

# Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

JULY 2005

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Let it rain, let it rain, let it rain. After the light snow we had this winter, I am sure thankful for the Spring rain. I think we are in good shape for the summer.

We continue to have an active schedule for the club. I heard the potluck dinner was great. I am looking forward to Jim's report on the Hamfest and see how we did compared to the last two years. It sure felt like we did a better breakfast. We sure had a great crew. Those orders just kept flowing through.

I purchased two VHF radios I didn't need. Hopefully you found some stuff also. I am still waiting for the phone call telling me I won the Yaesu Radio. I don't know why it is taking Jim so long to call me to let me know I won!!!

We have a full crew for Ironman Communications and it looks like a nice group for Field Day. We have a photographer, Larry Mulvehill, from CQ Magazine coming to town from Florida. He will be taking pictures of the KARS Hamfest and possibly Ironman. Jim, N7ESU, has been in contact with him to direct him to the Hamfest. It will be interesting to see if we get in the magazine.

Looking forward to next month, we will have our July meeting at it's normal time. I am looking forward to Steve's presentation.

The big event for the Month is Saturday, 02 July. A FANTASTIC PANCAKE BREAKFAST at the

*(continued next column)*



## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*(continued from first column)*

Carlson Bed and Breakfast. If you haven't been to this event in the last two years, you have really missed something GREAT. Homemade Buttermilk Pancakes. Chef Randy at the grill doing his thing with the boss at his side making sure everything is perfect. It is a great time to just sit and fellowship with more good eats.

HAM it UP!  
73, Bob K7CGA

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- Hamfest photos (courtesy of Jim Monroe)  
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- Technical tidbit  
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## BITS & PIECES de K7JMC

Give an honest signal report.

How many times have you heard some one giving a signal report that goes like; "You're making it just fine". When the reality is that the party is just barely breaking the squelch on the repeater, and their audio is in the dump. I believe we all have heard similar stuff.

Well we all need to be a lot more honest when giving a signal report. You are doing the other person a disservice if you don't. A signal report on a 2 meter repeater is slightly different than on the HF bands. On 2 meter repeaters the report is a "dual report". It covers:

- 1.) The signal strength into the machine and
- 2.) The quality of the audio

A full quieting signal is one that has no background "spectrum" noise in it, and the audio is clear. Anything less than that, the audio is competing with the noise level, and is subjective according to your ear.

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Propagation is published monthly by the KOOTENAI Amateur Radio Society (KARS). The club is located in Coeur d' Alene, Idaho and serves the North Northern Idaho and the Spokane, Washington areas

KARS operates voice repeaters on 146.980 and 444.775 MHz and a packet repeater on 145.510 MHz. KARS normally holds meeting at 1900 hrs, on the second Monday of each month in the Shep Rock Building at the Coeur d' Alene Airport.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 for a family membership. Contact the Treasurer (see page 6) to join KARS.

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
11 July at 6 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (see below left)
18 July at 6 p.m. (Monday)	RACES/ARES meeting	Kootenai Co. Sheriff's Department Basement
Every Wednesday at 8 a.m.	Donut Day	Rathdrum Super 1 store (on Highway 53)
Second Saturday each Month, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.	NW Traffic Net Coffee Klatch	Old European Breakfast House in Post Falls

#### Next KARS Meeting:

**Monday, 11 July 2005 at  
7:00 p.m. in the Sheprock Building  
at the Kootenai County Airport**

#### Directions to the KARS meeting:

**U.S. 95 to Miles Ave. (Miles is about one mile North of Hayden Ave.). West on Miles to the airport gate (access code 1088). Bear left to the Shep-rock Building. (about 200 yards from the gate).**

## KARS HAMFEST 2005 REPORT

By Jim Monroe

Well another hamfest under our belt and a few hams found some bargains that they just couldn't live without. Everybody had a good time at the pot luck dinner the nite before, don't think anybody went away hungry. We had approximately 150 people thru the doors this year. I would like to thank Leon from Ham Radio Outlet (HRO) for donating some of the door prizes and selling some of the other prizes at a discount. I would also like to thank Jim Stein of Stein's IGA in Rathdrum for providing our food at a substantial discount. I appreciate the club members helping out where needed....our "welcoming committee" Chris (N7ZUJ) and Linda (N7UTK), our "kitchen chef's" Walt (K7ETJ), Lee (K7OOJ), Randy (KB6YAV), Rick (KD7DIG), Marj (WB7WUB, Bob (K7CGA ). Bob (KC7RNT ) and Jerry (KA7RNX) also helped with various duties. A big "THANK YOU" to "Unk Harv" (K7VZ) for donating to the club his portable PA system. We have been borrowing it for some years now for the hamfest. I hear the VE team turned out some hams and up-graded some also, thanks for their time and efforts. Hope I didn't forget anybody, so thanks to everybody who helped out. The kitchen and the ticket sales both turned a profit. Total profit after all expenses the club made about \$250. Not bad for a days worth of work and having fun. Congratulations is in order for our grand prize winner of the Yeasu HF mobile goes to Steve McQuiston ( WO6LF).

## KARS HAMFEST KUDOS

If you read the article above, you know some of the people responsible for making the Hamfest what it was, but, perhaps you do not know the whole story. Here it is: The man who really makes things happen for the Hamfest is the Jim Monroe (N7ESU). Jim is the man who recruits all the helpful people cited above, and who arranges for the discounted items and contributed items that help KARS raise money for its activities. Sis-boom-bah, sis-boom-bah, Jim Monroe, Jim Monroe, rah-rah-rah! Thanks for your hard work, Jim.

--the editor

## Bits and Pieces de K7JMC

(continued from page 1)

In other words, "You're about 70% quieting, but a good copy." or "You're only 60% into the machine and the copy is getting a bit rough."

At the point you feel that a signal is only 50% into the machine and 50% noise, advise the party that they're just barely making it and they need more power or antenna or both.

The audio report should be honest too. If the audio is barely readable tell them so. If it sounds harsh, garbled or over driven tell them so. It doesn't help any one to tell them they sound great when it isn't true.

Honest signal reporting will help all of us improve our stations and make 2 meter repeater operations sound a lot better.

73 de,  
K7JMC

## TECHNICAL TIDBIT

Here is something rarely covered by theory material presented to hams studying for their license tests, and not covered by any of the VEC tests now in place, but it is still interesting enough to explore.

What actually causes radio waves to spring into existence--why does an antenna (or other conductor) radiate? The answer is that any charged sub-atomic particle that is accelerated will cause a dynamic electromagnetic field to propagate from the charged particle into free space--in our case, that charged particle is an electron (actually, a whole bunch of them) set into vibratory motion by the RF energy applied to the antenna. The electron moves back and forth around its home position at the frequency of the applied RF. Each time it reverses direction, it decelerates, then accelerates, causing propagation of that electromagnetic field which we refer to as radio waves. Its really just that simple. For those who are interested in more, we will expand on this phenomenon in later issues.

--the editor

## Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

- 09 July 2005 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m.; Nine Mile Resort, 14925 N. Hedin Road, Nine Mile Falls, WA  
Contact: Betsy Ashleman (N7WRQ), 509.448.5821 or n7wrq@aol.com
- 14 July 2005 (Thursday), 5:00 p.m.; Tidyman's Grocery, 13014 E. Sprague Avenue, Spokane Valley, WA; Contact Mary Qualiteri (AA7RT), phone 509.991.2192 or aa7rt@arrl.net.



Foreground (left to right): An attendee is welcomed by Linda Chamberlain (N7UTK), Jessica Monroe, and Chris Monroe (N7ZUJ). Background: a bunch of old goats.



Bargain hunters...and more old goats



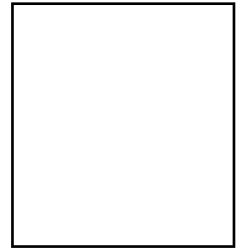
Grand prize winner (rigged contest ?)



Above: Harvey Zion (K7VZ) expresses his opinion; Roy Davis (K17EP) is behind Harvey. Below (left to right): Part of the kitchen crew [Walt Hogeweide (K7ETJ), Bob Kesson (K7CGA), Rick Churchill (KD7DU)), Lee Hopkins (K7OOJ)]. See Jim Monroe's article on page 3 for the names of other worthy KARS Hamfest volunteers.



KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY  
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Coeur d' Alene, ID 83816



Deliver to:



***This is the July 2005 Issue.***

**Current KARS officers**

President:	Bob Kesson 772-6745	K7CGA
1st Vice President:	Jack McElroy 687-3293	K7JMC
2nd Vice President:	Warren Conklin 772-6484	WB7ECU
Secretary:	Linda Chamberlain 765-3144	N7UTK
Treasurer:	Chris Monroe 687-2251	N7ZUJ
Newsletter Editor:	Steve McQuiston 772-4095	WO6LF
Repeater Tech:	Jim Monroe 687-2251	N7ESU

**MORE HAMFEST PHOTOS ???**

Ace photographers Jim Monroe (N7ESU) and Bob Telles (K6SPP) were busy at the Hamfest with their cameras. Go to the KARS website (k7id.com) to see more photos--if the photos are not yet posted, standby, they soon will be.

**VOLUNTEER EXAMINERS TEAM**

VE Team Leader John Hollar (N7JU) reports that the team (John, Harvey Zion (K7VZ), Roy Davis (KI7EP), and Jerry Hooper (KA7RNX) conducted ham license tests in conjunction with KARS Hamfest 2005 that resulted in one new General class licensee, one General class upgrade, and one new Tech licensee. Next testing session for this team is scheduled for August.

John extends his thanks to Jim Monroe (N7ESU) for arranging for use of the test facility (the fire station in Rathdrum). Heroes abound this month!