

Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

JULY 2006

More satire for your amateur radio buck

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear KARS Members and Friends:

Here is a recap of (whew!) what's happening in the KARS zone:

Recent Past Activities:

KARS Ham-Fest: It was better than ever, thanks to a high level of participation by club members. The pot-luck dinner (aka "setup night") on June 9 was enjoyed by a crowd of about 40. (Once again the writer's contention "if you feed them, they will come" was validated). N7ZUI and KA5PER made a brief presentation on "APRS", the tracking system that will be used in the Iron-Man event.

The actual Ham-Fest on June 10 included two vendors plus about 40 hams who were offering a vast array of computer and ham radio treasures! Several hams donated items to the club, and the sales proceeds were contributed to the club treasury. As demonstrated the night before, people like to eat, and the kitchen was hopping with many volunteer chefs and other food service staff. Our VE's also administered license exams at a nearby fire station, and this resulted in two more Extra Class plus one General Class license holders! KC7RNT and KA7RNX provided gracious emcee and auctioneer services. Even though it rained cats-and-dogs for much of the day, everything went very well. Many thanks to event coordinator N7ESU for organizing this event.

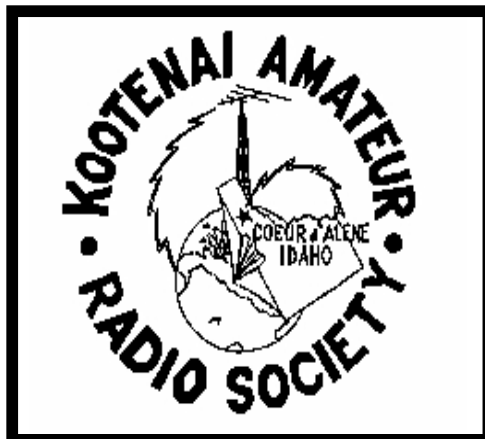
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VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT--N7JU

Because of pure malfeasance on the part of the editor, we will have to wait until next month for one of John Hollar's articles. I, that incompetent editor, mis-managed the publishing schedule, and did not give contributors sufficient advance notice of the upcoming submissions deadline. It was wholly my fault, and should not reflect on John at all. It was astounding that Ed Stuckey was able to complete his report, and I feel guilty for the turmoil it must have caused for he and his family. The only redeeming news I can present here is that the wait (for John Hollar's next column) will no doubt be worth it--John writes great stuff, and has a lot to say since he is a vital part of the KARS organization. The failure of the editor to properly execute his responsibilities is a clear indication to club leadership that steps must be taken. If this sloppy work is allowed to continue, the whole of society might be affected. Soon, the chef at the steak-house will be serving minute-steak in place of tri-tip. Soon, the dry-cleaner will be returning jackets un-cleaned and shirts un-ironed. Soon, new cars will be delivered to their owners with three wheels instead of the requisite four. Soon, Boeing and Airbus will be shipping out 787s and 380s with only one wing. Soon, the Whopper will come with only the bottom half of the bun. Then, where will we be? I strongly urge the management of the KARS organization to do the right thing. Get a new editor today. A goat could do a better job. Painful though it will be, it will make you heroes in the eyes of your fellow citizens, and it will go a long way towards stopping the long, slow decline of Western civilization.

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(See VPs Report above)
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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
10 July at 7 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (Shep Rock Building)
17 July 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, 10 July 2006 at
7:00 p.m. In the Shep Rock Building at
Kootenai County Airport**

Directions to the KARS meeting:

Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about one mile North of Hayden Avenue). West on Miles to the Airport gate. Through the gate (requires access code--see KARS president), bear left to the Shep Rock Building.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(continued from page 1)

Field Day: (As you've probably guessed, the writer is a big fan of "Field Day"). Several months ago the club voted to embark on a joint venture with the "Spokane DX Association" (SDXA) Ham club for Field Day. To make it a short story, everything turned out just great! We had a total of 27 participants, of whom 11 were from KARS. Five KARS members (who are new Hams) plus six other new or prospective Hams were the operators at the Get-On-The-Air (GOTA) station, and everyone was thrilled to get at least one contact, with a combined total of 102 QSO's for the station. AI7H and K7PEJ were the "Coaches" for the GOTA station, and it was quite an experience! AD7IP had the special experience of graduating from GOTA operator to "Assistant Coach", all in one day.

KARS also operated the VHF station, with KB6YAV and K7PEJ at the controls. Things were not real active on VHF, but there were a couple of openings on 6 Meters that resulted in QSO's as far east as North Carolina, plus many contacts with California sections. After the dust settled, the VHF crew claimed 33 QSO's. The other side of the tent contained the "production" stations, one CW and one Phone (mostly manned by SDXA Hams). Each station had well over 700 QSO's with best DX happening on 80 Meters just before daybreak on Sunday – a voice contact with Australia!

The Field Day site also had 23 visitors, including several KARS members. Thanks to members who visited the site, and brought – or sent – other visitors. (This proves that word-of-mouth is the best form of advertising!)

Special thanks to K7PEJ-Tom, KB6YAV-Randy, AD7IP-Bailey, for all the time, muscle, tools, Ham gear, and expertise that you shared with us; also special thanks to our GOTA operators: AD7IP-Bailey, KE7ADN-Gabbee, KE7ADT-BearPaw, KE7ADK-Annie, and KE7IAV-"CJ".

(continued next column)

Upcoming Events:

Next Club Meeting, 07/10/06: The presentation for the next KARS meeting will discuss "Trading Ham Gear on e-Bay". Please join us and (if you wish to) share online trading experiences (good or bad) so that we all have a better understanding of how to make the best deals on Ham Gear.

Pancake Breakfast, 07/15/06: Once again club members (and Master Chefs) KB6YAV-Randy, KD7RVY-Jean, and their Harmonic KD7RVZ-Eric, have invited us to join them in their home near Garwood for a pancake breakfast. (It could be Chefs, or maybe the well water and secret ingredients – but for sure, it's fabulous eating!) This will be a great time to enjoy pancakes, eggs 'n sausage, orange juice and coffee, while enjoying the company of fellow hams, from 8AM until around Noon. Chef Randy will ask for a \$2 per person contribution to offset expenses. For planning purposes, RSVP to event coordinator Randy before Thursday 07/13 by phone (762-0921) or e-mail him at: kb6yav@cet.com

KARS Ice Cream Social, 08/12/06, 2 to 5PM: Save the date! Details TBA.

73 to All!
Ed, AI7H

I don't know whether to laugh or cry: (pathetic humor from the KARS Newsletter)

When I arrived at the automobile dealership to take delivery of my new car, I was told that the keys were locked in the vehicle. I went to the prep area and found a mechanic working feverishly to un-lock the driver's side door with a jimmy-tool. As I watched from the passenger side, I instinctively tried the door handle and discovered that it was unlocked.

"Hey," I said to the mechanic, "its open." He replied, "I know, I already got that side."

Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

Mid-summer months are down-times for most volunteer examiner teams. If Russ Arndt's exam sessions (see below) do not satisfy your needs, you may contact Steve McQuiston by e-mail at wo6lf@arrl.net to explore the possibility that another exam session can be identified.

- 15 July or 19 August (Saturday) at 9:30 a.m. By appointment only--no walk-ins. In Sagle, Idaho. Contact Russ Arndt (AA7XM) at 208.265.4534 after 8 p.m. or russell.arndt@verizon.net

HARMLESS?

Last month's newsletter contained an announcement that the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) had been found to be *mostly harmless*.

Some curmudgeons have challenged that finding. I would like to take this opportunity to respond to that challenge. The curmudgeons who have challenged the finding in question provided no evidence to the contrary. Let me say, that I will provide evidence to support my position.

Let's start with a review of some past KARS activities. For instance, a review of the KARS 2005 Field Day exercise will show KARS to be mostly harmless. At that exercise, a portable generator was used to provide operating power for a number of the radios in use. To limit audible noise at the operating site, the generator was placed on the far side of the river, and power cable was run across the roiling waters to the operating site. What could have happened? Well, it should be obvious to even the meanest curmudgeon, that the roiling waters could have ended up electrified, with severe consequences for the fish and other animals living therein. What did happen? Nothing untoward. Continual monitoring showed that not one single whale, nor one single dolphin was harmed by the KARS trans-aquatic power line. The International Whaling Commission, when asked if KARS was a danger to cetaceans, responded with no adverse information. Similarly, continual monitoring showed that no native species (trout, bass, etc.) were harmed in this exercise. Perhaps a few ants were inconvenienced when Jim Monroe built a fire pit to roast a marshmallow. Conclusion: KARS is mostly harmless. Another example from Field Day 2005. A "balloon antenna" experiment was conducted--this involved raising a conductor into the air with a gas-filled balloon. Although a NORAD alert was issued during this experiment, it was never proven that the KARS balloon was the at the root of the alert, and even if it was, not one single military or commercial aircraft, not one single Earth-orbiting satellite was interfered with in any significant way. Conclusion: KARS is mostly harmless.

More evidence: The KARS-affiliated, ARRL-accredited Volunteer Examiner team has been responsible for the testing of a significant number of applicants over the past years. This has resulted in any number of new amateur radio operators being licensed, and any number of others receiving license upgrades. Not one single new operator, and not one single upgraded operator has been convicted of violation of any FCC rule or regulation (see note 1 below). Conclusion: KARS is mostly harmless. *(Note 1: Traffic violations and the Ten Commandments are another matter.)*

While the antennae erected as a result of the efforts of these crews have created some interesting effects (a distortion in the space-time continuum, and a gravity vortex aimed at Dalton Gardens, the site of the antennae in question), no one has yet been harmed by these effects--yet.

You may remember that there was some fear amongst the academic and scientific community that the Dalton Gardens Gravity Vortex had increased the danger of an asteroid hitting Dalton Gardens because it creates a sort of "gravity funnel" with the narrow end pointed at Dalton Gardens and the wide end pointed at the Kuiper Asteroid Belt. Well, the experts prediction that a killer asteroid would be "steered" towards Dalton Gardens with devastating results for life on Earth have not come true--I drove around the area a few days ago, and life from Post Falls all the way over to Wallace seems to be doing just fine--especially the weeds that are trying to grow at the margins of my storm swales. Conclusion: KARS is indeed mostly harmless.

Need I say more?

UPCOMING EVENTS

Smart people will not miss these events.

Mark your calendars for two Saturdays.

- Carlson's Pancake Breakfast

8 a.m. Saturday 15 July 2006

\$2 will get you a \$20 breakfast.

Best pancakes anywhere.

RSVP--see President's Corner herein for details.

- KARS Ice Cream Social

2 p.m. 'til 5 p.m. Saturday 12 August 2006.

Details to be announced at a later date.

Two great opportunities to enjoy good eats and good companionship with your fellow amateur radio operators. Two great opportunities to tell lies and other fantastic stories. Did you hear the one about...?

1000 MARBLES

Editor's note: The following article came across my desk by way of e-mail. Many such things circulate all over the Internet, so I am aware that many of you may have already seen it. But, the message contained within this article is so pertinent, so meaningful, that I decided to reprint the article in this month's newsletter. I always try to provide credit or acknowledgement to the originator of any material I reprint, but in this case, the material arrived without attribution. The radio operator (K9NZQ) cited in the story may or may not be real--he isn't listed in the QRZ.com database. No matter--the message contained in the article is still valid and still significant.

One recent Saturday morning, I tuned my ICOM 746PRO across the phone portion of the 20-meter band in order to listen to that day's Swap Net. Along the way, I encountered an older-sounding chap with a tremendous signal and a golden voice. You know the type: he sounded like he belonged in commercial radio as the voice of wisdom and wit. He was telling whomever he was talking to about a thousand marbles. I was intrigued, and stopped to listen to what he had to say.

"Well, Tom, it sounds like your very busy with your job. I'm sure they pay you well, but it is a shame that you have to be away from home and your family so much. Too bad that a young fellow like you should have to work seventy hours a week to make ends meet. It's sad that you missed your daughter's dance recital and your son's ball game," he continued. "Tom, let me tell you something that has helped me keep my own priorities."

That's when the golden-voiced fellow began to explain his theory of the one thousand marbles.

"You see, I sat down one day and did a little arithmetic. The average person lives about seventy-five years. Some live a bit longer, and some live a bit shorter, but on average, folks live about seventy-five years.

Now then, I multiplied 75 times 52, and came up with 3900, which is the number of Saturdays that the average person has in his or her entire lifetime. Stick with me Tom, I am just getting to the important part.

It took me until I was fifty-five years old to think about this in any detail," he went on, "and by that time I had consumed over 2800 of my Saturdays. I got to thinking that if I lived to seventy-five, that I only had about 1000 Saturdays left to enjoy. So, I went to the toy store and bought every single marble

they had. I ended-up having to go to three toy stores to round-up 1000 marbles. I took them home, and put them in a large glass pickle jar that I keep on the desk right next to my radio gear.

Every Saturday morning since then, I have taken one marble out of the jar. I found that by watching the number of marbles in the jar diminish over time, it helped me remember the limits we all have in our lives, and thereby helped me focus on the things that really matter to me."

He continued, "There is nothing like watching your time here on this Earth run-out to help you get your priorities straight.

Let me tell you one more thing before I sign-off to take my lovely wife out for breakfast. This morning I took the very last marble out of that jar. I figure that if I make it to next Saturday, I will have been given a bit of extra time--and one thing we can all use is a bit of extra time.

It was nice to meet you, Tom, I hope you get to spend More time with your family, and I hope to meet you here on the band again sometime soon. This is K9NZQ at age seventy-five clear and going QRT. Good morning to all!"

You cold have heard a pin drop when this fellow signed-off. I guess he gave us all a lot to think about. I had planned to work on my antenna that morning, and then later I was going to meet with a few hams to work on the next club newsletter. Instead, I went upstairs, and awakened my wife with a kiss.

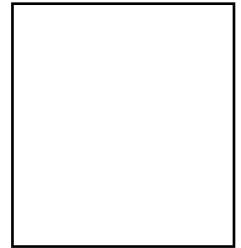
"C'mon, honey, I'm taking you and the kids out to breakfast."

"What brought this on?" she asked with a smile.

"Oh, nothing special--its just been a long time since we spent a Saturday together with the kids. And, hey, can we stop at the toy store while were out? I need to buy some marbles."

Further editor's note: if you shop around, marbles are not expensive. A couple of bucks will do the job if you want to follow the advice of K9NZQ. You will pay as much for the jar as you will for the marbles. But, then again, if you are a pickle lover, you may already have the jar on hand. If you do it right, you can re-live your youth. Remember cat's eye marbles? How about swirls? Aggies? Steeles? Clearies? You can do it, and do it with style. But, the important thing is to do it.

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



Deliver to:



This is the July 2006 Issue.

***Happy Independence Day to America's Finest:
the military, police, and fire-fighters along with their allied emergency crews.***

Current KARS officers

President:	Ed Stuckey 208-457-0354	AI7H
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Treasurer:	Chris Monroe 208-687-2251	N7ZUJ
Newsletter Editor:	Steve McQuiston (semper demens) 208-772-4095	WO6LF
Repeater Tech:	Jim Monroe 208-687-2251	N7ESU
Webmaster:	Larry Telles 208-762-2548	K6SPP

KARS CLASSIFIED ADS

This time we are not joking. This is a legitimate advertisement.

- **ITEM YOU NEED:** Go marine mobile! Old Town Discovery 133K Canoe. Only \$350. Fine condition except for one cane seat (easily replaceable). Red in color. A great canoe for beginners. Suitable for lake or stream (wide beam). Seller will toss in paddles and safety flotation vests. Contact Steve McQuiston at wo6lf@arrl.net.

Note: If someone does not avail him or herself of this opportunity, you will collectively be showing your selves as not having the right stuff. Lewis and Clark would have done it. Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin would have done it. I am waiting. (Sotto voce: bunch of sissies!)

DISCLAIMER

Unless otherwise indicated, the material presented in this newsletter is fully the responsibility of the editor, and does not necessarily reflect the opinions of any other member of KARS.