



May 2017

(www.k7id.org)

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

**REGULAR
CLUB MEETINGS:**

Monday, May 8, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Lightning Protection
Presenter: Ed Stuckey, AI7H
Refreshments: ???

VE Testing
Monday, May 8, 5:30 p.m.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho

Friday, June 9, 6:30 p.m.
Shriner's Event Center
1250 W. Lancaster Ave
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Pre-Hamfest Potluck
Presenter: No-one
Refreshments: Everyone

VE Testing
Saturday, Jun 10, 9:00 a.m.
1250 W. Lancaster Ave
Hayden, Idaho

Upcoming Events
ARES Message Test
May 22, 7 p.m.
147.080/+100

KARS Hamfest
June 10, 7 a.m.-2 p.m.

No Column Received from President.

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society
April 2017 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Club President Dave Boss (KF7YWR). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Jim Peterson (AD0AZ).

Club Presentation: Putting an HF Station on the Air for around \$400 by Larry Telles (K6SPP)

VE License Testing:

Zach Verner KI7KRY Passed General Exam
Stephen Williams New license Passed Technician Exam
Fletcher Kibler KI7LFL Passed General Exam

Meeting Minutes Report:

February and March minutes are accepted as posted in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes made by Lenny Gemar (N7MOT), 2nd by Jim Peterson (AD7AZ), motion passed by member vote.

Club Treasurer's Report:

March - Checking \$3,579.73, Savings \$2,151.37, Petty Cash \$110.44, Total \$5,841.54.

Monthly income consisted of: Saving Account \$0.05; 50/50 Raffle \$7.50, Membership \$30.00

Monthly expenses consisted of: Poker Chips for Raffle \$22.75, Post Office Box Renewal \$94.00

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report was made by Adam Crippen (N7ISP), 2nd by Lenny Gemar (N7MOT), motion passed by member vote.

Club Business:

North Idaho College STEM Expo will be April 18th from 9am to 1pm.

KARS Hamfest will be June 10th at the CDA Shriner's Building near I-95 and Lancaster. Volunteers are needed to make the event a success, interested parties are should contact Jim Peterson (AD7AZ). Raffle and door prizes are needed, Adam Crippen (N7ISP) would like to

continue with the DX Engineering Gift Cards that were done last year in the amounts of \$250, \$150 and \$100, and additional funds would be needed for door prizes. Lindy Bryant (KE0ADZ) made a motion to approve \$650 for hamfest prizes, 2nd by Lenny Gemar (N7MOT), motion passed by member vote.

Upcoming Events:

ARRL Field Day – June 24th and 25th. More details to come.

KARS Hamsfest: will be Saturday June 10th. Please consider volunteering.

County Fair Booth: Fair is Wednesday, Aug 23rd to Sunday, Aug 27th.

Raffle Results:

50/50	\$7.50	Daniel Latuseck, KG7UWF (claimed)
Membership	\$27.00	Frank TenThy, KG7CUI (not claimed)

Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:50pm, 2nd made by Todd Silk (AD7VB), motion passed by member vote and meeting was adjourned.

The May Presentation

Every Amateur Radio operator should be aware of lightning and other phenomena that might have an impact on his / her station. This presentation will focus on the "threat level", how to use online resources to evaluate the threat, and how to "mitigate" the threat. We will make a PDF of the slide show available to those who might wish to re-play it at a later time.

About the Presenter

Ed Stuckey (AI7H) is located on the Rathdrum prairie on the edge of Post Falls, ID. He was prompted to learn about lightning and protect his station after a nearby lightning strike in 2007. "Full Mitigation" takes some time, and Ed is now in year 8 of this three-month project.

Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test is May 13

The US Army, Air Force, Navy, and Coast Guard will sponsor the traditional military/amateur radio communication tests on Saturday, May 13 to mark the 66th annual Armed Forces Day (AFD). Armed Forces Day is May 20, but the AFD Crossband Military-Amateur Radio event will take place a week earlier in order to avoid schedule conflicts with those attending Hamvention.

Complete information, including military stations, modes, and frequencies, is available on the US Army MARS website. (<http://www.usarmymars.org/home/announcements>)

The annual celebration is a unique opportunity to test two-way communication between radio amateurs and military stations (authorized under §97.111 of the Amateur Service rules). It features traditional military-to-amateur crossband SSB voice, CW, practice using legacy interoperability waveforms, and the opportunity for participating hams to utilize more modern military modes, such as MIL-STD Serial PSK and Automatic Link Establishment (ALE). Military stations and Amateur Radio stations are authorized to communicate directly on certain 60-meter interoperability channels — 5,330.5, 5346.5, and 5,371.5 kHz.

These tests give Amateur Radio operators and shortwave listeners (SWLs) a chance and a challenge to demonstrate individual technical skills and to receive recognition from the appropriate military radio station. QSL cards will be available for stations successfully contacting participating military stations.

AFD Message

The Armed Forces Day message will be transmitted via Military Standard radioteletype modes (MIL-STD 188-110A/B). Software is available to demodulate the military serial PSK waveform, and detailed instructions can be downloaded. Utilizing this mode with soundcard equipment can be challenging; review the instructions carefully. (http://www.n2ckh.com/MARS_ALE_FORUM/MSDMT.html)

A short practice transmission will be sent at 1930 and 2330 on May 6, 7, 10, and 12 on 13.506.5 MHz USB and 17.443.0 MHz USB.

Military FSK is Baudot at 850 Hz, 75 baud, low mark, and 2000 Hz center. Most RTTY programs can be set to decode this mode. To achieve low mark while receiving in USB, select reverse shift.

QSL cards are available for individuals that receive the Armed Forces Day test message. To receive a card, copy the printed text of the test message as received from the military station, and include it in your report. No attempt should be made to correct possible errors.

Stations copying Armed Forces Day messages transmitted from US Army and US Navy stations and requesting a QSL card, can [complete](#) the QSL report form online. Stations copying the Armed Forces Day message transmitted from US Air Force stations and seeking a QSL card should send a request to Armed Forces Day Celebration, Chief, Air Force MARS, 203 W. Losey St, Scott AFB, IL 62225.

Include a transcript of the received text, time observed, frequency observed, military station call sign, your full name and Amateur Radio call sign (if applicable), full mailing address (including ZIP code).

Automatic Link Establishment

Stations with Automatic Link Establishment (ALE) capability can contact a military station on specific half duplex crossband channels established for this purpose. ALE is a selective calling and linking method utilized by government, military, and amateur radio communications. Military stations will scan and receive certain amateur HFLINK ALE frequencies and transmit on the corresponding military ALE frequency. Military stations will also transmit ALE station identification (soundings) on each military frequency at 30- to 90-minute intervals. Amateur stations may scan military frequencies and monitor the soundings to build the LQA database or select the channel manually. Amateur stations will call military stations using ALE selective calling on one of the paired cross band channels.

Announced AFD Special Operations

NEPM on board the USS *Iowa* (BB61) will be on the air for its first annual Armed Forces Day Crossband Military/Amateur Radio Communications Test. The Battleship Iowa Amateur Radio Association ([BIARA](#)) and qualified Pacific Battleship Center crew members will activate NEPM.

Article Links Amateur Radio Growth to Emergency Communications

An April 11 article, “Emergency Communications Driving Increase in Amateur Radio Operators,” in *Emergency Management* magazine links the growth in Amateur Radio numbers to interest in emergency communications.

“There has been a tremendous amount of interest in emergency preparedness since 9/11 and Katrina, and this is true for the Amateur Radio community as well,” ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, KI1U, told the publication. “Emergency communications is a gateway into Amateur Radio, and many join our ranks through an interest in being better prepared themselves and as a way to serve their community.”

The article cites numbers from ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, who notes that 2016 was the third year in a row that the total number of new licenses exceeded 30,000.

The article also cites ARRL Colorado Section Manager Jack Ciaccia, WM0G, who agreed with the premise that the uptick in new licenses is due to Amateur Radio’s emergency capabilities.

“Interest really peaks after a large-scale event where ham radio has been utilized,” Ciaccia said. “When regular phone service fails, Amateur Radio operators fill the communications gap with their independent transceivers and battery power backups,” said the article, which also discusses the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES). (ARRL News)

Free App Allows Blind Hams to Work PSK31

A free, new app - *Accessible Digipan* - has been released that allows blind hams to operate PSK31. The download includes the app, audio tutorials, detailed written guides, and additional helpful resources, plus *DigiPan* PSK31 and PSK63 software.

ARRL member Richard McDonald, KK6MRH, and Jim Snowbarger, WA0PSS - both blind - developed the program. “Until now, blind hams worldwide have not had any accessible program to work *PSK31*,” McDonald said. “Now they do.”

Accessible Digipan brings together the most popular screen reader, *JAWS*, and *DigiPan*, McDonald said, and the app will work with many different kinds of rigs, interfaces, and *Windows* versions. (ARRL News)

FCC Personal Radio Service Revisions Will Affect GMRS, FRS, CB, Other Part 95 Devices

In a lengthy *Report and Order (R&O)* in a proceeding (WT Docket No. 10-119) dating back 7 years, the FCC has announced rule changes affecting the General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS), the Family Radio Service (FRS), the Citizens Band Radio Service (CBRS or “CB”), as well as other applications that fall under the FCC’s Part 95 Personal Radio Services (PRS) rules and regulations. Part 95 devices typically are low-power units that communicate over shared spectrum and, with some exceptions, do not require an individual user license from the FCC. As the *R&O* explains, common examples of PRS devices include “walkie-talkies;” radio-control cars, boats, and planes; hearing assistance devices; CB radios; medical implant devices; and Personal Locator Beacons.

“This draft *Report and Order* completes a thorough review of the PRS rules in order to modernize them, remove outdated requirements, and reorganize them to make it easier to find information,” the FCC said in a summary attached to the *R&O*. “As a result of this effort, the rules will become consistent, clear, and concise.”

GMRS and FRS devices are used for personal communication over several miles; compact FRS handhelds, often sold in pairs, are widely available. While GMRS and FRS share spectrum, GMRS provides for greater communications range and requires an FCC license; FRS does not.

“The rules will increase the number of communications channels for both GMRS and FRS, expand digital capabilities to GMRS (currently allowed for FRS), and increase the power/range for certain FRS channels to meet consumer demands for longer range communications (while maintaining higher power capabilities for licensed GMRS),” the FCC explained.

The amended rules eventually will eliminate combination FRS/GMRS radios for the most part, but allow up to 2 W PEP output for FRS transceivers. “[M]any current users of GMRS/FRS combination radios do not obtain licenses to operate over the GMRS

frequencies in those radios,” the FCC said. “Much of this problem likely arises as a result of the mass consumer marketing of combination devices for sale to the public in large quantities to users who do not know about or do not understand the licensing requirements attached to such radios and obligations associated with operating in the GMRS.”

The FCC said it no longer will certify FRS devices that incorporate GMRS capabilities or capabilities of other services. Existing GMRS/FRS combination radios that operate at power levels of less than 2 W ERP will be reclassified as FRS devices; existing GMRS/FRS radios that operate above that power level will be reclassified as GMRS devices, requiring an individual license. Radios that can transmit on GMRS repeater input channels will continue to be licensed individually and not by rule.

“We believe the 2 W limit for FRS is appropriate, because many of the existing combination GMRS/FRS radios already operate under that level with no significant complaints about interference or other problems, and it provides a reasonable balance between the desire for increased range over the prior FRS power levels and battery life,” the FCC said.

The FCC said changes to the decades-old Citizens Band (CB) rules will remove outdated requirements, including certain labeling requirements. DXing on Citizens Band will become legal too. Once the new rules are effective, CBers will be allowed to contact stations outside of the FCC-imposed - but widely disregarded - 155.3-mile distance limit. The revised CB rules further clarify how hands-free devices can be used with CB radios and will allow the use of wireless microphones with CB radios. “We find the record persuasive regarding the consumer demand for this feature, and it will promote safety on the highways by reducing driver distraction for those using CB [radios],” the FCC said. The FCC left in place the current power limits for the CB Radio Service.

The rule changes will phase out the use of voice-scrambling or “obscuring” features in all Part 95 devices, and it will ultimately prohibit manufacture, importation, or sale of any devices incorporating such features,

“regardless of whether the Commission has previously certified that radio.”

Overall, the FCC said, its action “achieves a thorough review of Part 95 rules and creates a new rule structure where common administrative rules are consolidated to reduce duplication, and individual subparts are structured with a common numbering scheme.” The FCC said the changes remove “outdated and unnecessary rules, while clarifying others.”

Most of the new Part 95 rules will become effective 30 days after their publication in *The Federal Register*. (ARRL News)

Important Notice — New MF and LF Bands are Not Yet Available to Use!

The new 630-meter and 2200-meter bands are *not yet available for Amateur Radio use*. The effective date of the recent FCC *Report & Order (R&O)* granting these allocations has not yet been determined, and until the start date has been set, it is *not* legal under an Amateur Radio license to transmit on either band.

The fact that the new rules contain a new information-collection requirement — notification of operation to the United Telecoms Council (UTC) — complicates the matter of determining an effective date. According to the FCC *R&O*, the Office of Management and Budget (under the Paperwork Reduction Act) must first approve the information-collection requirements in §97.303(g)(2), which must be in place before radio amateurs can use the new bands.

Once that happens, the FCC will publish a notice in *The Federal Register* “announcing such approval and the relevant effective date.” ARRL will announce the UTC notification procedures *and* the effective date to use these new bands as soon as these are known. (ARRL News)

KARSARES Message PracticeAMP 2017

There will be an on-the-air message traffic handling exercise on **May 22 at 7:00 PM PDT for one hour**. The exercise is on 2 meters and is open to all licensed amateur radio operators in the area. It will be a directed net with NCS on 147.080 MHz (+600 PL tone 100Hz). Participants are requested to check in with NCS at that time and await instructions. They will be directed to other simplex frequencies to pass traffic using the ICS 213 format. Participants will be requested to complete several other ICS forms normally used in handling EOC traffic. All the needed documents are listed and downloadable below. Participants are asked to email all their forms to NCS at superbowldiva@gmail.com following the exercise. There will be short informational announcement at the ARES meeting May 1 and the KARS meeting May 8. Please download and save the following forms for use during the exercise:

ICS 205 - KC ARES Communications Plan; ICS 213 - General Message Form; ICS 214 - EOC Staff Log; ICS 309 - Communication Log for Amateur Radio Operators; After Action Review Survey; Phonetic Alphabet

Russian “Buzzer” Disappears, Chinese “Foghorn” Returns

The International Amateur Radio Union Region 1 (IARU-R1) Monitoring System ([IARUMS](#)) [March newsletter](#) reports that the Russian “buzzer” on 6,998.0 kHz has disappeared. For a long time the system interfered with the lower edge of the 40-meter band.

In addition, a Russian F1B transmission on 7,193 kHz - believed to be emanating from Kaliningrad - has ceased. IARUMS credits German telecoms authorities for submitting complaints and the Russian military.

The IARUMS March newsletter further reports that a Chinese over-the-horizon (OTH) burst system radar “foghorn” signal is being heard again on both 40 meters (jumping between 7,128 and 7,187 kHz) and on 20 meters (14,218 kHz). The signals are 10 kHz wide with burst durations of 3.8 and 7.6 seconds.

A “numbers” station said to be from the Ukraine SZRU intelligence agency was reported on March 30 on AM (female voice) on 14,212 kHz. (ARRL News)

Taiwan to Drop Amateur Radio Morse Code Requirement

According to an article in *Taipei Times*, the National Communications Commission (NCC) in Taiwan (the Republic of China) has proposed to abolish the Amateur Radio Morse code requirement and to permit operation on 432-440 MHz on a secondary basis, among other changes to the Amateur Radio rules there.

The NCC has said that a Morse requirement “should not hinder the development of Amateur Radio.”

Although the NCC has approved the amendments, it must put them on public notice for 2 months and then make any changes it considers necessary, before they take effect.

The amended rules also will extend the term of Amateur Radio licenses from 5 to 10 years, although licensees must pass a test to qualify for the extension. NCC data show that 42,900 Amateur Radio licenses were issued in Taiwan between 2012 and 2016. (ARRL News)

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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)

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

OK to publish Email address? Yes / No (Please Circle One)

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: _____

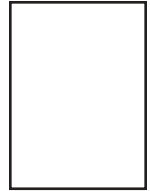
Name: _____ Call: _____ Class: _____

*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.*

(Office use only.)

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.

2017 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 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.