

## Annual Spring Fling

By John Monson AJ7MT

Time for the annual (this is the third one so we can say that now) ANNUAL CCARC Spring Fling. The Spring Fling will once again be held in the LOWER dining room of the Brewhouse in Helena, MT., Saturday March 15 from 3 pm until whenever. CCARC will provide an assortment of appetizers; attendees are responsible for their own beverages of choice and dinner if you opt for that. The Spring Fling is open to all hams, their families, friends and prospective hams. So put on a funny green hat (if you have one) bring a buddy and come enjoy the company of your fellow hams, March 15, 3 pm until whenever.

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## A Neat Little QRP Radio

By Eric Webb KE7NLU

Well, I need another radio like I need another hole in my head, but the FX-4CR was too enticing to pass up. This little HF radio covers bands 6-80M and pushes 20W. It has a built-in USB sound card for digital modes such as FT-8 and it is reasonably wallet-friendly to the tune of \$558.00. It is a Chinese radio, but I purchased it directly from the developer to ensure I am not getting an E-bay or Amazon knockoff. His website is <https://bg2fx.com>. The payment process seemed a little sketchy, but in about 7 business days it arrived in good order. Stacy and I took it out and

## Coming Events 2025

**March 3** - CCARC monthly meeting  
7 pm at the Salvation Army, 1330 Hudson St. or on Google Meet,  
<https://meet.google.com/zfs-ctwp-bax>

**March 15 – Spring Fling** at the Brewhouse  
Downstairs, 3 pm until. John Monson AJ7MT

**June 13-14 – Governor’s Cup.** John Geach  
KS7R

**Field Day – June 28-29.** Devil’s Elbow.  
Camp Out Friday- Sunday or come for the day.

**Coffee Net** – Every Saturday at 9 am on  
147.22, Belmont Repeater. Eyeball @ Red  
Atlas at 9:30.

**ARES Net** – every Tuesday at 7:30 pm on  
147.22

did a POTA activation. and it performed pretty well. I was curious about heat dissipation with the high duty cycle operating conditions, but it did just fine. The construction of this radio is anodized aluminum, and it never overheated. The only small complaint I have so far is that the internal speaker sounded like it was rattling, and it turned out that the small clear polycarbonate display window was vibrating. I removed the display/button bezel and used thin double-sided tape and fixed it in about 10 minutes and now the internal speaker sounds as good as a 1” speaker in an aluminum box can sound. The form factor is pretty small as you can see the Yaesu VX-6 for size reference.



# Home Away from Home

Blog by Al le Vie – 3/2/25

<https://kh7al.site/home-away-from-home/>

Apparently, I've been busy. Without meaning to do so, I broke from my normal two activations per week. Since 21 February I have been on the radio every day (9 days in a row) and logged over 1,400 QSOs, mostly on CW. That is also why my updates have been lacking.

The shift in activity has been large in part to the fact I have found a new place to play radio, from on the lagoon side of the island. It is just a joy to operate there. It features many great items such as: a few walls, an improved roof, less wind, this wonderful thing called "electricity", and an amazing view. This location is a remnant of the previous Thai contractor workforce that lived and played on Wake for many years. This "beach house" is a mostly well-kept shanty that has been left for the island to reclaim. It's a bit of a 'fixer-upper'. In the meantime, until it collapses, I will cherish operating from here. Just kidding, it's mostly safe.

My contact count from Wake Island is now well over 6,400 as of last night.

I have just two weeks left on this rotation before heading home for a few weeks. Then I'll be back. 73 and good DX! --Al le Vie KH7AL



Correction: Matthew Cornyn's call sign is KK7YWU.

## FOR SALE

Hustler 4BTV 4-Band HF vertical antenna 10, 15, 20 and 40 meter bands. \$70 or the best offer. Call Darrell Harris KG7LNA 406-439-7391.



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## Antenna Build Party

By Stacy Webb K7CJV

Eric KE7NLU and I hosted an Antenna Build Party at our shop in Belgrade recently. Hams could choose from 3 different antennas to build, and they kicked in \$20 per antenna to cover the cost of the parts. First, we made a simple tape-measure Yagi directional antenna for use in future planned fox hunts (spring, summer). This was a great test run before we build these with the Scouts at the Spring Camporee in May.

Second, a ladder line 6-meter quick antenna build was the most popular build of the day. Now that many of our members have a 6-meter antenna, we will be conducting some 6-meter nets so we can all play with the band and our new antennas. Last we made a 2-meter/70 cm combo J-pole antenna for which Eric had machined all the aluminum parts. Then hams

could assemble the parts to build their new antenna. The blue-sky day warmed as we moved outside the metal shop to test and tune our new antennas on the analyzer. It was a great day where we all learned so much by building, tuning and analyzing the antennas. Some found their roles as Elmers, while others learned how to solder for the first time. The day was filled with learning and smiles! Those who came, whether they built an antenna, helped by Elmering, or just poked fun and brought the conversation, ALL made the event a success!



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## International Space Station News

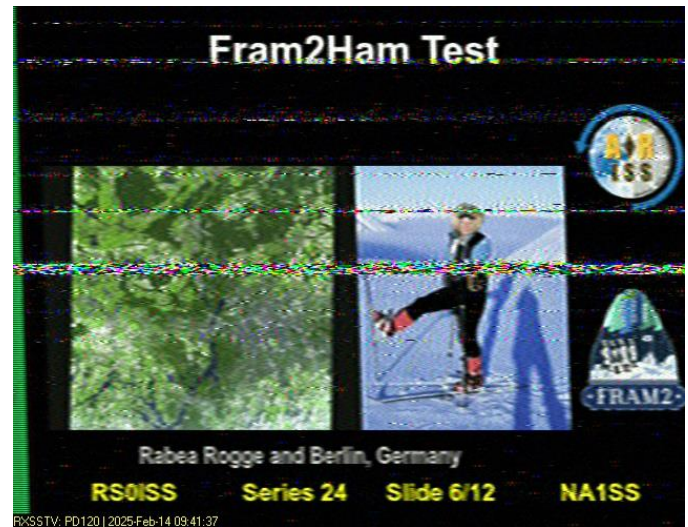
By Bill Erhardt K7MT

The International Space Station (ISS) ran a Slow Scan TV (SSTV) experiment and tested for an upcoming Polar Satellite launch for Polar Scientists. They will be orbiting for a few days to complete their experiments. Included in their mission is a SSTV experiment for several schools to set up tracking the Space Craft and copy the

SSTV pictures using doppler shift/tracking antennas, and answer questions about the pictures. The ISS experiment let everyone calibrate their equipment to get good copies of the SSTV pictures. I copied 8 pictures during the experiment and enclosed one of them. As you can see it was difficult to track Doppler shift, polarization switch, and fading to get a good picture on 70cm.

<https://fram2ham.com/>

is a link to the experiments web page for further information.



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Capital City Amateur  
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Helena, Montana



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# Capital Carriages Car Club

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE MOTOR VEHICLES

Helena Chapter of the Montana Pioneer & Classic Auto Club, Inc.

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Darrell Beckstrom



March 2025

[www.montanapioneerandclassicautoclub.org](http://www.montanapioneerandclassicautoclub.org)



## 2025 Upcoming Events

If there is any event that you may know about, let me know so that it can be included in the newsletter. Due to the amount of vehicle activities in Montana, I am only including events in our immediate area.

March 9—Monthly meeting of Capital Carriages, 12:30pm at Pizza Ranch Buffet

March 15th St. Patrick's Day Parade. 12 noon. Cathedral lineup 10:30am

April 25, 26 - Annual Great Falls Auto Parts Swap Meet

May 2, 3 —Crusin' the Drag in Great Falls

May 25—54th Annual Big Sky Corvette Meet (406) 781-2694, Great Falls Heritage Inn

June 6-8—Spring Tour Anaconda. 406-454-1155

June 14—Clancy Days 9:00am, <https://allevents.in/clancy/200027873870943>

June 27,29th— 20th Annual Blast From the Past Car Show in Helena. 406-202-4699

August 17— Crusin the Drag in Bozeman, 9am to 2pm

August 23—Boulder Car Show, 8am to 3pm. 304 N Main St, Boulder, MT  
Phone: 406-225-4039

August 28 , September 1— International Mustang Meet in Helena, put on by the Last Chance Mustang and Ford Club. Contact Donna Graveley (406)465-9631  
or [graveleyranch@blackfoot.net](mailto:graveleyranch@blackfoot.net)

September 12,13—Fall Tour in Lewistown. 406-366-5750

October 5—Townsend Fall Fest (No contact info yet)

Darrell Beckstrom K7IUI is the editor of the Capital Carriages Car Club. The first page is reproduced above. Please contact Darrell for more information or to be added to his distribution list.