

CCARC News

Capital City Amateur Radio Club

January 2026

Including
news from
HARCMT

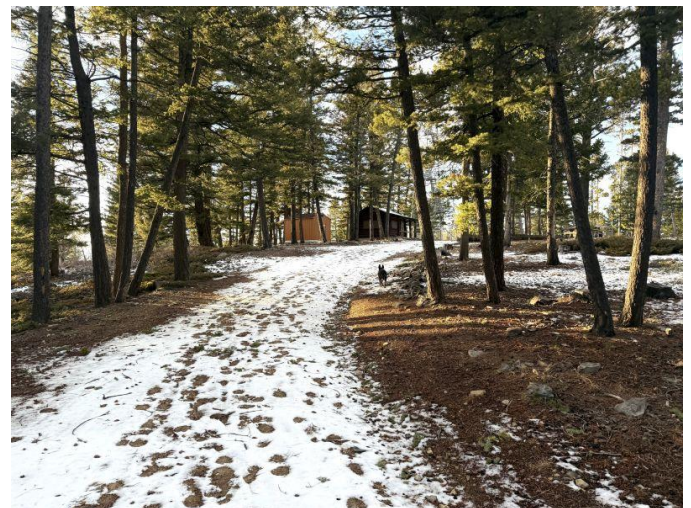


The Best Ever UTC Rollover!

Never before have Helena area hams coordinated simultaneous SOTA activations for New Year's Eve! But this year 4 teams climbed peaks that surround Helena Valley to activate SOTA points for 2025 and 2026, all within the same hour of 4:30 - 5:30 local time.

On Strawberry Butte:

Paul Brumfield KK7SDH. Paul, his wife Becca, and dog Penny stayed overnight in the cabin.

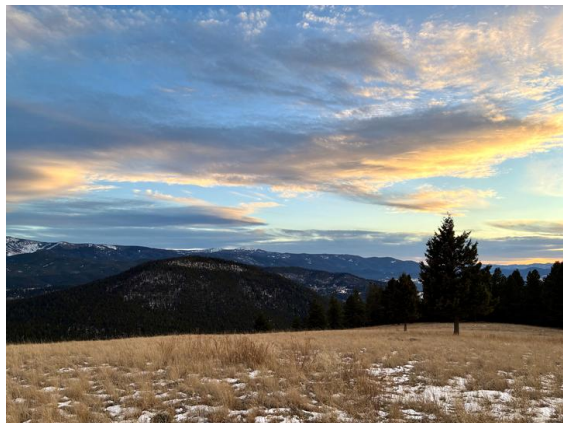


Penny heads to the cabin

On Shingle Butte:

Al Le Vie KH7AL
Brett Penner N7SKI
Nolan Taylor K0HAA and his son Dexter

The photos below are by Nolan.



The year 2025 fades



Al Le Vie KH7AL

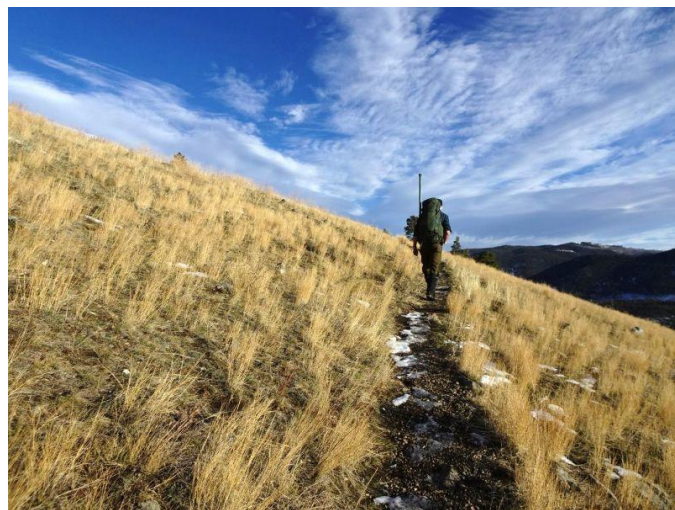
On South Helena Ridge:

Rob Kingery AE7AP

Barb Kingery AE7AQ



Al KH7AL and Dexter Taylor



Brett Penner N7SKI





On South Scratchgravel Hills:

Bill McGuire N7MSI and Devin Felix KM7AXU

Photo below by Devin



Devin KM7AXU and I, N7MSI, headed up the trail at about 1445 hrs local time, or 2145 UTC. This was Devin's first SOTA activation, so he was facing not only a steep trail but also a steep learning curve. I was concerned about the young man stepping out and leaving this old guy in the dust, but as my luck would have it Devin gave blood the day before so he was a little low on oil which slowed him down to my pace.

We reached the summit by 2300Z. A couple of other activators had already made it to their summits for this epic four-summit UTC Rollover

Event in the Helena area. As luck would have it, the summit had a picnic table on top so setup was convenient and fast. I had Rob AE7AP on summit W7M/CL-161 in my log in just a couple of minutes of our setup. From then on Devin and I had a constant flow of contacts coming in on the radio. Devin set up his telescoping pole and J-pole antenna in between contacts.

It was getting close to our Zulu rollover hour and cooling off fast. I busted out the hot chicken broth to help us power on to the top of the hour making contacts. Bob N7AGP was in the log all the way from Great Falls area. We were cold but pumped. We got all the Summit-to-Summit contacts and our friends in the valley in our logs.

The clock rolled over and it was UTC HAPPY NEW YEAR! The radio action started all over again. BAM, Marla KM7LIB was on the trigger and first in the log for 2026. This time we had Devin's J-Pole antenna working for us and we got Bob N7AGP right away and then Stacy KK7CJV and Eric KE7NLU in the log all the way from Belgrade MT. We also got K7MT on the Belmont Ski hill in the log. All our other friends in the Helena valley were in the log as were all 3 of the other summits and their activators. The energy was high and the chasers were motivated. By 0026Z I had Charlie W7CEG as my last entry and we were packing up and hitting the trail.



We were so adrenalized from our activation we chatted all the way down the hill about the experience and made the trailhead in what seemed like minutes. On the trail down someone had put Christmas lights on a tree in somewhat of a star shape. Just another surprise during this epic event. Thank you to all the chasers and activators. It just doesn't happen without you.

73 and Happy New Year Bill N7MSI

CCARC Slack, Now Online!

By Allen Le Vie KH7AL

Connect with the club instantly on our new Slack Workspace.

We all love getting on the air, but sometimes you need to share a photo of a new build, ask a quick technical question, or organize a meetup without tying up the repeater.

That is why I am excited to launch our official **CCARC Slack** workspace, a digital gathering place for us to stay connected between meetings.

What is Slack?

Think of Slack as a private, members-only clubhouse that fits in your pocket or on your desktop. It is a messaging platform (like an enhanced group chat) that is perfect for real-time coordination. Unlike email chains that get messy, Slack is organized, fast, and fun.

Why You Should Join

- **Social, but not Social Media:** Join conversations with like-minded hams in a private environment. No algorithms, no tracking, and best of all—**no ads**.
- **Instant Elmering:** Stuck on a project? Need a recommendation on a new antenna? Post a question and get quick

answers from experienced operators in the club.

- **Swap Tips & Tricks:** Share the hacks you've learned to help others enjoy the hobby with ease.
- **Better Event Planning:** Easily organize Field Day operations, coffee meetups, or POTA activations in real-time.

Bonus for Mountain Enthusiasts: W7M SOTA

For those interested in **Summits on the Air (SOTA)**—whether you are an activator hiking the peaks or a chaser hunting from home—there is an additional, dedicated space for you.

The **W7M SOTA Slack** is a separate workspace specifically for coordinating mountain operations. You can join this specific group to get alerts on who is heading up a mountain and when to listen for them.

How to Join (It's Free & Easy)

Getting set up takes less than two minutes. You can use Slack on your computer's web browser or download the app for your smartphone.

1. Join the CCARC Workspace: Click the link below or scan the QR Code. Follow the prompts to create your free account and drop a message in the #all-ccarc-slack channel to say hello!

 [Click to Join CCARC Slack](#)

<https://ccarcslack.slack.com/ssb/redirect>



2. Join the W7M SOTA Workspace: If you are into SOTA, grab this invite as well to connect with the club's avid activators and chasers.

[!\[\]\(c8d96c8885d3000a912c2582004aed63_img.jpg\) Click to Join W7M SOTA Slack](#)

<https://w7m-sota.slack.com/ssb/redirect>



If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask me.

See you in the chat! 73, Allen ~ KH7AL

Out With The New, In With The Old

By Eric Webb KE7NLU

Cruising Facebook Marketplace, Stacy KK7CJV found an old 1946 Admiral 6C71-10A1 console radio for \$75.00. We went to take a look. It was non-working, but the cabinet was in great shape, and it was a complete unit, minus one knob. We picked it up, brought it home, and then the journey into vacuum tubes and old service manuals began.

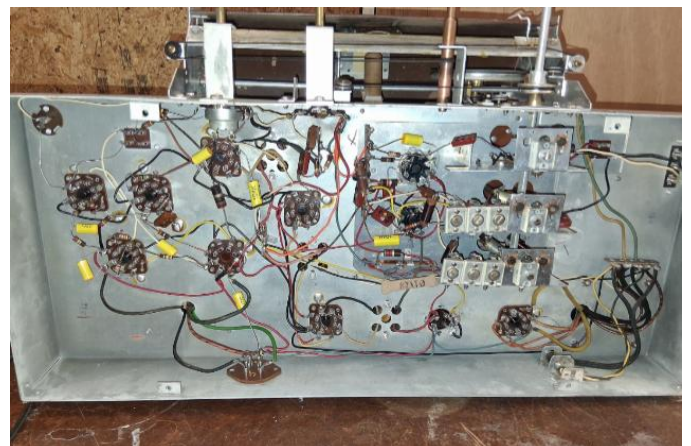
First things first; we stripped the wooden cabinet of all the antique electronics so that Stacy could start refurbishing the cabinet, while I attempted to get the electronics back up and running again. Once I had the chassis out of the radio, I powered it up on the bench, and one of the 6F6 audio amplifier tubes was arcing, producing some interesting flashes of light. Since I didn't have a tube tester, I got on eBay and ordered all new old stock (NOS) tubes from various sellers. Then,

after all the new tubes arrived, I decided—after the fact—that I should probably have a tube tester, so I also found a good used unit and picked that up. My order of operations was a little backwards, but I do now have a tube tester.

Having worked on many electronic things over the years, the other thing I knew I was going to need was all new electrolytic capacitors, as they dry out with use and age and are considered a service item. I couldn't find capacitors at my usual sources, such as Digi-Key, and I ended up finding an online store called justradios.com. They had a good kit of assorted capacitors, so I placed an order.



Now that I had all of my parts, it was time to get to work. The radio must have lived with smokers over the years, as the chassis was coated with a brown, tar-like film. I used Dynamo-X cleaner and hot water and got everything sparkling clean, then proceeded to dry everything with compressed air and let it sit for a few days.



While the chassis was sitting for those few days, I managed to make a set of new black knobs. Once the radio was fully dry, I tipped the chassis over and took many pictures of the connections for reference, then replaced the capacitors one by one. Once the caps were done, I installed the new tubes and began the alignment process.

After many steps in the alignment process, the radio came to life on AM, but I could hear nothing on the shortwave bands. It seemed like the radio was not very sensitive.

As it turned out, one of the connections to the IF transformer was loose where I had changed a capacitor. I re-soldered the faulty connection, and now everything works like it did when new in 1946.

While I was doing the chassis work, Stacy meticulously scraped and sanded all the old finish and got the cabinet clean and smooth. She painted some of the accent trim black and installed a new cloth speaker grille. Once everything was cleaned and sanded, she rubbed the cabinet down with two healthy coats of Odie's Oil, bringing out the amazing wood tones.

This radio not only looks great, but the sound quality is absolutely shocking on AM. The sound is rich and full in comparison to our Yamaha home theater system, which sounds thin and tinny on AM.

This was a fun blast-from-the-past project, and we enjoyed restoring this old radio.

This radio covers the AM broadcast band as well as shortwave bands from 5.5 MHz to 18 MHz, and it has a 78 RPM turntable. It came with an added bonus of several music records that, when played, remind me of the original Looney Tunes cartoons from back in the 1940s.

Before



After



Changes to the 60-Meter Band

By Al Simons WA1TYB

The FCC has made changes to the 60-meter band, adopting the recommendation of the WRC-15 (World Radiocommunication Congress, 2015).

Prior to now, amateur use of the 60-meter band was limited to five specific frequencies / channels. With the new rules, one of those channels is removed and replaced with a small band in the same frequency range. Specifically, the middle channel with a center frequency of 5.3585 MHz (dial frequency 5.357 MHz), is replaced with a band from 5.3515 MHz to 5.3665 MHz.

Amateur radio is a secondary user of the 60-meter band, with the Federal Government being the primary user; hams must avoid interference with Government users. There are quite restrictive power limits for the new band. Hams wishing to make use of it are highly recommended to read the ARRL summary at <https://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-allocates-60->

[meter-world-wide-amateur-band-approved-at-wrc-15-continues-amateur-use-of-four-addi](#),
and the FCC Report and Order at
<https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-25-60A1.pdf>.

These new rules will become effective January 8, 30 days after they were published in the Federal Register on December 9. General and above licensees, have fun with your new privileges!

Silent Key

Bill Jannisch KD7JDM



Bill loved radio

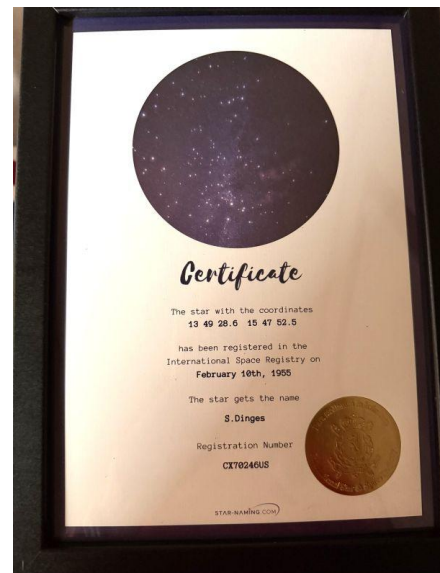


and he loved making his Indian crafts.

A Star Named for a Ham

Recently Dennis Dinges arranged for a star to be named for his late father Scott N7KJ / SK.

Included were a certificate and a star map, which Dennis presented to his mother Christel AB7MT.





By Stacy Webb KK7CJV

Headwaters Hump Day Net

Headwaters Amateur Radio Club of Montana is conducting the Headwaters Hump Day Net, a simplex net, on 147.57 @ 7pm on Wednesdays. Our net will start on simplex until we acquire and put into use a local club repeater.

HARCMT Monthly Meeting

Come to our first meeting in 2026, January 19, 2026 @ 7pm @ Belgrade Chamber of Commerce, where we will be forming our repeater committee who will formulate a plan to bring our vision to reality.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82929111516?pwd=4AViAubaZAYqSjQltLkTGtugMGdTVT.1>

Meeting ID: 829 2911 1516

Passcode: 564005

Hope to see you all the meeting and hope to hear you on the net this Wednesday!

A BAKER'S DOZEN!

Kathe N1NYT

2025 was one heck of a year for me; emotional lows and highs made for a very challenging year. My POTA activities really helped me to keep my spirits up. In early to mid-November, I decided I wanted to reach my 300th activation by the end of the calendar year. Getting a FIRST activation is always a special thrill. Soo....

The Monday morning of Christmas week, I brought up the pota.app site to see how busy 20M was. *Oh, hey, look – Stacy (KK7CJV) is activating!* I looked a bit more closely and discovered that she was activating a 5-digit park that I didn't recognize. I looked up the park on the LIST of Montana POTA sites, and sure enough, it was a new park. As I sorted the park list, I discovered that there were DOZENS of recently-added MT sites. Woo-hoot!!!

Not that I'm competitive or anything (grin), I said to Al, *Hey, let's hop in the car this afternoon – I just found two new POTA sites that aren't too far away. Let's go for it!* So on Monday, 12/22, I indeed got two new ATNO's (All Time New Ones). Yee-haw! Not wanting to miss the opportunity for even MORE ATNO's, we planned a crazy series of EIGHT first activations on Christmas Eve before our evening church service; yes, we were exhausted but what fun! We grabbed two more first activations on our way to Canada to our daughter's on Christmas Day. And the frosting on the cake was one more ATNO in Canada, not ten minutes from our daughter's house on Saturday the 27th. What a thrill to get bag 13 FIRST ACTIVATIONS across Christmas week. By the end of the calendar year, I'd reached 315 activations. Hope the warmer winter with very little snow lasts a bit longer. Looking forward to new goals for 2026! What radio goals have you set for the new year?

Remembering Nyleen

Submitted by Fred Benson KD0HBA

Longtime Helena hams will remember the missing person case that involved volunteer CCARC members who helped with the search.

A recent Facebook post, sent in by Fred KD0HBA looks back 42 years to remember Nyleen.

*On June 25, 1983, in the Helena National Forest's Elkhorn Mountains near Clancy, Montana, 4-year-old Nyleen Kay Marshall vanished during a family picnic for the **Capital City Amateur Radio Club**, where her stepfather Kim was a member. Born September 18, 1978, to Nancy and her first husband, Nyleen was a happy toddler with brown hair and blue eyes, a chipped upper left baby tooth, and dimples; she was 3 feet 2 inches tall, 29 pounds, wearing a yellow T-shirt and shorts, barefoot. Playing near beaver dams on Maupin Creek with two other children by an old cabin ruin around 4 p.m., she was last seen sitting alone as the others walked ahead briefly—when they turned, she was gone.*

As of October 2025, Nyleen, who would be 47, remains missing, classified as a non-family abduction by the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and FBI. No evidence or body has been found. Her family relocated to Japan in 1994; Nancy was murdered in Mexico in 1995. A \$10,000 reward stands for information, and annual appeals continue through the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs case MP3898).

For Sale

50 feet of LMR-400 coax for sale. It's similar to but better than RG-8x.

Bob Morrow N7PTK, bobmorrow@bresnan.net

Free Firewood

Text Marla KM7LIB at 406-290-9635

Capital City Amateur
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Helena, Montana



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