

February 2007

(www.k7id.com)

P.O. Box 5222 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

February 12

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: "DXpedition on a Sail Boat" building, operating and testing a 20 Meter HF station for -mail and keeping contact with local hams (us) on the high seas to the South Pacific.

Speaker: Mike Alfonso,
N7MCA

Refreshments: Chris (N7ZUJ)
Monroe

March 12

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: Using the simplex IRLP node "3111" in CdA.

Speaker: Ron Hardin, K7BRH
Refreshments: Steven (K7ALS)
Armstrong.

April 9

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: The American Red Cross and KARS.

Speaker: Kerren Vollmer
Refreshments: Renee Stuckey

Need volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments. See Ed AI7H at the next meeting.

CODE REQUIREMENT GONE ON 02/23/2007

Circle Friday, February 23, on your calendar. That's when the current 5 WPM Morse code requirement will officially disappear from the Amateur Radio Service Part 97 rules. On or after that date, applicants for a General or Amateur Extra class Amateur Radio license no longer will have to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. They'll just have to pass the applicable written examination. Federal Register publication January 24 of the FCC's Report and Order (R&O) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, starts a 30-day countdown for the new rules to become effective. Deletion of the Morse requirement - still a matter of controversy within the amateur community - is a landmark in Amateur Radio history.

"The overall effect of this action is to further the public interest by encouraging individuals who are interested in communications technology or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become Amateur Radio operators; and eliminating a requirement that is now unnecessary and may discourage Amateur Service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of Amateur Radio," the FCC remarked in the "Morse code" R&O that settled the matter, at least from a regulatory standpoint.

The League had asked the FCC to retain the 5 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants, but the Commission held to its decision to eliminate the requirement across the board. The R&O appearing in the Federal Register constitutes the official version of the new rules. It is on the web in PDF format at, <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/257/2422/01jan20071800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2007/pdf/E7-729.pdf>.

Until 1991, when a Morse code examination was dropped from the requirements to obtain a Technician ticket, all prospective radio amateurs had to pass a Morse code test. With the change the US will join a growing list of countries that have dropped the need to demonstrate some level of Morse code proficiency to earn access to frequencies below 30 MHz.

The new rules also put all Technician licensees on an equal footing, whether or not they've passed a Morse code examination. Starting February 23, Technicians will gain CW privileges on 80, 40, 15 meters and CW, RTTY, data and SSB privileges on 10 meters.

(Continue on page 2)

LOGBOOK

VE Examinations:

Once the revised rules are in place, an applicant holding a valid Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination (CSCE) for Element 3 (General) or Element 4 (Amateur Extra) may redeem it for an upgrade. A CSCE is good for 365 days from the date of issuance, no exceptions. For example, a Technician licensee holding a valid CSCE for Element 3 may apply at a Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) test session, pay the application fee, which most VECs charge, and receive an instant upgrade.

The FCC R&O includes an Order on Reconsideration in WT Docket 04-140 - the so-called "omnibus" proceeding. It will modify Part 97 in response to ARRL's request to accommodate automatically controlled narrowband digital stations on 80 meters in the wake of other rule changes that became effective last December 15. The Commission designated 3585 to 3600 kHz for such operations, although that segment will remain available for CW, RTTY and data. The ARRL had requested that the upper limit of the CW/RTTY/data subband be set at 3635 kHz, so that there would be no change in the existing 3620 to 3635 kHz subband.

The ARRL has posted all relevant information on these important Part 97 rule revisions on its "FCC's Morse Code Report and Order WT Docket 05-235" Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/fcc/morse/>. /EX

KARS

February 12, 2007 The regular February KARS meeting . We will setup and start testing session at 5:30 P.M. (By appointment at the CAP Building. Call N7JU, John 208-765-5470 to reserve your test date. Another date is involved in February. Check out my column on page 3 in this issue.

SPOKANE, WA

We might have an extra session around the 24th, but have not finalized it yet. There will be one on Feb 8th, same location as usual. The March testing and on site will be changing, due to the club meeting changing places and do not have all the info at this time.

Please pre-register by calling me at 509-991-2192 or aa7rt@arrl.net Mary AA7RT

SAGLE, ID

"Testing Suspended Until Further Notice"
AA7XM Russell Arndt

DIRECTIONS TO KARS MEETING:

Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about 1 mile North of Hayden Avenue). Go West on Miles to airport gate. Gate requires access code (call Ed, KARS President at area code 208 699-7743). Once past gate bear left to the Shep Rock Building.

2007 DUES ARE DUE NOW!

1. You can bring a check made out to: KARS for \$12.00 (single membership) or \$18 for family membership to the January club meeting.
2. You can mail a personal check made out to: KARS and send it to P.O. Box 5222, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816
3. If you don't renew now, this may be the last Newsletter you will get.

Dues will be delinquent in February, 2007. The treasurers job can be made a lot easier if you pay as soon as possible.

**NEW CLUB BADGES
AVAILABLE
AT THE NEXT MEETING**

**COFFEE & DONUTS
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**

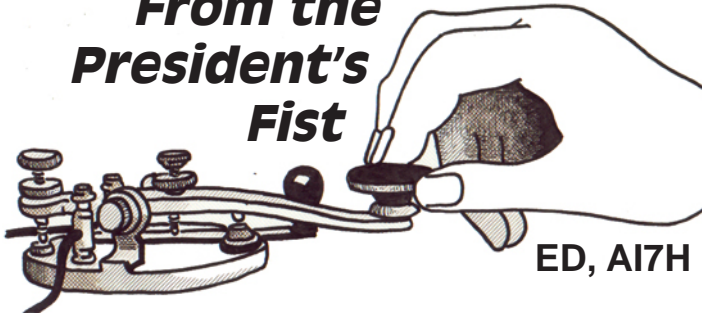


**8:00 A.M.
TIL
10:00 A.M.**

**RATHDRUM
SUPER 1 FOODS**

Bring a writing instrument. Super 1 supplies napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

From the President's Fist



ED, AI7H

February KARS Meeting Details

Greetings to Club members and friends,

The Club president's message often discusses details of "Amateur Radio in the Home", as opposed to KARS matters. This month, however, I want to prepare you for the upcoming Club meeting and what we hope to accomplish at that time.

Our speaker for February will be Mike Alfonzo, N7MCA. Mike will be operating Maritime Mobile from his sailboat "Last Mango" during the spring and summer of 2007. I understand that he has prepared a very nice slide show that ties open-ocean sailing together with Amateur Radio. Please note that we will move Mike's presentation to the beginning of the Club meeting.



After the speaker presentation, we will turn to important Club business. First is the election of officers for the 2007 fiscal year. The nominating committee has developed a slate of officers, and the Club constitution also provides for nominations from the floor during the February meeting.

We also plan to discuss the proposed New KARS Constitution and By-Laws. The Constitution Update Committee has spent quite a bit of time working on this, and we have received valuable input from several Club members. However, we still have several issues that require input from the Club as a whole. Here is the short list of unresolved items and issues (as the Update Committee understand it) (as of 01/26/07):

- Objectives and Purpose of the Club
- Classes of Membership
- Election Procedure
- Club Station License Trustee
- Delivery Method for the Club Newsletter
- Definition of Terms

Please plan to attend this important meeting, and be prepared to comment on the issues listed above. Once these items / issues are resolved, the Constitution and By-Laws will be again be updated and posted to www.k7id.com for your study.

73 to all, Ed Stuckey, AI7H Club President



On Feb. 23, 2007 - It's Official No Code! - Now What?

The KARS VE team will be holding an *administrative* VE session on February 23, 2007 to process only outstanding CSCEs for instant up-grade to General or Extra Class. The paperwork is a bit tedious and the demand is high especially for a few who have CSCEs about to expire. Boy would that be a bummer, to pass the General & Extra in the hopes that the code would go away and then watch the calendar tick away until there is only three or four days to apply before the CSCE expires after 365 days. **Not on our watch** if we can help it! But I had one request to take the code test anyway before the Feb. 23rd 2007 ...for **Bragging Right** don't you love it? Anyhow, we will be testing again on **February 12th, 2007** at the regular KARS meeting, only this time we'll start at **5:30 PM**. So many folks are showing up early for the 7:00 PM KARS meeting that we need some more *quiet time* for those taking exams. We don't always have access to the testing conference room, as in the past, and the building takes a while to warm up on these cool winter evenings. Be sure to make an appointment so we can prepare for your efforts. N7JU -208-765-5470.



Our Kellogg, ID. VE group will be conducting a VE test in March, serving Western Montana and Eastern Idaho. Our thanks to Jerry Hopper, KA7RNX, Mitch Killebrew, KB7BYR and Mike Dunn, K7SZY for putting that program together. The dates will be announced in the March

Propagation and on the www.K7ID.com web site. Call Jerry for details: 208-783-5006.

If you are a NO-CODE Technician you will **automatically become a Technician Plus** at Midnight going into the 23rd. Privileges are CW on the 80 meter band from 3525 to 3600 KHz.; CW on the 40 meter band from 7025 to 7125 KHz.; CW on the 15 meter band from 21,025 to 21,200 KHz. The really cool band for Technicians is the **10 meter band** with CW, RTTY, and data i.e. PSK-31 (look for everyone on 28,120 KHz.) from 28,000 to 28,300; and CW & **SSB** from 28.300 to 28,500 KHz. Also don't forget power is limited to 200 Watts (or less) below 28,500 MHz. Believe it or not, 10 meters has had some really nice DX openings recently with those solar CMEs of late. But you *gotta-listen* and call *CQ* if you want to work anyone. Also even though you might be considered a *slacker* on the Morse code, that doesn't mean you can't use the mode on the low bands.

As VE Team leader and *Elmer* I was concerned by a few of the exam failures experienced at our Bonners Ferry session. And yes we are going back in March for a another batch of new licensees. The only ones who failed the Technician exam were under age 13 and it wasn't even close. As VE team leader, it's my job to counsel those failing exams to help them with their study program and to discover what they did right or wrong. In the case of these young ones...two things were apparent. They didn't really *want* the license (not a problem with us huh?); and, they were using difficult and/or out-date study materials obtained from the web.

With this in mind and having experience with various study aids, here are some conclusions. The Technician Class is now the entry level. Applicants usually have little or no electronics background and everything seems very difficult and new to them. The whole idea of getting a FCC license seems like an obstacle akin to becoming an **Electronics Engineer**. But from my perspective just get the *dang* license so you can *begin to learn* ham radio with the rest of us. Then the new ham can specialize in their areas of interest and upgrade when they are comfortable with the next level. In looking over the two biggest providers of study materials for Technician Class (all in the \$30 to \$40 dollar range for the complete package) I found: (1) **pool question**; (2)...three (3) detractor answers; (3) **one (1) right answer**; (4) followed by a paragraph supposedly clarifying the entire theory behind that question. A self-imposed study program for the 600 plus pool questions at 10 questions per day would take 60 days with no guarantee that you could ever remember enough of them to answer correctly 27 out of the 35 random questions on the exam. Even classroom study with its discipline takes weeks to complete. Larry Telles, K6SPP, proved that those who really *want* this licensee can earn it with his Fall ham

radio classes at NIC. His 100% pass-rate proved that those who *hung-in there* for the duration earned the ticket.

In the past ten years I have taken more exams than I care to remember, most for graduate school for my MBA and as a real estate broker and certified instructor in three states. I used a technique I found easy and effective to successfully score enough questions in any exam. **Know the answers to the questions!** The heck with the unrelated clutter they pump into the questions to confuse. Accordingly, last weekend I narrated an audio CD (for the car stereo) with 10-cuts on it, each runs about 5 to 7 minutes long. The information given is simple: question>correct answer, question>correct answer, question>correct answer! No explanations, just the facts. My hope is that if one could start cold and listen to the CD on the way to or from work etc. every day for two weeks they could sit down and complete the Technician Class license exam in about 15 minutes. Hopefully the correct answer will *pop out* as soon as its read. The question will be the only thing you know. We're testing this theory with a few hardy souls who have accepted the challenge. If you know someone who'd like to get a license (maybe even the XYL) you may want to give the CD a try. I know after recording it, I certainly could pass the test, no sweat, and I never took the Technician Class exam. In the "old days" it was Novice to General.

73, John Hollar, N7JU



LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

NOVEMBER 2006

Hamfest and Convention Season

The first hamfest of the New Year is in Rickreal, OR on February 17. Remember the Northwestern Division Convention will be in Seaside, OR on June 1 through 3. This promises to be a fantastic convention and will have a few new formats. I met with the coordinating committee last month and am excited about the venue. We just received approval to host W1AW/7. Mary Hobart, ARRL Development Manager, will be in attendance. Mary is a great spokesperson for the ARRL and Amateur Radio in general. The Communications Academy dedicated to Emergency

Communications and coordination will be held in Seattle on March 31 and April 1. Harold Kramer, WJ1B, ARRL COO, will be a keynote speaker at this event. See the Northwestern Division web site for other Hamfest dates, times and places.

Operating Events

The Idaho QSO party is schedule for March 10-11, 2007. This is a great way to work some of those elusive Idaho Counties. To see the rules, link to: http://www.nt4tt.com/main_page_link/rules.htm . On May 5-6, the 7th District QSO party will be held. Get on the air work the world from the rare 7th area! For further information, link to: <http://www.codxc.org/new/page.asp?content=dryland7s> .

It has been a pleasure to serve the ARRL Northwestern Division during 2006. Both Vice Director Bill Sawders K7ZM and I look forward to our next three years of service to you.

73, Jim Fenstermaker K9JF
Director Northwestern Division

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 12, 2007

FCC suspends vanity call sign processing

The FCC has put new Amateur Radio vanity call sign processing on hold while it modifies the software that handles vanity applications. The suspension is a result of a rule change that went into effect December 15 to discourage the filing of multiple applications by one individual for the same call sign. The FCC is still processing vanity call sign renewal applications.

“The Commission continues to accept vanity call sign applications,” says a brief announcement on the FCC’s Universal Licensing System (ULS) Web page, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>. “However, these applications will not be processed until software changes in accordance with the recent rule making have been fully implemented.” Just when that might happen is not known.

As revised in the FCC’s recent Report and Order (R&O) in WT Docket 04-140, §97.19(d)(1) stipulates that if the FCC receives more than one application requesting a vanity call sign from a single applicant on the same receipt day, it will process only the first application entered into the ULS. “Subsequent vanity call sign applications from that applicant with the same receipt date will not be accepted,” the rule concludes.

The FCC says that when it resumes processing new vanity

applications, it will handle pending applications “consistent with the date order in which they were received.”

This suspension affects new vanity call sign applications submitted on December 18 or later. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued — or the application is denied. The FCC granted the last new Amateur Radio vanity call signs on January 4 for applications received December 15.

All vanity call sign renewal applications, including those for club stations, must be filed via the ULS. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term. /EX

QST de W1AW
ARRL Bulletin 1 ARLB001
From ARRL Headquarters
Newington CT January 2, 2007
To all radio amateurs

W1AW 2007 Winter Operating Schedule

Morning Schedule:

Time	Mode	Days
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWs	Wed, Fri
1400 UTC (9 AM EST)	CWf	Tue, Thu

Daily Visitor Operating Hours:

1500 UTC to 1700 UTC - (10 AM to 12 PM EST)
1800 UTC to 2045 UTC - (1 PM to 3:45 PM EST)

(Station closed 1700 to 1800 UTC (12 PM to 1 PM EST))

Afternoon/Evening Schedule:

2100 UTC (4 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
2100 “ “	CWs	Tue, Thu
2200 “ (5 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
2300 “ (6 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0000 “ (7 PM EST)	CWs	Mon, Wed, Fri
0000 “ “	CWf	Tue, Thu
0100 “ (8 PM EST)	CWb	Daily
0200 “ (9 PM EST)	RTTY	Daily
0245 “ (9:45 PM EST)	VOICE	Daily
0300 “ (10 PM EST)	CWf	Mon, Wed, Fri
0300 “ “	CWs	Tue, Thu
0400 “ (11 PM EST)	CWb	Daily

Frequencies (MHz)

CW: 1.8175 3.5815 7.0475 14.0475 18.0975 21.0675
28.0675 147.555
RTTY: - 3.5975 7.095 14.095 18.1025 21.095 28.095
147.555
VOICE: 1.855 3.990 7.290 14.290 18.160 21.390
28.590 147.555

Notes:

CWs = Morse Code practice (slow) = 5, 7.5, 10, 13 and 15 WPM

CWf = Morse Code practice (fast) = 35, 30, 25, 20, 15, 13 and 10 WPM

CWb = Morse Code Bulletins = 18 WPM

CW frequencies include code practices, Qualifying Runs and CW bulletins.

RTTY = Teleprinter Bulletins = BAUDOT (45.45 baud) and AMTOR-FEC (100 Baud). ASCII (110 Baud) is sent only as time allows.

Code practice texts are from QST, and the source of each practice is given at the beginning of each practice and at the beginning of alternate speeds.

On Tuesdays and Fridays at 2330 UTC (6:30 PM EST), Keplerian Elements for active amateur satellites are sent on the regular teleprinter frequencies.

A DX bulletin replaces or is added to the regular bulletins between 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Thursdays and 0100 UTC (8 PM EST) Fridays.

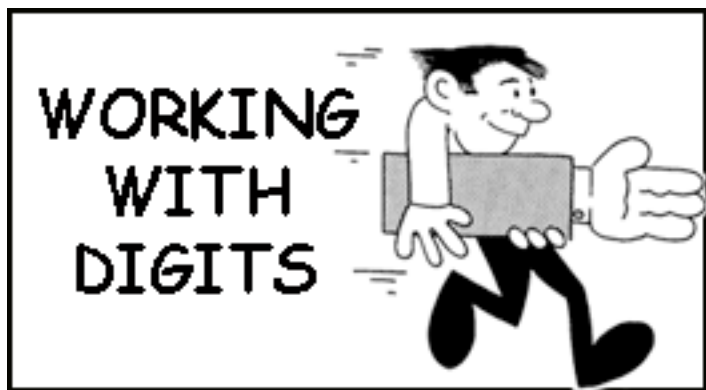
In a communications emergency, monitor W1AW for special bulletins as follows: Voice on the hour, Teleprinter at 15 minutes past the hour, and CW on the half hour.

The W1AW Operating Schedule may also be found on page 93 in the January 2007 issue of QST or on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw.html> . /EX

DXPEDITION...WOW!!! KARS FEBRUARY MEETING

Our February KARS Program will be presented by **Mike Alfonso, N7MCA**, whose obsession in the maritime mobile ham/boating world will take him and his XLY from Alaska to South America. His fully fitted sail boat, the *Last Mango* sets sail this Spring after a shake-down cruise last year. Amateur radio is the primary communications system aboard and his primary e-mail system is N7MCA@winlink.org. Last

year Bob Kesson, K7CGA, gave us a **Winlink** demonstration at one of our KARS meetings. Now, we will hear how this application really will be used. The best part of Mike's presentation will be the fantastic photos of where he has sailed so far in checking out the boat along with the ham radio equipment and installation issues on board. Mike spent quite a bit of time and effort designing and operating *radio room*. **But wait there's more**, Mike wants **you to join him** on his **dxpedition**. He'd like to have a few locals keep a weekly schedule with him through his trip, to handle traffic, and keep tabs on his progress (and for safety sake). Don't miss this fantastic presentation and become a part of history. We hope you will join us all in welcoming (Professor) Mike Alfonso to our **February 12th. KARS meeting at 7:00PM** - N7JU



The December issue of QST 2006 had an article on **PSK-Mail** a new program sure to change everything about HF e-mail programs. The article lists a web site for a **self-contained Linux Bootable CD image** that has one of the coolest (free... and that's *cool too*) Morse code decoder programs. Believe me I've used them all and I've never seen a better Morse code decoder/sender program. It's called **Fldigit**. The version I have on the CD is 1.04 and it operates in Mandriva (a Linux Operating System). It also handles RTTY, Hellscriber, Throb, PSK 31/63/125 and Damino Ex (what ever that is?). Be sure to log on to the W1HKJ web site for the latest version (1.11) and all the details plus other really cool software for the digital operator. Perhaps we could convince some of our **Linux gurus** to compile a Linux Bootable CD with the latest version of Fldigit (and cut out all the other stuff that's on the CD image I have). It boggles the mind. If anyone would like a copy of my Bootable CD, I'll do my best to burn one for you. The way it works:

You have a computer with Windows® on it. You set your BIOS to **Boot from a CD** (it probably already is set up that way). Insert the IMAGE LINUX CD, turn on the power, and away it goes. It changes nothing, saves nothing, just runs. Then run **Fldigit** and there it is. When you shut it down, pull the CD out of the CD drive and it's back to Windows as if nothing happened. Check out the screen shot for RTTY mode:

EDITORIAL

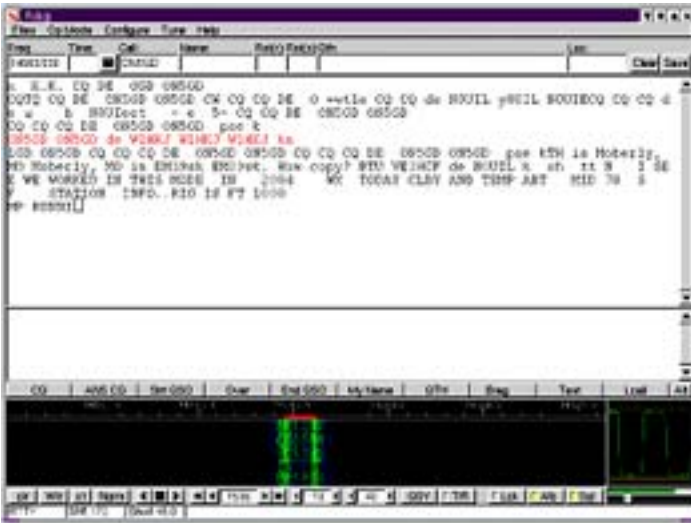
They're Won't Be Any Long-Long Lines!

The FCC has set the date, February 23, 2007 when the evil Morse Code is no longer required to get or upgrade to General or Extra Class. I thought that they would lift the requirement for General Class, but keep it for the Extra. That's a big prize that takes a lot of hard work.

Therein lies the problem. A lot of amateurs have used the code as an excuse. Back in the dark ages we had to copy 13 W.P.M. I can see some difficulty there. The next challenge was 20 W.P.M. for Extra. So where is the problem when it comes to 5 W.P.M. — -give me a break! Lots of people are saying, “now that the code is gone we are opening up the flood gates...” I don't think so. It will be business as usual. How many hams do you know that read QST magazine each month, build small amateur radio projects and continue to learn. How many local hams have you heard on the air lately. In a 2005 study, it was written that Kootenai County had over 700 licensed hams. That's not active, that those with a ticket.

So what do you do with these lazy hams that get a license and then watch it gather dust. How about a “WADK, Award. That is, *Work A Dozen KARS* members! Every one likes a certificate to hang on their wall right next to that dusty old Amateur Radio License. How about having a Saturday Morning Homebrew Activity? Build a “J” Pole antenna. Over 50% of the members are Technicians. Even if they upgrade, they can still work two meters. That is a wonderful band that all license classes can operate. The antenna for 144 Mhz is small enough to hide if you are not allowed antennas above the roofline of your house. We could even have a transmitter hunt on one weekend, and the weekend before build a small yagi for two meters and the event. How can this be a social organization when you only have two social events a year?

Flood gates, I don't think so. Why not subscribe to QST, get a license manual and attend the Spring radio license class. Show me that all hams are not lazy, this is the only way to prove it.



If you'd like one of these CD's e-mail me at N7JU@arrl.net and we will try to accommodate you. 73, John Hollar, N7JU



Brad KA5PER standing next to the new Mobile Command Center. Photo by John N7JU

WISDOM ACCORDING TO JOHN

For sure, as the **KARS Programs** guy, (if I'm reelected to the Boardwell, even if I'm not!) we'll be setting up some special programs for new Technicians on how to operate these new modes and have fun. One thing for sure, every **HF Used Rig** in the known universe will disappear from the surplus houses and at **hamfests**. So before the big push, buy something that does the low bands!!! Snooze and you loose. And for sure we OTs (old timers) would be happy to meet you on your new bands to test your signals and modes and to render practice and assistance. Just call!

KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5222
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816



MEETING ACTIVITY:

Voting on By-Laws Changes?
Voting for 2007 Club Officers
Great Guest Speaker

2006/7 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Ed Stuckey, AI7H
208 457-0354 ai7h@arrl.net

1st Vice-President: John Hollar, N7JU
208 765-5470 n7ju@arrl.net

2nd Vice-President: Larry Telles, K6SPP
208 762-2548 ltelles@icehouse.net

Secretary: Linda Chamberlain, N7UTK
208 765-3144 lindafc@roadrunner.com

Treasurer: Chris Monroe, N7ZUJ
208 687-2251 ckay@my180.net

Newsletter Editor: Position Open

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Notice

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

All opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual contributors and not the radio club as a whole.

KARS operates a voice repeater on 146.98 and a packet repeater on 145.510 Mhz.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 for a family membership. Contact the Treasurer if you wish to join.

If you know of anyone interested in joining KARS, you can notify the newsletter editor as to that parties email address. A copy of this newsletter will be send with no obligation to join.

Material can be submitted for publication in Propagation. The deadline for articles, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month's issue.