

Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

OCTOBER 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

First I would like to thank everyone who attended the last meeting which was dedicated to honoring a very deserving member. If you weren't there, you missed, probably, the best meeting in the last few years. It was Harvey Zion night at KARS. Harvey was honored for his years of service to Amateur Radio as a VE. Doug Rich, W7DVR, the ARRL Section Manager for the State of Idaho, who lives in Boise, ID and his lovely wife drove all day on Monday to come to CdA to present Harvey a beautiful mounted certificate from the ARRL for his years of service to the Amateur Radio community.

We had a fantastic turnout for the meeting. What really made it for me was when Harvey was being presented the award I noticed a tear on his cheek. I looked over at his friend and she looked so proud and had a tear in her eye also. That did it! I had to wipe my cheek also.

These are the real things that make Amateur Radio what it is today. I want to also thank the people who made this happen. John Hollar came up with the idea worked with Steve to schedule the event. Steve McQuiston contacted the ARRL and did all the leg work to get the award and schedule things with Doug Rich. Jim Monroe who worked with Harvey's friends to get him to the meeting for the presentation. And last but not least, Doug Rich for taking the two days to drive up here and back just to present the award. **JOB WELL DONE! A big Thanks Guys!!**

73

Bob



October KARS Meeting Presentation

Ed Stuckey (AI7H) will make a presentation recapping the happenings of the 2005 KARS Field Day weekend--lots of good stuff. Come and listen to Ed.

(If you do not attend monthly KARS meetings, your friends will shun you, and the FBI will park outside your house every night to spy on you.)

IN THIS ISSUE

- KARS Classified Section
(see page 3)
- Harvey Zion Award Photos
(see pages 4 and 5)
- Jaybirds and Ham Safety
(see page 5)

BITS & PIECES de K7JMC

GUESS WHAT TIME IT IS??

Yep! The clock is ticking once again.... It's time to get all the outdoor chores done for the year. Get your antennas, tower and rotor work done. Get those ground rods pounded-in. Check all of your coax connectors and make sure they are sealed. And last, but not least, make sure your snow thrower is working properly. **YES SIR--THE SNOW WILL BE HERE IN LESS THAN 60 DAYS!!**

What will be here sooner than that is Ed Stuckey's presentation on KARS participation in Amateur Radio Field Day 2005. It ought to be interesting to hear about the rugged individuals who were there, and to hear how they conquered the elements to make radio contact with space aliens on the planet Glxtrbrmz. Or, maybe not. But if they had, what would the contest points multiplier have been? Let's see if Ed knows. Plan to attend our October meeting and get some good "eyeball QSOs.," and learn a little about extra-terrestrial life. Or, maybe not. See you there.

73 de Jack (*apologies from Steve*)

Propagation is published monthly by the KOOTENAI Amateur Radio Society (KARS). The club is located in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho and serves the North Northern Idaho and the Spokane, Washington areas

KARS operates voice repeaters on 146.980 and 444.775 MHz and a packet repeater on 145.510 MHz. KARS normally holds meeting at 1900 hrs, on the second Monday of each month in the Shep Rock Building at the Coeur d' Alene Airport.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 for a family membership. Contact the Treasurer (see page 6) to join KARS.

KARS e-mail Directory

Anderson, Avon W7WBZ w7wbz@yahoo.com
 Anderson, Scott KD7YXE topfule@ix.netcom.com
 Austin, Bert N7KKI bert@dawghaus.net
 Austin, Joyce KD7DIT bert@dawghaus.net
 Bak, Victor K3SHD k3shd@arrl.net
 Carlson, Randy KB6YAV kb6yav@cet.com
 (also for Eric [KD7RVZ] & Jean [KD7RVY] Carlson)
 Chamberlain, L. N7UTK lindafc@adelphia.net
 Churchill, Rick KD7DIJ churchill@icehouse.net
 Conklin, Warren WB7EBU wb7ecu@verizon.net
 Cothorn, Bill N7VVK & Glo KC7EUJ globile@aol.com
 Hall, Dennis KK7X kk7x@countyhunter.com
 Hogeweide, W. K7ETJ k7etj@icehouse.net
 Hogeweide, M. WB7WUB k7etj@icehouse.net
 Hollar, John N7JU n7ju@arrl.net
 Hooper, Jerry KA7RNX ka7rnx@netzero.com
 Hopkins, John KC7MDX kc7mdx@msn.com
 Hopkins, Lee K7OOJ k7ooj@thunderbolt.net
 Kasper, Brad KA5PER ka5per@icehouse.net
 Kesson, Robert K7CGA k7cga@arrl.net
 Kliiger, Frank K9ALF k9alf@arrl.net

Linden, Jennifer K7WBB k7wbb@arrl.net
 Linden, Jim N7JIL n7jil@arrl.net
 Longtin, Kenneth KE7BDA kenlongtin@juno.com
 McElroy, Jack K7JMC k7jmc@yahoo.com
 McQuiston, Steve WO6LF slmcquiston@earthlink.net
 Miller, Jim N8BNI n8bni@adelphia.net
 Monroe, Chris N7ZUJ ckay@my180.net
 Monroe, Jim N7ESU n7esu@arrl.net
 Richmond, Tom K7PEJ k7pej@arrl.net
 Rosie, Bob W7GSV rmosie@icehouse.net
 Sausser, Brad KB7FUN brad@acm.org
 Siebenthal, Verda K7UBC verda_k7ubc@msn.com
 Stuckey, Edward A17H ai7h@arrl.net
 Telles, Larry K6SPP ltelles@icehouse.net
 Thomas, Shaun, (K7SLT) dodgerecker@yahoo.com
 Weir, John K7JSW k7jsw@verizon.net
 Welle, Annie KE7ADK wellerose@yahoo.com
 White, Darrel N7ZUI n7zui@icehouse.net
 Williams, Ken W7LQT w7lqt@yahoo.com
 Zion, Harvey K7VZ k7vz@earthlink.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
10 October at 7 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (see below left)
17 October at 7 p.m. (Monday)	RACES/ARES meeting	Kootenai County Sheriff's Department
Every Wednesday at 8 a.m.	Donut Day	Rathdrum Super 1 store (on Highway 53)
Second Saturday each Month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	NW Traffic Net Coffee Klatch	Old European Breakfast House in Post Falls

Next KARS Meeting:

**Monday, 10 October 2005 at
7:00 p.m. in the Sheprock Building
at the Kootenai County Airport**

Directions to the KARS meeting:

U.S. 95 to Miles Ave. (Miles is about one mile North of Hayden Ave.). West on Miles to the airport gate (access code 1088). Bear left to the Shep-rock Building. (about 200 yards from the gate).

ARRL Recognizes Harvey Zion (K7VZ)

(See photo gallery on pages 4 and 5)

Until recently, Harvey Zion served as leader of the KARS-sponsored ARRL-VEC volunteer examiner team. For this service, and for other contributions to the amateur radio community, Harvey was honored in a ceremony at last month's KARS meeting. See pages 4 and 5 for more details, but see below for a brief biography of Harvey Zion.

Harvey Zion (K7VZ) was born in Colorado, but moved to California with his family where he graduated from high school before serving in the United States Navy and in the United States Marine Corps. Following service in the Korean war, Harvey returned to California where he worked in law enforcement. After a career in law enforcement, Harvey moved to Idaho, where, for some retirement fun and fellowship, he drove a school bus and owned a donut shop. He discovered amateur radio at the dawn of the 1990s. First licensed in 1991, Harvey earned his Amateur Extra license by 1993, and served as president of KARS in both 1994 and 1995. He joined the Volunteer Examiner program in 1995 when he was certified by the ARRL, and led the local VE team until earlier this year, when he yielded that position to John Hollar (N7JU) Harvey still participates with the KARS-sponsored ARRL-VEC Volunteer Examiner team along with John Hollar and the rest of the team.

KARS Classified Section

Some people call this part of a periodic publication the "help wanted section." However, the items listed below have gone beyond being merely "wanted." These items are "needed." The word "desperately" would not be inappropriate.

Jim Monroe needs a big balloon--one that can be filled with helium and used to lift an antenna into the the air for next field day (coming up in June 2006). Be a hero--put on your thinking cap, and figure out how we can get (beg, borrow, steal) a balloon for Jim.

Jim Miller needs a skinny goat. One of Jim's neighbors built a fence less than foot from Jim's already-existing fence, leaving a strip of grass between the two fences that is too narrow for Jim's lawn mower. Where can we get a skinny goat that Jim can use to control that narrow strip of grass?

And--no joke--Steve McQuiston needs the main tuning and bandspread knobs for a vintage Halli-crafters SX-110 receiver now undergoing restoration. What good is it if the RF gain can be adjusted and the crystal filter can be switched in or out if the receiver cannot be tuned to the required frequency?

If you can help Jim, Jim, or Steve, contact Steve at simcquiston@earthlink.net.

Note to All Operating Award Seekers--Especially Old-timers

If you are have been an active ham for a long, long while, you need to be aware of the "Worked All Massachusetts Counties" award being offered by the Nashoba Valley ARC. If you do not yet have this award, get out your log books, compile a list of your contacts, and prepare the list for submission. Go to www.ninc.org/wamc for further info. Why is this award of special significance to old-timers? All contacts made on or after 21 December 1620 count toward the award--yes, you read that correctly--21 December 1620!

Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

- 13 October (Thursday), 5:00 p.m.; Tidyman's Grocery, 13014 E. Sprague Avenue, Spokane Valley, WA; Contact Mary Qualiteri (AA7RT), 509.991.2192 or aa7rt@arrl.net.
- 18 November (Friday evening) 6:00 p.m.; NIC Workforce Training Center, 525 W. Clearwater Loop, Post Falls, ID; Contact John Hollar (N7JU), 208.765.5470 or n7ju@arrl.net

Bring original and one copy of existing FCC license (if any), two forms of picture identification, and fee (\$14).





ARRL Recognizes Harvey Zion for Service to Amateur Radio

In a ceremony held at the September meeting of the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS), the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) recognized the contributions of Harvey Zion (K7VZ) to the amateur radio Volunteer Examiner program, and to the amateur radio community in general.

The photo at the top of page 4 (opposite) shows ARRL--Idaho Section Manager Doug Rich (W7DVR) presenting an ARRL Certificate of Recognition to Harvey at the September KARS meeting. The photo at the bottom of page 4 shows Harvey holding his newly-presented certificate while flanked by KARS president Bob Kesson (K7CGA) on the right, and Doug Rich on the left.

The photo at the top of this page shows one of the delectable treats enjoyed by those who attended Harvey's recognition ceremony. This masterpiece of a cake was baked and decorated by Bonnie Kesson.

Thanks to all who attended the ceremony--you helped make this event extra special by your presence.

Hams, Squirrels, Jaybirds

What do amateur radio operators, squirrels and jaybirds have in common? If you read Jack McElroy's column (page 1), you might be primed to answer this question: all three have to prepare for winter. Squirrels and jaybirds have to store enough food to sustain themselves over the course of

(continued next column)

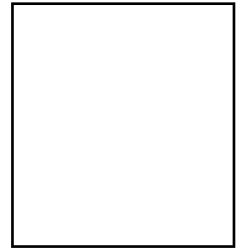
the winter, and hams have to make sure their antennas, feed-lines, and guy wires can withstand the ice and wind that winter brings to north Idaho. Knowing that Jack is a man to be listened to, I was following his advice just this week. I was finishing the installation of an underground line of PVC conduit for an antenna feed-line. The rain had made a mess of things, and

(continued next column)

my arthritic knees were making keeping my footing on the wet dirt a challenge. Sure enough, I found un-solid ground, and managed to fall face-first into a juicy mud puddle. Fortunately, no damage that couldn't be repaired with a hot shower and a clothes washer was sustained. But, the incident does serve to remind us that safety must be our first concern.

(continued on page 6)

KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
PO BOX 5222
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83816



Deliver to:



This is the October 2005 Issue.

Current KARS officers

President:	Bob Kesson 772-6745	K7CGA
1st Vice President:	Jack McElroy 687-3293	K7JMC
2nd Vice President:	Warren Conklin 772-6484	WB7ECU
Secretary:	Linda Chamberlain 765-3144	N7UTK
Treasurer:	Chris Monroe 687-2251	N7ZUJ
Newsletter Editor:	Steve McQuiston 772-4095	WO6LF
Repeater Tech	Jim Monroe 687-2251	N7ESU

Hams, Squirrels, and Jaybirds

(continued from page 5)

Just this past July, five adult leaders were killed in an accident at the Boy Scouts of America Jamboree in Bowling Green, VA. The Scout leaders were assisting in the aerial installation of a metal pole in close proximity to a set of power lines--the metal pole fell into the power lines, electrocuting all five adult leaders. I also have a recollection of hams being injured (or worse) in a similar accident involving a conductive antenna mast, but I cannot find the details of this story. None-the-less, we need to think safety when doing the sorts of chores that get us ready for winter. Tower or roof falls are always a threat when working "up there." Wear that safety harness! Electrical shock or electrocution is always a threat when working with high voltages. Keep one hand in a rear pocket! And, don't work under or near power lines with metal masts, ladders, etc! Even low voltages can be a threat--remove rings and bracelets when working around batteries and other low-voltage, but high energy supplies. Above all else, keep yourself and others safe.

the editor