



February 2019

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

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Monday, Feb 11, 7:00 p.m.**  
Search & Rescue Bldg  
10865 N Ramsey Rd.  
Hayden, Idaho  
**Topic: ARES-RACES**  
**Presenter: Bob Kesson,**  
**K7CGA**  
**Refreshments: ???**

**VE Testing**  
**Monday, Feb 11, 5:30 p.m.**  
10865 N Ramsey Rd.  
Hayden, Idaho

**Monday, Mar 11, 7:00 p.m.**  
Search & Rescue Bldg  
10865 N Ramsey Rd.  
Hayden, Idaho  
**Topic:**  
**Presenters:**  
**Refreshments:**

**VE Testing**  
**Monday, Mar 11, 5:30 a.m.**  
Search & Rescue Bldg  
10865 N Ramsey Rd.  
Hayden, Idaho

### Upcoming Events

**Mar 9, 2019 - Doors open at 9  
a.m.; \$10 admission**  
**Mike & Key Hamfest**  
9th Ave SE & Meridian St S  
Puyallup, WA 98372

### President's Column for Propagation Newsletter, February, 2019

A favorite "Far Side" cartoon of mine is two guys lying on their backs out in a field looking up at the star-filled night sky. One says to the other, "Gee...there must be HUNDREDS of stars out there..." It is odd how our perspective of things may appear so real to us at times...yet reality can show us we are off by a long shot!

I thought I was fairly aware of the ham radio community and the various modes we enjoy...and then I opened QRZ.com this morning and saw the featured member, Ed, K0KC, and his wife. Nice pic of the two of them...and then I looked at their page. SHEESH! Ed started his ham adventure in 1962 (KARS was already 10 years old, by the way) and seemingly has been on a near-vertical trajectory ever since! I won't even try to rewrite his interests because you can access them as easily as me and see for yourself...and you probably would not have believed me anyway!

This "hobby" for me appears to be an obsession for others like Ed. I can't relate to how he finds time or \$\$ to accomplish all the areas of amateur radio he lists (I never heard of some of them) and still maintain a balance of life, family, health, finances, etc. It is off my radar screen, incomprehensible. He and his wife look like happy campers so something works for them! For me, I have to get my mind back in perspective. I daydreamed for a minute of owning and operating Ed's station and then reality called me back. What were these feelings? Jealousy? No...I would not know WHAT to do with a lot of that gear. Guilt? For what, because his station is bigger than mine? No guilt there, everyone has their own situation and priorities, Amazement? YES!!! How did he do all this in really so few years...amazed he has so many interests and amazed he has been so successful with them all!

So...as we lay back and stare at the sky, directly over us we see modes, transceivers, 3.14159265, WSPR, formulas, Ubuntu, tuners, WinLink, repeaters, WSJT-X, nodes, reactance, IRLP, polarizations, FT-8, skin effect, packets, SDRs, contests..."more than you can shake a stick at" as my mom used to say, and we look back to Maxim's "Old Betsy" rotary spark-gap transmitter and all the pioneering and inventions of hams in the past, (there must be HUNDREDS of them...) and see there is a lot more to this "interest" than we first realized.

What is over the horizon? It is truly an AMAZING hobby!

Our February 11 KARS meeting will integrate our personal enjoyment of this hobby with practical service opportunities and assistance to our communities

during emergencies. Bob Kesson, K7CGA, long-time KARS member and past president, is the local ARES and RACES Chief, among so many other titles! Bob is eminently qualified in this area. Don't miss this meeting!

Frank, KD7FK  
president@KARS.org

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No minutes of the January meeting were available at press time.

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### ARRL Launching New Podcast Geared Toward New Radio Amateurs

For those just getting started on their Amateur Radio journey, ARRL is launching a new podcast aimed at answering your questions, providing support and encouragement for newcomers to get the most out of the hobby. The podcast "So Now What?" will launch on Thursday, March 7, and new episodes will be posted every other Thursday, alternating new-episode weeks with the "[ARRL The Doctor is In](#)" podcast.

Co-hosting "So Now What?" will be ARRL Communications Content Producer Michelle Patnode, W3MVP, and ARRL Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q. Presented as a lively conversation, with Patnode representing newer hams and Carcia the veteran operators, the podcast will explore questions that newer hams may have and the issues that keep participants from staying active in the hobby. Some episodes will feature guests to answer questions on specific topic areas.

"No other podcast is really aimed at this segment of the Amateur Radio community... that is being underserved, that is not getting the answers to the many questions they have," said ARRL Communications Manager David Isgur, N1RSN, who will serve as the podcast's executive producer.

Topics to be discussed in the first several episodes include getting started, operating modes available to Technician licensees, VEC and licensing issues, sunspots and propagation, mobile operating, contesting, Amateur Radio in pop culture, and perceptions of Technician license holders.

Given the growing popularity of podcasts, Isgur believes that providing this information in a podcast format will be a very effective method of reaching out and engaging this particular part of the Amateur Radio community, which is important for building and maintaining Amateur Radio interest and activity.

Patnode said she is excited to ask questions she has about different aspects of Amateur Radio, such as how to incorporate ham radio with newer technologies like Raspberry Pi computers and Arduinos, and to learn more about the hobby right along with the audience.

Carcia believes the "So Now What?" podcast will be a perfect complement to the podcasts that the ARRL already offers — "ARRL The Doctor Is In" and "ARRL Audio News."

In addition to serving as co-host, Patnode is also the audio editor/producer of the podcast. ARRL Graphics Department Supervisor Sue Fagan, KB1OKW, designed the podcast logo, and ARRL Radiosport Administrative Manager Sabrina Jackson, KC1JMW, will voice the introduction and closing.

Listeners will be able to find the "So Now What?" podcast on [Apple iTunes](#), [Blubrry](#), or [Stitcher](#) (free registration required, or browse the site as a guest) and through the free Stitcher app for iOS, Kindle, or Android devices...or wherever you get your podcasts. Episodes will also be archived on the ARRL website.

"So Now What?" will be sponsored by [LDG Electronics](#), a family owned and operated business with laboratories in southern Maryland that offers a wide array of antenna tuners and other Amateur Radio products. (ARRL News)

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### China to Launch Two Amateur Radio Satellites in April

Two new Chinese satellites with Amateur Radio payloads are planned for an April 5 launch, CAMSAT has reported.

CAS-7A will carry H/T (21/29 MHz) and H/U (21/435 MHz) mode linear transponders, V/U linear and V/U FM transponders, a UHF CW telemetry beacon, UHF AX.25 4.8k/9.6k baud GMSK telemetry, and 3-

centimeter AX.25 1 Mbps GMSK image data transmission for an onboard camera.

CAS-7B is described as a 500-millimeter sphere spacecraft weighing 3 kilograms. It will carry a V/U transponder and a UHF CW telemetry beacon. - *Thanks to AMSAT News Service*

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## ARRL Board of Directors Issues Statement on Amateur Radio Parity Act

At its annual meeting January 18 – 19, the ARRL Board of Directors decided that the organization needs to “review, re-examine, and reappraise ARRL’s regulatory and legislative policy with regard to private land use restrictions.”

In order to effectively undertake such a review, the Board adopted a resolution to withdraw its December 18 [\*Petition for Rule Making\*](#) to the FCC, which sought to amend the Part 97 Amateur Service rules to incorporate the provisions of the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA), without prejudice to refile. The resolution also is asking members of Congress who had refiled legislation to enact the Amateur Radio Parity Act (ARPA) to refrain from seeking to advance that legislation pending further input from the ARRL.

Board members noted that the ARRL has been pursuing adoption of the ARPA for the past several years, and that objective has not yet been achieved. While everyone understands that getting Congressional approval on any matter can be a lengthy process, the difficulties getting the ARPA approved have been a source of frustration to the organization and its members. A majority of the Board now believes that there is a need to reassess the organization’s approach to this issue.

The Board wants to make clear to its members, and to those whose policies and conduct prevent or impair the right of US Amateur Radio operators to operate from their homes, that this pause is not, and should not be interpreted as an abandonment of its efforts to obtain relief from private land-use restrictions. The Board noted that its intent is “to renew, continue and strengthen the ARRL’s effort to achieve relief from such restrictions.” This action represents a chance to get the best product possible for all US Amateur Radio operators.

The Board expressed its sincere appreciation to the thousands of ARRL members who took the time to contact their representatives in Congress to urge them to support the Amateur Radio Parity Act. The Board also offered its thanks to those members of Congress who have consistently and continuously supported the rights of US Amateur Radio operators. (ARRL News)

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## Court Rules Excessive Antenna Application Fees Violated Reasonable Accommodation

Long-pending Amateur Radio antenna litigation that ARRL helped to fund has finally borne fruit. The Supreme Court of the State of New York, Appellate Division: Second Judicial Department has ruled in the case of Myles Landstein, N2EHG, that the Town of LaGrange, New York, not only overstepped its state-granted authority by assessing excessive fees, but violated the limited federal preemption PRB-1 in the process. PRB-1 requires municipalities and states to “reasonably” accommodate Amateur Radio antennas and to apply the “minimum practicable regulation” in handling Amateur Radio antenna applications. The ruling is slated to be published as a case decision. Landstein had wanted to erect a 70-foot antenna support structure; the Town of LaGrange has a 35-foot height limit.

“This case, which goes back to 2013, was about applying PRB-1 to a situation in which a municipality attempted to thwart the installation and maintenance of ham radio antennas by imposing excessive permit application costs on the ham applicant,” said communications attorney Chris Imlay, W3KD, who is familiar with the case. Imlay said the FCC has refused to clarify the cost-prohibition issue as it relates to PRB-1’s “minimum practicable regulation” and reasonable accommodation provisions of PRB-1.

“The Town incurred more than \$17,000 in legal consulting fees in connection with [Landstein’s] applications, and informed the petitioner that he was required to reimburse the Town for these fees before any determination would be made with respect to the applications,” the court decision recounted. “The Town subsequently, as ‘an accommodation to the petitioner,’ reduced the amount...to...\$5,874, but also required the



petitioner to maintain a minimum advance continuing escrow balance of at least \$1,000 to cover the Town's future consulting costs..."

"We hold that, because the Town did not limit the consulting fees charged to the petitioner to those necessary to the decision-making function of the town's Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals, the town exceeded its state-granted authority by requiring payment of the consulting fees and, moreover, violated a rule promulgated by the [FCC]," the court concluded.

Given the significant delay, Imlay said both he and Landstein had lost hope that the case would ever be resolved in Landstein's favor - and in the favor of radio amateurs in New York, generally - much less be a case that would "create favorable precedent for Amateur Radio."

"ARRL originally was drawn to this case, because New York is the only state that, due to a very old case decision, has held that Amateur Radio antennas are not necessarily a "normal accessory use" to residential real property," Imlay explained. "Because the issue in the case dealt with both that issue and the issue of cost prohibitions in the permitting process relative to the cost of the antenna installation, we decided to fund the case." Landstein lost at trial, and an appeal was filed in about 2015, for which ARRL provided memoranda of law about the cost-prohibition issue. "The antenna at issue and the support structure was to cost no more than \$1,000," Imlay said.

The court concluded that the town "may not use its land-use regulatory authority to construct 'hoop after hoop' for the petitioner to jump through in order to erect his radio antenna tower [and] cannot impose unreasonable expenses so as to create an insurmountable financial barrier to the pursuit of the project. In this context, not only must the consultant fees be reasonable..., but the underlying services must be necessarily related to those municipal regulatory functions which are not preempted by federal law." (ARRL News)

## Hams in Indonesia Get New Bands

Indonesia's IARU member-society **ORARI** reports that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology has allocated bands of 135.7 - 137.8 kHz (2200 meters), 472 - 479 kHz (630 meters), and 5.315.5 - 5.366.5 MHz (60 meters), effective on December 31, 2018. The 60-meter band is at a maximum of 15 W EIRP for Advanced and General licensees only. All allocations are on a secondary basis. (ARRL News)

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

8:00 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:	

