

MAC PASS REPEATER GROUP

Amateur Repeater Operations in Southwest and Western Montana

P.O. BOX 63
JEFFERSON CITY, MONTANA 59638
406-933-5355
406-459-3625 CELL

towers@macpassradio.com

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Winter is fast approaching and we already have had snow in the mountains. We are currently doing Preventative Maintenance on the snow bound sites and batting down the hatches. A summary of this summer's events follows.

MACDONALD PASS: We replaced the two meter transmit antenna, the bent DB-224 from last winter's ice storm with a new Celwave PD-220 Stationmaster. Additionally we installed ½ inch superflex jumpers on the UHF repeaters antennas, and further strengthened this weak point with some ½ inch rod to tie the jumpers to at the mid-point of the span from the Heliac connector and the antenna connector. And last we installed a 25 watt APRS digi-peater at the site (MACPAS) using a Telewave 2.5Db omni-directional antenna. A new renter in the site just installed their equipment and we now have internet available to us. Planning is for an Internet VHF/UHF remote base station.

LOOKOUT PASS: On Lookout we removed the long standing DB-420 repeater antenna and replaced it with two Celwave PD-1151s. The repeater is now working very well with mobile coverage in Missoula and Spokane. It is doubtful we will get the link radio to University Mountain installed before winter.

UNIVERSITY MOUNTAIN: On University Mountain we added a 25 watt APRS digi-peater to the site (UNVMTN) and installed a Telewave 2.5Db antenna at the top of the tower for it. After we resolved the interference it was experiencing on the first day, the digi-peater is now working very well.

BOULDER HILL: We replaced the antenna on the APRS digi-peater (BOLDER) with a DB-222 2-bay antenna. Coverage from the site is now very good for the APRS system.

TOSTON: We have our Internet access on Toston now and it has been tested to be working fine. We briefly installed an echo-link computer there and wired it directly to the UHF repeater. We found some audio mismatches with the interface to the repeater and have since removed it. The plan is to build an audio amplifier board and then try again. The site is typically accessible year round. With the internet at Toston, we also are planning on installing an HF remote base at this site. Because it is a very quiet site, we expect it to work well. This will be done with VOIP and be useable from any authorized home computer.

NORTH HILLS: No changes and all is working fine

GOLD CREEK: No Changes and all is working fine

BUTTE: While we do not yet know where the permanent location for the new Butte repeater will be, it is now on the air and is covering all of Butte very well. This repeater is currently a 25 watt Motorola Desktrac. It is also connected to the systems Echolink permanently, and has the new short cut codes installed. As a reminder, the Butte repeater operates on 449.400 with a minus offset and requires a CTCSS tone of 131.8.

ECHOLINK MONTANA: We are in the process of changing some of the short cut codes for connecting to various stations within our network. Please view the new codes on the website. Speaking of the Amateur related website, we have a new URL address that is a little easier to remember. It is www.wr7hln.org and this will take you directly to the clubs home page. For the new Echolink codes, click on either Mac Pass or University Mountain and then the Echolink Codes link found on those pages. These changes have not taken place at Mac Pass and University Mountain yet, but will soon happen. Butte is already changed.

Badger Pass: N45-12-51.5 W112-56-26.4 at 7,250 Feet Boulder Hill: N46-19-51.7 W112-6-16.4 at 6,160 Feet
Goldcreek: N46-32-12.2 W112-54-7.0 at 4,962 Feet Lookout Pass: N47-27-22.6 W115-38-58.4 at 6,060 Feet
MacDonald Pass: N46-35-40.7 W112-17-51.9 at 7,155 Feet North Hills: N46-46-12.4 W112-1-40.9 at 4,680 Feet
Toston: N46-7-0.8 W111-22-48.5 at 4,575 Feet University Mountain: N46-51-21.7 W113-55-18.0 at 5,366 Feet