

# Big Sky Wave



A publication of the Great Falls Area Amateur Radio Club – W7ECA

## World's oldest Living Man SPECIAL EVENT W7B

**Apr 30-May 14, 0000Z-0000Z, W7B**, Great Falls, MT. Great Falls Area Amateur Radio Club. 28.405 21.350 14.245 7.230. Certificate & QSL. George Forsyth, PO Box 1763, Great Falls, MT 59403. Walter Breuning, world's oldest (iving) man at 114. This special event is intended to celebrate his life. We will have stations on ALL MODES- ALL BANDS! An 8.5 X 11 color certificate will be available. Send \$3.00 US with your QSL card. [w7eca.org](http://w7eca.org)



### Special Event Stations

#### 04/16/2011 | When Pigs Fly

Apr 16-Apr 17, 1600Z-0000Z, W7FLY&W7PIG, Bothell and Stanwood, WA. BEARONS/SCARC. 21.260 21.250 14.270 14.260 7.260 7.230. QSL. Mark McLauchlin, 2625 176th St SE, Bothell, WA 98012. Boeing Employees Amateur Radio Operators North Society and Stanwood-Camano Amateur Radio Club first ever "When Pigs Fly" special event. A commemorative QSL card has been commissioned for the event. Stations working both W7FLY and W7PIG will receive the special card. Single contacts with W7FLY or W7PIG only will receive the respective club's normal QSL. [mysite.ncnetwork.net/res8ytw6/wpf.htm](http://mysite.ncnetwork.net/res8ytw6/wpf.htm)

#### 05/01/2011 | Naval Air Centennial Celebration

May 1-May 15, 0800Z-1600Z, N4A, Pensacola, FL. Naval Aviation Museum - NAS Pensacola. 29.111 21.311 14.311 7.211. QSL. N4A HAM Radio Station, Naval Aviation Museum, 1750 Radford Blvd, Pensacola, FL 32508. The 100th anniversary of Naval Air is recognized as May 08, 2011. It was on May 08, 1911 that the first paperwork was signed in the newly established Navy Office of Aeronautics for aircraft to be used for flight instruction. The Naval Aviation Museum is going to be operating N4A (Navy For Air) from May 01, 2011 until May 15, 2011

### A.R.E.S. TRAINING

Classes should be taken in order! the order is 700-100-200.

ICS-100 Tues April 19th 8-2pm

ICS-200 Wed & Thurs May 11-12 8-3pm

All classes will be at the Civic Center (Gibson Room) Lunch will be provided for the 100 and 200 classes.

Contact George AA7GS ASAP to reserve your spot!  
868-2212 or aa7gs@arrl.net

George Forsyth AA7GS  
212 Skyline Drive N.E. (home)  
Great Falls, Montana 59404 aa7gs@arrl.net

George Forsyth (work)  
207 2nd Ave. So. (shipping)  
Great Falls, MT 59405  
george@securemontana.com

FEMA Training  
<http://training.fema.gov/IS/crslist.asp>

Cascade County (Montana) Emergency Coordinator  
Montana DES Dist. 2 Emergency Coordinator  
Amateur Radio Emergency Services

Net Control: North Central Montana Amateur Radio Emergency Service  
AE7OC 7PM Thursdays 146.730 (N7YO)  
echolink 37656



***New Technician Ham***  
**Richard Smith**  
**Great Falls, MT**  
***New General Ham***  
**Lloyd Pederson**  
**Shelby, MT**



Need a new project to build?  
Check out this web site

<http://www.longrope.com/circuits>

Michael Allen W6EAV Fort Benton



Dear Friends,

Please save the date! The Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Hamfest will take place on Saturday, 06/11/11, 7AM-3PM at the American Legion Hall in Post Falls, ID. Pre-owned equipment and parts, fabulous prizes, traditional KARS breakfast and lunch, VE testing. More details to be released soon!

If you do not wish to receive future information about the KARS Hamfest, just send us a note and we will delete you from the mailing list.

Thanks and 73,

Ed Stuckey AI7H  
KARS Hamfest Publicity Committee

Hello,  
 This is Ken, W7GMC. I'm the Assistant  
 Emergency Coordinator for Montana ARES and  
 I'm also the Army MARS training coordinator,  
 callsign: AAA8TMT.  
 I run a repeater on 147.360(+) 100 hz tone. The  
 repeater runs both Echolink and IRLP and is  
 located near 36th Ave NE and 7th St NE on the  
 north edge of Great Falls. Commands are as  
 follows:

Basic Controls

- 0 - Check status of IRLP
- B - Random IRLP call
- C - Speak time
- 73 - Disconnects any call via Echolink or IRLP

Weather

- #1 - play wx report for Great Falls
- #2 - play wx for Great Falls
- #3 - Play wx short alert
- #4 - Play full weather alert
- #5 - Play Skywarn alert

CUSTOM SPEED DIAL

- \*1 - IRLP 3571
- \*2 - IRLP 7430
- \*3 - Echolink 280287
- \*4 - IRLP 3871
- \*5 - Echolink 544291



*Big Sky Wave* will be sent out 1 week  
 after the clubs monthly meeting.  
 Please have all submissions  
 sent in 2 days before publication  
 date.

**Please send  
 all submissions to  
[alien@galaxygms.com](mailto:alien@galaxygms.com)**

If you can't e-mail bring your  
 submissions to  
 Galaxy Games  
 1807 3<sup>rd</sup> St NW #20  
 Great Falls, MT 59404  
 In the WESTGATE MALL

### Cookie Monster List

- MAY. Ray Whitney - AE7JN
- JUN. Jim Sims - KE7BIN
- JUL. Rod Jackson - AE7JJ
- AUG. Summer Picnic - none needed
- SEP. Cam Smith - N7NBB
- OCT. Eric Martin - K7ABV
- NOV. John Gunness - KF7ECH
- DEC. ?? need someone ??



## ARRL Montana Section Contact information

### Section Manager

Douglas Dunn K7YD

### State Government Liaison

Terry Whiteside W7WWW

### Assistant Section Manager

William Kornec K7LMT

### Section Emergency Coordinator

Todd Gansel AE7V

### Section Traffic Manager

Herbert Allard KA7YYR

### Affiliated Club Coordinator

Eric Martin K7ABV

### Assistant Section Manager

Loren Nichols AA7MT





The **V.E. team** offers license testing on the **Tuesday FOLLOWING the FIRST MONDAY** of each month. May's testing session will be on May 3rd, the day after our general meeting on May 2nd. For more information, please visit [www.w7eca.org](http://www.w7eca.org) and click on "LICENSE TESTING" in the menu. You can also call 406.899.2550 (Cam's Cell).

## A.R.E.S. Net

Meets every Thursday at 7:00pm MST  
On the 146.73- repeater

**A.R.E.S. Training information on  
Page 2**



## The Montana Traffic Net

The Montana Traffic net meets **EVERYDAY**  
at 00:30 UTC on 3910 Khz.

For more information go to  
<http://www.montanatraficnet.com>



<http://www.w7eca.net/forum>

**SIGN UP NOW  
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR**



## 146.73(-) w/ 100 Hz Tone

Located atop Highwood Baldy Mountain @ an elevation of 7625 ft. 35 miles east of G.F. This repeater is linked full time with our repeater in Zortman Mt. This repeater is also tied into the **ECHO LINK** VOIP system. **ECHOLINK** connections provided by Jim Cummins N7YO

## 147.300(+)

The "Three-O" repeater is located in Black Eagle. It is primarily a local (city wide) repeater, equipped with an **OPEN AUTOPATCH**.

## 147.120(+)

Located above King's Hill Ski Area in the Little Belt Mountains on Porphyry Peak, at an elevation of 8192 ft. This repeater can be linked into the Highwood / Zortman system as needed.

## 444.350(+) requires 100Hz CTCSS

Located with the "Three-O" repeater, and shares the **OPEN AUTOPATCH**.

**146.680(-) MRLA SYSTEM (linked)** Located at "KNEES" approximately 35 miles North of G.F. Is linked FULL TIME into the **MRLA** system. Can also be accessed via **446.680** Simplex from within G.F. **MRLA** Custodian is George Forsyth AA7GS

## 147.260(+) Zortman Repeater

Located on Antione Peak in the Little Rockies range near Zortman. Can be linked to the Highwood Baldy repeater. The link can be controlled from either end.

## AREA NETS

**Montana Traffic Net** every evening at 5:30pm MST on 3910 MHz

**Montana Section Net** Sunday morning at 8:00am MST on 3.880 (75 meters)

**Great Falls Area 10m Net** Tuesday at 8:00pm MST on 28.405 USB

**North Central Montana ARES Net** Thursday at 7:00pm MST on 146.73 repeater and it's links

## ***PREZ SEZ***

Happy springtime from N7NBB! I hope you followed my suggestion a while back and have things all set and ready for those outdoor Amateur Radio Projects.

Spring and summer in Montana is such a brief, fleeting season, and we tend to overdo it as we try to cram as much outdoor activity as we can into an all too short calendar of days. Let's all take some time, however, to "cram" some thoughts of SAFETY into our summertime projects. First and foremost safety rule would be NEVER attempt any antenna or other work above ground alone. This especially applies if you are planning to climb towers, trees, poles or ladders. Always have a helper. Make sure the helper knows 1. what you want to do, 2. how you intend to accomplish the task, and 3. how to get help if things go awry. Our club has some climbing harnesses that employ the latest technology in climbing safety, fall prevention, and fall arresting. Current club members can check out (borrow) these harnesses, but be advised you may need a brief training session on their proper use before we release them to you. Second Rule of working with things overhead, is watch out for the overhead power lines.

But enough talk about actual WORK!. Let's talk instead of some FUN ham radio things going on with our club.

Special Event Station W7B, commemorating and celebrating the "World's Oldest Man" Walter Breuning - living right here in Great Falls, is anticipating being in operation from 0000 GMT on April 30th through 0000 GMT May 14th. NOTE: At the time of this writing, Walter has been hospitalized and currently is in stable condition. Please check the latest status of this Special Event Station project BEFORE operating. Details of this event are available on the club's website at: [www.w7eca.org](http://www.w7eca.org). and elsewhere in this newsletter. We are asking those wishing to operate, to please visit the MT Amateur Radio Forum, ([www.w7eca.net/forum/](http://www.w7eca.net/forum/)) and search for the Walter Breuning section. We ask that you SCHEDULE your operating time, band, and mode there, so we don't have a duplication of efforts on any one band / mode at the same time. More details about this event and access to the MT Ham Radio Forum are available at either of the websites listed above.

With warmer weather and longer daylight hours returning to this neck of the woods, several in our midst are once again starting up evening Fox / Bunny hunts. (Hidden Transmitter Hunting) This is an exciting and fun activity that also builds valuable technical skills in finding the source of an unwanted transmitted signal. Every so often, we hams need to locate a hidden transmitter, and Fox / Bunny hunts give us the opportunity to build that skill. It might be something as simple as a ham whose microphone or radio has "locked in transmit". It might be something of a more malicious nature that is causing interference to police, fire, or other essential services. Skills you will learn while having fun, will prove to be invaluable at some point in your ham hobby. To start out, no specialized equipment is needed. Local hunts have been won by nothing more than a handheld radio. Heck, you don't even have to have a radio if you want to ride along as a navigator / helper with someone a bit more experienced.

Starting with the 2nd Monday in May, hunts will be held in the evening on the 2nd Monday of each month, and possibly more often, if there is enough interest and participation. For now, the initial starting point will be the North parking lot at the MT Credit Union (Directly across Central Avenue South of Paris Gibson Museum). More information will be available on the website and forum soon.

**ECHO LINK COMMANDS**

Node Sponser Jim, N7YO  
 Node # 37656  
 Located on Highwood Baldy, 146.730(-) 100Hz

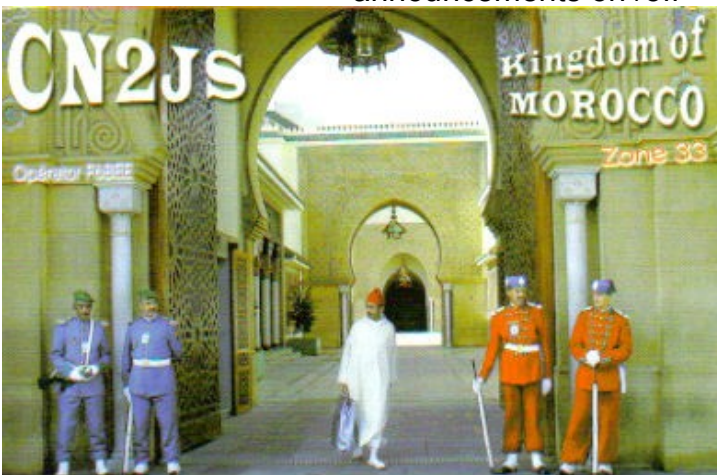
<b>* plus node number</b>	<b>Connect to node</b>
#	Disconnect
##	Disconnect all
#00	Disable Echolink
*00	Enable Echolink
A5	Connect random link
A6	Connect random node
A7	Connect random user
A8	Reconnect last connection
A9	Echolink Status

**Station Shortcuts:**

*1	Connect to W7ECA-R (Porphery Peak)
*2	Connect to K7KTR-R
*3	Connect to KK4FE
*4	Connect to WA2FFY
*5	Connect to WB4BLI-R
*6	Connect to WR7HLN-R

**Echo time Text to Speech commands:**

0*	Info file
1*	Help file
2*	Current time
3*	Node Status
4*	Current WX
5*	WX Forecast
6*	WX Warnings
01*	Record Link
02*	Stop Record
03*	Playback
10*	Toggle voice announcements on /off



**Highwood – Zortman Linking Codes**

Highwood Up = A43  
 Highwood Down = A40

Zortman Up = B43  
 Zortman Down = B40

**GFAARC AUTOPATCH**

“STAR” UP - “POUND” DOWN  
 ID BEFORE AND AFTER USING

- 1.) Make certain you are on the correct frequency 147.300(+)
- 2.) Make sure repeater is not being used.
- 3.) Push your PTT and ID with your callsign, state you are accessing the autopatch.
- 4.) Release PTT and listen to verify the repeater is operating properly.
- 5.) Depress the \* (star) key on your DTMP pad and WITHOUT releasing the PTT button dial the telephone number.
- 6.) Release the PTT, and listen. You should hear the number you dialed repeated back to you in morse code.
- 7.) Next, you will hear a series of beeps while the autopatch controller completes your call.
- 8.) You should then hear the phone ringing.
- 9.) Remember when your party answers they won't be able to hear you until you key your mic and start talking.
- 10.) Briefly tell them you are using the autopatch and it is not a private line. Note – you are ultimately “in control and responsible” for anything the other person says.
- 11.) When finished, key your transmitter, Id and state you are closing the Autopatch, then depress the # key. This will return the repeater to normal operation.

## NEW LOCATION Saturday Breakfast

I would like to notify you of a change in location of our Saturday Morning Breakfast group, and invite you to come check it out with us !

(Some just come for the Coffee or soft drinks... Purchase of a Breakfast is NOT required) The day, of course is the same... SATURDAY, and the time doesn't change either. It's still at 9:00am. However we will be going to try a new location, and see how that works out for our group.

Starting THIS SATURDAY February 5th we will meet at 9:00 at the "GOLD DUST RESTAURANT & CASINO, which is located at 770 6th Street Southwest.

As some of you know, the Double Barrel was only one of several suggestions of a new location, when it became necessary for us to move from the Senior Citizen's Center due to them no longer serving breakfast on weekends.

According to several "breakfast regulars" who have been to the GOLD DUST, they think it might be a "better fit" for our group. I've been told the food is good, the coffee hot, and the prices are on par with what we are paying now. Also, there is a lot more room, and they can accommodate 20 or more of us, like we used to get on some occasions at the Senior Citizens Center. There also is a lot more space for parking at the Gold Dust.

Although it is primarily our radio club that meets for breakfast, please note that this is a SOCIAL EVENT that ANYONE can attend - regardless of club affiliation, membership or license status... We'd love to see you, meet you, & help you get involved. If you have an interest in Amateur Radio in the Great Falls Area, this is a good place to start to meet a few folks.

If you have any questions or need more specific directions, please don't hesitate to E-Mail me.

Hope to see ya there !this Saturday. !!

Cameron Smith – N7NBB  
President: GFAARC (Great Falls Area Amateur Radio Club)



**Location**  
**Southwest corner**  
**Walmart Parking Lot**

**Solar-Terrestrial Data - <http://www.n8nbh.com>**

<b>2011 Apr 10 0005 UTC</b>		<b>VHF Conditions</b>		<b>HF Conditions</b>		
SFI	105 SN 97	<b>Item</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Band</b>	<b>Day</b>	<b>Night</b>
A-Index	8	Aur Lat	67.5°	80M-40M	Fair	Good
K-Index	1 / 6 nT	Aurora	Band Closed	30M-20M	Good	Good
X-Ray	B2.8	6m EsEU	Band Closed	17M-15M	Fair	Fair
304A	151.2 @ SEM	4m EsEU	Band Closed	12M-10M	Poor	Poor
Ptn Flx	1.28e-01	2m EsEU	Band Closed	Geomag Field	VR	QUIET
Elc Flx	5.40e+01	2m EsNA	Band Closed	Sig Noise Lvl	S0-S1	
Aurora	1 / n=2.34	MUF		foF2 Freq	7.686	MHz
		MS	0 6 12 18 UTC MAX	(C) Paul L Herrman 2010		

## Special Event Stations

**04/09/2011 | USS Midway (CV-41) Decommissioned 1992, Chief Petty Officer Grade Established 1893**

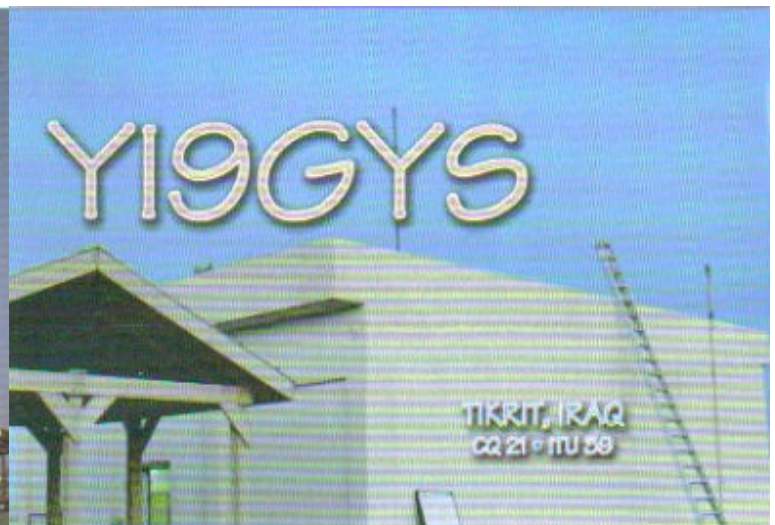
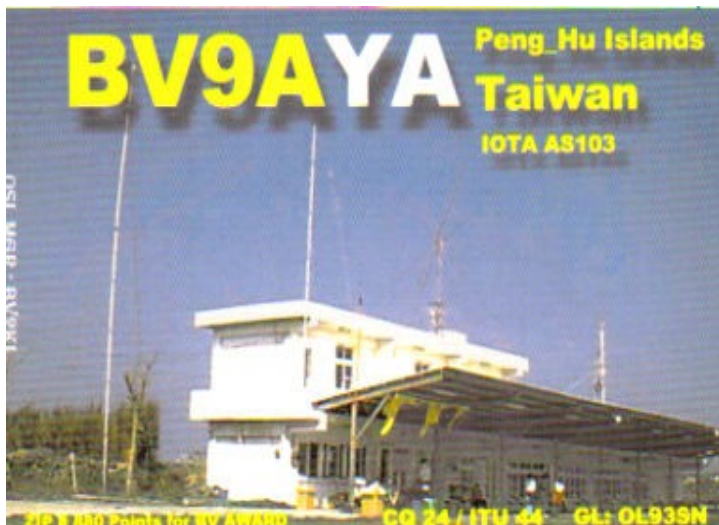
Apr 9, 1600Z-2359Z, NI6IW, San Diego, CA. USS Midway (CV-41) Museum Radio Operations Room. SSB 14.320 7.250 PSK31 14.070 D-STAR 012C and 2 m/70 cm SOCAL reprints. QSL. USS Midway Museum Radio Room, 910 N Harbor Dr, San Diego, CA 92101. [kk6fz@arrl.net](mailto:kk6fz@arrl.net)

**04/12/2011 | 50 Years First Man in Space - 30 Years First Space Shuttle STS-1**

Apr 7, 0000Z-2359Z, N4S, Trujillo Alto, PR. Area amateurs. 80 through 10 m SSB KP4IA-R (145.370) 147.480. Certificate. Angel L Santana-Diaz, WP3GW, Bo St Just 221 C Calle 6, Trujillo Alto, PR 00976. ARISSat-1 will be activated for event (see [www.arisat1.org](http://www.arisat1.org) or [www.amsat.org](http://www.amsat.org)). Electronic certificate to be issued. See URL for information. [www.qrz.com/db/wp3gw](http://www.qrz.com/db/wp3gw)

**04/11/2011 | RMS Titanic Special 99th Anniversary Event Station**

Apr 11-Apr 16, 1400Z-2030Z, W1MGY, Indian Orchard, MA. Titanic Historical Society, Inc. 14.260 14.033 7.260 7.033. QSL. Titanic Special Event Station W1MGY, PO Box 51053, 208 Main St, Indian Orchard, MA 01151. [webpages.charter.net/kb1mu/Titanic/titanic.htm](http://webpages.charter.net/kb1mu/Titanic/titanic.htm)





GFAARC  
P.O. BOX 1763  
Great Falls, MT  
59403-1763

**FIRST CLASS**