

# CCARC News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

May 2025

Don Heide W7MRI / SK



September 6, 1946 – April 5, 2025

To our readers: If you haven't already read Don's obituary, find it here:

<https://helenafuneralhome.com>

You may enjoy the interview he gave this writer in 2018:

<https://ccarclub.weebly.com/don-w7mri.html>

## Coming Events 2025

**Antenna Build at the Zinn Ranch - June 7.**  
Contact Ray Zinn K7ZIN to save a place.  
rayd.zinn@gmail.com.

**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>

**August 2 – Elkhorn Run.** Rob Kingery  
AE7AP.

**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

## Hams N Coffee at Wheat Montana

By Stacy Webb KK7CJV

The weather cooperated for our three clubs at Three Forks event: GHRC,\* CCARC,\*\* and the Butte Radio Club to converged at **Wheat Montana for Hams N Coffee**. It was a wonderful time meeting new hams, sharing the demographics of our clubs and the challenges our clubs face, the history of Red Mountain, and the continued operability of our local repeaters. Kat and Sam, GHRC's newest student club members, were able to make it and showed off their in-process QRP radio build. Sally, on her

way home, activated Missouri Headwaters where she was able to get 8 local 2-meter contacts.

Trivia Master John AJ7MT was able to gather the trivia players from both GHRC and CCARC for a group picture. As we said goodbye and wished safe travels to our ham friends, the chorus of voices asking to do this again soon became a majority. We just might have to bring back the friendly Field Day competition among our clubs!

\*Gallatin Valley Radio Club

\*\*Capital City Amateur Radio Club



John Monson AJ7MT and Trivia crew.

## HELP NEEDED!

### The Governor's Cup

June 14, 2025



governor's cup

This year's **Governor's Cup** is scheduled for the morning of Saturday June 14. The race has major changes with the elimination of the marathon race and a new ½ marathon course closer to Helena. The CCARC will again be providing race communications and approximately 12-14 amateurs will be needed to cover the course. I'll have a sign-up sheet at the May CCARC meeting for those wishing to help. If you won't be at the meeting and want to help, please contact me directly.

~John KS7R [jcgeach@gmail.com](mailto:jcgeach@gmail.com)

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### HMS Tech Expo

May 22, 2025

Parents, students, and friends of Helena Middle School come to the Tech Expo to tour demonstrations by STEM-oriented community groups. Our demonstrations have generated much interest in the past. We set up a key with a dummy load and also allowed visitors to chat with a volunteer contact.

Will you help us this year? If so, please contact Marla Unruh KM7LIB, [mkulib@gmail.com](mailto:mkulib@gmail.com).

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### Camper Shakedown May 9-10

Stacy Webb KK7CJV invites members and friends (you) of the Gallatin Valley Ham Radio Club to a

camper shakedown weekend May 9-11 at Duck Creek campground.

It is also the same weekend of the WY NVIS event and should be a great time for POTA contacts as well as the WY NVIS event.

Contact Stacy for more details: [stroscoe2001@yahoo.com](mailto:stroscoe2001@yahoo.com)

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## CONGRATULATIONS!

Two new Amateurs passed their VE exams April 9: Keith Platts KM7AEM, Technician and John Dorr KM7AFU, General. Thanks to Rich N7GC and Matt AA7VG for assisting with the exams. The next VE exams are scheduled for May 22 and July 9. Information on registering for an exam can be found on the club website [N7RB.org](http://N7RB.org). ~John KS7R.

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## Gertrude on Belmont

Need something announced on the Belmont repeater?

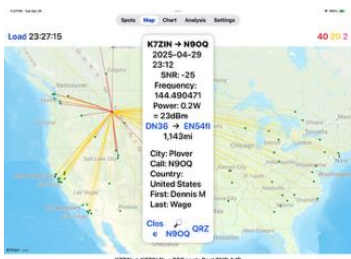
Al Simons WA1TYB will make changes to the automated announcements on request. These announcements, sometimes laughingly referred to as “Gertrude,” may include news of meeting night, ARES net, and Trivia. Al will also help set up repeater access through Echolink.

Please contact him at [al@simonshome.org](mailto:al@simonshome.org). Thanks!

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## 2-Meter Contact across 1143 Miles!

By Ray Zinn K7ZIN



This is a first! I got a 2-meter hit on a ham 1143 miles away! Can anyone explain this?



## Dwayne McNeil K7SYO / SK

By Bill Erhardt K7MT

Dwayne William McNeil (1930 - 2025) K7SYO passed away at the young age of 90 years. I have known Dwayne since the 1990s when he got interested in ham radio. We set up a ham station in his workshop on north Montana with a rotating dipole. Later he installed a tower and beam at his home further up north Montana. We put a team together that set everything up.

I helped Dwayne on several construction projects over the years and I was inspired by his patience, attention to detail, and constant analyzing to ensure it was done correctly. A great teacher.

One of our fun times was doing the spring (June) VHF/UHF contest on mountain tops. It was a challenge! There were not that many folks on the air. It did not matter if we made any contacts, as the fun of just being up there was all worth the drive. Oh, lunch on a mountain top in Montana is extra special!

Don Heide made a wonderful deal with the BLM for a site to put the club's 147.22/82 repeater. Dwayne took on the challenge of constructing a building for the site, donated a lot of material, and helped with construction. He had quite a

challenge keeping a bunch of HAMS in line! But the building they took up that rough road and installed still stands on Mt Belmont - a monument to his construction abilities.

After he became a widower, we began attending PGA and LPGA golf tournaments. Soon our favorite golfer was Mo Marting out of Naples, Florida. We met her several times in Arizona, California, Washington, and Canada. We made a special baseball cap with GO MO! to support her and gave her one at Regina Canada for their open.

We had weekly coffee with his Methodist Church gang after he moved into assisted living. Chris Dargan KC7VCY and I made sure he got out weekly to have dinner away.

Having the opportunity to know Dwayne and his family over many years was rewarding, and they all made me feel right at home - a kindness I will always remember. I will miss my friend. We will keep his chair open at the Monday Methodist Church coffee gathering and continue to talk about him.

*~Bill Erhardt K7MT*

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## Field Day, June 28-29

- CCARC members will gather at the Devil's Elbow campground.
- GHRC will hold their Field Day just west of Gallatin Gateway behind the Gateway Inn, 435 Lyn de St., Gallatin Gateway, Mt
- <https://www.arrl.org/field-day-rules>
- **Field Day is ham radio's open house.** Every June, more than 31,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our

communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

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## GHRC New Member



Sally Dial KJ7WFN with her new Go-box

### When did you get started in radio and why?

When I was a young girl, I enjoyed visiting my Uncle Harold's house. He had a player piano, and he played the banjo. He also had a really cool HAM radio. I remember he contacted Japan! And this was in the early 1970s. I have wanted to learn more about this hobby since. Finally, in 2021 I received my Tech License and last May I passed my General test

### Tell us about your radios and your shack.

My first radio was a handheld TYT. Next came an Anytone 878 plus. I struggled with learning how to use them. Thanks to some great hams in GHRC, I have been able to improve my skills with these radios. I bought a Yaesu FT 991A for my base. I have a comet and an off-center dipole for the 991. I recently bought a FT 891 with a LDG tuner and

with help Eric from KE7NLU I am putting together a go box. Yes, KK7CJV got me hooked on POTA.

What are your favorite radio activities?

I enjoy learning all things radio, and I am thankful for the Ham and Coffee meetings in Belgrade – when the flow of information is not overwhelming! I am looking forward to doing more POTA and to Field Day. In between the outings, I enjoy making contacts and logging QSOs on my 991A.

What are your goals in radio?

I am currently studying for my Amateur Extra license. If (when!) I pass this test, I am going to start a CW course. Michael Andersen N7DAY shared with me the Long Island CW course. I am also pondering how to put up a tower and beam in our yard. Any recommendations on this are welcome!

How can we help you achieve those goals?

I learn so much by sitting at the table at Ham N Coffee and listening to everyone's conversations. I am thankful for Eric's engineering skills in helping me with the Go Box! I always want to be a giver, but in the HAM world I am a taker. I hope to be able to share and give back to the community as I learn and grow!

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**FREE!**

30-foot tower Contact Ralph Badger,

406-431-3500.

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**FOR SALE**

I have an ICOM718 WITH SIGNALINK INTERFACE for sale. The radio is in great condition. I am selling it because I bought an ICOM 7300.

Darrell Harris, [1973darrell@gmail.com](mailto:1973darrell@gmail.com)

## Capital Carriages Car Club

On the last page is a newsletter edited by one of our members, Darrell Beckstrom K7IUI. Only the first page is reproduced. See Darrell to be added to his distribution list and to see the entire newsletter.

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## 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](http://n7rb.org)  
[CCARC Shack Tour](#) – website  
with member profiles

**JOIN US!**

Membership \$25 per year. Contact Al  
Simons for application info.  
[al@simonshome.org](mailto:al@simonshome.org)

# 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



May 2025

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



## 2025 Upcoming Events

May 2, 3—Crusin' the Drag in Great Falls  
May 17—4th Annual Warrant Officer Car Show. 12 til 5:00pm. JFK Park, East Helena 406431-5958  
May 18—Club meeting at Jorgenson's 12:30pm.  
May 24—Pontiac show in East Helena on Main St. 8am til 3:00pm  
May 25—54th Annual Big Sky Corvette Meet (406) 781-2694, Great Falls Heritage Inn  
May 31—A Step Back in Time Car Show. Great Northern Town Center, 10am til 3:00pm.  
June 6-8—Spring Tour Anaconda. 406-454-1155  
June 14—Clancy Days 9:00am, <https://allevents.in/clancy/200027873870943>  
June 14—Premier Custom Car Show. Butte Civic Center  
June 15—Montana Cross Country Model 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](mailto:graveleyranch@blackfoot.net)  
September 12,13—Fall Tour in Lewistown. 406-366-5750  
October 5—Townsend Fall Fest. 406-980-1648

