



February 2012

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, Feb. 13, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.,
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Straight Key Society
Presenter: Quint Webb,
W7CQW
Refreshments: Darwin Hall

ARRL VE Testing Session at
same location 02/13/12; 5:30
PM Walk-ins welcome
All exams administered.

Monday, March 12, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.,
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Grounding, Generator
Safety, Smart Meters, etc.
Presenter: Keith Brooks,
Kootenai Electric Cooperative
Refreshments: Bill Steinhour

Upcoming Social Events

March 10, 2010
Mike & Key Hamfest
W. Washington Fairgrounds
Puyallup, Washington

President's Column

WOW, what a way to start the new year. Our January meeting was very well attended, we had a great program, we conducted a lot of business, and we got to visit with friends. What more could a club ask for?

Now comes the challenge to keep this going. There are several things on our horizon that may accomplish just that. On March 10, the 2012 Idaho QSO party will take place which is the one day out of the year that everyone wants to work an Idaho station. There have been complaints that there aren't enough Idaho stations on the air. Well, let's do something about that. Reserve the date and spend a couple of hours on the air making QSOs. Ed Stuckey, AI7H wrote an article for this newsletter stating the rules of the contest and how you might participate. Bob Hallock, K7TM, wrote an article on his mobile experience participating in last year's party. His article should inspire you to get your mobile rig and make some contacts.

If that doesn't appeal to you, how about a tour of the Sheriff's communication center. We'll be able to see firsthand how to get our ham equipment setup like Dale DuRee, KE7VMN, described in his presentation in January. The Board of Directors, in cooperation with Bob Kesson, K7CGA, is trying to work out the details. More information will be available in next month's newsletter.

Still haven't caught your eye? We are starting to plan for the 2012 Hamfest. It will be held June 9, 2012, at the American Legion Facility in Post Falls. There are lots of openings for volunteers. Want to have some input on what food is served? Join the committee that is deciding on the breakfast and lunch menus.

Disappointed in the turnout from other clubs? Join the committee that is doing publicity. We need ticket sellers, sales people to man the club equipment table, people to work in the kitchen, ticket sellers, and much more. Remember we can't accomplish all this work without help from our members.

Our program this month will be given by Quint Webb, a relatively new member of KARS. He is a dedicated key pounder and is going to tell us about the Straight Key Society. I know we all aren't Morse Code fanatics, but it should be an interesting presentation. He has also hinted that he would be willing to help other members pick up Morse Code and get them on the air.

With winter finally finding the Inland Northwest, I hope you are all staying warm in your ham shacks and enjoying some on air time. Remember our meeting on Feb. 13. As a final plug, for those of you that haven't paid your membership dues, your treasurer is more than ready to receive your application and monies.

Bonnie, KG6QQM
KARS President



KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
K.A.R.S., K7ID
KOOTENAI COUNTY, IDAHO

Minutes of Business Meeting - January 9, 2012

The meeting was called to order by President Bonnie, KG6QQM at 7pm sharp!

President Bonnie explained our 50-50 game and our Membership Drawing. Every member of the club has a chip in the bucket for the Membership Drawing. If your chip is drawn you must have done 2 things to get your money, 1. Show up for the meeting and buy a ticket and 2. Your dues must be current. This month's winner was not in attendance so the pot increased by however much ticket sales were. The proceeds from these programs help keep our repeater going.

REMINDERS

- Dues are due. Pay your dues to the treasurer. Please note that the Membership Form at the back of the Newsletter has a problem with the club address. You can use the form ok but mail it to the club @ PO Box

1765, Hayden, ID 83835. If you need a form, just E-mail Pat (treasurer@k7id.org).

- Consider renewing or joining ARRL thru the club. It puts a little money in our treasury. Treasurer Pat has the details.
- Wear your badge to the meetings. Helps others not a sharp as you remember your name. New members should get their badges at the next meeting they come to. If you lost your badge, you might get Larry to make you another but it will cost you a buck.

UPGRADES

Several area hams were successful in upgrading this month. Congratulations go to:

Collin J Annable	KF7TND	Tech
Lester White	KF7IKQ	General
Steven Donaldson	KF7TNB	Tech
Larry Westerfield	KF7TNA	Tech
Anthony Cavallucci	KF7TNC	Tech
Virgil Vigil	KF7NLD	Extra

President Bonnie gave a brief report on her background. Turns out she was a mathematician for Sylvania-GTE down in California for 30+ years before moving to North Idaho with her OM, Pat, W7SGS. She was a farm girl before that, so if you need help around the place, especially with the dairy herd, she's the one to call.

PROGRAM

Our program for the evening was on the status of our repeater. Special thanks to Dale DuRee, KE7VMN, for one of the most educational and interesting programs we have had. Now that everything is running pretty well, we need to clean up our install to comply with the *Standards and Guidelines for Communication Sites (R56)*. We need to do this to keep from interfering with the other people in the building and to protect our equipment from damage during a lightning storm.

BUSINESS MEETING

- Minutes of previous meeting were approved by membership.
- Treasurer Pat reported \$5,929.23 on hand and in the bank.
- List for sign up to be an "Elmer" was passed around.
- Audit Committee - Pat and Jacob will be the audit committee for this year.

- Vice President Allen is looking for help on the Inventory Committee. Contact him if you are willing to assist. (vicepresident@k7id.org)

CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS

It was moved by Jack McElroy, seconded by Randy Carlson, that we update the address in the constitution to PO Box 1765, Hayden, ID 83835. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

It was moved by Ray Oliver, seconded by Bob Rosie, that the Secretary may be one of the signers on the Checking account. Motion passed by unanimous vote of members present.

- Membership voted to have our Hamfest-Swapmeet this year.
- Membership voted to sponsor a Field Day Station this year.
- Bonnie reported that she has been in contact with State of ID Transportation Dept. to get our sign back up for the area we do for Roadside Cleanup. The sign was taken down by an ITD “mistake”. A new sign is on its way.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Jack, K7JMC, announced the Wednesday night net will resume operations every Wednesday at 7pm on a rotating frequency schedule. New hams are especially welcome to learn the ropes from some real old timers.
- Ed Stuckey, AI7H, our Idaho Section Manager for ARRL, reminded ARES/RACES folks that their Thursday Night net moved from 3.990 MHz to 3.929 MHz LSB at 6:30 PST.
- Secretary Tom mentioned that you may be receiving an invitation to join our mailing list on Google Groups. Just disregard that for now. Google Groups is not as simple as it is supposed to be. For one thing you have to become a member of Google Groups to accept the invitation to join our e-mail list. The Board is going to look at other options for our mailing list. We will not add any members to the Google Groups program right now. Bonnie is maintaining another mailing list for new members for the time being.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 9:05 PST or 05:05 GMT

Prepared by: Tom Richmond, KARS Secretary.

About the Idaho QSO Party

The Idaho QSO Party (IDQP for short) will take place on March 10-11, 2012, beginning at 11AM PST on Saturday, ending at Noon PDST on Sunday. (This is the same weekend that we change over to Daylight Savings Time). 2012 is the seventh year for the “Modern” IDQP (there was an earlier IDQP but it fizzled out). The Rules for this event can be found on our Idaho Section web page, www.idahoarrl.info, just look for the “Idaho QSO Party” button. As you may already know, KARS is the sponsoring Radio Club for the IDQP.

The objective for the event is to give “Outsiders” an opportunity to work Idaho. (Since less than 1% of US hams live in Idaho we are considered “Rare DX” by many outsiders). And, since there are so few of us, it’s important to get as many Idaho hams on the air as possible. Also, we have a lot of “County Hunters” in this type of event, and they are always looking for a rare County. (Believe it or not, Benewah and Shoshone Counties are on the “rare” list).

There are many ways for us to “work” the IDQP. Examples:

1. Single operator, from home station. (The “armchair” method).
2. Single radio, multi-operator from home station. (Generals, Advanceds, and Extras: invite a new Tech or two, show them how things work on traditional “short-wave” bands).
3. Multi-radio, Multi-operator. (Radios can be on two bands, or on voice and PSK, for example. This would be something like a Field Day station, but it could be at home).
4. HF mobile, in multiple counties. If you are lucky, find a parking place within 100 yards of a County line, then you can work the station twice, once for each County; or, make advance plans to visit several Counties during the event.

5. DX-pedition. You could be THE DX Station by traveling to some of our rare Counties and working IDQP from there.

Since KARS is the sponsoring Radio Club, it is also our duty to evaluate logs that are submitted after the event. We will be looking for volunteers to help with the log evaluation process.

We will be talking a little more about the IDQP during our February Club meeting, hope to see you there! 73, Ed AI7H (ai7h@arrl.net)

2012 Idaho ARRL Convention

This event will take place on 04/20-04/22, in Boise. The theme this year is “*Prepared for Anything*”. The Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club (VOI) is the host Club, and most current information is available on the event website, www.idahoconvention.com.

We are actively searching for subject matter that would support the “Prepared for Anything” theme. (Subjects might include – alternative power, lightning protection, home emergency kit, winter travel preparedness, Emergency Communications, internet messaging via Amateur Radio). If you have an idea for a presentation, material that we might present on your behalf, or can make a presentation, please contact me! We would like to have our subjects lined up by 03/15 so they can all be worked into the conference schedule. Thanks and 73, Ed AI7H (ai7h@arrl.net)

2011 IDAHO QSO PARTY

By Bob Hallock, K7TM

2011 was my first time going mobile in a contest in a number of years. I remember running HF mobile back in the 1960's and 1970's during some of the county hunter events at the time. In 2010, I decided to return to mobile operating but didn't have a HF radio in one of the cars. So, the first issue was how to add a rig and antenna to our 2003 Subaru (the car that I drive). At that time I had to decide where to mount the HF antenna and the rig. After much thought and searching the internet, I settled on having U-Haul install a trailer hitch sized for the Subaru

and bought a right angle hitch mount for the antenna. The rig mounting was another issue. There was no simple way to mount the radio so I could see the front panel of the radio while driving down the road. I settled for building a bracket to go across the passenger seat for the rig. As such it is difficult for using the rig while in motion. So, I had to settle for being stationary when operating the HF rig for safety reasons.

The Idaho QSO Party started at 11 A.M. (1900z). I decided to begin operating from the Shoshone/Benewah county line near Fernwood. The sun was out reflecting off the snow on the road and the mountain side. When the contest started, I concentrated on 20 meters working both CW and SSB. After about an hour, I moved down the highway to the Elk River Road and the Latah/Clearwater County line. Activity on 20 meters was still good but the propagation was starting to drop off. Originally, I was going to put out Nez Perce County but because I still had many miles to go before it got dark, I bagged going into Nez Perce County but headed for Lewis County at Craigmont. There was a nice pull out along Hwy 95 at Craigmont. By the time I started to operate, propagation had dropped, the guys on the east coast were starting to eat dinner, and the number of stations worked dropped by half. After 30 minutes, I moved down to Cottonwood for putting Idaho County out. Not trying to lose out on daylight travel I worked a handful of people and headed for the hotel in Riggins before total darkness. The Best Western in Riggins was a welcome sight.

The following morning began early with a lack of sleep. The Daylight Savings change took place this morning and I was now on Mountain Time (i.e., two hour change). Up and at-em early, I started at the Adams/Valley County line near McCall. At 1300z, I knew of a location in a subdivision where the county line ran through with lights and plowed roads. It was still dark and the snow was about five feet deep in the area with berms next to the road of 8 feet. I started out on 40 meters and had a good run. By sunrise 40 meters was going great and 20 started to open up ... Still Cold.

I backtracked to New Meadows and headed south on U.S. 95 toward Council and Washington County. The sun was out and the roads clear which made getting there

quicker. Stopping at the rest area at the top of Midvale hill I put Washington County out with good success. 20 meters was wide open with lots of stations. An hour later, it was time to move on. Now I felt a little pushed. My goal was to run Gem and Payette Counties before the contest ended at 1 P.M. With a couple hours of driving to go, things would be tight.

At Payette I turned east toward Emmett and the county line. The location along the state highway wasn't a safe spot to operate from, so I moved onto a side road. This county line was well received by stations as the contest was winding down.

Contest summary:

1100 county contacts (50% CW and 50% SSB)
11 Counties Activated
500 miles driven

Observation: With the 3 hour time difference between the East and West Coasts, by 2 p.m. the East Coast activity had dropped to almost nothing and propagation was starting to drop out. Starting the IDAHO QP earlier than 1900z would be something to consider; and it would be better if the event took place on another weekend (not when the Daylight Savings Time change takes place).

73's

Bob, K7TM

Biography for February

This month Tom Macy has graciously agreed to provide his biography. Tom is very economical when it comes to the use of words. In his own words:

1. Name: Tom Macy

2. Call: W7UAT

3. License: Extra

4. First Licensed: 1952, Coeur d'Alene, - WN7UAT.

5. Bio: Born in Chicago, Ill.; 1937; moved to CdA in 1951 just in time to enter high school. Joined the Army in 1954 (got a GED and quit high school). Got H.S. diploma in 1958 after release from Active Duty. Went to NIJC for 1

semester, then went to work for the U.S. Forest Service. (That was the beginning of a 40 year career in various parts of the Electronics Industry.)

6. Joined KARS several times; the first time was in 1988. This was preceded by membership in the Coeur d'Alene Amateur Radio Club in 1952.

7. Main Interests in Ham Radio:

Designing and building equipment; building antennas; experimenting with electronic circuits in a variety of disciplines.

8. Events that I find interesting: Field Day; Emergency Communications & Ham Fests.

9. I have not held office in KARS or other clubs.

Don't Put All Your Data in One Backup!

By Larry Telles, K6SPP

An amateur at one time or another has to think about backing up his or her data. It can be as simple as a club roster to a large file from your logging program. Today we have a multitude of ways to accomplish this task. CD-R, CD-RW, and Flash or Thumb Drives are three popular methods. All three have advantages and disadvantages and are far from perfect.

Back in the 1980s I remember copying my data onto a floppy disc as a method of back up. It might have been material that I had to pass on. I could walk over to another computer near by and insert the floppy disc in the drive. That's what we called a "sneaker net," by definition. Networks at that time could not talk to each other as the Internet does today. The one and a half megabyte floppies were small, handy, and you could erase them and use them over and over again. However, they were susceptible to accidental erasure from magnets and/or magnetism. Hard drive use the same technology, but have a sturdy case to keep out unwanted, destructive forces.

Putting your backup on another hard drive is very acceptable, but then you must maintain two (or more) computers. Recordable CDs were readily accepted. The standard CD-R was known as a WORM (Write Once, Read Many). Its main drawback was wasted space. If

you had a 25 kb file and put it on a 700 Mb CD, there was a lot of unused space. That was solved with the CD-RW (Re-Writable). Great advantage by reusing this type of medium. But, it has two big disadvantages. No one knows how long the disc will retain the data and be readable. The CD-RW can also be wiped clean if it goes through an airport x-ray machine, since it uses the same frequency to write data.

So what left? How about a flash (or thumb) drive you insert into your computer's USB port. They are small in size, have portability, are reasonable priced and can store 4, 8, 16, or 32 Gb of data files. That's where the advantage ends. They have a limited storage life. How long? Well that depends on what manufacture made it. The main problem is the term "flash" which is the storage technique. Without getting too technical, the drive involves holding an electrical charge in what is essentially a capacitor - an electrical component for holding onto a charge. Depending on the manufacturers drive components I have seen a figure of 7 to 10 years. San Disk and PNY are two companies with good track records. Off brands maybe 3 to 5 years at best, which means you get what you pay for. These drives are good for short term backups but not for long term archiving. They have a limit to the number of writes per drive, but are getting better with each new product cycle.

Don't panic after reading this article. Put your valuable documents on two hard drives and continue using your flash or thumb drive. I have two of these drives that contain most of the same information. Also, the experts may be wrong. I have floppy discs that I put data on twenty plus years ago, and I can still read them.

Tube of the Month

UV204

In World War I, the General Electric company produced a 250 dissipation triode called the Type P Pliotron. It fits into its socket like a very large fuse. After the War when commercial production began, this tube was designated the UV204 and was sold by RCA. The original tube had the same spherical envelope as the Type P, but soon the cylindrical envelope was adopted. The UV204, like almost all the early tubes, was designed for low frequency as the short-waves were only then being experimented with. This tube was being marketed to the commercial broadcast industry that wasn't interested in short-waves. For hams, this tube was about the only choice for the big gun. QST articles showed large

breadboards with push pull UV204s in Hartley oscillators. A slightly modernized version, the 204A, was still in use during WWII.

This example from about 1921 has an anode using unplated metal that looks like it was made from a bean can. Small rods of glass support the filament. The maximum frequency for full input was only 3 MHz. We still use the expression "250 watter" today when referring to this type tube and its socket.



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 _____

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.

2012 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.