

August 2008

(www.k7id.org)

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

### Monday, August 11

Search And Rescue Building  
Program: Larry Telles and Randy  
Carlson, LINUX  
Refreshments: Jean Carlson

### Monday, September 8

Search and Rescue Building  
Program: Exchange Program with  
Spokane DX Club  
Refreshments: Leanne Carney

## SOCIAL EVENTS:

### Ice Cream Social

Saturday, August 23 - Time 2 PM  
Contact Ed Hannigan for further  
information.

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Dear Club Members

Great attendance at the July meeting, I counted 35 heads. The newsletter was delayed and sent out late for July, but a focused effort will be made to electronically send out future newsletters by the 1st of each month. This effort means that any newsletter input needs to be to Gary NLT the 25th of the month.

There are so many summer activities that compete with our discretionary time, I hope you are keeping up. I know I am barely staying up with all the events I want to do and attend and I am retired.

July's meeting featured Bob Kesson with a presentation on digital communication (D-STAR). This is exciting technology that offers voice clarity unavailable with analog technology. Cost and availability are an issue that each of us must resolve before we make this jump to digital.

The pancake breakfast at the Carlson's was great as usual with good food and fellowship.

The time is quickly approaching when you need to start thinking about future club officers for next year. I will discuss setting up a committee at our next meeting to help identify candidates .

The Ice Cream Social will be held this year on August 23rd as planned, but not at Bob Kesson's house as he and Bonnie will be out of town. Look for details in this newsletter about this event.

Ed Hannigan, KE7FOW  
Club President

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*August already??*

Where has the year gone?

Thanks again to **Bob, K7CGA**, for his presentation on D-STAR at the July meeting!

Saturday morning July 19, was a cool and beautiful day out at **Randy & Jean's** in Garwood. The pancakes, eggs, & sausage were flying off the grill, coffee and OJ rounded out the menu. Great food and friends made for a fun morning! Thanks to **Randy & Jean Carlson** for inviting us all to their home for this great event each year!

Saturday, August 9th, **Ed, AI7H**, and I will be promoting Amateur Radio (and this club) at the LDS Church in Post Falls. They are putting on an emergency preparedness fair. KCFR, Red Cross, and other disaster organizations will be there also.

The August meeting will feature our members **Larry, K6SPP**, and **Randy, KB6YAV**, presenting an alternative to using MS Windows. The operating system is known as Linux. They have a lot of ham radio related software for Linux.

*See ya'll there- 73 KB7TIC Jeff*

## KARS ICE-CREAM SOCIAL

WHEN: AUGUST 23rd ( SATURDAY)

TIME: 2 PM TO WHATEVER ( this is my favorite word)

LOCATION: ED & MARILYNS HOUSE ( 14329 Angler Ct. , Hayden 83835 ). Approx. 1&1/2 miles East of Hwy. 95 and ¼ mile South of Hudlow. Off of Rimrock- Google map works great to locate ).

FOOD: The club and Hannigan's will provide burgers and ice-cream.

## EVENTS / ACTIVITIES:

- Eating
- Horse Shoe Pitching 101
- Basic Bocce Ball
- Introduction to chainsaw use and wood splitting
- Eating
- ATV rides
- Walk in the woods
- B-B gun target shoot
- Eating
- Swing rides on tall swing
- Chicken foot game played with dominos
- Set up and try out a homemade antenna

Please RSVP no later than August 11th and bring a folding chair.

## Problem Set For August:

Keep the brain cells active this summer by solving these two problems.

#1. Ed goes into a restaurant for his favorite meal, which is breakfast. He notices that a bacon and cheese omelet costs \$7.75. A bacon omelet costs \$7.00 and a cheese omelet costs \$6.75. With this information, what would Ed expect to pay for a plain omelet?

#2. What is the peak-to-peak value of a 120-V RMS ac wave?

Submit your answers at the next meeting and win a unique prize.

Ed KE7FOW

Please support Ed Stuckey, past KARS President for 2006 & 2007, as he pursues the position of ARRL Section Manager for Idaho.

As an ARRL member your ballot should be in your hands. If you have not received your ballot then contact ARRL.

Ed is a dedicated supporter of Amateur Radio and will serve our Community and State with unbounded enthusiasm.

**SPOKANE, WA** - Register to test in Spokane in September by calling **Mary, AA7RT** at 509-991-2192 or e-mail [aa7rt@arrl.net](mailto:aa7rt@arrl.net) for dates, locations and times.

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**Attention: Kootenai County ARES/RACES**

**Members!** Don't forget! New meeting location for monthly KC ARES/RACES meetings, Civil Air Patrol, Sheprock Building, Coeur d'Alene Airport. The start time remains 6:30 p.m.

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**Refreshment Sign-Ups for the rest of the year:**

04/14/08 - Megan Barrett  
05/12/08 - Cheryl Richmond  
06/13/08 - Pre-Hamfest Potluck  
07/14//08 - Lani Hopkins  
08/11/08 - Jean Carlson  
09/08/08 - Leanne Carney  
10/13/08 - Chris Monroe  
11/10/08 - Gary Roth  
12/08/08 - Christmas Potluck

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**ARRL MEMBERSHIP FUNDRAISING PROGRAM FOR KARS**

Would you like to help our meager Treasury earn some money to help keep our repeater going and /or other projects for the club? Well you can do that without much effort.

Thinking of joining ARRL for the first time? New members who join through the club earn \$15 for the club.

If you are getting ready to renew your ARRL membership just do it through the club. It's easy and our club receives \$2 for each membership renewal.

Treasurer Tom, NI7W, has a special membership form for you to use and all you have to do is give him \$39 cash or a check payable to KARS for the same and he will take care of the rest. The forms will be available at each meeting and the renewals from that meeting will go in within a day or 2 of the meeting. Renewing through KARS even saves you the cost of the stamp!

**WHY WOULD I WANT TO JOIN ARRL?**

ARRL is the only national organization representing Amateur Radio in the US. As an ARRL member you support the ranks of thousands of other ham radio enthusiasts shaping the Amateur Radio service today.

If you consider yourself an active ham... you need ARRL now. If you are a new ham... let ARRL help you.

As a member of the ARRL, for as little as \$39.00 per year, here are some of the benefits you will enjoy:

- **QST Magazine – the monthly membership journal**
- **Online Services –**
  - E-mail forwarding
  - E-Newsletters – delivered to your inbox
  - *QST, QEX* and *NCJ* article index
- **A voice in the affairs of ARRL and ham radio through locally appointed volunteers**
- **Publication Specials and on-line course discounts**
- **Technical and Regulatory Information Services**
- **Operating Awards**
- **Ham Radio Equipment Insurance Plan Available**
- **Outgoing Foreign QSL Service**

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If you would like to use the club callsign, K7ID, contact Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX, or any of the KARS Board members. They have the approval forms available.

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**HF Digital Voice Programs Once Again Available for Download**

According to QST Editor Steve Ford, WB8IMY, tuning in a WinDRM signal amounts to little more than lining up the three vertical bars under the red markers at the top of the waterfall window. Watch the column of "state" indicators along the left side of the waterfall display. When they all go black, you should hear audio.

Citing codec (coding/decoding) licensing issues, three free *Windows* programs for sound card-based HF digital voice were yanked from their download site for a short time recently, surprising hams who are interested in HF digital voice operation; several online groups that supported the software were also closed for a short time.

*WinDRM, DRMDV* and *FDMDV*, all written by Cesco Lanza, HB9TLK, used a codec that was developed for the US Department of Defense and NATO. Rights to various forms of the codec are held by several companies; they

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have never been released for free distribution and use by hams. According to Gary Pearce, KN4AQ, the companies have “winked” at ham radio use for several years, but a recent complaint caused the programs to be pulled from the download site. “Lanza did a quick rewrite to use an open-source codec, and now *WinDRM* and *FDMDV* are back,” Pearce said. “*DRMDV*, an intermediate program between the other two, has been abandoned. *WinDRM* could always use the open-source Speex codec, but *FDMDV* users will need to download the new version.”

Pearce said these three programs all allow hams to transmit and receive digital voice by connecting their PC sound card to an ordinary SSB transceiver: “The result has been surprisingly high quality audio, with virtually no noise — sort of like listening to FM, but in the narrow bandwidth of a sideband signal. *WinDRM*, the best sounding program, uses 2.5 kHz of spectrum. *FDMDV* sounds a little rougher, but uses only 1.1 kHz of spectrum. They both use OFDM modulation, a set of close-spaced carriers that are each modulated with a little bit of data to add up to the final digital signal. The main problem with HF digital voice is that it needs fairly strong signals. *FDMDV* works with weaker signals than *WinDRM*.”

Pearce said that none of the available open-source codecs work as well as the old one: “[MELP](#), or Mixed Excitation Linear Prediction, was designed specifically for high-quality, low data-rate voice communication. So the on-air audio might suffer some with the new version. Digital voice users have been waiting and hoping for someone to concentrate on developing a codec optimized for ham radio use, but none has been forthcoming.”

*FDMDV* and *WinDRM* can both be downloaded from Jason Buchanan’s, N1SU, [Web site](#).

The AOR digital voice modems and D-STAR radios both use the AMBE 2020 vocoder, and are not affected with the coding changes; the AMBE 2020 vocoder is a proprietary chip that is embedded in each unit.

For more information on *WinDRM*, check out *QST* Editor Steve Ford’s, WB8IMY, article [“Life Could Be a DReaM,” pages 38-40] in the April 2007 issue of *QST*.

#### **W1AW/KL7 to hit the airwaves July 26** (Jul 25, 2008)

— Special event station W1AW/KL7 will be on the air from grid square BP56 July 26-August 10 on all bands from 160-6 meters. This ARRL [2008 Alaska State Convention](#) Special Event Station plans to run two HF stations operating CW, SSB and digital, one satellite station and one station devoted to 146.52 MHz. The Convention itself runs from August 1-4 in Anchorage.

**COFFEE & DONUTS**  
**EVERY WEDNESDAY MORNING**

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



**Pleasant Land Books  
& Espresso,**

**8052 W. Main,  
Rathdrum, ID  
(208) 687-3100**

Bring a writing instrument. Pleasant Land Books has the napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

#### **Missing Hams!**

When the Club recently mailed postcards to local hams for the May “Meet and Greet” party, we were surprised at the number returned because of invalid addresses. If you know any of the hams listed below, please contact them and invite them to a future Club meeting. Additionally, our VE team can aid hams who need to execute a change-of-address transaction with the FCC. If the FCC sends you any correspondence and it is returned as undeliverable, your license will be suspended.

N4LWP, David Gilmore, CDA; KD5EBC, Bennett Sanderson, CDA; KD6GM, James Prichard, Post Falls; KE6KGG, Chilton Fickel, Post Falls; KE6KMB, David Noyer, CDA; N6JTR, James King, Hayden; K7PCU, Vernon Nelson, CDA; KA7OWC, Viviana Finney, CDA; KA7QKL, Frederick Moore, Post Falls; KA7RAE, Jack Carver, Post Falls; KA7ZEK, Robert Cameron, CDA; KB7TEN, Frank Spuler, Hauser; KB7UAP, Terry Anderson, CDA; KC7YZK, Raymond Tucker, Hayden; KD7CNL, Douglas Hooker, Post Falls; KD7DEP, Brad Hogeweide, CDA; KD7DZX, Dan Rutler, Rathdrum; KD7QHW, Doug Duncan, CDA; KD7JOM, Mallorely Anderson, Hayden; KD7JSE, Nicholas Marchant, Post Falls; KE7DKK, Duane Wolff, Hayden; KJ7AQ, Tovia Mykkanen, CDA; N7AHL, Philip Munts, Hayden; N7AWA, Donald Johnson, Post Falls; N7IRF, Beverly McGaughey, Rathdrum; N7WNP, Ellis Hanna, Hayden; WA7FQK, Oliver Holo, Post Falls; and KG0HD, Kurt Andersen, Hayden.

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

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

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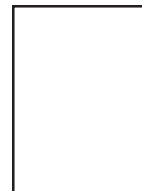
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ CALL: \_\_\_\_\_ CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

*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). Instead of proceeding west from the corner of Miles and Ramsey, go north about ¼ mile, to the first building on the left (West) side of the road.

## **2008 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Ed Hannigan, KE7FOW  
208 818-7235 naginnah@jrcda.com

Vice-President: Jeff Wall, KB7TIC  
208 640-7455 KB7TIC@gmail.com

Executive Director: Gary Roth, KE7IAT  
509 993-8468 KE7IAT@comcast.net

Secretary: Thomas Barrett, KD7JUS  
208 818-2039 KD7JUS@arrl.net

Treasurer: Tom Richmond, NI7W  
208 772-0907 NI7W@arrl.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 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.