

October 2007

(www.k7id.com)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, October 8

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speakers: Verizon and Time
Warner Engineers.

Program: DSL vs. Cable

Internet Server

Refreshments: Bonnie Kesson

Monday, November 12

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speakers: Ed Stuckey, AI7H

Program: Don't Get Zapped!!!

Refreshments: Marge Miller

Circle your Calendar!!!

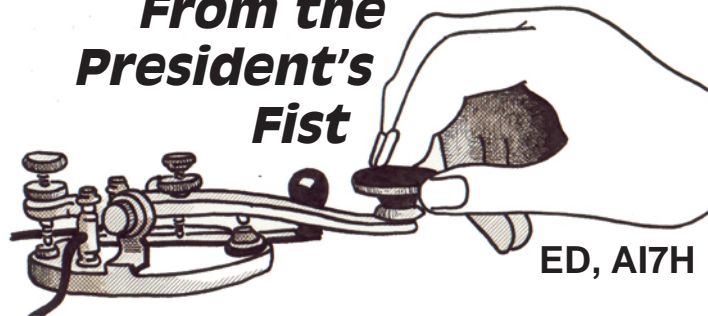
November 12, 2007
Elections of new officers

December 10, 2007
Annual Christmas Party
Potluck Dinner

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From the President's Fist



ED, AI7H

Next Year's Club Officers

Greetings to Club members and friends,

This may seem a little tedious, but we have a lot of new members who have not been through the officer election process at KARS before. And some of the old timers may have forgotten a few details. So, everyone, please familiarize yourself with the procedure outlined below. We want to ensure a level playing field for all persons interested in serving the Club as officers.

If you attended the September Club meeting, and/or read the recent "Nominating Committee" e-mail bulletin, you know that three members have been chosen to the future officers Nominating Committee. They are: Brad Kasper, KA5PER (committee chairman), John Hollar, N7JU (secretary), and Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX (trustee). The committee is charged with developing a Slate of prospective officers for the 2008 year.



If you are interested in running for a Club office, you must meet the following qualifications: KARS Club full member in good standing, 21 years of age or older, US Citizen, and willing to serve as an officer of the Club. The duration of office is one year, and officers may serve up to two years. Note that it is not necessary to have past experience as a Club officer. You may nominate yourself or another Club member to serve, by contacting John, N7JU (n7ju@arrl.net) with his/her name and the office or offices that you feel would be a good fit for the person.

(continued on page 2)

The prospective officers recruited by the nominating committee will be announced in the November issue of this newsletter. The nominating committee will also accept nominations from the floor during the November Club meeting. So, at the close of business in the November meeting, the names of all prospective officers will be known to the membership. The affirmation of officers will take place during the December Club meeting.

Hope to see you at the October meeting – mark your calendar for Monday, 10/08, 7PM.

73 to all,
Ed Stuckey, AI7H
Club President



Two Top (Verizon & Times Warner) Internet Service Providers Featured at our October 8th 2007 Meeting



Here is a KARS meeting you won't want to miss. Two of the top local ISP managers describe their North Idaho services in detail. From rates, speed, loading and installation tips, and methods using recommended equipment (and off brand products). What works and what doesn't work so well. Learn about customer owned and maintained modems, routing and wireless operations. Learn about package plans, e-mail and provider features and how to secure your systems from hacking. Have your questions ready and learn the advantages and disadvantages of the various competitive systems in the area. Sorry, no BPL (honk) just good old fashion Cable and DSL service folks meeting and greeting our amateur radio community needs with the best possible value for you bucks.

Verizon: Meet and greet: Wynn Wenker, Area Manager for our district. He knows the ropes. He's been with Verizon since GTE (1977) in Operator Services, Installation/Repair, Cable Maintenance, Cable Splicing, Transmission and Protection, Local Manager Business Services, Local Manager Customer Zone Technician, and now Area Manager in the Cascadia District, which includes Idaho and E. Washington. He manages 108 employees, and is a Coeur D'Alene resident with his wife and three children. You phone guys in the Club will have a ball with this personable fellow. Verizon gets better and better everyday in the DSL world and you should really give some thought to the services and what is on the horizon that are offered by Wynn and his dynamic company.

Times Warner: Meet & Greet: Thomas Tantriella, Technical Operations Manager, Northern Idaho and Montana. Tom has been in our area since 2006 right after the TW take over of the now defunct Adelphia, and man, have they fixed a few problems for sure. Formerly from California, Tom lives in Spokane with his wife and three

LOGBOOK

VE Examinations:

VE TESTING October 8th 5:30 PM Start

The appointments are mounting for a very good VE session on October the 8th starting at 5:30PM. All examinations provided. The examiners need a photocopy (we can keep) of your current license (if you are upgrading), a photo ID, and a check made out to the ARRL for \$14.00. Please reserve your exam space by calling or e-mailing N7JU. Now... the question on everyone's mind is: "Will Brad Kasper, KASPER go for his upgrade at this session?" How's that for pressure Brad? Phone or e-mail me at 208 -765-5470 or N7JU@arrl.net - John Hollar, N7JU VE, Team Leader

SPOKANE, WA

Register to test in Spokane this month by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail aa7rt@arrl.net for dates, locations and times.

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.

children. He is ready to knock your socks off with some great new offerings and features in cable ISP services. He's not with the TV group so I promised him there would be no grousing about Fox, it's just not his domain! You cable modem users get your questions answered. Tom is an Internet guru and he'll give you all the facts and figures about their rapidly expanding services.

Your current VP of Programs (me N7JU) has worked very hard to get these to bright fellows to spend an evening with KARS ...so I'd really appreciate you coming out and showing them we are a group to contend with. Owing to our membership's use for ISP services in the area, I figure we collectively spend about \$40,000 a year with these companies so we might just have a little leverage... wouldn't think? See you at our October 8th. 2007 KARS meeting starting at 7:00PM

THE WORLD ACCORDING TO JOHN

This is a Test.....for the next 60 seconds this station will conduct a test of the emergency broadcast system ...this is only a test. Beep... Blapp ...Honk ...etc

FOR SALE

Kenwood TS-50 HF Transceiver – All Mode SSB/CW/AM/FM, with a General Coverage Receiver 500kHz to 30MHz., with a **YK-107C 500 Hz. CW Filter**, 160M to 10M (also 30,17,and 12M) **100 Watts output adj.** **MC-80 Desk microphone.**, MC-34S hand microphone, PG-2x DC power cable and MB-13 mounting bracket. Instruction book, schematics, and *mods/dk data sheets*. Also:

PSK31/interface for TS-50 to computer, Radio Works (Short 66') Windom for 80 through 10, MFJ mini 150W antenna tuner. Great value with all these options...compare prices. good condition \$550. Call **N7JU** at 208-765-5470

In the old days (early 70s) you would have been told to tune to 640 kilocycles or 1240 kilocycles (I know it's Hertz now) on your AM dial by lining up that slide indicator to those the tiny Civil Defense triangles you still see on you KC RACES membership card. It was our government's way of saying that radio was there in an a declared emergency of either national or local proportions so that instant information would be available to the public as to what it was all about and what we should do next. But slowly the system morphed into a parody of itself to the point where the same dialog was being used when testing, but most people were just annoyed at hearing the twin tone encoding signals lasting for 15 seconds with those raspy burps interspersed between them for a whole minute. Times do change. The CD Logo was retired in 2006 after 67 years.



Enter FEMA with its newly acquired bags of money from Homeland Security and awarding a new system to the lowest bidder (not identified). A recent system test of some new equipment (old technology in a new box) resulted in a bogus presidential emergency alert being broadcast to over 500 stations in Illinois in July of 2007. What went wrong? Just about everything. The EAN event code for a presidential message was sent as a test with all the radio stations in the network having their newly mandated decoders set to "Automatic Mode" and whoosh ...out it went...capturing 30 minutes of air time on a complete state-wide broadcast network. Only a few DJ's caught the incident and "controlled" their stations by disabling the test announcement. Why? Because there were a few people around at those locations to listen to it and perhaps determine it should not be broadcast. "Public Safety - Public Trust" is their new slogan...and I wonder what the EM stands for...it doesn't say.



COFFEE & DONUTS EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING



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

RATHDRUM SUPER ONE

All problems solved at the table on a maximum of two napkins.

(Continue on page 4)

So what happened on the other 480 stations? Easy, no one was at home! In other words, these stations are “unattended facilities” running from a satellite based programming computer (perhaps even an I-POD?), located in some other part of the country. FEMA claims it notified the state’s IEMA Director who indicated he didn’t receive any message from FEMA regarding advance notice of the test. Are we to suppose the carrier pigeon dispatched by FEMA was attacked along the way by those pesky Peregrine Falcons?

What a sad state of affairs that local broadcasting has lost its local radio mission covering local traffic, local elections, local sports or local anything. But when it comes to the Emergency Alert System (EAS) it looks like we’ll really be out in the cold. Is it no wonder the National Weather Service is rethinking its VHF channels (we don’t have one in CDA but I suppose locally 162.400 MHz. is considered to be “close enough”) for “all hazards” if they can get past their current obsession for automated text messaging on cell-phones. Next thing we’ll be hearing commercials for rain spouts on NWS channels to help pay for the service. But unfortunately the NWS system is also automated. So implementing a broad based “live” alerting announcement might present some problems especially in the middle of the night. I guess when the meteor hits, we amateur radio operators might have a few DX meteor-scatter QSO’s before the next Ice Age begins. But for my money it sure was nice to listen to a local announcer on a local radio station talking about local issues and knowing that he was really there. ***This concludes our test of the Emergency broadcast system.*** –N7JU



Refreshment Sign-Ups for the rest of the year:
12/10/07 – Everybody (Christmas Pot-Luck)
01/14/08 - Need Volunteer

Deadline for submitting articles, stories, reports, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month’s newsletter.
Two more issue to go before the end of 2007.

KARS NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Completes Slate of Officers for 2008

The KARS nominating committee, headed up by Brad Kasper, KA5PER, has completed its slate of officers to be presented at the October General Meeting. The report will be formally presented to President Ed Stuckey, AI7H, and the members present. At this time the affirmation process for induction of your 2008 club officers begins. Historically the election process was a last minute affair extending well into the serving year. The new KARS Constitution, effective May 2007, has vastly simplified this process to the benefit and convenience of Club members and the incoming Board alike. The new Board members will have almost three months to work with their outgoing Board counterparts insuring a smooth takeover of operations on January 1st 2008, the new beginning of the fiscal year. The 2008 BOARD nominees (all of whom have expressed their willingness to serve) are herewith presented to the KARS membership:

KARS President:
Edward Hannigan Jr. KE7FOW

KARS Vice President:
Jeff Wall, KB7TIC - Programs & Events

KARS Executive Director:
Gary Roth, KE7IAT - Public Relations & Publications

KARS Treasurer:
Tom Richmond, NI7W - Budget, Inventory & Audit

KARS Secretary:
Gabbee Perry, KE7ADN - Membership Drive

Remaining on the 2008 Board:
KARS Trustee - Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX, Technical Chairman VE Operations.

Immediate Past President Edward Stuckey, AI7H
Continuity, Advisor and Consultant

Won’t you please give these new officer nominees you support and ideas to build an even better KARS organization in 2008.

Respectfully submitted:

KARS 2008 Nominating Committee:
Brad Kasper, KA5PER Chairman
John S. Hollar N7JU Secretary
Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX Member at Large

K7ID REPEATER REPORT

KARS Repeater Temporarily OTA (Off The Air)

In the hopes of beating the first snow flakes a hearty band of techie-types trekked back to Mica Peak once again to sort out a few mysteries of our hobby. In the last two weeks we had received some reports that our repeater coverage had changed drastically and it seemed to be a permanent situation. We already knew about the anomaly encountered with the frequent burping and erratic power levels all developing rather quickly since the original installation. It was first thought to be the power supply and then later a few other possibilities emerged so this trip was vital to sort out the issues and get them fixed. Jim Monroe N7ESU provided our transportation, and consultation and some fancy equipment, Gary Roth, KE7IAT and yours truly, N7JU started out in the fog of an early morning mental state, finally discovering the actual problem about mid-afternoon.

Our first revelation however was unrelated to the trouble-shooting mission. Someone at the site re-installed our MAIN antenna UPSIDE DOWN so they could mount their antenna vertically. Obviously our antenna's special design is for high profile use with a built-in (several degrees of) vertical beam down tilt which allows the radiation pattern to *bend DOWN* a few degrees to fill nulls in the valley below. By mounting it upside down, radiation now points up in the air, not down, so we lost the gain for which the antenna was purchased and designed.

We then conducted a methodical series of tests, designed to isolate the real problem. We did get some outside work done as well. Gary installed the back up UHF/VHF antenna (SWR 1:1.2) and new Type N-Connectors on our new cables. Accordingly Jim and I set about eliminating possibilities, a "hissing" switching power supply (that had its own issues) for one, the T/R relay (ok), interconnecting cables and connectors (no problems), and the biggie the possibility of a shorted can in the duplexer. What we discovered however was a burnt up (I mean stinky and gone) 10 ohm resistor in the PA section of the transmitter. At this point we thought we had it nailed. Ed Stuckey, AI7H made two Sunday afternoon trips to the base of the mountain to provide parts and moral support ("thanks Ed"). It turned out that the burned resistor was a symptom not the problem, but it got us to the right area of the repeater that needed attention. We quickly decided to call Ron, N9EE at MicroComputer Concepts who shipped out a replacement PA for which we are now waiting. Our next trip should do the trick. We received approval for our new mounting location higher up and on the North face of the tower as suggested by Lee Hopkins, AA7AF ("brilliant suggestion Lee") which when combined with everything else could optimize our system for now. Wish us luck and thanks to all those who helped us keep the machine "burning" on Sunday so we could find that pesky heat induced problem - N7JU



Gary, KE7IAT finishing back-up antenna installation on a cold day in September.



LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

October 2007

Mark the “Play on PropNET” Weekend on Your Calendar

Play on PropNET is a two-day, worldwide event designed to promote PSK31 and propagation study on the 30 meter band. This event, scheduled for 0000 UTC October 6 -2359 October 7, will be on 10.1395 MHz. Simply download *PropNetPSK*, a free PropNET software program, configure it for your station and activate for the weekend.

PropNetPSK software will place the PSK stream at +1500 Hz (10.1410 MHz true). In normal operation, the software will cause your station to automatically ID at regular intervals (several times per hour) throughout the weekend. If your licensing authority requires that an operator be present whenever transmitting, switch to “Lurker” mode when you are away. This will allow your station to monitor and report anything that is heard, even if it isn’t transmitting

PropNET uses the Internet as a reporting tool. Participants who are connected to the Internet (even using intermittent dial-up connections) will have their reports sent to a mapping system that will graphically display everything that is “caught” (a *PropNET* term for received). Transmitting stations will have their call signs shown on the map. Receive-only stations (Lurkers) will display using their 6-cipher grid locator rather than call sign. Don’t worry if you don’t have an Internet connection at your station, as others will hear your transmission and report it to the Internet.

As an added benefit, all stations that report activity will have their activity added to an animated GIF file at the end of each UTC day. All worldwide activity will be captured to that animation and will be able to be played back at a later time.

All amateur and SWL stations worldwide are encouraged to participate for this first event of its kind. Thanks to the 30

Meter Digital Group for suggesting this activity and to the *PropNET* community of experimenters for supporting it. —
Ev Tupis, W2EV

Sputnik Special Event Station Scheduled (Oct 2, 2007)

— On Wednesday evening, October 3, *AMSAT* will host a Special Event Station commemorating the 50th anniversary of the launch of *Sputnik I*. Listen in on satellite *AO-51* as it passes over North America to hear original Sputnik telemetry. On October 3, listen between 2350-2358 UTC; on October 4, listen at 0127-0145 UTC, 0308-0326 UTC and 0452-0503 UTC (all times approximate). The downlink frequency will be 435.300 MHz (plus or minus Doppler shift); the downlink power will be higher than the normal repeater levels. For those who send in reception reports, *AMSAT* will return a QSL certificate. Please send a 9 × 12 self-addressed, stamped envelope to Kevin Schuchmann, WA6FWF, 3375 Taper Ave, San Jose, CA 95127. Please allow several weeks for processing. — *Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA*

The Signal From Hell

Have you been so perturbed at your buddy that you wanted to tell him or her to “go to you know where”? Well, there’s a place in Michigan where that’s very common — a “wide spot in the road” with the name of Hell, Michigan, about 20 miles from Ann Arbor. When the *Arizona ScQRPions QRP Club* announced the 2007 “Freeze Your Buns Off” contest for February 3, the logical place to do that seemed to be where “Hell was frozen over.”

The object of this contest is to take your QRP rig out into the field and make as many contacts as possible before you either give up or freeze a certain part of your anatomy. The scoring gives a multiplier of 1 if the operating temperature is greater than 65 degrees, 2 if you’re operating between 55 and 64, down to a multiplier of 6 if the temperature is less than 20. Another multiplier of 4 is if you’re operating outside, a multiplier of 2 if you’re operating independent of ac mains power. It’s relatively easy to get an overall multiplier of 48. Plus, a multiplier is given for each state, province or country you work. Wow!

(You can read the entire article on www.arrl.org website)

TOWER WANTED

30 to 50', Rohn 25g or what have you.
Denny W7BKZ, (208) 660-1573

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) YEAR 2008 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

{ } New Member: \$12.00 { } Renewal: \$12.00 { } Family Membership: \$18.00
{ } Information Update Only

New! Two year membership Rates:

{ } New Member: \$22.00 { } Renewal: \$22.00 { } Family Membership: \$33.00

ARE YOU AN ARRL MEMBER? YES NO (Please Circle One)

CALLSIGN: _____ CLASS: _____ EXPIRATION: _____

FIRST NAME: _____ M.I. _____ LAST NAME: _____

ADDRESS1: _____

ADDRESS2: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____ - _____

PHONE NUMBER: (____) _____ OK TO PUBLISH? YES/NO (CIRCLE ONE)

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____@_____

OK TO PUBLISH EMAIL ADDRESS? YES NO (CIRCLE ONE, PLEASE)

**NOTE: IF THIS IS A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP, (All members with the same address),
PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING SECTION FOR YOUR FAMILY.**

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ CLASS: _____

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ CLASS: _____

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ CLASS: _____

NAME: _____ CALL: _____ CLASS: _____

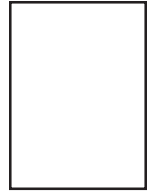
NAME: _____ CALL: _____ CLASS: _____

*RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES, (CASH OR CHECK), TO THE KARS TREASURER,
OR, MAIL TO: KARS TREASURER, P.O. BOX 5222, Coeur D'Alene, ID. 83816.*

(Office use only.) CK: ___ CSH: ___ Mbr Spreadsheet: ___

PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND!!!

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



2007 CLUB OFFICERS

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208 687-2251 ckay@my180.net

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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.