

## 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.**

**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.

### Letter From The Editor

My Swan Song. It has been a privilege to be the editor of Q5R9 for the last two and a half years. It has been exciting to be a part of a growing group of active members. We truly have a vast hobby that has many facets. Lets keep it exciting. I, like most of us, am not sure where some of the chips that are on people's shoulders came from. But I do know that when you get into a position of authority in the club, you will begin to hear advice. Advice that can be good or bad. I think our club has come a long way since April of 1993.

In the first newsletter I edited, I suggested we look at **The Amateur's Code**. It is in the front of every Radio Amateur Handbook:

#### **The Radio Amateur is:**

**Considerate...**never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

**Loyal...**offers loyalty, encouragement and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the Amateur Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

**Progressive...**with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

**Friendly...**slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interests of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur spirit.

**Balanced...**radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

**Patriotic...**station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

**-----The original Amateur's Code was written by Paul M. Segal, W9EEA, in 1928.**

We all tend to think that what interests us is important, or at the very least that it is deserving of respect. That's all well and good. The danger comes when we begin to believe that what we want to do is more important than what someone else is doing. This kind of thinking is disappointing and short-sighted. Imagine if it were applied to the various threats facing Amateur Radio. Tower restrictions: "Who cares? I only operate mobile." Loss of microwave bands: "I get a nosebleed above 148 MHz." Telephone interference: "I only run QRP and never have a problem." Ineffective representation of Amateur Radio locally: "My interest is DX; let somebody else worry about it." No guidance for newcomers: "Who wants 'em? The bands I like are too crowded as it is." There are about 600,000 people in the US who are licensed radio amateurs--and there are about 250 million people who are not. Motorola, Cellulink, TV, Hewlett Packard, NCR, the government, etc. want our frequencies.

The Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club can remain an effective force in our community. Let us learn how to put our personalities aside and deal with the important issues we have responsibility for. We are to increase the pleasure of all who enjoy our hobby. We are to become more knowledgeable and to help others to do the same. We are to provide emergency communications for this Valley. We are to help amateur radio as a whole survive so we can pursue our individual interests. If you are an old timer remember you can either be an elder statesman or a bleeding deacon.

Ed Mahlum AA7TN

### **Sick and Hurting:**

We lost Myrna Ball. We wish to express our deepest sympathies to Irv N7MEA. As

many of you know Irv and Myrna have hosted us and the Missoula group at their home near Polson for the Big Arm Picnic each year in August. Irv and Myrna were also very active in our volunteer examiner program. Maurice Austin had gotten a card that was passed around to be signed.

#### **From the President**

I want to take this opportunity to thank Don Ross for all of his hard work during his tenure as club president in 1995. We all hope that he will find time in his busy schedule to remain an active member of our club. Also thanks to Carlos for his presentation on the Valley Packet system at the October meeting. Carlos, Jim (KB7ZGJ), Morris (N7NHS), Larry (KB7WIX) and Greg (KB7QPS) put a lot of effort and money into giving us a first class Packet system. For those of you that don't operate VHF packet, I hope their efforts will be an incentive for becoming active on the system. Hope to see you all at the December meeting. Wayne KE9XR.

#### **Presentation December Meeting**

The National Weather Spotters group will have a representative at our meeting on December 14th. He will be discussing with us how we can contribute. As many of you know they have added weather gathering equipment at the new packet BBS that has been setup by Carlos KB6WBD and Jim KB7ZGJ. Along with that arrangements have been made for all hams using packet to provide weather information to the packet BBS. In this way timely information can be gathered by the weather service for accurate broadcast on NOAA Weather radio of the weather condition in the Flathead. This will be an important role for amateurs in the Flathead. Most of you know that the NOAA weather station at Glacier Park Airport is being closed. All weather information for Northwest Montana will be coming out of Missoula. This is a way for us to keep Missoula posted on what is really going on up here, and to ensure accurate radio reports for our hunters, schools, boaters, etc. It could be a feather in our cap. I heard George Ostrom on KOFI bemoaning the closing of the weather station in the Flathead, and knowing how vastly different the weather can be from here to Missoula, believing our valley would be left in a lurch.

#### **Minutes Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club October 26, 1995**

Meeting was called to order at 7:30PM by Vice-President Wayne Ristine KE9XR. Treasurer's report was accepted. The Club has \$97.20 in the regular fund and \$615.55 in repeater fund. Minutes accepted as printed in the October newsletter were approved.

#### **Introductions:**

Introductions were given with 41 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:**

The nominating committee: Maurice Austin N7NHS, Dennis Fryer KC7MHH, and Gary N7WEN filled the nominations:

President - Wayne Ristine KE9XR  
Vice-President - Maurice Austin N7NHS  
Secretary - Dick Lindeman KJ7QA  
Treasurer - Barb Magone KB7YMS  
Newsletter Editor - Roger Swearngen N7EYU  
New Board Member (3 year rotation) - Gary Barach N7WEN  
Emergency Coordinator - Carlos Aberra KB6WBD.

More nominations were called for. None being presented it was moved that nominations be closed. It was moved and seconded. A call for unanimous election of the nominations was made and accepted.

Don Ross KJ7IZ expressed his regret that he would not be completing his term as President of the Club. He gave a parting talk and has had many personal matters come up this year. So he resigned immediately. He hopes he can serve the club sometime in the future

and to get more active again next Spring.

**New Business.**

Our club was listed in the special Answer Book printed in the Daily Interlake. Ed Mahlum AA7TN was listed with a phone number for people to call who are interested in getting started in Amateur Radio or who want to participate in the club.

Dennis Fryer KC7MHH volunteered to take over providing coffee and cookies after the meeting. **A big thank you Dennis. Also, to Barb Ristine for providing them for tonight's meeting.**

**Please note Meeting Changes:** The November meeting was cancelled and the December meeting will be on the second Thursday of the month same time and location, i.e. 7:30PM at the basement of the Flathead County Justice Center, 14th of December. Pass the news on the nets.

Tracy Robertson N7SPI reminded us to observe proper protocol on the repeaters. When you are going to use a function remember to ID, for example say, "N7SPI to use the patch." When done remember to ID as, "N7SPI clear the patch." Make sure everyone hears your id, say it slowly, an incomplete id or unreadable id is not a real id. Also on the Meadow Peak on 27 let people know where you are so we can see how the coverage is.

**Jack Klovstad** asked for help on October 29, Sunday afternoon at 2PM, to help setup his HF station in Whitefish. He left his phone number on the blackboard for all those interested.

**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.

No report. 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 Swearngen, AA7TN Ed Mahlum, KA6YSC/N6SLM Mark and Joann Miller, and WA9TAF Dennis Shaw.

Packet Presentation by Carlos Aberra KB6WBD. A great presentation. Very complicated and I can't duplicate it in the newsletter, but will keep people posted as things progress. By the time you read this we will be attaching for packet to the BFK system on 145.110 as a way to route to our BBS site which will transmit all of our messages to Spokane. The system Carlos and Jim O'Neil have setup also allows for conferences of up to about 6 with out serious degradation. There are now about 21 users of the system and this will probably double in the year.

Donations are welcome but their are no dues or fees or organization. The system as setup is privately owned in order to facilitate getting the job done. Don't feel like if you don't donate you shouldn't use it. Carlos wanted to emphasize this point. They want people to feel free to use the system and to get familiar with packet.

There were lots of questions. Excellent diagrams of the whole Northwest packet system, including Idaho and Washington, were passed out to everyone at the meeting.

Carlos has also volunteered to put together an half day class for packet on some Saturday. If you are interested contact Carlos at 844-2422.

Many thanks were given to Carlos and also Jim KB7ZGJ for expertise and financial help in setting up the system.

#### **Journey to Aeneas (A Packet Update)**

On December 2, 1995 Carlos (KD6WBD) and Wayne (KE9XR) ventured to the top of Mt. Aeneas to make repairs on the digipeater KAL. Normally this is a relatively easy trip because a road goes to within about 3/4 of a mile of the digipeater site. Not so on this trip. They were only able to drive about 2 miles up the six mile road to the Jewel Basin parking area due to the snow and ice on the road. No problem, just unload the snowmobiles and off we go. And off they went at 9 am Saturday morning. The trip to the second Jewel basin parking lot was pretty easy on the snowmobiles and the snow depth was only about 2 feet. The only problem was that it was snowing and the wind was blowing at about 40 mph and they were in the clouds so visibility was about 100 feet. They parked the sleds and strapped on the snowshoes at about 10 am for the 3/4 mile walk up the road to the site. The higher they went the deeper the snow ( about 6 feet deep at the top) and the less the visibility. After about 2 hours of struggling through the snow, they almost turned around and abandoned the mission because the weather conditions were so bad, when Carlos caught a glimpse of the building about 50 feet off to the left. A quick 10 minute scamper up the last 50 feet had them standing next to a building completely covered with ice. Fortunately they were able to break away the ice and get in to the building. The digipeater was easy enough to repair (shorted battery), but it took about 2 hours to warm up and dry their clothes for the trip down. When they opened the door to start down they found that the visibility was about 20 feet in the blowing snow and their tracks had been completely covered up. They carefully worked their way back down to the snowmobiles and to little better weather conditions, and after a little maintenance on Carlos' sled they were off to the bottom of the mountain. It was 4 pm buy the time they arrived at the bottom. It was quite an adventure and both Wayne and Carlos found that their legs don't work the way they did when they were teenagers. Isn't ham radio fun?

Tracy Robertson N7JSPI moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25.

**Raffle Drawing got us \$56. Harry Lovering WA7PHB won the drawing for** the Swan 1200-X HF 400 watt amplifier. The amp is up and running at the club station according to Gary Ax KB7KXE. Harry will be picking up his prize. Congratulations Harry.

#### **Coming Events:**

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: Dennis Fryer KC7MHH.  
Property Manager: KB7KXE Gary Ax.  
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**

There will be a special board of directors meeting December 14, 1995 7PM at Justice Center before our regular meeting. **All past year and newly elected officers and board members are strongly urged to attend.**

1. Call for Bills and expenses needing to be Paid. Ed Mahlum will be paid for newsletter expenses.
2. Gary Ax is working on a list of the club equipment.
3. Discussion about lowering dues to \$18 a year.

### **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.

### **Contests:**

Two former club members now living in the Bitterroot area did good in the last VHF contest. Pat Cannell WA7PDC and Francis Sheppard W7HAH had a showing in QST.

### **Ham Exams:**

Exams were held November 18, 1995 at 1PM at the Daily Interlake Building in Kalispell. Three participated. Paul Shelt and his wife Ann both passed their technician exams. Sam Stockham upgraded to General. Congratualations to all. No new sessions have been set for 1996, but there will be at least four, one each quarter of the year.

Bring a copy of your license for upgrading, a current photo id, \$6.05, 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.**

### **For Sale Wanted or Trade:**

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

TR7 Transceiver and MN7 matching network MF7 matching speaker, RB7 remote, PF7 Power Supply, Drake Desk Mike all to be sold as one unit, and the MN7 matching network at \$1100. It is all a matched set. There is also a hustler mobile antenna and an MN2700 matching network which would work with a linear. There is also a six band butternut vertical with all the coils. There is also an R7 receiver. There is also a heathkit and a Radio Shack DX-150. There is electronic keyer with the paddles. Contact Harry Lovering WA7PHB at 752-8838. This equipment was owned by Tom Morrow who passed away this last fall. Anyone who knew Tom knows how diligently he took care of his equipment. He is missed.

Wayne Ristine KE9XR 257-4162 has for sale an SB-200 Linear Amplifier for 80-10 meters with 1200 Watts PEP SSB and 1000 Watts CW. It will run either 110 or 220V and is setup for 110V. It has a new modern power module and and new matched 572B Final Tubes. It is in good condition for \$400 and to Valley hams for \$375. Wayne got a new amp is the reason for the sale. His new amp lets him work 160-10 meters. He also has a Kenwood SM220 Station Monitor for \$275. This is good for observing received and transmitted wave quality and making the needed adjustments.

**Area Repeater Info:**

145.21 -- Missoula -- on the air, and in the testing mode.  
145.27 (145.29) -- 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.

**That 1995 Montana Field Day Trophy**

Guess what? Ted Mikita N7JKF was really surprised when Ken Kopp - K0PP called saying that Ted and his son had won the MT trophy in '95. Ted writes, " I didn't think we were eligible since we did not participate as an 'ARRL sponsored club'. They have changed the rules, making eligibility open to all groups in MT - club and nonclub. Of course the other prerequisites remain, i.e., single Txmtr, emergency power, less than 150W, and total points wins. You might want to pass this info on to any interested club members trying for the trophy in 1996. Let's make a permanent home for this FD trophy in the NW corner; in Lincoln or Flathead County, OK? 73's and Merry Xmas, Ted N7JKF."