

February 2008

(www.k7id.com)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, February 11

Sheprock Building
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speakers: Allen Horton, K7AEH,
Ron Hardin, K7BRH, and Darin
Lehnort, KC7TIG

Program: IRLP Demonstration
Refreshments: Marilyn Hannigan

Monday, March 10

Sheprock Building
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speakers: Steven May, Idaho
Public Safety

Program: Communications
Refreshments: Margaret Telles

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Dear Club Members and Friends

Well, the new club officers got through their first meeting without any obvious goof-ups. I am not sure we approved the minutes. Most members raised their hands when I asked if they had received a copy. I will make sure I handle these basis house keeping issues better next time. Again a big thank you to last years officers and their continuing support as we move into the new year.

Chuck Green did an outstanding - job, with his presentation, I wish I had a resume like his. Follow-up with Chuck and let him know how much you liked his subject. I have sent Chuck an email and will try to join him soon to discuss more details of satellite release and how to make contact.

Membership has reached the 100 mark and new recruits are being sought monthly. Dues are only at the halfway mark and you need to bring your filled out membership application form and check or cash to the next meeting. You can mail your dues to: KARS TREASURER, PO BOX 5222, Coeur d'Alene, ID. 83816. A cut off date, not yet determined, will be announced when you will no longer receive your newsletter if dues are not paid. Also remember that you are only eligible for the membership raffle if dues are paid.

Increased membership "is a good thing", as Martha would say, but as we continue to grow, the current meeting location will be too small. The Board is reviewing this situation and will discuss at the next meeting.

Our current membership roster indicates that there are 12 e-mail addresses that are no longer current. Our secretary will circulate or announce these names at the next meeting so that you can correct and then be able to receive the monthly newsletter.

Our membership raffle was won by Allan (KE7DFT) and he will conduct the raffle at the next meeting.

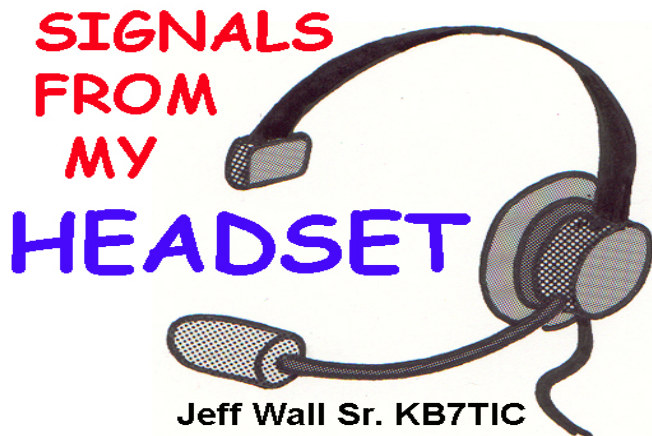
Remember to return your "Problem Set" answers to the President before or no later than the next meeting.

I hope to see more members at the February meeting when Allen Horton, Ron Hardin, and Darin Lehnort give an IRLP demonstration. I counted 33 members at the January meeting.

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Try to stay warm. My daughter called today (01/21/08) from her home in Whitefish Montana and said the temperature on her front porch was minus 21 degrees F. and her Subaru would not start.

Ed Hannigan KE7FOW
Club President



Hello World!

The **February 11, 2008 KARS Program** is going to be a whopper! We are going to set up a *distance learning demonstration* coordinated *live* at our normal meeting place by our KARS IRLP guru **Allen Horton, K7AEH**. Allen is going to overview, in a brief slide presentation the *Internet Radio Linking Project*. How it works! You'll be able to actually use the IRLP facilities of KARS members for a live chat (with anyone you want) all over the world (on repeaters or from a handheld)! Now that all our members have been upgraded to full Technician Class status, or above, this part of amateur radio has got to be one of the most exciting aspects of our hobby. But, like anything else, it takes a little training and getting used to with help from real live IRLP operators. KARS is fortunate to have them. Members, Darin Lehnort, **KC7TIG** operates a dandy full duplex IRLP node on UHF, 442.850 (110.9 Hz CTCSS); and Ron Hardin, **K7BRH**, operates a very effective simplex VHF system on 146.440 (100 Hz. CTCSS) in our area. Both these systems will be accessed and demonstrated by Allen at the February 11, 2008 KARS program. These "Sysops" will be standing by to answer by radio hook-up operational questions. Man, if this doesn't get you "hooked on IRLP" nothing in our hobby will. We'll have a UHF/VHF 10- watt mobile on site running a length of RG8 (if any one has some we can borrow for the evening give me a call) from our meeting room out to a dual-band antenna on my van. By emulating a typical mobile unit, we can stay warm and dry while actually

seeing how everything works. Allen is lining up some pre arranged QSO's from other operators for our meeting for you to chat with and answer any questions you might have. IRLP is the big (amateur radio) brother of Echolink. It's been around a long time and works remarkably well. It enables a low power V/U radio, world wide access to friends and areas **on-demand**. No high speed Internet connection is required, just a portable, base, or mobile unit programmed to and capable of touch tone control (in the microphone). You won't want to miss this importing training session with handouts you can take home and try for yourself.

Jeff Wall VP/ Programs, **KB7TIC**.

January Meeting a Hit

The January KARS program: by Chuck Green, **N0ADI**, ***ECHO's last days on Earth*** (AO51) was rated as "one of the best". Our thanks to Chuck for an outstanding presentation, lively, witty and warm. Chuck has agreed to participate in our Program Exchange efforts with other nearby clubs in Washington... if we can find a program of interest that they present for our members. It's amazing how creative these AMSAT folks are. For example, AO-16 launched over 18 years ago has been dead in space when a malfunction prevented uploading a scrambled computer program. But six months ago a bunch of programmers, WB9ANQ, WD0E, and N8MH recalled a **low level series of commands** that might allow an uplink receiver to be **directly connected** to a downlink transmitter. It worked! The uplink frequency is 145.920 MHz. FM, and the downlink is 437.026 MHz. SSB (that's right **Single Sideband** +/- Doppler shift). So now, if you have an all-mode transceiver with UHF SSB capability, you are good to go. Check out a016@amsat.org or e-mail Chuck Green for the skinny on this **new life for an old bird**.

Jeff Wall , KB7TIC

VE Report

Our congratulations to KARS Executive Director 2008, Gary Roth, **KE7IAT**, for passing his **Extra** Class License exam at the January 14, 2008 KARS VE examination session. The VE team will be processing his request to also serve as a VE with the ARRL VEC. Well done Gary! There is no stopping the creativity of your new Board either, as Megan Barrett, **KE7RCD**, XYL of your KARS 2008 Secretary, Tom Barrett Jr., **KD7JUS**, joined our ranks as a new Technician Class licensee. Every OM's dream is to have his XYL also be licensed! Megan is a competitor and aced the Technician Exam in record time

even giving the General Class a try (why not no additional charge at the same VE session). It won't be long before the Barrett's will be upgrading to General Class for sure. Our VE team extends our sincerest congratulations for their effort. Finally, we had a walk-in from Bonner's Ferry, **13 year old** Jimmy Jose Matthews, **KE7RCE**, who did an outstanding job on his first try for Technician Class. Our congratulations also go out to Jimmy (and his Elmer) for their effort, proving that you are **never too young to become a radio amateur.**

Next VE Exam Session is February 11, 2008 starting at 5:30PM at the Sheprock building at the CDA Airport. Call 208-765-5470, if you have questions or to reserve your exam appointment. John Hollar Jr., N7JU, KARS 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.

Our Personal Thanks to the 2008 KARS BOARD

Unexpectedly your **KARS 2008 Board of Directors** bestowed quite an honor upon the outgoing 2007 Board members with commemorative plaques to each retiring director. This recognition honored past service and in some involving cases many years. The new KARS Constitution & By-laws establishes *term limits* for Board members in order to "share the load" and to utilize the diverse talents of our expanding membership. Your new 2008 Board, right out of the gate, has clearly demonstrated they are up to the task. **KARS is in good hands** and I for one, along with all my fellow past directors, wish to thank them formally for their kind recognition. -. N7JU

HAARP –LWA Experiment a Success?

Thanks to a timely ARRL Bulletin, I had an opportunity to participate in the HAARP-LWA Moon Bounce experiment scheduled for Saturday, January 19, at 0600 GMT. Actually it was Friday evening the 18th at 10:00 PM PST. Tuning in on a frequency of 7,407.5, just above the 40 meter ham band, with my trusty Delta Loop I was able to copy both the 2-second, **CW** terrestrial transmitter burst from Utah, the short ¼ second pause, then the actual reflection from the Moon. The experimental frequency first used was 6,792.5 kHz, but it was out of range for my automatic antenna tuner. On the half hour, they switched to 7,407.5 kHz. That provided a good match for my antenna system tuning unit. The signals were quite good. I was able to record a few minutes of the experiment sending and e-mail and the wav file to the HARRP Research Facility at

Milepost 11.3, Gakona, Alaska, where ever the heck that is. I'll bring the recording to the next meeting if anyone wants to hear what happened. I've also been notified that a really cool SWL-QSL card is in the mail for my efforts. Over 1500 radio amateurs participated in the receive only experiment. HAARP stands for the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program. The goal of this program is to further advance our knowledge of the physical and electrical properties of the Earth's ionosphere which can affect our military and civilian communication and navigation systems. The HAARP program operates a world-class ionospheric research facility located in Gakona, Alaska. The HAARP research facility consists of two major subsystems: the HF transmitter used for the Moon bounce experiment, and "other" scientific, observational instruments that have been designed and built and which are also being installed at the site. The two subsystems are equal in research importance. The scientific observation instruments require a quiet electromagnetic location. Such quiet locations are only found away from cities and built up areas. This is one reason, for example, that optical telescopes are built on remote mountaintops: to avoid the optical "noise" associated with big cities. It reminded me of my old Sputnik & woodpecker days. – N7JU



HAARP LOCATION IN GAKONA, ALASKA

Rules for "The Drawings"

KARS sponsors two "Drawings", which provides fun for adventurous (and lucky) participants, and yields a small cash flow to the Club treasury. Here's how they work:

The "50 – 50" Drawing

All meeting attendees age 18 or over are eligible to participate. Tickets cost \$1.00 each. The participant writes his/her name or call sign on the gray ticket issued by the banker, and drops it in the "50 – 50 bucket". When the drawing takes place, the banker

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will randomly draw a ticket from the bucket and name the successful participant, who will claim 50% of the cash in the drawing. The other 50% goes to the Club treasury. It is certain that someone will win this drawing, and the value of the prize depends on how many people participate.

The "Membership" Drawing

All current Club members age 18 or over are eligible to participate. (A poker chip with name or call sign for each current club member has been placed in the "membership bucket"). Tickets cost \$1.00 each. The participant pays the banker, and is issued a red ticket. When the drawing takes place, the banker will randomly draw a poker chip from the bucket, and say the name or call sign that has been drawn. If that person is present, and has bought a Membership Drawing ticket, he/she takes the entire amount of cash in the drawing, less \$5.00 of "seed money" for future drawings. Possible winners are limited to Club members who are present and who bought a ticket. If there is not a winner at the current meeting, the jackpot accumulates until the next month's drawing.

Thanks Danny for making this offer, I'm sure anyone on the list would be interested in getting back an old, "fully serviced" QSL card.

(Original text from WWDXC reflector)

I collect old QSL cards, and bought an album of cards last week that belonged to W7HYJ in NE OREGON. They are mostly novice cards from WA OR ID and date from 1959-63. Here's a list of callsigns. I already found my buddy's K7LXC (make that KN7LXC) card in there and am sending it to him. At the time he had WAS of 8 worked 7 confirmed, and VE6 and VE7.

...ah those were the days!! Was hoping to find a KN7JCA card but no luck.

I will be glad to send along YOUR novice card if you send an SASE to K7SS if your own actual old card is in this list and you want it.

PLEASE FEEL FREE TO FORWARD THIS EMAIL TO OTHER NW REFLECTORS. I'm sending it to WWDXC and NCCC. Perhaps someone can forward to E WA, ID and WVDXC and other OREGON groups.

Here they are:

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.**

KN7JBT, KN7EUH, KN7HEU, K7KHV, KN7PZQ,
KN7PIC, KN7HSG, K7EYT, W7EIL, K7PJO,
KN7PIY, KN7HXI, K7JHZ, KN7JHZ, W7RWV,
KN7IIT, K7SKP, KN7THW, KN7INM, KN7UDG,
K7SZV, W7RZO, K7HSF, KN7KOV, K7KAA, KN7OFB,
KN7PBW, KN7TUH, KN7BKY, KN7IQZ, K7BBG,
KN7HPU, KN7OVX, KN7VEQ, KN7QEM, KN7PHP,
KN7SLF, K7KKH, KN7GFG, K7PTK, KN7EVS,
KN7GTY, K7KZR, KN7HWW, K7GOM, W7QJY,
KN7IWD, KN7PTS, K7OJR, KN7HOR, KN7KJM,
KN7RPU, KN7JBF, K7INH, KN7IAA, K7HOP,
KN7HFF, K7KQL, K7NDW, K7JEP, K7ZSW, WV6PWM,
WV6EGT, and KN0JXR.

73 and happy time to all...hope Santa will get you your original novice QSL card...

Danny K7SS
SASE TO:

Dan Eskenazi - NOVICE CARD
4821 51 Avenue SW
Seattle WA 98116

For Sale: WiFi Hot Spot

Proxim Orinico AP-4000 Complete System: Supports 802.11 a/b/g. Includes wired router; transceiver; coax; lightning arrestor; outdoor antenna. All you need is a broadband internet access and a 1 1/2 inch mast to mount the antenna. Asking \$500 for all. Contact Ed, AI7H ai7h@arrl.net

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

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

From across the Pond comes Bailey, AD7IP:
bailey barrett <bbar701@verizon.net> wrote:

Dear Marilyn and Ed,

Bailey has had his hands full for some time but now I am able to answer some of the messages again. Things are getting better and I am feeling a little stronger. Was in the hospital for three weeks and then spent another 16 days in a Rehab Facility to regain some of my strength. The Rehab was somewhat like a hotel but it had doctors, nurses and physical therapists and Bailey was able to go with me as a hotel guest. I really needed him since I was not able to do much myself. Anyway, we are now back at a friend's apartment and I am working at getting better. They want to do another surgery when I get strong enough but we don't know just yet when this will be. Will see the surgeon tomorrow to find out how the recovery is going. It looks like we will be away a little longer but we really miss being home and everything is still uncertain. We continue to pray for guidance, comfort and strength and also for wisdom for the doctors. Hope all is well at your house and you are not suffering too much during this cold spell you seem to be having. The weather here has been really mild and spring-like. Well, take care and God bless, Verena and Bailey

NEW EMCOMM SOFTWARE FOR WINDOWS NOW
AVAILABLE FOR BETA TESTING

The NarrowBand Emergency Messaging System (NBEMS) development team announced earlier this week that a Windows NBEMS software suite for beta testing is now available. NBEMS for Windows is a suite of software programs designed for point-to-point, error-free emergency messaging up to or over 100 miles distant.

According to developers Skip Teller, KH6TY and Dave Freese, W1HKJ, the NBEMS system is designed primarily for use on VHF and up, or on HF with Near Vertical Incidence Skywave (NVIS) antennas. The system uses the computer soundcard as the modem. Other than a simple interface connection between the computer and transceiver, no additional hardware is needed. Composing and sending emergency messages on NBEMS is no more difficult than sending e-mail via the Internet. All forwarding is done by stations manned by live operators on both

ends who can confirm that a frequency is clear locally, or negotiate a frequency change to avoid causing interference.

The NBEMS software can also be used for daily casual communications on PSK31, PSK63, RTTY or MFSK16 and is capable of sending flawless, high resolution, passport photo-sized color images in less than 10 minutes over any path that can sustain PSK250 without excessive repeats.

Radio amateurs are invited to participate in the beta test of the NBEMS. The NBEMS suite can be downloaded for beta testing from the NBEMS Web site <<http://wlhkj.com/NBEMS/>>. Send comments and bug reports via e-mail <kh6ty@comcast.net>.

Attention Boy Scouts and former Boy Scouts:

The 2008 KARS Board is considering offering to Merit Badge Counselors for the Radio Badge. We are also looking at the possibility of being advisors for the Electronics and Electricity Badges.

The local Scout Council is planning a Jamboree for April 19th at the Fairgrounds. I would like to offer a taste of what is available in Amateur Radio for prospective licencees. I plan on setting up a mini-Field Day for the boys with HF/VHF/UHF and digital modes. Is there anyone willing to set up an Amateur TV station?

Anybody interested please contact Gary Roth at:
KE7IAT@comcast.net or 509-993-8468.

Ten Strange Keyboards, for those who might want something new: <http://tinyurl.com/324ddx>. Or for those who would like to see some different CW keys: <http://oh6dc.cw.googlepages.com/strangeckwkeys>

Attention: Kootenai County ARES/RACES Members! Don't forget! New meeting location for monthly KC ARES/RACES meetings, County Admin Bldg-451 Government Way, Room 1A, Coeur d'Alene. The start time remains 6:30 p.m.

Refreshment Sign-Ups for the rest of the year:

02/11/08 - Marilyn Hannigan
03/10/08 - Margaret Telles
04/14/08 - Megan Barrett
05/12/08 - Cheryl Richmond



LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

JANUARY 2008

Designated Friends

By Mark J. Tharp, KB7HDX

kb7hdx@arrl.org

January 23, 2008

A little preparation can be a big help.

Scott, N7FSP, a friend of mine, called recently after he nearly died due to a misdiagnosis and shared a few thoughts with me. His story is not as important as the message he wanted to share with others in the amateur community and that is just what will happen to our stuff when we are gone. I don't want this to appear to be all gloom and doom, but let's face it, we are all going to become a silent key (SK) at some point. If that were to happen unexpectedly, do you have your shack in order? This article is to promote a bit of thought process when you are sitting in the shack, and the bands are a bit slow.

Some Things to Think About

Now as I write this, I am guilty of not being prepared myself, but I felt it more important to share this information with others, to get folks thinking about this before another untimely death leaves a survivor wondering just what to do with it all.

So, here are my suggestions, but I think they are sound ideas.

1. Like the title of this article states, designate a friend or two who can help if something were to happen to you. Ask them first, of course, and make sure others know about them. Perhaps even name them in your will. (You might check with your lawyer about this.)

2. Make an inventory of everything in your shack that you feel is worth more than a buck. Okay I know this may take

some time, but you can work on it waiting to nab that "rare one" or while listening in on the local net. If you have a box of things that are just miscellaneous items list them as such, but if you repack or rearrange them later, make a note in your list.

3. For all the items that are higher dollar amounts, list the price you paid and the amount it is worth now. You may need to update this every few years, but it will help those who need the help when the time comes. Just because you paid \$800 for it new does not make it worth that now. Many estate sales fall into this trap in that "well we paid that much for it." We all know that the value of gear drops pretty fast for most items, so let's give our survivors a good head start on the price.

4. Towers, masts and feed lines: If you are the only one on the planet who knows how you got that 85 foot tower up in your 60 x 20 back lot, let someone in on the secret. I have helped to take down many towers over the years and some of them were real buggers until we figured out how they were put up. Hams are *very* creative at tower installations, and when the procedure is lost with the original installer, things can go wrong. A map or diagram of how the feed lines and control cables are routed out of the shack and out to the antenna support is very handy as well.

5. Repeaters and packet nodes: These are another whole problem, if you are a packet sysop, or repeater owner, do you have a plan so your most often used equipment will continue to serve the amateur community? Does anyone know who your leases are with? Are they written or verbal? If verbal does anyone know whom to contact to make arrangements to take over the lease? And then what becomes of the equipment? Are you planning to donate it to a club or group if you depart this world? Or will someone be forced to have to deal with it after you're gone? I hold two leases for packet nodes with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. Do I have a "successor" for these sites? No, but I am working on it now. Do you have a written plan for your site?

This could go on forever with things to think about, but is intended to get your thought process going on just what will happen to your gear. I know I am going to work on mine so if anything happens, those who live on will not be left with a burden to remember me by. Much of this could have legal implications, so if you do have a will it would be beneficial to talk to your lawyer to insure what you have stated is what will actually be done.

Mark Tharp, KB7HDX, has been licensed since 1989. He is involved in search and rescue as well as other service organizations in the Yakima Valley. He is currently ARRL Eastern Washington Section Manager.

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



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 208 772-5767). Once past gate, bear left to the Shep Rock Building.

2008 CLUB OFFICERS

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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 sent 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.