



April 2012

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, April 9, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.,
Hayden, Idaho

Topic: Soldering Workshop
Presenters: Pat Patterson,
W7SGS, and Tom Macey,
W7UAT

Refreshments: Garry
Beaudreau

ARRL VE Testing Session at
same location 04/09/12; 5:30
PM Walk-ins welcome
All exams administered.

Monday, May 14, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.,
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Hamfest, Ironman, and
Field Day

Presenters: Kraig Brown,
KE7SKJ, Ed Stuckey, AI7H,
and Bonnie Patterson,
KG6QQM

Refreshments: Lorien and
Jacob Cord

Upcoming Events

April 14
Tour Kootenai County
Sheriff's facilities

April 20-22
Idaho State Convention
Boise, Idaho

President's Column

According to the calendar, it is spring in Northern Idaho. Remembering this is Northern Idaho, we know we can't really go outside and start digging in the ground yet. However, if you are a ham, you have spent most of the winter in your ham shack making QSOs. As this winter has gone on you have probably noticed that the band conditions are improving. It always nice to head into a peak of sunspot number activity if you can just get past those solar flares. I'm sure most of the people that tried to participate in the Idaho QSO Party will attest to that.

For several springs now there has been little incentive to consider putting up a new antenna or making mods to your existing antenna, but now with the higher solar activity those opening bands must be calling to you.

If you are going to construct your own antenna or are considering buying one, the ARRL Antenna Book is a good reference. Not only will it help you with deciding on what type of antenna, but it also provides information on the supporting structures necessary for different antennas.

Before doing any antenna work, make sure you are not violating some county or city ordinance. Then if you plan on digging contacting your local utility companies to verify that you won't be breaking through one of their lines is a necessity. This is at no cost to you.

Hopefully by this time you have decided on an antenna or a mod to your existing antenna and you are ready to install said antenna. Keep in mind the information that Dale DuRee, KE7VMN, provided us in his January program. Tying the coax cable to the leg of you support system with zip ties is not the best idea. Instead use stand offs to prevent the coax from actually touching the metal support. Another point made in his presentation was using a good grounding system and keeping things neat and tidy. Dale's presentation package can be found on our web site, K7ID.org. The presenters from Kootenai Electric Cooperative (KEC) who spoke at last month's meeting provided handouts from William Chesney, N9SA, on grounding. This is good information. If you didn't pick up a copy of this handout, contact Tom NI7W, KARS Secretary, and he can provide you with a PDF file of this hand out.

Whatever you do, make sure you remain safe. Don't try to raise your antenna by yourself. There are KARS members that would be willing to assist you and

provide advice if you should need it. If you are willing to provide food, you will have more help than you can possibly use.

Good luck on your spring/summer antenna projects.

For those of you that are Techs, now is a good time to study for your General and Extra licenses. You want to be able to take advantage of the improving band conditions and try your hand at making some DX QSOs. The solar high usually lasts 3 to 4 years so if you start studying now you will be able to take advantage of these improved conditions.

73 Bonnie KG6QQM
KARS President

*****REMINDER*****

Dues are due now and you will be dropped from the membership roster on April 1, 2012 if you have not paid by then! Contact Treasurer Pat at: treasurer@K7ID.org if you have questions.

New hams or upgrades for March:

David LaVille	General	KF7USW
Scott Howard	Tech	KF7USV
Cheryl Banks	Extra	KF7SQL

Welcome to our new members

Frank DeAbreu	No Call	Hayden
Tamara Hall	No Call	XYL of KF5IGP
Scott Howard	KF7USV	Post Falls

Idaho Section Manager Elections: Our own Ed Stuckey, AI7H, is up for re-election as the ARRL Idaho Section Manager. Ed has served us well for 2 terms and it certainly would be beneficial to our group to see him re-elected. I am sure we all can appreciate having a North Idaho ham representing our interests here in the North. ARRL members, watch your mail for a ballot from ARRL. Be sure to mark it for Ed and return to ARRL. If you don't already belong to ARRL this would be a great time to join (See Treasurer Pat for details on how to join through the club). Then you too can vote for Ed.

REMINDER:

The frequencies and the dates for the Wed. roundtable are now available on our web site, K7ID.ORG.

**Idaho "Guyed Tower Restriction" Law
By Ed Stuckey, AI7H**

We suddenly have a new law "H0511" regarding guyed towers. The complete text is available at <http://www.legislature.idaho.gov/legislation/2012/H0511E1.pdf>. The essence of this new law is that,

guyed towers, over fifty feet high and located outside city limits, must be painted "aircraft orange over white", and must be lighted with a powerful beacon, along with other restrictions.

An apology from the ARRL Section Manager. We monitor new Idaho legislation all the time, and this one slipped by under our radar. We do not know what prompted the legislation, but sources lead us to believe that there is a specific tower, located near an aircraft landing strip in southern Idaho, that has caused a lot of complaints to the "Aeronautics Division, Idaho Department of Transportation". We first learned of the legislation on 03/21/12, from a ham friend who read the "Facebook" page of his State Representative, and the guy was bragging about how the House had just passed "Tower Legislation". This led to a flurry of e-mail activity, urging state Representatives and Senators to vote against the legislation – but the horse had already left the barn! The legislation had been introduced into the state House back on 02/09/12, had gone through the entire legislative process, and only had three dissenting votes. Then, we learned that the state Senate had passed the legislation with NO dissenting votes! When legislation is passed by both House and Senate with little or no dissent, the protocol is that the Governor will sign the legislation into law.

The legislation, which will be signed into law by press time, requires all new construction towers to adhere to the restrictive standards; and requires existing towers to meet the standards within one year. The new law will be effective 07/01/12.

Our "Plan B" is as follows: The new law is missing a number of details (who will enforce, inspection standards, etc.), and these must be added with an amendment which will be introduced next year. We plan to approach the legislators who introduced the current version of the law (they will introduce the amendment), and respectfully ask to have Amateur Radio towers exempted from the law.

We will keep everyone posted on how this is going, and "if" or "when" to write your Idaho state legislators. Thanks and 73,
Ed Stuckey, AI7H
ARRL Idaho Section Manager

**Minutes of the March 3, 2012 KARS
Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order by President Bonnie Patterson.

Attending: Bonnie Patterson - President

Allan Campbell - Vice President

Pat Patterson - Treasurer
Jacob Cord - Executive Director
Jerry Hooper - Club Trustee

1. **Repeater Memorandum** - John Hollar, N7JU, had forwarded to the KARS Board a draft of a resolution and motion regarding the work to be completed at the repeater site as was outlined by Dale DuRee, KE7VMN. John requested the Board review these drafts and take the necessary action. The Board reviewed the resolution and adopted it as written, making official the action taken at the Jan. 28 Board meeting. The motion was reviewed and further action tabled until Dale has finished his cost estimates for the effort.

2. **New Membership Level** - The Board has decided to offer a family life membership. The cost of this membership will be 10 times the yearly dues for a family membership. Thus a family life membership in KARS would be \$180. If a current KARS Life Member would like to include his/her family the cost per additional family member would be \$60.

3. **New Charter/Life Member Badges** - Bonnie showed a sample of the new badge. The Board approved the layout and agreed that badges should be made for the 2 charter members and the three active life members.

4. **Web Page Review** - The Board members agreed that the updated Web page is looking better. We need to provide up-to-date information to keep the web page viable and worthwhile for the membership.

Jacob, K7AJC, and Allan, KE7DFT, will review the appropriateness of leaving the repeater operating manual on the web site.

The Board reviewed the current content of the web page. The following recommendations will be given to web master, Larry Telles W6SPP:

- Removal of the EchoLink information since EchoLink is not currently available on the repeater.
- Improvement of the Idaho ARES link. Should be coordinated with Randy Carlson, KB6YAV.
- Removal of the Scout A from the Photo Gallery Link.
- Change the label and picture on the VE testing page to reflect the current year.
- Remove links page until such time as links are established.

5. **Hamfest 2012** -

- **Budget for Grand Prizes.** Even though the price of amateur radios has increased since last year the Board decided to keep the Grand Prize Total Value at \$1,000. Jacob, K7AJC, will be going to Portland

next week and will visit HRO to determine if there might be a less expensive solution to our Grand Prize offerings. He will coordinate this effort with Tom, NI7W, Hamfest Prize Chairman.

- **Head Chef for Hamfest Lunch** – Allan, KE7DFT has agreed to oversee the kitchen during the lunch hour, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM.
- **E-mail List** - We need to find the list of local area hams that we have used in previous years to advertise our hamfest. Bonnie will contact Ed Stuckey AI7H and see if he has the current list.

6. **Field Trip to Sheriff's facility** - The Board is recommending the Saturday April 14th date for the tour. We would meet at the Sheriff's facility at 10:00AM for a tour conducted by Bob Kesson, K7CGA. It is hoped that the new 9-1-1 facility may be included in the tour.

7. **Membership Drawing** - It was agreed that KARS would buy 200 new poker chips so that the chips used in the drawing are all the same size. Lorian, KF7TUY, and Jacob, K7AJC, will label the new chips and have them ready for the April meeting.

8. **Lamp for Larry K6SPP 's Projector** - The Board will look into offsetting the purchase of a new lamp for Larry's

(K6SSP) projector or acquiring a projector for the club.

9. **Other Topics**

- **Club Jackets** - It was brought to the attention of the Board that years ago the club had windbreaker type jackets available for purchase by the club members. We will determine if there is any current interest in obtaining jackets. If there is enough interest, a chairperson will be identified to investigate the costs of jackets and type of jackets available.
- **Past Presidents** - An attempt is being made to identify the past presidents of KARS. The Board is asking for help from the membership in identifying the presidents prior to 2000.

Since there was no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Bonnie Patterson, KG6QQM, acting for Secretary Tom Richmond NI7W.

Repeater Listing Web Site

Check out this web site: <http://www.repeaterbook.com/index.php> Scroll down to the middle of the page and select the state of interest. Then you can zoom in by county, city, or highway. This is an open web site and we encourage everyone to check it out. Make corrections directly, or send them to me and I will make sure they get in. Thanks and 73, Ed AI7H

The ARRL Idaho State Convention

Most ARRL Sections have a convention, ours is even better because our Section is the entire State of Idaho. This is a combination Hamfest and educational event, which will be held on April 24-26, in Boise. The event has a website: <http://www.idahostateconvention.com/index.html>.

HR-607

A very disturbing bill has been introduced in Congress, which impacts the Amateur Radio 70 CM band. See: <http://www.arrl.org/news/spectrum-management-bill-threatens-amateur-frequencies>.

More detailed information, including sample letters and information on the name and address of your congressmen is located at: <http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters>. If you wish to write your congressman, please do it right away, as there is a lengthy delay (security processing) for correspondence to government officials in Washington, DC.

Thanks and 73,
Ed, AI7H
ARRL Idaho Section Manager



K.A.R.S. MONTHLY MEETING MARCH 12, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by President Bonnie.

Program

___Shaun Dolan and Keith Brooks from Kootenai Electric Cooperative gave a very interesting and informative presentation about some of the things they do with technology to monitor their lines. They have "Smart Meters" which enables two-way communication between the meter and the utility company. This eliminates the need for manual reading

each month. KEC uses power line technology not RF technology in their meters. Another benefit of the meter is in reducing the time it takes to pinpoint outages. If they would have had Smart Meters during ice storm a few years ago some people could have been back on line in substantially less time.

Our presenters also talked a little bit about grounding for the ham station. They left a handout regarding grounding which came from the Michigan Wing of CAP. (If anyone wants a copy but didn't get one send an e-mail to secretary@kars.org with *Grounding* as the subject and I will e-mail you one back in PDF format.)

President Bonnie declared it to be break time so the meeting was recessed for a bit.

Mark, N7MA, won the 50/50 for \$10 and Roberta Thompson, N7KOY, won the membership drawing which would have paid her \$95 had she been here! It pays to come to KARS Meetings.

Meeting Minutes for February were unanimously approved by the membership.

Treasurer Pat reported that we have \$6227 in the bank.

Larry, K6SPP, passed out info card # 3 which is Q-signals. If you missed that, see Bonnie next meeting as she promised to have some extras.

Committee Reports

___*Idaho QSO Party*: Chairman Ed, AI7H, reported that there was good participation but number of contacts was adversely affected due to the severe conditions caused by the Sun during the contest. More results in a few weeks.

___*Field Day*: Chairman Ed reported that no site has been finalized as of yet but we are planning on an announcement shortly.

___*Hamfest*: Randy, KB6YAV, will be the Breakfast Chef and Allan, KE7DFT, will take over for the Lunch session. Prizes are still being investigated.

___*Repeater Work Party*: Dale, KE7VMN is working with the State Communications Department to secure permission for our upgrades since some of our work would involve using some of their space to pass cable and to install the repeater in a rack rather than the cabinet we are using now.

The April 9th meeting will be the soldering presentation with hands-on practice after the break.

Bonnie showed the prototype for the new Life and Charter member badges.

A reminder that Larry wants you to look at our website (k7id.org) so you can see the changes he has made.

The Field Trip to the Sheriff's facility led by Bob, K7CGA is scheduled for April 14.

The new KARS Family Life Membership was announced (thanks to Jim Monroe for bringing this up) The cost will be 10 times the annual family membership or currently \$180.

The subject of Club Jackets was brought up with a few members being interested. President Bonnie is going to decide on a member/volunteer to take on that project.

Hearing no other business, it was unanimously voted to adjourn.

Expedited email option for Amateur Radio operators.

FCC licensed Amateur Radio operators will soon be allowed to use the new federal stamps that will expedite their emails over the Internet. Developed by DARPA-34 Research, electronic codes embedded in the stamp trigger a higher priority classification for the tagged messages using the critical microwave linking systems that pass mail over long distances. As a result, the stamped emails are transmitted faster and more reliably. This option can be very important during times when the normal infrastructure is overloaded as was experienced in the 2011 Virginia earthquake. Because of their access to the new stamps, ham operators, known for their communications work in such emergencies, will be able to get messages through faster.

Commonly used 50 ohm N-Type *microwave relays* 40-780-511 and 40-780-512 in the 18GHz *Microwave* band recognize the specially printed codes on the left side of the stamp. Much like a bar code, these command lines cause the relay to open, suppressing other data in the buffer system while the stamped data stream is transmitted.

[New Email Stamp](#)



The new email stamps should be available from the Post Office beginning **April 1st**. For more information see: www.arrl.org/current-contact-issue and a calendar.

Gmail Tap Mail Program

04/01/2012

On April 1, Google announced that it has unveiled a new way to use its popular *Gmail* e-mail system. Called [Gmail Tap](#), it uses dots and dashes to form letters, a system of communicating that should be very familiar to radio amateurs. "Morse code is perfect," said *Gmail Tap* Engineer Mitch Fedenko. "It's just a dot and a dash. What's simpler than that?"

According to Google, *Gmail Tap* will let you tap without looking at your screen, replace the 26-key keyboard with two keys and double productivity by typing two e-mails at once.

"Technology is everywhere today," explained David Brook, Google Vice President for Communication Services in a [video](#) announcing *Gmail Tap*, "and everyone has a smart phone. Think about the size of [a smart phone]. It's only two inches, two-and-a-half inches, and we're trying to cram an entire 26-key keyboard into that space. It's time to think about 'How can we do this better?' using the technology that we have today. And that's where *Gmail Tap* comes in."

The QWERTY keyboard — invented in 1874 — is still used today, largely unchanged. "In Morse code, every letter of the alphabet is represented by a simple pattern of dots and dashes, and once you know them, you can type without even looking at your screen," Brook said. "This makes it ideal for situations where you need to discreetly send e-mails, such as when you're on a date or in a meeting with your boss." [*Editor's note: If your boss knows Morse code, this option might not work for you.*]

f Editor's note, part deux: The ARRL reminds everyone to keep in mind the date of Gmail Tap's release.

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 _____

