



January 2017

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, Jan 9, 6:30 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Off-Grid Hamming
Presenter: Dave Boss,
KF7YWR
Refreshments: ???

VE Testing
Monday, Jan 9, 5:30 p.m.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho

Monday, Feb 13, 6:30 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: ???
Presenter: ???
Refreshments: ???

VE Testing
Monday, Feb 13, 5:30 p.m.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho

Upcoming Events

Winter Field Day
Jan 28-29 1100Pac-1100Pac

Mike & Key Hamfest
March 7, 2017
Puyallup, WA

No column received as of 6 January 2017.

FCC Approves New Emergency Alert System “Event Codes” for 2017 Hurricane Season

The FCC has added three new “event codes” to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) for the 2017 hurricane season. The new rules apply to EAS and NOAA Weather Radio (NWR). Two of the EAS codes correspond to a potential Storm Surge Watch/Warning. The National Weather Service (NWS) is still developing and seeking comments on a Storm Surge Watch/Warning for operational use in 2017. The new codes are:

Extreme Wind Warning (EWW): The EWW is an existing operational warning NWS uses for advance notice of sustained surface wind speeds of 115 MPH or greater during major hurricanes. All NWS Gulf and East Coast Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) issue the EWW.

Storm Surge Watch (SSA): The NWS may issue an SSA for the gulf and east coasts when life-threatening inundation is possible from rising water moving inland in the specified area, generally within 48 hours. Weather forecast offices could issue the SSA for tropical, subtropical, or post-tropical cyclones. A WFO may issue the watch even earlier, when conditions such as tropical storm-force winds might limit response time for evacuations or other action. A WFO may also issue the watch for locations that could be isolated by inundation in adjacent areas.

Storm Surge Warning (SSW): WFOs may issue an SSW for the gulf and east coasts when tropical inundation is more imminent - generally within 36 hours. NWS may issue a warning when other conditions, such as the onset of tropical storm-force winds, are expected to reduce the time available to evacuate or take other actions. Like the watch, NWS may issue the warning when an area could be isolated by inundation.

For all three new codes, NWS receivers that provide a limited, caption-like message display will likely show “UNKNOWN WARNING” or “UNKNOWN WATCH.” Receivers equipped with Specific Area Message Encoding (SAME) will activate with SAME alarm tones. Receivers equipped with the 1,050 Hz Warning Alarm Tone will activate a tone. The NWS Dissemination Team will work with receiver manufacturers to add the new codes to newly manufactured NWR SAME receivers.

Beginning with the 2017 hurricane season, NWS will request an EAS activation using the EWW event code. If the NWS decides to make the SSW operational in 2017, the NWS will request EAS activation for the Storm Surge Warning. In most jurisdictions, the NWS will *not* request EAS activation for the Storm Surge Watch. WFOs are now reaching out to state and local Emergency Communications Committees, state and local emergency management agencies, and broadcasters’ associations for help in implementing the new codes. Local WFOs may issue public information statements and update WFO web pages and air public service announcements over NWR. These service changes will be further discussed at outreach events and with seasonal hurricane program briefings.

The FCC order does not require an upgrade of existing equipment already in use. The FCC “will allow EAS participants to upgrade their existing equipment to include the new event codes” on a voluntary basis; however, EAS equipment manufacturers are required to “make necessary software upgrades to EAS participants” by March 12, 2017. In most cases, broadcasters only need to obtain and implement the manufacturer-provided software update.

For more information, see the [Weather-Ready Nation information fact sheet](#) summarizing these changes, and check the [list of frequently asked questions](#). - *Thanks to the National Weather Service*

Winter Field Day is Just Ahead

Field Day is not just for summertime anymore. Winter Field Day, sponsored by the Winter Field Day Association (WFDA), will take place over the January 28-29 weekend, and it can be a terrific time to prep for ARRL Field Day in June. The annual event’s stated purpose is to encourage emergency operating preparedness in the winter, but it’s also an excuse to get out of the house and enjoy the great outdoors. According to the WFDA, getting ready for emergency communication in a winter environment is just as important as the preparations and practice that take place each June during ARRL Field Day, and - let’s face it - it’s not cold and snowy everywhere during the winter months. Your local climate could be quite the opposite.

“Don’t let those winter doldrums keep you locked up in the house,” the WFDA says. “Get out and play some radio!” The WFDA said it believes that maintaining operating skills should not be limited to fair-weather scenarios.

The event, which got its start in 2007, is not restricted to North America. All Amateur Radio operators around the world are invited to participate, and there are three entry categories - indoor, outdoor, and home. The [rules](#) are similar to those for ARRL Field Day. Operation will take place on all HF bands except 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters, as well as on VHF, UHF, and satellite. The event runs 24 hours. U.S. and Canadian stations exchange call sign, operating category, and ARRL or RAC section.

The WFDA encourages both group and solo operation, and if you’re not up for an outdoor winter adventure involving Amateur Radio, you can operate from the comfort of your shack. As the WFDA says on its [Facebook page](#), “The object is winter fun!”

In New Zealand quake, radio amid the rubble

NEIL/ANCHOR: As the northeastern corner of New Zealand’s South Island tries to clear out from this month’s major earthquake, one local amateur has taken stock of his opportunity to help - not just in that moment, but in the future. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Jim Meachen ZL2BHF tells us more.

JIM: On holiday in Waiiau at the time a 7.8 magnitude earthquake struck New Zealand on Monday, the 14th of November, Daniel Ayers ZL1DFA found himself a few miles from its epicenter. With roads impassable, utilities not functioning and conventional communications useless, no amateur radio assistance was called in. Being there already with his handheld radio, Daniel was among the few who could get involved immediately in that rural region, first by finding out what had happened and then to step in and help.

DANIEL: “At that stage I only had a handheld radio with me. But fortunately it had a reasonably good antenna so I was able to get into an amateur repeater called 6975, a VHF repeater on 146.975 megahertz, which was some distance away but I was able to get in there and talk to people in Christchurch and the wider area around the northern part of the south island and they told me straightaway that we’d just had a direct hit.”

JIM: Even after Civilian AM radio brought news reports in, the Civil Defense district’s VHF repeater

network failed for several hours, so it was tough getting word out until later. Limited road access eventually allowed Daniel to retrieve his SUV which is equipped with mobile ham equipment.

DANIEL: “I was able to scoot out into Christchurch and swap the car I was driving for my SUV which was fitted out for emergency communications on HF and VHF and had everything necessary to be ready to go to talk to anybody. I took that vehicle back into Waiiau and using that I was able to participate more fully in providing some communications.”

JIM: Daniel also worked for hours using the Civil Defense system and equipment before being asked to switch to his own amateur radios to help the New Zealand fire service pass messages to their regional office in Christchurch, 100 miles away.

DANIEL: “What I found that was very interesting is that the quote/unquote amateur VHF networks were more reliable in this instance - and this was not the only instance where we have seen this in this part of the country. The amateur infrastructure was more reliable than the radio communications infrastructure for Civil Defense.”

JIM: The next challenge, Daniel said, is not just preparing for the next quake that is surely to come, or the series of inevitable aftershocks, but finding a way for radio amateurs to establish a system of response on HF that will help this rural nation more reliably.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Jim Meachen ZL2BHF.

A NET GAIN FOR THE SANTA NET

NEIL/ANCHOR: And finally, with Christmas 2016 behind us, we reflect on Santa’s popularity. It’s big, because he has his own 80-meter Net. Amateur Radio Newsline’s Jim Damron, N8TMW, has more:

JIM: Christmas is over and the results are in: Santa is apparently more popular than ever on ham radio. The 3916 Nets, which run the annual Santa Net, connecting youngsters to the voice of Santa on ham radio, reports that 426 stations and 656 children spoke to the big elf this year. According to Pete Thomson, KE5GGY, the stations were from all over the U.S. and into Canada. Best of all, the number represents an increase of 54 percent over the check-ins in 2015. No doubt this gives the Santa Net operators, and even folks at the North Pole, a lot of ho-ho-hope for Christmas next year.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I’m Jim Damron, N8TMW.

Canada Telecoms Regulator Revises, Clarifies Amateur Radio Service Requirements

Canada's telecommunications regulator Innovation, Science, and Economic Development Canada (ISED) - formerly Industry Canada (IC) - has issued a revised version of the Radiocommunication Information Circular 3 (RIC-3), "Information on the Amateur Radio Service," replacing the previous 2005 version. According to ISED, RICs are issued for the guidance of those engaged in radiocommunications in Canada, and the information they contain is subject to change without notice.

"Radio Amateurs of Canada (RAC) welcomes the change, as it addresses several long-standing issues pointed out by RAC in the past, where the document required updating to address changes in technologies and practices, notably the decision by many administrations to remove the requirement for Morse code qualification for new radio amateurs," RAC Regulatory Affairs Officer Richard Ferch, VE3IAY/VE3KI, said in an RAC bulletin.

RAC said the new document contains several editorial changes, including the change from IC to ISED and clarifications regarding operating privileges granted to Basic licensees. "Over recent years, there have been questions about which qualification [license] is required by Canadian radio amateurs to modify a commercial transceiver to operate on amateur bands," Ferch recounted. Advanced licensees may modify transceivers, because they are allowed to design and build transmitters. Ferch pointed out that the new RIC-3 makes it clear that Basic licensee privileges include "re-programming of radio equipment to operate in the amateur bands, if this can be done by a computer program," but not "physical modifications to the circuitry."

RAC had urged the relaxation of restrictions limiting remote control of Amateur Radio stations to Advanced licensees, in light of transceiver design changes that have simplified such operation. "We believe that those with Basic [licenses] should have this privilege, but ISED has not yet agreed," Ferch said. "Dealing with regulations and their interpretation is an ongoing activity, where several rounds of discussion are often required to achieve results."

RAC said the document also drops the outdated requirement for visiting American radio operators to demonstrate Morse proficiency to be allowed to operate HF phone in Canada. World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 concurred that Morse no longer needed

to be an Amateur Radio licensing requirement, and the US dropped the Morse requirement in 2007.

RAC said the major change relates to reciprocal operating privileges, and in particular those provided through a European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations (CEPT) permit. Canada is a signatory to the [CEPT T/R 61-01](#) agreement, under which Canadian amateurs holding a CEPT permit issued in Canada may operate in European countries during temporary visits. The CEPT agreement no longer required a Morse qualification, and after negotiations between ISED and CEPT, the rules for Canadian participation have been updated to follow suit. There will no longer be two classes of CEPT permits according to the applicant's Morse code qualification. In addition, CEPT has determined that only Advanced Canadian licensees will be eligible for reciprocal operating privileges under CEPT T/R 61-01.

Canada is also a party to the Inter-American Convention on an International Amateur Radio Permit (IARP), which provides reciprocal operating privileges to radio amateurs in signatory countries in ITU Region 2. At the October IARU Region 2 General Assembly in Chile, RAC and other IARU member societies agreed to encourage their governments to update this agreement. RAC said it has learned that the Inter-American Telecommunication Commission (CITEL) will do so, possibly as soon as next summer. (ARRL News)

FEMA Region 10 to Conduct Monthly Interoperability Communications Exercises during 2017

FEMA Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) will conduct interoperability communications exercises (COMMEX) during 2017 on the third Wednesday of each month, 1500-2100 UTC. The initial exercise will take place on January 18.

"The intent of this COMMEX is to test and exercise interoperable communications (federal/state/local/tribal/amateur) during a major disaster, where communications infrastructure would be significantly damaged or destroyed," FEMA Region 10 said in announcing the exercises. FEMA Region 10 will use the call sign WGY910. Others that may participate in this exercise include, but are not limited to, other FEMA stations,

SHARES stations, and Air Force and Army MARS stations. All stations are encouraged to participate.

The COMMEX will use the five 60-meter channels: 5,330.5 kHz, 5,346.5 kHz, 5,357.0 kHz, 5,371.5 kHz, and 5,403.5 kHz. The area of operation is the Continental US. — *Thanks to FEMA Spectrum Manager Dave Adsit, KG4BIR, (540) 272-4605 (ARRL News)*

Pacific Seafarer's Net Assists in Maritime Rescue of Sailors on Sinking Sailboat

The [Pacific Seafarer's Net](#) relayed a call for help and contacted the US Coast Guard on September 28, after the SV *Rafiki* began taking on water some 230 miles south of Cold Bay, Alaska. At approximately 0300 UTC, Charles Houlihan, KD6SPJ, a net relay station, received the distress call from the sailboat's captain. Houlihan, who was also at sea in SV *Jacaranda*, contacted Randy VanLeeuwen, KH6RC, a net relay station in Hawaii. He, in turn, got in touch with Hawaii USCG District 14 to report the incident and provide *Rafiki's* location. The Hawaii USCG district then contacted the 17th USCG District in Alaska, which effected the rescue. VanLeeuwen kept in constant radio contact with the *Rafiki* until contact was lost. Fred Moore, W3ZU, in Florida, and Peter Mott, ZL1PWM, in New Zealand, also were on frequency and in contact with the vessel's captain until a US Coast Guard rescue helicopter arrived.

The Jayhawk helicopter crew was able to hoist the captain and a crew member to safety at around 1000 UTC, after dropping survival suits. Both men were reported to be uninjured, but the vessel was abandoned. The two men were taken to Kodiak, Alaska, for medical attention.

The incident occurred just before the net's daily roll-call, when a call is put out for medical, emergency, or priority traffic. The Pacific Seafarer's Net convenes daily on 14.300 MHz at 0300 UTC to monitor the progress of maritime Amateur Radio operators sailing in the Pacific. Net control stations are located around the world. Traffic consists of daily position reporting and automatic posting of positions on several websites, message handling via e-mail relay, health-and-welfare traffic, phone patch

services, search-and-rescue coordination, and vessel equipment inventories for search-and-rescue operations. Net control stations keep computer databases of participating vessels and their movements.

“This case emphasizes the importance of proper survival gear for the harsh and challenging Alaskan environment,” said Adam De Rocher, a senior search-and-rescue controller at USCG District 17. “The more prepared the better. Boaters making long transits are encouraged to have survival suits and life jackets for each person aboard, a life raft, a communication device such as a satellite phone, flares and an EPIRB. These items increase boaters' chances of survival in an emergency situation.” - *Thanks to the Pacific Seafarer's Net and the US Coast Guard*

Indian Radio Amateurs Report More Mystery Signals

According to a [Mumbai Mirror report](#), radio amateurs who have been hearing mysterious signals on 2 meters for the past 5 months have tracked them down to a source somewhere off the Maharashtra-Gujarat coast in the Arabian Sea. Ankur Puranik, VU2AXN, a spokesperson for a local Amateur Radio club, said the group had advised the Ministry of Telecommunications as well as defense and law enforcement officials to take note of the unknown signals and consider investigating them.

The newspaper account, attributed to the Indo-Asian News Service (IANS), said the club contacted authorities after using direction-finding techniques to determine that the signals were originating from somewhere around 100 nautical miles in the high seas. Puranik said those making the transmissions were speaking in a language the Mumbai hams did not understand. Radio amateurs in the Mumbai area have reported hearing the unknown signals at various times of day - although more frequently at night - and said they continue.

Earlier this year, radio amateurs along the Bengal-Bangladesh border reported hearing strange, unidentified VHF radio transmissions that one called “highly suspicious.” - *Thanks to Southgate Amateur Radio News*

AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBES HOST FIRST NET

SKEETER/ANCHOR: American Indian tribes now have their own Net. If you want to join them, listen to this report from Amateur Radio Newsline's Paul Braun WD9GCO.

PAUL: There is a new HF activity starting this weekend, and it's hosted by a very special organization. The National Tribal Amateur Radio Association will hold the first of what they hope are many more nets this Saturday, January 7th, at 0100 UTC on 3925 MHz to start.

I spoke with Association president Nathan Nixon, N7NAN about their plans:

NIXON: What we're starting is our first HF net that we hope to use to not only kinda bring people together but also to put out information as to what's going on out there in Indian country, ways that people can help. You know, through National Tribal we've never said "no" to anybody joining and it's open to everybody so ultimately we just want to get the word out there that hey, most everybody, regardless of where you live in the US, either has tribal nations within their state or if you're in a state like Arizona where I'm at we've got 22 of them. And they're close - there may be community members who are ham radio operators you may not be aware of, but every tribal community I've been out to absolutely loves what amateur radio is and what it's all about so I'm hoping with this net we can move forwards from once a month to twice a month and kinda spread the word about Indian country and bring folks together and go from there.

PAUL: NTARA's membership is growing. According to Nixon.....

NIXON:As of January 1, we are sitting right at 482 across the U.S. That's all 50 states. Out of those 482, we've got 21 of the 567 recognized tribal nations represented.

PAUL: The mission of the net will evolve over time, according to Nixon:

NIXON: So the first one is more just to - actually, the first couple - will be more to test the waters and see, you know, which band, what time, that sort of stuff works for everybody else. I'm hoping that by April or May that we'll have a list of people who check in on a regular basis so we'll do check-ins and then with some of the resources that I have it's mainly to share information as to what's going on out there. So if I know that the Navajo Nation has a big fair going on or something like that I'll put that out there for people. Either that, or there's like emergency communications events that Indian Country's doing or

anything like that, that's what we're going to start putting out there after I'd say probably the third net after we get our feet wet and kind of figure out which band's going to work the best.

PAUL: Nixon said that while the first net will be on 75 meters, they are also going to try one on 40 and one on 20 to see what works best for most hams.

You can learn more about the Association and follow the progress of the net by joining the Facebook page - just search for National Tribal Amateur Radio Association or look for them on Twitter under @NatlTribalHams. They have a QRZ page under W7NTV.

For Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Paul Braun, WD9GCO

German Radio Amateurs Gain Access to 60 Meter Band

On December 21, Amateur Radio operators in Germany gained access to the band 5.351.5 to 5.366.5 MHz with 15 W EIRP, and a maximum bandwidth of 2.7 kHz. Access applies to Class A licensees. Amateur Radio is secondary on 60 meters in all countries where it is available to Amateur Radio.

The Deutscher Amateur Radio Club (**DARC**) called users' attention to the IARU Region 1 band plan for 60 meters, which recommends CW and digital modes, maximum bandwidth of 200 Hz, from 5.351.5 to 5.354.0 MHz; all modes, maximum bandwidth of 2.7 kHz (use USB for SSB), from 5.354.0 to 5.366.0 MHz, and all modes, maximum bandwidth of 20 Hz "with the least power," from 5.366.0 to 5.366.5 MHz. (ARRL News)

**COFFEE & DONUTS
EVERY THURSDAY MORNING**

**0:00 A.M.
To
10:00 A.M.**



**Community Mtg Rm
Silver Lake Mall
Coeur d'Alene**

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

Bring a Writing Instrument **Community Mtg Rm**
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 (KARS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

One year membership Rates:

New Member: \$15.00 Renewal: \$15.00 Family Membership: \$23.00

Two year membership Rates:

New Member: \$28.00 Renewal: \$28.00 Family Membership: \$42.00

Lifetime membership:

Member: \$150.00

Information Update Only

Are You An ARRL Member? Yes / No (Please Circle One)

Callsign: _____ Class: _____ Expiration: _____

First Name: _____ M.I. _____ Last Name: _____

Nickname: _____

Address1: _____

Address2: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____

OK to publish phone number? Yes / No (Please Circle One)

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Do you want to receive the emailed Newsletter? Yes / No (Please Circle One)

Note: If this is a family membership, (all members with the same address), please complete the following section for your family.

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

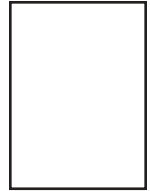
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*RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES, (CASH OR CHECK), TO THE KARS TREASURER,
OR, MAIL TO: KARS MEMBERSHIP, P.O. BOX 1765, Hayden, ID. 83835-1765.*

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Cash:		Check #:		Money Order:	
Membership Card:		Roster:		Newsletter:	

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.

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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 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 \$23.00 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.