

Propagation

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) Newsletter

AUGUST 2005

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Summer has arrived, at least as stated by ACC-U-GUESS. I am not so sure with the changes in temp and the rain. We made it through another Ironman and Field Day. I hope everyone has planned some time off just to do what ever you want, even if that's nothing. As we get so busy doing THINGS, it is easy to keep going to an extreme. I think next year, I am going to do things in moderation. It has been many years sense I participated in a Field Day and how much fun it was. I think next year, that's where I'll be.

Well, it sounds like our Hamfest was another winner. At least from my standpoint, I thing I cooked about 11 or 12 dozen eggs. I only remember throwing 3 or 4 in the trash this year! I won't tell you how many I messed up last year. I am still waiting for some to call me about winning that radio. I was told that I was buying the winning ticket. By the way, have you seen the Lion's Club building lately. It is very easy to spot now as it was painted a bright, bright yellow. Let's start looking to next year. What things would you like to see added to increase the attendance and grow the event? What would add more DRAW to the event? Now is the time to start planning.

Then there was Ironman! Boy want an event. While APRS had a bit of a glitch, the Bike and Run Stations when great from a communications standpoint. Big Time KUDOS to Darrel for another successful event. I think he lives for the life in the fast lane.

(continued on page 3)



PANCAKE SPECIAL

Eric mixed batter; Randy flipped pancakes, eggs, and sausage; the two dogs greeted guests; Jean supervised it all (see photos on page 4) ; while Milo (a slinky blonde) entertained those awaiting their treats. The birds outside chirped merrily away, and the well-fed radiomen agreed that a good RF ground on Frank's transceiver would solve most of the world's problems--only one problem was left unsolved: Jim's between-the-closely-spaced-fences grass strip. Wanted: one skinny goat.

IN THIS ISSUE

- KARS-Sponsored VE Team in Action Again (see pages 3 and 6)
- Photo Gallery: Field Day and Pancake Day (see page 4)
- Field Day Report (see page 5)
- Ice Cream Social Scheduled (see page 5)

BITS & PIECES de K7JMC

Do you care about your audio quality?

The CERWIN-VEGA company (makers of the "Earthquake" sound systems for theatres that made the rounds years ago) used to say that "Loud is Beautiful" - As Long As It's Clean". On the other hand, over deviating your carrier, coupled with a poor quality microphone and mike technique is anything but beautiful.

Yep, it's me again. This time I can say that I'm practicing what I have been preaching. In other newsletters, I have written about the Heil microphone elements, HC-5 & HC-4 and their audio pass bands. Well, I bought a Heil HMM-Y dual element, hand mike! It has both elements in it. Heil says that this mike is intended for SSB use on the HF bands--it sure works well on my Yaesu FT-5100. Tests and signal reports say the "Full range" (HC-5) side of the mike sounds better than the "DX" (HC-4) side for repeater operations.

(continued on page 3)

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.

KARS e-mail Directory

Anderson, Avon W7WBZ w7wbz@yahoo.com
 Anderson, Scott KD7YXE topfule@ix.netcom.com
 Austin, Bert N7KKI bert@dawghaus.net
 Austin, Joyce KD7DIT bert@dawghaus.net
 Bak, Victor K3SHD k3shd@arrl.net
 Carlson, Randy KB6YAV kb6yav@cet.com
 (also for Eric [KD7RVZ] & Jean [KD7RVY] Carlson)
 Chamberlain, L. N7UTK lindafc@adelphia.net
 Churchill, Rick KD7DIJ churchill@icehouse.net
 Conklin, Warren WB7EBU wb7ecu@verizon.net
 Cothorn, Bill N7VVK & Glo KC7EUJ globile@aol.com
 Hall, Dennis KK7X kk7x@countyhunter.com
 Hogeweide, W. K7ETJ k7etj@icehouse.net
 Hogeweide, M. WB7WUB k7etj@icehouse.net
 Hollar, John N7JU n7ju@arrl.net
 Hooper, Jerry KA7RNX ka7rnx@netzero.com
 Hopkins, John KC7MDX kc7mdx@msn.com
 Hopkins, Lee K7OOJ k7ooj@thunderbolt.net
 Kasper, Brad KA5PER ka5per@icehouse.net
 Kesson, Robert K7CGA k7cga@arrl.net
 Kliiger, Frank K9ALF k9alf@arrl.net

Linden, Jennifer K7WBB k7wbb@arrl.net
 Linden, Jim N7JIL n7jil@arrl.net
 Longtin, Kenneth KE7BDA kenlongtin@juno.com
 McElroy, Jack K7JMC k7jmc@yahoo.com
 McQuiston, Steve WO6LF slmcquiston@earthlink.net
 Miller, Jim N8BNI n8bni@adelphia.net
 Monroe, Chris N7ZUJ ckay@my180.net
 Monroe, Jim N7ESU n7esu@arrl.net
 Richmond, Tom K7PEJ k7pej@arrl.net
 Rosie, Bob W7GSV rmosie@icehouse.net
 Sausser, Brad KB7FUN brad@acm.org
 Siebenthal, Verda K7UBC verda_k7ubc@msn.com
 Stuckey, Edward A17H ai7h@arrl.net
 Telles, Larry K6SPP ltelles@icehouse.net
 Thomas, Shaun, (K7SLT) dodgerecker@yahoo.com
 Weir, John AE4CU ae4cu7@yahoo.com
 Welle, Annie KE7ADK wellerose@yahoo.com
 White, Darrel N7ZUI n7zui@icehouse.net
 Williams, Ken W7LQT w7lqt@yahoo.com
 Zion, Harvey K7VZ k7vz@earthlink.net

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE/TIME	EVENT	LOCATION
08 August at 6 p.m. (Monday)	KARS monthly meeting	Kootenai County Airport (see below left)
15 August 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, 08 August 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).

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

(continued)

At the same time, we had our 2005 ARRL Field Day. Jim and Ed ran that event and even had a photographer from CQ magazine there. You know, for most of us it's not about winning or racking up the high points, it's just the fun of getting ready for the event, then participating in the event and **HAVING FUN!** Meeting the challenges of the unknown. Playing footsy with that Murphy guy who keeps showing up at the most unusual time. And making it happen. That's the fun of it.

If that wasn't enough to have going on, I goofed and published the wrong date for the Pancake Breakfast. We has it scheduled for the 23rd of July, but when I sent the information to Steve to publish, I left the 2 off and it became the 3rd. When I saw the email notice, I thought I had given him the wrong date as it was a Sunday and not a Saturday, so I changed it to Saturday the 2nd. After the breakfast, I checked the plan for the year and saw it was supposed to be the 23rd of July. As you would know, it was another successful event and that was because of our gracious hosts Randy and Jean. What a fantastic couple they are and want a fantastic breakfast we had. **THANK YOU RANDY AND JEAN, NOT ONLY FOR A GREAT EVENT AND FOOD, BUT FOR PUTTING UP WITH A BUMBLING CLUB PRESIDENT THAT CAN'T GET HIS DATES STRAIGHT!!!**

THANKS TO EVERYONE WHO MAKE THIS CLUB WORK. YOU ARE THE Heroes!

KEEP ON HAMMING

73's--Bob K7CGA

Bits and Pieces de K7JMC

(continued from page 1)

The frequency response for the "Full Range" element is 200Hz to 6kHz, and for the "DX" element is 600Hz to 6kHz. Additionally, the "DX" side has greater emphasis at 2100Hz. Note: In addition to the audio improvement, I also bought the Heil mike so I didn't have to deal with all those damned buttons on the stock hand mike!

Remember that the mike that comes with your mobile/base radio is usually a token gesture. Yes it will talk, but how do you sound? If you care, upgrade your mike and get one with a lower frequency response like the Heil HC-5 (If you don't care how you sound,, perhaps you should take up bowling).

OK, now that you've upgraded your mike, it's time to move it away from your face and speak into it at a "normal" level! Unless you are in a high noise environment, there is **NO NEED** to crowd the mike! Make this test on a simplex frequency. (going through as repeater may change the audio your friend will hear). Work a test with someone that you feel has a good ear and try a few changes and ask for feedback on the results. You can try moving back about 4 inches from the mike or speaking across the face of the mike. Try these things and listen to the signal report from your friend. It will pay off.

As an old and dear friend used to say, "It's great to sound "Grand on the Band."

73, de K7JMC

EDITOR'S COMMENTARY: Just to set the record straight, Bob's "goof" cited above is a very minor matter. Bob works hard to make KARS what it is, and he hasn't committed any goofs that couldn't easily befall the rest of us. Instead of worrying about "goofs," let's recognize Bob's contributions to KARS, as well as the contributions of Jack, Warren, Linda, Chris and Jim (see the list of KARS officers on page six), and those of past president Randy Carlson, past 2nd VP Darrel White, and past newsletter editor Jim Miller.

Upcoming VEC/VE Licensing Exams for Our Area

- 11 August 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@arrrl.net. Fee: \$14.
- 13 August 2005 (Saturday), 10:00 a.m.; North Idaho College (Boswell Hall) in Coeur d' Alene, ID; Contact: John Hollar (N7JU) n7ju@arrrl.net Fee: \$12.

***** Bring existing FCC license (if any), two forms of identification and fee. *****



PHOTO GALLERY

Upper left: KARS at Field Day 2005--Linda Chamberlain (N7UTK) and Mel Frost (KD7DCR) work the SSB station while Larry Mulvehill (WB2ZPI) of CQ magazine observes. Notice the tree at the right. This tree served as "junction box central" for generator power and for antenna feed lines and antenna support. The generator is across the river behind the trailer to minimize noise in the operating area, with power lines crossing the water. Amazingly, no fish, squirrels, nor woodpeckers were harmed in this set-up. The Great Balloon Antenna experiment was conducted between this tree and the river behind. The experiment was only partially successful; suspected problem: wrong color balloons. Upper right: Pancake breakfast at the Carlson's. Randy Carlson (KB7YAV) prepares eggs, sausage, and the best pancakes this writer has tasted in a long time. Pancake breakfast at the Carlson's wins awards for best tasting pancakes and for best bargain in town: you pay a lousy two bucks, and Randy asks how many pancakes and sausage you want, and how you want your eggs cooked--and when he hands you the platter of food, you go to pancake heaven. Lower left: Randy cooks while Jean Carlson (KD7RVY) supervises with great effect.

LOCAL HAMS HELP THE COMMUNITY

(contributed Bob Kesson[K7CGA])

As most everyone knows we had a triple murder and two missing children in mid May. The EOC (Emergency Operations Center) was partially activated twice to support the activities in the investigation. We activated the Command, PIO, Operations, Logistics/Services (ICS). After the second day, we had multi-agencies participating and they formed a Unified Command (NIMS). The PIO Section handled the news media and was also the location of the Tip Line. We had setup 10 incoming lines to handle the calls and took in over 2000 calls. The Operations Section was the FBI, Sheriff, and ISP investigators. They did all the interfacing with the Incident Scene and processed all the incoming tips. We combined Logistics and Services into a single Section. In that section, we set-up the EOC, provided all facilities and serviced needed to support the operation including meals and snacks so everyone could keep working. And they did. After about eight weeks, I can say for certain that what you see on TV regarding the FBI and other agencies is not even close to reality. Everyone, FBI, Kootenai County Sheriff, and Idaho State Police folks are the best I have ever seen. They are extremely focused, intensely serious and dedicated to this investigation. They were the day they showed up and they are the same today. They teamed up so well, sometimes it was hard to tell what agency they were working for.

Even there was no need for the Communications Unit in this particular incident, several of our HAM community participated on the Amber Alert Tip Phone Lines and they are appreciated so much.

The whole community stepped up to the plate when the call for help went out. As you can tell from the news, the pieces of the case are coming together and nearing the completion of the investigative phase. This past week Bonnie and I had the opportunity to meet Shasta and Steve and spend a little time with them. Both need to be in our prayers and thoughts for a long time. They have a long difficult road to travel together.

Bob (K7CGA)

KARS FIELD DAY 2005

Ed Stuckey (AI7H) reports that Field Day was a success. KARS operated from a remote site in the CdA National Forest at Eagle Creek, Idaho, using club callsign K7ID. Three transmitters were in operation, one each on SSB, CW, and digital (mostly PSK, but some RTTY). Five different antennas were used, and a sixth was "attempted." This sixth attempt literally got off the ground with ten red helium-filled balloons, but a gusty wind proved too much--the vertical wire was driven to near-horizontal by the breeze despite much arm waving and skyward shouting by Jim Monroe and Lee Hopkins. The balloon antenna was hauled-in and secured just as NORAD was about to issue an aviation hazard alert. Eight radiomen/women participated in communications, as shown here:

- Linda Chamberlin – N7UTK
- Mel Frost – KD7DCR
- Lee Hopkins – K7OOJ
- Lani Hopkins
- Jim Miller – N8BNJ
- Steve McQuiston – WO6LF
- Jim Monroe – N7ESU
- Ed Stuckey – AI7H

K-9 assistance was rendered by "Angel" Hopkins (KN7DOG), and food was provided by three cooks.

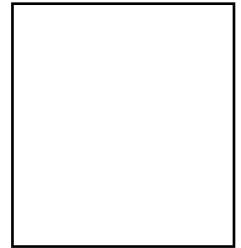
393 contacts were made (172 SSB, 134 CW, and 87 digital) for a total of 614 "contact points." Total points claimed was 1728 by the time the 2X CW and digital multipliers and bonus points were factored in. A total of 13 visitors checked-in, including the photographer from CQ magazine. Contesters beware: Jim Monroe is a super-efficient operator, racking up contacts at a rate that is scary, while Ed Stuckey was the lone CW whiz with that 2X scoring multiplier. Between coaching and operating, Jim Monroe was busy making runs down to the across-the-river generator to check fuel status and to monitor the across-the-water power line run for dead fish (more bonus points?).

All in all, it was a fun, fun, fun two days. If you don't believe everything you've just read, see page 4 for an un-retouched photograph that proves all. Next year: a better balloon.

ANNUAL KARS ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Get it before it melts! Home-made ice cream at Jack McElroy's place on Saturday, 13 August 2005, 2:30 p.m. 'til ?. Strong arms needed to crank ice cream freezers. Icy rewards for top-notch crankers. **BRING YOUR OWN LAWN CHAIRS!** Also bring your favorite toppings, as well as cakes, pies, cookies, etc. K7jmc@yahoo.com for info. Take Hwy 41 to Pine Street in Rathdrum (Pine is 0.3 mile north of Boekel Road), turn east on Pine Street and go 0.5 mile to Boxwood Street, turn left and go 0.1 mile to 14935 N. Boxwood St. (Jack's house with chain link fence). Talk-in frequency: 146.98 -

KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
PO BOX 5222
Coeur d' Alene, ID 83816



Deliver to:



This is the August 2005 Issue.

Ice Cream Social this month at McElroy Manor--see page 5

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

JIM'S CLASSIFIEDS SECTION

Jim Monroe is in need of bigger balloons for next year's Field Day. Jim Miller has grass growing in a narrow space between two fences. If you know where we can get a big gas bag, contact Jim. If you know where we can get a skinny goat or other thin ungulate, contact Jim. Skinny gas bags or big goats are not acceptable.

VE (VOLUNTEER EXAMINER) TEAM

The KARS-sponsored VE team, lead by John Hollar (N7JU), has scheduled ham license testing (all classes) for Saturday, 13 August at 10 a.m. Testing will take place in Boswell Hall on the North Idaho College campus in Coeur d' Alene. Fee is \$12. Bring existing FCC license (if any) and two forms of picture identification to the test session. See page 3 for more info.