

CCARC News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

April 2025

New!

And New/Old Members

WELCOME!

Jim Obie N7AXP, obiejb@yahoo.com

Joe Pedulla, jpedulla2@jpacorp.com

Bill Schindele KJ6BVV, rogerscreek@gmail.com

Tom Weld KK7ZME, tw45029@gmail.com

Thomas Wilson KF6ICV,

zellamziller@hotmail.com

FOX HUNT



Bill McGuire N7MSI and Sue Little KK7PSY

Coming Events 2025

Governor's Cup - June 13-14. John Geach
KS7R

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

Glacier-Waterton Hamfest. July 18-21.
<https://www.gwhamfest.org/registration/online-registration>

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

Trivia Net - every Sunday, 7:30 pm on
147.22. John Monson AJ7MT

CORRECTION: the URL for
the Zoom Storm Spotter
training April 10 at 7 pm
MDT:

<https://zoom.us/j/99165237786?pwd=kbszWfKJ1KICPE1ITgdDtfAnF7cX6.1>

Fox Hunt, continued

On a chilly Saturday morning, several members adjourned from Coffee and met at Centennial Park to find the transmitters prepared and hidden by Brian Lee KJ7OUF. Bill N7MSI wore his deerstalker hat for the occasion. About 10 members and friends milled around the park

with various antennas and handhelds and eventually brought in the “foxes.”

Want to know more about amateur radio direction finding? How to make a fox-hunt antenna? How to use body blocking? Check out this PowerPoint by W5EUL:

<https://www.w5eul.com/presentations/ARE%20Fox%20Hunt.pdf>

SPRING FLING

Hams, friends, and families gathered at the Brewhouse Downstairs for our third annual social hour(s). The club provided an appetizer buffet, and attendees could order other food and drink if they desired. About 25 attendees enjoyed the camaraderie.



Photos greatly improved by AI WA1TYB

FOR SALE

I have a ham radio for sale, ICOM 718 WITH SIGNALINK INTERFACE with it. The radio is in great condition. The reason I am selling it - I bought an ICOM 7300.

~Darrell Harris KG7LNA, 1973darrell@gmail.com



2025 Governor's Cup

The Blue Cross Blue Shield sponsors of the Governor's Cup races have again asked the CCARC to provide race communications this year. The race will be on Saturday June 14.

Our communications are vital to the race to provide real time runner stats to the race announcer. With our radio capabilities, we are also in a position to respond to any emergency along the course.

One big change in this year's race is the elimination of the Marathon as a result of road issues on the course. Another change is moving the half marathon course into the Helena area instead of along the frontage road into Helena. Since part of the course will not be in line of sight of the club's Belmont repeater, we'll use the DMR repeaters for race coverage. The course changes will result in new communication and aid station locations; however, we'll still need approximately 10 to 12 hams to provide good communications throughout the course. If you'd like to help, it will only take a few hours of your time on the morning of the race. I'll formally start to collect names in a month or so, but if you'd like to help, please let me know. John KS7R jcgeach@gmail.com



FROM RAY ZINN K7ZIN

I just built a unique 2m copper cube antenna. The antenna is made from 1/2" copper tubing and works quite well. The SWR came in at 1.65 and is

very flat over the entire 2m band. It is good as a small table mount but works better on a mast in free air. Could be a good portable antenna for field day. I will be demoing this antenna at our upcoming antenna field day at my ranch either May 17 or June 7. Stay tuned.

DWAYNE MCNEIL K7SYO/SK



Dwayne was a pillar of CCARC for many years and was instrumental in building the shed that houses the Belmont repeater on Mt. Belmont.

Here is an excerpt from the history of the repeater, written by Don Heide W7MRI:

With the advice of Dwayne K7SYO, I drew a set of plans for the building and outlined how the tower would be installed and submitted the application to the BLM with the \$175 one-time fee. Very shortly thereafter we were sent a letter of approval, and the site was the club's. Since Dwayne was a contractor and had a spot at his shop, he offered to furnish the materials and build the building. As nearly as I can remember those helping were Bill K7MT, Chris KC7VCY, Cliff KC7QLM (sk), Bob K7HLN, John KB7EBL, Bill N7MSI, Rich N7GC, Bill Craft, Dwight KC7ZPK (sk),

Sam KC7VWA (sk), myself and others. The building is 10'x10' and constructed of steel studs screwed and welded together. Dwayne also knew some contractors that could provide full blown-in insulation for the walls and ceiling, a commercial rubber membrane roof that is sealed down around the edge of the walls, and a full commercial steel insulated door for access. This was all loaded onto Dwayne's flatbed trailer and a full caravan of helpers headed for the top of Belmont. Unfortunately, I had to be out of town for work that day but have heard many stories of taking that flatbed up a narrow dirt road to the site and unloading it perfectly onto the concrete pad. The building was then anchored to the pad with commercial concrete anchors every 16 inches around the base. To this day it has not moved. <https://n7rb.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Belmont-History.pdf>

Bob Solomon K7HLN has added that when this caravan hit the road, the sheriff said it looked like the circus was leaving town.

In the following 2002 photo from the tower-raising at the home of Rich Weddle N7GC, Dwayne is sitting by the tree, and Rich (in white shirt) is just to the right. Other current members are Bill McGuire N7MSI and Bill Erhardt K7MT at the far right.

Rich recalls that Dwayne was the one who insisted that the roof must be reinforced before they mounted the antenna.



GHRC NEWS

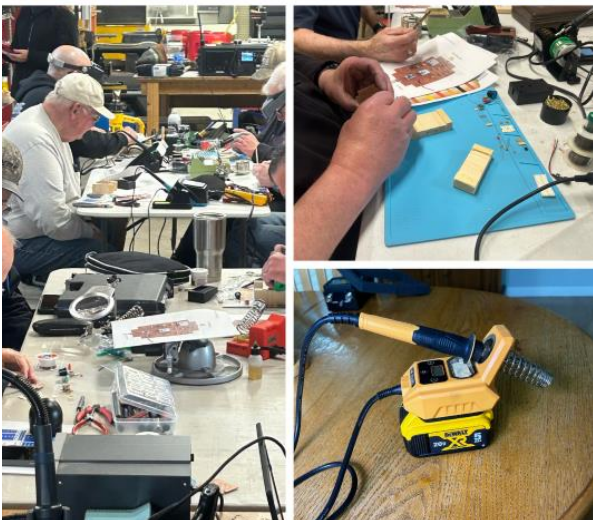
Our Friends at the Gallatin Ham Radio Club

By Stacy Webb KK7CJV

On March 22nd the Gallatin Ham Radio Club hosted a Solder Saturday event. We had a great turnout with 12 people signed up for one of two projects members could build. The 4 MHz offset attenuator was a great first-time soldering build while members looking for a more challenging project could build the 4-position antenna switch. Most finished the offset attenuator during the 2 hours while others building the antenna switch have taken it home to finish the project later. Projects were available at the cost of parts to club members. Many brought their own soldering irons and magnifiers for use on their projects, with one particular soldering iron being at the center of many conversations - Dewalt soldering iron utilizing a 20v 5 ah Dewalt battery. Eric Webb KE7NLU did a short presentation on soldering and showed his techniques displayed from the USB microscope to the TV for all to see. With his new desktop oscilloscope/multimeter (OWON HDS-2202S), Eric helped by testing the finished projects for any solder bridges.

It seems since the Solder Saturday event, many have been bitten by the soldering bug. Norm KD7TQM is soldering a clock kit and Matt AA7VG has been enjoying some simple solder kits. His son Elliot has claimed the Jitterbug that Matt built as his toy! For more information on simple kits you can enjoy too, visit:

<https://learntosolderkits.com>



DICK WENDELL

Dick K7ULM doing QRP portable on the Missouri River near Ulm – with canine companion.



FOR SALE

I have for sale a Hy-Gain AV-620 Patriot HF Vertical Antenna. It covers 20 through 6 meters, with no traps, no coils, and no radials. Brand new cost 599.99; I'm selling it for \$150. If interested, call Darrell Beckstrom K7IUI at 406-439-3821.

Special Event Station K4A "9-11 We Do Remember"

By Robert Beaudoin WA1FCN

Begin: Sunday September 06, 2025, 00:01 GMT
End: Thursday September 12, 2025, 23:59 GMT

Many members of the Alabama Contest Group will activate K4A for the fifth year.

We will operate all modes SSB, FT8, CW, and RTTY, and on all bands 80 through 10 meters, including WARC bands.

To those who contact K4A on 3 bands using any combination of bands/modes we will offer a full color glossy certificate on heavy paper which will be mailed in a full size manila envelope, all postage paid by the Alabama Contest Group, even if you are DX.

If you qualify for the certificate send your QSL to WA1FCN. Put each QSO information on your QSL. We request a \$3.00 donation to help cover the cost of the Special Event.

Or, for our QSL only (no certificate), send your QSL and your SASE to Bob Sarnecki NF7D.

Bob Sarnecki
591 DEER RUN RD
ALABASTER, AL 35007-9502

Flight MH370 and Amateur Radio WSPR

By Don Heide W7MRI

This is a very interesting YouTube on research into the disappearance of Malaysian Airlines MH370 over the Indian Ocean using stored data from the WSPR amateur protocol.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bkgHBMuWR6U>

I used this protocol to track an amateur balloon that circled the world many times.

<https://www.picoballoons.net/trackers/wspr-tracker>

It was also being used to track the amateur balloon that was shot down over the Arctic by

the USAF. Here is one of many links to that story: <https://www.google.com/search?client=firefox-b-1-d&q=amateur+balloon+shot+down>. You can do a Google search for WSPR+ for more information. ~Don W7MRI

Capital City Amateur Radio Club Helena, Montana



Editor: Marla Unruh KM7LIB
Editing and proofing: Kathe
N1NYT & Al Simons WA1TYB.
Writers: CCARC members
Club website: n7rb.org
[CCARC Shack Tour](#) – website
with member profiles

JOIN US!

Membership \$25 per year.
Contact Al Simons for
application info.
al@simonshome.org

Please see the *Capital Carriages* April newsletter on the next page. Contact Darrell Beckstrom K7IUI if you would like to be added to his distribution list.

mtbeckstrom@gmail.com

Capital Carriages Car Club

DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION OF ANTIQUE AND COLLECTIBLE MOTOR VEHICLES

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

Officers for 2025

President/Times Reporter:
Paul Christofferson

Vice President: Don Wood

Treasurer: Sharon Black

Secretary: Jerry Burrows

Newsletter Editor:
Darrell Beckstrom



April 2025
www.montanapioneerandclassicautoclub.org



2025 Upcoming Events

April 13—Tri-Club Spring meeting at Bridger Brewing, across from Wheat Montana from 2:00 until 4:00pm. Notify Paul at: pachris1972@gmail.com so he can get a head count. **We will meet at 12:30 in the East Helena Heritage IGA parking lot to caravan if you like.**

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

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

May 24—Pontiac show in Helena

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 15—Montana Cross Country T Association. Airport Inn Hotel, 2300 Oakes St. Helena (tcerovski@bresnan.net)

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

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

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