

November 2007

(www.k7id.com)

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Monday, November 12**

Sheprock Building

7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speakers: Ed Stuckey, AI7H

Program: Don't Get Zapped!!!

Refreshments: Marge Miller

**Monday, December 10**

American Legion Hall

1138 E. Poleline Ave

Post Falls. 6 P.M.

Speakers: None

Program: Annual Christmas

Potluck Party

Refreshments: Everybody

### Circle your Calendar!!!

December 10, 2007

Annual Christmas Party

Potluck Dinner

January 14, 2008

First meeting of the New

Year with new officers

### IN THIS ISSUE

VE Testing.....Page 2

KARS Repeater Report....Page 3

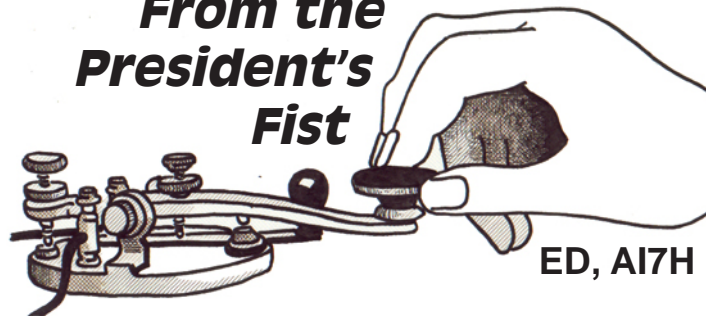
Nominating Committee....Page 4

High Speed Night.....Page 5

ARRL News.....Page 6

KARS Application.....Page 7

## From the President's Fist



ED, AI7H

## So, What Will We Do Next Year?

Greetings to Club members and friends,

I'm writing this message to enlighten new members (and remind old ones) about various Club "Events", and also to discuss Club business and how you can participate. I can almost bet that the 2008 President will be asking for some volunteers. So, read the following paragraphs to become familiar with "Events" and "Committees".

**"Club Events" and "Event Coordinators":** Over the past several years, the Club has developed an annual "Event Calendar". Events include such things as the KARS Ham-Fest, Highway Cleanup, Supporting Boy Scouts, and social activities like an Ice Cream Social, Pancake Breakfast, and Pot-Lucks. The 2008 Club officers will develop the proposed calendar and discuss with members early in the year. But Events don't just happen – they require preparation and coordination, under the direction of (surprise!) the "Event Coordinator". This is a great way to help the Club, while learning – and doing the event details.

So, when the 2008 Club President asks for volunteers to work as Event Coordinators, please hold your hand high. (We would love to have too many volunteers for Event Coordinator). By the way, the Event Coordinator normally recruits his/her assistants, so this is a good way to get to know other Club members better.

**Committees and Committee Chair-Persons:** While the Club Officers generally organize and conduct Club business, various situations require special focus or intensity. A few past and current examples include the Badge Committee, the

(continued on page 2)

Club Assets Audit Committee, and the VHF Excellence Committee. If and when the 2008 President asks for Committee volunteers, please consider serving. This, like Event Coordinator, is an excellent way to learn more about the Club, and you may have some fresh ideas that would help the Committee along in its work.

On a completely separate subject, the November presentation is about "EMR" or Electro-Magnetic Radiation. If you attend, you will learn about EMR safety and what level of exposure from your Amateur Radio gear is considered "safe". I Hope to see you then – mark your calendar for Monday, 11/12, 7PM.

73 to all,  
Ed Stuckey, AI7H Club President

# LOGBOOK

## VE Team Prepares for Largest Testing Night of the Year in November

Our good friend Warren Webber, KD7SKJ, has yet another bumper class of potential new licensees and our VE group will be trekking up to the "Point" on November 28<sup>th</sup> to test a potential 37 candidates including Warren's XYL. This session will also be open to the public so we are expecting a few more walk-ins for upgrades. We had to place a special order to the ARRL VEC group for supplies going into this session. Accepting the assignment are Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX, (Mr. dependable and transportation), Larry Telles, K6SPP; Mitch Killebrew, KB7BYR; and N7JU, VE Team leader.

The November VE session at Coeur D Alene on November 12<sup>th</sup> also looks like a bigger than average group with a possible seven applicants booked for the exam so far. Remember, to book your reservation from 5:30PM to 7:00PM the earlier the better, bring a copy of your FCC license for us to keep, a check made out to the ARRL for \$14.00 and a picture ID. Call John Hollar, N7JU for reservations or questions. 208-765-5470.

The VE Team was also pleased to serve another senior YL operator, 89 year old Althea Dunn, KA7ODM of Coeur D Alene who checked every box on the VEC605 form. She was upgraded to General Class by virtue of having a Technician Class License prior to March 21<sup>st</sup>. 1987; she renewed her license for another 10 years as it was set to expire

in a few weeks; changed her address (not that she moved or anything) because the City of Coeur D Alene renamed her street and house number a few years back; and last but not least she was finally assigned a FRN number (is that like a CRT-tube e.g. Cathode Ray Tube Tube?). Our congratulations to Althea, we wish her good health and good DX. – N7JU

**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.

## December Meeting: Location Announcement

In September, the Club decided to hold our annual Christmas Pot-Luck at the American Legion Hall, 1138 E. Poleline Ave., Post Falls. (This is where the KARS Ham-Fest was held last June). The date/time is Monday evening, December 10, at 6PM (setup starts at 5:30). We will include driving directions and a map in the December Propagation. Please note: Post Falls has installed a "Round About" at the Poleline/Syringa intersection adjacent to the American Legion Hall since the Ham-Fest. Slow Down for this one!

**COFFEE & DONUTS  
EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**



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

**RATHDRUM  
SUPER ONE**

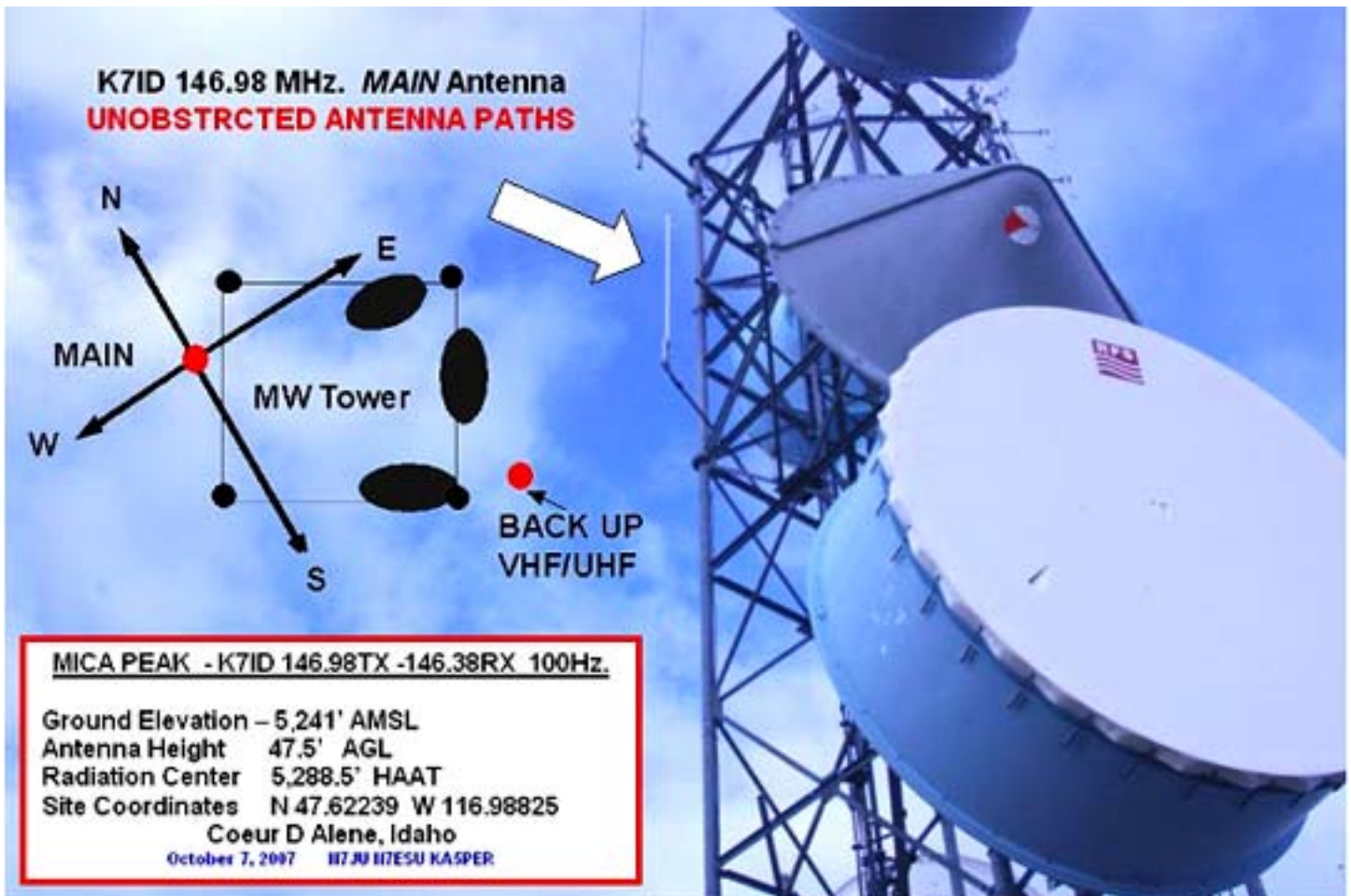
**All problems solved at the table on a maximum of two napkins.**

### TOWER WANTED

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

# KARS “98” Machine (slowly) conforms to “Excellence”

On Sunday October 7<sup>th</sup> a hardy band of climbers and skilled technicians made yet another trek to Mica Peak to clean up some loose ends before winter. The primary project was to remove the Main base station antenna from its (unexpected) upside-down mounting, relocating it to its new position on the North face of the tower. Upon arriving at the site we were surprised to find that the top of the tower was barely visible through the clouds. Scary enough, but add that to the slippery conditions on the tower members, and you have a new respect for steeplejacks. My first disheartening epiphany of the day was that my climbing belt that has hung steadfastly and ready for action on a hook near my garage workshop no longer circumscribed my girth. Not having used it in at least 10 years, I was simply out of “holes” on the belt buckle. Fortunately we had enough equipment to “go around” (pun intended). Before we removed the antenna we took a quick reading on the VSWR which showed a disappointing 5.1. Upon removing the antenna and positioning it upright, we saw water draining from the bottom. Several hours later when the antenna was repositioned, we took another reading and the SWR was down to about 3.1:1. All this demonstrates that the “drain hole” was working allowing water to exit the base of the antenna. Since that installation it was our hope that any water in the antenna would drain out before freezing with the potential of bursting the radome. We have noted a slow improvement in coverage and it is hopeful we are actually observing drying conditions from the valley below but won’t really know for sure until we can once again take another SWR reading at the site. The Comtelco antenna was pretuned at the factory to 146.38 MHz. and when originally installed, showed a SWR of 1.1:1...can’t beat that! If it is still too high upon a re-inspection, it may be necessary to remove the antenna and bring it down in an attempt to dry it under controlled conditions. Don’t forget we also have a back-up antenna at the site as well.



Naturally, a less than nominal SWR creates other issues we also observed. With our PA (Power Amplifier) running at 30 watts, the high SWR creates a thermal reduction of power output which we saw after about 30 minutes of operation.

(Continue on page 4)



Equilibrium seems to be about 12 watts which is not enough for our liking. If the SWR is improving, the power reduction should maintain about 23 watts output considering the losses in the isolator, duplexer, and transmission line. Receive sensitivity is only effected by the antenna SWR, transmission line loss and duplexer as no isolator is used in the receive line. It's a numbers game for optimization!

In consulting with MCC, the repeater manufacturer, we will be able to replace the PA with a 60 watt unit once we get the SWR under control. It just so happens we have one in the shop but we have yet to apply power to it to see if it is working properly. We are in the process of modifying a GE Master II Executive mobile unit to a "test frame" to easily plug in a TX exciter, PA, and receiver strips for testing and alignment.

Let the word go forth from Coeur D Alene, if anyone has any modules, mobile or DOCUMENTATION for the **GE Master II Executive** please call me ASAP so we can beg, borrow, steal, or copy the information. Enclosed with this report is a composite photograph of the new mounting position for your information. This one change alone has clearly provided the best optimization of our pattern from Mica Peak...stay tuned as the 98 saga continues. -N7JU

## Meet Your 2008 Executive Board Members

As reported in the October Newsletter the KARS Nominating Committee submitted their formal slate of officers for election (or acclamation) at the November 2007 meeting. This group, (along with the standing members, soon to be past president AI7H, and trustee KA7RNX) will form a new Board under the new KARS Constitution & By-laws to administer the 2008 fiscal year starting on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2008. The ideas and objectives being discussed by this group are exciting. Excellent programs, activities and a membership drive with a goal of achieving a 30% increase in members next year to name a few. "The more members we have the easier it is for everybody ...so invite a ham friend to join KARS" says Gabbee Perry, KE7ADN, Secretary designate. This group is a dynamic bunch of dedicated hams and new faces to KARS who have worked very hard in 2007 on special projects on behalf of the Club. Everyone has spent hours learning the ropes, and serving club functions and projects. Everyone has checked out the new repeater system, its functions, features and operational possibilities issues so that they might fully appreciate the importance of the facilities and proper usage going forward. I, along with many other KARS members and past officers of the club wish to express our thanks and continued support to these individuals and to serve them as best we can in the coming year.

And what a year we'll have in 2008! Now, meet the 2008 slate of KARS officers:



KARS 2008 Board of Directors Nominees (l to r) Ed Hannigan Jr., KE7FOW, President; Jeff Wall, KB7TIC, Vice President; Gary Roth, KE7IAT, Executive Director; Gabbee Perry, KE7ADN, Secretary; and Tom Richmond, NI7W, Treasurer.

# “Don’t Get Zapped” A Presentation About EMR (Electro-Magnetic Radiation)

The first half of the presentation will discuss various Hazards that an individual faces in day-to-day life, with a concentration on Electrical / Electronic Hazards. Then we will “zoom in” on specific Radiation Hazards, and what happens to you if you are near your Amateur Radio antenna. During the last half, we will distribute and walk through a work-sheet that will help each Ham make an assessment of the EMR hazard level at his home. Completion of this work-sheet will satisfy the FCC requirement for Amateur Radio Self-Assessment of Station EMR Hazards. Be prepared with the following information about your station: Input Power; Band; Mode; How High/Far from people is your Antenna.

Submitted by Ed, AI7H

Refreshment Sign-Ups for the rest of the year:

12/10/07 – Everybody (Christmas Pot-Luck)  
01/14/08 - Need Volunteer  
02/11/08 - Need Volunteer

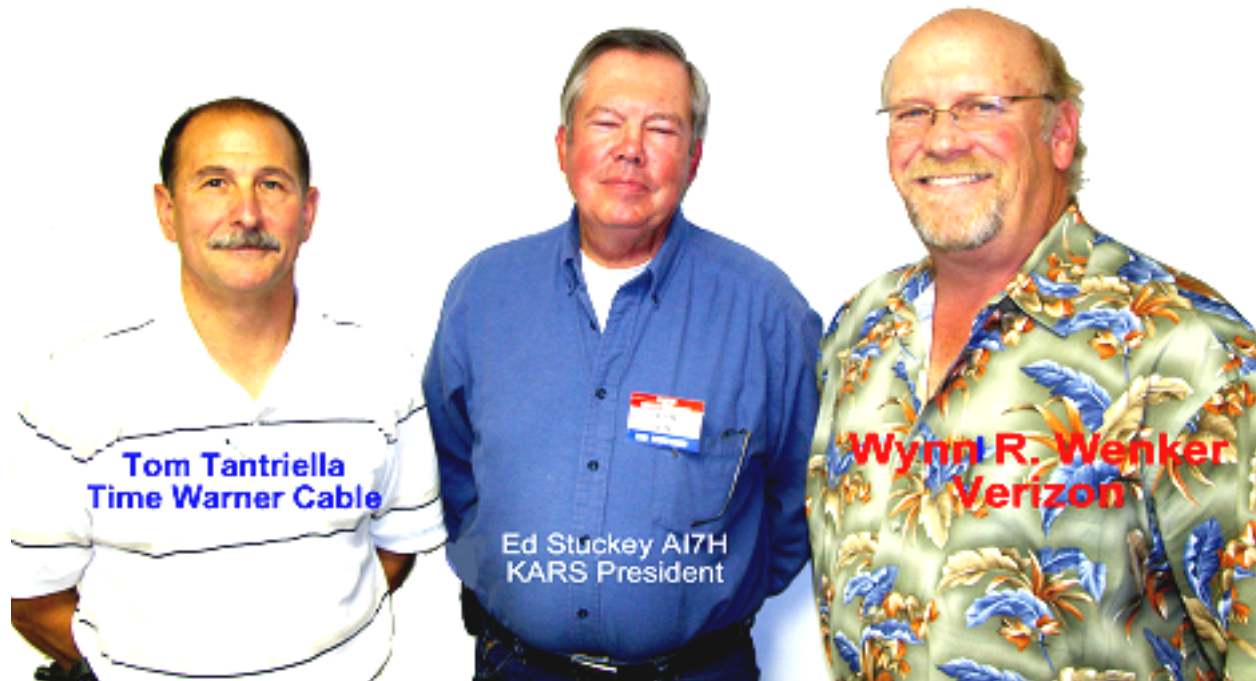
Deadline for submitting articles, stories, reports, etc., is the 25th of each month for the following month’s newsletter.

One more issue to go before the end of 2007.

You can pay your 2008 dues at our next meeting!!!

## "High Speed Internet Guru Night"

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society    General Meeting    October 8th 2007



### How Sweet it is! – AI7H

Ed Stuckey, AI7H and KARS President, strikes a pose with the two outstanding presenters for one of the best and most informative KARS programs of the year. The face-off was a rare opportunity for the two best gurus in the region to extol the virtues of their Internet access services before a hungry for knowledge KARS membership. The quality of the presentations and challenges of the questions was spirited (but friendly- for the most part!). Our two presenters stayed over coffee break to meet and greet many customers and wannabes waiting for facility access. We’ll probably not see a program like this again but I certainly must add my kudos to these excellent representatives of their respective companies and hope there will be a little something extra in their paychecks when word of this meeting gets out. – N7JU



# LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

November 2007

ARRL Bulletin 21 ARLB021  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT October 18, 2007  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB021  
ARLB021 ARRL 2007 Frequency Measuring Test Set

The 2007 ARRL Frequency Measuring Test (FMT) will take place November 15 (UTC). It will be conducted using essentially the same format as last year's FMT.

The 2007 FMT will run November 15 at 0245 UTC (November 14 at 9:45 PM EST). It will replace the W1AW normally scheduled phone bulletin. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, recommends that those planning to participate listen to W1AW's transmissions prior to the event to determine which band—or bands—will be best for measurement purposes.

The FMT will start with a general QST call from W1AW at exactly 0245 UTC, transmitted simultaneously on three amateur frequencies. The approximate frequencies are 1854 kHz, 3583 kHz and 7045 kHz. The test will consist of three 60-second key down transmissions for each band, followed by a series of dits, followed by a station identification.

The test will last for approximately 15 minutes and will end with a series of Vs followed by station identification. W1AW will identify before, during and after the transmissions.

West Coast participants may have their own signal to check again this year, courtesy of Mike Fahmie, WA6ZTY. Currently, the exact times and frequencies are yet to be determined. Please check the W1AW FMT Web page for up-to-date information and schedule.

This year, your report should be submitted via the FMT Report form on the W1AW FMT Web site. Along with your call

sign and e-mail address, enter your most accurate measurement on each band and indicate whether you measured the W1AW (or WA6ZTY) signal. There will be a window to list your equipment, describe the method you used to make the measurements and enter any Soapbox comments.

W1AW will post on the FMT web site the transmitted frequencies following the test. This will allow participants to quickly determine the accuracy of their equipment and methods.

An article, "Frequency Measuring Test 2007," by Ward Silver, N0AX, in the November 2007 QST and also available on the ARRL Web site at <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt/2007/2007FMTSilver.pdf> covers this year's FMT.

Additional information about the FMT—including a list of reference articles and updates to test schedules—is on the W1AW Frequency Measuring Test Web page, <http://www.arrl.org/w1aw/fmt>.

NNNN  
/EX

## On-Line Auction Up and Running

The Second Annual ARRL On-Line Auction went live Wednesday with more than 160 items to gawk at, gaze on and drool over. Bidding for these items, with more to be added as the auction progresses, ends November 2.

Interest has already been strong, with a host of items available this year. Items range from a 1971 ARRL publication, *Operating an Amateur Radio Station*, which has an opening bid of \$3, to an ICOM IC-7800 HF and 6 Meter Transceiver with an opening bid of \$6865. Other highlights include "Junque Boxes" courtesy of the ARRL Laboratory and an impressive roster of items that have recently been reviewed in the page of *QST*.

ARRL Business Services Manager Deb Jahnke, K1DAJ, encourages everyone to come and peruse the wide variety of offerings: "Browse through the Web site frequently, as items will be added on a daily basis. We also encourage you to look through the 'Help' and 'About Us' sections. You'll find useful information about bidding, FAQs and a host of other facts. To ensure an enjoyable experience, please be sure to read all policies under the 'About Us' section," she said.

If you haven't joined the ARRL yet, now is the time. We would like to be an ARRL Affiliated club again. There are a lot of benefits for you and the club.

# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

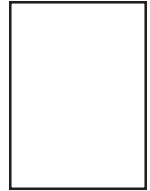
*RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES, (CASH OR CHECK), TO THE KARS TREASURER OR, MAIL TO:  
KARS TREASURER, P.O. BOX 5222, Coeur D'Alene, ID. 83816.*

(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**



NILUG (North Idaho Linux Users) will meet at noon on November 10th. Contact Randy, KB6YAV for the details.

## **2007 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Ed Stuckey, AI7H  
208 457-0354 ai7h@arrl.net

1st Vice-President: John Hollar, N7JU  
208 765-5470 n7ju@arrl.net

2nd Vice-President: Larry Telles, K6SPP  
208 762-2548 ltelles@icehouse.net

Secretary: Linda Chamberlain, N7UTK  
208 765-3144 lindaafc@roadrunner.com

Treasurer: Chris Monroe, N7ZUJ  
208 687-2251 ckay@my180.net

Newsletter Editor: Position Open

Repeater Tech: Jim Monroe, N7ESU  
208 687-2251 n7esu@arrl.net

Webmaster: Larry Telles, K6SPP  
208 762-2548 ltelles@icehouse.net

## **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.