



August 2020 WWW.K7ID.ORG PO Box 1765, Hayden, ID 83835-1765

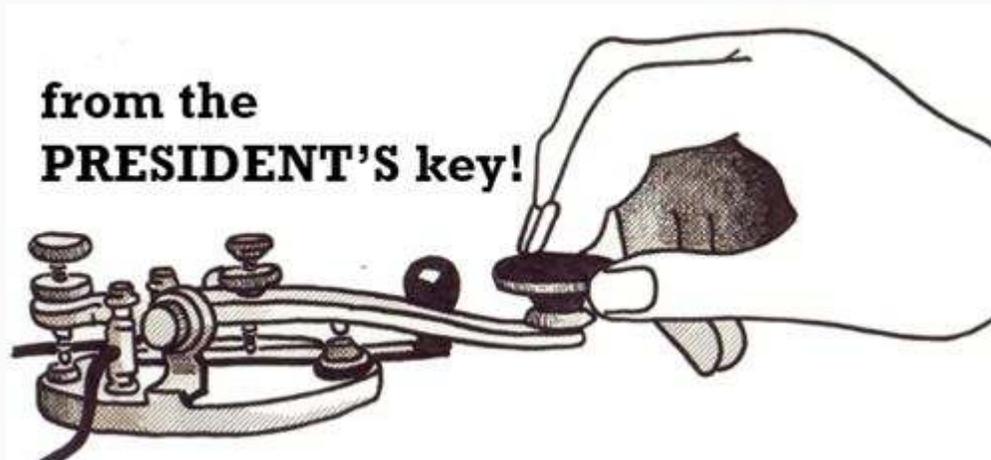


You read that right! Our KARS "**Ham Field Fest**" will happen September 12, 2020 in the 2.5-acre field just north of my driveway, 2130 North Meyer Rd in Post Falls. There is a big gate open to the street which will be busy that morning and early afternoon. Plan on making it and enjoying yourselves! The field is 3 houses SOUTH of the intersection of Meyer Rd. and Poleline Rd. in Post Falls, a mile east of Highway 41. Watch for the KARS signs, the big white semi-trailer in the field and a lot of vehicles! Plenty of parking inside! Roadside parking is discouraged as I see many vehicles get stuck.



"Field of Dreams!"

Through this gate will pass most of the Amateur Radio enthusiasts for MANY miles for September's "Field Fest"! They will be hauling in treasures common to our hobby and also looking for that special item before the cold of winter sets in and we are forced inside. DO NOT let this opportunity pass you by! Don't just **HEAR** about it on the radio...**BE THERE!** It's a great place to find a deal! This is a "Tailgate" Field Fest, meaning sellers will have their items located in their trucks. Easy browsing! KARS Radio Club will also have a BIG table of items to raise funds for our club! Great raffle prizes too! Lots of parking on a flat and freshly mowed field.



Our Visit to the Canfield Repeater Site

August 1st was a very different experience for the brave crew of hams heading to the Canfield UHF repeater site. Since it was Saturday, we had many dirt bikes, ATVs, mountain bikes and side-by-sides to contend with for access into the parking area on the way up the mountain. Dale, our repeater tech, secured the key from the Sheriff's office so the gate was not the problem. Getting TO the gate was the issue with so many folks out for their Saturday morning off-road adventures. Patience finally triumphed and we got through the gate, locking it behind us and headed up the winding dirt road to the top of the mountain.

We were equipped with weed eaters to clear the brush from around the building...the requirement we agreed to for free rent, power, and rack space for our repeater! Upon arrival, it was immediately noted that evidently someone had sprayed the entire area with weed killer as there was nothing alive for us to clean up...oh darn!

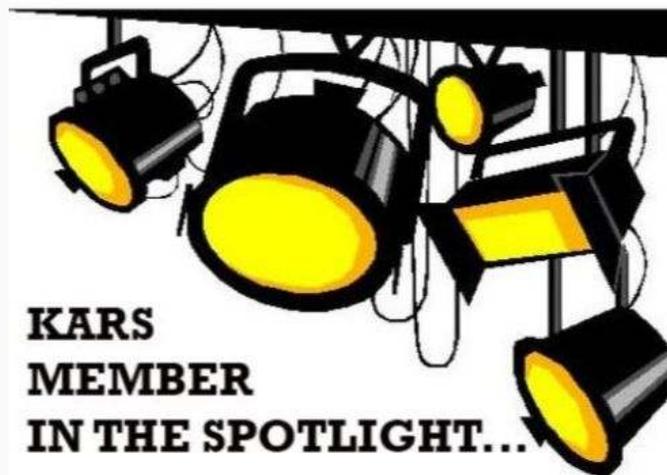
Canfield Repeater Site is beautiful! Clean, orderly, well laid out and...cold! The AC keeps the building nice and cool during the summer. A long sleeve shirt would have felt good! Dale set out immediately to check the equipment out. He found our frequency had drifted off slightly and we had a modulation level which was out of spec. After careful adjustments, all was textbook and we were relieved we had nothing seriously wrong. The antenna on the tower is suspect. No certified climbers available this trip so we could only

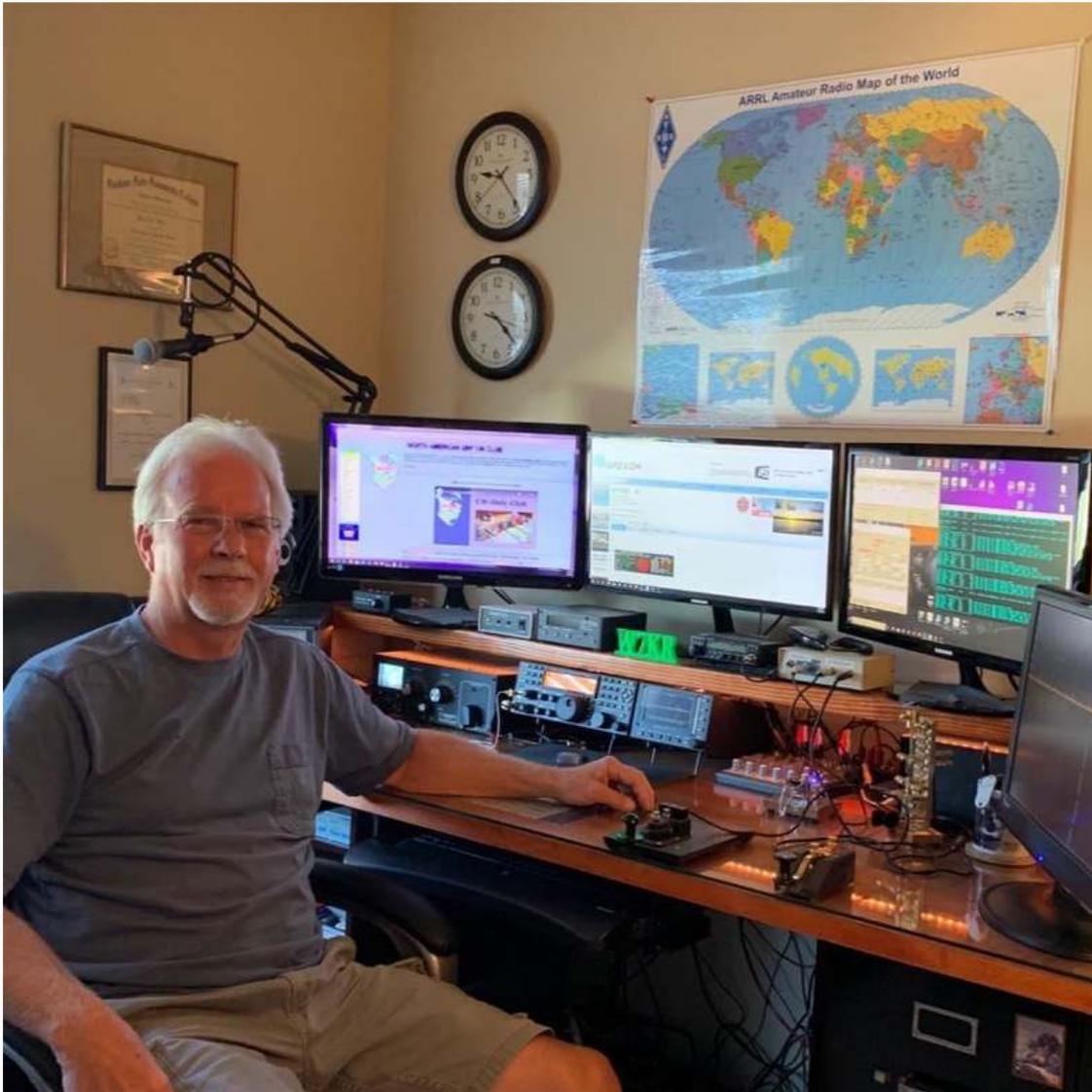
visually inspect it from the ground. Looked "OK"...but a turn or two of insulating tape appears to be coming loose at the base. We discussed the proposed replacement of this antenna due to some intermittent concerns during the winter. Moisture in the transmission line may be the problem...we just don't know, but it was perfect that day. The plan is to replace the antenna the next time up the hill. Commercial grade repeater antennas are not cheap. These are not the \$200 Diamonds or Comets. **See what your membership dues go for?** We all want a solid and reliable system and it costs sometimes.

Lunch at Dickey's BBQ followed our repeater visit and it was fun to chat with and get to know our dedicated and committed hams. You can see their pictures later in this newsletter. The Little Blacktail repeater is our last visit for this year and is not scheduled yet. Please let me know if you'd like to join us!

73,

Frank Krug, KD7FK
president@k7id.org





by Larry Telles, K6SPP

Spotlight this Month is on:

Jerry Hart, W7KR

You will probably recognize Jerry as our current vice-president. If you are a new ham, he might have been the VEC (Volunteer Examiner Coordinator) who administered your amateur exam. Jerry has been a ham for the past 29 years. His interest in amateur radio began when he returned to college in 1991 pursuing a degree in software engineering. One of his instructors inspired him to take the test. Between college studies and amateur radio, Jerry doesn't remember his first contact. He does

remember a sideband contact with a ham on Donner Pass with a beam mounted on his flatbed truck.

Jerry was quite active after getting his license, but demands on his job took the majority of his time and left amateur until a few years ago when he retired. That absence took a toll on his first love, CW. Jerry is back on the air trying to raise his proficiency level. There is also an interest in the digital mode.

He likes 40 and 20 meters. Forty meters day or night working mostly. Jerry said that he does have a microphone and he knows how to use it. When asked what he likes best about ham radio, his answer came quick. "I like all the facets of ham radio because of all the different things you can do. There is an interest for everybody." Jerry went on to say, "The nostalgia of keeping CW alive is very intriguing to me."

Jerry has overcome one situation that many hams face. It has been challenging to live on a small city lot and to come up with a solution for low-band antennas!



**Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS)
Minutes of the August 2020 Meeting**

There was no August 2020 KARS Meeting

KARS Canfield Repeater Pictures

August 1, 2020



This modest and unassuming group of hams gathered in the mall parking lot...ready to head up the hill, weedeat, and align the repeater! Don't they look professional? Left to Right: Curtis Gillespie, K7LOM, Dale Duree, KE7VMN, Kathy Kent (Repeater Girl) KI7OVA, Frank Krug, KD7FK, Jerry Hart, W7KR and Chris Jones, KE7CJO. Photo-Larry Telles, K6SPP



Dale, checking the time so we don't set off the alarm. We don't need the SWAT team after us!



Service monitor in action. It provides a signal which is processed through our equipment, then looks at that same signal to make sure it meets all FCC requirements

and specifications. It showed us our frequency had drifted off a little and our modulation level needed adjustment. Quite an instrument!



Dale showing Kathy some of the signal routing for a repeater and how it rebroadcasts incoming signals. A great demonstration of reliable equipment. Having a Kenwood shirt is a MUST for this job!

CONSTITUTION AND BY LAWS UPDATE-RE- Update!

This was in last month's newsletter, but since it involves our KARS Constitution, I felt it was worthy of a REPEAT!

We DO have a revised Constitution and Bylaws complete and ready to

put out to our membership, but our current document requires a 2/3 vote by ALL the membership (a Constitutional Quorum) in order to ratify. Since only 18 members showed up for July's KARS meeting, the board felt it was not the proper time to put this new document out for the club member's consideration and later vote. All the swirling changes and health concerns with which we are currently dealing may delay the presentation and vote this year but the heavy lifting is done. It is a BIG document with minor changes, additions for clarity and improvements with issues we have faced in the past as our club grows. We do not want to just "Get-er-done" and rush the process. The very fact of garnering 2/3 of our members to vote (that is 69 active members required to remove/replace our Constitution) is a big job. More on this coming soon.

Thursday Coffee and Donuts!



Finucane Park in Hayden is the site of our Coffee and Donuts gathering on Thursday mornings at 0800-1000. The park is located just east of Government Way on Prairie Ave. Look to the left after the houses...kinda hard to miss, even for hams! Bring your own coffee and enjoy stimulating ham talk!



This gathering was last Thursday morning. Our count is up to 15 (8 last week) and growing fast. We are still searching for an indoor venue which might house us for that day and time slot. It must be FREE. Hey! You know hams...if nothing else, we are CHEAP! Too cheap to buy a selfie stick so you are stuck with this awful close up. We DO have fun though, please join us!

YOU NEED K7ID REPEATER K7ID REPEATER NEEDS YOU!!!

By the time you receive this newsletter, a group of hams have already been to Canfield on August 1st to help clean up the area and witness how a repeater is checked from "bottom-to-bottom" since there will be no climbing the 150' tower this time. All of the performance checks can be

made from the ground and cover the efficiency and performance of the antenna as well as transmission line and the repeater itself!

The Mica repeater was checked July 18 and passed with flying colors. Stay tuned for Little Blacktail is the next repeater to be checked out. Date is not set for LBT. If you are interested in going, please let me know by email and I will keep you posted of the plans.

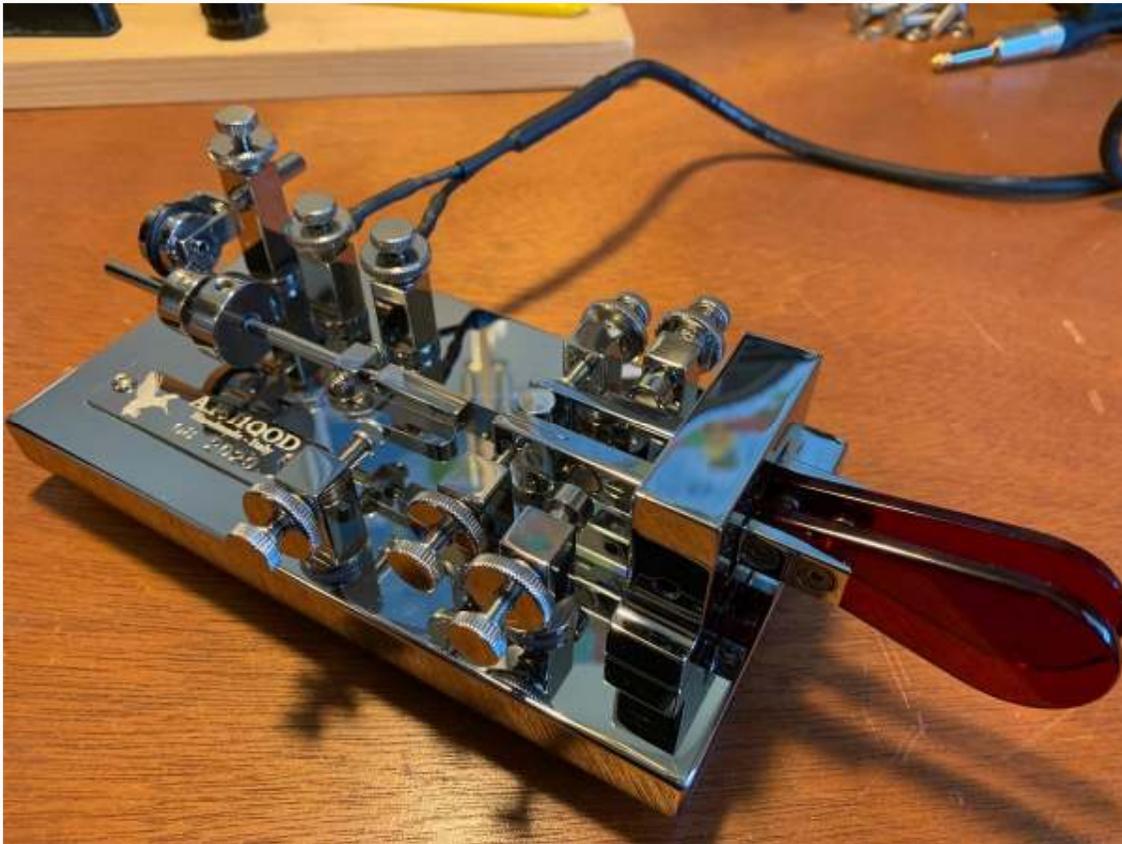
Frank, KD7FK, president@K7ID.org



NEW KARS BOARD NEEDED FOR 2021

This November, we will be electing new members of the KARS Executive Board. Positions are: President, Vice-President, Executive Director, Treasurer and Secretary. Our club has a rich history dating back to 1952. Dedicated and talented people have held every one of these positions but it is time to change hands on the plow. New blood brings new energy and ideas. Sure, it is a challenge, but what in life worth anything is NOT a challenge? Frank, KD7FK will remain on the Board as "Past-President" and will assist in any way possible...but we need new hams to help out. Please be thinking about what capacity in which you might serve. It is thrilling to be a part of a vibrant club! **DO NOT be afraid to do this**...it is one of the most rewarding things we can do in radio and keeps our club healthy as we move on into the future.





Mama Mia!!!

I could not close this issue of Propagation without a stunning picture for you to enjoy. This is a handmade Italian Morse Code key which took 9 months to arrive after the order was placed. It belongs to one of our club's many CW enthusiasts and will no doubt make the most beautiful dits and dahs anywhere!
See? Ham Radio is a many-faceted hobby with something for everyone!

[Download a KARS Membership Application HERE](#)

2020 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Frank Krug, KD7FK president@k7id.org	Repeater Trustee: Larry Telles, K6SPP trustee@k7id.org
Vice-President: Jerry Hart, W7KR vicepresident@k7id.org	Repeater Tech: Dale DuRee, KE7VMN
Exec. Director: Tom Macy, W7UAT execdir@k7id.org	Webmaster: Lenny Gemar, N7MOT 208 691-4735 webmaster@k7id.org
Secretary: Sheila Waller, KG7SAA secretary@k7id.org	Past President: Larry Telles, K6SPP pastpresident@k7id.org
Treasurer: Rod Anderson, K7ZBE treasurer@k7id.org	

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 1/4 mile, to the first building on the left (West) side of the road.

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 voice repeaters on 146.780 (Little Blacktail), 146.980 (Idaho Mica Peak) and 443.975 (Canfield Mountain), 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.

KARS is your local amateur radio club here in North Idaho. Help support your club and repeaters!

Join us!

Visit us online at

k7id.org

or on

Facebook at

facebook.com/kooteniamateurradiosociety

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