

Big Sky Wave



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

PREZ SEZ

Greetings, all hopefully this edition finds all of us in a bit warmer weather pattern, but when I wrote this we were deeply locked at 18 below zero.

Logic and common sense tells me I'm wrong, but just a few days ago, in the midst of that run of 18 below zero nights, I believed I caught a brief "sniff" of spring on the air. I was on the way to the dumpster with several bags of trash. Maybe it was just the neighbor's dryer vent, or perhaps just wishful thinking on my part due to the myriad of brilliant stars overhead, but for an all too brief moment spring seemed just around the corner. Fast forward a week or two, and I hear that all too famous groundhog back East has indicated spring is indeed on the way. Someone on the MT Section Net (Sunday Mornings 8:00am local on 3.880MHz) said that the National Weather Service in their area said that the computer models they were looking at also indicated a more "spring-like" pattern to our (still winter) weather. They were quick to add that February will still be winter, but the temps will moderate, and the bitter double digit below zero is for the most part behind us. Take it as you will from the weather service. Believe them or not... Spring IS just around the corner. As the weeks tick by, spring will indeed eventually get here... and much quicker than we realize.

NOW is the perfect time to "ramp it up" for those spring outdoor projects. While staying nice and warm indoors, you can plan your attack for when the weather does finally warm up. Build a wire antenna or two. Ever think of replacing that G5RV with a Windom or off center fed dipole? How about a LOOP around the perimeter of your city lot? With the trees bare you'll have a perfect opportunity to scope out the perfect branches for support. On a nice sunny winter's day, while the wind is calm, maybe launch some support ropes into those high branches so you will be all ready come spring to hoist your newly built antenna skyward.

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MONTANA QSO PARTY

Hello fellow Hams far and near!

It's nearing that time once again for the Montana QSO Party!

Clear your calendar for Friday April 8th starting at 6pm local time and running till Sunday April 10th, at 6pm.

You asked for it and you got it! A more contest orientated Montana QSO Party with quicker scoring results!

This should be a FUN event as we've added MANY new features. More categories, more modes and more power levels!

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MT QSO PARTY continued

The most exciting feature, created by the programming talents of K7DLF, Dave Franke, will be our on-line scoring web page! Now you can operate the Montana QSO Party, then after the party, go to our web page and upload your contact totals and multipliers along with your logs and dupe sheets for verification. Once everything has been uploaded, you'll see your results instantly displayed on our MT QSO Party web page.

Another new feature to go along with our online scoring is being able to print your own 'Certificate of Participation!' After you've viewed your results, you'll have the option to enter your call sign and name and the MT QSO Party web page will generate a 'Certificate of Participation' that you can either print on your own printer or save and take to a printing location such as Staples or Office Max and print a professional certificate of participation on parchment paper!

We've asked allot of questions of MT hams this past year and I hope we've added most of your desires for a Montana QSO Party that you'll truly enjoy!

Make sure to visit our web page at www.fvarc.org and right on the home page you'll see details about the Montana QSO Party. Read the rules and make sure to check out the past results so you know who you'll have to work hard to beat this year! And don't forget to take a peak at that certificate! Very nice and everyone gets one who participates!

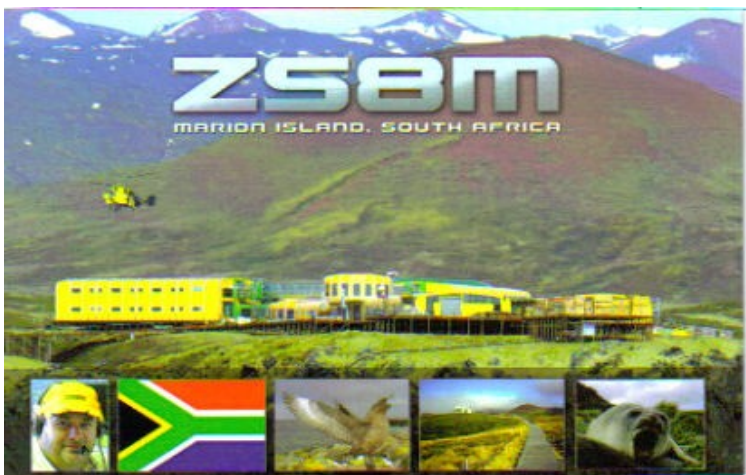
If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to email me and ask!

73 and see you in the MTQP!

P.S. Don't forget to forward this to EVERY Ham you know!

Lyndel, N7LT
Montana QSO Party Manager
Kalispell, MT
n7lt@mail.yellowstone.net

QSO Party Web Page: www.fvarc.org



Eric Martin K7ABV

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**

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

Cookie Monster List

- MAR. Collette Wolfslau – KE7DFY
- APR. Wanda Cummins – W7POO
- 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 Manger

Douglas Dunn K7YD

State Government Liasion

Terry Whiteside W7WWW

Assistant Section Manger

William Kornec K7LMT

Section Emergency Coordinator

Todd Gansel AE7V

Section Traffic Manager

Herbert Allard KA7YYR

Affiliated Club Coordinator

George Martin K7ABV

Assistant Section Manger

Loren Nichols AA7MT





TESTING

Held the first tuesday of the month.

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 6**



The Montana Traffic Net

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

For more information go to
<http://www.montanatrafficnet.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.

PREZ SEZ continued

Don't forget all the other things that were out in the weather all winter long. Coax or rotator cable connectors ? Do you need to replace some coax or ladder line ? are your support ropes OK, or are they starting to show signs of sun rot? Buy those smaller items a few at a time now. Spread the purchase of these items out over the next couple of months, and you can prevent "invoice shock" this spring. You will already have all the parts you need on hand and ready to go.

When spring does finally get here, remember to work safely. If you are going to climb a ladder or a tower, be sure to have a friend or spouse within shouting distance. Not so you can yell "HEY bring me that 7/16ths wrench, but for safety's sake should something go amiss. Remember your club has some tower climbing harnesses, and associated equipment to make that trip to the 50 foot level and beyond even safer.

So until next month, stay warm, work safe, and enjoy our hobby.

CAM – N7NBB

A.R.E.S. TRAINING

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

ICS-700 Wed March 16th 8-noon

ICS-100 Wed March 23rd 8-2pm OR
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

**Don't forget
about your
2011 GFAARC
membership
dues.**

ECHO LINK COMMANDS

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

* plus node number	Connect to node
#	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

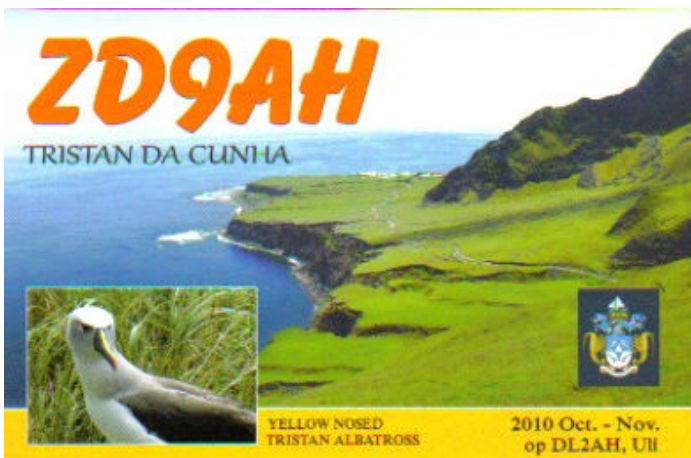
Highwood Up = A43
 Highwood Down = A40

 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)

GFAARC Treasurer's Report

22 Club members current on 2011 dues as of January 30, 2011.

GFAARC Account Balances as of January 30, 2011

Club Treasurer Cash	185.95
Equipment Insurance	1493.74
GFAARC Checking	443.56
GFAARC Savings	3839.41
PayPal	466.25

TOTAL Bank Accounts **\$6428.91**



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

FIRST CLASS