

March 2007

(www.k7id.com)

P.O. Box 5222 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**March 12**

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: Presentation of the proposed new club Constitution and By-laws.

Speaker: Ed Stuckey, AI7H

Refreshments: Renee Stuckey

**April 9**

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: The American Red Cross and KARS.

Speaker: Kerren Vollmer

Refreshments: Steven (K7ALS)

Armstrong.

**May 13**

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Program: National Weather Service Presentation and Spotter Certification

Speaker: TBA

Refreshments: Need Volunteer

Need volunteers to sign up to bring refreshments. See Ed AI7H at the next meeting.

Boy Scout/KARS Activity coming April 21st. If you want to help, contact Ed, KE7FOW. We need volunteers.

## From the President's Fist



ED, AI7H



## Is KARS a "Learning Organization"?

Greetings to Club members and friends,

During the past year, the writer has asked members of the Club, "What kind of Amateur Radio Club are we?" Here are some answers:

- a) VHF? – not exactly.
- b) Operating? – not really.
- c) Contesting? – no, but some Club members are interested in that.
- d) Public Service? – well, we do a couple of public service activities per year (KARS "adopt-a-highway"), and many members are also involved with ARES/RACES.
- e) Home Brewing? – (radio, that is) – no, but some members are interested.
- f) Social? – For sure!
- g) Learning? – "What's that?"

Here's what a "Learning Organization" is about – As a members or friends of the Club, our common interest is Amateur Radio. But there are so many things going on in Ham Radio, it's hard to keep informed on the latest developments. In order to aid you in learning about "all that stuff", the program committee has developed a plan\* for Club meetings. All you need to do is attend Club meetings and you just might learn something new about Amateur Radio!

So, please plan to attend our Club meetings in 2007. Always the second Monday of the month, 7PM, at the CAP building (also known as the Shep-Rock building or "Building #2") located at the Coeur d'Alene airport.

\* to view "The Plan" online, visit our website [www.k7id.com](http://www.k7id.com), scroll down to "Upcoming Events", and then click on "2007 Activity Plan".

73 to all, Ed Stuckey, AI7H Club President



## February KARS Program Follow-up

As promised, Mike (and First Mate, Gladys) Alfano, N7MCA, forwarded the following contact information for his forthcoming cruise, inviting all KARS members and friends to keep track of the voyage of the *Last Mango* for the next 8-10 months. The first point of contact will be the current website <http://www.sv-lastmango.com/> This site will chronicle the voyage with photos and narrative and will be updated at every opportunity by Mike when he can access an ISP either through a *local hot spot* or friend's facilities along the way. The site is loaded with information and subjects of interest including a detailed FAQ section that outlines his on-board facilities.



Email to Mike is always available but with some severe restrictions. Mike's first point of contact e-mail is <mailto:lastmango@sv-lastmango.com> That being provided, here are the restrictions: Send your **first** e-mail with your e-mail address **in the text** (not just the *from line*) to Mike at the address above, (it's also on his website). Let him know briefly who you are and some brief comments of your interest in keeping in touch. That e-mail is then forwarded by his daughter to Mike who will post it on his **whitelist** enabling him to receive *your e-mail* (not junk etc.) that will also be stored and sent to Mike when he can access Winlink by radio. Mike reminds everyone that Winlink is not 100% reliable but once *in the system* and when he is able to access the Winlink server, he **will** get his e-mail (until band conditions blow- up). Mike says, *Don't give up, keep sending. Hi I'll get it sooner or later and you will get a reply.* Each e-mail length should be less than 30-50 words and sent as **lower-case text-only** (not html). Once **on** Mike's **whitelist** his direct Winlink email address is [sv-lastmango.com](mailto:sv-lastmango.com). If you do get a reply Mike says...*don't hit Reply to, but rather originate a new e-mail.* If all else fails, just send an e-mail to the one posted on his web site and his daughter will forward it when he checks in with her. Winlink

is a challenge but kind of fun to know about. In that area we have a Winlink guru in our midst, Past President and VE, **Bob Kesson, K7CGA**. If you get hung up in the process. check with Bob and he'll get you up to *speed, snuff* or whatever else it is we need to get up on nowadays. Also we'll keep you up to date on Mike's escapades. Wish I could do something like that instead of hanging out in this dang armchair. - N7JU

## Vic Bak, K3SHD, Passes his Extra Class

Our congratulations to Vic Bak for acing the VE Extra Class Exam at the last KARS meeting. In a note Vic wrote: *I was meaning to email you to thank you and the other VE's for your time and efforts; but you emailed me first. I do appreciate what you folks do, and one becomes even more appreciative when one receives benefits from it, as I just did.*

Vic is not a new comer to ham radio. Back in 1977 he took the Advanced Class test at the Norfolk, Va. FCC office, while there on a work-related meeting with the FCC Engineer in Charge. He was tutoring a co-worker (an Air Force radio operator) who came to take the General test. Vic was a General at the time and asked the FCC examiner (traditionally all *sour pusses*) if he could take the Advanced Class exam *without an appointment* (oh no! Mr. Bill). He said yes and Vic upgraded to Advanced. That was 30 years ago. Recent painful and frequent knee surgeries enabled Vic to look over the Extra Class material while recuperating. Vic has been a member of KARS most of the time since he retired from the Air Force and moved to CDA (XYL's home town) in 1990, but was only intermittently active. That's about to change. Loyal to his family Vic passed up promotion to Colonel and retired in 1990. He has raised and educated his kids and has spent the last 18 years as a network and telecommunications specialist for the Idaho Department of Health & Welfare and various agencies.

Vic just finished a GIS (Geographical Information Specialist) certification program with UI which had him tied up on Monday nights for a couple years. That's why we haven't seen him at KARS meetings. Now he plans to gear up (an Air Force term?) and do more in ham radio. He manned a station for *Ironman* a few years ago and has been doing some emergency communications work through his church.

Vic wants to help and has asked KARS if there is any way he can be of service by "Elmering" folks to get on the air and get antennas up. Well, he is going to get his chance. **Vic has accepted our request to become a VE.** Vic hangs out on 145.21 MHz, the Agilent Repeater in Liberty Lake and you can also find him on 7,228 and 3,937 KHz on Saturday mornings and on 3,965KHz. on Monday nights for some nets.

He also says he occasionally monitors "08" but hasn't had much success hitting the KARS repeater (Oh my!). His next area of interest is APRS so it looks like **Brad, KA5PER** and **Darrel, N7ZUI** will have another ham in their camp. Look for him on Packet real soon. Lets here it for **Vic Bak, K3SHD, Amateur Extra!**

### Air Force Jams 50 Million Garage Door Openers

I love this story out of Denver CO. A *secret* Air Force facility was testing a *secret* radio frequency from a *secret* site (actually ask any ham in the area: *it was a tracking system, operating in the 72 MHz. band from Cheyenne Mountain Air Station, home of the N.A. Aerospace Defense Command.* The only thing they apparently needed to "defend" aside from the decision to use common control frequencies residing in the FCC band-plan (ask **Bob, W7GSV** about controlling remote airplanes) was not only the channel, but what it is commonly used for. The military and other federal agencies are not regulated by the FCC (i.e. says they: "*we don't need no stink'n FCC*") but rather by the NTIA, under the Department of Commerce. Reading the NTIA "client" list is like watching a Tom Clancy movie. What was being affected was about 50 million garage door receivers in the area whose receiver front end was being overloaded to the point that it blocked the low power remote transmitter used in the vehicle to open or close the door. A franchise company, *Overhead Door Co.* received thousands of complaints from customers. The only thing they could recommend (said the spider to the fly) was to replace the equipment for about \$250.00 per door. That was until a local legislator's wife got locked out of her home with the kids in the car. The story mysteriously disappeared from view...I wonder why. Guess we'll never know what really happened. N7JU

**COFFEE & DONUTS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**



**8:00 A.M.  
TIL  
10:00 A.M.**

**RATHDRUM  
SUPER 1 FOODS**

Bring a writing instrument. Super 1 supplies napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

# LOGBOOK

## VE Examinations:

### COEUR d'ALENE & KARS

This month **Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX**, Club Call Trustee and VE Team member emeritus (that means he's been doing it a long time) will be handling the VE testing. We normally provide testing starting at 6:00PM for Technician & General Class but if anyone desires to take the Extra Class we need to start at 5:30PM (The Extra Class Exam takes about an hour). Be sure to call Jerry for an appointment and other particulars such as a photocopy of your current license, driver's license, and a remittance of \$14.00 check (to the ARRL), or cash for which a receipt will be given. On February 23<sup>rd</sup>. the VE Team held an administrative session in order to process any outstanding CSCE's for General Class (and above) related to the effective date for the elimination of Element 1, for the Morse code. The paperwork seemed as arduous as conducting a full exam session.

To reserve your testing date call **Jerry, KA7RNX at 208-783-5006.**

### SPOKANE, WA

Register to test in Spokane this month by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mal [aa7rt@arrrl.net](mailto:aa7rt@arrrl.net) for dates, locations and times.

### SAGLE, ID

"Testing Suspended Until Further Notice"

AA7XM Russell Arndt

### DIRECTIONS TO KARS MEETING:

Take U.S. Highway 95 to Miles Avenue (Miles is about 1 mile North of Hayden Avenue). Go West on Miles to airport gate. Gate requires access code (call Ed, KARS President at area code 208 699-7743). Once past gate bear left to the Shep Rock Building.

**NEW CLUB BADGES  
ARRIVED AT THE  
MEETING LAST MONTH**



# LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

FEBRUARY 2007

## Hello Idaho

Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club will host the annual Southwestern Idaho Hamfest on Saturday, April 28, 2007. Vallivue Middle School, 16412 S. Tenth Avenue, Caldwell, Idaho. Doors open 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Indoor flea market, dealers, forums, VE session, and snack bar. Talk-in on 146.840 (-)(PL 100). Registration: \$6 in advance, \$7 at door; Tables - \$10 each. Contact Voice of Idaho, PO BOX 812, BOISE, ID 83701-0812; Don Lynn ND7L 208-465-6154; [ND7L@arrl.net](mailto:ND7L@arrl.net); or on the web at <http://www.voiceofidaho.org>

February 9, 2007 - To all radio amateurs  
FCC Now Processing Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Backlog

The FCC has resumed processing new Amateur Radio vanity call sign applications. An initial stab at whittling down the backlog began February 8 — five weeks to the day after the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau (WTB) issued the last vanity call sign prior to the resumption. The Commission stopped processing new vanity call sign applications received on or after December 18 while it readied the Universal Licensing System (ULS) vanity application software to accommodate a December 15 rule change to discourage the filing of multiple applications for the same call sign. The FCC has continued to accept new vanity applications and to process vanity renewals. A WTB staff member, speaking on background, told ARRL the Commission could be back on track by next week.

“We’ve resumed processing, and by next week we’ll be caught up,” said the staffer, who conceded that the FCC’s ULS software had not been fully tested to ensure it could deal with the multiple-applications issue when the new rule’s

December 15 effective date rolled around. “We knew the date was coming, but the software wasn’t quite ready.” The Commission could complete processing of applications that have been sitting in the queue as early as February 12.

As of February 9, the WTB appeared to have granted some 125 vanity call sign applications submitted between December 18 and December 22. Another 500 or so applications remain in the queue.

The FCC this week also issued a public notice to announce the formal implementation of the multiple applications rule, 97.19(a)(1), effective February 8. The notice said the ULS would limit individuals to filing only one vanity call sign application on the same day.

“In the case where an applicant files multiple vanity call sign applications on the same day, only the first-filed application will be considered for the process, and the additional applications will be dismissed,” the FCC said. “This new process will eliminate the possibility of an applicant having more than one application for the same call sign being considered on any one day.”

The Commission is likely to receive an avalanche of new vanity call sign applications after February 23, when elimination of the Morse code examination requirement is expected to spur a massive influx of license upgrades.

The FCC is processing new vanity call sign applications now in the queue in the order they were received. Typically, it takes 18 days from the time the FCC receives a vanity application until the call sign is issued — or the application is denied. The current vanity call sign fee, payable for new applications as well as renewals, is \$20.80 for the 10-year license term.

## FCC Denies Petition to Require Exam Questions in Languages Other than English (Feb 23, 2007)

The FCC has turned down a petition seeking a rule requiring question pools be prepared for each examination element in languages other than English. Filing on behalf of the Puerto Rico Amateur Radio League (PRARL), Victor Madera, KP4PQ, sought the change to §97.523 of the rules last year. Madera is the PRARL’s secretary and ARRL Puerto Rico Section Manager. The organization cited a need to administer consistent ham radio license exams in Spanish. In a [letter](#) today, the FCC suggested that the PRARL would be better off to approach the National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) Question Pool Committee (QPC) about establishing language criteria.

## The K7RA Solar Update

SEATTLE, WA, Feb 23, 2007 — Sunspot numbers picked up a bit this week, but considering there were none February 11-15, there was no way to go but up. The sunspot number was 25 on February 22, with only small sunspot 942 looking straight at us from the center of the visible solar disk.

Average daily sunspot numbers for the most recent reporting week — February 15-21 — rose more than eight points from the previous week to 14.6. Average daily solar flux was nearly unchanged, from 75 to 74.8. Look for sunspot numbers and solar flux to rise over the next few days. Predicted solar flux for February 23-26 is 78, 80, 85 and 85. Predicted planetary A index over the same period is 5, 5, 25 and 15.

The Australian Space Forecast Centre predicts possible minor geomagnetic storms on Sunday, February 25. Geophysical Institute Prague predicts quiet to unsettled conditions for February 23, quiet conditions on February 24, active conditions February 25-26, unsettled to active on February 27, and unsettled for February 28.

Billy Michaud, AA1TT, in Claremont, New Hampshire, operates a 5 W 10 meter beacon on 28.269 MHz in grid square FN33uj. On February 14 he received a report from Ned Conklin, KH7JJ, in Honolulu, that the AA1TT beacon was being received with good signals at 2100 UTC. Ned operates 10 meters exclusively using a mobile whip clamped to the railing of his apartment's lanai railing. Ned says this is the first 10 meter beacon from the Eastern US that he's heard in two years. Billy reports that with the sunspot cycle at the bottom, he doesn't get many reception reports for his beacon these days, except for some sporadic E propagation.

## For More Information

For more information concerning propagation and an explanation of the numbers used in this bulletin see the ARRL Technical Information Service Propagation page and the article "The Sun, the Earth, the Ionosphere: What the Numbers Mean, and Propagation Predictions," by Carl Luetzelschwab, K9LA. An archive of past bulletins is on the ARRL Web site. The propagation charts that formerly appeared in *QST* now are available on the *QST* Propagation Charts page on the ARRL Web site.

## Weekly Sunspot Numbers

Sunspot numbers for February 15 through 21 were 0, 12, 11, 12, 26, 27 and 14, with a mean of 14.6. The 10.7 cm flux was 73.6, 74.7, 75.3, 75.8, 74.9, 74.7, and 74.8, with a mean of 74.8. Estimated planetary A indices were 11, 6, 8, 5, 3, 2 and 1 with a mean of 5.1. Estimated mid-latitude A indices were 15, 6, 7, 3, 2, 1 and 1, with a mean of 5.

# THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN

## Commercial AM Broadcasters Cheating Listeners (for years)

As a follow up to my presentation last year on **HD Radio** and other massive changes being made to the AM commercial broadcast service, I was amazed to discover that for years the big time operators of chain *formula radio* have been ripping us off. Last year, at the Boy Scout-O-Rama, President **Ed Stucky, AI7H**, and I put on some merit badge sessions for radio, electricity, and electronics to over 200 interested scouts looking to earn these BSA badges. **Ed Hannigan, KE7FOW** (now a new General Class) will be chairing this year's event on April 21, 2007. One of the projects in the **Radio** badge is to construct a crystal radio and show that it works. I figured I'd bring one to the scout program for a demo. How many of you have constructed or assisted in the construction of a crystal radio in your radio past? I built my first one in 1952 with the help of my dad and I mean to tell you I was impressed. Through the years I have many crystal sets in my collection including the first Heathkit crystal radio, the **CR-1**, that I occasionally see on e-Bay for outrageous amounts of money.



The CR-1 worked and very well, that was until I pulled it off the shelf and hooked it up to an antenna and tuned around. The only (and I mean only) station I could receive was KNVI –AM the (KXLY **MP3 player** serving CDA). The *molody oldies* notwithstanding, it sounded pretty familiar as when I

# Scheduled March IRLP Meeting Program Postponed

was a kid and used to listen (at night in bed under the covers). But one thing was very wrong. The **audio quality** that I remembered sucked. I tore open the “cans” (earphones) to see if they were corroded or stuck to the magnets ..no. I used a Walkman™ to check the response of the earphones to a CD and it sounded fairly good at low volume, so that meant my hearing was not drastically impaired except perhaps when the XYL tells me something I need to remember. I was desperate, so I made a patch cord and plugged it into my **Bose** receiver “Aux” input and it still sounded *mushy*. Gosh maybe **HD Radio** wasn’t such a bad idea after all.

Then I got the February Edition of *Radio World* in the mail and found an article that knocked my socks off. Those of you who know a little about *bandwidth* remember that an AM signal is authorized at **10KHz. bandwidth per channel**. TV for example, is about 6 MHz. (if you include the sidebands and audio channel), and the FM radio (88-108 MHz) bandwidth is about 75 KHz. per sideband ...if my broadcasting stuff is remembered fairly accurately. We hams use about 2.1 KHz for a SSB signal, 170 Hz. for RTTY, 5KHz for FM repeaters, and 31 Hz. for a PSK31 modes.

The article stated: *Clear Channel* (years ago) **began reducing the transmission bandwidth down to 5 or 6KHz. from 10 KHz. To minimize interference** (to themselves no doubt) **in the AM broadcast band**. Their justification is also based on the fact the FCC requires the AM and FM bands must be included in every radio sold in this country...can’t have one without the other. The (Asian) manufacturers of AM radios, in response to the broadcasters, reduced the bandwidth that AM receiver modules (now all on one chip) provide because not to do so would give the broadcasters no advantage to reduce adjacent channel interference. As a result we get crappy AM quality. Now I know why my crystal radio is worse than it was when we were kids. Oh did I mention that Jeff Littlejohn, Exec. V.P. of Clear Channel Communications chairs the NRSC committee that has been pulling this off for years. Did you know about this? Do you care? Oh well, there’s always XM/Sirius Radio (soon to become one big happy company) - N7JU

## 2007 DUES ARE OVERDUE NOW!

1. You can bring a check made out to: KARS for \$12.00 (single membership) or \$18 for family membership to the March club meeting.
2. You can mail a personal check made out to: KARS and send it to P.O. Box 5222, Coeur d’Alene, ID 83816

We were all disappointed at receiving an e-mail from KARS member, **Ron Hardin, K7BRH**, that the scheduled program for the March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting on IRLP **will have to be postponed**. Ron has some members of his family who are battling cancer requiring his attention out of state. Our sincerest prayers and good wishes go with Ron and his family during this difficult time. I am hopeful I can obtain user IRLP Procedures and Access Codes from Ron so that our members can experiment with IRLP node 3111 using Ron’s excellent IRLP simplex-system in Coeur D’Alene. Ron encourages the use of the node and welcomes you to this exciting facility enabling world-wide 2-meter communications using a hand-held. But as always you’ve got to know how it works first and we are working on that. Hopefully Ron will be able to join us in a few months with the complete program. – N7JU

## REPEATER COMMITTEE FORMED

In response to mounting complaints and concerns over the K7ID 146.98 repeater system, incoming 2007 KARS President, **Ed Stucky, AI7H** established a formal task force *to improve both the technical and administrative performance level of the ailing KARS VHF repeater*. Committee assignments were made in the directive issued on February 15th. 2007 and include: thrice past president and K7ID Trustee, Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX, Jeff Wall Sr. KB7TIC, Gary Roth, KE7IAT, Jim Monroe, N7ESU, and incoming KARS VP John Hollar, N7JU. Assisting the group as advisors are KARS members: Mike Dunn, N7SZY, Mitch Killebrew KB7BYR, and past VP Jack McElroy, K7JMC.

The purpose of the **KARS VHF Excellence Committee**, as named by AI7H and established by authority of Article IX.1 of the KARS Constitution, is to bring the VHF Repeater into FCC Compliance under Part 97 of the Rules, provide improved and superior coverage within our service area, and to achieve at least 99% reliability under a wide range of required and routine operating conditions. Additional tasks include (but are not limited to) provide effective control operation and monitoring (on a continuing

basis), establish effective trouble reporting and correction procedures, train and assign additional control operators, determine the status of current facilities, and to effect renovations or repairs required to achieve the above tasks. Assigned to chair the Committee is N7JU whose job it will be to implement the tasks as outlined and to routinely report the status and conclusions reached by Committee action to the KARS membership.

“Aside from the generalizations set forth in the establishment of the Committee,” (N7JU commented in an email to those appointed by AI7H requesting their willingness to serve): “Our task is plain and simple. Our goal will be to abandon our long term collective acceptance of the current 98 operation in favor of an FCC compliant, 100% reliable, optimum coverage, and functionally versatile VHF repeater system we all can be proud to support and use”.

“The KARS 98 repeater must enable the approximate \$25,000+ our KARS members have invested in their VHF portables, mobile units, antennas and base stations. Further, I for one am weary of being intimidated by any alternative operation for club use (not hostile mind you) of the only other repeater in the local area during non-emergencies even though it is supposedly an *open*, licensed, taxpayer supported, amateur service repeater. In short, we need our own less formal and enjoyable “98” alternative. Key to the Committee’s long term objectives are the provisions that the 98 repeater be the main stay of our enjoyment of regional amateur radio, the cohesive (rather than argumentative) force of our club, meet our public service missions, allow experimentation of optional modes such as packet, Echolink, autopatch, IRLP, traffic nets, and easy repeater linking to other areas. If any Club member is in disagreement with these objectives our Committee would certainly like to know about it”.

The first task to be accomplished by the entire Committee is a **detailed on-site inventory** and documentation of all of the 146.98 facilities as they are presently deployed. In addition, a detailed site propagation study based upon practical performance standards intended to show predictable *reliability contours* on maps for site evaluation and future assessment.

The first informal meeting of the entire Committee took place on February 19th. Those present clearly and enthusiastically indicated their willingness to serve in this capacity on behalf of KARS members. Further it was agreed that any KARS member wishing to participate in the work of this Committee is encouraged to indicate their interest via e-mail to n7ju@arrl.com at their nearest convenience. – N7JU



Hello packetteers,

Just a few words to let you know about the start up of the bi-monthly packet net. This Thur. March 1st. at 7:30 pm, on the 145.510 KARS Node, we will commence once again a regular packet net. If you are not currently set up to send and receive in this digital mode I urge you to give it a try. If you need help getting set up please contact me, (tel. (208)762-0921, or email kb6yav@cet.com).

If you plan on joining the Net. please connect to the KARS Node by typing; "C KARS" and then press enter, after you connect type: "TALK" and then press enter. At this point you are in the "conference mode", as other stations connect you will see them enter the "TALK" or Conference mode on the Node. Net control will give directions to all stations logged into the Net.

The Net. procedures are listed below this material. If there are any additional questions or concerns please contact Randy, Kb6yav at the above telephone or email listings. See you on the Net.

73, Randy

**Time :** The 1st. & 3rd. Thursday of the Month, at 19:30 hrs.  
**Freq. :** 145.510 simplex (*KARS Node*) (*connect to KARS, and enter Talk mode*)

**Time Announcement :** Announcement will be made 5 minutes prior to the net.

**Net. Preamble:** Explains the purpose of Net.

**Check in:** Participating stations, check-in

**This Weeks Exercise:** Each week a task, will be announced that should be completed by each station checked in, either during the Net. or after completion of the Net., prior to the next scheduled Net.

**Free exchange of comments or suggestions:** Stations may connect to other stations for free exchange of thoughts or helpful comments.

**Formal conclusion of Net.:** Any final announcements will be made, and the Net. will be formally closed.

# SILVER VALLEY NEWS

Greetings from the I-90 corridor to the East!

There are two repeaters up on Wardner peak with Mike (N7SZY) as the owner.

146.94 - w/t 127.3 @ 45 watts  
444.00 + w/t 127.3 @ 30 watts

These repeaters have very good coverage, but due to the heavy snow up on the hill, Mike cannot get up there to install the controller, hope spring time is around the corner. The repeaters have a very short "tail" as the weather got nasty on us when we were up there this last fall to install the 444.00 machine and didn't have time to adjust the timers and wanted to get down off the hill before we really got snowed in.

If any one wishes to use the repeaters, they are open to all, but till we can get a controller up there, please at end of conversations, us N7SZY REPEATER.



Mike (N7SZY) has a IRLP node (# 3025) up and running for the Silver Valley, Frequency for it is 146.550. Several of us monitor that also.

We now have a 220 repeater, located above Kellogg, Idaho, It is owned by Mel (KB7BTU) and it is a open repeater.

224.76 - no tone required..@ 25 watts

We have just a little fine tuning to do on the controller, but it is just some of the commands (good ones) to setup.. like voice messages, notice messages, ect.

He is in the process of getting it coordinated at this time. Coverage is pretty decent..we have worked it from Lookout pass and even in the CDA/ Post falls area, altho it can be little ruff with a hand held with a couple of watts.



At this time, We are in the process of getting our County repeater going, (at shop now with some tx problems) and hope to have it in a testing mode before to long.

147.18 + ( we have a site that it can go up on north of Wallace Idaho).

Also, we were able to pick up a repeater for 6 meter, altho, it will be a while before it is in operation as we need to get it coordinated on a frequency, get some xtals, and get the "cans" tuned up.

The Shoshone County Amateur Radio Society is in the process of getting setup again with meetings to resume in the near future, as we now have many new hams in the area and more getting interested in amateur radio..

Jerry KA7RNX, KARS Club Call Trustee.

## Our sincere congratulations go to:

**Royce Adair, KC7PHQ, Ed Neilson, N7EDN & Gail (Gabbee) Perry, KE7ADN** and a bunch of guys in Bonners Ferry, all upgrading to General Class Licensees on 2/23/07. In addition to **Ed Hannigan, KE7FOW** who took the 5 WPM code test and upgraded to General on the same night.



## THE VOYAGE OF THE LAST MANGO (Our February Meeting Guest Speaker)



Mike Alfano, N7MCA (left), Gladys, the Admiral, Mike's wife (center), and John N7JU, KARS 1st Vice President.

# Letter to the Editor

Hello Idaho,

I hope these emails get to all. This is a friendly reminder of the Idaho QSO Party coming up pretty soon.

It is the weekend of 11/12 March 2007. From what I can see you were all active during this time or along with the 7 Land QSO Party which is in May. These two times are times that we can get Idaho On the air and on the map. So I am hoping you will be active during these times. Plus pass along to others that might get interested and get on the air for these events.

If you look at my web page WWW.NT4TT.COM you will find more info.

To make a long story short: In the IQP you can do just about anything.. SSb..CW...mixed or digital or mobile. High power or low. Single op or multi op it makes no difference. And then put in for a certificate. I also have an example of one on the web page...They are not bad.. Some of those outside Idaho won for their state with only 6 q's...so put your county on the air and see if you can get one for that county..It can be a fun time.. Just make sure you send in your log to me by April 11th. Then watch the web page for the results...see where you did.. also logs submitted can be in "cabrillo" or in an Excel spread sheet.

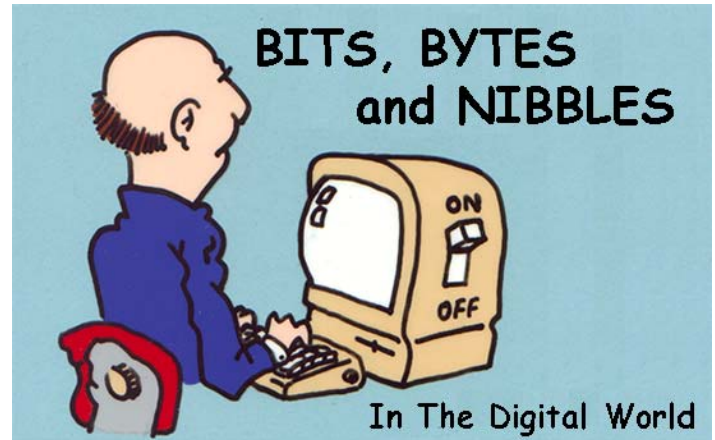
There will be a blurp in QST/CQ/NCJ and on many of the DX reflectors, so if you forget they will remind you.

Any questions feel free to email me.. hopefully I can answer them..

Looking forward to hearing you on the air.. lets put IDAHO on the air and on the map.

Vy 73,

Ed , NT4TT Idaho Falls..



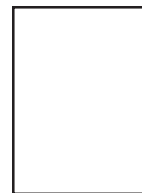
Someone once said that the best things in life are free. Well, that's still true but you need to know where to find them!

For those of you who might be fighting a virus at the moment, here are five "free" programs that might help. These are listed in alphabetical order.

1. **avast! 4 Home Edition** ([www.avast.com](http://www.avast.com)). A virus fighter that scans files on access, on demand, including email attachments. It is 64-bit compatible.
2. **AVG Anti-Virus Free Edition** ([free.grisoft.com](http://free.grisoft.com)). Scans files on access, on demand and on schedule. Email also. It's Vista ready.
3. **Comodo Firewall** ([www.comodogroup.com](http://www.comodogroup.com)). Free firewall protection.
4. **SpyCatcher Express** ([www.tenebril.com](http://www.tenebril.com)). Has all the feature found in the version you pay for.
5. **StartupMonitor** ([www.snpsoftware.com](http://www.snpsoftware.com)). Alerts you when programs are trying to install themselves on your hard drive.

Since they are free, why not give them a try. It's better to stop the virus before it stops you!!!

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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 repeater on 146.98 and a packet repeater on 145.510 Mhz.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$12.00 (individual) and \$18.00 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 send 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.