

How do I Join and 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 first time licensed amateurs receive club membership free for a year. Be sure and register with our Treasurer, Barbara Magone KB7YMS, at 862-4066. All younger than 18 receive club membership for half price. **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.**

President's Letter

A short month. Field Day, Ham Fest, see you at the meeting.

Sick and Hurting:

None reported and hopefully its true. Thank God.

Field Day Report from Wayne Ristine KE9XR

Another field day is behind us and even with the few glitches I think it was a highly successful event. First the problems. The biggest and most expensive was that I blew the final in my TS-440 before we even got started. Don Ross came to the rescue with his ICOM. That shot the RTTY operation. Maybe next year. Next we had trouble with Bob Holdings TEN TEC as the CW station. But after a slow start there, we swapped it for Mark Skeels ICOM and our QSO rate increased. Next the Novices had trouble with their antenna switch. Even with that trouble, Mark Skeels and Gary Ax did a fantastic job teaching the young hams the ropes. Two of our newer hams, Teresa and Martin Chabot jumped right in there and by the end of the event they were experts at computer logging and operating the SSB station.

Our computerized logging worked out very well. We had two computers tied together through com ports and using the same logging program. The CT contesting program I supplied made the logging duties a snap. No Dupe Sheets!!! Propagation was not the best but we still managed nearly 800 contacts, while we consumed 90 hamburgers, 60 hotodogs, plus all the other good food that the participants brought. **Thanks to Barb Magone**, who did all the running around to purchase the food.. And **thanks to Barb Ristine and Teresa Chabot** for preparing meals. **(A special thanks to Wayne. his wife Barbara and family for their tremendous hospitality in letting us set up in their yard and garage.** editor's note.)

Several participants stayed the whole weekend and camped out. Paul Athorn came Friday afternoon and was a tremendous help setting up the operating positions and troubleshooting Wayne's broken radio. mark and Joanne Miller came Friday evening with just enough time to get in a little shooting on my rifle range. (I told you to come Tracy.) Also brave enough to camp were Teresa and Martin Chabot, Ed, Daniel, and David mahlum, Larry and Greg Magone. It was nice to see some of the younger operators try their hand at the CW key. Greg Magone operated the CW station and Giles Baughman made several CW contacts on the Novice station. On Sunday morning Giles was seen at the CW sation working 20M CW. We weren't sure if he was working anybody or just marveling at how fast they send CW on 20 meters. Thanks to Bob Holding for getting the CW station going. We made 99 CW contacts, with 54 of them by myself between 1AM and 6AM Sunday. Nobody understatnds what PSE QRS means at that time of the morning. Also thanks to Rod Stickney and Harry Lovering for coming out to help with the setup and disassembly of the antenna systems. After setup Rod was last seen with a plate ful of burgers, stretched out on a lawn chair soaking up the sun. What a way to spend a Saturday afternoon! The satellite operation was also a great success and as usual drew the biggest crowd. **Carlos deserves a BIG pat** on the back for the effort he goes through every year. Its a big job to disassemble a station like that, drag it out to field day, set it up and do it all in reverse to get it home again. His wife Linda always brings out something that gets forgotten in the shuffle. Maurice "the cat" and Paul Athorn were Carlos' right and left hand men, and could be seen huddled around the station during a "pass". Joanne Miller had to be pryed out of the SSB operating position. Once she sat down there was no moving her. We were lucky she

was gracious enough to allow everyone else a turn at the mike before she took hers. She also was like a magnet because she had the best QSO rate.

I would like to thank all of those that participated for being so considerate. After everyone was gone, it was hard to tell that anyone had even been here. All of the camp sites were clean and not a bit of litter could be found anywhere. Thanks to all that came and helped, and to those that didn't you missed a good time. We wish you could have been here. Set your calendar for the last weekend in June 1996.

Preparations: or some more of the fun of field day.

Mark Skeels, Wayne Ristine, Gary Ax, Sandra Skeels, Don Ross, Ed and David Mahlum, Mark and Joanne Miller all got over to Gary Ax's on Sunday June 18th to help take down the club beam and tower in order to get it over to Wayne's. We were much aided by Gary Ax's tractor with a bucket. Don Ross brought his truck with a trailer for us to load the tower and beam on. They delivered the equipment to Wayne's house, looked over the site, and camping spots. Then headed back to Gary's place for cake and coffee (courtesy of Lori Ax and Joanne Miller.) Many helped setup and take down others not mentioned were Ivan O'Neil. We had our visitor list and it will be submitted to the FVRG to see how we did.

1995 FIELD DAY REPORT - TED MIKITA N7JKF

My FD partner, son N7AYG/KH6 from Princeville, HI, arrived early this year for our annual FD trip to Sunday Mountain. So we decided to go up a few days early, set up and try some DXCC to Africa and the Middle-East from this choice location. Also would give us plenty of time to "fine tune" our FD setup, which we've never had the opportunity to do in past years. This year was no exception (hi). The evening we arrived we had 6" snow on top. Next 3 days it rained, but removed the snow. No time for DX, in fact we didn't complete our set up until well into the contest. We just watched the WX change! BUT - the wx was "gorgeous" during the entire FD period - first time in 15 years I recall we didn't have snow, rain, sleet, hail or winds during FD.

Our set up - we had the main station in the motorhome - using IC737 into 30' tower with 4-el tribander at 32', 2-el 40M beam at 42' and a Butternut vertical on top of mast; tower and vertical were shunt fed for 80/160M. We also had a separate 80M collinear wire ant, ladder fed, aimed at 6-land.

Our secondary station was 200' away in a tent which housed our monitor rig (IC725) into triple dipole monitor ant, and a brand new IC820 Satellite rig into an M² 2M5-440xP ant. This was absolutely our first attempt at satellite communications - we didn't even have a rotor and had to elevate and rotate the ant with ropes and pulleys (hi). But thanks to tips and recommendations from Carlos KD6WBD we did make 7 CW contacts on RS-10. The two of us alternated from HF to Sat/Monitor every hour with the exception of 2 two-hour periods in the wee hours when the Sat-op grabbed a nap, so the HF station was operating the full FD period.

Propagation changes for us were absolutely unbelievable. We started out with very weak sigs and our first 3 hours was very slow, then it peaked at about 0000z with strong sigs, then went down to a minimum in the wee-hours, back to maximum at 0800 then drifted to a rather slow ending. We were oscillating all over the bands hunting for the "hot" action. 15M (my favorite band) was in for 2 brief periods, and 10 and 160M were completely dead for us. Basically we were alternating between 40 and 20M.

Working FD (or any contest) at the bottom of the cycle is fun, if you don't get discouraged. More reason you MUST have all the bases (bands) covered -- just in case! We were sort of disappointed our "monster" 40M beam didn't do better, until we read on 'HamNet Roundtable' after the contest about a big midwestern club who had made 700 QSO's on 40M ssb during FD94, and this year they barely brok 150!

So how'd we do? Last year we had 937 QSO's and 800 bonus points, 4514 points and placed #3 in 1B-2 op category. This year we had 966 non-dupe QSO's (106-80M, 307-40M, 437-20M, 73-15M and 7 Sat-2M) plus 910 bonus points for expected total of 4774 points, a 5.75% increase over last year. Not very much, but we sure sweated out

every QSO, and if propagation was down for everyone maybe this is the year we jump to #2 or #1 - if we're lucky.

WX moved in Sunday PM and we had as much trouble tearing down as setting up. My 12 yr grandson (Ted's son), Chris (who will have hsi Tech Plus license for FD96) provided the explanation for this: "Murphy has a twin brother named Steve! Murphy does everything possible to keep us from getting started, and then Steve steps in cuz he doesn't want us to leave. When Murphy and Steve are fighting among themselves, everything is OK at the station" (hi hi). We met both this year. My son operated and logged by computer (LogiDW program) and since I can't touch type at 30wpm I op'ed "PPP" (pencil, paper, paddle) - probably the reason we had 89 dupes this year. And, oh yes, we operated strictly CW (including Sat) cuz we left our mikes at home!

We hope K7LYY club had a very successful and enjoyable FD95. 73's - Ted N7JKF, Ted Jr N7AYG/KH6 and Chris WD6??? P.S. We say this every year - but - we've really go the solution for FD96!

Editor's note: Thanks Wayne and Ted for exciting reports!!!

Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club May 25, 1995

Meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by President Don Ross KJ7IZ. Motion was made by Wayne Ristine and seconded by Bob Holding to accept secretaries minutes as placed in newsletter. Motion was made by Bob Holding and seconded by Harry Lovering to accept treasurer's report. The General Fund has \$369.46, the Repeater Fund \$606.55 for a total of \$976.01.

Introductions:

Given with 27 in attendance.

Old Business:

Discussed field day preparations. Everyone was invited to come. The emphasis this year was to be on learning. Last year we won the state award for 1A. This year we want to increase the number of stations and to use Field Day as a training tool. Four stations, SSB, CW, Novice and Technician, and Satelite station. We will also be trying computer logging. The SSB station will be using Waynes' CPU and the CW station will be using Don Ros s' laptop. We will be contacting the Russian Station Satelite, and will also be doing RTTY demonstrations. Carlos will be setting up his satelite station. Wayne laid out directions. We have day parking and overnight camping. Will begin setting up around 9AM.

Next we ran through the rules and how to make the contact exchange. Press releases have been sent in.

All members were reminded that Verdie Rognlie W7FDI passed away and wished the club to be trustee of his ham equipment. It was decided that the club will take possession of all the test equipment, which includes a signal generator, vom, and grid dip meter. These will be available to be lent out for short periods of time on a just while you need it basis and then are to be brought right back. The shortwave radio, the swan rig, and the 2 meter rig all can be signed out for 90 days.

There are also lots of tubes, parts, wires, etc, that any club member is welcome to look over and to take if they can find them useful. See **Gary Ax at 7559353.**

Books were setup and on display along with other ARRL materials: Now You're Talking!, Instructor's Manual for Now You're Talking, Technician Class License Manual, Novice/Tech Class Instructor's Guide, General Class License Manual, General Class Instructor's Guide, Advanced Class License Manual, First Steps in Radio, Extra Class License Manual, You're Introduction to Morse Code (tapes), The FCC Rule Book.

Committee Reports:

Repeaters - W7VOS Rod Stickney will chair, WA7PHB Harry Lovering,

W7HGM Nick Poncelet, N7SPI Tracy Robertson, KG7MO Darrell Christofferson (tower man) and KB7WIX Larry Magone.

None.

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

No report.

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

Given above.

Education - KB7IPH Mark Skeels, and KC7HJ Russ Larson.

No report.

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

Next meeting Dick Lindeman will hold a discussion on installing radio gear in automobiles.

New Business.

Interference discussed on the 82 repeater but not much seemed to be known about who or what that could be.

Reminder to **renew your ARRL membership** through the club. Each time we do this the club receives back \$2. See or call KB7YMS Barb Magone at 862-4066.

Raffle still at \$1 per ticket for the Swan 1200-X HF 400 watt amplifier. The amp is up and running at the club station according to Gary Ax KB7KXE. Tickets will be taken until the July meeting at which a winner will be drawn from the can.

Motion made to adjourn by Dick Lindeman. Meeting adjourned for coffee and cookies. N6SLM JoAnne Miller and Paul Athorn got coffee water started and cookies. **Thanks JoAnne and Paul!!!** 2030MST.
Respectfully submitted Ed Mahlum.

Coming Events:

August 4-6 Fri-Sun ----- WIMU Hamfest, Jackson Hole, WY
August 5-6 Sat-Sun ---- Spokane Hamfest
August ?? ----- Big Arm Picnic
September 16 Sat----- VE Exams, Daily Interlake, Kalispell
September ?? ---- Flathead Valley Bicycle Tour Huckleberry 100
February 96 ---- Race to the Sky

Club HF Station:

Club station up and running at KB7KXE Gary Ax's house. If you want to use it get a hold of Gary 755-9353.

Jobs:

Club Trustee: WA7PHB Harry Lovering
Emergency Coordinator: KE9XR Wayne Ristine.
Coffee and Cookies: Paul Athorn.
Property Manager: KB7KXE Gary Ax.
Movies: N7EYU Roger Swarengen
Librarian/Historian: KB7IPH Mark Skeels

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.

Board of Directors:

President - Don Ross KJ7IZ - 7567171, Vice President - Wayne Ristine KE9XR - 2574162, Secretary - Ed Mahlum AA7TN - 7556673, Treasurer

- Barb Magone KB7YMS - 8624066, Trustee - Harry Lovering WA7PHB - 7528388, Gary Ax KB7KXE - 7559353, Tracy Robertson N7SPI - 7551795, Mark Skeels KB7IPH - 7520073, Rod Stickney W7VOS - 7554850.

Board of Director's Meeting

July 15, 1995
11AM at Glacier/Waterton Hamfest.

1. Call for Bills and expenses needing to be Paid. Ed Mahlum will be paid for newsletter expenses.
2. Treasurers Report. None.
4. Club dues. Dues will increase to \$24 a year in 1996. This will make it easier to prorate to 2\$ per month. They will be due in January.
5. Committee reports:
 - a. Repeater (resources repair and future direction). Rod Stickney, Harry Lovering, Vern Wheeler, Nick Poncelet. None.
 - b. Education (training of Hams). Mark Skeels, JoAnn Miller, Mark Miller, Russ Larson. None.
 - c. Field Day. Wayne Ristine, Barb & Greg Magone, Gary Ax, Tracy Robertson. None.
 - d. Emergency Communications. Wayne Ristine, Rod Stickney, Harry Lovering, Jon Rashleigh, Mike Tuszynski. No report.
 - e. Presentation (Program for Club Meetings). Roger Swearengen, JoAnn Miller. Dick Lindeman will lead the next meeting.
6. Gary Ax is working on a list of the club equipment.

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.

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 Darrel Christofferson KG7MO. They will not process the old forms any longer.

Flathead Valley Repeater Group:

Please note that the FVRG maintains 3 repeaters, 146.62, 147.34, and 147.20. The membership is a modest \$15 per year to cover electrical/telephone/newsline expenses. All amateurs are welcome to support and join. The FVRG helps coordinate many amateur activities throughout the year from litter collection, bicycle race communications, the dog-sled race communications, and provides a phone patch on the 146.62 repeater. Contact the FVRG at P O Box 808, Bigfork, MT 59911.

From the FVRG newsletter comes this helpful information on the Kalispell NON-EMERGENCY Autodial. Sometimes the 911 autodial is not appropriate to report certain minor events around the valley. A new autodial slot has been reserved for reporting such matters to the Kalispell Police. The number is 752-2626, and it is in autodial slot 10*99. Remember that Flathead Sheriff, for reporting non-911 type events outside Kalispell but within the county, is 752-6161 and is in autodial slot 10*98.

Also remember to help out travellers to our area with the phone patch through 146.62. The IUAC to use is 669 for control up. Then *2 and the number. Push to talk after the number is read back. When the

session is over *6 brings down the autopatch and then 0* brings down the control.

Ham Exams:

The next exams will probably be held in July at the Glacier/Waterton hamfest. Locally they will probably be held September 16, 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, Wayne KE9XR at 257-4162.

For Sale Wanted or Trade:

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