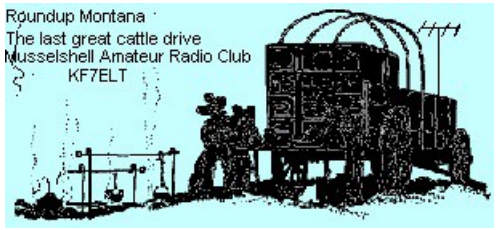

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MARC/YRC Newsletter
Contact: keith@kregli.com

YRC News

Time to catch up a bit with appointment and election goings on in the YRC. In spite of all the stuff happening, for the first time in over 1.5 years we have a full Board. Besides that, the club has not had a difficult time filling the available positions. Just a casual observation but I think maybe, just maybe, the average age of the Board has gone down just a tick. Due to resignations the president and vice-president positions have changed from the beginning of the year. So here is the current lineup with expiration year ending..

Board of Directors
President: John McCabe K7IKC 2027
Vice-President: Stephanie Kraai KK7STF 2027
Treasurer: Konnie Kampfer K9PTO 2026
Secretary: Mark Richlen WA7CWA 2026
BOD Yares Rep. Gil Leonard NG7IL 2026
BOD Other Walt Baxter WB7USV 2027
BOD Other Jeremy Robinette KJ7IAZ 2028

Other Positions
Repeater Manager & Trustee Gary Waddingham KC7AX
Digital Manager Jim Halfpenny K9YNP
Program Director Chuck Wittnam KD7MT
Net Coordinator Gil Leonard NG7IL
Website Managers Gil Leonard NG7IL
Keith Regli K7KAR
Equipment Manager Joe Close KM7AXV
YARES Coordinator Paul Miller K7SGG
MARC/YRC Newsletter Editor Keith Regli K7KAR

MARC Website YRC Website

Frequency	Tone	Repeater Shift	Location
446.600 (*)	100hz	simplex	Majerus Rd
147.360 (*)	100hz	+ 600kHz	Red Lodge
446.700(*)	100hz	– 5MHz	Red Lodge
447.500	100hz	- 5MHz	Red Lodge
448.500	100hz	- 5MHz	Majerus Rd

(*) Linked repeaters providing wide area coverage.

MARC breakfast meeting 10/10 at 9 am. Backporch Restaurant, 101 Main St, Roundup.

YRC regular meeting 10/19 at 7pm. United Way of Yellowstone Building, 2173 Overland Ave, Billings.

CMARC regular meeting 10/5 at 6:30pm. 305 W Watson St, Lewistown.

Upcoming Events:

YRC class/testing November 14/21 9:00 am

October YRC Tech Talk

November is the beginning of "Contest Season" for radio amateurs. Contesting, also referred to as "Radio Sport" in Europe, represents a very popular activity for a subgroup of amateur radio operators. This talk will be introduction to how contests are structured, how they range in difficulty, and how "non-contesters" use them for other purposes. For example, "non-contesters" use them for DX hunting, obtaining the Worked All States Certificate, and obtaining the coveted "Clean Sweep Mug" in the mother of all US radio contests: November's Sweepstakes. Don't retreat to the WARC bands when the band is crowded with contesters! Even if you are not going to submit a log learn how to make a few contacts and why contesters depend on "non-contesters"! Learn how contests can be fun for casual operators who are not "in it to win it."

Local Nets:

M– F 0800 145.410/147.360.
Tuesday 7:00pm 145.410/147.360,
Wednesday/YL 6:30pm 145.410/147.360
Wednesday/Tech 7:00pm 147.000
Saturday 10:00am 145.410/147.360

MARC Meeting

Attending: Tony AE7JV, Vivian KF6GZK, Mark WA7CWA, Delia Richlen, Chuck KK7ABJ, Keith K7KAR, Mark KB7EPC, Paul KF7SOJ, Paul KJ7YTW, Jerry KK7NTK.

Our usual entertaining breakfast meeting discussing a wide range of topics, some even radio related. After breakfast Keith pulled out a 32 element 23 cm antenna describing the folded dipole driven element and the effects of the reflector and 30 director elements. Answering the question: “How do you know about the spacing?” brought on a short discussion of EZNEC the antenna modeling software.

YRC’s STEM Outreach Program: An Update and Request for Materials

Club members had previously discussed being more active in promoting STEM (Science, Math, Engineering and Mathematics) education in Billings. Our first opportunity to do so presented itself this August. Mike Walsh is a retired high school science teacher who taught here in Billings from 1984 to 2019. A veteran of the US Army he has a long history supplementing science education in Billings schools, including putting on multiple science and space camps in the past. He has attended multiple science training courses in the and has passed on what he has learned to local teachers. He has reached out to us for technical assistance in aiding him in a construction project he would like have for the science clubs in three schools in the heights: Bench Elementary, Castle Rock MS and Medicine Crow MS.

The project he requested help in involves the construction of old fashioned crystal radio. This is a classic project which many of us did when we were younger. It involves the simple construction of a radio circuit which uses a coil in conjunction with a germanium diode and is able to receive AM radio broadcasts without any external power source. We have provided him information for the basic circuit design but he could use help in getting appropriate building materials. The following materials would be useful: Enameled magnet wire, 1N34A diodes,, any old variable capacitors and the old 2000 ohm ear phones used in the ancient days for listening to your AM transistor radio. Mike was kind enough to attend our last club meeting to see what we do. Any help for this project would be appreciated. Anyone who has material to donate should contact me via email at: KD7MT@proton.me

Are your antennas ready for Winter?

You might be surprised by how many nuts get loosened by wind, sun and rain. I decided to bring down some of my antennas for the winter and I noticed that there were a lot of connections, both electrical and mechanical were loose. With winter storms coming, you be faced with wind, ice and snow and you don’t want your antennas falling down when it’s really hard to work on them!

It’s very much worth the time and effort to take a look at those electrical and mechanical connections, tighten things up and maybe spray some contact cleaner and add some conductive grease around exposed connections.

After you’ve attended to the exterior stuff, made sure your internal connections are solid. While moving things around I found a connection to one side of a barrel connector that was a little loose – jiggling it caused an S9 noise level on 2 meters. Once it was tight the noise level was down as S1 (that’s a 48 db drop).