

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 at 2\$ per month. 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.

A Big Thankyou!!

To Roger Swearngen N7EYU for helping to get this newsletter out while your editor took some time off. Thanks Roger!

Sick and Hurting:

None that we know of.

Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club July 27, 1995

Meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Vice-President Wayne Ristine KE9XR. Treasurer's report accepted. Club \$108.10 in regular fund and \$615.55 in repeater fund. Minutes accepted as put in the newsletter were approved.

Introductions:

New Face was Paul Menarik KC7MHJ with 37 in attendance.

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.

Old Business:

Don Ross KJ7IZ will not be available to be president next year. Maurice Austin N7NHS, Dennis Fryer KC7MHH, and Gary N7WEN positions on the nominating committee. They will return with nominations for President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, Newsletter, and Board of Directors (one position) at the next meeting.

Wayne Ristine KE9XR volunteered to continue as vice-president. Barb Magone KB7YMS might continue as Treasurer. Ed Mahlum AA7TN said that he would move to Vice President if Wayne would take President. Wayne said if someone else would handle field day and emergency coordinator he would consider it. Mahlum said he would handle the emergency coordinator. No solutions yet. Stay tuned!!

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.

The Trophy we won for most points for a Field Day Station that worked 1A in Montana for 1994 was sent back to Anaconda. Trophy for most people who were not hams being attracted was shown. We won this. it is a beautiful trophy sponsored by the Flathead Valley Repeater Group.

Education - KB7IPH Mark Skeels, and KC7HJ Russ Larson.

No report.

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

Ed Mahlum presented video of on the North Texas ATV high balloon project. This was a combination of amateur radio ATV, FM, and weather balloon experiment.

New Business.

We got a bunch of stuff from donated to us from Larry Rich WB6NRL. Power supplies parts out of Data General Computers sold at two-bits a piece with money going to the club. Thanks a lot Larry!!!.

Claude Schaeffer N7SDS linked up to sell his two meter antenna.

We passed around cards sent to us from contacts during Field Day. Field Day will probably be at Wayne's KE9XR's again next year.

Sunday we will put the tower backup at Gary Ax's house and get the club station up and running. We will be back on the air. 1300 hours on Sunday.

The Trophy sponsored by the Flathead Valley Repeater Group that we won at Field Day was shown and passed around. This trophy goes to the Ham Radio Club in Montana that during field day sprouts the most interest in Amateur Radio. The club station who wins it has the most people who are not amateurs sign up for visiting field day. We had 16 last year and we passed traffic for some of them. This is a beautiful trophy and has a good purpose. Amateur Radio exists to serve the public.

Saturday is the highway cleanup. Meet at corner of highway 35 and 83, Streeter's Corner, at 10 for breakfast. Head out at 11 to cleanup the two mile stretch of highway that we have. Let's get a big turn out.

Maurice thanked everyone for the support that he got in the racecar. Maurice let a lot of people drive it. Dick Lindeman KJ7QA's tower went down. Sunday October 8th we will head out there to get it back up..

Tracy Robertson N7JSPI moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25. Wayne Ristine provided the coffee this time. Next time we have a special treat with cookies to be provided by Barb Magone KB7YMS.

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. Make your check out to the club for the exact amount and mail it to Barb Magone, 1270 Carrol, Whitefish, MT 59937. She will resubmit it to the ARRL. Thanks to everyone who has done it. The club has collected about \$40 this way so far.

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.

Coming Events:

November 18 Sat----- VE Exams, Daily Interlake, Kalispell
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 Swearngen
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 if 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 Swearngen, JoAnn Miller. Carlos KB6WBD will make the next presentation on the packet system that is now operating through the Valley.

Have put up 4 packet nodes on MT. Aneas. BBS access is at Carlos' house. It uses the stack on Aneas to connect to Spokane. FHL on Aneas uses the frequency to connect to Missoula and Thompson Falls.

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 and is working on adding a repeater to the Meadow Peak area on 145.27. The codes from the 145.27 side will be 270 (on) and 270# (off). From the 146.62 side it will be #270 (on) and #270# (off).

Control Operators are wanted. You can learn as much about the system as you would like. The more folks familiar the better we can serve the public especially during emergencies. There are no difficult concepts to grasp, no knowledge of electronics required, just straight forward logic in understanding the controller. If you are interested drop a note to the address below.

The membership is a modest \$15 per year to cover electrical, telephone, newline 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:

They will be held November 18, 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. Once you have passed an exam wait about ten days and then call this **ARRL number to check on new license 1-800-326-3942.**

Highway Cleanup

You missed out on some great fellowship and fun if you missed the Highway cleanup. What a great way to serve the community. This was the last of 3 efforts in 95 by area amateurs to help our public roads look a little better. We met at Streeter's Corner Cafe, junction of Hwys 35 and 83 at 10AM for breakfast, coffee, and a visit with hams. We departed around 11 for our 2 mile section of Hwy 35, beginning about a mile north of Streeter's. We were done by noon. It was rainy and wet but it was not too messy. Most of the people dressed warmly for the cold and wet weather. Our thanks to Ed Mahlum AA7TN, Dan Mahlum KC7MHL, David Mahlum, Jack Klovstad K7SMT, Dennis Fryer KC7MHH, TracyRobertson N7SPI, Gary Barach N7WEN, Howard Gammet KG7QU, John Blair KA5LXG, Mary Blair KA5QGJ, Loyd and Val Ellingson KE7VK and N7ISV. As David wrote, "To day we are going to pick up garbage. I think we are going to have a rainy day. I hope I find something really neat."

Weather Spotters Meeting:

The Hellgate ARC, Missoula, held a meeting on October 9th at 7:30PM at the NOAA weather office, located on the airport grounds, adjacent to the smokejumpers building. Many areas in western Montana are shielded from their radar. They rely upon and seek weather spotters for these areas. Parts of the Flathead Valley are included. John Blair KA5LXG can be contacted for more information.

For Sale Wanted or Trade:

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

Area Repeater Info:

145.21 -- Missoula -- on the air, and in the testing mode.
145.27 -- Meadow Peak -- Hopefully operational by the time you read

this.

146.76 -- Kalispell on Blacktail Mountain.
146.80 -- Clearwater Junction -- Soon to be linked to Missoula.
146.82 -- Whitefish operational.
147.02 -- Lookout Pass (I-90MT/ID)
147.14 -- Plains
147.34 -- Pinkham Mtn contact Howard KG7QU for help.

Kabara Autopatch Info:

Anyone who is a member of the Flathead Valley Repeater Group is a member of this system and may access any of their repeaters direct, or using the 147.02 link (95 on, 98 off). When using the link all codes must be preceded by a # to allow tones to be passed. Keep in mind you are a quest. 1) Identify your station. 2) Key your mic. and push *123 to bring up the patch. 3) Wait for the dial tone. 4) Dial the number (or speed dial number). 5) When finished with call, key your mic. , push #123 to turn patch off. 6) Identify your station and state that you are "Clear of the patch."

Speed dial codes:

Pass report	30#	Grant Co. Sher.	38#	Whitman Co. Sher.
	45#			
Davenport Sher.	33#	Walla Walla 911	39#	Pnd Or Co. Sher.
	46#			
Ferry Co. Sher.	34#	Pullman Fire/Pol	41#	Stevens Co.
Sher.47#				
Haugan Scale/MT	35#	Pomeroy Co. Sher.42#		Weather
(Spokane)48#				
Shoshone Co Sh	36#	Asotin Co Sher	43#	Wash St Patrol
MT State Police	37#	Idaho St. Police	44#	49#

Club Station:

On Sunday October 1, Wayne Ristine KE9XR, Gary Ax KB7KXE, Ed Mahlum AA7TN, and Paul Shelt (going to be real soon), met at Gary's house and got the tower and club 20,15,10 meter beam set up. All went smooth. We had lots of coax. We had the rotator wire. We had Gary's tractor to help. We had soldering guns, crescent wrenches, and screw drivers. We had it up and tested in 2 hours. Gary is our property manager and we are getting quite an assortment of gear at his place. Everything from Hammerlund, Drake, Heathkit, transceivers, Z-match, signal generators, tubes, bridge, 2 meter base station. **Give Gary a call if you are looking for some part or rig or piece of test equipment.** The club can check it out to you and a lot of the stuff we can just give you.

New Computer for Packet at the Justice Center:

Kim Potter has upgraded the computer at the Flathead County Disaster Aid center and he thought the perfect location for the older computer would be in the Disaster communication center. Harry Lovering WA7PHB had the door open at the last club meeting and a lot of the members checked out the gear. The new computer will be great for packet.

Meadow Peak Repeater 145.27:

If you were monitoring 62 on Saturday, October 7, you probably heard John Blair KA5LXG, Gary Barach N7WEN, and Darrell Christofferson KG7MO working on getting this repeater going. They were headed up with the antenna. The rig is being tested in the Valley and hopefully when it is brought up on the mountain it will be plug and play. The plan was to install it on Thursday, October 12. This unit is out by Kila and should give us better coverage towards Libby.

Pinkham Mountain Update:

Howard KG7QU and Craig KC7CUE were active in early October installing a new 11 element beam on this repeater. Should especially help the Libby side. Sounds great! Thanks Howard.

And Now For Something Completely Different:

You know you are a Ham when:

The only time you get up at 6AM is for a hamfest.

You know you can run all your home appliances on your personal back-up power.

You have breakfast with a guy in England every morning.

Your ARES/RACES/MARS bags are always packed.

The cute girl with the "KISS" T-shirt asks you what bands you like and you answer two and twenty meters.

You live in a shack.

A clerk asks you to spell your name and you do so phonetically.

In a conversation, you wait for the courtesy tone before speaking.

You hear a scraping sound when driving thru the fast-food restaurant window lane.

A band opening is more important than a grand opening.

Sight-seeing amounts to looking at rooftops for antennas.

The radios in the car are worth more than the car.

When you walk out of the house you not only feel your pants pockets for your keys and your wallet, but also your hip for your handheld.

Your son's schoolteacher calls you on the phone to ask why your son identified countries on the world map as JA, VK, VE, G, UA and XE.

If you rd.co to your house as "Ohm, sweet ohm"

You know you're a ham if you refer to your cordless phone as "the six meter rig"

You answer the phone with your callsign.

You're talking on the phone and end every sentence with "(callsign) for ID".

Your prime criteria for a new car is that it have zero ignition noise.

You and your wife hike to the top of a famous mountain, but rather than enjoy the magnificent sunset and giving her a kiss, you fire up the HT to see how many repeaters you can hit.

You realize that you've been studying code too long because you automatically attempt to translate random clicks and rattles inside your home, car, or office.

You look out at the Rocky Mountains and try to figure out how to get an antenna mounted on the highest peak.

You look at the CN Tower in Toronto and develop a plan to get it to resonate on 160 meters.

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Amateurs with Internet access may wish to check out the Restrictive Antenna Covenants Home Page, maintained by Don Stoner, W6TNS. It features not only information on Stoner's own battle with his condominium association in Clearwater, Florida, but also lists other resources for information of interest to radio amateurs. Stoner's home page is at:

<http://www.hamweb.com/~sjl/STONER/ANTENNA.html>

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The FCC has begun mailing notices of upcoming amateur license expirations. Those amateurs whose licenses would expire in December

1995 are being sent, by first class mail, a computer-generated Form 610-R 'short form.'

The Commission's Gettysburg facility expects to mail more than 5000 such notices this week, covering expirations from December 1 to December 20, 1995.

The new Form 610-R may be signed, dated, and returned to the FCC to renew the license, provided that no changes (such as address) are needed. It will be permissible to correct misspelled words. For other changes along with renewal, it will be necessary to file a regular FCC Form 610.

For some time the ARRL has been sending license expiration notices as a free membership service. That service will be discontinued once the new FCC program is established.

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