

# MAC PASS REPEATER GROUP

*Amateur Repeater Operations in Southwest and Western Montana*

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It has been an unusual winter and early spring so far this year. We had 90 degree days in April, followed by weeks of rain, then wet snow, heavy in the mountains, and then back to sun and warmth. As of today it looks like we may finally be in summer.

There are multiple projects in the works for this summer, so many it is hard to know where to start. Our cellular renter on Mac Pass worked through January with snow mobiles to get their site up and running. In the next couple of weeks we will see the contractor back to finish up some of the details. The 10 x 20 foot shelter in our building is very nice, and we are in fact looking into building another one for future renters. Their shelter ended up being powered off of our Main Breaker Panels as the power company did not get up before the road closed to put in the new 240 single phase transformer and connect to their new meter. As for new construction, they will be installing their air conditioning packs very soon, and most importantly, they plan to extend our tower by 40 feet. The FAA and FCC amendments to our Tower Structure Registration is currently with the FAA. When this is done later this summer, we will benefit from it in that they are going to provide cable, connectors, and most important, tower monkeys, to move our three antennas to mounts at the top of this new extension. The extension will be done using the original AT&T tower plans and the AT&T specifications for vertical extensions. Additionally, we expect a Wi-Fi Internet provider to lease space in the building starting this summer and we will then have 2 static IP address's for our use. One of them will be shot over to the North Hills site so that we can begin our HF remote base project at that site.

The Toston site will soon be also getting a Wi-Fi supplier and we will have a static IP in that facility as well. We have an Echo-link Computer and 2-waat Maxtrac ready to go for that site when Internet is available. We plan to connect Toston to the Echolink system as soon as the Internet is connected. This will give us continuous connection to the WR7HLN and WB5EGI conference servers as make a full time connection of that repeater with Mac Pass. Toston covers Bozeman and I90 pretty well and we look forward to having good coverage of Bozeman.

The University Mountain site is now official. We are planning some trips to Missoula this next week for measurements and photos. We hope to have a Cellular shelter installed at the site this summer and a repeater on the air. This site will fill in the gap between MacDonald Pass and Lookout Pass perfectly, and we will have it connected back to Mac Pass shortly after it is installed. Check the website as we now have some photos and the info for

**the UHF repeater. The frequency pair will be the same as North Hills, 448.900- with PL 131.8.**

**Boulder hill is generating quite a bit of interest from those wanting to lease space and we now have an FM translator scheduled to go up there later this year. Additionally several cellular companies have express interest in it!!**

**As mentioned earlier, North Hills is still planned for an Internet controlled HF remote base. We are looking at a Ten-Tec radio that has a built-in server and a GUI system for computer users. We have tested this system with Ten-Tec and it works very well. Once we get Internet to North Hills, we will begin working on this system. As mentioned, we have two back haul 5.8GHZ microwave radios that we plan to connect between Mac Pass and North Hills and send the internet to and from Mac Pass on these radios.**

**All the other sites are on and running fine and it looks like all 7 repeaters made it through the winter just fine. The UHF transmit antenna on Mac Pass was bent over some in the wind, and this was done after our cellular customer moved it to the top of one of their masts. They will be fixing it shortly, or we will.**

**That's it for now, more as news warrants.**

**If anyone has questions regarding the sites, the repeaters, or leasing of space, please feel free to contact us at [towers@macpassradio.com](mailto:towers@macpassradio.com) .**