



August 2011

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.
Kootenai Search & Rescue
Bldg., Hayden, Idaho
**Topic: Data Transmission
Standards**
**Presenter: Larry Telles,
K6SPP**
**Refreshments: Tom Rich-
mond, NI7W**

**ARRL VE Testing Session 8/8/
11; 5:30 PM Walk-ins welcome**
All exams administered.

**Monday, September 12, 7:00
p.m.**
Kootenai Search & Rescue
Bldg., Hayden, Idaho
Topic:
Presenter:
Refreshments: Joel Brown

Upcoming Social Events

August 20, 2011 1:30-4:30 pm
**KARS Ice Cream Social and
Barbeque**
2531 E Hanley Ave, Coeur
d'Alene

September 24, 2011
**Spokane Hamfest/Washington
State Convention**
University High School
Spokane Valley, Washington

Welcome to August!!

Finally some great weather and time to enjoy the outdoors. This is weather that I enjoy. Getting outside, enjoying the pool and finally getting the lawn trimmed and looking good.



As many of you have seen last month Margaret "Maggie" is now here. She was born on June 21st at 2:21 AM. As most of us do know, June 21st is the summer solstice and is the day with the longest daylight of the year. But nobody needs to tell Megan how long the day was. Hi Hi!

I would like to thank everybody for the success of the KARS Hamfest. I was amazed to see the success that it turned out to be. **Thank you everybody!**

At the last meeting we did discussed a social in the month of August. Please stay tuned as the planning committee is currently working out the details.

Don't Forget

September 24th at University High School is Spokane Hamfest!

See you at the Meeting.

Thomas Barrett, KD7JUS
KARS President

August KARS Presentation

Our speaker will be Larry Telles (K6SPP), a long time KARS member and retired Telephone Company (TELCO) employee. TELCO's have standards for everything they do – from wire gauges to computer programs to safety to employee accommodations, and Larry was involved in training employees on how to adapt to the many standards. An important group of technical standards is for “data transmission”. How does it work, how many (any?) wires, what signals go on which wire, is there some kind of error checking, etc. Please join us for an informative presentation on data transmission standards, including RS-232, RS-449 and V.35. While there are new “standards” coming into use every day, these (232, 449, V.35) are commonly used in the world of Amateur Radio. And if you pay attention, you may learn what is meant by the “RS” in front of the number.

Highway Cleanup Results

A group of nine hardy KARS members and friends gathered on Saturday, 07/16 to attack the trash on Interstate-90, at milepost 17. After a safety briefing by Jerry (KE6RVZ), and putting on our safety vests, we focused our attention on - the trash. We are pleased to report a total of ten bags were gathered, leaving the interchange looking quite “natural”. The entire operation only took a couple of hours, with good weather, so a good time was had by all. No animals were harmed during this exercise.

Field Day Recap

“Field Day” is the biggest annual Ham Radio “operating event” in North America, with an estimated 30,000 hams and friends participating at about 1,500 radio stations. This year, KARS members operated a Field Day station from Kootenai County Fire and Rescue (KCFR) Station #2 in Post Falls. (This is a “volunteer” station, so no firefighters were displaced). Chief Barrett of KCFR was our host, and moved equipment around so that two “bays” were available for our use. On Friday 06/24, we installed temporary antennas and prepared

operating positions. Final touch-up was taken care of early Saturday AM, and the event officially began at 11AM Local Time on Saturday, 06/25. This was a 24-hour continuous operation, so operators were on duty until 11AM Sunday, 06/26. At the end, we found that we had recorded a total of 253 ‘phone contacts, as well as 281 CW contacts, a very good showing. (During last year’s Field Day, a total of 336 contacts were recorded).

A total of 23 members and friends were involved in station operations, and we had 26 visitors sign the log. One of the most interesting visitors was an elderly lady who reported that her father had held the call sign “W1AA” (about as far up the list as you can get!).

The usual problems were encountered, such as the computer that stopped computing, the power supply that just stopped, and the important plug that was un-plugged, but these things are expected. It was a good learning experience, with various good ideas on how to create the “perfect” Field Day station – next year.

Submitted by Ed, AI7H

KARS Ice Cream Social AND Barbeque

Here are the details:

Who: All KARS members and their guests are invited.

When: Saturday, August 20, 1:30 to 4:30PM

Where: At the home of Bob (K7CGA) and Bonnie (KE7FPA) Kesson, 2531 E Hanley Ave, Coeur d’Alene. (Directions: Highway 95 to Hanley Ave, turn East (toward Mt Canfield) and follow Hanley almost to the end. You will see the KARS commotion at the Kesson QTH). Talk-in 146.98 (KARS repeater), and 146.52 Simplex.

What to bring: Bring something that goes with hamburgers/hot dogs (like potato salad, fruit salad, etc.) *OR* something that goes with ice cream (like your favorite topping, cookies, brownies, etc.); *OR*, you are welcome to bring an alternative dish (like spare ribs). Bring your own beverage (soft drinks, lemonade, etc.) Also, bring a couple of lawn chairs and a small table (like a card table) if you have one.

The Club will provide: Paper plates, plastic knives and forks, drinking cups, hamburgers and hot dogs, with condiments, as well as Ice Cream!

ARRL Official Observers Team with FCC to Solve Rogue Keyer Problem on 17 Meters

On July 15, Walt Bilous, K3DQB — an Official Observer (**OO**) in ARRL's Eastern Pennsylvania Section — notified ARRL Headquarters of a keyer continuously sending a series of dits on 18.0855 MHz. According to ARRL Field Regulatory Correspondent Chuck Skolaut, K0BOG, Bilous kept hearing the dits throughout the night.

Skolaut asked Bilous to alert other OOs to monitor the frequency, but the signal was proving hard to locate via direction finding due to changing propagation and fading conditions on the band. "We alerted OOs across the country to monitor and collect additional information for us including bearings and signal strength reports," Skolaut said. "We had a great response from quite a number of Official Observers." But the signal was still proving elusive, so Skolaut contacted the FCC for assistance.

"By Monday evening, July 18, the FCC indicated that the dits were originating in California, ruling out speculation that it might even be coming from outside the United States," Skolaut explained. "On Tuesday, we received word that the FCC had pinpointed the exact location of the dits. They visited the radio amateur's home, found the cause and the transmitter was immediately shut off." According to the FCC, an amateur in Northern California had unintentionally left his keyboard too close to his keyer paddle, and the paddle somehow got pushed against the keyboard, making it send continuous dits.

"We appreciate the efforts of all the involved Official Observers and the prompt follow up by the FCC in pinpointing the source of the transmissions and getting them stopped to prevent further interference on the band," Skolaut said. "Since signals on 17 meters may travel long distances, we received a number of reports from stations overseas who supplied signal strength reports along with bearings. This incident prompts a very important reminder to all amateurs to always be vigilant when operating and if leaving your operating position, to turn off or secure your transmitters to avoid situations like this from happening." (ARRL Newslines)

New Mexico Hams Provide Communications Support During Wildfires

One month after it began, the Las Conchas Fire — New Mexico's largest fire on record — has burned almost 157,000 acres and is 90 percent contained. The fire, which began on June 26, is believed to have been human set. The next day, the fire threatened the Los Alamos National Laboratory, forcing the evacuation of the entire town of Los Alamos. The American Red Cross established two shelters, one in Pojoaque and another in Espanola, both

north of Santa Fe. During the evacuation, the Santa Fe ARES® (SFARES) Group placed itself on alert.

On June 28, the American Red Cross requested communication support at the two shelters due to a lack of landline telephones in the shelters, as well as poor cell phone coverage and quality. The New Mexico State Emergency Operations Center activated the Santa Fe and Los Alamos ARES® Groups that morning. It requested the SFARES® Group to establish a communication post at the shelter in Pojoaque, while the Los Alamos ARES® (LAARES) Group was asked to establish a similar capability at the Espanola shelter. Both communication posts were directed to utilize the VHF 2 meter repeater (146.82 MHz) on Tesuque Peak. This repeater allowed both Shelter communication posts to communicate with each other, as well as with the State EOC, south of Santa Fe.

SFARES members responded to the activation and established a communication post within 45 minutes of the activation. SFARES members developed a continuing watch that was manned from 7 AM until 10 PM. Although the start and stop times varied a little based on Red Cross requirements, SFARES members maintained the communication post until July 2 when it was placed in a standby status by the State EOC. The LAARES Group maintained the same continuing watch at the Espanola shelter. During the activation, LAARES members were also displaced from their homes, due to the mandatory evacuation from Los Alamos.

"While message traffic normally concerned health and welfare and originated by the Red Cross, there were requests from the State EOC and from the Incident Commanders staff," said SFARES Emergency Coordinator Don Hinsman, N4VIP. "All traffic was logged according to normal ARES® procedures and responses to all requests were obtained. Due to external demands on LAARES members, SFARES Group members augmented the Espanola shelter."

Hinsman, along with ARRL State Assistant Section Manager Bill Boedecker, NM5BB, and ARRL Santa Fe and San Miguel County District Emergency Coordinator William Beardsley, KE5ZAV, found they needed digital transfer capability between the Pojoaque shelter and the State EOC.

"On June 30, Alex Kent, NM5AK, utilized the VHF 2 meter repeater on Pajarito Peak to transfer test messages to and from the shelter to the State EOC using MT-63 mode in FLDIGI and FLMSG," Hinsman told the ARRL. "All test messages were received with 100 percent copy. The Pajarito Peak repeater is located within the active fire boundary of the Las Conchas Fire. This repeater functioned continuously during the Cerro Grande Fire in 2000. It is powered by solar panels and is not susceptible to landline power losses. Pajarito Peak is one of five

repeaters maintained by the Santa Fe Amateur Radio Club (SFARC); the Tesuque Peak repeater is another. SFARC members noticed a less than optimum performance on Tesuque Repeater, so Alan Hill, N5BGC, and John Spiess, KB5ZQE, went to Tesuque Peak on July 2 to repair the SFARC repeater system. The repeater had 20 W forward and 10 W reflected, which is not acceptable. They replaced a 50 foot section of coax, resulting in a new reading of 20 W forward and 0 W reflected. This repair was coordinated through the State EOC during the communication support. No loss of communications was experienced during the repair and a better repeater was available after the repair.”

As of July 26, the Las Conchas fire had destroyed 63 homes and 49 outbuildings. On July 23, a National Incident Management Team (NIMO) took over management of the Las Conchas fire suppression efforts from the Northern Rockies National Incident Management Team. “The NIMO Team will continue management of the Las Conchas fire and assigned resources until the fire is declared contained,” the US Forest Service declared on its Las Conchas Fire website. “The fire has been divided into four branches and local fire suppression resources from the ranger districts, Bandelier National Monument, and Valles Caldera National Preserve will form Task Forces of firefighters, engines and water tenders. Each Branch will continue to mop-up hot spots, patrol the fire perimeter, and complete remaining fireline suppression rehabilitation.” More than 130 people have been involved in fighting the fire. According to the USFS, four helicopters, 18 fire engines, two water tankers and three bulldozers are assisting in fighting the fire.

“The response by LAARES and SFARES Groups is another excellent example of how Amateur Radio operators provide support in times of emergency,” Hinsman said. The following hams helped provide communications support: K5RVR, K5SDC, K5YDX, KB5ZQE, KD5IRG, KD8QAQ, KE5ZAV, KJ5KU, KM5HH, N4VIP, N5BGC, N5EYS, N5UJT, N5XDF, N6ZZT, NM5AK, NM5BB, NM5RW, W4KYM and W5UO. (AARL Newsline)

KAITLYN COLE, KS3P, AGE 11, NAMED 2011 AMATEUR RADIO NEWSLINE YOUNG HAM OF THE YEAR

Amateur Radio Newsline’s Young Ham of the Year Judging Committee has announced that Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P, of Harvest, Alabama, has been chosen as this year’s award recipient.

There’s a very surprised Kaitlyn Cole, KS3P, of Harvest, Alabama, who at age 11 learns that she is the youngest person ever to receive the Amateur Radio Newsline™ “Young Ham of the Year Award.” But her lack of chronologic age is more than made up for by her selfless dedication to her community and the youth of Alabama through her chosen hobby/service of amateur radio.

This past On April 27, the Huntsville, Alabama area, including the small community of Harvest, was hit by a series of destructive tornadoes. The severe weather took a heavy toll in lives lost and property damaged. Kaitlyn and her father immediately volunteered to help with amateur radio relief activities. Kaitlyn began by logging contacts and running errands, but in short order took on the role of Net Control Station, working for many days from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. With cellular and wire line telephone coverage being spotty to non-existent, Kaitlyn’s duties as Net Control involved dispatching amateur radio operators with rubble clearance machinery and debris pickup teams. For her efforts, Kaitlyn received many compliments from veteran operators on the professionalism that she displayed during this crisis situation.

Kaitlyn is also Assistant Section Manager for Youth Activities in the ARRL Alabama section. In this role, she visits many hamfests where she speaks to other young hams. Kaitlyn has also volunteered her services the past three years at the ARRL Expo Youth Lounge at the Dayton Hamvention© and ran a special event operation to honor the local Volunteer Fire Department in her hometown.

The daughter of Stanley, NX3P, and Amy Cole, Kaitlyn joined the amateur radio fraternity at the tender age of 8. She passed her Technician exam in September 2009, her General in October 2009, and her Extra Class this past January 3rd. Since being first licensed, Kaitlyn has participated in many amateur radio activities, with a special emphasis on the public service and the youth activity aspects of the hobby.

The 2011 Amateur Radio Newsline™ “Young Ham of the Year Award” will be presented to Kaitlyn will be honored on Saturday, August 20th at the Huntsville Hamfest in Huntsville, Alabama. (ARNewsline™)

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

**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!

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society

PO Box 17□5, Hayden, Idaho 83835-17□5



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K7ID.org Request Form

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