



## Being an Entrepreneur

By Ray Zinn K7ZIN

Are you an entrepreneur?

Well, let's take a look. An entrepreneur is defined as a person who organizes and operates a business, taking on usual financial risk. Whether or not you are an individual running an actual business does not preclude you from being an entrepreneur. Whether you are a housewife, a teacher, lawyer, truck driver, a dentist, or an employee of a business, you are actually organizing and operating a business, albeit a personal business. So, to organize and to operate your personal business, there are some principles that you need to incorporate to have a honest and respectful business.

You must have the right culture. This culture consists of four attributes.

1. Honesty – it is always being truthful when dealing with your fellowman, even if being honest will hurt you in some way.
2. Integrity – it is always doing what is right even when no one is watching.
3. Dignity and having respect for all individuals – this means never using vulgar or condescending language at any time. It is showing love and respect for all people regardless of their race, religion, political views, or gender.
4. Doing whatever it takes with no excuses – this means that you will offer no excuse for your mistakes, but rather correct them at your own expense in a timely way.

An excuse is nothing more than a reason wrapped in a bag of poop. Don't be an excuser, be a doer. Let your word be your bond.  
(Editor: More about Ray at <https://ccarclub.weebly.com/ray-k7zin.html>)

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### Coming Events 2024 With Contacts

**May 6, 2024**, CCARC monthly meeting 7 pm at the Salvation Army, 1330 Hudson St. or on Google Meet, <https://meet.google.com/zfs-ctwp-bax>

**May 25** – Antenna Day, 11 am–3 pm, at the Zinn Ranch. Ray K7ZIN.

**June 8** – Governor's Cup Race. John Geach KS7R.

**June 22-23** – Field Day, Hellgate Campground. Al Le Vie KH7AL.

**July 19-21** – Glacier Waterton Hamfest. <https://www.gwhamfest.org/>

**Trivia Net** - every Sunday, 7:30 pm on 147.22.



## 2024 Governor's Cup

By John Geach KS7R

The Governor's Cup organizers have again asked for the Club's help in providing communications during this year's race on the morning of Saturday June 8.

The CCARC has been providing tactical communications for this race for over forty years.

It's a fun community service event and a good place for honing your communication skills. We'll work in pairs and if you're new to this type of community service event, we'll pair you with a more experienced ham. Most of the communication locations only require a few hours of your time. I'll have a sign-up sheet at the May CCARC meeting. If you have any questions or want to sign up before the meeting, please let me know.

Thanks for your help,  
John KS7R [jcgeach@gmail.com](mailto:jcgeach@gmail.com)

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## The Townsend Fox Hunt

by Eric Webb KE7NLU

April 27th was a typical early spring day in Montana, a little gray with a sprinkle or two but nothing unmanageable. We had a wide variety of hunters show up to the hunt with skills ranging from never have participated in a fox hunt to international level competitors.

The fox hunters to join the fun included:

Matt AA7MG  
Dan KJ7MT  
Harley KI7XF  
Karla KC7BLA  
Brian KJ7OUF  
Bill N7MSI  
Sue KK7RYG  
Stacy KK7CJV

Promptly after checking into the N7RB coffee net hosted by Al KH7AL, I drove to the Helena National Forest and carefully placed the 4 fox transmitters. I had scheduled the foxes to turn on at noon when the hunt started so I personally didn't get to evaluate the signals from the foxes. However, I did get some good reports from the hunters.

Fox 1 was placed right inside the Helena National Forest boundary under some downed pine branches, and its antenna was a 50 Ohm dummy load.

Fox 2 was placed a little further up the road and the antenna used was a 3 element Yagi antenna pointed at a rock face known as "Wall Mountain."

Fox 3 and Fox 4 had no tricks up their sleeves and used simple rubber ducky antennas with Fox 4 living in a culvert and Fox 3 nesting under a fallen tree carcass.

The first participants to return to Fox Headquarters were our internationally recognized hunters Harley KI7XF and his wife Karla KC7BLA. They made the top spot and handed over the #1 tags for all 4 foxes. I did ask them if they ran into any challenges, and they said they could tell there was something a little different about Fox 2 (the one with the Yagi antenna) but made light work of the challenge.

The next participant to roll up to Fox Headquarters was Bill N7MSI holding the 2nd place spot with the #2 tags for 2 foxes. Bill stated that the Fox 2 was pretty deceiving, and he ended up traversing down and up a gnarly, muddy trail attempting to find it.

The next group to make it back to Fox headquarters were Brian KJ7OUF and Dan KJ7MT. They found 2 foxes and got a 2nd place spot for bringing in a #2 tag for 1 fox. When I asked how the hunt went for them, everything was fine until I mentioned Fox 2. I think when I brought that up, I believe I saw a bird or two fly in my direction and heard something like "that ought to be illegal!" Hi hi.

Our runners up were team Stacy KK7CJV and Sue KK7RYK, and then ending the hunt was Matt AA7MG.

Once everyone made it back from the hunt, we fired up the BBQ and had a nice meal and good conversation. If you weren't there, you missed out on some fun and really good info. Before everyone left, we had a wonderful impromptu presentation from our international hunters Harley and Karla as they divulged some of their tips and tricks and demonstrated some tools of the trade.

Overall, a good time was had by all, and everyone got the opportunity to find at least one fox. Can't wait to be part of another fox hunting adventure!

--73 Eric KE7NLU



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## Kind of a Sleeper Radio

By Don Heide W7MRI

If you haven't seen this little radio, it is definitely worth a look. It is the Quansheng UV-5K(8), a dual band (see notes later) 2m/70cm handheld that is available on Amazon for \$30. It comes with a 1600mah battery, drop in charger, USB C

charging cable, hand strap, antenna, belt clip, and earphone/microphone/PTT accessory.



And now for some of the interesting data. Out of the box, it receives from 50mhz (6m) to 600mhz. It transmits only in the 2m-70cm ham bands, BUT that does include the 1.25m band (224mhz), so it is really a tri-band out of the box. The bad news is the 224 band is limited to .5w, and the antenna is only 2m/70cm but the 2m/70cm is 1/2.5/5 watts.

Now it gets very interesting as it is called 'the most hackable ham radio.' There are multiple firmware upgrades available for download on the internet. After trying several of them, it is impressive what the radio can be made to do, such as aircraft band with true AM receive, spectrum analyzer, full HF receive from 18mhz up to 1300mhz. This can be in AM, FM, USB, LSB, CW modes. Also, it covers the broadcast FM band with decent sound, and it reverts to any normal channel you might be listening to when it becomes active so no missed calls on the repeater when listening to your favorite music station. With the addition (though not easy) of an inexpensive board and a few components it will receive down to 153Khz - not a typo! I have not had a good chance to receive any HF signals yet, but was impressed with using the airband, and the audio quality of the VHF/UHF bands.

Also, it has a 200-channel memory, dual channel receive, dual scan list scanning up to max channels, dual VFO, and over 60 menu items for control of things like backlight min/max levels,

backlight time, frequency offsets, microphone level, battery save mode, and many more.

Did I mention that the firmware upgrades go very smoothly with browser-based upgrade tools? It uses the standard Baofeng/TYT/Kenwood programming cable that is very common. Also using the same cable, the free popular CHIRP program is used for reading/writing the channel and other data.

Thanks to Ray K7ZIN for trusting me with his new radio for testing.

--Don W7MRI

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## Shakeout Campout

By Stacy Webb KK7CJV

Some hams in our club decided to do an early camp out to shake out any issues with our camp set-ups, and what a great weekend to do such a thing! It was Support Your Parks Weekend for POTA. Most everyone arrived at Devil's Elbow Campground Friday, setting up camp, antennas, and radios, while Clayton Lamm AI6XL started smoking a rather large pork butt as the official camp cook for the weekend. Friday was a bit cool and smokey, with a breeze blowing down from the north where a controlled burn was being conducted. Bill McGuire N7MSI and Clayton stayed up tending to the smoker, while the rest of the campers tested our heaters and made late night POTA contacts. After taste testing the done pork butt, Clayton wrapped it and rested the delectable meat for tomorrow's feast.

Saturday started with a few frozen pipes and beautiful blue skies. Pipes were thawed before lunch. We all enjoyed viewing blue birds, a partnered couple of Canadian geese, numerous duck varieties and a real Mutual of Montana wild kingdom show as a bald eagle and a couple of osprey battled to protect their nest, all in between

making POTA contacts and chatting amongst the other campers. Brian KJ7OUF and Linda Lee were on their maiden voyage with their new to them motor home. I can attest that 6 grown adults and a small dog fit quite comfortably into their motor home. Steve KF7HJS and Karen Miller were comfy in their camper but had to leave Saturday afternoon because of prior engagements. John Monson AJ7MT and K7SCOOT enjoyed numerous walks on the many nearby trails. For lunch Clayton heated the pork butt up on the flat top grill with fresh veggies. Bill warmed the tortillas, Stacy KK7CJV brought out a tin of cookies, and everyone filled their bellies with warm, oh so delicious pulled pork burritos. We even had extra pulled pork for breakfast the next morning! What a delicious treat. Everyone was so thankful to Clayton for his cooking skills and sharing the pulled pork.

Overall, it was a great weekend to get out and shake out the campers, make some contacts for a Support Your Parks Weekend, relax and hang with other hams. Kathe Simons N1NYT, her daughter and granddaughter swung out for a brief stop to say hello. Matt Gould AA7MG stopped by early Sunday morning just as most of the campers were tearing down and packing up after a great early camp out. AJ7MT and N7MSI both racked up 11 contacts each at the 2-fer park (US-10526 & US-4572), Eric-KE7NLU tallied 89 contacts, and Stacy-KK7CJV made 98 contacts. We all had such a great time that we are planning other camp outs. Be listening for more details...Just know it was a great time with great memories....it was all that and a box of cookies and a bottle of rum!

--Stacy Webb KK7CJV



involvement in establishing SOTA in North America. With over 60 years in ham radio and a passion for the outdoors, Guy contributed extensively to SOTA's growth, from technical setups to association formations. The interview delves into his motivations, experiences, and the community aspects of SOTA, emphasizing its non-competitive, fun, and inclusive nature. Insights into QRP operations, activating strategies, and the future of SOTA also feature prominently.

YouTube: <https://youtu.be/HHZWbaLpAKA>

Soundcloud: <https://on.soundcloud.com/n2WjAzAYPgGJojPq8>

Spotify: <https://spotifyanchor-web.app.link/e/4vdHlaO3Clb>

Enjoy and 73, Al KH7AL

406-304-0325

<https://sites.google.com/view/kh7al/home>

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## Propagation: "K Index," "A Index," What Gives?

By Al Simons WA1TYB

We all know that the sun's activity determines the ionization of the ionosphere. Predictions about this activity are given in terms of various indexes, which are difficult (at least to me!) to understand. **If you understand how to interpret these solar activity indices, please consider giving a presentation at a club meeting!**

73, -Al WA1TYB

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## CCARC.ORG Accounts

By Al Simons WA1TYB

CCARC Club members have accounts at CCARC.ORG. If you are licensed, your account

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## Diet SOTA Episode #2

Guy Hamblin N7UN

By Al Le Vie KH7AL

Hello SOTA friends,

I had the pleasure of meeting and having a great conversation with Guy Hamblin, N7UN, the weekend before last and just got the interview posted for your viewing pleasure. I had no idea how big of a role Guy had in getting SOTA up and running here in the US. A very special thank you to Guy for sharing his ham and SOTA journey with us!!

Summary:

Guy Hamblin, a significant figure in North American SOTA, shares his journey in ham radio, dating back to his teenage years, and his deep

name is your callsign @CCARC.ORG; otherwise, it is your first name @CCARC.ORG. I know some of you are aware of this and have used it in the past.

“But why?” I hear you saying. Most people don’t need another email address. I know I don’t; I have too many already. If you choose to use it, you have the email address [callsign]@ccarc.org. But that isn’t the main reason for the accounts. Logging in to google.com with your callsign @ccarc.org account and using Google Drive gives you access to the many files archived there. Some are old, but we are putting new content there, as well. For instance, I’m putting the PowerPoint presentations that I am using for our ARES training meetings there.

If you have logged into your CCARC.ORG account before, your password is unchanged. If you have never logged in there, I have reset your password. Try using the “I forgot my Password” link to set it to whatever you like. If that doesn’t work, let me know and I’ll set it and tell it to you. You can then log in and set it for yourself.

73 - Al WA1TYB

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## MFJ is Ceasing Production

Martin F. Jue, the founder of MFJ Enterprises, has announced that MFJ will cease production of all its product lines May 17th. In addition to its well-known MFJ product line, MFJ Enterprises also owns and manufactures the following products: Ameritron, Hygain, Cushcraft, Mirage, and Vectronics.

The announcement of the closing, which can be read at <https://mailchi.mp/62e24f2ccc99/a-heavy-sad-heart>, said that they have “a lot of stock on hand,” which they will continue to sell until depleted. They will also continue to service

both in warranty and out of warranty products “for the foreseeable future.”

As a personal side note, I remember when Cushcraft antennas were produced in Manchester, New Hampshire, the next town from where I was living. It was nice to be able to drive over to snag some replacement parts. I’m sad to see them go.

73, Al WA1TYB

Another link from Don W7MRI:  
<https://daily.hamweekly.com/>

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## Who Is This Man?



Answer at the end of the newsletter

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## 10-Year SOTA Anniversary Activation

By Rob Kingery AE7AP

Our 10-Year SOTA anniversary hike was fun. We hiked a very similar 6.8-mile path from our front

door, across the city, and along the Helena Ridge trail to the summit (and back). Attached is a PDF that has some “Then – Now” photos. I was able to make 30 QSO’s in 2024, as compared to 12 in 2014. I even had one duplicate QSO between the two activations – it was John – KS7R.

My post-activation email in 2014 said “*This is an interesting activity ...*” – I guess that was true! There were, however, a few differences this time. In 2014 I lugged my IC-7000, a homebrew 20-m dipole, 100-feet of coax, and two SLA batteries. This year my setup was much lighter.



All done.

73, Rob – AE7AP

PS – Please see Rob’s photos comparing hikes 2014 and 2024 at the end of the newsletter.

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## New 2m Winlink RMS Gateway

By Al Simons WA1TYB

There are now two 2m Winlink RMS (Radio Message Servers) in the Helena area. These provide an easy way to get onto the Winlink system via RF. On the west side of the valley is KM7DES-10 on 145.010, and on the east side of the valley is WA1TYB-10 on 145.050.

To get set up for Winlink (and other types of digital communications such as fldigi), most radios will need a “sound card” such as a Signalink, and a

(radio-specific) cable between your radio and that soundcard. Some newer radios have a sound card built in, in which case you only need a USB cable to go between your radio and computer.

I found a good tutorial for setting up Winlink and a Signalink using packet radio at [https://www.winlink.org/sites/default/files/RMSE\\_FORMS/quick\\_setup\\_guide\\_for\\_winlink\\_with\\_signalink\\_on\\_windows\\_2018-08.pdf](https://www.winlink.org/sites/default/files/RMSE_FORMS/quick_setup_guide_for_winlink_with_signalink_on_windows_2018-08.pdf).

Using VARA FM is faster than packet, but this is a good (and free!) way to configure your system to start. When you get your system up on 2m, send a note to WA1TYB (call signs are Winlink email addresses). If you have any questions and want some help setting up, send a note to al@simonshome.org. Have fun!

73, Al WA1TYB



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## Plan a Summer SOTA Hike!

By Rob Kingery AE7AP

Summer is a great time for SOTA (Summits On The Air) activating. Sometimes it can be intimidating to find a summit to activate. One good method is to search out summits that have been frequently activated – there is usually a reason that people keep returning to the good ones! Following is a list of some of the more popular SOTA summits in Montana. Each of these has been activated at least 10-times:

<u>SOTA ID</u>	<u>Activations</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Nearby City</u>
W7M/HB-128	24	Strawberry Butte	Helena
W7M/CL-182	20	Scratchgravel Hills	Helena
W7M/CL-085	19	Granite Butte	Helena
W7M/LM-145	18	University Mountain	Missoula
W7M/LM-121	17	Blue Mountain	Missoula
W7M/CL-161	16	Peak 5940	Helena
W7M/RC-138	16	Sula Peak	Sula
W7M/LO-046	14	Patricks Knob	Plains
W7M/FN-110	13	Elk Mountain	Essex
W7M/FN-176	13	Big Mountain	Whitefish
W7M/FS-149	13	Blacktail Mountain	Kalispell
W7M/RC-110	12	Bare Cone	Darby
W7M/RC-111	12	Lookout Mountain	Darby
W7M/CL-099	12	Mount Belmont	Helena
W7M/LM-099	11	Miller Peak	Missoula

The website <https://sotl.as/map> maps all of the SOTA summits and allows filtering based upon activation counts. Contact one of our local SOTA activators such as Rob – AE7AP or Al – KH7AL if you would like more detailed information!

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## A Simplex Net Exercise

By Al WA1TYB

We conducted a simplex ARES net (i.e., without using the N7RB Belmont repeater) on April 16th without any warning. The intent was to take a step toward being ready to operate a net in an emergency. At the start of every ARES net, we announce that if the repeater is not available the net will move to 147.500MHz, so the net was held there.

As Marla KM7LIB said at the end of the net, “That was an interesting net!”

The purpose of exercises is to identify areas for improvement. Our simplex net went OK but did highlight a few areas to improve.

- Make sure that you have 147.500 programmed into all your radios for easy access.
- For reliable communications on VHF and UHF, antenna height is king. If you can't get height, power and a good antenna are reasonable substitutes. If you are scheduled as the net control and don't have a strong radio/antenna configuration, consider asking another person to act as net control.
- Relay stations are good! They can extend the coverage of a net when the area is too great or the



terrain too rugged for whatever radio / antenna the net control is using.

- At the start of a simplex net, the net control should solicit a few geographically dispersed relay stations.

- Have something to take notes with if you are a relay station. We should probably all carry a small notebook and pen or pencil in our car. I admit I didn't do that before this net; I do now!

- It isn't necessary for a relay station to inform net control after each station is heard. It is more efficient to check in multiple stations, and then read the group of call signs back to net control, indicating if any has traffic. Of course, if a station indicates they have emergency or priority traffic, that should go back immediately.

- In the event of an emergency, we may dispatch someone to go to the top of a hill/mountain to act as a relay.

- We seemed to have a lot of doubles (overlapping transmissions). In a simplex net some of this will be unavoidable, as certain stations may not be able to hear each other. A good practice is to start with the phrase, "This is," and then release the PTT. This simple step reduces the chance of doubles. It won't eliminate them, but it will probably reduce them. Bill N7MSI, almost always starts his net transmissions this way.

We will hold more simplex nets in the future. Some will be announced, others will be "pop quizzes," as this one was.

Practice makes perf... "Practice makes better." It is unlikely that we'll ever get to the point of having perfect nets, but the more practice we have the more ready we will be to handle an emergency!

73, Al WA1TYB

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Capital City Amateur  
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Writers: CCARC members  
Club website: [n7rb.org](http://n7rb.org)  
(under construction)

[CCARC Shack Tour](http://CCARC Shack Tour) – website  
with member profiles

**JOIN US!**

Info on membership and on testing:  
Click the envelope on [n7rb.org](http://n7rb.org)  
current homepage.

Answer to the photo question:  
Fred Benson KD0HBA is  
Santa the woodcutter.

See Rob's "anniversary" photos then and now →



2014



2024



2014



2024

We can't wait for 2034's pictures, Rob!