

February 2010

(www.k7id.org)

P.O. Box 1765 Hayden, ID 83835-1765

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, February 8
SAR Building
Topic: Vintage Radios
Presenter: Jack McElroy,
K7JMC

Monday, March 8
Search & Rescue Bldg.
Hayden, Idaho
Topic LogBook of the
World (Free Software)
Presenter Ed Stuckey
ARRL SC - AI7H



SOCIAL EVENTS:
Mike & Key Hamfest (Puyallup)
March 6

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President's Message:

February 2010 is the time for each member to renew (*your*) \$12.00 membership for the Club. All that's required is to bring or send to our KARS Treasurer, Tom Richmond, **NI7W**, your check (or cash) for \$12.00. If you mail it, send your check noting your *call letters* and confirming any changes in your mailing or e-mail address to *continue* to receive club newsletters and bulletins to: **KARS, P.O. Box 1765 Hayden ID 83835-1765**. Club membership includes great programs, fellowship, cookies & coffee, parties and hamfests, technical resources and help with *your* projects, training, and includes *discounts* on ARRL membership that provides licensing services, (free renewals/changes etc) and the greatest ham radio publication of all time: **QST**. Your Board is planning outstanding programs this year that you won't want to miss. We are inviting personalities from the area, our own members, and on several occasions, the general public to future meetings to **promote amateur radio** and our Club. Please support KARS, as we really need your financial and voluntary assistance not to mention a strong membership-*voice in North Idaho*. TNX -N7JU

The **KARS Repeater** continues to be deaf: (Lower than normal receive sensitivity). Power output is FB and all logic functions are working normally. On average, **10 watts/LOS** (line of sight) will work fine but *nix* to low power or *shadowed* stations. The fix is so simple it's heartbreaking. Fifteen minutes with a screwdriver and the back up 146.38 MHz GE Master Executive II receiver (tuned and ready) is all that would be required. Jim Monroe, **N7ESU**, and others report that the path to Mica is a *sheet of ice* and continues to be impassible for mere mortals like we. Frankly, we are talking danger here and I'm not willing to commit a trek to the site if there is any chance of injury or accident for foolhardiness. But we keep looking for a window of opportunity. One suggestion was to engage the county equipment service agent (formerly for the "08" machine) to give us a hand on a "will call basis," e.g. whenever they have another service call to the site. A quick call to *Mike Deakins*, CEO, Valence Communications netted some interesting news. Valence no longer serves the county, (long story) but they do have other clients on Mica-Idaho. In fact my landline missed one of their services calls by a few days that might have enabled a repair had we known about it. But check this: they couldn't get there either by land so they engaged a helicopter from CDA airport for a 20-minute RT... for \$600. Yikes! Anyhow, Mike is a storehouse of useful and historic site information in the area and gave us many suggestions (and contacts) for consideration going forward. Guess it could be worse. Mike Dunn, **N7SZY**, KARS member and VE from Kellogg, informed us that for the want of a .25-cent fuse, all his mountaintop ham repeater stations are "off the air." They can't get to their mountain top site either. **GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY!**

YOU CAN HELP

Well there are of course, some long-term solutions. A **redundant** system or an **alternate** system could provide improved reliability. *Redundancy* would be to add a back-up receiver at Mica-Idaho and *switch it in* if the main receiver goes down. We have a redundant antenna system (2-base station antennas we can select) there now as that was thought last year to be the highest probability of failure over the winter. We have the basic receiver equipment to do this now...a shelf mounted Master II VHF receiver with a "cut-over relay". Is there a team of *teckies* out there who would like to take this project on? Send me an e-mail N7JU@arrl.net. The second solution would be a voting receiver in the valley. We could switch to this one in the event of a Mica-Idaho receiver failure. But chances are we'd probably be playing *whack-a-mole*. If we installed the back-up receiver, the TX, PA, or PS would go down, hi hi. The other idea is the **alternate system**. The back repeater for 98 is working flawlessly for the past month in my shop on a *dinky ground plane* antenna. What is really needed is a **temporary home** for it in the valley to serve members until we can get to Mica-Idaho again. A good elevation e.g. 2800' to 3200' > AMSL, and a 2-meter base station antenna atop a small tower with low loss transmission line would be ideal. If you could provide a temporary site, or know of someone who can, please notify me ASAP. - N7JU.

January VE Session was a busy Session

The word is out: KARS VE Sessions are the best around. They are scheduled monthly with no breaks, reliable accommodation and our Team provides good services to new hams and applicants alike. In addition, it is our opportunity to sign-up new KARS members. I don't mind saying that we sure did that in 2008. But there is a downside. New licensed hams need an "Elmer." You folks out there with ham experience need to step up and give these new hams your e-mail and help them get started. Its fun, rewarding and we make new friends. Please volunteer with Larry Telles, K6SPP, new VE Team Leader. New upgrades, call letters and members: Richard Fleetwood, KC4Ytz, advanced to Extra, he needs help setting up a computer; David Arritt, KE7EDB, advanced to General; Christopher Hartman, K2CLH, advanced to General; Gregory Bentley, KF7BXR, advanced to General. New calls issued to Technicians: Austin Rosedale, KF7HAE; Michael Rosedale, KF7HAF; Joseph Schumacher,

KF7HAG, who might need some help in applying for a different call, (hi hi); John Supp III, KF7HAH; and Loyd Drennan, KF7HAI, who needs some help with Echolink. KARS and the ARRL VE team wish to congratulate these new and upgraded amateurs and welcome them to our Club and community.

A note to early meeting arrivals: Regular VE testing starts about 5:15 PM prior to the meeting time at 7:00PM, and usually is completed by 6:15 PM. In the winter months we don't have an opportunity to *eye-ball outside* and the VE Team feels badly that there often is no place to sit until the VE sessions are completed. Accordingly, we ask that you delay your arrival to about 6:30PM; or that you congregate in the *kitchen area* to keep warm if you need to arrive sooner. If we have a few test stragglers...we'll switch places giving you the meeting room and we'll take the kitchen to complete our session. Warm weather of course solves the problem. - VE Team

A busy KARS January VE Session



COFFEE & DONUTS EVERY THURSDAY MORNING

8:00 A.M.
To
10:00 A.M.

The Golden Spike
Community Center
Rathdrum



TALK-IN: 146.98
100 PL

Bring a writing instrument. The Golden Spike has the napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

New Question Pool for Technician Class – New Test: July 1, 2010

The Question Pool Committee (QPC) of the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) released the new Technician class (Element 2) question pool on **Monday, January 4**. This new question pool will become effective for all examinations administered on or after **July 1, 2010**; it will remain valid until **June 30, 2014**. The current Technician question pool that became effective July 1, 2006 will **expire June 30, 2010**. The new Technician pool contains approximately 400 questions, from which 35 are selected for an Element 2 examination; it will contain *graphics and diagrams*, something new for this element.

AMATEUR RADIO LICENSE TEST SESSIONS

Coeur d'Alene, ID, ARRL VEC

February 8, 2010; March 3, 2010; April 12, 2010; May 10, 2010; walk-in VE testing, second Monday of every month starting at 5:30PM (prior to the Kootenai Amateur Radio Society -KARS general meeting starting at 7:00PM) at the Search & Rescue Building, 10865 N. Ramsey, Hayden, ID 83835.near the South end of CDA Airport

Contact: **Larry Telles, K6SPP, phone: (208) 771-2633; email: vetesting@k7id.org.**

Lewiston, ID, ARRL VEC

March 20, 2010; April 6, 2010, May 4, 2010
Lewis-Clark ARC conducts testing the first Tuesday of every month at 6:00 PM at the EAA Chapter 328 Hanger at the Lewiston-Nez Perce County Airport, Building N-14, Lewiston, ID 83501. Please note the testing time is 1 hour prior to the meeting.

For more information, please visit: <http://www.lewisclarkarc.org/testing.aspx> or email at w7vjd@lewisclarkarc.org.

VE Contact: Emmett McCormick, NA7EM, Phone: 208-798-3279, Email: na7em@arrl.net

Pullman/Moscow Area, WA, ARRL VEC

January 17, 2010, 1300 hrs; 3rd Saturday of each month; sponsor Palouse Hills ARC. Contact: Tom Storer, KI6DER, phone: (509)334-6979 email: KI6DER@AmSat.org. See PHARC Web page for additional information: www.palousehillsarc.org

Spokane, WA, ARRL VEC

Spokane Community College, Room 251 or 252, 1810 N Greene St, Building facing Mission Street, Spokane, WA; 5PM every 2nd Thursday except summer months (prior to the Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs

general meeting starting at 6:30PM). Call for confirmation.

Contact: Mary Qualtieri, AA7RT, phone: (509)723-2503 email: aa7rt@arrl.net

Spokane, WA, W5YI VEC

St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 316 E 24th Ave, Spokane WA 99203, Library; January 30, 2010, Saturday; March 27, 2010, Saturday; May 22, 2010, Saturday; July 24, 2010 (church's Parish House), Saturday; August 28, 2010, Saturday; November 27, 2010, Saturday; all 10AM
Contact: Betsy Ashleman, phone: (509)448-5821 email: n7wrq@aol.com.

Colville, WA ARRL VEC

Contact: Karl Miller, WX7P, phone: (509)258-8922, (509)684-6491 email: wx7p@arrl.net

Please bring a photo ID, radio license, if any, plus a photocopy, & any outstanding Certificates of Completion, plus a photocopy, & Social Security number or FRN number, and cash or check made out to the "ARRL" (\$15) If you pass a lower class, license you may sit for the next highest class on the same exam fee. You may retake any failed exam for an additional fee at the same testing session.

January's KARS meeting might just save your life!



Every couple of years we invite the Idaho State Police District I, to give us their winter safe driving presentation. Their normal presentation is 3-hours but we got the short version delivered by **Cpl. Todd McDevitt**, who had an informative and professionally sobering orientation of Idaho's winter driving conditions. He was very thorough and we particularly liked his fielding the many questions from the audience. We also enjoyed a short discussion of the possible *texting/cell phone restrictions* and their possible relationship to mobile radio amateur operations.

Reminder: Don't "glide through a stop sign" behind an advancing car...just come to a complete stop ..and save the *green stamps*. (See photo previous page.)

If you or anyone you know needs an ISP/Webhost - KARS receives a \$100.00 credit if we refer them to **Powweb.com**

Don't forget the **Mike & Key ARC Hamfest** on March 6th 2010, Puyallup, WA. Contact n7wa@arrrl.net for information.

Check out the **Glentek Radio to Ethernet (RTE/RS232)** interface, no computer required! Put you rig on-line and control it from any location from a netbook or cell phone. Featured in the January 2010 QST <http://www.glentekcorp.com/> uses a *MagicJack* for audio, and provides a **CI-V Controller** at half a manufacturer's price. It's really cool!

Do you have a **portable radio** and want more frequencies programmed in? Do you have programming or cloning software for your HT? Working up a frequency list for KARS members that includes 200+ channels for cloning or programming into portables. Using ARRL **Travel Plus Repeaters ver.13** and some of Jeff Wall's **KB7TIC secret frequencies** in the area to create a printed monitor/repeater list (all bands) anywhere in the country. RT Systems Software imports that list directly into your HT. We're planning a *HT programming session* for portables in a few months. Contact: N7JU@arrrl.net.

A Friendly Reminder: with the start of the new year, please re-member to renew your membership with KARS. See application on next page.

HOMETOWN EMBROIDERY

FOR YOUR CRAFT OR COMPANY LOGOS

POST FALLS, IDAHO

208-691-5191

Welcome Ham Operators to the world of Embroidery. We are a new company in Post Falls Idaho, but with 17yrs of experience. We are sure we can help you with all you Embroidery needs.

CAPS:\$15.00



LOW PROFILE AND STANDERED
MANY COLORS AVAILABLE

SAFETY VEST EMBROIDERY:\$20.00



WITH FULL BACK AND LEFT CHEST

WE ALSO OFFER A WHOLE LINE OF JACKETS, SHIRTS, POLOS, AND TEE'S WITH OR WITHOUT EMBROIDERY
WE'LL ORDER IN OR DO YOUR OWN GARMENTS SHIPPING IS AVAILABLE: WE'LL EVEN DELIVER LOCALLY
CALL SHAWN @ 208-691-5191
OR E-MAIL TO
hometownembroidery@hotmail.com

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

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

Deadline for submitting articles, stories, reports, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month's newsletter.

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society

PO Box 17□5, Hayden, Idaho 83835-17□5



Please complete the entire form and return with your payment.

Single Year Membership

New Member \$12.00 Renewing \$12.00 Family Membership \$18.00 Information Update Only

Two Year Membership

New Member \$22.00 Renewing \$22.00 Family Membership \$33.00

Callsign _____ Class _____ Expiration _____

First Name & Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

ARRL Member _____ May we publish limited Information _____

Internal Use Only

Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check	<input type="checkbox"/>	Money order	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roster	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Card	<input type="checkbox"/>		

For Family Membership, Please complete an application and staple together.

Signature _____

K7ID.org Request Form

First and Last Name _____ Callsign _____

Would you like your (callsign)@k7id.org email to be forwarded to an existing email account or would you like to access it through a web or post office protocol (POP) system?

Please Forward to My existing Email (Please Complete the Bottom and Sign.) Webmail Access POP Access
 I wish to opt-out of K7ID.org

Please Select a username _____ @K7ID.ORG

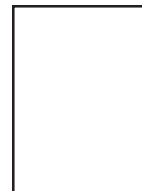
Please Select a Password _____

For Forward Request Only

Email Address _____

Signature _____

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

President: John Hollar, N7JU
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208 818-1521 vicepresident@k7id.org

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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.