

December 2011

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

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Monday, December 12, 7:00  
p.m.**

**American Legion Hall, Post  
Falls, Idaho**

**Topic: Holiday Potluck**

**Presenter: KARS**

**Refreshments: Open to Every-  
body**

**ARRL VE Testing Session at  
American Legion Hall 12/12/  
11; 5:30 PM Walk-ins welcome  
All exams administered.**

### Upcoming Social Events

**December 12, 2011  
Annual Christmas Party  
American Legion Hall  
Post Falls, Idaho**

Greetings from Vancouver, Washington.

Again, I greatly apologize for my absence. I am working here in Vancouver, Washington just across the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon. In the picture, I am standing at the Amtrak Depot looking South at the Columbia River Draw-bridge. This is the mainline that crosses into Portland.

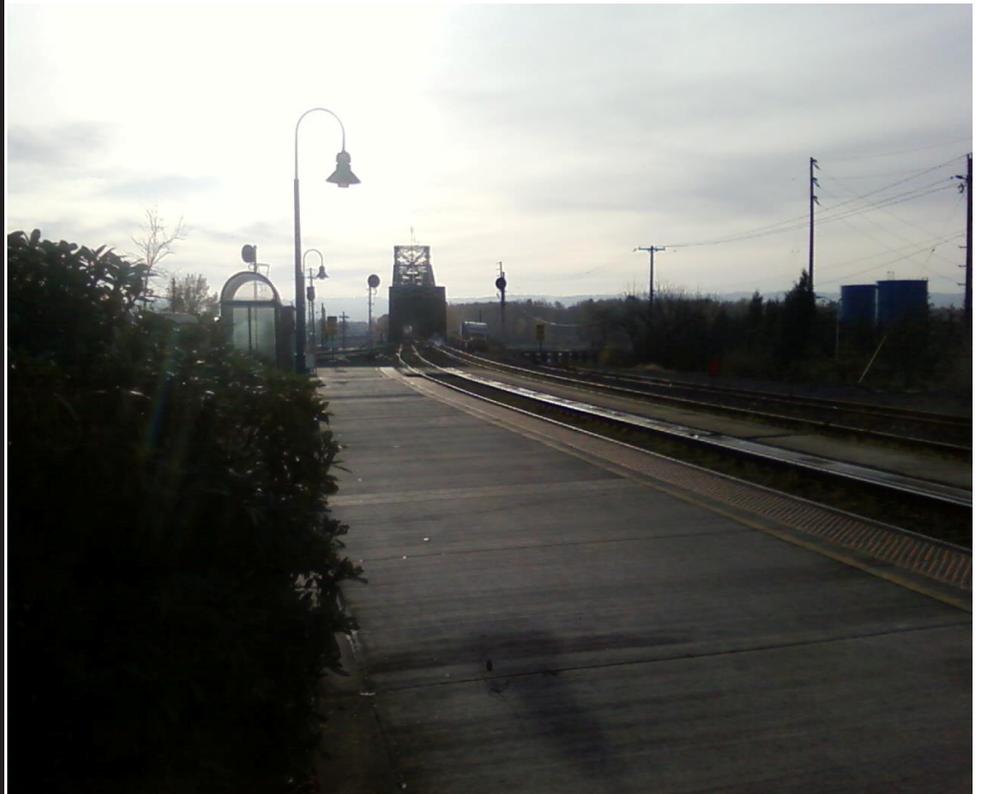
Once again, I would like to thank the board for their hard work while I am away for work.

I would like to congratulate the new incoming board on their recent election. Although I will not be there for the holiday party, I do wish them luck.

I won't be able to make it to the holiday party but I would like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Greetings from Vancouver, Washington.

Thomas Barrett, KD7JUS



## November Election Results

The slate of officers proposed by the Nominating Committee was adopted by acclamation at the November meeting for the 2012 term. The new board members are as follows:

President – Bonnie Patterson (KG6QQM)  
Vice President – Allan Campbell (KE7DFT)  
Secretary – Tom Richmond (NI7W)  
Treasurer – Pat Patterson (W7SGS)  
Executive Director – Jacob Cord (KF7QLI)

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KI7I TOWER/ANTENNA PARTY

DEC 3

117 OLD FOREST RD

SPIRIT LAKE

Rick, KI7I, will be having a work party to add two sections to a tilt-over tower and add a couple of dipoles to his towers at his new home in Spirit Lake. He will be delaying the rest of the work until spring due to the weather.

Work will start about 9 AM and finish ????

Coffee, donuts, soft drinks, and pizza will be provided to helpers.

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## KARS Holiday Party

December 12, 2011

Plan to arrive between 6:00 and 6:15 p.m.

6:30 p.m. will be when we start eating.

American Legion Hall  
1138 East Poleline Road  
Post Falls, Idaho

Please bring your favorite potluck dish  
The Club will provide paper plates, plastic knives and forks, drinking cups, coffee and water.

Ham Testing at 5:30 p.m. in an adjacent room.

Questions? Call Ed Stuckey - 457-0354 or  
ai7h@arrl.net

## When Brutal Storm Slams Alaska, Hams Provide Critical Communications

Cold, windy winter storms are nothing new to Alaska, “the Last Frontier.” But even infrastructure built to withstand some of the harshest conditions can fail. As a storm pummeled the small, isolated villages along the Bering Sea on November 8, it knocked out power lines and communications across the region. The only way the villages could communicate with each other — and with officials and weather forecasters in Fairbanks and Anchorage — was via ham radio. “The hams were providing critical observations,” explained Carven Scott, the Science and Operations Officer at the National Weather Service’s office in Anchorage. “We don’t have a lot of meteorological observations in the west. We don’t have the instruments out there.”

Scott told the *Alaska Dispatch* that the messages he received from radio amateurs were “deceptively simple”: How fast the wind was blowing and from what direction, sea level, wave height, whether it was snowing or raining and the temperature. “These seemingly small details from various villages made a big difference for the weather service — enough so, Scott said, that a lead forecaster told him, ‘Whatever you do, don’t cut it off because this stuff is really helping us.’ Through the ham radio network, Scott and his colleagues learned that river ice in Koyuk was backing up and spilling onto the banks, roofs had blown off in Nome, water was surging in Nome, and rain and snow were falling in Shaktoolik and Savoonga.”

First-hand reports from people on the ground fed the information in real-time to the NWS, allowing forecasters to adjust and refine their analysis. So if forecasters predicted snow, but it’s raining instead, meteorologists can tweak their formulas. “Those seemingly unimportant pieces of information help us characterize where the front is at,” Scott told the *Alaska Dispatch*. “Without that information, it would impact our ability to execute our mission, which is the protection of life and property and enhancement of national commerce.”

According to the *Alaska Dispatch*, as soon as NWS forecasters became aware the storm’s severity, they quickly got word out to ARES® Alaska: “Whenever the National Weather Service has questions about what is going on or what is pending in a far-off place, they will call on the amateur community to try and provide current update information,” explained Jerry Curry, KL7EDK, of Fairbanks. “They don’t have the ability to see what’s going

on out there. It enables them to produce better and more accurate forecasts.”

Martin Ruud, WL7MR, of Nome, is a member of ARES® Alaska. Rudd provided communications support for about 48 hours, beginning on November 8 when the storm first hit. Inside his warm home, he draped sleeping bags over his windows to protect himself and his equipment in case a wind gust shattered the glass. Outside, a 160 meter antenna stood ready. While Ruud was standing by in Nome, operators in Kenai, Ketchikan, Fairbanks and Whitehorse were also ready to take voice messages and get them to where they needed to go.

According to the *Alaska Dispatch*, Ruud fielded messages from islands and other coastal communities: “In Gambell, a village at the northern tip of St Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea, Job Koonooka was his contact. In Elim, east of Nome on the shore of Norton Sound, it was John Jemeouk. In Shishmaref, it was Bobby Iyatunguk. He had others in St Michael, Little Diomedea, Brevig Mission and Koyuk. Many of these smaller communities relied on Internet or phone connections to get their status updates to Ruud, who then fed them into an email format that he beamed out via radio, sometimes with pictures attached, to larger processing centers. From these larger systems, the messages ‘jumped track’ from the radio network to the Internet and continued their journey to the e-mail inboxes of other ham operators, including those working with the National Weather Service in Alaska.”

Rudd received a message from Bobby Iyatunguk in Shishmaref during the storm, telling him that none of the village’s residents had been injured, phones still worked, there was no known damage, the gym was open, businesses were closed and that help wasn’t needed. But soon after Rudd received this message, Iyatunguk sent another one: CALM WINDS, WATER STILL RISING, LOTS OF WATER IN LAGOON SLOWLY GETTING TO HOMES. Earlier in the storm cycle, Shishmaref reported to Ruud that its emergency services center was up and running, its store had closed, power was on, phones were working, wind was coming in from the south at 35-40 miles per hour, and the beach was holding up during a rising tide.

Through the Amateur Radio network, Ruud was able to distribute a picture sent from the village of Koyuk showing ice beginning to build, as well as this message: “Blizzard conditions set in 10 PM, winds 15 from SE gusts up to 25. Tide has not come in yet. Tide receded about 3.5 feet from the highest tide. No property damages as of

last update or personal injury. Still haven’t heard if the school or businesses will close tomorrow. Businesses open normal hours this evening. So far so good.”

During the storm, ARES® Alaska showed it’s a good complement to the state’s emergency system. “More than a back up, it demonstrated it can fill information gaps — though it will never replace the communication used by those in command,” the *Alaska Dispatch* stated. “Ham operators always defer to official responders during any crisis.” ARRL Alaska Section Manager Jim Larsen, AL7FS, agreed. “We actually hope we never get used,” he said. “But we want to help our communities — so if they need us, we want to be as prepared as we can.”

Curry called Amateur Radio “a kind of ‘Plan B’ for anything else that doesn’t work. It is basically a world or global messaging system. A ham radio operator with the right equipment can send a message from just about anywhere in the world.” - *Thanks to the Alaska Dispatch for the information (ARRL News)*

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#### ARLB024 FCC Releases New Rules for 60 Meters

On November 18, the FCC released a Report and Order (R&O), defining new rules for the 60 meter (5 MHz) band. These rules are in response to a Petition for Rulemaking (PRM) filed by the ARRL more than five years ago and a June 2010 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM). In the R&O, the FCC replaced one of the channels in the band, increased the maximum authorized power amateur stations may transmit in this band and authorized amateur stations to transmit three additional emission designators in the five channels in the 5330.6-5406.4 kHz band (60 meters). The Amateur Radio Service in the United States has a secondary allocation on 60 meters. Only those amateurs who hold General, Advanced or Amateur Extra class licenses may operate on this band. Amateur stations must not cause harmful interference to — and must accept interference from — stations authorized by any administration in the fixed service, as well as mobile (except aeronautical mobile) stations authorized by the administrations of other countries.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THESE CHANGES HAVE NOT YET TAKEN EFFECT. These new rules will take effect 30 days after they are published in the Federal Register. The ARRL will announce on its website when the rules are published. Additional information can currently be found on the web at, <http://www.arrl.org/news/fcc-releases-new-rules-for-60-meters>. (ARRL News)

## Morse Code Practice Opportunity

For those who have an interest in Morse code, you might stop by the Idaho-Montana Net (IMN), which meets on 3572 KHZ each evening at 8PM (0300Z). The Net Control Station starts taking early check-in stations starting about 7:45, and the net officially begins at 8:00. The net consists of a "preamble", followed by a roll call of "regulars". The good news is that we have a speed limit of 15 WPM (usually everyone is 10WPM or less, and all of the exchanges are short; also, the net only takes about 10 minutes from start to finish. At the end of the net, NCS will ask if there are any visitors, so please sign in if you are adventurous. In the bigger picture, IMN is part of the National Traffic System (NTS), which handles "health-and-welfare" traffic, in the form of "Radiograms", similar to the old Western Union Telegrams. Contact Bob, K7TM or Ed, AI7H if you would like to know more about the Idaho-Montana Net.

## FCC Grants Secondary Service Allocation to Wireless Broadband Medical Micropower Networks

In their regular meeting on Wednesday, November 30, the four FCC Commissioners [unanimously agreed to allocate spectrum and adopt service and technical rules for the utilization of new implanted medical devices that operate on 413-457 MHz \(70 cm\)](#). These devices will be used on a secondary basis as part of the Medical Data Radiocommunication Service in Part 95 of the FCC rules. The Amateur Radio Service also has a secondary allocation on the 70 cm band. These new rules are the result of a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* that the FCC released in March 2009.

According to the FCC, these devices would greatly expand the use of functional electric stimulation to restore sensation, mobility and function to those persons with paralyzed limbs and organs; they would be implanted in a patient and function as wireless broadband medical micropower networks (MMNs).



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



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 1765**  
**Hayden, ID 83835-1765**



## **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.

## **2011 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Thomas Barrett,      KD7JUS  
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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.