



March 2009

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, March 9

Search and Rescue Building

Program: VOIP

Presenter: Thomas Barrett,
KD7JUS

Refreshments: Teri Nelson,
KE7OZK

Monday, April 13

Program: Amateur TV - Fast-
Scan and Slow-Scan TV

Presenter: Larry Telles, K6SPP

Refreshments: Bonnie,
KG6QQM & Charles, W7SGS.

SOCIAL EVENTS:

IN THIS ISSUE

Brain Teaser	2
Logbook Of The World	4
Eastern Washington ARES/ RACES Experiment	6
MARS	7

Dear Club Members:

What a great turnout for our February meeting, I counted 43 attendees and may have missed a few. Maybe we are all getting a little cabin fever and need to get out for a while. Please take some time and meet a few new members at each meeting.

The highlight of the VE testing for the evening was Christopher Hartman, age 7, who passed his Technician license exam. I am not positive, but I believe he only missed three questions. There was one more Technician and three General license upgrades for a total of five for the evening. Congratulations to all and especially Thomas Barrett, KD7JUS, our secretary, for his upgrade to General.

Our speaker for the evening, Steve Twiggs, KM7U, gave a good overview of M.A.R.S. with some handouts and applications. At least one member in our group, Brad Kasper is active and knowledgeable in this area if you have interest.

A number of activities were discussed and launched at this meeting.

- Idaho QSO party on March 14th with rules at <http://www.nx7tt.com>
- QSL Card contest has started with entries due at April General meeting.
- Boy Scout merit badge support is being considered.
- Ironman is Sunday, June 21st. Contact Board members for details.
- The club's Hamfest is June 13th. Contact Jim Monroe and Board members for details.
- Consider nearby Hamfests scheduled yearly within 600 mile radius.

Two members have volunteered to provide refreshments for March and April. Please contact me at the next meeting if you have never done this task, which only requires your participation once a year.

Please plan on attending our March meeting as Thomas Barrett, KD7JUS, will discuss and demonstrate voice over internet (VOIP). I am sure Thomas will answer all your hardware and software questions.

Take a few minutes and solve the monthly Brain Teaser which will keep your mind stimulated during these last final dull days of winter.

Ed Hannigan, KE7FOW
Club President



March 2009!

Thanks to Steve Twiggs, KM7U, for his MARS program last month.

This month Thomas, KD7JUS, will be doing a presentation on Voice over Internet Protocol, including Echolink; this is now on our 146.980 repeater! Thanks Thomas!

K7ID-R node 426264

Next month Larry, K6SPP will give us a peek at slow & fast scan Amateur TV.

See ya'll there - 73 KB7TIC, Jeff

VE TESTING

Send an e-mail to vetesting@k7id.org for an auto response containing all the details.

Exams begin at 5:30PM and go till 7:00PM. Applicants should remember to bring a copy of their existing license (that we can keep), and cash or a check made out to the ARRL for \$15.00 for the exam fee. A reminder that as long as you keep passing the exams, you can take them all, one after the other, on the same \$15.00 fee!

Section Manager Report

Greetings from Ed Stuckey (AI7H), your ARRL Section Manager for the Idaho Section. Here are some upcoming events:

The Idaho QSO Party (IDQP) – One more reminder about our Idaho QSO Party (IDQP) which will be held 03/2

14 – 03/15 this year. Complete rules are at <http://www.nx7tt.com/> Remember, only about 1% of US hams live in Idaho, so folks are anxious to talk with us! Also, there are a lot of hams working on the new ARRL “Triple Play Award” (TPA), so they will be looking for ID, as well. (The TPA is a new Worked All States {WAS} award, but you must work all states on phone, CW, and Digital to earn the Award).

Idaho ARRL Convention – Friday-Sunday, 04/24-04/26. Check out the details at <http://www.voiceofidaho.org/> Keynote speakers will be Bob Vallio (W6RGG), and Riley Hollingsworth (K4ZDH). Bob was the guy in the famous picture of a ham operating from a rock in the ocean, and Riley is the recently retired special counsel for Amateur Radio enforcement at the FCC. If you plan to go, I recommend that you complete the early bird registration form to get discounted pricing.

Northwest ARRL Convention, aka “SEA-PAC” – This event will be held 06/05 - 06/07, in Seaside, OR. Details available at <http://www.seapac.org/> They claim to be the “largest ham convention in the Northwest”.

Be sure to visit our Idaho ARRL web page, <http://www.idahoarrl.info/>

73 to all, Ed Stuckey (AI7H) ai7h@arrl.net

BRAIN TEASER

- Answer to the February questions:
 - Connect all grounds to a single point.
 - $T_c = RC = 103 \text{ sec.}$
 - New Problems:
 1. How far does light travel in a nanosecond?
 2. Ed decides to jump his bike over a 2 meter wide ditch which has a 1 meter high, level take off ramp on one side. Ed & his bike weigh 200 lbs, how fast must he leave the ramp to clear the ditch?
-

ARRL DX PHONE CONTEST BRINGS DX IN FULL FORCE TO HF BANDS

With the 2009 ARRL International DX CW Contest now history <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/02/11/10644/?nc=1>>, the first full weekend in March brings the next round of competition: The 2009 ARRL DX SSB Contest <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/intldx.html>>. Like its CW predecessor, this event focuses on DX stations working all US states and Canadian

provinces, while US and Canadian amateurs try to work as many DX countries as possible over the 48 hour contest period.

“While the origins of the ARRL DX Contest go back to 1929, the first Phone weekend wasn’t until 1937,” said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. “AM was the voice mode used at that time. The rules may have changed since the event was held back in the 1930s, but the premise remains the same: How many contacts with stations in far-away locales can you make?”

Just as in the CW contest a couple of weeks ago, US and Canadian stations send a signal report and their state or province, while DX stations send a signal report and their transmit power. Remember that for this contest, Alaska and Hawaii are considered DX stations – this means stations in KH6 and KL7 focus their efforts on working Stateside and Canada.

How can you participate? Kutzko said you’re only limited by your imagination and willingness to get on the air: “Even though we are at the bottom of the 11-year solar cycle, there will be plenty of chances to work DX, even for stations running 100 W and a dipole or vertical antenna. If you live in an area where antenna restrictions exist, take your contest effort on the road! Operate from your car, set up a portable antenna in a park or campground or see if a friend’s station is available. If you have a station and won’t be using it, consider opening your doors to members of your club to try their hand at working some DX. If you make 100 QSOs, you’re eligible to purchase a commemorative pin for your efforts.”

The ARRL DX Phone Contest runs from 0000 UTC Saturday, March 7 to 2359 UTC Sunday, March 8. Complete rules and forms are available online <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/forms/>>. Why let all this DX pass you by? Get on the air and have some fun!

SPOKANE, WA - Register for ham license tests in Spokane by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail: AA7RT@arrl.net for dates, locations and times.

Attention: Kootenai County ARES/RACES Members! Don’t forget! New meeting location for the monthly KC ARES/RACES meetings, Civil Air Patrol, Sheprock Building, Coeur d’Alene Airport. The start time remains 6:30 p.m., on the third Monday of the month.

This Week on the Radio: This week, the Russian WW PSK Contest is on February 27-28. Look for the UBA Contest (CW), Mississippi QSO Party, North American QSO Party (RTTY), CQ WW 160 Meter Contest (SSB) and the CQC Winter QSO Party to be on the air February 28-March 1. The High Speed CW Contest is March 1. The North Carolina QSO Party and DARC 10 Meter Digital “Corona” are both March 1-2. Next week is the ARRL International DX Contest (SSB) on March 7-8. The NCCC Sprint is March 6. The Wake-Up! QRP Sprint is March 7 and the Open Ukraine RTTY Championship is March 7-8. Look for the SKCC Weekend Sprint, the UBA Spring Contest (CW), the DARC 10 Meter Digital Contest and the NSARA Contest on March 8. The CLARA HF Contest is March 10-11 and March 14-15. The RSGB 80 Meter Club Championship (CW) is March 11. All dates, unless otherwise stated, are UTC. See the ARRL Contest Branch page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/>>, the ARRL Contest Update <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/update/>> and the WA7BNM Contest Calendar <<http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/index.html>> for more info. Looking for a Special Event station? Be sure to check out the ARRL Special Event Station Web page <<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>>.

**COFFEE & DONUTS
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Deadline for submitting articles, stories, reports, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month’s newsletter.

EMCOMMWEST to Include ARRL Pacific Division Convention: EMCOMMWEST 2009 — an ARRL specialty convention devoted entirely to emergency communications — will host this year’s Pacific Division Convention (Pacificon) at the Circus Circus Hotel Resort in Reno, Nevada May 1-3. Supervisor of the ARRL’s Field and Public Service Team Steve Ewald, WV1X, will host an emergency communications forum and deliver the keynote address. Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH, former Special Counsel of the FCC’s Enforcement Bureau, will be the speaker at the Saturday evening banquet; Hollingsworth will also present a forum on the legal aspects of emergency communications. Other forums in the works include an introduction to the work of Public Information Officers (PIO) and the PR-101 Course <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/01/22/10578/?nc=1>>; how to create an effective ARES team (and even how to create an ARES team from scratch); how to work with ARES from an Emergency Manager’s view; packet software and operations for emergency communications; practical emergency communication functions for ATV; how to creating a Section-wide intercom using EchoLink and VoIP, and more! SKYWARN and storm spotter training will also be offered. ARRL Pacific Division Director Bob Vallio, W6RGG, and Vice Director Andy Oppel, N6AJO, will lead the ARRL Forum. Registration is now available online via the EMCOMMWEST Web site <<http://www.emcommwest.org/>>.

DX NEWS: K5D BREAKS 100,000 QSO BEFORE GOING QRT

The Desecheo Island K5D team says that it broke the 100,000 contact mark before going QRT. This event took place at 04:14 UTC on February 23rd when K5D made contact on 40 meter C-W with Zdravko Kalaba - Kale, E77U, who is located in Bosnia Herzegovina. And in a satellite telephone interview with Wolf Harrant, OE1WHC, team co-leader Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, said that the propagation seemed to be with them all the way:

“The propagation has been very good except for the very high bands. We have worked quite a few stations on 6 meters but most of that has been meteor scatter.

“10 and 12 meters have been very sketchy. We’ve made few contacts on 10 and 12. 15 and the bands down below have really opened up and we’ve made some really good contacts.

“The fortunate thing is that with our antenna spacing we have been able to work two and sometimes even three modes on any given band, even with high power. So we have been able to take advantage to some really good band openings to our target areas.”

The DXpedition a made its first satellite contact on Friday, February 20th with Andrew Glassbrenner, KO4MA, in New Port Richey, Florida. That QSO was conducted at 20:14 UTC through the SO-50 ham radio bird.

As the operation began winding down the team modified the radio schedule to try to pick up those areas of the world that have been obscured by the huge pileups from the population centers of in North America, Japan and Europe. By the terms of the groups Special Use Permit the operators had to vacate the island no later than the February 26th.

The last night on the air saw three stations still in operation emphasizing 80, 40 and 30 meter operation. They departed Desecheo at sunrise on the 26th. QSL’s go to N2OO

The complete interview between Wolf Harrant, OE1WHC and Glenn Johnson, W0GJ, is now available on the “Documentary Archive Radio Communication” KP5 special Web page at http://www.dokufunk.org/amateur_radio/dxcc_entities/index.php?CID=4728&lang=EN (OE1WHC, PS8RF)

RESCUE RADIO: COSPAS-SARSAT GOES DIGITAL

The Cospas-Sarsat satellite based rescue radio locator system has gone digital. As of February 1st, the satellites are no longer monitoring for analog distress beacons at 121.5 and 243 MHz. All mariners, aviators and individuals who use emergency beacons on those frequencies had been previously advised to switch to the newer, digital 406 MHz frequency to be detected by the on-orbit monitoring birds.

The United States National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration claims that in 2008, beacons monitored by the Cospas-Sarsat worldwide system were responsible for almost 300 lives saved. This included 203 people rescued in 65 at-sea incidents and 12 people rescued in 7 aviation incidents.

SARSAT stands for Search and Rescue Satellite Aided Tracking. Cospas is the Russian word for the same. The Cospas-Sarsat satellite tracking system is a joint effort of the two nations. (NOAA)

THE DTV TRANSITION: SOME ANALOG STATIONS FORCED TO STAY ON THE AIR

Meantime, back in the United States, not every TV station that wanted to go digital-only on Tuesday, February 17th was permitted to do. Only days prior to the then voluntary analog turn-off date the Federal Communications Commission told 123 broadcasters that were planning to stick to the original February 17th date that they will have to justify not extending their transmissions for four months.

In denying their applications to terminate analog service on February 17th, the FCC told the targeted stations that they must certify at least one in any affected market would continue to broadcast information about the transition and local news in analog for at least two months. Affected stations are in or near areas where all of the major network owned or affiliated stations has applied to turn off their analog transmissions on February 17th. In the local area, KREM-TV, Channel 2, is the one affected.

All full-power TV stations had been planning for years to turn off analog transmissions on February 17th. Congress and the President extended that date to June 12th. (Adapted from FCC release)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: HIGH TEMPERATURE CONDUCTIVITY

A new paper published in the Journal of the American Chemical Society will help to broaden our understanding of the nature of superconducting materials and of the origin of the superconductivity phenomenon in high critical temperature materials.

For those not aware, superconductors are materials that conduct electrical current with zero resistance at low temperatures. The phenomena was discovered in 1911, and the researchers in this area of solid state physics have been regular recipients of the Nobel Physics Prize.

Now, the discovery of high critical temperature superconductivity is being considered as one of the most remarkable chapters in modern science. It is being looked

on as a major breakthrough in developing new technologies and compounds in solid state physics and materials science that may lead to new products not even imagined only a few years in the past. (Science Daily)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: FIRST DRM RECEIVER COMING TO THE USA

Media Network reports that a new Digital Radio Mondiale receiver designed in France may soon be coming to American shores. The Di-Wave receiver from UniWave Development SAS is expected to make its debut March 25th at the DRM General Assembly in Germany. This is an all band plus FM receiver that is Digital Radio Mondiale capable on the Shortwave, Medium Wave and Long Wave bands. It will also be expected to be the first consumer level Digital Radio Mondiale receiver authorized by the FCC for sale in the United States. (Media Network)

EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: NEW LAPTOP PLATFORM FROM INTEL

Something long awaited in the world of laptop computers has finally arrived. This with word that Intel Corporation is set to launch new hardware for laptop computers. Jim Damron, N8TMW, reports:

The new products are a package of components including the main processor as well as all the secondary chips that add features such as the ability to connect to a wireless network.

Platforms such as this rarely grab focus outside of technical circles, but Intel is generating wider interest this time. This is because its new products are the first to use flash memory which it hopes will translate into faster performance and longer battery life.

According to market researchers the laptop and notebook computers are the fastest growing segment part of the personal computer business. Last year, worldwide shipments of desktop machines rose just over 2 percent, but sales of laptops jumped 26 percent.

RADIOSPORTS: US ARDF CHAMPIONSHIP IN JUNE

It may be cold and snowy where you are right now, but spring is not that far off. Nor is the season for master level hidden transmitter hunting. Newsline's Joe Moell, K0OV, tells us about the upcoming direction finding championship games for the Western Hemisphere.

Fans of on-foot hidden transmitter hunting are getting ready for the Ninth USA Championships of Amateur Radio Direction Finding, or ARDF, which will take place June 5 through 7 near Boston. The best radio-orientees in the country will be there, as well as some experts from around the world. That's because these national championships are being combined with the championships of IARU region 2. You don't need to be an expert, because anyone can join in the competition as a learning experience.

Site of the contests will be the Blue Hills Reservation, a 7000-acre open space that is about ten miles south of downtown Boston. This year's organizer and host is Vadim Afonkin KB1RLI. He learned the sport as a youth in his native Russia. When he got back into it here in the states six years ago, he began a streak of winning medals at every national championship.

KB1RLI says that to encourage first-timers and foreign visitors, the competition fee will be waived for persons who have never participated in the USA ARDF Championships and for persons coming from outside North America.

If you would like to take part as a competitor or a helper, point your Web browser to <http://www.bostonardf.org/> for the latest information and registration forms. For more about the sporting side of radio direction finding, including rules and ideas for equipment, go to <http://www.homingin.com/>. Yes that's one word: homingin.com

From southern California, where the weather is so nice that we can practice ARDF any month of the year, this is Joe Moell K0OV, for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas
(ARBONET) Weekly Net

The Amateur Radio Balloons Over North East Texas (ARBONET) Weekly Information Net is held Wednesday evening at 8:30 PM CST via the facilities of the North Texas Repeater Association Repeater Network (NTXRA)

Dallas: 442.025 MHz Offset: +5 MHz PL Tone: 127.3
Ft. Worth: 443.450 MHz Offset: + 5 MHz PL Tone: 127.3

McKinney: 442.575 MHz Offset: + 5 MHz PL Tone: 127.3

The NTXRA network has IRLP capabilities, The node number is 945, channel 1.

Repeaters outside the coverage area of the NTXRA network who have IRLP capabilities can link into the network to participate in the weekly nets.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio High Altitude Balloon flights or in participating in ARBONET activities is invited to join this weekly on-the-air activity.

[ANS thanks Doug, W5BL, for the above information]

Erie Planetarium Contact Successful

On Saturday, February 21, Erie Planetarium in Pennsylvania participated in an Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) contact with Mike Fincke, KE5AIT, via telebridge station W6SRJ in California. Twelve students asked 21 questions of the astronaut in front of a crowd of 200. At least one television station reported on the event. The audio was fed into the EchoLink AMSAT and JK1ZRW servers and had 13 connections, including one repeater, from 8 countries. Among those listening were stations in China, New Zealand and Spain.

A ham operator who was manning a Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) exhibit table at a Yuma, Arizona hamfest used his radio to listen to the contact as part of his demonstrations. Even though only the ISS side of the contact was heard, the crowd enjoyed hearing Mike answer the questions. (AMSAT Newsline)

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society

PO Box 5222, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83814



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K7ID.org Request Form

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



DIRECTIONS TO KARS MEETING:

Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about 1 mile North of Hayden Avenue). Instead of proceeding west from the corner of Miles and Ramsey, go north about ¼ mile, to the first building on the left (West) side of the road.

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

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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 sent 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.