

Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

DECEMBER 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thanks Jack for taking over the November meeting. I was at the FEMA training center in Maryland. When I got there it was 68 degrees at 9 PM. When I left at the end of the week, it was in the low teens with the wind-chill factor.

I hope everyone a great Thanksgiving Celebration. We sure did. We have a group of 12 great folks over for dinner and the food they brought was something else. Turkey and Pork Roast with all the trimmings and then some. WOW! Now to loose the 3 pounds I gained before our next potluck.

As I am sure you will see in this newsletter we have 7 new HAMS and members in KARS. Larry and his team has led the way to what could be an annual membership promotion and a way to help people who are interested in Amateur Radio. A BIG THANK YOU to Larry and everyone who supported him.

Have you decided what culinary delight you are going to conger up for our next KARS potluck/meeting? Be BOLD and INOVATIVE!! We will have dinner followed by a very short meeting while we devour the deserts. It should only take about 30-45 minutes. We have a couple of good slide presentations. Jim Linden has something to show us on the ARES/RACES Team—AND-- Have you seen the new KARS?

(continued on page 4)



SILENT KEYS

With sadness, we acknowledge the loss of two of our members within the same 24-hour period. Vern Nelson (K7PCU) passed late in the evening on 10 November, then Harvey Zion (K7VZ) left us the next afternoon.

To their families and friends, we extend our sympathies and condolences. Both Vern and Harvey will be missed.

See more on the loss of these two gentlemen on pages 4 and 6 .

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Silent Keys--see above**
- **Christmas Party**
(see page 3)
- **Something to muse on**
(from Stuckey and Telles--see pages 4 and 5)

BITS & PIECES de K7JMC

THINKING ABOUT A CHANGE ???

Well so am I... There will be changes within KARS (elections). We will be welcoming new members (thanks Larry's class), and beyond that, more classes are being planned!!

YEP! Larry (K6SPP) is already setting up the next N.I.C class. This time it will be a "General" level class. So, all you Technicians that are ready to move to HF keep an eye out for the details as they unfold. To be sure, KARS will send out e-mail bulletins to keep you informed.

We haven't forgotten those of you that have a General or Advanced class license that would like to upgrade to Extra. It is currently at a conversational level, BUT, Larry is mulling around an Extra Class study group to prepare for the Extra exam.

(continued on page 4)

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

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 Zion, Harvey K7VZ k7vz@earthlink.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
12 December at 7 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (see below left)
19 December 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, 12 December 2005 at
7:00 p.m. in the Sheprock Building at
the Kootenai County Airport**

Christmas Potluck Dinner
-- Bring a dish!

Directions to the KARS meeting:

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

BITS & PIECES de K7JMC
(continued)

This is intended to serve those of you that have trouble getting it out a book, alone, at home (that's me, too).

So!! As previously stated, there's change ahead. We all hope you are a part of it. See you at the pot luck dinner. Nominate candidates for club officers, and yes, **SEE YOU IN CLASS.**

73 de Jack

PRESIDENT'S CORNER(continued)

Yes, I said the new KARS. That is the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society's (K) Antenna (A) Raising (R) Squad (S). They are a fantastic support team and available for hire at any reasonable price. Come and see an example of their superior skills and techniques.

Currently we have a gentleman from Avista scheduled to talk on BPL at the January meeting. He will let me know near the end of this month if it is still a go. They may not use our area for the test.

Merry Christmas and 73 to everyone--Bob

Christmas Party

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society and the Kootenai County RACES/ARES team.

Monday, 12 December, 7 p.m., Kootenai County Airport, Ship-rock Building

Talk-in: 146.98 MHz repeater (negative offset)

BRING A DISH--BRING A DISH--BRING A DISH--BRING A DISH--BRING A DISH--BRING A DISH

Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

- 08 December (Thursday), 5:00 p.m.; Tidyman's Grocery, 13014 E. Sprague Avenue, Spokane Valley, WA; Contact Mary Qualiteri (AA7RT), 509.991.2192 or aa7rt@arri.net.
- 13 December (Tuesday), 7:00 p.m.; University High School, Room E102, 12420 E. 32nd Street, Spokane Valley, WA.
Contact: Betsy Ashleman (N7WRQ), 509.448.5821 or n7wrq@aol.com
- 17 December (Saturday); By appointment in Sagle, ID. Contact Russ Arndt (AA7XM), 208.265.4534 after 8 p.m. or russell.arndt@verizon.net

Yea and Verily

Reprinted with permission from The ARRL Contest Rate Sheet, 07/28/04 edition

The phone did ring and ring again, apparently without ending like the stars of the firmament. And this the brow of the Chieftain of Hams did cause to furrow deeply since he was sore afraid of the Pestilence of Telemarketers, yet he Did answer the phone, not sure of what he was thinking, and spake. "H'lo?"

A voice familiar did answer unto the Chief. 'Twas Gerald, deposed patriarch of a small family of Hams, not seen for lo these many days and considered possibly lost for the ages. And the two made many pleasantries and talked wistfully of past epochs when their Boys were but hairless youths and did play together at Multi-Op in the Chief's radio tent. Only when they had tired and the receivers did smite uncomfortably their ears, did the One and True Nature of Gerald's reappearance be made known. "I have to clean out my garage," lamented Gerald. There was a great Raising of Hair on the back of the Chief's neck, since he knew with great foreboding what hath transpired and what must surely cometh next.

Gerald did sweeten the pot with the generous honey of donation to the Chief's tribe of the many wondrous treasures his garage did hold. Gerald did sing the praises of the HF yagi possessing nearly all its many pieces, and a multiband vertical so, too, nearly complete. He did tell of a 450 MHz yagi of commercial quality tuned just above the band, colored gold like unto the desert sand, a rare and fabulous thing. Yea and there was a mountainous pile of cable, some quite good and seasoned with the finest connectors and some not quite so good.

Tower sections he would give, with a pair of top sections and one rotator. A collection there was of aluminum pieces without number and probably useful for something. A venerable and worthy brace of radios from the Legion of Drake, still with their original shipping baskets and not a scratch on them, were the last of the Treasures, and Gerald became still, awaiting judgment.

The Chief did smile, not being entreated to help clean the garage of Holding, nor to bear the burden of carrying the Treasures across the trackless wastes past many hazards and over an infinitude of potholes.

And the Chief did say unto Gerald in soothing and sympathetic voice, "Yea and verily, Gerald, I can take that stuff. Bring it on over." And it was done, arriving in disarray from its long journey and springing forth in a limitless cornucopia from the back of an SUV the size of a war elephant and weary of its heavy load. Sawhorses were brought forth and the Treasures were made to lay upon them, side by side. And Gerald and the Chief were pleased, one to have and one to have not.

After a suitable feast and bidding Gerald a safe journey home, the Chief did call the Elders and spake to them of the good fortune with which they were smitten and what a Good Deal for the Tribe this would be. And the Elders did come and stroke their beards in Wonder for some of the Treasures were mystical, indeed. And lo, like a miracle, even more treasure had appeared silently in the night from Gregory of the North who was also cleaning his tent! A decent R-5 bearing its matching network, but also an ancient Halo for the Band of Magic, bearing much corrosion and rust and not being worth a doggone. Yet the Tribe did celebrate and blow upon their Horns of UHF and confer for the distribution of treasure among the multitude, all making tithe to the Tribal Coffers, with only a little haggling, in appreciation of these wondrous gifts.

To the House of Bob went the Vertical of Gerald. Phil of the Large Truck bore away the many tower sections, forgetting only the rotator control box and returning immediately when summoned by the Horn of UHF. And one by one, the tribe came forth to receive their treasure, the Technicians Without Code and the Extras of Wisdom alike. They left the tent of the Chief laden with magnificent things not seen since the Spring Fest of Hams, leaving only the halo and the aluminum pieces in a sorry and lamentable pile.

And when they had convinced their Matriarchs and Others of Significance that verily, this was a Good and Worthy Thing, the projects did commence. The members did smite the airwaves like locusts and did make contacts without number and rejoiced, for new bands were now open unto them, carrying signals from far and distant lands.

(continued on page 5)

Yea Verily
(continued from page 4)

What then of the Chief? He praised and Did put away the sturdy sawhorses, rendered the halo into salvageable bits, and cleansed the yard of forgotten hardware. He spent a happy fortnight amongst the aluminum pieces, assembling unusual and difficult antennas not seen heretofore, discovering a 2-meter Ringo Ranger amongst the ruins and a perfectly useable vertical pipe mount, too. And he was pleased because it was the Way of Hamdom.

Note: Thanks to Ed Stuckey (AI7H) for arranging reprint of this article.

More on Silent Keys: Vern Nelson (K7PCU)

I wish I could find someone who knew Vern better so that we could tell our reader's about Vern and what his loss means--so far, no one I've talked to knew much except that Vern was a long time member of KARS who had not participated recently in club activities. If anyone knows who can tell us about Vern, we will gather information for a more detailed obituary in a future issue. In any event, our sympathies go to Vern's family and friends.

--the editor.

The Night Before a KARS Christmas

A poem by Larry Telles (K6SPP)

*'Twas the Night Before Christmas
and all through the gloom,
A small amount of QRM was heard
coming from a dimly lit room.*

*The family was all asleep by now
dreaming of wonderful things quite big,
In the basement shack sat dear old dad
dx-ing with his sideband rig.*

*DX came in as never before
in a long large burst of flurry,
But dear old dad took his time deciding
with all night he didn't hurry.*

*All of a sudden there came a silence
his noisy receiver went dead,
Dad from his easy chair quickly sat up
and scratched his shiny bald head.*

*In an instant he checked all of his gear
and made sure none would burn,
He pushed the clockwise control box key
and found the prop-pitch wouldn't turn.*

*Out of the house he went to his tower
as it might be down was his fear,
But alas on his huge tri-bander
sat a sleigh and eight tiny reindeer.*

*Dad stood for only a moment or two
then dash inside as fast as a lick,
To find in his large front room
none other than jolly Ol' Saint Nick.*

*Before he could utter a single word
to this Santa oh so dear,
Santa brushed past dad
heading down stairs for the sideband gear.*

*Santa sat down and gave out his call
and then stopped to pause,
Through the noise there came a signal,
that of Mrs. Claus.*

*He chewed the fat and made it short
then said, "I'd better go,
In this cold and wet weather
driving can be quite slow."*

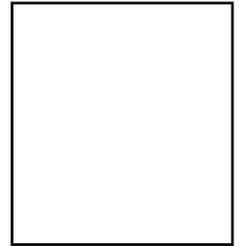
*Out of the shack went Santa
over to our decorative tree,
Placing gifts while humming a tune
as jolly as can be.*

*Dad helped him up the chimney
wishing he was skinnier,
Turning to the Christmas tree
there sat a nice new linear.*

*Dad ran outside to give his thanks
for the gift he wanted a long, long while,
Santa took off from the rooftop
with a simple wave and a smile.*

*Off the rooftop a little sleigh went
in a burst of harmonious elation,
A very Merry Christmas to all
from your KARS officers and Propagation.*

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



Deliver to:



This is the December 2005 Issue.
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

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
Webmaster:	Larry Telles 762-2548	K6SPP

More on Silent Keys: Harvey Zion (K7VZ)

Harvey Zion was born in Colorado, and grew up in the California. Following military service, Harvey was in law enforcement for many years. After his retirement and move to CdA, Harvey owned and operated a donut shop--at a recent award ceremony recognizing Harvey for his years of service to the amateur radio community, the ARRL's Doug Rich found Harvey's police career and donut shop retirement an interesting connection.

Harvey was an active member of the amateur radio community, as well as an active member of other community groups. He was a former member of the U.S. Marine Corp, and active with the local Marine Corp League. Harvey was leader of the KARS-sponsored ARRL/VEC volunteer examiner team for a decade from 1995 to 2005. Harvey was past president of KARS, having served in that position in 1994 and 1995.

Harvey will be missed--our condolences to his family and his many friends.

--the editor.