

March 2010

([www.k7id.org](http://www.k7id.org))

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

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



**Monday, April 12**  
**Search & Rescue Bldg.,  
Hayden, Idaho**  
**Topic:** The Mission of Idaho's  
Bureau of Homeland Security  
**Presenter:** Jay D. Baker, Idaho  
Bureau of Homeland Security

## SOCIAL EVENTS:

Mike & Key Hamfest (Puyallup)  
March 6

## IN THIS ISSUE

### Presidents Message:

WE'VE GOT PEOPLE!!! Our regular February KARS meeting was a stellar event. Not only did we have an outstanding presentation by Jack McElroy, K7JMC, on how to assemble a formidable Amateur Radio Station at 25% the minimum cost of current offerings by the big three (Yaesu, Kenwood & Icom ...and yes, I know there are others...); we presented several club tasks with a request for help. We had a respectable voluntary response of those present. We'll probably have more from those of you out there in cyber-land when you review our standing committees for tasks we'd like to continue for 2010. Should you wish to join any group (also outlined below) please e-mail me, [N7JU@arrl.net](mailto:N7JU@arrl.net) or VP Garry Beaudreau, KE7UQM, [vicepresident@k7ID.org](mailto:vicepresident@k7ID.org) with your willingness to serve. I'm reminded of a 1945 Victory Canadian nickel that has a secret Morse code inscription running around the outer edge of the coin. "We win when we work willingly." The words worked back then and they are just as true today. Accordingly, I wish to thank all those who signed up and invite you all to consider giving us a hand and your support.

KARS Treasurer, Tom Richmond, NI7W, reports that renewals of KARS 2010 memberships, necessary for everyone to re-up each year starting in January, is progressing nicely. Remember, you must renew your \$12.00 membership before April 2010, or you risk being dropped from the club roster. Think of it: missing our great meetings and helping the many new licensees joining our group and all the other fun activities we enjoy. It's a simple process and your club needs your resources to repair and continue its facilities provided to the amateur community in North Idaho. Larry Telles, K6SPP, tells me he has completed a slew of new K7ID Nametags and they will be available at the March meeting. Also keep in mind while participating in official club activities our liability insurance provides an extra measure of coverage only for paid up and current KARS members.

Our brief presentation after Jack's program was a "call to service": Here is a review of the activities and the volunteers:

1. 2010 Highway Clean-up, Chairman Jerry Blythe, KE6RVX (and Flag pledge leader) reports 14-sign-ups so far for this activity. We always have a great time (and lots of fun and fresh air) on this twice a year - two-hour Saturday activity. We find the neatest things out there: cash, car parts; tools etc. and we all get to wear those really cool yellow vests.

2. The VE Team picked up two new Volunteer Examiners: Mark Avakion, N7MA, and Pat Patterson, W7SGS, who are working on their VE Exam qualification as we speak.

3. Repeater Site Search Group has six volunteers and as soon as we get some warmer weather, we'll be conducting point-to-point GPS propagation testing from various high locations under consideration. We also need several volunteers to assist this group from their home QTHs. Don't even need to get dressed! Just look for the test calls and respond with a signal report and power setting. Mobile GPS and dual band VHF/UHF rigs will be used. Our objective is to find two antenna sites we can acquire for additional and back-up repeater facilities.

4. UHF Repeater Committee, Adam Crippen, N7ISP, and a group of three volunteers have signed up to finish and test the new KARS UHF 448.975/443.975 MHz. repeater. It's sitting in a nice shop in CDA with everything needed to get the rf-package/duplexer on the air. (TX/RX crystals have been delivered). Several decisions need to be evaluated as to the repeater logic card and what type of antenna is needed. It's a mint low split GE Mastr II so if there are any more GE gurus out there let us know who you are and give us a hand. There is also minor GE Mastr II UHF control receiver tune-up project in this group as well.

5. Teach Technician Classes. We are fortunate to have six highly qualified sign-ups for this activity. And I'm asking Bob Kesson, K7CGA, our most experienced instructor, to "engage his fellow volunteers" in coming up with a course outline and schedules to be initiated after July 1st 2010 with the introduction of the new VEC Technician Question Pool. When you are ready guys, we're "going public" and invite the surrounding communities to sign up for your programs.

6. Be an "Elmer" We've already had three requests by new licensees and new KARS members for basic help in the hobby. In case you didn't know, an "Elmer" is an experienced HAM who enjoys teaching and mentoring a younger licensee, one-on-one. Back in 1957, my "Elmer" was W3RPG. I can still remember him helping me construct my first 40-meter dipole and standing over me when I made my first CW QSO on 7.164 MHz as a Novice (15 watts). He's an SK (departed) now, but I'll never forget him and always remember his guidance and patience making my 53 years in HAM radio a pleasure...now it's your turn.

7. HAMFEST COMMITTEE. This year we'd like a team-effort a few people don't have to do all the work. I'm appointing Bonnie Patterson, KG6QQM, as our coordinator for this effort and we're on the lookout for ideas and people who want to help. We'll be meeting shortly for a planning session and we invite you to join in the effort. Stay tuned.

Alan Campbell, KE7DFT, KARS Executive Director will be the KARS liaison for the KARS 2010 Hamfest this year.

Finally I'm pleased to report that one of our tasks has already been completed! The KARS Superlist project was undertaken by Jack McElroy, K7JMC. Jack turned over the completed project to the BOARD last week. Jack went through all our record for the past several years and built from scratch an e-mail list of over 289 local area hams! Now if we could only get half of them to join KARS. That's our next activity with this list. Thanks Jack, the members owe you a debt of gratitude. - N7JU

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**The February VE session** found **James King** passing his Technicina Class License; and **Allen J. Fullerton** passing both his Technician and General Class Exams in one sitting. *Nice job Allen!* Call letters have yet to be assigned to James and Allen due to the delay caused by the legal holiday (MLK), in the processing week. Loyd Drennan, **KF7HAI**, advanced to General Class; and Jeffery Ispirescu, **KF7ECZ**, also advanced to General. Please welcome these new amateur radio operators to the club. -**K6SPP**

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Can you find the International Morse Code message?

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**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!**

A cartoon illustration of a white coffee cup with steam rising from it, and two chocolate-glazed donuts with sprinkles next to it.

welding/sheet metal specialist, Wayne Cook. KA7DIT.  
Should have listened to you, Wayne! – N7JU

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Do you care about your audio quality?  
de Jack / K7JMC

The CERWIN-VEGA company (makers of the “Earthquake” systems for theatres that made the rounds years ago) used to say that “Loud is Beautiful” - As Long As It’s Clean”. On the other hand, over deviating your carrier, coupled with a poor quality microphone and mike technique is anything but beautiful. Yep, it’s me again... When I spoke about microphones at our meeting, this is the article I wrote about four years ago on this subject. I talked about the Heil microphone elements, HC-5 & HC-4 and their audio pass band. Well I bought a Heil HMM-Y, dual element, hand mike!! It has both elements in it. Heil says that this mike is intended for SSB use on the HF bands. That’s fine but it sure works well on my Yaesu FT-8100. Tests and signal reports say the “Full range” (HC-5) side of the mike sounds better than the “DX” (HC-4) side for repeater operations... The frequency response is: “Full Range” = 200Hz to 6kHz, “DX” = 600Hz to 6kHz. Additionally, the “DX” side has greater emphasis at 2100Hz. Also as I mentioned, the Astatic D-104 mike is similar to the HC-4 Heil element whereas the Astatic 10-DA is more like the HC-5. Note: beside the audio upgrade, I bought the Heil HMM-Y mike so I didn’t have to deal with all those damned buttons on the stock mobile hand mike!!

Remember that the mike that comes with your mobile/base radio is usually a token gesture. Yes it will talk, but how do you sound? If you care, upgrade your mike and get one with a lower frequency response like the Heil HC-5. (If you don’t care how you sound, perhaps you should take up bowling.) OK, now that you’ve upgraded your mike, it’s time to move it away from your face and speak into it at a “normal” level! Unless you are in a high noise environment, there is NO NEED to crowd the mike! Work a test with someone that you feel has a good ear and try a few changes and ask for feedback on the results. You can try moving back about 4 inches from the mike or speaking across the face of the mike. Try these things and listen to the signal report from your friend. It will pay off. As an old and dear friend used to say, “It’s great to sound “Grand on the Band”.

73, de Jack / K7JMC

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Kootenai ARES/RACES: The topic for March’s meeting will be Amateur Radio Direction Finding (aka, Transmitter Hunting). It will be held at the Civil Air Patrol Building at the Coeur d’Alene Airport, 15 March 2010, at 6:30 p.m.

(Continue on page 4)

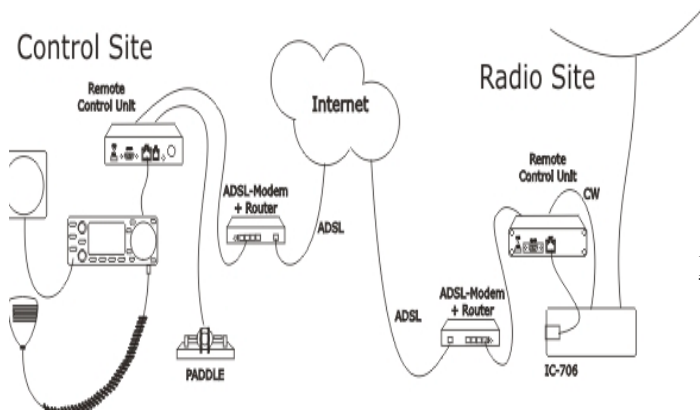


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### **McElroy, K7JMC accepts the KARS Appreciation plaque from the Membership for his February Program**

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“98” Still Deaf - I’m sorry to report that the Mica Idaho machine still lacks sufficient receiver sensitivity to be a reliable source of communication in the valley. We have full control of the repeater and even experimented with the alternate antenna, which provides a slight improvement in the coverage. It is about 70’ lower than the Main antenna and is shadowed by a tower leg facing north. We made a recorded announcement into the repeater logic board using the Main antenna. It played back at about 60% quieting. Then we used the Backup antenna and it played back at about 80%. But sad to say, no amount of remote testing can alter the fact we have issues. At the February meeting we discovered that the Main antenna is not only tilted down but that it may be shattered or broken at the base. This could clearly be the cause of our problem and has motivated a decision by the Board to immediately order another similar antenna. Our original antenna was a “light duty model” but the new one being designed and shipped is more rugged. It is also easy to see that a slab of ice falling from a dish/stationmaster above us could easily shear our antenna especially if it was tilted off vertical prior to getting hit. Recall that the icing conditions were ideal for this possibility when the problem was first reported on December 11, of last year just before our Christmas party. A quick check with Steve May, our site host, indicated access to the site, “up the back way” is possible and is relatively safe at this time. So I’ll be asking a team consisting of N7ESU, K7AEH, and N7BRB to take the back up receiver and the new antenna up for a repair as soon as practicable. Later this year we intend to revisit the antenna-mounting situation with a custom design by our



**Remote Control** - Yet another really cool product. This time it is the RRC-1258 sold in pairs. The theory behind this product is simple. If you have a HF/VHF/UHF transceiver with a Detachable Control unit, you plug the control unit into one RRC-1258 unit and the transceiver at the remote location into another RRC-1258. The two units talk to each other over the Internet, no computer needed. It's like putting a 500 mile cable, via the Internet, between the control unit and the RF package. See QST for January 2010 for the advertisement and for details. It isn't cheap! – N7JU

Topic for discussion at the March meeting:

What if we charge \$10.00 for those people that want the newsletter in paper form? I got the idea from Lake City Senior Center. That is what they do when someone wants the newsletter mailed to them. The \$10.00 would cover the postage and would cover part of the paper/ink. Just an idea.

Megan Barrett, KE7RCD

**IARU Region 2 and Radio Club de Chile Request Amateurs to Keep Emergency Frequencies Clear** (Feb 27, 2010) -- A massive 8.8 magnitude earthquake hit Chile today at 0634 UTC, triggering a potential tsunami. IARU Region 2 and the Red Chilena Nor Austral de Servicio (RECNA) have suggested Amateur Radio operators monitor the following emergency communications frequencies for traffic pertaining to the earthquake and tsunami: 3.738, 3.750, 7.050, 7.100, 14.200, 14.350, 21.200, 21.350, 28.300 and 28.500 MHz. IARU Region 2 Area Emergency Coordinator Jorge Sierra, LU1AS, reports that there is now traffic at frequencies of 40 meters from people seeking information from people in Chile: "We would appreciate if amateurs would leave free the frequencies used by RECNA, as well as the usual IARU Region 2 frequencies on in 20, 40, and

80 meters." In addition to the above frequencies, you may also want to listen to the worldwide emergency communication Center of Activity frequencies: 14.300, 18.160 and 21.360 MHz. Other suggested monitoring frequencies are 3.720, 7.045 and 7.060 MHz. Hawaiian Amateur Radio operators on the lookout for a possible tsunami are monitoring 7.088 and 3.888 MHz. -- Thanks to Radio Club de Chile's (RCC) Emergency Coordinator Aldo Oppici, CE3WAD, and W2VU, KI6SN, K3ZO, PY2ZX, PY5YA and El Grupo Argentino de Radiotelegrafia for the information.

**FCC Allows Robotic Device in Amateur Band:**

In January 2008, a company called ReconRobotics filed a request with the FCC for a waiver of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules with respect to the Recon Scout -- a remote-controlled, maneuverable surveillance robot designed for use in areas that may be too hazardous for human entry. A waiver is required to permit licensing of the Recon Scout because the device operates in the 430-448 MHz band, which is allocated to the Federal Government Radiolocation service on a primary basis, as well as the Amateur Radio Service and certain non-federal radiolocation systems on a secondary basis. More than two years later, the FCC granted the waiver request in the form of an Order (WP Docket No 08-63), subject to certain conditions. (ARRL Newsletter)

**GRANT HOPPER, KB7WSD, APPOINTED NORTH-WESTERN DIVISION VICE DIRECTOR**

ARRL President, Kay Craigie, N3KN, has appointed Grant Hopper, KB7WSD, as the new Northwestern Division Vice Director. (ARRL)

**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@arrl.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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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

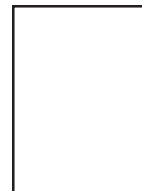
Please Select a Password \_\_\_\_\_

### 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  
208 765-5470 president@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.