

May 2007

(www.k7id.com)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

May 14

Sheprock Building
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speakers: Kerry Jones,
KD5EFU, Warning Coordina
tion Meteorologist for the
National Weather Service,
Spokane, and Robin Fox,
Spotter Coordinator
Refreshments: Annie, KE7ADK
Refreshments: C.J., K7CJR

Friday, June 8

Post Falls American Legion
1138 E. Poleline Road
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: Potluck Dinner and
Preparing for the Swapmeet.
Speaker: Jim Monroe N7ESU
Refreshments: Everyone!!!

Circle your Calendar!!!

The KARS Swapmeet (A.K.A.
KARS Hamfest) will be held
at the Post Falls American
Legion, 1138 E. Poleline Road,
Post Falls, ID.

Information, prizes and map will
appear on the website in the next
couple of days.

Our new repeater has been
ordered!!!

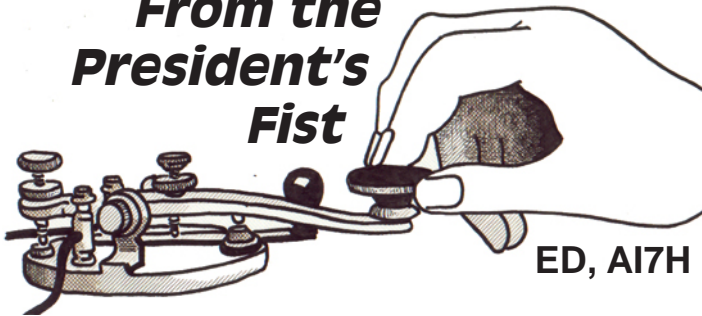
Weather Is Subject of May Meeting

EARN your NWS Spotter Certification

For the May 14th KARS meeting we are privileged to have Kerry Jones, KD5EFU, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service, Spokane, and Robin Fox, a nine year veteran forecaster and now **Spotter Coordinator** and editor of a really cool newsletter called *The Weather Watcher*. This team of scientists will be presenting their highly acclaimed program resulting in our members certifying (no exam) as **Weather Spotters** in the nationwide program. I took the course last year and was fascinated with the material and science involved. The purpose of the program is to acquire **Ground Truth** from trained observers (us) to confirm and quantify computer and radar data acquisition. But wait...there's more. The NWS is also partial to the Amateur Radio Service with their Skywarn Network and their once a year national Skywarn Recognition Day in December involving 100's of ham radio operators and over 150 weather offices across the US, in Honolulu, Alaska, and American Samoa. I participated in the activity last year (12/1/06). It was loads of fun and a real challenge. See the January 2007 *Propagation*.

As a special post script to their presentation, some serious handouts and a few words of professional wisdom for our newly licensed radio amateurs about the importance of grounding antenna systems, towers, and radio amateur equipment during lightning conditions. There is not one experienced radio amateur in our group who hasn't been introduced to **Thor** (the ancient god of lighting) and his **hammer!** Fortunately, we are all still here to talk about it but when you're actually there, the smell of burning electronics will make you sick as you see that brand new Yeasu go up in smoke. We can never learn enough about lighting conditions and characteristics in this natural science. Perhaps we can even help Kerry and his NWS group establish a radio amateur (special call) station at the Spokane Headquarters. We're inviting our County friends again who may have missed certification in previous years; and, I wouldn't be at all surprised if we found a few folks from our community dropping by to see **what's up**. Join us on Monday May 14th at 7:00PM for a very interesting program presented by some real professionals.-
N7JU

From the President's Fist



Short and Long Term Planning, and Other Stuff

Greetings to Club members and friends,

In The Short Term:

As I write this page, several Club members are setting up radio station K7ID at the Kootenai County Fairgrounds, to demonstrate Amateur Radio to a herd of Boy Scouts. Three weeks from now, a large (we hope) group of Club members will be proudly conducting a highway cleanup on Interstate 90 just east of Coeur d'Alene. At our May Club meeting, we will have a presentation by National Weather Service personnel about weather observation, and how you can become a volunteer weather observer. And the KARS Ham-Fest will be held on June 9th.



I want to put in a plug for the Ham-Fest. This year, we are moving to a new and larger location in Post Falls. A lot of folks come from out of town, and it would really be great if we have a group Club members there to "meet and greet" new (and old) friends. If you have some ham gear to sell, please bring and sell. If you have items that you just want to dispose of, please donate them to the Club and we will convert them to a positive cash flow. If you're interested in buying ham gear, books and accessories, this would be a good place to shop. Food will be served at bargain prices. Door prizes and a Grand prize will be awarded. A couple of commercial vendors will be there. Even if you're not into buying and selling, it would be nice if you could stop by for an hour. Please support the Club by attending the Ham-Fest!

In the Long Term: Help Wanted in 2008!

We will have many leadership opportunities in our organization, such as Committee Member, Event Coordinator, and Club Officer. The first step in filling future vacancies is to generate interest among Club members. [Attention current KARS Committee Members, Event Coordinators, and Club Officers – be sure take enough time to answer questions from

Club members about your duties – and be sure to tell them how much fun you're having!] The second step is for Club members who might be interested in taking one of those future jobs is to make yourself known to the current officers. Just tell any one of us "I might be interested in doing that job (or helping with that) next year". It would be so nice if we can have a talent pool in place so the 2008 officers don't have to scramble when they are putting together their team.

Some Miscellaneous Stuff:

Contributions to the Newsletter: The newsletter editor is always looking for appropriate content. If you would like to share your Amateur Radio experience (about your rig, operating, antennas, etc.), please write it up and submit to any Club officer. If you have an Editorial contribution (your position on a certain matter), we only ask that the Editorial be about an Amateur Radio matter, and written in good taste ("G-Rated"). Articles will be worked into the newsletter on the basis of space available.

"The President's Fist": I recently gave a copy of the newsletter to a new ham and he asked why I was being so tough on the Club. It took a minute for us to get in sync, but then I realized that "Fist" was a foreign term to him. For those of you who are new hams, or have not heard the Amateur Radio meaning for "Fist" – it's an old time reference to people using telegraph keys. (Example: He has a nice fist). Although I am sometimes teased by Club members for using Morse Code ("CW" as we call it) on the air, it's most enjoyable and there are still tons of hams on the CW bands. Try it, you might like it!

73 to all,

Ed Stuckey, AI7H, Club President

LOGBOOK

VE Examinations:

COEUR d'ALENE & KARS

The April 9th VE session had two General Class upgrades and two new licensees (and subsequent KARS members). Our congratulations to Mike Sheneman, **KB7VVL** and Mark Earls, **KE7HLL** for passing their General Class; and to Brianna Boyles, **KE7MSH** and Bill Boyles, **KE7MSI** for passing their Technician Class licensee exams.

We'll do it all again starting at 6:00PM before the KARS meeting on May 14th, 2007. Anyone desiring to take the Extra Class exam will need to start by 5:30PM (The Extra Class Exam takes about an hour). Bring a photocopy of your

(Logbook cont)

current license, driver's license, and a remittance of \$14.00 check (to the ARRL), or cash for which a receipt will be issued. Call **N7JU** at **208-765-5470** or e-mail **N7JU@arrl.net** for your testing appointment.

SPOKANE, WA

Register to test in Spokane this month by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail **aa7rt@arrl.net** for dates, locations and times.

SAGLE, ID

"Testing Suspended Until Further Notice." Contact John, **N7JU**. His contact information is listed above.

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.



Our sincerest thanks to **Kerren Vollmer**, Director, of our local **American Red Cross** office here in Coeur D'Alene, ID. In comments made to the KARS Board after a spirited General KARS Membership Meeting on April 9th 2007, Kerren wrote: "I hope I was able to relieve some anxiety for KARS members, as we (ARC) so desperately need KARS Radio Amateur resources to assist our efforts in handling health & welfare radio traffic and for individual radio relay communications support during deployment situations in our region." Kerren addressed the specific and controversial issues head-on, i.e. the insistence by the ARC Headquarters that they will perform background checks on Radio Amateur volunteers, but will not investigate Radio Amateur volunteer's personal CREDIT or MODE OF LIVING profiles. The conflict is that with the above



Ed Stuckey, AI7H, KARS President, Kerren Vollmer, American Red Cross, and Robert Pittsley KC7RNT, from the Kootenai County Office of Emergency Management (Past President and KARS Member) at the April 9th 2007 KARS General Membership Meeting in Coeur D Alene.

statement, the ARC continues to require Radio Amateur volunteers to sign a release authorizing those same controversial investigations. “It doesn’t make much sense,” commented John Hollar Jr., N7JU, and Vice President of the KARS group. “We want to serve our local ARC both with communications resources and financial support but as long as the National American Red Cross maintains this apparent deception we defiantly won’t do so.” Kerren presented an approved ARC proposal developed regionally to solve the problem. A *Partnership Memorandum of Understanding*, now under KARS Board consideration, is a possible compromise to enable our local Red Cross organization with Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) volunteers. The KARS group supports the **American Radio Relay League** and the ARES position in this matter. The ARC March 31st 2007 deadline came and passed without a single Amateur Radio volunteer signing up for local Red Cross service. “I really feel for Kerren who is doing wonders here in Northern Idaho in having to deal with such an untenable National position. With identity theft and confidentiality issues at the heart of the debate, our hope is that the ARRL and the ARC can come to some compromise, otherwise we’ll turn our attention and support to local-aid initiatives we can trust, such as UMCOR or LDS emergency relief services.” Hollar said.



“The withdrawal of the petition will permit a full discussion and consideration of options at the July 2007 meeting of the ARRL Board of Directors,” said ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN. “The petition then can be recast with a better explanation of its scope and the reasons for the proposed changes.”

The ARRL Executive Committee recommended withdrawing the petition when it met by teleconference April 10. The ARRL Board of Directors subsequently okayed the EC’s recommendation by mail vote.

ARRL Urges Support for Education and Technology Program (Apr 18, 2007) — The ARRL is encouraging members to invest in Amateur Radio’s future generation by supporting the Education and Technology Program (ETP). Begun simply as “The Big Project” under the inspiration of then-President (now President Emeritus) Jim Haynie, W5JBP, the ETP has expanded to some 250 participating schools across the US and sponsors free Teachers Institutes each summer for educators. The program is funded solely through contributions. ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, describes the ETP as the cornerstone of the League’s efforts to introduce a new generation to ham radio.

Scarborough Reef (BS7H) DXpedition is on the air! (Apr 30, 2007) — After a delayed start due to rough seas, the BS7H DXpedition on Scarborough Reef — the most-wanted DXCC entity in the world — now is on the air. “BS7H is now QRV. The first QSO was made at 1347 UTC 29 April,” says a brief announcement on the DXpedition Web site. The team landed and set up stations over the weekend and has already put in its first 24 hours of operation. The Daily DX reports that two stations up and running from two different rocks — on 20 meters (CW and SSB). An 80 meter station heard on the air was a pirate. The Daily DX says the team plans to get a third station on the air May 1. No decision has been made as to when the DXpedition will shut down. East Coast US stations should try 20 meters, 2100 to 2300 UTC, as there was an opening Sunday at the time (local time on Scarborough Reef is 8 hours ahead of UTC). Headed by ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, the BS7H team says it will follow propagation forecasts as closely as possible and concentrate on the bands that should provide the highest productivity to the Americas and to Western Europe.



LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

MAY 2007

NEWINGTON, CT, Apr 27, 2007 — The ARRL has announced it’s withdrawing its controversial November 2005 Petition for Rule Making (RM-11306) calling on the FCC to establish a regulatory regime to segment bands by necessary bandwidth rather than by emission mode. The League cited “widespread misconceptions” surrounding the petition as a primary reason for deciding to remove it from FCC consideration. The ARRL left open the option of refileing the same or a similar petition in the future, however.

**ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 5, 2007
To all radio amateurs**

DXing on 60 meters has a downside, ARRL advises

The ARRL is expressing concern that negative consequences could result from chasing DX on 60 meters. Some

DXpeditions have announced plans to operate on Amateur Radio's only channelized band, where amateur operations hold secondary status to fixed service operations, including some US government stations. ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, says that while it's legal for DXpeditions to operate on the 5-MHz band provided the licensing administration extends privileges there, DX pileups on 60 meters pose the potential for real and unique problems.

"US amateurs are limited to five channels on 60 meters, USB only, maximum effective radiated power (ERP) of 50 W, audio bandwidth not exceeding 2.8 kHz, and not all of the channels are useable because of ongoing fixed service operation," Sumner points out. Upon request of a primary service user, Sumner says, it's "absolutely imperative" that hams be prepared to relinquish any 60-meter channel immediately. This means constantly monitoring the transmitting channel. Hams also must not exceed the radiated power limit, he stressed.

Not all countries authorize amateur operation on 60 meters. Transmitting on a 5 MHz frequency without authorization not only breaks the law but jeopardizes the operator's continued participation in the ARRL DXCC program. Five MHz cards submitted for DXCC may not be accepted for credit without evidence the operation was authorized.

Sumner emphasized that causing harmful interference to fixed and mobile service stations could jeopardize even the existing, limited privileges as well as the chances of increasing those privileges on a domestic basis, plus any possibility of obtaining an international allocation on 60 meters.

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Space Bulletin 002 From ARRL Headquarters
Newington, CT April 5, 2007...To all radio amateurs

Fifth civilian to visit ISS

The fifth civilian to visit the International Space Station will accompany the station's Expedition 15 crew into space Saturday, April 7. Amateur Radio on the International Space Station reports that software pioneer and aviator Charles Simonyi, KE7KDP, plans to talk with students at four schools during his ISS stay, one in his native Hungary and three in the US. He also may make casual contacts.

A client of Vienna, Virginia-based Space Adventures Ltd, Simonyi, 58, will be the third passenger aboard a Soyuz "taxi mission" that will carry Expedition 15 Russian cosmonauts Fyodor Yurchikhin, RN3FI, and Oleg Kotov, to the ISS. Simonyi is paying an estimated \$25 million for the privilege.

Upon arriving at the ISS, the two cosmonauts will join US astronaut Suni Williams, KD5PLB, whose duty tour will span Expeditions 14 and 15. Yurchikhin and Kotov will spend about six months aboard the ISS, while Williams will return home in June. Simonyi will come back to Earth with Expedition 14 crew members Mike Lopez-Alegria, KE5GTK, and Mikhail Tyurin, RZ3FT, aboard the Soyuz that's now docked to the ISS.

The Soyuz TMA-10 will launch from Kazakhstan at 1731 UTC on April 7. It is scheduled to dock with the ISS at 1903 UTC on April 9. A footnote from NASA: On April 3, Lopez-Alegria set a US record for a single flight of 196 days in space.

Simonyi is a one-time Microsoft application developer and reputed billionaire. He follows in the footsteps of private space explorers Dennis Tito, KG6FZX, Mark Shuttleworth, Greg Olsen, KC2ONX, and Anousheh Ansari.

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ARRL Bulletin 12

ARRL Headquarters Newington CT April 23, 2007

To all radio amateurs

FCC poised to lower vanity call sign fee

The FCC has proposed reducing the regulatory fee to obtain or retain an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting later this year. In a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) released April 18, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007," in MD Docket 07-81, the Commission is proposing to cut the fee from its current \$20.80 to \$11.70. If ultimately adopted, that would mark the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC proposed to collect nearly \$290.3 million in FY 2007 regulatory fees.

"These fees are mandated by Congress and are collected to recover the regulatory costs associated with the Commission's enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities," the FCC said. "Consistent with our established practice, we intend to collect these regulatory fees in the August-September 2007 time frame in order to collect the required amount by the end of the fiscal year." Comments on MD Docket 07-81 are due May 3. Reply comments are due May 11.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current vanity call sign program, from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign but upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. That's because Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the FCC Universal Licensing System (ULS) at, <http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>, and clicking on the "New Users Register" link. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

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(220 cont from last month;;)

The 1.25 Meter Band Today

Today, the 1.25 meter band is used by many amateurs who have an interest in the VHF spectrum. There are pockets of widespread use across the United States, mainly in New England and western states such as California and Arizona with more sporadic activity elsewhere. The number of repeaters on the 1.25 meter band has grown over the years to approximately 1,500 nationwide as of 2004.

The attention that 1.25 meters received in the late 1980s and early 1990s due to the reallocation of the bottom 2 MHz sparked a renewed interest in the amateur community. Many amateurs feared that if activity on 1.25 meters remained sparse, it would only be a matter of time until the FCC reallocated the remaining 3 MHz to another service. Today, while not as widely available as 2 meter and 70 centimeter

equipment, 1.25 meter equipment is much easier to obtain than it has been in the past and there is new handheld and mobile equipment being produced by amateur radio manufacturers. It is estimated that more amateurs have 1.25 meter equipment now than at any point in the past.

Propagation Characteristics

Enthusiasts of either the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands cite characteristics about one band that makes them prefer it to the other. Many 2 meter enthusiasts like the longer distance propagation and lower susceptibility to multipath as compared to 70 centimeters while 70 centimeter enthusiasts like the better building penetration characteristics and the lower noise floor level as compared to 2 meters.

Since the 1.25 meter band is situated right between 2 meters and 70 centimeters in the radio spectrum, many amateurs like to say that 1.25 meters offers the "best of both worlds". This means that 1.25 meters offers a taste of the more desirable characteristics of both the 2 meter and 70 centimeter bands.

On one hand, if one assumes that the transmitting antenna (radio) antenna's wavelength, height above average terrain and effective radiated power is equal, a transmitted signal on 1.25 meters will, generally speaking, usually travel equally as far as that same signal would if transmitted on 2 meters as well as an equally low susceptibility to multipathing. On the other hand, the wavelength of 1.25 meters is closer to that of 70 centimeters, thus it tends to have building penetration and noise floor characteristics that more resemble those of 70 centimeters.

Band Plan (US)

Below is an example band plan for the 1.25 meter band.

Sample Band Plan

222.000 - 222.025 MHz - "EME (communications) EME (Earth-Moon-Earth)"

222.050 - 222.060 MHz - "continuous wave CW propagation Radio beacons beacons"

222.100 - 222.150 MHz - "CW" and "SSB"

222.160 - 223.380 MHz - "FM "repeater inputs" (1.6 MHz splits)

*FM repeater inputs are spaced 20 kHz apart (222.160, 222.180, 222.200, etc.)

*FM repeater inputs are coupled with outputs from 223.760 to 224.980

223.400 - 223.520 MHz - "FM" "simplex communication"

*FM simplex channels are spaced 20 kHz apart (223.400, 223.420, 223.440, etc.)

223.520 - 223.640 MHz - "packet radio" Packet"
223.640 - 223.700 MHz - "FM "control links" and "remote bases"
223.760 - 224.980 MHz - "FM" "repeater outputs" (1.6 MHz splits)

*FM repeater outputs are spaced 20 kHz apart (223.760, 223.780, 223.800, etc.)

*FM repeater outputs are coupled with inputs from 222.160 to 223.380

Frequencies of Note

*CW and SSB calling frequency is 222.100 MHz.

*FM simplex calling frequency is 223.500 MHz.

Current Amateur Radio Equipment for 1.25 Meters

Below is a list of current, in-production, amateur radio equipment that can both receive and transmit on the 1.25 meter band.

Handheld Transceivers

Alinco DJ-296T, DJ-296

Kenwood TH-6

Yaesu VX-6R VX-7R

Mobile Transceivers

ADI AR-247

Alinco DR-235T DR-235

Past Amateur Radio Equipment for 1.25 Meters

Below is a list of discontinued amateur radio equipment that has been produced for the 1.25 meter band. This equipment dates as far back as the mid 1970s.

Handheld Transceivers

Alinco DJ-280T

Icom IC-03AT

Icom IC-3A/AT

Icom IC-3SAT, Icom IC-P3AT

Icom IC-V21AT

Kenwood TH-315A

Kenwood TH-31AT

Kenwood TH-F6]

Pryme PR-222

Standard C228A

Standard C288A

Tempo S2

Yaesu FT-33R

Yaesu FT-103R

Yaesu FT-109R

Mobile Transceivers

Azden PCS-4200, PCS-6200, PCS-7200

Clegg FM-76

Icom IC-2330A, IC-37A, IC-38A, IC-900A (with 220 MHz module installed)

Icom IC-901A (with 220 MHz module installed)

KDK FM-4033

Kenwood TM-321A, TM-331A, TM-621A, TM-631A, TM-641A

Kenwood TM-642AD, TM-742A, TR-3530,

Midland 13-509

Midland 13-513

Ten-Tec 1230

Yaesu FT-127

Yaesu FT-311RM

Base Stations

Drake UV-3

Icom IC-375A

Yaesu FT736R with 220 MHz module installed

Known repeaters (local around the area)

Chewelah - 223.900 WA7YCP

Spokane - 224.400 W7RGW

Spokane - 223.980 WA7YCP

Spokane - 224.680 K7BRT

Kellogg - 224.760 KB7BTU

Hope to see you on the 220 mhz band..

**CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR
JUNE 9, 2007**

KARS ANNUAL SWAPMEET

**NEW LOCATION
DIRECTIONS & MAP IN THE NEXT
NEWSLETTER**

**COFFEE & DONUTS
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**



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

**CHECK WITH ED
FOR LOCATION**



New UHF Repeater Facility now Operational for KARS Members

While the KARS VHF facility is under construction, we are proud to announce that KARS Member, Darin Lehnert, KC7TIG, owner and operator of KC7TIG/R has graciously invited all KARS members to freely utilize his Rathdrum, ID. based UHF repeater. In order to use the “TIG” machine, set your transceiver’s RX frequency (OUT) to 442.850 MHz; and your rig’s TX frequency (IN) to 447.850 MHz. You’ll also need to set your **Tone** (PL-Private Line - a sub-audible tone frequency) to 110.9 Hz. Once your rig is programmed, the repeater will come up and ID quite similarly to our “98” machine you are used to.



Darin has been working with us to provide a Control Operator for the TIG machine...not that we need one, as most KARS members are familiar with simple repeater functions such as (Pull up - Hold-Over-Timer (HOT), a courtesy beep, and a Time-Out-Timer (TOT), nothing new here. Darin is also encouraging all KARS members to utilize a very cool feature of the TIG machine: it’s an **IRLP** - **8350** (Internet Radio Linking Project) node.

Start with Simple Touch-tone Controls

Test these functions first with your rig to be sure you have good control of the TIG repeater -

Enter *1 (Touch Tones “Star”+ “One”) returns the Node Number”

Enter *2 (Touch Tones “Star”+ “Two”) get the “time”

Enter *3 (Touch Tones “Star”+ “Three”) get the “temperature”

(This data is originating from KC7TIG’s home QTH)

How IRLP Works - Connecting to another NODE

First of all listen to the TIG machine for at least 15 -30 seconds before transmitting and then *ask* if the repeater is currently in use. Assuming all is clear, identify yourself and punch up the desired node number you wish to call. Example: *”KB7TIC accessing the Sydney node”* — then continuing to transmit, punch in **6050** on your touch-tone pad — then release your PTT. The TIG repeater will come up with a carrier as it waits for the connection to be authenticated. This can take a few seconds of dead air so don’t be concerned. When the connection is confirmed, a voice ID at the destination node (Sydney, Australia) will be transmitted back to you as well as our TIG voice ID to the other repeater.

NOTE: If the TIG node is already connected to another node, a greeting will play saying; - (“*your node is currently connected to...*”).

In this case confirm if anyone desires the connection to remain up before dropping the node by using an OFF code (obtained from me).

Once connected and after hearing the confirming voice ID, **wait** at least 15 seconds before transmitting as:

The repeater may be in use, and your node entry may have occurred between transmissions.

The voice ID of our TIG node might be longer than the voice ID of their node. Sometimes the connection is not made until the Ids are fully played.

Their computer server may be slower, and hence take longer to process the connection than ours.

Press and hold the microphone PTT for a second; announce your presence and your intention such as you are calling someone specifically or just looking for a QSO with another ham in Sydney. If no response is heard, announce your call and your intent to drop the link and then touch tone in the OFF code. Do not transmit touch-tone commands without first giving your call sign. It’s a regulatory issue in some countries and just the courteous thing to do. Some nodes are configured so you cannot connect to them if their repeater is active. In this case you will receive a message *“The node you are calling is being used locally.”* If you receive a similar message, wait 5 or 10 minutes and then try again. If you stay connected to a node and there is no activity on our repeater

for 4 minutes, the connection will time out and automatically disconnect with a voice ID disconnect message on both nodes. One big consideration is our local time is not their local time so its quite possible everyone you call on the other side of the world is sleeping. So if no one comes back to you it might be they don't speak English or are not on the repeater at the moment you connect.

Some more NODES to try: **7060** Harrisburg, Pennsylvania W3ND; **3418** Las Vegas, Nevada N3TOY; **3563** Pocatello, ID, KF7FY; **3666** Valdez, AK. KL1IO; **4435** Venice, FL. KB2WVY; **8022** Nagoya, Japan JA2BYW; **6900** Christchurch, NZ. ZI3TMB

Not to worry, there are several 1000's more at <http://www.irlp.net> Print out the list and keep it handy. And by the way, if a UHF or dual-band transceiver with tone squelch is not in your shack at the moment now's a good time to consider upgrading. There are more UHF facilities coming on the air including a proposed UHF KARS machine...but for the moment we are pleased to work with Darin and his facility that could turn out to be a real BOOMER repeater in the coming months. The KC7TIG/R machine is low profile at the moment but can easily be reached from Post Falls, CDA, to the West, the Prairies and to the North. Your signal should be full quieting if you'd like to connect over the **8350** IRLPTIG node. A good 10 watts+ and a decent UHF (mobile) antenna should do the trick. Your 5-watt handheld may not get you the kind of signal we'd like to put into Great Britain, but connect a good UHF antenna (ground plane or J-pole) and it may do the job.

As control operator during IRLP operation, (not repeater mode), our plan is to assist KARS members in learning how to use and enjoy the IRLP mode. Make sure your dues are paid up and you are "ok" in the club roster. I'll assist you in learning to use this powerful and really cool amateur radio system. Need help? Both Darin and I are here for you. All Technician class licensees and above, are fully privileged to use this system... but sorry, QSL's received from rare IRLP DX stations won't count towards your DXCC awards...got to work them direct.

Have fun & 73. Jeff Wall Sr. KB7TIC@arrl.net



THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN

Junk-Calls on your Cellular Telephone? Dial 888-382-1222 from your cell phone and register your cell phone number on *the do not call* list (good for five years). OR <http://www.donotcall.gov/default.aspx>

A KARS member trip to the *CANDY STORE*

What would you say to a quick trip (and a fast food lunch) to Spokane, near the Airport, (specifically at the Park & Jet Storage complex) for a caravan of KARS electronic gurus and hams, hungry for the *Mother Load* of electronic equipment, hardware, antennas, cabinets, microwave systems, power supplies, coax, and bench equipment like dummy loads, DC power supplies, tons of electronic hardware, mobile transmitters, 100 watt base stations and receivers (lots of receivers) at 10 cents on the dollar! I mean we're talking some hamfest quality serious stuff here. Now's your chance to help out a good friend liquidate two large storage garages packed to the ceiling of simply wonderful stuff. One man's junk is another ham's treasure. The facilities appear to be totally written off inventory, pulled from service for a major upgrade to a commercial communications system done about a decade ago. It's not doing anyone any good sitting in the storage areas, in fact it's costing money as it begins to degrade and move beyond obsolescence. The plans is to pick a weekday Tuesday through Thursday; form up around a guide (me) and drive on over to the Spokane Airport for a look see. The owner of the stuff will meet us there. Let the "haggling" begin. Bring cash. We are looking to May 29, 30, or 31st for the possible dates starting from CDA and meeting over there about 10:00AM until we have no more room in the trucks, go broke, or we get so hungry we've got to take a break for lunch. Send me an e-mail indicating your interest in going and your preferred day for the trek. Make the subject of your e-mail: *Mother Load* and send to N7JU@arrl.net John Hollar, N7JU

The First KARS e-vote involved 75% of the total membership

As of the date of this writing in April, sixty-two (62) dues paying and qualified members of KARS **agreed** to replace

the 146.98 MHz. repeater system. Wow! Our thanks to all the club members who took the time to review the issues and **e-vote** in support of the recommendations of the **Repeater Excellence Committee**. The vote, suggested by one of the Repeater Committee members, was conceived because we didn't want to waste three weeks until the middle of May in order obtain a vote at a General Membership meeting to allocate the funds needed to move forward with the project. The fact of the matter is that we tallied more **agree** votes than we would ever have received at a meeting. You can't argue with a 75% consensus of the club membership. We could have had 98% had everyone been up to date with their dues or if some didn't feel they needed to cast their e-vote because of the widespread acceptance of the Committee's recommendations. At the suggestion of Bob Kesson, K7CGA we also contacted all the members who had not recently updated their e-mail addresses and not only secured their affirmative endorsement for the new repeater, but all but one was able to give us an e-mail address we could use for future club business and to receive the monthly newsletter. I love it when a plan comes together. We did have one "no" vote however. It was a pity. Apparently this fellow had an ax to grind and was intent upon dredging up some past conflagration directed at the club. Some might call it making a statement...I call it sour grapes. Apparently it happened a long time before most of us even became members of KARS, so we could really care. If it were constructive discontent I wouldn't be at all offended, but this poor fellow needs to get on with his life and start enjoying his hobby or just perhaps find another club. Our most gracious vote came from Verda Siebenthaler, **K7UBC**, our *Grand Dame* at 89 and Charter KARS Member, who not only voted a resounding "yes" to the new repeater but Verda also voted to ratify the new Constitution! Now there's the kind of KARS member I'd like to be when I grow up. Our sincere appreciation to all KARS members for supporting our project. On behalf of our Repeater Committee, we'll try our best to achieve our objectives in getting the new 98 machine back in service as soon as possible.

e-VOTES Could streamline KARS business

So impressed were the members of the Board of Directors, club officers, and the repeater committee members upon the overwhelming rapid response to the call for an e-vote, it may be the wave of the future. "Not that we'd use e-voting for every little item on the KARS agenda but for major policy and club issues it doesn't get much better than this" said Ed Stuckey, AI7H at a recent outing, "It's apparent more KARS members can express more feelings faster than conducting business meetings every 30-days or so with less than a quarter of the membership attending." I certainly have to agree with Ed. As programs chairman for the club, that leaves more

time for more interesting subjects to be covered, and more time at meetings for *eye-ball* conversations and refreshments (the part I like the best). How do you feel about it? -N7JU



We have a very successful event and exposure to the Scouting Community and general public was excellent. We estimated we had contact with between 150 to 200, and possibly more, people during the day. As the theme of the event was "Preparedness," some of the boy's and most of the adults took advantage of the 12 different brochures we had available on the table. The traffic was so constant, we barely had time to take turns to eat a sandwich for lunch in the command room while people were still going through.

It started with rain in the morning and cleared somewhat in the afternoon.

We also assisted with an injured scout by providing a warm place for him and his family to stay while they contacted their dentist. A brace wire had come loose and was protruding from the side of his mouth. We provided a telephone book so his father could contact their family dentist. He told them to just cut the wire at the tooth and come in to the office on Monday. His dad cut the wire. He was OK after that.

Delivery and Set-up:

Transportation occurred on Friday and the unit was positioned exactly where the Scout coordinator wanted it. Saturday, we used the awing as it started raining. We lower one side of the awing and it worked very well shedding the water. One of the scoutmasters suggested we put out a sign as the scouts really didn't know

They could come in the unit. Brad suggested we use the briefing white board from the IC room. We hung it on the outside with a "welcome, come in" message on it. People started coming in after that.

The generator ran for 8 hours and the heater 4 hours. Operating stations included: VHF Packet, HF, VHF voice, and Echolink through Internet Satellite Dish.

Activities:

In addition to providing tours through the unit, we passed out brochures and answered questions relating to preparedness. Brad set up demonstrations of Packet Radio. We were not able to communicate with the KARS group as the area they were in was so noisy, they could not hear. He also set-up an Echolink operation and contacted a amateur radio/Scouter in the Netherlands. Brad then arranged for several scouts to talk to him directly. This was very exciting to the scouts. The HF ground antenna was set-up outside on the grass. We went out in the area and invited scouts and scoutmasters to come over to the MCC. It worked.

One of the lessons we learned is “If you build it, they won’t come”. It helps to promote and advertise. Twice we had a group of 4 or 5 scouts sitting in the IC room, around the table, and discussing preparedness. Issues and different things they have done. The older boys seem to be very interested if they can get involved.

We also referred several scoutmasters to the OEM office. They were looking for preparedness materials to use to support the scouts working on their Preparedness Merit badge.

We also had visitors from Bonner, Bennewah and Ada Counties emergency preparedness organizations who heard about the MCC being on display.



Have you ever experienced a phenomena known as “The Threshold of Pain.” The April 19th Boy Scout-O-Rama was a prime example. Tucked away in a corner of a large fairgrounds building our fearless crew waged a battle of non-existence from 10 A.M. to 3 P.M.

Our leader Ed, KE7FOW and Randy, KB6YAV spent the dark hours of the morning putting up an antenna. They’re skyhook allowed John, N7JU, our attack dog to demonstrate PSK31 to a few adults who strolled by and got to close to our tables. These adults were all accompanied by scouts from our local area. With 20 meters fading in and out John did have a small window of opportunity to demonstrate the digital mode.

Several DX stations were there long enough to show a couple of eager scouts signals from Germany and other points in Europe.

Randy had the most activity on 2 meter packet. Even with the antenna sitting behind a steel door, we had several check in’s along with numerous beacons from the packet net amateurs. Our Walter Cronkite ARRL DVD was lost in the high noise level. Lee, AA7AF left his gold panning duties to pay us a visit. He had no problem with the QRM. He turned off his hearing aids when he came through the front door. Jeff, KB7TIC helped with crowd control.

We had something in common with the Forestry booth next door. Rocks and radio’s were not the most popular booth during the event. However, we had more visitors than they did.

Did we have fun? You bet we did. Even if we only converted one scout to ham radio it was worth it. The participants in the building knew who we were and knew why we were there. You can’t put a price tag on good will.



I have a couple of surplus items which might find a good home elsewhere in the area.

1. I have a MFJ 207 10-160 Meter Antenna SWR Analyzer. This is the model without the frequency counter built in. There is an output for a signal to a counter on top through a BNC connector or you can use a receiver to get your frequency close.

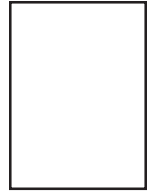
These sell new for \$99 and I would take \$49. It is in like new condition and includes the BNC cable and a copy of the manual.

2. I have a Butternut HF2V vertical antenna (80-40 meters). See this at WWW.bencher.com. Sells new for \$299.95. My price is \$75. It is in good condition and includes the manual. This antenna requires a non-resonant radial system to be efficient.

Thank you, Tom, NI7W (208) 772-0907

p.s. A \$5.00 donation per item sold would be willingly granted to the club to show this member’s gratitude if the item sells through this newsletter.

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



Highway Cleanup - May 12, 2007

Packet Net: The 1st. & 3rd. Thursday of the Month, at 19:30 hours on 145.510 simplex (*KARS Node*) (*connect to KARS, and enter Talk mode*)

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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.