one of the the largest simulated disaster events ever held in the United States. The scenario will be prepared in a table top event. Kim said that we want to see with out killing folks what would happen if 329 people on an Amtrak train derailed on the horseshoe corner of Snowslip up by East Glacier. There will be 3 sleeping cars, a dinning car, 3 coaches, and a club car on end. Engines on front with a baggage car. The simulation will put Amtrak over the bank where it is almost vertical, putting four cars off the side. There will be different injuries

depending on the car. All cars will be over the bank up to the dining car.

We will not know how many injuries, but there will be a large number, a lot of them burns, requiring fast transfer. Kim says we will break the usual mold and not send the victims to a hospital to stabilize before a burn center. Rather those severely burned will be sent directly to burn centers. People have a golden hour. We will transfer physicians. The first copter from Kalispell Alert will include two emergency room doctors and eight nurses to the three forks campground. A team of medics will use the start system, 60 second triage at the site of the disaster and prepare victims for transport to Three Forks campground. Physicians at the campground will make decisions as to further dispensation as to hospitals in Great Falls, Spokane, Calgary, Kalispell, and Columbia Falls.

As RACES members we will provide communications to Kalispell Regional, North Valley and the County Disaster Center. No one has any ideas at this time as to the number of resources. We will have to use available communications and alternate forms. The disaster will call into play the National Guard, Malstrom and Fairchild Air Bases, the setup of a heliport, the Forest service, refueling, 4 army national guard military helos, 2 or three fixed wing from Malstrom or rotar craft from Spokane, Missoula, and Boise. We will not be able to establish a resource base until we hear from them that they have pilots to operate the machines. We will need machines, people, fuel, doctors, hospitals, and nursing homes.

Kim told us the US Department of Transportation via Dr. Rick Martinez and the Secretary of Rail are highly interested in the outcome. BN will play the simulation to the hilt. BN has a 911 Amtrak which communicates directly to their dispatcher at BN. BN has a document that converts BN rail mileage to approximate closest highway location. The simulation will be run as real world as possible. BN will pinpoint the location of the derailment. BN will broadcast an exercise emergency message. Spokane RACES operator backup hospital operations. We will use packet radio and will coordinate with state emergency operations in Helena, Boise, and Olympia, though direct maybe only to Spokane. We need to use resources in Canada also.

Most patients will have lost id, and so they will be identified by met tag. We will be dealing with busy hospitals. They will be treated and then moved to other hospitals for recovery. Glacier Park to Spokane Deaconess, to smaller hospital in Spokane. How does Aunt Martha track Uncle Nick to third hospital? There will be questions as to how to integrate crews. Which people will man aircraft? Will the Canadians send us aircraft, will our military planes be allowed to go to Canada? How do we get billed for this from Canada?

The scenario is set to happen March 2nd. Kim has asked us to provide people here at the emergency center, mobile rigs at each local hospital, packet radio and people for use as telephone communicators. Kim's people will be providing the simulation. Operation total time will be about 4 hours. The Flathead Valley has also just been identified as a zone 3 for earthquakes. The zone we are in averages about 40 earthquakes a week.

WA7PHB Harry Lovering and W7VOS Rod Stickney are RACES members and have keys to our RACES communication center at the County. Wayne passed a list around for those interested to sign up. March 2nd is a thursday.

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.

Silent key cards were passed around for Carl Stoddard and Ray Gelinis.

New Business.

Assignment of members to committees. Plea for each member to do one thing for the club besides coming to meetings. Figure out which committee you want to help with and get a hold of its chairman, an officer of the club and get on it. **Thank you!!!**

Repeaters - W7VOS Rod Stickney will chair, WA7PHB Harry Lovering, W7HGM Nick Poncellet, and KB7WIX Larry Magone.

RACES - KE9XR Wayne Ristine, KA5LXG John Blair, W7VOS Rod Stickney and WA7PHB Harry Lovering.

Field Day - KE9XR Wayne Ristine, KB7YMS/KB7QPS Barb and Gregg Magone, AA7TN Ed Mahlum, N7SPK Vern Wheeler, and KB6WBD Carlos.

Education - KB7IPH Mark Skeels, KC7HJ Russ Larson, and AA7TN Ed Mahlum.

Presentation - N7EYU Roger Swearngen, AA7TN Ed Mahlum, KA6YSC/N6SLM Mark and Joann Miller, and WA9TAF Dennis Shaw..

Next meeting Wayne Ristine will give a presentation on RTTY.

Flathead Flyer BBS KJ7IZ Don Ross' bbs now has the current call book available. Just dial in and look up a callsign for information. The number is 756-1369. Don mostly runs the BBS for free but he has expenses. The suggested donation is \$10 a year.

It is time to pay dues. KB7YMS Barb Magone is treasurer see her to get your card. You will stop receiving the newsletter after the March issue if dues are not in.

Club Librarian KB7IPH Mark Skeels is club librarian get stuff to him. Anything you have that has been hanging around that is about the club get it to Mark. If you want to check stuff out he has it. If you are looking for information on something see if he has it. We have a lot of QST's.

More New Business:

KB7IPH Mark Skeels announced that the Forest Service has 102 radios they are auctioning off. If any are interested see Mark after the meeting. 10 guys chip in 40 bucks each and present one bid for all the radios at once.

Motorola, GE, Panasonic, all put out about 50 watts. Bid has to be in by 31st of month.

Don DeJong family donated his old equipment to the club. It was mostly parts and will be auctioned off after the meeting to those interested.

Field Day will be at Ashley Mountain again. We will try to operate three stations. The main station will be Wayne's TS440 and tuner in Wayne's camping rig. A CW station will probably be the club HF rig and tuner. We will need a keyer, antenna, and station shack. If the antenna from Don DeJong's station doesn't belong to someone else we can use it. Don Ross will donate his rig for use at the Novice station. Carlos will set up Satellite again. KB7FFN Giles Baughman will probably run the novice station.

Carlos mentioned that 3, 4, 5 of February between 4 and 6 in morning, the sun and darkness will be right in our area to make the Russian Muir Space Station and Space Shuttle flying in tandem visible to the naked eye.

To those living in Northwest Montana: The space shuttle and muir space station should be able to be seen as a bright light in our skies at the following local military MST time.

2nd annual cabin fever days at N7WKX Dave Reynold's shop on Saturday February 18th from noon till ????. Location is Alpine Nursery, 1095 Trumble Creek Road about 1 mile north of Reserve Drive on the West Side of Highway 2. There will be a grill to cook burgers, dogs, or whatever. Bring any ham gear for a "show and tell", to swap, sell, etc. The emergency trailer from the FVRG will be there.

Wayne Ristine got the club autopatch from Rod. There is some discussion about using it on the 02 repeater.

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. N6SLM JoAnne Miller will be taking over this job.

Thanks JoAnne!!! 2100MST. Respectfully submitted Ed Mahlum

Education:

No report.

Club HF Staion:

Club station up and running at KB7KXE Gary Ax's house. If you want to use it get a hold of Gary.

Repeaters:

KD6WBD Carlos reports that currently have been having some trouble getting the VHF talking to UHF. This should be corrected by January 28th. Once setup KAL packet should be able to connect Seattle and be faster. The digipeater frequency is 145.01. The 146.82 repeater works fine, lets hear some activity on it. Also the 02 repeater has been transferred from N7SRX Bruce Hoveland to KE9XR Wayne Ristine. The 02 repeater is being tested.

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, KJ7IZ Don Ross and N6SLM JoAnne Miller are working on the arrangements.

Contests:

March 4-5 ARRL International DX Contest, phone, see DEC QST, pp 122 and 124.

Word of the Month:

Not this month.

Movie:

Not this month.

Jobs:

Club Trustee: WA7PHB Harry Lovering
Emergency Coordinator: KE9XR Wayne Ristine.
Coffee and Cookies: N6SLM JoAnne Miller.
Property Manager: KB7KXE Gary Ax.
Movies: N7EYU Roger Swearington
Librarian/Historian: KB7IPH Mark Skeels
QCWA Montana President: W7BKB George Hanson

Auction:

The after the meeting auction of Don DeJong's gear raised \$82.00.

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. 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

February 11, 1995

1:00PM at Finnegans

Present: Don Ross KJ7IZ, Tracy Robertson N7SPI, Harry Lovering WA7PHB, Rod Stickney W7VOS, Wayne Ristine KE9XR, Gary Ax KB7KXE, Barb Magone KB7YMS and Ed Mahlum AA7TN.

1. Call for Bills and expenses needing to be Paid.
2. Treasurers Report. Approved \$650.35 in general fund, and 551.55 in repeater fund.
3. History and Inventory. Mark Skeels is Historian and Librarian, bring any history you might have to club meetings. Club repeater is now in Wayne Ristine's care. Wayne also picked up the autopatch from Rod Stickney.
4. Mark Skeels gave us copies of the revised by-laws and constitution. Each club member will be getting a copy and it will be put to a vote at the March meeting.
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. Club HF radio TS520S has been loaned to Darrell KG7MO for use with the dog sled races.
7. Committe reports:
 - a. Repeater (resourses repair and furture direction). Rod Stickney, Harry Lovering, Vern Wheeler, Nick Poncelet. Discussion centered on funding phone patch that would be open to

anyone for local calls on the 146.82 repeater. The patch would allow only local calls and would cost about \$15 per month for the phone line. Decided to seek membership dues increase to \$24 a year (\$15 general fund, \$9 repeater fund). Will be put to a club vote later. Will see how much of membership is interested.

- 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. We are going to try to work 2A. The main SSB station will be KE9XR's rig, with club tower, located in travel trailer. The main CW station will be KJ7IZ's with antenna undecided in Don's camper. Novice station would be club's TS520S run by Giles. Need CW operators and to begin coordinating teams.
 - d. Emergency Communications. Wayne Ristine, Rod Stickney, Harry Lovering, Jon Rashleigh, Mike Tuszynski. March 2nd from 8AM to 12 noon will be RACES emergency event. We need at least 6 people to man the Justice Center, North Valley Hospital, and Kalispell Regional Hospital. Wayne will give training at the next meeting in the use of the Justice Center equipment. He and Rod W7VOS will go over the station first. Wayne has been in contact with Kim Potter and will coordinate with state RACES manager. Wayne will bring RACES forms to meeting for us to update and then copies will be filed with Kim Potter. Teams will be finalized at February meeting.
 - e. Presentation (Program for Club Meetings). Roger Swearngen, JoAnn Miller. Wayne will give presentation on Awards at February meeting.
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. February will be Awards by Wayne Ristine, March will be RTTY, April will probably be at Wayne's shop with Carlos doing it on Satellite communication, May will be a Field Day preparedness at Gary Ax's. Looking into getting Mark Cosner to give one on the ins and outs of installing gear mobile.
9. Gary Ax is working on a list of the club equipment.
10. Publicity Committee. Ed Mahlum will try to get notice in Inter Lake about club meetings.

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 March 18th, 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.

At the last exam held on January 21, KJ7IZ Don Ross upgraded to Advanced, KC7ZCX Gary Ross to Advanced, KBOHIL Sherri Stockham to Tech Plus, and Geoffrey McMillian from Columbia Falls got his Tech. Other elements were passed. General written by Jim Wagner, Carlos, and Maurice. Paul Athorn passed his Novice written.

Ham Help Events:

Race to the Sky: KG7MO Darrell Chritofferson KE7FZ Johnny

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. ICOM 701 (receives all bands, transmits on 160, 80, and 40).

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:

Ramsey Electronics FX-146 2-Meter Transceiver Kit

Author-Bloom, Jon - KE3Z

Source-QST Oct 93, pp. 73-74

Abstract-Description of the Ramsey FX-146 2-Meter Transceiver built from a kit. Its performance is sufficient to let the builder "get on the air", but not up to the standards of commercially-built equipment. Among the electronic kits that Ramsey offers are test equipment and general hobby-electronic items, plus several amateur products. It covers 140-180 MHz. in 12 discrete channels, selected by a 12-position switch. The local oscillator is synthesized and the 12 channels are selected and hard-wired during assembly.

The front panel has only two knobs, Volume and Squelch, the 12-position switch, an LED indicator that signals when the unit is transmitting, and two jacks for microphone and speaker. The jacks are spaced so that they will accept an ICOM-compatible speaker/microphone accessory plug. The reviewer built a unit following directions in the manual. They instruct the builder to proceed one sub-section at a time and not to continue until each is operating properly. His opinion is that the manual and instructions are "pretty good" but inexperienced builders may want some help from more experienced hams.

The completed transceiver performs with acceptable sensitivity but with limited dynamic range. Its front-end filtering has a broad band-width which allows it to be used for receiving information and commercial frequencies but leaves it open to interference caused by intermodulation distortion and also by images. The reviewer's final summary was: "Inexpensive and relatively easy to build, the FX-146 will get you on the air, but with less than factory-built performance."

Title-HK1:More on Coax-Cable Connector Installation

Author-Collins, Lewis D. - W1GXT

Source-QST Oct 93, p. 75

Abstract-One ham's opinion of the best way to attach PL-259 plugs onto coax cable. His approach is similar to the instructions that are printed in common amateur literature with two exceptions:

First, he strongly advises the use of a 100-watt soldering iron such as the American Beauty Model 3138. The editor interjects a note that such irons are routinely used by stained-glass artists. Anyone who has difficulty finding one for sale in electrical/electronic outlets should check the Yellow Pages under "Craft Supplies" and "Glass-Stained and Leaded".

Second, he suggests the plastic outer sheath as well the dielectric be cut with a dull knife so that it will be less likely to nick the braid or conductor underneath it.

He advises the following steps:

1. Remove 3/4" of outer sheath without nicking the braid.
2. Using the soldering iron, quickly tin the braid for at least 3/8" starting at the end of the outer sheath.
3. File the solder on the braid to a uniform thickness.
4. Using the dull knife, (better yet, a tubing cutter), cut through the tinned braid and part way through the dielectric, 5/16" from the end of the jacket. Be careful not to nick the center conductor.
5. Grasp the small piece of dielectric that is not completely cut off and twist it with pliers back and forth to break it loose along the cut.
6. Put the connector on the end, solder to the braid through the four holes around the connector, and solder the center conductor in the center pin. Snip off any excess length of center conductor that protrudes through the pin.