



December 2012

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, Dec. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Location: American Legion Hall
Post Falls, Idaho

Topic: Christmas Party

Refreshments: Everyone

ARRL VE Testing

Monday, Dec. 10, 5:00 p.m.

Same location as above.

Monday, Jan. 14, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Search & Rescue
Bldg.

Hayden, Idaho

Topic: Winter Driving

Presenter: Idaho State Police

Refreshments: TBD

ARRL VE Testing

Same location as above.

Upcoming Events

Skywarn Recognition Day

Dec. 1, 0000Z-2400Z

Spokane NWS - WX7OTX

80m-10m, 2m, 70cm

Idaho QSO Party

March 9-10

Mike & Key Hamfest

March 9, 2013

Puyallup Fairgrounds

Puyallup, Washington

President's Column

The end of the calendar year is quickly approaching. There are many things to do to get ready for the approaching holidays. One of the most important may be leaving a copy of the HRO catalog, clearly marked with red circles, lying around in some obvious location. You can never tell what elf might be looking for a hint.

This has been a busy year for KARS. We have accomplished a lot and hopefully you had some fun along the way. In March, many club members participated in the Idaho QSO party. The review team made quick work of verifying each submitted log. The response was good and many certificates were distributed.

In April, we held our soldering workshop. Those that participated were given the opportunity to obtain some good direction and improve their skills. It was also when we received notification that we would need to move our repeater out of the state building on Mica Peak.

The May meeting featured a cake celebrating the 40th anniversary of KARS. Our two remaining charter members, Marj, WB7WUB, and Walt, K7ETJ, Hogeweide were in attendance at the meeting. All the last minute details for the Hamfest and Field Day were discussed.

Then came June, the busiest month of the year for KARS. The second weekend was the annual Hamfest. The event was well attended, even though the weather got a bit nasty. There were many equipment tables and a couple of vendors this year. The breakfast was great as usual and the lunch quite tasty.

The third weekend of June found a hardy group of volunteers picking up trash along Highway 90. The crew wasn't large in numbers, but we did gather a lot of trash and left the area looking good.

The fourth weekend was Field Day weekend. This year we were hosted by Quint Webb, W7CQW, at his Post Falls QTH. There were a number of participants and we did well given the atmospheric conditions that weekend.

Then the big push started in July to remove the repeater from its current location and relocate it. A six man crew spent a long day removing our antenna and equipment from the upper building. This equipment was carefully transported to John's, N7JU, shop. The backup repeater was installed in the new location a bit lower on Mica Peak.

On a hot day in August we held our summer picnic and ice cream social at the Kesson's (KE7FPA and K7CGA) QTH. Allan, KE7DFT, did a fantastic job of grilling the hamburgers and the handmade ice cream from Spirit Lake was delicious.

September saw the completion of the building repair at the lower Mica Peak site. The leaning tower was taken down, the roof sealed, flashing installed around the edges and the door repaired.

Finally, the end of October the repeater was placed in its' new location on Canfield Mountain. There are some glitches, but that will give us something to do next spring, if not sooner.

That brings us to our Christmas party, to be held on Dec. 10 at the American Legion Post in Post Falls. Hope you and your families are able to attend this year's celebration.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas. For those of you traveling or the loved ones traveling to be with you, may you have a safe trip and return home in one piece.

Bonnie Patterson, KG6QQM

“Getting On The Air”

All “Hams” and “Future Hams” know that one of the most interesting and exciting parts of the hobby is getting on the air. If you have not been “on” in a while, you might consider firing up your 2-Meter rig and finding the KARS repeater on 146.98 MHz, with a “minus offset”. As you may know, there are actually two KARS repeaters, one located on Idaho Mica Peak (about 10 miles south of Post Falls, and one located on Mt. Canfield, (about 10 miles north of downtown CDA). Access Mica by using PL 127.3, and Canfield by using PL 100. The reason for bringing this up is to brag a bit about the re-vitalized KARS/Northwest Traffic Net, and to compliment Net Manager Gabbee, KE7ADN. KARS/NWTN meets daily at 6:30PM, for about ½ hour, and the several Net Control Stations have slightly different styles, designed to stimulate a bit of conversation in a “Net” environment. This Net environment is quite good, as it helps the new people get over “Mike Fright”, while hearing and participating in a structured communications event. (Better to have these notches on the belt now than try and figure out how it works in time of emergency).

If you prefer a slightly less structured – but more adventurous radio experience, look on the KARS website <http://k7id.org/wednesday-roundtable.htm> to find the Wednesday evening Roundtable schedule. Two KARS Old Geezers (they said it, I'm just repeating) named Jack (K7JMC) and Larry (K6SPP) are the principal cheerleaders, we all get on the air and talk about whatever we all want to talk about (much more relaxed than the Net environment mentioned above).

For those who are truly adventurous, you might want to try your luck on Straight Key Night. This event begins at 4PM local time on 12/31 and lasts until 4PM local time on 01/01/13. Have no fear, we all sound awful when we are “Pounding Brass” just like back in the good old days. Complete details are available at <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

73, Ed Stuckey, AI7H
Idaho ARRL Section Manager

KARS MEMBERSHIP MEETING MINUTES NOVEMBER 12, 2012

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by President Bonnie Patterson.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Pat Patterson, W7SGS.

Newly licensed hams were introduced: Alex Carman, KF7ZML, Technician; and Scott Henster, KF7ZDT, upgraded to Extra.

There were no visitors at the meeting.

Hams that became new members were: Richard Dickison, Charlie Ford, KF7WPA, Larry Angel, KI4ZPE, and Dwight Sederholm, KF7TFH.

The program for the evening was presented by Jack McElroy, K7JMC.

Jack gave a very interesting presentation on putting together a ham station for \$450 or less. He gave tips on picking up used hybrid equipment, finding a good repair facility, finding a good microphone and an antenna. His presentation included web sites where used equipment can be found. Jack had on display several hybrid transceivers that would work nicely in a ham station and still fall within the \$450 budget. The slides from Jack's presentation will be posted on K7ID this week.

Refreshments for the evening were provided by Bob and Bonnie Kesson.

After the break the KARS drawings were held. The 50-50 winner was Bonnie Kesson, KE7FPA, and the big pot of \$259.00 was won by Dale DuRee, KE7VMN. Just like Jack, K7JMC, last month's winner, Dale had not purchased a ticket! January's drawing should be quite exciting.

The minutes were approved as distributed.

The Treasurer presented a quick review of the finances for 2012. Our income was \$4920 and our expenses were \$4995. Not bad considering the funds needed to set up the two new repeater sites. The current balance is \$6395.

Bob, K7CGA, found the misplaced badges in the SARS back storage area. Thank you, Bob.

OLD BUSINESS: Bob Hallock, K7TM, gave a brief overview of the technician classes that are currently being held at the Hayden Library. The class was expanded from 4 sessions to 6. There have been 4-7 people attending the classes. The technician's exam will be given after the last class on Nov. 24. Good luck to all the students.

The KARS members that donated both time and equipment for the repeater sites were acknowledged. They were: Jacob, K7AJC; Dale, KE7VMN; John, N7JU; Bob, K7CGA; and Jerry Richardson. Jerry works with Dale and is the certified tower climber that installed our antennas at Canfield Mountain.

Dale, KE7VMN, showed pictures taken at Canfield on the day of the installation. It was obvious the weather was

not ideal that day. There are several problems that need to be attended to at the Canfield site and they will be addressed as soon as reasonably possible. Winter weather is a real deterrent.

New Business: The refreshment sign-up sheet for 2013 was circulated. It will be circulated again at the January meeting.

Program suggestions for 2013 were requested. A sheet was circulated for suggested program topics and possible presenters. It will be circulated again at the January meeting.

Amateur Radio Supplies of Haverhill, Mass., is giving away a complete HF Station to hams 21 or younger. The first drawing will be held on Jan. 1, 2013. Two more drawings will be held during 2013. The requirements are that the person be 21 or younger, that they hold a ham license and that they apply. The application can be found on their web site amateurradiosupplies.com. The station consists of a transceiver, 30 amp power supply, antenna tuner, an antenna plus 100' of coax, Iambic paddles, a USB sound card and a headset. Please encourage any young ham you are acquainted with to apply for a chance to win this station.

During 2013, KARS would like to hold another technician class and a technology class. If anyone is interested in supporting these classes please contact Bob Hallock, K7TM, or Bonnie Patterson, KG6QQM.

The KARS Christmas Party will be held Dec. 10 at the American Legion Building in Post Falls (1138 E. Poleline Avenue). This year the donations made at the Christmas Party will go to support the new Union Gospel Mission Women and Children's Center in Coeur d'Alene. Hope to see everyone at the party.

There were no announcements. The meeting was adjourned.

* * *

Submitted by: Larry Telles, K6SPP, and Bonnie Patterson, KG6QQM, for KARS Secretary Tom Richmond, NI7W.

KARS 146.38/98 REPEATER at Canfield Mtn. *On the air!*

By John Hollar, N7JU

The **146.38/98 MHz (100Hz PL)** repeater has been deployed at Canfield through the graciousness of Kootenai County and the KARS Repeater workgroup. It also utilizes a newly developed rack mounted GE **Control Receiver** that plugs directly into the accessories port of the Micro Computer Concepts RC-1000 VHF repeater system. This UHF receiver unit was formerly a receiver link used in a GE *voting* system. It is self-contained and has been modified with several features that K7ID Control Operators may deploy for both programming (or re-programming) the control logic remotely in the main repeater; as well as turning the unit *on* or *off*, disabling

operations immediately if the need arises. It also has a few other *remote switching* functions that can be used if these applications are desired such as: recording the voice announcer, turning *on* a low powered ATV *camera system* to get a view of the weather conditions in the valley, switching base station antennas or changing the CTCSS code (PL- frequency) if required.

There are plenty of resources that can be developed using these ancillary remote switching functions. One unique application, built into the independent control receiver, allows the use of a Remote Station Linking capability of the RC-1000 logic that provides Repeater Linking between any nearby (or any other repeater group) in North Idaho (with their concurrence of course). In addition, any repeater system using our same RC-1000 logic panel, also has this capability. It *is user accessible* by entering a simple Touch Tone™ code that turns the **Remote Link** on or off. Currently this link function option has been enabled for testing. **N7MA**, Mark, has been testing the link from an area that normally would not be accessible via direct communication with the Canfield repeater. You'd be hard pressed to realize he was using the remote link if you have worked him recently. You may not recognize that the secondary link audio is not coming from the 146.38 MHz input receiver (which continues to have *first priority* when repeated through the 146.98 MHz output). You can tell the *link is on* however by interpreting the tail beep *a.k.a. courtesy tones*. Normally, the Canfield tail beep is a 500 Hz tone burst of approx 3 msec. It indicates to the user that the 3 minute time-out timer has been *reset* (renewed) and to proceed with the *next transmission*. When the **Remote Link** option is enabled, the tail beep consists of two burst tones, the first 500 Hz tone for approx 3 msec followed immediately by a 1000Hz tone for 1 msec. This *low- high tone* sequence is very brief and is hardly noticeable.

It turns out that this twin tone also indicates when a user has accessed the Canfield repeater as opposed to Mica's **146.38/98MHz (127.3 Hz PL)** repeater operating on the same frequency. Both of these repeaters are now in operation **at the same time**, and we have tweaked (shortened) the hold over timers so that the two repeaters won't *double* with each other. Initially, we had some issues that needed reprogramming consideration, not the least of which was also the station Ider's *crashing* if they came up at the same time. These effects have been minimized and should no longer be a problem. The reason for allowing both machines to be used simultaneously is to improve overall coverage by combining the best signal from the repeater location you may be using.

Also, the **70cm Echolink** repeater is finished and is on the air from CDA. I had a nice Echolink chat with **N7JIL**, Jim, from Northern California (using his *Android*) the other day and he looks forward to chatting with his friends in

North Idaho as soon as we can get the repeater on the hill. Also, we've had quite a few really nice QSO's with hams all over the US, Canada, and Japan. This **443.975 MHz (+ 100 Hz)** repeater probably can't be deployed as hoped to Mica until next Spring due to the muddy, icy and otherwise dangerous road conditions to the peak. We also need to replace a defective antenna transmission line after the UHF Mica antenna was installed back in September. Same goes for the **K7ID Digipeater** (alias **CDA-1**) that is functioning flawlessly on **145.510 MHz** simplex.. Next month, we will outline some of the Remote Link applications and the development of a portable fill-in mini-repeater system that can be deployed in times of emergency to improve close-in coverage in marginal operating locations. – *N7JU*

KARS Member Spotlight



Field Day, 1961

I'm Gary Holland, my call is N7DHL, and I hold an Amateur Extra license. I was first licensed in 1981 in Boise, Idaho while working as a development engineer for the Hewlett-Packard Company. I had been interested in amateur radio ever since I saw the "radio activity" sign in the "big woods" just west of our home in Chewelah, Washington. This was Field Day 1961, and I was seven years old at the time. Walt Goodman, K7ODJ, showed me the group's station and explained a little of the magic of talking to people all over the world using amateur radio.

Twenty years later sibling rivalry pushed me over the edge. My *sister*, of all people, got her license first. Then she goaded me into getting my license. (Now, 31 years later, she still hasn't set up her station.)

While in Boise, I organized ham radio support for the last several years of the Women's Challenge bicycle race, helped in a number of parades and other events, and presided over the Hewlett-Packard Boise Amateur Radio Club for a few years. My main interests are public service and keeping in touch with family and friends. I retired from HP in 2007, and my wife, Roseanna (KD7DAB), and I travelled for a few months and then settled in Hayden in 2008. I joined KARS shortly thereafter and then joined the ARES/RACES team in late 2011.

I'm currently working on getting antennas up and transmission lines into our new home in Spirit Lake.

Christmas Party Charity

As has been our tradition the last few years, we will be passing the "bucket" to collect donations for a local charity during the KARS Christmas Party. This year, the charity will be the Union Gospel Mission Center for Women and Children.

In September of this year, the Union Gospel Mission opened a Center for Women and Children on Haycraft Avenue in Coeur d'Alene. The center provides a long term residential recovery center for women with children in Kootenai County. The center provides a home-like setting in which to explore and confront issues surrounding abuse, addiction and homelessness. The women and children are given food, shelter, and clothing. They also have access to life skill classes; educational and vocational training; and a medical clinic.

Vintage Equipment

Doug Cavanaugh has advised that he has some "Vintage Ham Equipment" that he would like to place in a new home. His brother recently passed away and left many pieces of old tube equipment and parts, most of which he is not familiar with. It also includes a mast, and the following: a Heathkit RF load watt meter, Heathkit 8 function watt meter, an elevation indicator and an ICOM 430 MHz SSB, CW, FM transceiver.

If you are interested in learning more please contact Doug at DCAV@q.com.

HAM - 21 and younger HF Station Giveaway

I know most of our membership is over 21, but for those of you who have grandchildren, friends or neighbors who are hams and 21 or under, this may be of interest to you.

Amateur Radio Supplies will be giving away three complete HF stations during 2013. The first drawing will be held on January 1, 2013. The station includes the following:

Alinco DX-SR8T/E 160-6m All Mode Transceiver
& 30 Amp Power Supply

LDG AT-100 Pro II Desktop Antenna Tuner
Choice of Rugged All Band G5RV or HyGain DX-77a Vertical

100' of Premium RG-213 Coax
Vibroplex Brass Racer Iambic Paddles
Signalink USB Sound Card for Digital Modes
Heil Pro Set Plus Headset

In order to participate in the drawing the youth must provide brief answers to the following three questions, as well as their name, call sign, and license class online.

1. How often are you able to operate on the HF bands?
2. Where (what QTH) do you typically operate from?
3. How do you intend to use the equipment provided?

For more information and the application, visit the Amateur Radio Supplies web site at www.amateurradiosupplies.com.

This is a great opportunity for a young ham.

Special Event Station

N0D - - Celebrating The End of the World!

That's right, the end is finally near. According to one interpretation of the three Mayan Calendars, the End of the World will occur on Dec 21, 2012. To celebrate this, literally, once in a lifetime event, Special Event Station N0D (Now Zero Days) will be activated on 10-80 meters and on several satellite passes for three days during and after(?) the end of the world. December 20 is a celebration of the end of the world. December 21, the day of destruction, we will be on the air as long as possible. December 22, that is a little iffy right now.

Amateur radio stations around the crumbling globe are invited to contact N0D, who will be operating from a secret, undisclosed location. Our operating schedule may be a little erratic as destruction rains down upon us and as long as our antennas hold out. of you who may be looking skyward for the end of the world, N0D will be operating on several satellite passes.

You can celebrate Doomsday by contacting N0D directly on the air. Amateurs can also become an official Doomsday station by registering on our website. You will be given a registration number and the authority to identify yourself as "Official Doomsday Station" followed by your Doomsday number. Official Doomsday stations will receive the Doomsday Station Certificate.

QSL with SASE to KK5W. If Doomsday actually does happen, we regret that a QSL will not be possible, so hold on to your SASE until the 22nd at least. Check out our website for a preview of the N0D QSL card.

More information is available on the Official N0D website, www.nowzerodays.com
You can also e-mail the N0D team at N0D.Doomsday@gmail.com. Check our website for the latest updates: www.nowzerodays.com

KARS

Holiday Party

December 10, 2012

6:30 PM

Christmas Potluck

American Legion Hall
1138 E. Poleline Avenue
Post Falls

Please bring your favorite potluck dish

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

Talk-in on the K7ID repeater: 146.98, pl 100

The club will provide: paper plates, plastic utensils, drinking cups, coffee and water.

Ham testing will start @ 5:00 p.m. in an adjacent room.

Questions? Bonnie Patterson - 683-2939 or E-mail: w6suj1@juno.com.

Please note **we will not have access to the kitchen.**

The 14th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day Set for December 1

The 14th Annual SKYWARN Recognition Day (SRD) Special Event will take place Saturday, December 1, 2012. SRD is co-sponsored by the ARRL and the National Weather Service (NWS) as a way to recognize the commitment made by Amateur Radio operators in helping to keep their communities safe. According to SRD Coordinator David Floyd, N5DBZ, Amateur Radio operators can visit their local participating NWS office, working as a team to contact other hams across the world throughout the 24-hour event on 80, 40, 20, 15, 10, 6 and 2 meters, as well as 70 centimeters.

The idea for the first SRD took shape in the summer of 1999. Meteorologist-in-Charge of the Goodland, Kansas NWS office Scott Mentzer, N0QE, tried to find a way to recognize the valuable contributions storm spotters make to the National Weather Service. "Since many of those storm spotters were also hams," Floyd told the ARRL, "it seemed like a natural fit for the recognition to be centered on Amateur Radio." With the approval of NWS headquarters

and a commitment to participate from many local NWS offices across the country, the first National Weather Service Special Event took place on November 27, 1999.

Floyd said that feedback from that first event was “overwhelmingly positive” from both the NWS staff and the local ham clubs: “Many local club members who came to that first event had never visited an NWS office before. When they came for the special event, they learned the value of their reports and how they were used in conjunction with existing technology.” And so began an annual tradition. The following year, 85 of the 122 NWS offices - almost 70 percent - participated in the event, making nearly 24,000 QSOs.

In 2001, the name of the event was changed to SKYWARN Recognition Day, a name Floyd said better relayed what the day was all about: “Each year since the inception of SRD, the number of NWS offices participating with local ham clubs has increased; more than 100 offices sign up each year to take part.” In keeping with the NWS setting, stations are asked to include a weather report of their location in their exchange.

In 2011, the NWS office in Melbourne, Florida - WX4MLB - topped the QSO list with 1604 QSOs; the Lincoln, Illinois office (WX9ILX), with 980 QSOs, placed second. The Melbourne office also contacted the most NWS offices, at 81, with the Lincoln office placing second, with 70.

The 2012 SKYWARN Recognition Day will be held on December 1 from 0000 UTC-2400 UTC. In the past, NWS offices have contacted all 50 states and more than 40 countries during the 24 hour event. Even if you make just one QSO to an NWS office, you are eligible to receive a certificate. Submit a list of the station(s) you worked (along with a self-addressed stamped envelope) to SKYWARN Recognition Day, 920 Armory Rd, Goodland, KS 67735. Many NWS offices also send out special QSL cards for this event. If you haven't yet joined in the fun of SKYWARN Recognition Day, make 2012 your year to do so! (ARRL)

Morse Code Plays Role in New Spielberg Movie 11/27/2012

Producer Steven Spielberg has used Amateur Radio or Morse code in three of his last four movies: *Super 8* (2011), *The Adventures of Tin Tin* (2011) and *Lincoln* (2012). Members of the Morse Telegraph Club (MTC) - an association of retired railroad and commercial telegraphers, historians, radio amateurs and others with an interest in the history and traditions of telegraphy and the telegraph industry - played an integral part in the production of *Lincoln*.

According to International President of the Morse Telegraph Club James Wades, WB8SIW, several MTC

members - including Tom Perera, W1TP; Derek Cohn, WB0TUA; Kevin Saville, N7JKD, and Roger Reinke - provided telegraph instruments to equip the 16 operating positions portrayed at the War Department set. Jim Wilson, K4BAV, and his son Matt had roles as extras. Wilson also worked with production staff and the actors to explain telegraph technology and the role of the telegrapher in the 1860s.

“Nine of the 16 telegraph positions depicted in the War Department were fully operational,” Wades said. “These instruments could be operated in any combination through the use of a specialized computer program and custom built terminal units for the process. When necessary, a hand key could be inserted in the individual telegraph loops so messages could be improvised.”

Wades, who was employed as a Technical Advisor for the production, worked with set designers over a period of months to develop the War Department telegraph scenes, coordinating the process of procuring the necessary instruments and serving as an historical consultant as the telegraph scenes were developed. He also worked the producers to develop historically appropriate message traffic that fit the sequence of the script; however, as the movie was edited, he explained that the final product evolved into a more generic facsimile of Morse traffic. “Those with a background in landline telegraphy will hear the occasional snippet of message traffic in the audio track of the movie,” he said. “We are very pleased that Mr Spielberg and his staff took the time to treat the telegraph with dignity and respect. It is a pleasure to be associated with a high quality motion picture that can genuinely be classified as not just entertainment, but as a work of art.” (ARRL)

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.

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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

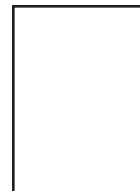
Please Select a Password _____

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 $\frac{1}{4}$ 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.