

August 2010

(www.k7id.org)

P.O. Box 1765 Hayden, ID 83835-1765

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, August 9
Search & Rescue Bldg.,
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: Portable IRLP Node
Presenter: Rex Franklin,
W7UZO

Upcoming Social Events

KARS Ice Cream Social
August 21 - 2:00 p.m.
Bob and Bonnie Kesson Home
2531 E. Hanley St., CdA

Spokane Hamfest - Sep 25
University High School
Spokane Valley, Washington

President's Message:

Our **June project construction** meeting was a great success. We had over 23 builders and some “*Elmers*” (helpers) assisting in the construction of, from scratch, five VHF antenna portable or base station designs. By far, the most popular design was the **DBJ1** two-band (2m/70cm) antenna. There were a few glitches along the way, one being getting the shield and center conductor reversed on the tuning stub; along with pre-formed RG58 coax to BNC cable lengths we ordered using *tin foil shielding* that couldn't be soldered (easily). We switched to the standard RG58 and RG174 transmission lines and had plenty of crimp-connectors to make custom lead-ins that saved the day. After all was said and done, everyone who wanted one, walked out with an *operational antenna* with respectable SWR (1.2 to 1.7 on average) for about 1 ½ hours work. Those few folks not wishing to build anything either helped the others or enjoyed a nice “eye-ball QSO” (in the back of the room) amid the *pandemonium*. Fortunately, no one cut themselves with the sharp knives we were using to prepare the templates and clean up was quick and easy after the meeting. A special thanks goes to Ron Kimberling, **KE7SKL** for assisting the *template* table and measuring out the twin-lead and coax cable at the start of each antenna project. Also, our appreciation goes to Larry Telles, **K6SPP**, K7ID.org Webmaster (and resident photographer) and this year's construction program coordinator; Ed Hannigan, **KE7FOW**, KARS Past President, for assisting with tools (and lending us some actual *Ed Fong* antenna designs and who was the inspiration to even try a construction event at a regular meeting); then there was Randy Carlson **KB7YAV**, our refreshments coordinator with excellent coffee and snacks; and Ray Miles, **N7LNA**, who assisted in building and tuning the completed antennas. The one thing we all noticed was how everyone seemed to assist everyone else in small groups to complete their projects. The “techies” and “builders”... like Alan Campbell, **KE7DFT**, KARS Executive Director, Gary Roth, **KE7IAT**, KARS Propagation Editor, and Ted Graff, **K7TED**, to name a few, were a huge help in the project. I hope you enjoy some of the *meeting photos* and remember this event. Hopefully we can do something like this next year. And, oh, by the way, if you didn't get to attend the event and would still like to build one of these antennas, we have a limited supply of parts “kits” and specifications for the **DBJ1** and the single VHF band unit for \$10.00 and \$8.00, respectively. Send your request to N7JU@arrl.net and we'll put a “kit” together for you. However, you'll have to build yourself.

We have a real treat for the **August 12th. KARS General meeting**. We've had an opportunity to view our guest speaker's, Rex Franklin's, **W7UZO**, presentation. His low power (1W) portable **IRLP node**, small and light enough to

be *carried along* when traveling, is spectacular enough, **but** Rex has expanded his information to include an area profile of operational IRLP stations and procedures so that many of us may be able to use these systems easily. With sunspots acting goofy and ham radio on the rise, IRLP offers a really neat way to enjoy ham radio anywhere, any place (in the world), and any time of day or night. Rex joined us at the July meeting and also built an antenna, and in addition, had an opportunity to meet many of our members. I hope you'll come on out to hear what he has to offer, and join us in supporting his quest for a QST article on his project. We plan to be his first "gig" and will be taking a lot of photos in the hopes of adding our club interest to support his article. Rex will also be receiving our prestigious **KARS Presenter's Award**.

August is also the traditional month for the **KARS ICE CREAM SOCIAL**, this year hosted once again at the remarkably beautiful outdoor setting at Bob, **K7CGA**, and Bonnie, **KE7FP**, Kesson's home. The location is 2531 E. Hanley St., in Coeur d'Alene, ID. It's easy to find. From the 15th St. Exit on route US 90, go north on 15th and turn East on to Hanley, and then go to the very end. Talk-in will be on **98** with any last minute weather cancellation announcement on the 98-voice radio bulletin board. The date is **Saturday August 21st, 2010**, gathering around 2:00PM (till stuffed, i.e., 4:00 PM). It's traditional for each to bring some home baked items: **cookies, favorite drinks, cake, pie, fudge, folding lawn chairs**, and of course, **a pint or two of your favorite Ice Cream for sharing**. It's also a great time to invite family members or long-time friends of KARS. In the past, it has been a very pleasant afternoon and we've been really lucky to have nice weather. In the event of rain we'll have to cancel, as it is primarily an outdoor affair, so let's hope the North Idaho summer weather holds. – N7JU

JULY KARS ANTENNA CONSTRUCTION MEETING



**COFFEE & DONUTS
EVERY THURSDAY MORNING**

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

**The Golden Spike
Community Center
Rathdrum**



**TALK-IN: 146.98
100 PL**

Bring a writing instrument. The Golden Spike has the napkins for our breakfast table engineering!



JUNE - JULY VE TESTING

The rush to test before the new Technician exams arrived did not happen. Three Techs showed up to take the General test: Dustin, K7JZY, Norman, KF7JZY, and Glen, KE7NEQ. All three are now General Class Operators. James Ackerman tried for Tech and passed. He is now, KF7KTI. Robert Garner took the Tech and passed, then took the General and passed that one also. He is now KF7KTJ. Mark McMillian, W7MEM, decided at the last minute (without studying) to try the Extra Class. He didn't make it, but he now knows what it looks like when he tries it again. Six applicants and seven tests. Last, but not least, the new Technician exams are here and it will be very interesting to see how many pass this new test at the July meeting. I had a look at a couple of different tests, and the content isn't much different than the previous. The only big change appears to be the addition of schematics. Those questions focus around not what it is, but what do some of the symbols mean.

July testing session was more of the same. Two seniors came by to get their expired license renewed. So the big question is, did the hype drive people away from taking the new tests?

From Jack, K7JMC: I just got off the phone with Steve McQuiston! He is alive and well in the great state of Arizona. He has re-joined a former wife and they've been together for two years now. What with having a sister in the area, Steve is a happy guy.

KARS proposes a new cloth patch: We are fortunate to have N7BRB and his talented XYL propose several patch designs for the membership (for consideration). Please take a moment to look over these drafts and select one you might like to see. In the alternative propose your design or suggest some color combinations of your own. Send you comments to Megan, KE7DFT, secretary@K7ID.org.



(Continue on page 4)

If you'd like to drop him a line, his e-mail addy is slmcquiston@earthlink.net (note: he's trying to clear up some issues with Earthlink so his addy may not work for a few days.)

He has changed his call to; WA7DU.

His phone # is: 928-772-0039.

Drop him a note.

Jack
K7JMC

K7ID Field Day Station

A group of hams from the Club organized the K7ID Field Day Station-2010, which was located in Post Falls this year. A total of 12 hams, YLs, and friends, provided the muscle to put together and operate the station, and we had 36 visitors. Our youngest operator was 12 year old Camryn McClusky, (a cousin of Thomas, KD7JUS).

Results were good, with a total of 336 QSO's. (Sure we could have done better, but that will come next year). Everyone learned a lot, and we were all quite tired at the end of the event. Special thanks to John Dunlop, Post Commander of American Legion Post #143 in Post Falls, who allowed us to use their grounds; to Ron Martin of Martin Fabrication in Post Falls who loaned his "Sky Trak" high-lift which we used as the center support for one of our antennas; and to our YLs who kept us fed and generally put up with erratic ham behavior during the exercise.

Ed Stuckey, AI7H

Attention: Kootenai County ARES/RACES Members! Don't forget! The meeting location for the monthly KC ARES/RACES meetings remains unchanged: Civil Air Patrol, Sheprock Building #2, Coeur d'Alene Airport. The start time remains 6:30 p.m. on the 16th of August.

Coming Soon: More ARRL 2010 Field Day Pins

After a higher than expected run on pins for Field Day this year, the ARRL has ordered more and expects them to arrive next month. "The pins were in stock until just before Field Day, but due to some exceptionally high interest, we were unable to fulfill a few final orders," said ARRL Product Marketing Specialist Jackie Ferreira, KB1PWB. "We have ordered more pins, as many hams enjoy collecting these annual pins; lots of ARRL-affiliated radio clubs also like to hand these out to their members who participate in Field Day each year." The 2010 Field Day pins may be ordered from the [ARRL online store](#) or by telephoning 888-277-5289 in the US, Monday-Friday from 8 AM-5 PM Eastern Time (outside the US, please call 860-594-0355). Pins will begin shipping in mid-August.

KENWOOD TS-50

HF TRANSCEIVER

160 Meters Thru 10 Meters

(Including WARAC Bands)

MODES: SSB/CW/ CW NARROW (500Hz)/FM/AM

Receiver: 500 KHZ. To 30 MHZ.

Memories: 100 Channels

POWER OUTPUT: 100 WATTS PEP - 25 WATTS AM

(Can be modified to 180 WATTS PEP)

POWER INPUT: 12 VOLTS (20 AMPS)

Fused CABLES/Connectors Included

EXTRAS

PSK-31 Interface - Rascal Design

MC80

Desk Microphone - YK 107C 500Hz. CW Filter

Hand Held Microphone with up/down control

Documentation:

Operations MANUAL; All modification docs

ORIGINAL BOX \$395.00 - N7JU

The Bands "Heat Up" for the 2010 ARRL UHF Contest

VHF/UHF weak-signal operators across North America are making the final tests on their stations in preparation for the [ARRL UHF Contest](#), coming up the weekend of August 7-8. Most VHF+ weak-signal operation takes place on the two lowest bands of the VHF spectrum - 6 and 2 meters; however, there is a lot of activity that takes place above 144 MHz in the UHF portion of the radio spectrum and beyond. This contest focuses on 220 MHz and above; there will be lots of activity, and hopefully lots of propagation, too!

With much of the nation in the midst of a summer heat spike, high-pressure zones can begin to form in the atmosphere. If they stick around long enough - and are stable enough - enhanced propagation can occur in the troposphere, extending the normal usable range of UHF+ frequencies from line-of-sight to several hundred miles. Several cloudless days with very little wind is a sign that enhanced tropospheric enhancement could be coming your way. A great site to watch for tropospheric enhancement is William Hepburn's [tropospheric ducting forecast page](#).

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

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society

PO Box 17□5, Hayden, Idaho 83835-17□5



Please complete the entire form and return with your payment.

Single Year Membership

New Member \$12.00 Renewing \$12.00 Family Membership \$18.00 Information Update Only

Two Year Membership

New Member \$22.00 Renewing \$22.00 Family Membership \$33.00

Callsign _____ Class _____ Expiration _____

First Name & Middle Initial _____ Last Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

ARRL Member _____ May we publish limited Information _____

Internal Use Only

Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check	<input type="checkbox"/>	Money order	<input type="checkbox"/>
Roster	<input type="checkbox"/>	Membership Card	<input type="checkbox"/>		

For Family Membership, Please complete an application and staple together.

Signature _____

K7ID.org Request Form

First and Last Name _____ Callsign _____

Would you like your (callsign)@k7id.org email to be forwarded to an existing email account or would you like to access it through a web or post office protocol (POP) system?

Please Forward to My existing Email (Please Complete the Bottom and Sign.) Webmail Access POP Access
 I wish to opt-out of K7ID.org

Please Select a username _____ @K7ID.ORG

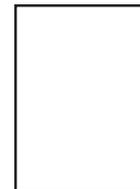
Please Select a Password _____

For Forward Request Only

Email Address _____

Signature _____

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.

2009 CLUB OFFICERS

President: John Hollar, N7JU
208 765-5470 president@k7id.org

Vice-President: Garry Budreau, KE7UQM
208 818-1521 vicepresident@k7id.org

Exec. Director: Allan Campbell, KE7DFT
excdirector@k7id.org

Secretary: Megan Barrett, KE7RCD
208 773-3135 secretary@k7id.org

Treasurer: Tom Richmond, N17W
208 772-0907 treasurer@k7id.org

Newsletter Editor: Gary Roth, KE7IAT
509 993-8468 ke7iat@comcast.net

Repeater Trustee: Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX
ka7rnx@arrl.net

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

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

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

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.