

March 2008

(www.k7id.org)

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

### Monday, March 10

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

Speaker: Steven May, Idaho  
Public Safety

Program: Communications

Refreshments: Margaret Telles

### Monday, April 14

Search And Rescue Building  
7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Speaker: John Hollar, N7JU

Program: Philo Farnsworth and  
Television

Refreshments: Megan Barrett

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Dear Club Members and Friends

Here we are coming up on the third meeting of the year. I believe the snow is starting to melt around my house with only a two foot wall of snow down each side of the driveway. I have a list of new electronic toys to buy, but am afraid the UPS truck will not be able to negotiate my driveway so I will wait a few more weeks to place the order.

I am sorry I was not able to preside over the February KARS meeting, but had to handle family business out of state. I want to thank all the Board members for their support and especially Jeff for stepping up to the task on such short notice. A question was brought up about board meetings and who could attend. The answer to this question is that these meetings are always open to members, but locations vary and space and time are limited, so let me know in advance if you would like to attend.

This months speaker is Steven May, District 1 Supervisor, Military Division, Public Safety Communications for the State of Idaho. Steven is a busy man and has fit our club into his schedule. The information he will share will enlighten us all, so plan on attending.

Paid membership dues increased last month from 52 to 65 with 106 potential members on the roster. Dues help fund club activities so please renew your membership if you are one of those 41 unpaid potential members.

The March 10<sup>th</sup> meeting location will be at the same CAP building site. Our new building location and meeting date, starting in April, has been finalized. Please read Ed Stuckey's comments on this issue.

Continue to work on upgrading your skills and amateur license. Jim Linden passed his Extra Class at the last meeting and Gary Roth passed his Extra Class two meetings ago. These two individuals now join this select group, nice going guys. My simple problem sets can help you tune your skills and do not forget that the first unique prize will be awarded at the March meeting.

I received a call from the lady who coordinates the Boy Scout Jamboree at the Fairgrounds and she would like our group back this year. She said we could have the same location, which will be much quieter with the noisy activities located elsewhere. Let's discuss at the meeting. We should also have time at the March

(continued on page 2)

meeting to discuss any new projects, kits built or unique contacts made, so come prepared to share your project and hopefully show and tell.

If winter still has you housebound, try visiting the Cabela store near State Line. It is like a destination spot where you can buy fudge made on the premises, enjoy coffee and a wild game sandwich while you shop till you drop. Almost as much fun as spending a day in a real World War 2 Surplus Electronics store.

Ed Hannigan KE7FOW  
Club President

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The KARS March 10<sup>th</sup> program features **Steven May**, District 1 Supervisor, Military Division, **Public Safety Communications** for the State of Idaho. Steven, received his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy in 1999 serving in the Pacific, Asia, Middle East and European theaters on various U.S. Navy Subsurface and Surface craft. (*We could tell you which ones but then we'd have to kill you!* KB7TIC). Coming from a highly technical military communications career, he was a hot commodity for a Silicon Valley company snagging him for a time as a civilian Program Manager/Engineer working in the Middle East. Soon after, the U.S Air Force put in a bid for his talents in Montana for 3 ½ years. The lure of Northern Idaho soon emerged with a new opportunity for qualified communications engineers in expanding the state's organization for Homeland Security where he now finds himself as **District 1 Supervisor for Public Safety Communications**. Earning his BS in Information Technology and Computer Management, from Southern Illinois University, Steve met and married fellow student Ms. Connie Friedman, life mates for 22 years. His exclusive KARS presentation should be of great interest. Steve will take us through the Public Safety Communications efforts of the State of Idaho, its history, structure, and mission. He'll then explain the objectives of

his office and its future communications plans. "Unifying Technology" going hand in hand with public service in working with the federal, state, and local government is the essence of his talk. There might even be some recommendations as to how we as volunteer communicators can lend a hand in the effort. Steve has been a good friend to KARS assisting us in the facilitation of our public service communications efforts. You won't want to miss Steven's exclusive presentation to the KARS membership. We feel this program is so important we've invited other county EOC members and RACES/ARES organizations to join us. Bring your questions, and meet and greet **Steven May** at the March 10<sup>th</sup> KARS meeting beginning at 7:00PM - **KB7TIC**

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Who was **Philo T. Farnsworth**? If you live and breathe in the great state of Idaho, you need to know all about Philo T. Farnsworth. The **real inventor of television** and first to demonstrate electronic scanning, transmitting, and reception of moving electronic images that changed the way we live. David Sarnoff, celebrated founder of NBC and head of RCA (and who claims, as a boy, to have been the first to actually decode the Morse SOS message from the Titanic - *honk!*) spent twenty years trying to lay claim and credit for all of Farnsworth's designs. He was determined to control television in the way he monopolized radio by owning all the royalty producing patents. N7JU will overview this story and give you insights to the man, his life and times along with the brutal process that has certainly changed the way creativity is exercised in today's litigious society. **April 14<sup>th</sup>. 2008 KARS Meeting** at the SAR Facility **Kootenai County Search & Rescue, 10865 N. Ramsey, Hayden, ID 83835.**



Rigby Idaho - Home of  
Philo T Farnsworth inventor of Television

**AMSAT seeks a Geostationary Orbit** A resolution of ARRL support was adopted by the Board for AMSAT's initiative seeking access to an in-geostationary orbit. AMSAT is in consultation with Intelsat regarding an **Intelsat** platform application carrying amateur satellites into geostationary orbit, with potential benefits for emergency communications. AMSAT has been the principal initiator of projects in the Amateur Satellite Service and continues to play a key role in significantly advancing the state of the art in space science, space education and space technology. Think about that for a moment. A dependable satellite at a fixed location in the sky (no tracking) providing reliable hemispherical low power communications. What a concept.

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### **American Red Cross Ignores Amateur Radio –Again!**

Atlantic Division Director Bill Edgar, N3LLR, presented the final report of the Ad Hoc Background Investigation Committee in the matter of Red Cross background *AND MODE OF LIVING CHECKS*. He reported that there is no Statement of Understanding with the American Red Cross (ARC) at this time, since the previous SOU expired in September 2007. The Committee has communicated to ARC that there are still conflicts with the ARC's background investigation policy as compared to the published statements of its on-line background investigation contractor. ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, has written to ARC, but as yet there has been **no formal response**. The remaining issues related to credentialing and to renewal of the expired SOU with the Red Cross were referred to the ARRL Programs and Services Committee and to staff. *Perhaps there are a few other area efforts more deserving of our financial and voluntary support than this consistently arrogant and contentious money hungry organization! –op. N7JU*

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### **KARS VE TEAM Announces February Upgrades.**

The February 11 2008 VE session found Edwin M. Neilson, N7EDN, Jim I. Linden, N7JIL, and Bryson R. Adams, KD7NWL, all advancing to **Extra Class** with our congratulations for a lot of hard work. Michael L. Venovich, KD7QCY, advanced to General Class, and new comers Gayle, KE7RRW, and Charles, KE7RRX, Solomon passed their Technician Class Licenses and are awaiting their call letters as of this release.

Next Session will be **March 10<sup>th</sup>** at **5:30PM** at the Shep Rock Building. Be sure to call N7JU for an appointment at 208-765-5470; or if you have any questions concerning ARRL VE testing. **SPOKANE, WA** - Register to test in Spokane this month by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail [aa7rt@arrl.net](mailto:aa7rt@arrl.net) for dates, locations and times.

**Best Kept TV Secret in America** Millions of Americans will wake up on February 18, 2009 to *snow* on their television sets. Waiting in the wings is another government plan pushing everyone who has learned to accept a *forced local television* market (in another state) to dump their perfectly dependable TV sets in favor of either a cheap, disposable Chinese knock-off TV; or to install more wires and boxes to make the old one even receive a picture. Never mind that the remote control won't work any more; and those translators for providing local service *because local service was never local*, will go dark. The solution? Millions of **\$40 government coupons** now available to **help low-tech** (?) television owners buy special converter boxes for **older TVs** that won't work after the switch to digital broadcasting. Beginning Feb. 18, 2009, anyone who does not own a digital set and still gets their programming via over-the-air antennas will no longer receive a picture. That's the day the television industry completes its transition from old-style analog broadcasting to digital. The converter boxes are expected to cost between \$50 and \$70 so you'll still have to shell out up to \$30 dollars to hang a box on your old TV to receive one of the new funky under scanned digital pictures. The boxes will be available at most major electronics retail Big Box stores. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration has begun accepting requests for two \$40 coupons **per household** to be used toward the purchase of the boxes. Viewers who have satellite or cable service will not need a box other than the ones they already have. To request a coupon, consumers can apply on-line at [www.dtv2009.gov](http://www.dtv2009.gov). The government also has set up a 24-hour hotline to take requests but the line is constantly busy,

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### **The Idaho QSO Party (IQP)**

Club members may wish to participate in the Idaho QSO Party, which will run from 11AM to 11AM PST (1900Z to 1900Z) on Saturday/Sunday, March 8-9, 2008.

This is an "Operating Event", designed to help folks in the other 49 states and foreign countries get QSO's with those rare Idaho Amateur Radio stations (that's us). The IQP is a fairly new event, now in its third year. Visit [www.nx7tt.com](http://www.nx7tt.com), and click the "IQP Rules" button for complete details.

If you need help preparing for the event, contact me – [ai7h@arrl.net](mailto:ai7h@arrl.net)

Good luck and 73 – Ed, AI7H



## New KARS Meeting Site

At the January meeting, a proposal for a new Club meeting site was shown. This new meeting site is the "Kootenai County Search and Rescue Building" (the SAR Building), and it is quite close to our current meeting place, ¼ mile north of Miles Ave., at 10865 N. Ramsey Road. After discussion, it was agreed that the Club should move to the new site beginning in April. At the time of the KARS meeting, it was our understanding that we would have to change the meeting date to the second Tuesday of the month. Since that time, with assistance from Club member Bob Kesson (K7CGA), the SAR Council has agreed that it is OK for KARS to use the building on the second Monday of the month, so no change to our meeting date is required. We look forward to moving to a new and larger meeting site for KARS Club meetings.

*Contributed by Ed, AI7H*

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## **K7ID.COM is dead! Long live K7ID.ORG!**

Effective February 28, 2008, K7ID.com has been changed to K7ID.org. Larry Telles, K6SPP, and John Hollar, N7JU, will be presenting the new website and explaining the new features and capabilities.

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## **FCC Denies Petitions to Bring Back CW**

In a *Memorandum Opinion and Order* ([MOO](#)) released today, the FCC denied [two petitions](#) calling for General or Amateur Extra license applicants to demonstrate proficiency in Morse code. In December 2006, the FCC released a *Report and Order* ([R&O](#)) in the "Morse code proceeding," WT Docket 05-235, that eliminated Morse code testing as of February 23, 2007.

### **Background**

The *R&O* amended Section 97.501 to remove the telegraphy requirement. In reaching this decision, the FCC noted in the *R&O* that "one of the fundamental purposes underlying our Part 97 rules is to accommodate amateur radio operators' ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, and that the Commission had previously concluded that an individual's ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency is not necessarily indicative of his or her ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art." The FCC also noted that another fundamental purpose underlying Part 97 rules is "to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public, particularly with respect to emergency communications, and that the Commission had

**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.**

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previously concluded that most emergency communication today is performed using voice, data, or video modes, because information can be exchanged much faster using modes of communication other than telegraphy."

The Commission therefore concluded that requiring an individual to demonstrate Morse code proficiency as a licensing requirement "did not further the purposes of the Part 97 rules." The Commission also found that this reasoning applied equally to the General Class and the Amateur Extra Class, so "it rejected suggestions that the Morse code requirement be eliminated for the General Class license but retained for the Amateur Extra Class license."

In the wake of the FCC's actions in WT Docket 05-235, , two amateurs submitted separate petitions to the FCC, asking them to bring back the testing. Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM, of West Covina California, [objected](#) to the FCC eliminating the telegraphy examination element as an examination requirement for the Amateur Extra Class operator license. Russell D. Ward, W4NI, of Nashville, Tennessee, [requested](#) the FCC reconsider their decision for "strictly procedural" reasons.

### **Anthony R. Gordon, KG6EQM**

Gordon asserts that "the failure to keep the Morse code telegraphy requirement intact, at least as a required examination element for the Amateur Extra Class operator license, fails to take into consideration the significant

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!!!

national security implications that require retaining adequate examination safeguards to insure the viability that Morse code telegraphy provides, not only to the Amateur service, but the nation as well.” Gordon argues that the requirement should be retained so that amateur operators can act as “a ‘strategic reserve,’” because there is “no assurance that...voice or digital modes will even be operationally viable in future emergency communication environments.”

The FCC was not persuaded, however, that eliminating the Morse code examination element will affect national security or emergency communications. “We agree with the commenters who point out that requiring applicants to pass a one-time telegraphy examination did not and would not guarantee a supply of skilled telegraphy operators. Moreover, nothing in the Commission’s decision prevents an interested amateur radio operator from pursuing Morse code proficiency.”

The FCC reiterated their prior conclusion that “an individual’s ability to demonstrate Morse code proficiency does not further the underlying purposes of the Part 97 rules, i.e., to accommodate individual contributions to the advancement of the radio art and to enhance the value of the amateur service to the public. Accordingly, we deny the petition.”

#### **Russell D. Ward, W4NI**

In the *MOO*, Ward states that he “encountered difficulty” in submitting his comments and reply comments to the NPRM electronically and that his filings were not posted on the [ECFS](#) (the Commission’s electronic filing system) until after the deadlines had passed. He asserts that “there is no certainty that the Commission considered his comments and reply comments, that the late posting of his comments prevented others from replying to them, and that it is ‘quite likely that other comments were treated improperly.’” As a result, Ward requested that the FCC “stay the proceeding, reopen the record and reconsider the NPRM after the close of the extended comment period.”

The FCC claims that all comments in the ECFS “were considered before the Commission adopted the *Report and Order*, regardless of the how or when they were filed. Moreover, many of the 3900 comments and reply comments expressed the same view as Mr. Ward, so the substance of his views unquestionably was replied to and considered. Finally, he provides no evidence that ECFS mishandled other comments. No other party has complained that his or her comments were not received. We conclude, therefore, that reopening the proceeding for additional comments is not justified, and we deny the petition.”

#### **No Grounds for Reconsideration**

In summary, the FCC said, neither petition asserted “any grounds for reconsidering” the decision in the *Report and Order*. “We believe that the actions taken therein will allow amateur service licensees to better fulfill the purpose of the amateur service, and will enhance the usefulness of the amateur service to the public and licensees.”

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#### **ISS repeater contacts valid for JAMSAT Five Star Award**

It has been announced on the AMSAT Bulletin Board that contacts via the International Space Station (ISS) repeater will be valid for the *JAMSAT Five Star Award*.

JAMSAT’s goal is to get more activity on amateur radio satellite communications, to get more hams interested in this aspect of the hobby and to protect the frequency allocations of the amateur satellites.

To gain this award an applicant is required to establish a QSO with five (5) different stations over five (5) different Satellites. (Total 25 QSL Cards required)

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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](mailto:KE7IAT@comcast.net) or 509-993-8468.

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#### **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:

03/10/08 - Margaret Telles  
04/14/08 - Megan Barrett  
05/12/08 - Cheryl Richmond



## LEAGUE BULLETINS FROM NEWINGTON

MARCH 2008

**Wisconsin Hams Assist Injured Driver:** On Wednesday, February 27, Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC, of Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin, received a radio call on the 147.150 Madison repeater requesting emergency help. Robert Stout, WB9ECK, of Monticello, Wisconsin, told Sprecher that a vehicle had gone off the road through a guard rail, stopping short of a creek. The driver was injured and trapped in his vehicle and an ambulance was needed at the scene. Sprecher called the Dane County sheriff's office to relay the information. Stout, via the repeater, kept Sprecher apprised of the driver's injuries; Sprecher, in turn, updated the sheriff's dispatch with the information. Stout remained at the scene providing aid until local police arrived. Sprecher relayed all information to the dispatcher until local authorities arrived and assumed control. "It sounds like the guy drove off the road through a guard rail and may have not been found had it not been for WB9ECK. It was also unknown how long the driver had been over the embankment before being found. This could have been a lot worse had WB9ECK not become involved," Sprecher said. — Information provided by Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC

**500 kHz Distance Record Broken Again:** On February 21, Neil Schwanitz, V73NS/WD8CRT, on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, received a signal from experimental station WD2XSH/6. This experimental station, operated by Pat Hamel, W5THT, is located in Long Beach, Mississippi — 6679 miles away from the island in the Kwajalein atoll. This contact breaks the previous record for the longest 500 kHz contact. That record, set in January 2008, was for a distance of 4737 miles from Cottage Grove, Oregon to Roi-Namur. An article on Hamel's station appears in the March issue of QST. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 20 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio <http://www.500kc.com>. Additional information can be found at

the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>.

— Information provided by Fritz Raab, W1FR

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**Los Angeles County Hams Honored for Community Service:** On February 27, members of the Disaster Communications Service (DCS), based at the Carson Sheriff Station, received individual and group awards from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, the Carson Sheriff Station Support Foundation and the City of Carson, California for their participation in a wide range of both planned and emergent events. These 27 Amateur Radio operators provided almost 8000 hours of service to the agencies, including assisting in providing assistance during a bicycle race, tactical alerts due to civil unrest, funerals for fallen deputy sheriffs and the fires that plagued Southern California. Members of their Rapid Deployment Team spent five days on Catalina Island, serving as the primary means of communication between the island and the mainland until telephone systems were restored. The service provided by the Carson Station DCS volunteers saved the taxpayers of Los Angeles County almost \$320,000, "but more importantly, they selflessly provided an invaluable service that is a critical component to the safety of our communities and families," the DCS coordinator said. Thirteen deputies, a firefighter, two station volunteers and two citizens were also recognized in the second annual event that pays tribute to Carson sheriff's deputies and supporters for their work in the city. More information can be found at the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Web page <http://lacadcs.com/carson-awards-endpage.html>.

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**ARRL Handbook a "Must-Have" for Broadcast Industry:** A broadcast industry trade publication has named "The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications" as the top-rated reference book of broadcast engineers. In an article <http://radioworld.com/pages/s.0047/t.11230.html> February 13 edition of "Radio World," the various annual versions of the "Handbook" received the most mentions of necessary literature on the engineer's desk. Doug Fearn, K3KW, an independent hand crafter of audio equipment and a former chief engineer, said, "Not only did I learn electronics from that book, but the old editions are superb examples of how to explain things clearly." Andy Butler, senior director for systems engineering at PBS and a former president of the Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE), also recommended the "Handbook," calling it "The best, most comprehensive, cheapest guide to technology you will ever need."

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: \_\_\_\_\_

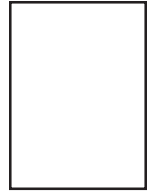
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

*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**



## **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.