

August 2014

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

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Monday, Aug. 11, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Search & Rescue Bldg.,**  
**10865 N. Ramsey Road**  
**Hayden, Idaho**  
**Topic: ???**  
**Presenter: ???**  
**Refreshments: ???**

**Monday, Aug. 11, 5:30 p.m.**  
**ARRL VE Test Session**  
**Search & Rescue Bldg.**

**Monday, Sept. 8, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Search & Rescue Bldg.,**  
**10865 N. Ramsey Road**  
**Hayden, Idaho**  
**Topic: ???**  
**Presenter: ???**  
**Refreshments: ???**

### Upcoming Events

**Washington State Convention**  
**& Spokane Hamfest**  
**Saturday, Sept. 27, 9:00 a.m.**  
**University H.S.**  
**32d and Pines, Spokane Valley**

## Letter From the President Dave Boss KF7YWR [boss@infinityusers.com](mailto:boss@infinityusers.com)

Here it is August *already* and I am only part way through the list of summer projects. I hope the rest of you are doing better than I am. As this is being written, I do have a tower almost completed, just a small amount of guying to finish and cable runs to complete. A "recycled" tower completely rebuilt, welded, repainted and a few safety features added, with a Patriot 5 band vertical that sits at the top (70') and a 2 meter vertical a ways down (55'). This hot weather has really taken a toll on my progress anymore. In years past, working twelve-hour shifts in 100-degree heat was pretty normal for me, but my pace has slowed considerably lately. As near as I can tell about the only thing this hot weather is good for is to quick cure concrete used for my guy stays and tower foundation, and oh yes, it does make the occasional beer taste much better.

Last week's weather event (that's the polite way of referring to the windstorm from "Hell") did a lot of damage here. All told we had 53 trees destroyed; whole trees were uprooted or snapped off like so many toothpicks. After talking with the Weather Service my suspicions of a microburst were confirmed. The microburst had cut a swath approximately 100' x 300' long through the south end of our property. Any plans for the rest of the summer and fall will no doubt be centered on the clean up of the horrendous aftermath from this storm. The affected area had the most mature timber on the property and the dead range from 4" to 24" in diameter. They are laying three and four deep with hardly a clue as where to start. It is a good thing I worked in the woods in my younger years, so that I am not having to learn another skill at this age, since I was kind of hoping to coast for a while after retirement. Doesn't look like much time for just relaxing for the rest of the summer. At least I did get a new saw out of the deal as my "newest saw" was old enough to legally order drinks some time ago, plus there have not been repair parts made for that model in the last 15 years!

### Cancelled Meeting

I would like to thank all of those individuals pressed into emergency messaging service for the impromptu phone tree (a phone tree; for the young amongst us; was the precursor to tweeting and texting and actually allowed verbal contact between individuals), and for those who made the announcements on the repeater. Additionally, I wish to apologize to any that missed the notices and showed up at the Search and Rescue Bldg. I was alerted at 10:23 that morning and informed that the building was under construction and not usable. The day went downhill

from there. Fortunately, I was able to procure a room at the Hayden Library and we were able to have testing for our young new Extra; at twelve years old he took a mere 42 minutes to complete the test and missed only a minimal of answers. Congratulations to young Master O'Conner.

### Canfield Weed Patrol

We will have the annual weed whacking party Saturday, August 9<sup>th</sup>. For those who are *new* to our group, our rent for repeater space on Canfield is: "to maintain the weed crop at the site". Although, last year it was held on Field Day—the last weekend of June, this year, with it being a bit later, we are sure to have a mature weed crop and ready for harvest. Bob Kesson says the road has been repaired and graded to the tune of \$100,000 worth; the cost was shared by the folks that utilize the site with the Counties portion being \$30,000. Therefore, our part of taking care of the weeds is pretty cheap rent. Call me to volunteer at: 208.290.8590 (Dave). Looks like the weather will be cooler for the weekend!

### Donated Equipment

Tom Richmond, NI7W, and Bob Hallock, K7TM, donated a couple of vertical antennas, one Hy-Gain 18AVT and one 18AVQII all in parts. The plan is for some of our new licensees to re-assemble and test said antennas at one of our meetings, aided of course by some of our venerable "Elmers".

73,  
Dave Boss, KF7YWR

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### Centennial Convention Provides Springboard for "Amateur Radio Parity Act," HR.4969

The just-concluded ARRL National Centennial Convention in Hartford, Connecticut, helped to infuse some energy into efforts to line up co-sponsors for "The Amateur Radio Parity Act of 2014" — HR.4969. The measure, introduced in the US House of Representatives with bipartisan support in late June, would call on the FCC to apply the "reasonable accommodation" three-part test of the **PRB-1** federal pre-emption policy to private land-use restrictions regarding antennas. The bill's primary sponsor is Rep **Adam Kinzinger** (R-IL). It received initial co-sponsorship from Rep **Joe Courtney** (D-CT). Courtney visited the ARRL Centennial Convention on July 19 to speak with League officials and those attending the event.

At present PRB-1 only applies to state and municipal land-use ordinances, and the FCC has indicated that it will not act to provide the same legal protections from private land-use agreements — often called covenants,

conditions, and restrictions or CC&Rs — without direction from Congress.

More and more convention visitors began sporting "Get Behind HR 4969" stickers the League supplied, as the event shifted into high gear. Behind the stickers is a grassroots effort to encourage members to contact their congressional representatives to seek their support as co-sponsors for HR.4969. The effort at the Convention to entice visitors to sign letters to lawmakers yielded some 1400 pieces of constituent correspondence that will be hand delivered to members of Congress, a July 19 Convention Legislative Update Forum was told. In addition another four co-sponsors have signed aboard the bill.

ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, said there already is precedent for the FCC to act. He explained that the Commission's so-called Over-the-Air Receiving Device (OTARD) rules currently preempt private land-use agreements to permit the installation of television antennas and satellite dishes. He suggested that making the leap to reasonably accommodating outdoor Amateur Radio antennas is within the FCC's regulatory scope, especially in light of the established strong federal interest in effective Amateur Radio communication.

"People don't always get to choose where they live," Imlay said, adding that CC&Rs enforced by homeowner's associations may or may not permit outdoor antennas or may only allow them with approval. He said that by 1990, some 29 million US residents were affected by private land-use agreements. "In 2011, that number changed to 62.3 million people," Imlay said.

The legislation's goal, he explained, is to compel homeowner's associations to negotiate "reasonable accommodation" with an affected radio amateur. That could mean an outdoor wire antenna or something more elaborate; Imlay said it's not the intent of the bill to specify any particular type of antenna.

HR.4969 has been referred to the House Energy and Commerce Committee. Rep Greg Walden, W7EQI (R-OR), chairs that panel's Communications and Technology Subcommittee, which will consider the measure. The League had approached Walden, who helped to engineer the current legislation.

"All [the bill] says is, take PRB-1, and apply it to *all* land-use regulation," Imlay said. "This couldn't be any simpler."

Imlay said the bill faces opposition from the Community Associations Institute and an organization called Associa, which has suggested to Kinzinger that he "re-think" the bill.

“We need to get a lot of co-sponsors for this bill,” Imlay said.

A principal proponent of HR.4969 is ARRL Hudson Division Director Mike Lisenco, N2YBB, said, “We are the ones who are responsible for our own future.”

“The way to get things done is to be active on a grassroots level — small scale,” he told the gathering of about 50 interested radio amateurs. “This way you’re dealing with your representatives as a constituent.” Several forum attendees left early so they could visit the ARRL exhibit on the convention floor to obtain the necessary materials before the convention wrapped up.

ARRL Regulatory Affairs Manager Dan Henderson, N1ND, pointed out that the League has opened a **HR.4969 page** on the ARRL website. It contains information and resources for clubs and individuals wishing to support efforts to gain co-sponsors for the measure by contacting their members of Congress. It includes a sample letter to a member of Congress and a list of “talking points.” Lisenco recommended organizing small teams of knowledgeable and articulate radio amateurs to approach lawmakers one to one to plead their case.

Just prior to the Convention, ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, released a **video** appeal to all radio amateurs to get behind a grassroots campaign to promote co-sponsorship of HR.4969. (ARRL)

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### Party Balloon Carrying Amateur Radio Payload Circles the Northern Hemisphere

A simple party-style balloon carrying a 434 MHz solar-powered Amateur Radio transmitter is nearing the end of its **trip** around the Northern Hemisphere. Launched on July 12 from the UK by **Leo Bodnar**, MØXER, the so-called **B-64** balloon is expected to complete its final transatlantic crossing over Cornwall in the UK on July 31 or August 1. It then is expected to continue east into Europe. So far the balloon has traveled some 15,500 miles and traveled over 17 countries.

Radio amateurs and listeners within range may be able to copy B-64’s Contestia 64/1000 digital mode signal on 434.500 MHz USB. While over the UK, the balloon will alternate Contestia transmissions with APRS, also on 434.500 MHz. The tiny transmitter runs just 10 mW output and weighs 11 grams.

The balloon has been **tracked** along the way using APRS and the UK High Altitude Society (**UKHAS**) network over Europe, Siberia, and even briefly over North Korea before heading over Japan. It briefly passed over the US before swinging north into Canada. UKHAS reports that OX3XR in Greenland copied the B-64 transmission on July 29. The “B-64” designation denotes the number of similar balloons Bodnar has launched. The transmitter stores positions during its flight and transmits a log file displaying 5 days of previous locations in the

comments field of its APRS transmissions. Bodnar’s **B-63** balloon is said to be about 12 hours behind B-64. (ARRL)

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### Maritime Mobile Service Network Aids in Separate Land-Based Emergencies

While best known for its efforts to aid voyagers on the high seas, the Maritime Mobile Service Network (**MMSN**) occasionally helps out in land-based emergencies too. That was the case recently when MMSN net control stations received distress calls regarding motor vehicle incidents in Nevada and Texas. On July 24, MMSN Net Control Station Ken Porter, AC0ML, was notified by HF mobile operator George Molnar, KF2T, that he had witnessed a tractor-trailer mishap on Nevada Highway 318. The rig had apparently skidded and landed on its side in a canyon, precluding the use of cell phone or Amateur Radio VHF/UHF systems.

“We were out in the middle of nowhere, where no cell carrier covered — I had three cell devices with me — no OnStar, not even any highway department radio coverage,” Molnar said later. “Truckers’ CBs didn’t reach anyone outside the canyon. Only ham radio worked!”

Porter placed the net in emergency status, pinned down further details on the wreck, and notified the Las Vegas Police Department to relay the necessary information. A short time later, Nevada Highway Patrol troopers were dispatched to the scene. There were no injuries, but the highway was completely blocked in both directions, and some of the tractor-trailer’s perishable cargo ended up scattered on the roadway.

Porter, the NCS, later said that he was “quite surprised” to get a call regarding a land-based emergency but also understood why this might happen, given that the Net’s availability on 14.300 MHz daily from 1600 to 0200 UTC, and the fact that many hams are aware of its existence.

Several weeks earlier, on June 18, MMSN NCS Donald Plunkett, VA6FH, was called by a trucker-ham who reported a serious motor vehicle accident involving a truck and a car outside of Stockton, Texas. The station calling in requested that the net contact the Texas Department of Public Safety, since he was outside of cell phone and VHF/UHF repeater range. Emergency units were sent to the scene.

“Maritime Mobile Service Network net control stations are used to assisting maritime stations with routine reports, weather information and emergencies,” said Second Assistant Net Manager Jeff Savasta, KB4JKL. “This incident represents a land-based rescue in which the reporting station advised that he knew that the Net was always on 14.300.” — *Thanks to Hurricane Watch Net Manager Bobby Graves, KB5HAV*

## FEMA and ARRL Sign Agreement; FEMA Administrator Calls Ham Radio “Resilient”

The ARRL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) have announced a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) that will enhance cooperation between the League and FEMA in the area of disaster communication. FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate, KK4INZ, and ARRL President Kay Craigie, N3KN, signed the agreement July 18 during the ARRL National Centennial Convention at the Connecticut Convention Center in Hartford, Connecticut.

“Radio is one of the most resilient communications technologies we have,” Fugate said. “When the power is out and telecommunications are down, the Amateur Radio community can serve as a vital resource in support of emergency responders and survivors during a disaster. This MOA will strengthen FEMA’s partnership with ARRL and build upon our work to expand emergency communications capabilities and the use of Amateur Radio in emergency management.”

The new agreement will allow FEMA and ARRL to work together to provide resources, services and personnel, as available, in order to strengthen capacity in areas of emergency communications, mass care and emergency assistance, disaster preparedness, response and recovery, while also raising public awareness about the use of Amateur Radio as a public safety resource. The pact also outlines the ways in which FEMA and ARRL will cooperate to carry out their respective responsibilities, with respect to disaster mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery operations in the event of a natural or man-made disaster.

Craigie said that from radio’s earliest days of experimentation to the present, ham radio volunteers have combined a passion for technology with a devotion to assisting agencies that respond to disasters. “This combination of inventiveness and service has saved lives for a century,” she said. “We look forward to working with FEMA to further develop opportunities for trained, equipped and prepared amateur radio operators to serve the public interest whenever and wherever disasters affect our country and its communities.”

Fugate echoed his afternoon remarks as the keynote speaker at the ARRL National Centennial Convention Banquet Friday evening. He said that before he even became FEMA administrator, it became clear to him that Amateur Radio could support ad hoc and innovative communication without relying on conventional telecommunication systems.

“The more sophisticated our systems become, the more fragile they become,” he told the gathering of some 800 dinner guests. He again emphasized the need for resiliency in communication systems, and asked, “How many public

safety networks can come close to ham radio’s bandwidth?”

“The relevancy of ham radio only grows,” asserted Fugate, who just upgraded to General class. “Amateur Radio is taking that hobby and turning it into saving lives.”

After Fugate’s talk, President Craigie presented him with the ARRL Medal of Honor.

The ARRL National Centennial Convention heads into its third and final day on Saturday. The event has attracted some 3000 visitors from around the US and the world. (ARRL)

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**COFFEE & DONUTS**  
**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING**

8:00 A.M.  
To  
10:00 A.M.

The Golden Spike  
Community Center  
Rathdrum



**TALK-IN: 146.980, PL127.3**  
**443.975, PL136.5**

Bring a writing instrument. The Golden Spike has the napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

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

# Kootenai Amateur Radio Society



PO Box 1765, Hayden, Idaho 83835-1765

Please complete the entire form and return with your payment

## Single Year membership

New member \$15.00     Renewing \$15.00     Family \$23.00     Info Update Only

## Two Year Membership

New member \$28.00     Renewing \$28.00     Family \$42.00

Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_ Expires \_\_\_\_\_

First Name & Initial \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

If renewing, only fill in information below that has changed since last application, otherwise complete.

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

ARRL Member \_\_\_\_\_ May we publish Limited information \_\_\_\_\_ (Y/N)

For Family Membership, Please complete an additional application and staple together.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## K7ID.org Request Form

First and Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like your (call sign )@k7id.org email 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     Webmail access     POP Access  
(Please complete the bottom & Sign)     I wish to opt-out of K7ID.org

Please select a user name \_\_\_\_\_@K7ID.org

Please select a Password \_\_\_\_\_

For forward request only

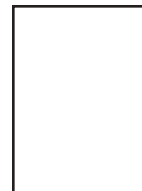
Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

### 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"/>		

**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.

## **2014 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Dave Boss, KF7YWR  
president@k7id.org

Vice-President: Jim Monroe, N7ESU  
vicepresident@k7id.org

Exec. Director: Scott Howard, KF7USV  
excdirector@k7id.org

Secretary: Adam Crippen, N7ISP  
secretary@k7id.org

Treasurer: Pat Patterson, W7SGS  
treasurer@k7id.org

Newsletter Editor: Gary Roth, KE7IAT  
509 993-8468 ke7iat@comcast.net

Repeater Trustee: Rick Van Landingham, KI7I  
ki7i@arrl.net

Repeater Tech: Dale DuRee, KE7VMN

Webmaster: Larry Telles, K6SPP  
208 762-2548 ltelles@icehouse.net

Past President: Bonnie Patterson,  
KG6QQM

## **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 repeaters on 146.980 and 443.975, and a packet repeater on 145.510 Mhz.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$15.00 (individual) and \$20.00 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.