PROPAGATION

KARS - KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY - K7ID

June 2007 (www.k7id.com) P.O. Box 5222 Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Friday, June 8
Post Falls American Legion
1138 E. Poleline Road
6:00 to 8:00 P.M.
Set up at 5:30 P.M.
See map to right of page 1.
Program: Potluck Dinner and Preparing for the Swapmeet.
Speaker: Jim Monroe N7ESU
Refreshments: Everyone!!!

Monday, July 9
Sheprock Building
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.
Speakers: Jerry Hooper KA7RNX, & John Hollar N7JU
Program: Technician's Guide to Operating "HF" & Working DX.
Refreshments: Margaret Telles

Circle your Calendar!!!
June 9, 2007
The KARS Swapmeet (A.K.A. KARS Hamfest) will be held at the Post Falls American Legion, 1138 E. Poleline Road, Post Falls, ID.

Information, prizes and map is on our website (www.k7id.com). If you can't find it on the web site, call Ed, AI7H.

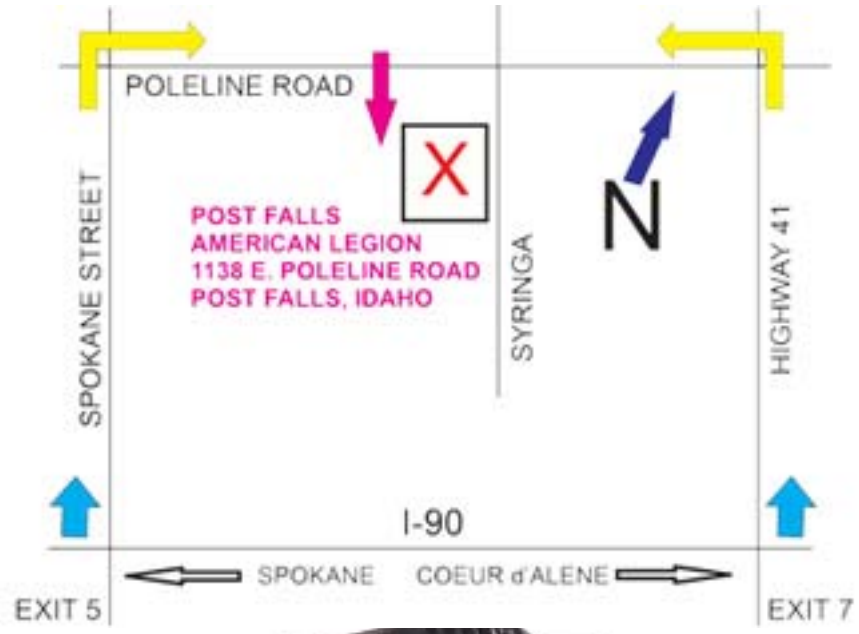
Start lisenting for our new repeater.It may be up before June 9th.

KARS SWAPMEET

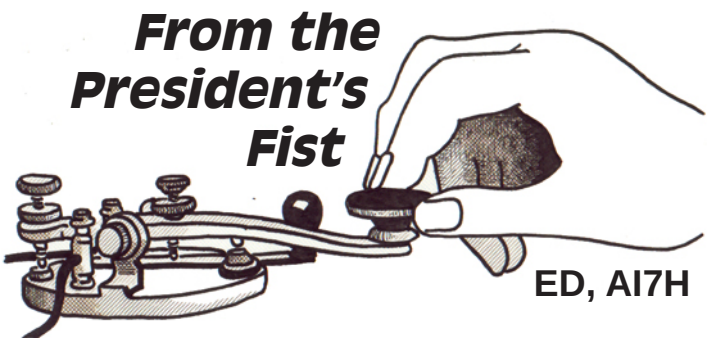
(A.K.A. Rathdrum Hamfest)

JUNE 9, 2007

New Location This Year!!!



Grand Prize:
Yaesu FT-857D HF/VHF/UHF Radio
(Check: www.k7id.com for more)



When To Press The Ham Radio "Reset" Button

Greetings to Club members and friends,

There has been a lot of Amateur Radio activity in our area over the past couple of months. Several people have talked about setting up or upgrading their home stations. Club activities (Scout-O-Rama, Highway Cleanup) have worked out well, and we have Hamfest and Pancake Breakfast on the agenda in the near future. The VHF Excellence Committee is assembling the KARS replacement 146.980 FM repeater. We have processed several important business items and heard some excellent speakers at recent KARS meetings. Sounds kinda cool, huh?

Yes and No. Everyone is entitled to a back pat for the good stuff. But whenever there is a lot going on, toes get stepped on. People are offended (or defensive), discussions erupt about who has been around longer, who knows the rules better, and who's the better ham. Shame on all of us who are not on our best Amateur Radio behavior at all times. In case you are wondering what "best behavior" is all about, I am quoting the *Amateur Code of Conduct*, written by Paul Segal, W9EEA, back in 1928. This page has appeared at the front of every *Radio Amateur's Handbook* since 1929, and is reprinted with permission of the ARRL.

The Radio Amateur is:

CONSIDERATE....never knowingly operates in such a way as to lessen the pleasure of others.

LOYAL.... offers loyalty, encouragement, and support to other amateurs, local clubs, and the American Radio Relay League, through which Amateur Radio in the United States is represented nationally and internationally.

PROGRESSIVE... with knowledge abreast of science, a well-built and efficient station and operation above reproach.

FRIENDLY... slow and patient operating when requested; friendly advice and counsel to the beginner; kindly assistance, cooperation and consideration for the interest of others. These are the hallmarks of the amateur service.

BALANCED... radio is an avocation, never interfering with duties owed to family, job, school or community.

PATRIOTIC... station and skill always ready for service to country and community.

So, if you have been stepped on (or stepped on someone) and are about mad enough to cuss, please press your Amateur Radio Reset Button and read the Amateur Code of Conduct. It won't hurt anything, and it may help.

On to the lighter news:

KARS Ham-Fest: Remember Hamfest on Saturday, June 9th. In preparation for Hamfest, we will "Set Up" the American Legion hall, 1138 E. Poleline Ave, Post Falls, starting around 4PM on Friday, June 8th. Then, the traditional Pre-Hamfest Potluck Dinner will take place at 6PM (everyone is welcome to arrive at 5:30). I hope to see you there!

Amateur Radio Field Day, June 23-24: KARS decided not to operate a Field Day station this year, but several other Radio Clubs are operating stations in the area, and may be looking for additional operators. Speaking of Field Day, our own Jim Monroe (N7ESU) appears on the cover of the June *CQ Magazine*, with Mel Frost (KD7DCR). (http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/June%202007%20CQ%20Cover.jpg). This picture was from Field Day 2005, when KARS operated a Field Day Station near Murray, ID. The cover story is located at (http://www.cq-amateur-radio.com/June%2007%20Highlights.html).

73 to all, Ed Stuckey, AI7H Club President

LOGBOOK

VE Examinations:

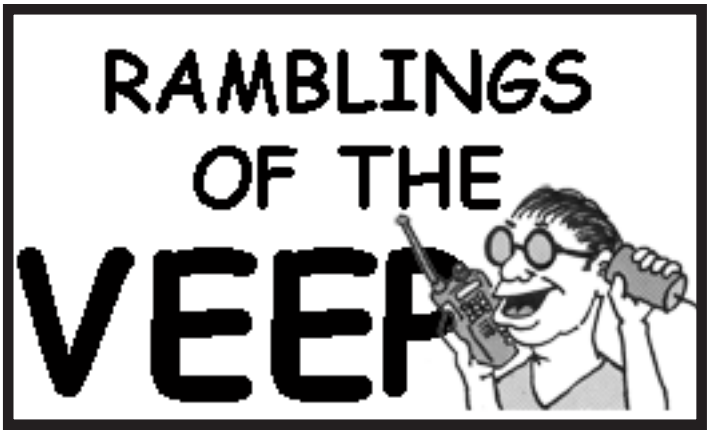
COEUR d'ALENE & KARS
Saturday June 9th. 2007 at 10:00AM at the Post Falls, ID Swapmeet site. Call N7JU 208-765-5470 for your appointment. Walk-in's welcome. Bring a photocopy of your current license, driver's license, and a remittance of $14.00 check (to the ARRL), or cash for which a receipt will be issued. Call **N7JU at 208-765-5470** or e-mail **N7JU@arrl.net** for your testing appointment if possible.

SPOKANE, WA
No testing in June and July.

SAGLE, ID
Testing Suspended! Contact John, N7JU. His contact nformation is listed above. 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.



The Ultimate Emergency

The past few weeks have been very interesting for the Radio Amateurs in North Idaho. With the KARS "98" machine off the air for almost 6-months, our hearty repeater committee is finally seeing some light at the end of the tunnel. The one unanimous conclusion we all made when restoring "98" to operation, is the insertion of a CTCSS tone, **100 Hz.** on the up-link frequency (146.38 MHz.) for a number of sound technical reasons previously outlined in our reports to the KARS membership. Our partner in VHF repeaters in the area, The Kootenai County Emergency Management group (of which I am also a member) implemented a similar decision for the "08" machine and I'm glad to say it is operational and working very well. This means it's *a no brainier* for our area operators, as the PL code will be identical for both our machines. I sincerely appreciate Jim Linden, N7JIL, running shotgun for us. If anyone needs help setting PL up in your rig let me know. N7JU@arrl.net

But the CTCSS decision was not without some dissent. I was absolutely amazed to receive personal slurs along with some deleterious (a word that means *nasty*) remarks from a local fellow who purports to have *single handedly built our past repeater* …but now, vehemently is opposed to the implementation of a PL. Golly, perhaps if he were a member of KARS and on the repeater committee we might even give his opinion some consideration. I am speculating (and hopefully so) that his 30 year old hand-held might be incapable of PL and thus sparing us all from having to listen to his grousing on either 08 or 98 (or mostly everyone else who is running a technically responsible repeater system in the area) and that's a good thing. My thanks to the KARS members who have downloaded the K7ID Repeater Logic Manual and have made some operational suggestions as to what options we might like to program. It's a bigger job than I had figured. We could just run the *default program* but that's no fun. And as far as the operational options are concerned, except for the Control Operator Programming Access codes,…all operational codes **will be made available to KARS members**. These touch tone commands require a TT-pad on the handheld or on the microphone. There are so many cool options too numerous to list but many of them allow testing input signal strength, battery status, touch tone levels, proper TT-decoding along with recorded announcements. In other words the controller does indeed control. One observation is the ease with which the "98" machine can be linked with other repeaters such as the "94" Silver Valley machine. But we've got to figure all this stuff out. Fortunately if we goof-up we can program the "98" machine from the comfort of our air-conditioned shacks. Don't you love technology? We are hopeful to have the repeater on the air (even if low profile) prior to the KARS swapmeet…we are doing our best folks.

Refreshment Sign-Ups for the rest of the year:
08/13/07 – Jean Carlson
09/10/07 – Gabbee Perry
10/08/07 – Bonnie Kesson
11/12/07 – Marge Miller
12/10/07 – Everybody (Christmas Pot-Luck)

Ham Station Safety

As warmer weather approaches, you may want to review the lightning protection scheme in place at your Amateur Radio station. The two principal reasons for having lightning protection are:

1) to prevent harm or injury to people and/or building structures, and
2) to prevent or reduce damage to radio equipment.

Who needs lightning protection? If your ham station has an *outside antenna*, then you need to consider a lightning protection strategy. Lightning protection should include a proper station ground, and a lightning arrestor or an antenna disconnect procedure (or both).

Station Ground: Every Amateur Radio station should have a good station ground. "Copper Clad" and "Galvanized" *ground rods* are available at major hardware stores. Both types work well for station grounding purposes. Be sure to buy a "ground clamp" that fits the ground rod. The ground rod should be "driven" (installed with a sledge hammer) in earth somewhere near your ham station. It is OK if you drive the rod down so the top is below the surface (beneath grass or in a flower bed, for example). The *ground wire* should be #10 or larger, running from the ground rod inside to the ham station. (A second ground wire may be installed, running from the ground rod to the *lightning arrestor* and possibly to the antenna base). The properly installed ground rod may be covered with soil if desired (for appearance, and to eliminate a trip hazard).

Antennas: Some antennas (especially vertical antennas) have a ground connection at or near the base. If you have this type of antenna, it should be connected to the station ground.

Lightning Arrestor: (Also helps to remove "wind static"). Most hams have a co-axial ("coax") feed line from antenna to rig, and several brands of "coaxial lightning arrestors" are available. (These units have a replaceable "arc plug" inside that detect high voltage pulses from lightning or wind and remove them before any damage to equipment occurs). Old school hams with "open wire feeders" must build their own "spark gap" lightning arrestors. The lightning arrestor is best installed outside of the house, so there can be a short ground wire connection to the station ground. A second choice is to install the lightning arrestor inside, near the rig.

Rig Disconnect: No lightning arrestor will provide 100% protection to your rig, so many hams disconnect their rigs from antennas during electrical storms, or during long idle periods. The simplest procedure is to just disconnect the antenna lead from the rig. A slightly safer (and more fancy) procedure is to build a coax connecter that has both the center and outside of the coax connected to the station ground. Then, the antenna lead is disconnected from the rig and connected to the grounded coax connecter just described. The most elegant (and expensive) strategy is to install a two-position coax switch. Position "A" would be connected to the rig, and position "B" would be connected to the grounded coax connecter described above. Switch to "A" when operating, and to "B" when shut down. You may want to make some reminder to yourself (whichever method you use) to be sure that the rig is connected to the antenna when operating, and disconnected when shut down.

The intent of this article was to provide ideas on how to protect you and your Amateur Radio station from lightning. If you need help with details on how to set up your lightning protection system, contact one of the Club officers and we will make sure that an "Elmer" gives you a hand.

73, AI7H

ARRL LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

JUNE 2007

FCC Designates Hearings on Two Amateur Radio Applications

NEWINGTON, CT, May 25, 2007 — The FCC has issued hearing designation orders (HDOs) to Amateur Radio license applicants in two unrelated cases. Both HDOs released May 24 hinge on licensee "character" issues. The Commission notified David O. Castle, WA9KJI, of Evansville, Indiana, that it was designating his license renewal application for hearing in the wake of alleged misconduct extending back several years and continuing at least until earlier this year.

"Since 1998, Castle has been warned repeatedly to refrain from intentionally interfering with radio communications; broadcasting without communicating with any particular station; causing interference on amateur repeaters; using amateur repeaters without authorization, and using indecent, slanderous or harassing language," the FCC said in the HDO it issued to Castle. "We find that Castle's continuing course of conduct raises questions as to whether he possesses the requisite character qualifications to remain a Commission licensee."

In March, FCC Special Counsel in the Spectrum Enforcement Division Riley Hollingsworth warned Castle to abide by a request to refrain from using repeaters owned by the Tri-State Amateur Radio Society.

The FCC also designated for hearing two applications for new Amateur Radio licenses. In the case of Frank C. Richards of Mooers, New York, the Commission says the applicant apparently had attempted in 1995 to hijack the license of a Frank C. Richards, KB4VU, who lives in Ft Meyers, Florida. The New York Richards was initially successful, and the FCC granted him KG2IC, but after the Florida Richards contacted the FCC to say he'd never moved nor modified his license, the FCC directed the New York Richards to explain. On June 2004, the New York Richards turned in his license. While the FCC did not pursue further enforcement action the, it did tell the New York Richards that the circumstances of the apparent abuse of the license system could become a factor if he ever applied for an Amateur Radio ticket in the future.

It's Called SDR!

Visit the GNU Radio Web site to learn about radio software emulating radio hardware.
This year, the buzz at the Dayton Hamvention® was SDR (software-defined radio). At the Hamvention, there were forums that focused on SDR and a variety of vendors showed new SDRs.

According to Wikipedia, "A software-defined radio (SDR) system is a radio communication system that can tune to any frequency band and receive any modulation across a large frequency spectrum by means of programmable hardware that is controlled by software.

"An SDR performs significant amounts of signal processing in a general purpose computer or a reconfigurable piece of digital electronics. The goal of this design is to produce a radio that can receive and transmit a new form of radio protocol just by running new software."

The new SDRs at the Hamvention were FlexRadio's FLEX-5000 and TAPR's HPSDR (High Performance Software Defined Radio). Not at the Hamvention, but very present on the ham SDR scene are GNU Radio and AmQRP.org's SoftRock-40.

Legislative End Run Nets Win for Oklahoma Amateur Radio Antenna Bill

NEWINGTON, CT, May 23, 2007 — An Amateur Radio antenna bill has made it through the Oklahoma legislature and now awaits the signature of Gov Brad Henry. Securing passage of the essence of the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1 was no mean feat, however. Proponents of the legislation had to switch to Plan B after House Bill 1037 (HB 1037) failed to make the House calendar for a vote after getting a "do pass" recommendation in the General Government and Transportation Committee. Supporters of the measure were successful in getting the language of HB 1037 attached to Senate Bill 426, which involves municipal annexations. SB 426 passed the Senate 45-2 and the House 90-5.

"We expect Gov Henry to sign the bill soon and are networking with his office to ensure his approval," said ARRL Oklahoma Section Manager John Thomason, WB5SYT. "The Oklahoma Section members really rose to the task to communicate our need to legislators, key community members including emergency managers and the general public who benefit from Amateur Radio emergency communications."

Thomason said the bill's supporters reminded lawmakers that some Oklahoma Section members have been among those supporting emergency communication in Kansas in the wake of the tornado that recently devastated the town of Greensburg.

Thomason expressed particular appreciation to several key players who helped make the antenna bill a reality. They include David Johansson, KA5GLT, who set the legislative process into motion, Joe White, K5BQG, who advised Section leadership, Assistant SM Eddie Manley, K5EMS, who tracked and reported on the bill's progress and initiated a letter-writing campaign, Melinda Jones, KE5IGK, for researching, composing and networking, and Hal Deitz, W5GHZ, for spending "significant hours at the capitol, meeting, greeting and informing" and keeping the SM apprised.

"It's a good day for Amateur Radio in Oklahoma," Deitz told ARRL this week. "We're *excited*." Thomason also offered "a special word of thanks" to Oklahoma State Rep Guy Liebmann, K5GL, who provided support and served as a

knowledgeable point of contact at the State Capitol. In addition, he thanked ARRL Field Organization Team Leader Steve Ewald , WV1X, for his help and encouragement.

Elsewhere ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section Manager Eric Olena, WB3FPL, reports that Amateur Radio antenna legislation, Senate Bill 884, was introduced May 18, but the measure has not yet been posted on the General Assembly's Web site, nor has it been referred to committee, likely to be either the Senate Local Government Committee or the Senate Communications and Technology Committee.

"We are not ready for you to contact your Pennsylvania state Senators and Representatives yet, but we are getting closer," Olena said on the Section's Web page. SB 884 would incorporate language from PRB-1 into the state's statutes.

Olena has credited the efforts of George Brechmann, N3HBT, of Bucks County who has been working with Pennsylvania Sen Stewart Greenleaf, the bill's sponsor. The proposed bill would restrict municipalities from adopting "an ordinance, regulation or plan or take any other action that precludes Amateur Service communications" or that fails to comply with PRB-1.
In the North Carolina General Assembly, an Amateur Radio antenna bill, House Bill 1340 (H 1340) was reported favorably out of the House Ways and Means Committee and received the unanimous approval of the full House in early May. The measure has moved to the Senate, where it's under consideration by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H 1340 calls on municipalities to require ordinances based on health, safety, or aesthetic considerations regulating placement, screening or height of Amateur Radio antennas or antenna support structures "must reasonably accommodate Amateur Radio communications and must represent the minimum practicable regulation necessary to accomplish the purpose" of the city or county.

Beyond that, however, the measure would establish a minimum regulatory height of 90 feet "unless the restriction is necessary to achieve a clearly defined health, safety, or aesthetic objective" of the city or county.

To date, 23 states have adopted PRB-1 legislation. While PRB-1 requires municipalities to "reasonably accommodate" Amateur Radio communication, it does not specify a minimum height below which local governments may not regulate. Four states — Alaska, Wyoming, Virginia and Oregon — have legislation in place that specifies antenna support structure heights, below which municipalities may not regulate.

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EDITORIAL

There comes a time in life that he or she finds themselves in good company. For me, this is one of those times. Jeff KB7TIC, Eric KD7RVZ, Bearpaw KE7ADT, and myself have all been thrown off the "08" repeater. Jeff because he questioned authority, Eric and Bearpaw because they were talking about the price of hay, and me because I used that frequency to test my rig once.

As an ARRL Instructor I cringe when I think of any organization associated with amateur radio trying to rewrite Part 97 of the FCC Rules. Ignorance is no excuse. We all took literally the same test. Telling visitors on the repeater that you can't talk about anything but ham radio is ludicrous. I think the First Amendment to our Constitution overrules that statement. Besides, who ever make up that rule doesn't listen to the HF bands much. Two hams, Eric and Bear Paw engaged in a QSO about where to get the price on hay does not equate to conducting business on the repeater or on ham radio. I can tell you where Jack K7JMC works and how to get to his place of business, but he can't. If you directly benefit, it's considered business. Case in point; a swapnet control station does have any of his or her gear for sale only other ham's equipment. On the other hand if I was going to open a photographic business, I could not discuss it in the air.

Telling someone that you must stay off the repeater because they're MIGHT BE an emergency is backwards. Anyone that has taken a tech exam knows that! WHEN there is an emergency you get off of the frequency. I've been up here for eight years and haven't heard of a REAL emergency yet. One afternoon there was a very small fire near Rathdrum that someone put out with a hammer. I think a few of the "08"inner circle were hopping for an inferno.

Maybe if I had an "08" glossary of terms I would know what constitutes an emergency. I could have used that definition over a month ago. Tuesday, April 24, 2007 I was taking my wife down to Baskin and Robbins scoop for a dollar night. It was about 7 o'clock and dark as we drove down 4th Street in Dalton Gardens. Passing through the space between City Hall and the Fire Station south of Hanley, wham, a deer hit the left quarter panel of my car. Pulling over to the side of the road I reached down for my handheld on the center console. My hand stopped short before it reached the black metal case. In the rear view mirror I could see the deer lying

on the road behind me. Only the neck and head were moving. I pulled back my hand and rested it on the steering wheel.

I couldn't call for help on "08." Was this a personal emergency, a non-emergency or a small traffic problem? Would I get thrown off of the repeater again if I didn't have a legal reason to call for help. I really only like to be humiliated once per subject matter. Only a short time had passed when a guy came by in a pickup and dragged the deer off the road. About then an off duty Post Falls Police Officer came by and called the Kootenai County Sheriff. They arrived about 30 minutes later and after a brief discussion we were back on the road heading for ice cream.

Part 97 clearly states that a frequency is NOT OWNED by any individual or group!!! If you don't want us peons to use the "08 repeater," turn it off until you have an emergency. However, as a tax payer of Kootenai County I have an interest in that machine.

I have always had a vivid imagination. What if Bear Paw's situation got blown out of proportion and landed on the news desk at CNN. "A Government Agency in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho discriminates against a Native American." Couldn't happen!!! Have you watched CNN lately. They salivate over a simple story and beat it to death all day long. Okay, here is another one to think about.

An FCC Field Engineer (who is a ham) is on I-90 approaching Coeur d'Alene from the West. He is coming to our city to investigate the pirate FM station that has been transmitting hate and filth for several months. East of Coeur d'Alene this engineer calls for directions on "08" and is asked to get off. "You can only talk about ham radio on this repeater and besides we might have an emergency." Enough said.

I believe that the leadership of the "08 Repeater" owes these hams a public apology and a date that the FCC Part 97 Rules will again be used in it's operation. This newsletter will give anyone in that organization as much space as needed to give our readers the other side of the story. This situation was going on for a long time. It just can't be swept under the closest rug.

CIRCLE YOUR CALENDAR
JUNE 9, 2007

KARS ANNUAL SWAPMEET

NEW LOCATION: Post Falls, ID
DIRECTIONS & MAP ON:
www.k7id.com

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN

I was amazed at an article recently published in my favorite free industry rag, **Radio World** by Kim Elliott. Kim reports on a conference held last month in Kulpsville, Pennsylvania of the **North America Shortwave Association.** How many of you out there called yourself a *SWL* at one time or another. SWL stands for shortwave listener and was usually some pre-interim low-life status that a kid (or an adult) would assume until they learned enough to earn a ham ticket. We (yep… me to) even had QSL cards we would send out with our reception reports and we collected them from broadcast stations all over the world. A current monthly magazine, ***Monitoring Times***, is still quite popular and caters to this dwindling group of radio buffs who have expanded their listening to satellite signals, NASA missions, airport communications, and military transmissions. I even published a set of **Area 51** frequencies of interest a few years back when I lived in Nevada. Lots of cool stuff going over there at Groom Lake. So imagine my surprise when I saw the April 2007 edition of MT on the news stand with the headline: **Monitoring UFO's**…whew the ultimate SWL for sure.

Seems the U.S. Navy began replacing its Ultra-High Frequency space communications network with new satellites built by Hughes Aircraft. The new network name is ***UHF-Follow-On*** ..with the acronym **UFO's** . Betcha a whole lot of wacko's bought that edition…I know I did. (Look for our August KARS program on SETI, Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence and other space communications stuff). Bob & Judy Grove (Bob's call is W8JHD) have been running this magazine for the past 30 years and it is really fantastic reading if you have a **general coverage receiver** somewhere in the shack. So getting back to Kim's article in Radio World, it was discussed that the simplest space dust from an extinct comet passing through our planet's orbit (at the same time we are) could literally wipe-out two or three key communications satellites which in turn could take out, global television, telephone, cell phones, air navigation, GPS, yikes my XM Radio!!!, weather forecasting and 50% of most short wave radio stations now distributing content on the Internet (like BBC London) and scads of other systems. I'm sure you can think of a few more that I don't have room for here. That's just a few *pea-sized* nickel iron meteors traveling at

34,000 miles a second …like what happened a few yeas back when several translators on Galaxy 5 were silenced, knocking out the nationwide paging operations of Page America, Skytel, and Metrocall and many others. In fact, pocket paging never quite recovered and is not even worth mentioning anymore (at the theater when we are reminded …time and time again…to "silence our pagers").

Anyhow this group was exploring the **Ultimate Emergency** where even local radio broadcasting, piped in by satellite from who knows where, would go silent. Bottom line, what would be left? Shortwave radio stations that's what! The assumption also follows that HF amateur radio would also be a relatively reliable communication system under such circumstances. I wonder if anyone has looked into the cumulatively destructive effect of such a simple and predictably likely calamity. Good for the **North America Shortwave Association.** Oh by the way, their meeting wasn't totally about the ultimate emergency, it centered on the final implementation of the DRM format for digital radio broadcasting on the shortwave band. Can you imagine a live opera from the Vatican that sounded as good as an audio CD in the front seat of a Subaru. We in the good old USA are still struggling to convince consumers to spend $150 or more to purchase an IBOC digital radio receiver (that requires an outside antenna mind you) so you can listen to ***almost*** FM quality commercials. I hear ***BestBuy*** and Radio Shack will have a few models on display shortly. In the meantime dust off the old Hallicrafter/National general coverage receiver and tune in French Guiana on 11,940kHz. Better still, solder a lead from the receiver output detector and run it over to your computer soundcard and decode DRM (Digital Radio Mondale) for the full excitement of a very old radio past time. -]N7JU

Packet Net: The 1st. & 3rd. Thursday of the Month, at 19:30 hours on 145.510 simplex. Randy, KB6YAV, Net Control. All members and non-members welcome to join in.

If you need help putting your packet station on the air you can contact: Randy (208) 762-0921 or Ed (208) 457-0354. We have sound card and TNC stations on this net.

Letter to the Editor
From the Last Mango

(Word from Mike Alfonso and Gladys (N7MCA) February 2007 KARS Meeting Presenters)

Hi KARS:
Doing fine here on the coast. Enjoy the radio very much, chat among the cruisers in the morning, met many good people who we tag along with at times. Been difficult getting to our friends in Spokane, propagation still difficult on 20. Heading north for the next few weeks, about at top of Vancouver Island. Lots of fish, enjoy company with others and sea life around. Eagles-many, dolphin, orcas, mink, and some deer. No Bear yet, but may in near future.

Heading home at end of June for daughter's wedding, then back to Mango for some serious sailing My best to the gang.

73, Mike & Gladys

The 147.08+ KC7ODP repeater is open to all amateur operators to use. We thank the KC Office of Emergency Management for sponsoring this repeater for our use.

Due to the intermod problems, we've added a permanent 100 Hz PL on the 147.08 repeater. In addition when there is a directed net on, i.e. during Iron Man Race, we'll turn on a dual tone "over beep". That way all will know that the repeater is currently being used for an event.

73, Jim Linden/N7JIL, Trustee- KC7ODP
n7jil@arrl.net

Packet Racket:

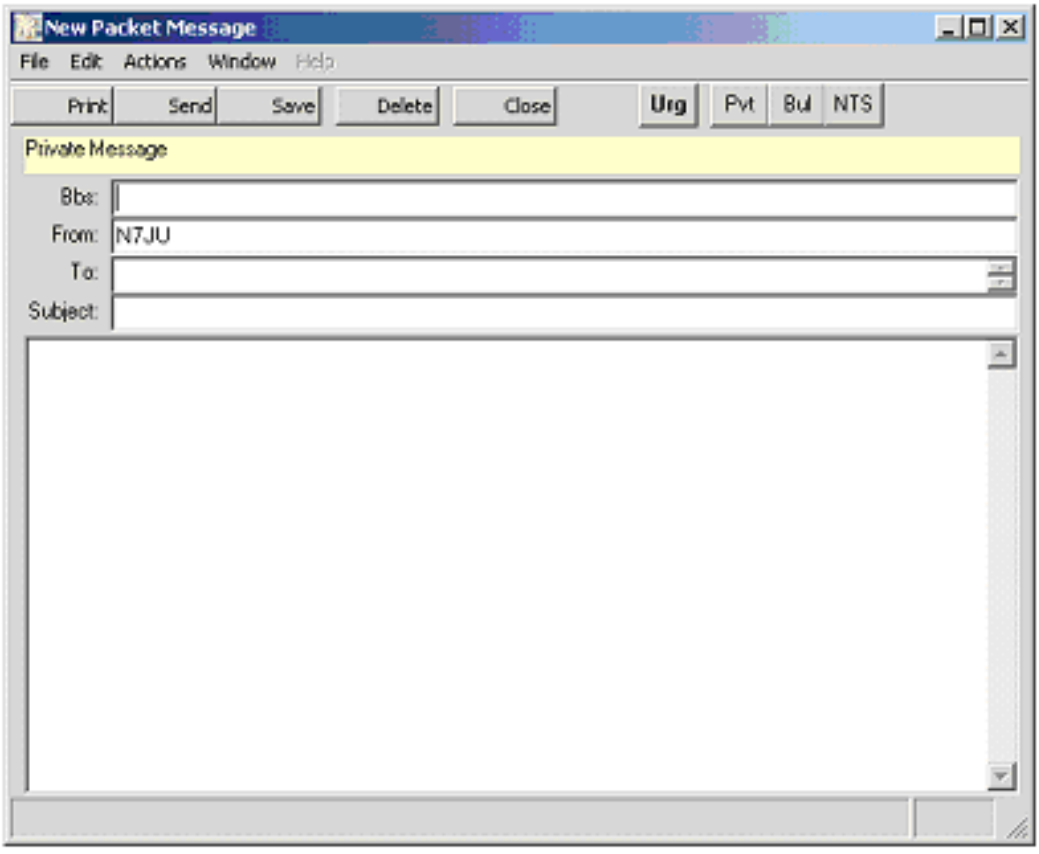
The Ultimate Packet Application

I've been playing around with Packet Radio for over two decades and I've never been really impressed. The configurations and incompatibility with modes, KISS, *Unproto* and all the other dumb stuff that is easily forgotten if you don't keep the massive 230 page configuration manual (typical) handy for daily review. With over 100 parameters to tweak, only one incorrect setting can cause grief that prevents smooth packet operation and traffic handling. One parameter that comes to mind, TXDELAY sets the time in milliseconds between the time the transmitter is keyed (and comes up to full power and on frequency) before the first packet is transmitted. If this time is too brief, the first part of the packet is not transmitted accurately. A default setting (30 ms) may not be compatible with a given HF or VHF transceiver based upon a specific manufacturer. It sounds ok on the air but no copy or retransmitting a FEC copy can result. Multiply this consideration by another 50 or 60 settings and things can be mind-boggling.

I often mused that if some computer/ham guru could come up with a shell packet program that replaces all the TNC housekeeping and cut to the application, packet may find a new life.

Well, perhaps it has happened and best of all **it's free.**

The program is called ***OUTPOST*** and operates very much like Microsoft Outlook Express (and similar e-mail clients). Lists of folks you frequently contact are in the **Address Book**, what a concept. You can send **p-mail** to one or all in groups and receive replies. The material you receive when you download the program includes several manuals, the program, all kinds of utilities, and a PowerPoint presentation for us dummies. For traffic handling, templates (ARRL) are available. Those of you in the ***packet domain*** might want to play with this application that could change everything. I sure wouldn't mind dusting off my KAM 98 to join the p-mail network if one emerges.



Check it out for yourself.
http://www.outpostpm.org/ N7JU

KARS SPRING HIGHWAY CLEAN UP PHOTOS

MAY 12, 2007

Top Photograph: Randy KB6YAV administers first aid to Bailey AD7IP before we left the parking lot at Michael D's.

Middle Photograph: John N7JU receives supplies from Vic K3HSD. Renee Stuckey is riding shotgun.

Bottom Photograph: Marilyn Hannigan collects vests from the hard working crew. Renee Stuckey is riding shotgun.

A good time was had by all. After the cleanup the crew went to Moontime on Sherman Avenue for a well deserved lunch.

FOR SALE

I have a couple of surplus items which might find a good home elsewhere in the area.

1. I have a MFJ 207 10-160 Meter Antenna SWR Analyzer. This is the model without the frequency counter built in. There is an output for a signal to a counter on top through a BNC connector or you can use a receiver to get your frequency close.

These sell new for $99 and I would take $49. It is in like new condition and includes the BNC cable and a copy of the manual.

2. I have a Butternut HF2V vertical antenna (80-40 meters). See this at WWW.bencher.com. Sells new for $299.95. My price is $75. It is in good condition and includes the manual. This antenna requires a non-resonant radial system to be efficient.

Thank you, Tom, NI7W (208) 772-0907

p.s. A $5.00 donation per item sold would be willingly granted to the club to show this member's gratitude if the item sells through this newsletter.

WEATHER WATCHERS
TOPIC OF MAY 14TH MEETING

Left to right: Ed, AI7H, KARS President, Speakers: Kerry Jones, KD5EFU, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the National Weather Service, Spokane, Robin Fox, Spotter Coordinator, and Stephen Bodnar, KE7NKT (passed test before KARS meeting).

JERRY HOOPER KA7RNX RECEIVES “ELMER AWARD

Ed, AI7H (left) presents Jerry Hooper KA7RNX (right) with an “Elmer Award” for his work in helping William George (KE7FPC), a handicaped person obtain his amateur radio license.

KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY
P.O. Box 5222
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816

KARS SWAPMEET - June 9, 2007

Packet Net: The 1st. & 3rd. Thursday of the Month, at 19:30 hours on 145.510 simplex.

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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 contributers 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.