

Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

JANUARY 2006

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all. I hope by the time you get this, you got the goodies you wanted and everything is installed and running. Oh! I am sure you have made your new years resolutions and are still keeping it. I wonder, what was it? Loose weight, gain weight, keep your current figure? How about upgrading your license? If you are technician class, Larry Telles (K6SPP) is going to offer a General class upgrade at NIC this spring. It should be out in the NIC class schedule in January.

What about you general class and advanced class license holders who want to move up to amateur extra? Well, rumor has it that there will be a study group forming this spring. You can do it and it is a lot easier in a group.

What a fantastic Christmas Party we had. If you missed this one and you come to the January meeting, we will know who you are. You are probably eight pounds lighter than those of us who were at the Potluck. One thing you did miss, if you weren't there is a fantastic and FUNNY, presentation by Larry Telles on How to put up an antenna farm in less than six years. Thanks, Larry, for the great narrated slide show.

Well this year is rapidly come to a close. We gained in membership again this year and we, sadly lost a couple of friends.

(continued on page 3)



At this month's meeting:

Broadband Over Powerline

Brent Schlangen (KA7VTE), Utility Telecommunications Manager for Avista will talk about BPL in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho.

If you don't know what might be happening with this technology and its effect on HF communications, come to this meeting to hear Avista's plans firsthand, but, also read the many related articles in QST Magazine and CQ Magazine for a broader perspective.

--the editor

IN THIS ISSUE

- Welcome new hams
(see page 4)
- What a chump!
(see page 5)
- Manhood Awards
(see page 6)

BITS & PIECES de K7JMC

Two Meter Basic Load

This a reprint of my June 05 column and is directed to the new hams in the club.

As the headline implies, we're going to talk a bit about 2 meter base and mobile operations, specifically repeater selection. In the three years I've been in Northern Idaho, I've come to realize that there are about five repeaters that provide coverage for all of the Panhandle area. That, along with the "Memory Channel" feature on two meter radios, means that with a slight flick of the memory channel selector knob you can QSY to any one of the five repeaters as well as a couple simplex frequencies too. This is REALLY handy when in mobile operation. You don't have to take your eyes off the road, just count the "clicks."

I will list the five repeaters in, what I feel, is their order of importance,, and a couple simplex frequencies too:

(continued on page 3)

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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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
09 January at 7 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (see below left)
16 January at 7 p.m. (Monday)	ARES/RACES 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, 09 January 2006 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 Avenue.). West on Miles to the airport gate (access code 1088). Bear left to the Shep-rock Building. (about 100 yards from the gate).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(continued)

We have our Nominating Committee for the 2006 Elections formed and they will be selecting a Chairperson and be on the agenda for the January meeting with an update on their work.

Speaking of the January meeting!!! SPREAD THE WORD! Brent Schlangen (KA7VTE) will be coming to our meeting to talk about Broadband over Powerline (BPL). Brent is the Utility Telecommunications Manager for Avista in Spokane. If you want to find out about BPL and what may be happening in our area, this is the place to be. I appreciate his kind acceptance of our offer and I am sure we will show our appreciation and make him welcome.

February will be the annual elections and it starts over again. Start thinking about what you want to see included in meetings, events, outings, and hamfest for next year.

73, The Prez

WHAT IS BPL?

BPL is a technology for transmission of Internet or other digital data from home and office to the Internet backbone--it is of interest to Amateur Radio operators because significant RF noise problems have accompanied most trial implementations.

--the editor

BITS & PIECES de K7JMC

(continued)

The seven repeaters in the panhandle:

1. 147.08+ Kootenai ARES/RACES
2. 146.98- KARS
3. 146.78- w/100hz tone Sandpoint
4. 145.23- Bonner County RACES
5. 147.12+ Blanchard/Newport
6. 146.50 Simplex
7. 146.52 Simplex Calling Frequency

I have not left out the machine in Bonner's Ferry.. The last info I had on it was that it had been taken down from it's mountain site and is more like a local machine. If this has changed the Bonner's Ferry machine would be added to the list.

Other repeaters that would be good to have programmed would be the KBARA System in Spokane. The KBARA System can be linked to provide coverage all the way to Seattle!

So, plan to make your two-meter rig more versatile and user friendly. Use some thought and select your memory channels so that you can QSY without looking at the rig. It will make two-meter mobile operating a pleasure and safer.

Regards,
Jack/K7JMC

TECHNICAL CORNER--QUESTIONS FROM OUR READERS

Question: is it true that red wire must be used for connections to the positive side of a DC power supply, and that black wire must be used for connections to the negative side of that supply?

Answer: yes--the subatomic particles responsible for electrical conduction are fickle, and refuse to cooperate unless their preferences are observed. If other colors are used for these connections, it may result in spontaneous combustion of the Earth's atmosphere...then, where would we be?

Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

- 12 January (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.
- 21 January (Saturday); By appointment in Sagle, ID. Contact Russ Arndt (AA7XM), 208.265.4534 after 8 p.m. or russell.arndt@verizon.net
- 28 February (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

KARS WELCOMES AND CONGRATULATES NEW HAMS

- *Bonnie Kesson (KE7FPA)*
- *Robert G. Tredway (KE7FPB)*
- *William F. George (KE7FPC)*
- *Ed Hannigan Jr. (KE7FOW)*
- *Linda Barton (KE7FOX)*
- *Esther Twilleager (KE7FOY)*
- *Laurence D. Hartzog (KE7FOZ)*

Welcome new hams. One of the highlights of 2005 for the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society was the completion of Larry Telles' ham radio class at NIC, and the addition of a group of newly licensed hams to our club roster as a result of that class (six went through the class and passed the test along with one walk-in test candidate). Wow! What an achievement, both for Larry and other KARS members who assisted with the class, and for the people who earned their FCC amateur radio licenses in that class. What a boost for KARS, with the addition of new blood for its membership. What a boost for amateur radio in the Idaho panhandle, and a potential boost for the Kootenai County ARES/RACES group (many KARS members are also members of Kootenai County ARES/RACES).

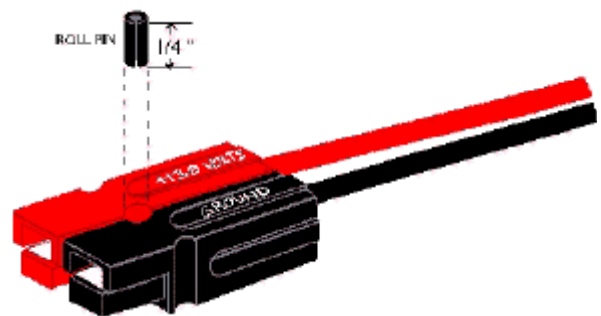
For those of you who do not know all about ARES/RACES, here is a brief description: ARES and RACES are acronyms for Amateur Radio Emergency Service and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service respectively. Both organizations provide volunteer emergency communications assistance under the auspices of authorized governmental agencies. ARES and RACES are not competing organizations—both provide assistance in communications emergencies, RACES operates under rules of part 97 of the FCC rules and regulations (officially known as Part 97 of Title 47 of the Code of Federal Regulations), which establishes what communications may be carried by RACES operators, and with which radio stations RACES operators may communicate. ARES provides similar emergency communications services, but in a less formal structure (under revised FCC regulations, but still under the auspices of an authorized governmental emergency services agency). In Kootenai County, ARES/RACES operate as one unified group under the auspices of the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management (KCOEM). If you are interested in learning more about ARES/RACES in Kootenai County, contact Jim Linden (K7JIL), KCOEM Communications Coordinator; Bob Pittsley (KC7RNT), KCOEM Resource and Preparedness Specialist; Tom Richmond (K7PEJ), ARES Emergency Coordinator; or Randy Carlson (KB6YAV), RACES Operations Officer.

Also, if you plan to participate with the ARES/RACES group in supporting communications for emergencies or for community events such as Ironman, or if you simply want to adopt the KARS and Kootenai County ARES/RACES group's standards for portable radio (13.8 volt DC operation) power connections, read on.

The KARS and Kootenai County ARES/RACES group standard for 13.8 volt radio power connections is the 30-amp Anderson Powerpole™ quick-disconnect connector pair (red for positive, black for negative). Installing these connectors on your portable power cables, or building an adapter cable would be a great project for a new ham. New hams, however, may want to consult with, or secure the assistance of an experienced electronics builder with this or any other project (just ask—virtually all KARS members would be more than happy to help). The Anderson Powerpole™ connector pair is illustrated below for familiarization of anyone not acquainted with it.

I refer you also to Jack McElroy's column on two meter repeaters in our area. Jack lists the commonly used repeaters, and some guidelines for their usage. See Jack's column on page 1.

--the editor.



Anderson Powerpole™
quick-disconnect connectors

DIDN'T ATTEND THE KARS CHRISTMAS PARTY? WHAT A CHUMP!

If you didn't attend the KARS Christmas Potluck Buffet Dinner, you may be one of 2005's biggest chumps. The dinner brought together the KARS membership and that of the Kootenai County ARES/RACES group. Attendees were asked to bring a potluck dish to share with others, and therein lies the genius of this affair. I was born in and spent 55 years in Southern California, and learned to regard Chasen's, Lafayette, and Wolfgang Puck's as standard faire. But, none of the aforementioned have a food-time edge on the dishes served at the 2005 KARS Christmas Dinner.

There were lasagnas (lasagni?) to die for. There were Mexican casseroles to kill for. There were delectable desserts that would have taken blue ribbons at any fairground in the U.S.A.

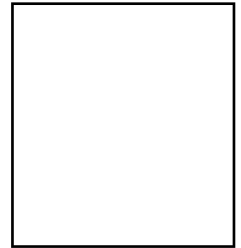
This dinner was so good, that I am proposing several modifications to the bylaws of the KARS organization: first, members (or spouses of members) who demonstrate culinary talent may join or renew their memberships at a reduced fee--the exact amount of the reduction to be tied to their willingness to demonstrate their talents at monthly meetings. Second, a potluck buffet dinner shall be the main order of business at each monthly meeting--you can't eat BPL. Third, status or ranking in the club shall directly correlate with the appeal of the potluck dishes supplied by each member or member spouse. Fourth, Bob Telles shall incorporate *Le Cordon Bleu* regime into his amateur radio licensing classes. I sincerely believe that these provisions will lead to greater contentment and greater satisfaction amongst the membership. A forthcoming petition will allow you to demonstrate that the term "chump" does not apply to you--all you need do is agree with my proposed bylaw modifications. (By the way, failure to agree with said proposals may lead to unfavorable mention in future issues of this newsletter. Reader beware.)

CHRISTMAS PARTY PHOTO CAPTIONS

Top: from Monroes and Chamberlains to Hollars, KARS members enjoy great food and fellowship. Center: the braintrust looks on while the Prez imagines (notice the eyes) sugarplums dancing in his head. Bottom: Lee (K7OOJ) wants to sit in Santa's lap and descibe his Christmas wishes, but Santa (K7JMC) has other things on his mind--like who stole his red and white-fur trimmed Santa suit, and how he came to be wearing this Inca-themed shirt.



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



Deliver to:



This is the January 2006 Issue.

Happy New Year to all.

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

MANHOOD AWARDS

The KARS Committee for the Preservation of American Manhood announced its awards for the year 2005. An award ceremony will be scheduled for a later date. The basis of the awards for Year 2005 is performance at the recently completed series of Antenna Parties at the Telles Compound in Dalton Gardens.

Winners of the award include Eric and Randy Carlson (KD7RVZ and KB6YAV respectively), Ed Hannigan (KE7FOW), Lee Hopkins (K7OOJ), Jim Miller (N8BNI), Bob Rosie (W7GSV), and, of course, Larry Telles (K6SPP) himself. Also considered for another award was Larry Telles. Larry was considered for his guile, his wicked ability to persuade others to do things against their better judgment under the theory that only crazy people climb to dizzying heights while thunderclouds linger in the sky above, only to hang heavy objects in midair. It was decided to withhold this award because it was not clear if the participants were beguiled into do what they did, or whether they were merely overdosing on Christmas spirit.

--the editor