



Elkhorn Run 2025

Can you imagine running 50 miles through the Elkhorn Mountains? About 170 runners from all over the country signed up for one of three endurance races sponsored by the Helena Ultra Runners League August 2: 50M 13K, 13.1M. <https://hurlelkhorn.com/>

Now imagine 30 volunteers manning 10 stations along the route. Some had to four-wheel and hike in for miles on rocky roads that were little more than trails. One volunteer packed into his remote station by horse the night before and camped overnight to be ready for the runners in the morning. These volunteers from the Capital City Amateur Radio Club all knew exactly where to go and what to do, thanks to the superb planning and organization of Rob Kingery AE7AP. The recording and reporting of each runner's progress is vital to their safety and the success of the run.



Elkhorn Run continued on next page

Coming Events 2025

CCARC monthly meeting – August 4, 7 pm at the Salvation Army, 1330 Hudson St. or on Google Meet, <https://meet.google.com/zfs-ctwp-bax>

Elkhorn Run - August 2. Rob Kingery AE7AP.

September 6 – CCARC Picnic, Fairgrounds. Marla Unruh KM7LIB

October 19 – Just for the Helena of it Run. Jo Lee Hawkins. joleehawkins@gmail.com

Coffee Net – Every Saturday at 9 am on 147.22, Belmont Repeater. Eyeball @ Red Atlas at 9:30.

Trivia Net - every Sunday, 7:30 pm on 147.22. John Monson AJ7MT



CCARC Picnic
September 6
Rustic Shelter,
Fairgrounds

Please come!

All are invited to our **family picnic** and **swap meet**. Swap meet at 3 pm, food when ready!

If you are interested in amateur radio, **come!** If you are a ham, whether active or not, **come!** We will be glad to see you!

The club provides hamburgers, hot dogs, and soft drinks. Members with last names A-L bring a **salad**, and members M-Z a **dessert**.

We want to throw a hamburger or hot dog on the grill for you, so please let us know you are coming by **replying to this email**.

There are also opportunities to help. Do you have a BBQ grill you could bring?

Photo page1: Race Control team by Kathe Simons
N1NYT. L to R: Chris Boyce KG5LIV, Al Simons
WA1TYB, Marla Unruh KM7LIB, Sue Little KK7PSY,
Kathe N1NYT

Elkhorn Run from Skyline Mine

By Zhaun Paddock AI7BM

For the first time I was able to help with the race communication during the Elkhorn race. Initially I had told Rob AE7AP that I would not be available. Then after Field Day, I could tell he was struggling to get enough operators, so I decided to recheck my schedule. I told him I could hike in or take a 4x4 to a station.



My partner at Skyline Mine was Matt Gould AA7MG. This station is near the end of a moderate 4x4 trail that I have run many times. Matt and I coordinated our station plans and agreed to meet below Elkhorn town just before 7am. The climb of less than 6 miles takes a little over an hour to complete.

We met and let some air out of our tires for better grip and smoother ride. The road is rocky!



We set up a couple of Buddipole antennas with J-pole antennas on top. We also tossed a ladder line N9TAX roll-up J-pole up a tree. Together we had 3 analog radios, 1 DMR, and plenty of batteries to operate for days.



Matt and I have a similar approach to gear, and we made an excellent team.

The weather was perfect and all went well.

From Teepee Creek

Photos by Matthew Cornyn KK7YWU



Hiking in



On station



When all the runners were in,
we hiked out in the dark.

From Elkhorn Town

Photos by John Geach KS7R



Charlie Gorman W7CEG, Steve Miller KF7HJS,
Paulette Geach N7PLG



Elk Horn Town restroom – Clean and plenty of
toilet paper- Thanks to Marla KM7LIB

From Marla: Funny photo! One summer day a few years ago, I hiked from one state agency to another, trying to find out who was responsible for this vault toilet. It turns out that Elkhorn Town is Montana's smallest state park. A call to a gentleman in Butte produced the desired result.

To our readers: if you have photos from
the Hamfest or from the Elkhorn Run,
please send them.

VE Results

Ed Kiely KK7ZKQ upgraded his license to General at our VE exam on July 9. Ed is also the newest member of CCARC. He lives in Helena part time and in Arizona the rest of the year. Assisting with the exams were Matt Carlson AA7VG and Darrell Harris KG7LNA.

Congratulations to Ed on your upgrade and enjoy your new privileges!

The next VE exams are scheduled for August 20. Registration on hamstudy.org is required to take an exam. Please contact John KS7R at jcgeach@gmail.com with any questions.

Hamfest 2025

By Stacy Webb KK7CJV

Hamfest has become a shining star moment of our summers and is always a journey. As we drove, I called CQ on 146.52 and sure enough, Gigi KD7GG came back to my call. She just happened to be heading to Hamfest too. Then Kevin KB7HSA piped in and informed us he was behind us and making the journey to hamfest as well. But soon, a gnarly looking cloud between Brady and Conrad turned into heavy rain and quarter-sized hail. There were no distinguishable lines on the road. Calling back and forth, we all pulled over to the side of the road until the hailstorm passed.

Thursday evening, we early arrivals talked about how to share POTA and SOTA. Rob AE7AP and Barb AE7AQ invited others to join a moderate hike to the SOTA summit. Activating it on 2 meters was easy with all the chasers back at camp. Catching the enthusiasm, a young YL made her first activation.

The “oldest continuous running hamfest in the world” is located in one of the most picturesque places on earth, overlooking Glacier National Park from your camper/tent door.

The many fun activities include Bingo on Friday and the Pinochle Tournament on Saturday. There are 3 fox hunts held each year – bring your directional antenna! Many of us took part in the POTA Roundtable where we discussed our challenges at the parks, how to spot yourself without cell coverage, different portable antenna set-ups for doing POTA, and how we are ambassadors of the hobby to the public.

Our very own Rob AE7AP took gold at the CW Speed Contest. Eric won gold for the Go-Bag Brag and Contest where he brought out his Ultimate Go-Box build, equipped with Yaesu 991A and computer for digital modes, and his mid-sized Go-Box build with his Yaesu 891.

Carlos W7CMA gave a great talk, “Wire Antenna Where, When, Why.” He explained the various configurations and why they are useful.

New at the Hamfest this year was the Antenna Challenge. The object was to build an antenna with available materials that would work on 20M. It could not be a dipole, and we had to use it to make a contact. About 10 of us designed an elevated radial vertical 20M antenna hung from a tree. We pooled our resources from our toolboxes and campers and came up with enough parts and pieces for a successful antenna build. Eric dragged over a 100W rig and BOOM! We broke a pileup and contacted Mike W6OBB working park US-6448. The antenna challenge was a lot of fun and proves that it is possible to get on the air using available supplies.

~~Stacy KK7CJV



Bill N7MSI with his 25 Hamfest pins and the antenna build team.

Hoadley Reef – Danaher Trip

By Rob Kingery AE7AP

Our Bob Marshall backpacking trip was great fun. We were able to activate 4 summits on the 10-day trip. Camping beneath Hoadley Reef was super beautiful, we did not see a single person during the 5 days that we camped there. A link showing our route is here:

<https://caltopo.com/m/D861KP1>

All my activations except for W7M/CL-016 were with an Elecraft KX1 running about 4-watts into an inverted-V link dipole. On W7M/CL-016 I used an Elecraft KH1 with the supplied telescopic whip due to the limited space and steep drop-offs. I did not get nearly as many QSO's with the shorter antenna but realize in retrospect that I probably should have elevated the counterpoise – I expect that would have reduced ground losses and improved things somewhat.

The following is a summary:

Day 1: Hiked 8 miles from Benchmark to the meadows beneath Hoadley Reef.



Day 2: Attempted to activate W7M/CL-016, which is the high point of the jagged ridge between Hoadley Creek and the West Fork of the South Fork of the Sun River. The route required going over or around three false summits. The second false summit is quite steep, and we tried “going high”, which led us into some loose rocky/cliffy stuff that really slowed us down and chewed up a lot of time. It was already 10:30 am after we had worked our way around the obstacles, which would have made it too late if we were to continue on with an activation, so we turned around and enjoyed a pleasant evening in camp.



Hoadley-Ahorn Pass

Day 3: We went cross-country from our camp 1.2 miles to Stadler Pass, which took over 2.5 hours, then activated W7M/CL-043, which is on the continental divide between the Sun River and Danaher drainages. The views to the south were fantastic! On the way up we spooked a black bear at close quarters, and he rocketed 50 feet up a tree amazingly fast.



Day 4: It rained all night and into the morning, so we lazed around camp and did a short hike up the Hoadley Basin to look at flowers and generally just enjoy the day.



Day 5: We made a second attempt at W7M/CL-016 and made it into the activation zone after much up and down, timber thickets, side-hilling, etc. I was able to make it to within perhaps 2 to 5 vertical feet of the true summit, but getting to the true summit would have required traversing about

200-feet of higher risk terrain – which did not seem worth the risk. I instead retreated to a nearby saddle and activated from a point that was about 30 feet below the summit, but well within the 82 vertical foot activation zone. I was also able to make a 2-meter QSO with KK7VXK near Blacktail Mountain (Kalispell area), and K15JMQ on St. Mary's Peak (Bitterroots)!



Activating W7M/CL-016

Day 6: Moved camp 11.5 miles over Stadler Pass to the confluence of Danaher Creek and Camp Creek. We called this camp “Ant City”, since about 20 tiny, super-fast non-biting ants would come into the tent with us each time we got in.

Day 7: Activated Emerson Peak (W7M/GA-133). This was a lower summit with nice shade and good views. I was able to make over 19 QSOs with a nearly even split between 40 meters and 20 meters.

Day 8: Climbed to the summit of Camp Creek Pass, then followed the ridge to Trap Mountain (W7M/GA-064). Although the final approach was near our tolerance limit for steepness, the summit was a very pleasant rounded grassy knob with some of the best views we have ever seen. The activation went well.



On Trap Mountain

Days 9-10: Took 2 days to hike 16 miles back to Benchmark. We had the unexpected pleasure of meeting Andrew KI5TOP in the parking lot as we both returned from our respective trips. It turned out that Andrew summited W7M/CL-020 (Red Butte) on a 3-day backpacking trip. Although he had his HT with him, he did not attempt a SOTA activation. We tried to activate this summit in 2022, but high-water at the West Fork Crossing thwarted us. Andrew reported superb views of the Chinese Wall from the summit. I hope to make it up there someday!

73, Rob AE7AP

Hams and Hobbies

Amateur radio enthusiasts are typically multi-talented and participate or lead in other hobbies. Examples:

The BMW Motorcycle Club, mtbmwriders.org
 Contact Annie Bailey,
anniebailey825@yahoo.com

Capital City Classic Auto Club
 Front page below
 Contact Darrell Beckstrom,
mtbeckstrom@gmail.com

Capital Classic Auto 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



August 2025
www.montanapioneerandclassicautoclub.org



2025 Upcoming Events

You might want to double check these dates, as the Internet does not delete old posts.

- August 9—Rocky Mountain Car Wash 724 W Custer Ave in Helena. 10am until 2:00pm.
- August 9—Touchmark Hot Summer Nights CarShow. 4:00pm 915 Saddle Drive
- August 10—12:30 pm, Club meeting at Jorgenson's (Crooked Frog)
- August 17—Crusin the Drag in Bozeman, 9am to 2pm
- August 16—Black Eagle Car Show, 12 noon
- August 21—Metal on the Missouri Car Show, Giant Springs 10:00am
- August 23—Boulder Car Show, 8am to 3pm. 304 N Main St. Boulder, MT. Phone: 406-225-4039
- August 23—Annual Rader Brothers' Memorial Car Show, Butte Depot 818 S Arizona St. 9am—6pm.
- August 28 thru 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
- August 31—2nd annual Metal on the Missouri, 10am at Giant Springs Rd, Great Falls Kelly at 406-452-5661
- Sept. 13— Lincoln Car Show. 9am to 4pm. mkolve@rocketmail.com, Marge (406) 362-4460
- Sept. 13—Gore Hill Show and Shine, 11:00 am 4101 62nd Ave S.W.
- Sept. 12,13—Fall Tour in Lewistown. 406-366-5750
- October 5—Townsend Fall Fest. 406-980-1648

Museum of the Rockies Car Meet, every Friday until Oct. 10th, at 7PM at the Museum in Bozeman.

May we mention your club or hobby? Send your information to Marla, mkulib@gmail.com

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
CCARC Shack Tour – website with member profiles

JOIN US!

Membership \$25 per year. Contact Al Simons for application info.
al@simonshome.org