

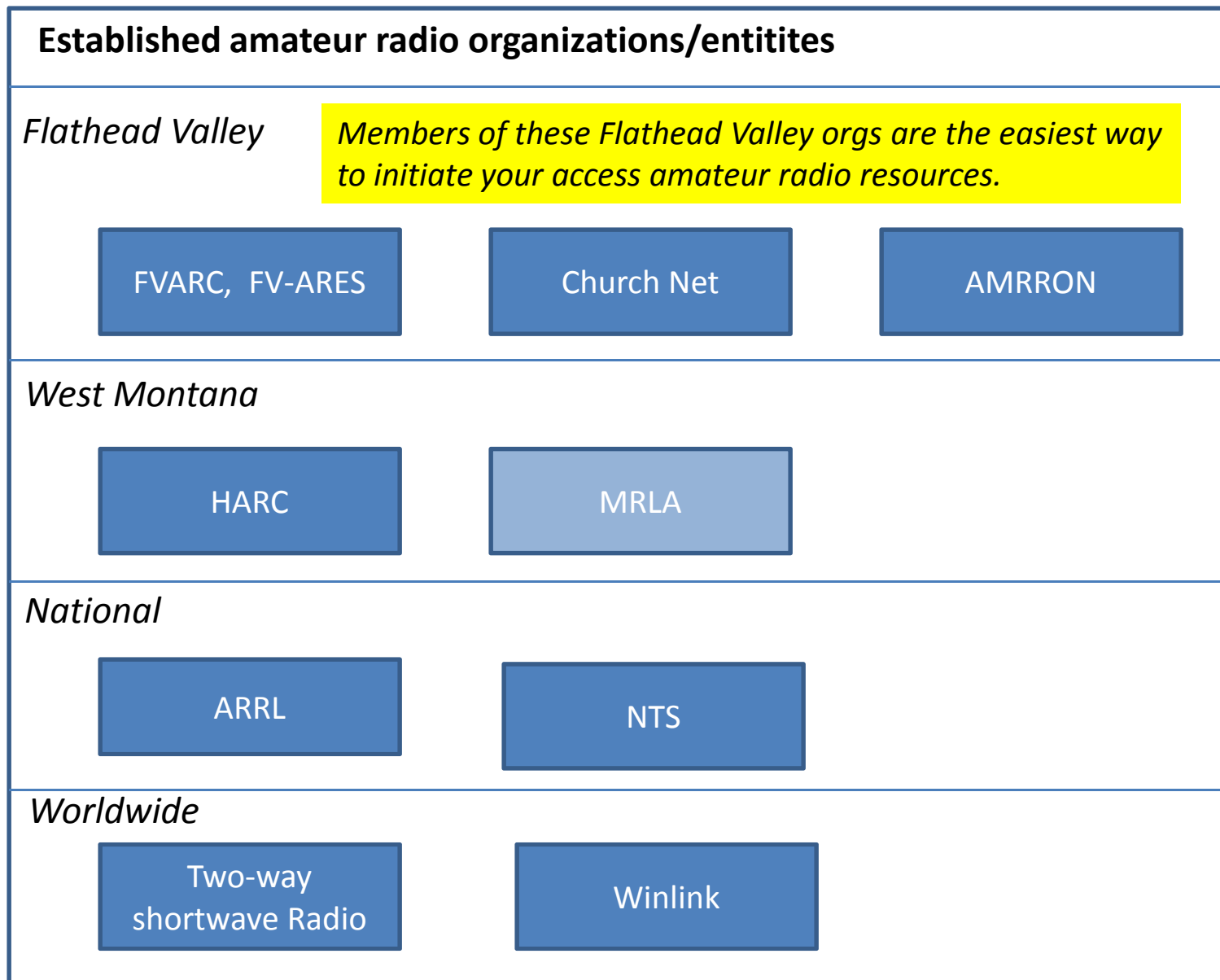
# Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC)

*September 6, 2017*

**Introduction to Flathead County**

**Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Resources**

# Overview of Amateur Radio operators ("hams")



Other amateur radio operators

## Who are "hams" and why should you care?

A ham is a person with an license (from the FCC, in the US) to operate (commmunicate with) amateur radio equipment on specific frequencies, using specific communication modes (e.g. voice, Morse code, many digital modes).

Many hams enjoy amateur radio as a hobby, which has many facets, but have little interest in emergency communications.

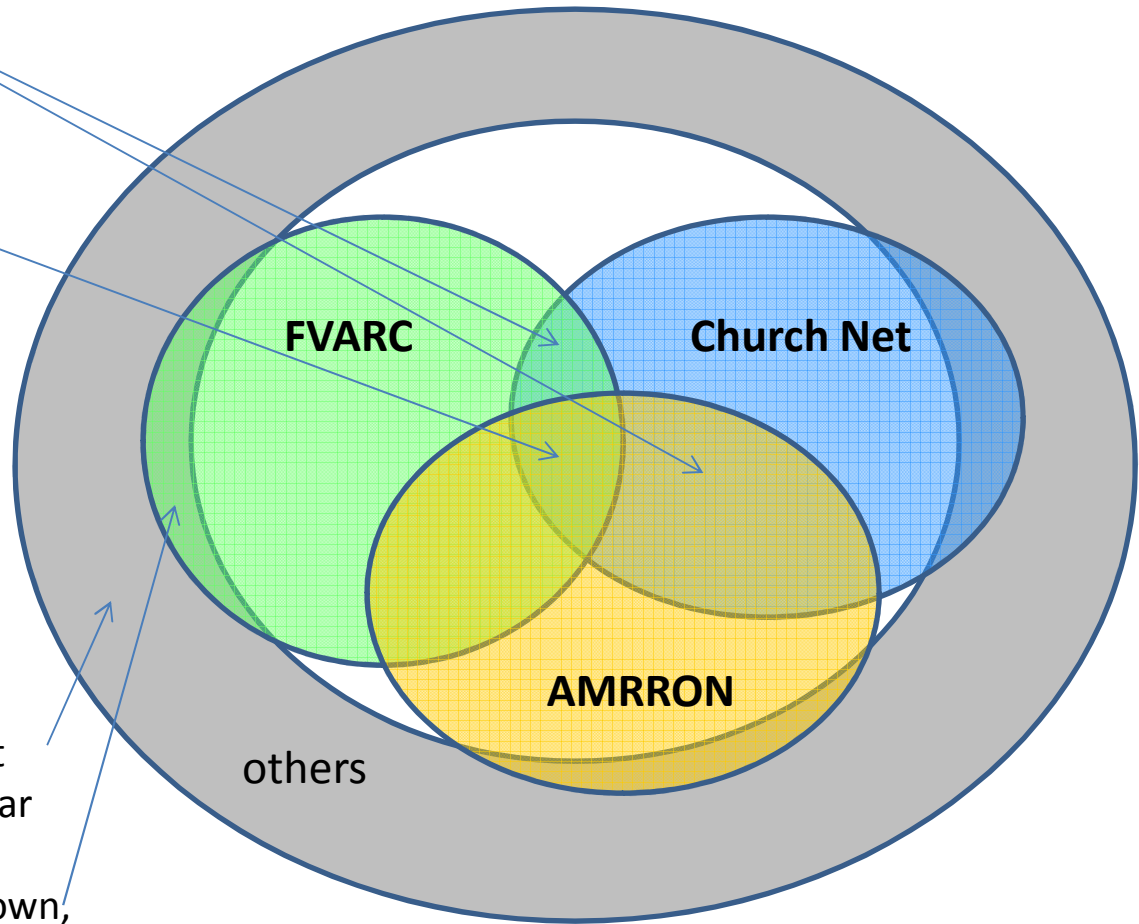
Our purpose today is to introduce you to the existance of hams here in Flathead County which have an explicit interest in operating in an **catastrophic emergency situation**, providing communications resources "*When All Else Fails*".

Preparing for operating an amateur radio station in an emergency includes:

- routinely practicing operating your equipment
- considering and preparing for how to operate in the face of lost utilities (e.g. power, cell phones, land lines, etc.)
- learning how to participate and manage communications with multiple operators using the same frequency
- acquainting yourself with the other members of the ham community (where they are, what there special skills might be, etc.)
- Much more....

**In Flathead County, many of us in the local ham community has exerted special efforts to get know each other and coordinate preparedness for emergency communications**

Many operators are active in more than one (or even all) of these groups!



Many other hams are active in the amateur radio community but do not affiliate themselves with any particular establish organization. Many of these operators are well known, and often regular participants in the established groups' communications.

# FVARC – Flathead Valley Amateur Radio Club

Established amateur radio organizations/entities							
<i>Flathead Valley</i>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: yellow; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">FVARC, FV-ARES</div>	<p>Operates 2 repeaters 1 on top of Blacktail Mountain 146.76 MHz, -600 kHz offset, 100 Hz tone 1 on Sandy Hill (a mile or so SE of Whitefish) 147.38 MHz, +600 kHz offset, 100 Hz tone</p> <p>Practices with both repeaters, usually Blacktail, weekly (Mon, 9 pm) Has a designated emergency simplex frequency 147.52 MHz Practices with this simplex frequency irregularly</p> <p>Contacts:</p> <table><tr><td>Jim French</td><td>KD0PUI</td></tr><tr><td>Gary Roberts</td><td>KF7VQO</td></tr><tr><td>Jack Klovstad</td><td>K7SMT</td></tr></table>	Jim French	KD0PUI	Gary Roberts	KF7VQO	Jack Klovstad	K7SMT
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<i>West Montana</i>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">HARC</div>							
<i>National</i>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">ARRL</div>							
<i>Worldwide</i>  <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Two-way shortwave Radio</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Winlink</div>						

# Church Net – Kalispell Stake LDS Church

## Established amateur radio organizations/entities

*Flathead Valley*

FVARC, FV-ARES

Church Net

AMRRON

*West Montana*

Formally comprised of members of the Church of Jesus Christ and the Latter-day Saints (LDS)  
Actively welcomes the participation of all local amateur operators

Uses 1 repeater

On top of Blacktail Mountain

146.86 MHz, 100 Hz CTSS tone

Practices with this repeater weekly (Sun, 8 pm)

Has a designated emergency simplex frequency for each town in the Flathead Valley

Practices with these simplex frequency irregularly

Contacts:

Jim Eddington

K7JRE

# AmRRON – American Redoubt Radio Operators Network

## Established amateur radio organizations/entities

*Flathead Valley*

FVARC, FV-ARES

Church Net

AMRRON

Formally comprised of members of the AmRRON organization

"A Nationwide Emergency Communications Network for Preppers and Patriots"

In Flathead County, AmRRON actively welcomes the participation of all local amateur operators

Has 1 designated simplex frequency

146.42 MHz

Practices with this frequency weekly (Thurs, 8 pm)

Practices **relay** techniques to contact operators that cannot communicate directly with net control

"Channel-3" Project – CB, GMRS, MURS

Contacts:

Jim Russell

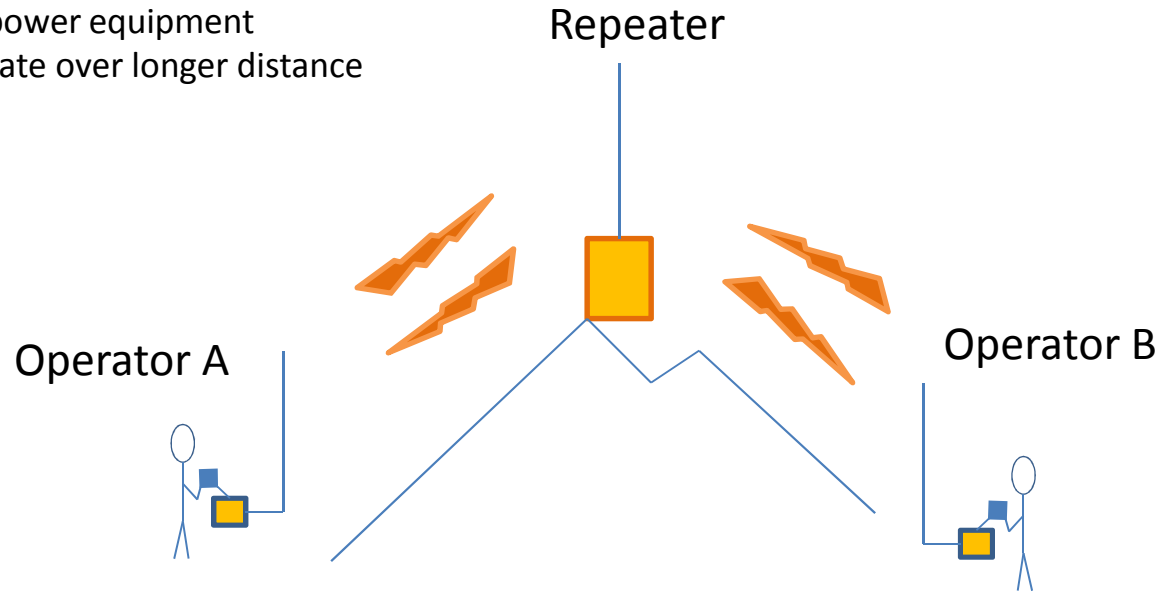
KF7AGO

HARC	Hellgate Amateur Radio Club Missoula club, practices Wed nights, 9 pm, 147.04 MHz
MRLA	Montana Radio Link Association (Not yet established in Flathead County. But work is in-progress)
ARRL	American Radio Relay League A nationwide organization for hams
NTS	National Traffic System A formalized way to get messages from point A to point B, anywhere in the world, using ham radio operators, even if the operators at points A and B cannot directly communicate with each other.
shortwave radio	Most widely understood capability that hams have. Able to talk to other hams across great distances. 3880 kHz is the designated frequency for long distance emergency communications in Montana.
Winlink	A system of e-mail servers which can be accessed using amateur radio. Servers are dispersed around the globe.
OTHER	<u>Much</u> more capability, but which is beyond the scope of this introductory presentation. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Many repeaters, backup power plans</li> <li>• Montana Traffic Net (nightly on 3910 kHz), Idaho/Montana Net</li> <li>• Digital modes which cover long distances with little power consumption</li> <li>• ...</li> </ul>



### Repeater comm

operators may be able to use low-power equipment  
operator may be able to communicate over longer distance  
BUT... repeater must be operable



*Note: Many government comm systems rely upon repeaters. (Blacktail, Big Mt., Mt Aenas, Desert Mt.)*

### Simplex comm

requires no external support equipment  
But... operators must have direct comm capability

