

June 2011

([www.k7id.org](http://www.k7id.org))

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Friday, June 10, 6:00 p.m.**  
American Legion Hall  
Post Falls, Idaho  
**Topic: Pre-Hamfest Potluck**  
**Refreshments: Everybody**

**Upcoming Social Events**  
KARS Hamfest June 11; 7-2

**Monday, July 11, 7 p.m.**  
Kootenai Search & Rescue  
Bldg., Hayden, Idaho  
**Topic: Go Kits**  
**Presenter: Gary Roth,**  
KE7IAT  
**Refreshments: Bailey Barrett,**  
AD7IP

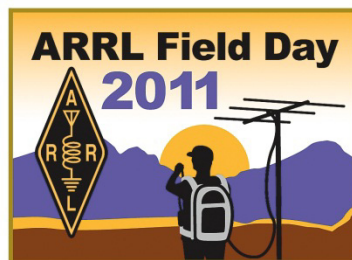
**ARRL VE Testing Session 7/11/11**  
5:30 PM Walk-ins welcome  
All exams administered.

Glad to see that summer has finally made it. Let's hope that summer doesn't disappoint us.

It is that time of year that we get really stoked about Hamfest. I would like to thank all of the club members who have donated equipment, parts, etc. to the club table to be sold. I am really excited to see the inventory that Ed Stuckey has.

**Don't forget the Potluck!** Doors open at 5:30 pm and Food is served at 6:00 pm. Bring your family, and favorite dish for the club to try.

Saturday June 18<sup>th</sup> is the Highway cleanup. We are meeting at the Mullan Trail Road at 8:00 am. More detail will be at the Friday night potluck.



[www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

It is that time of year! **Field Day**

June 25 and June 26. Our club will be located at Kootenai County Fire Station Number 2 at 4320 West Seltice Way in Post Falls. Just off Exit 2.

There are other field day activities out there so let's get out and get on the air.

Again I would like to thank Alan/KE7DFT for stepping up and taking over the June and July meetings while Megan and I will be away.

See you at the Potluck!

Thomas  
KD7JUS

## From The Section Manager's Fist:

### Idaho QSO Party – Processing Finally Complete!

As has been mentioned in the Propagation newsletter many times before, KARS has signed on as the sponsoring Club for the "Idaho QSO Party". This is held each year, on the second full weekend in March. 49 States have "QSO Parties", with the objective being to get hams in the "party state" on the air; and to afford an opportunity for "outsiders" to work the state in question.

In 2011, we are guessing that about 1,000 hams participated, although only 66 logs were submitted for evaluation. The "IDQP Log Evaluation Committee" (KG6QQM, W7SGS, W7GSV, NI7W, AI7H) met for oh-so-many hours, trying to decipher those 66 logs. Then "Achievement Certificates" were sent to all who sent logs. Finally done (whew!).

Compliments to Bob Hallock (K7TM), who was the only roving station in Idaho this year, activating eleven counties; and to Jim Monroe (N7ESU), who was the high-scoring digital station for Idaho.

Lessons for next year: get more Idaho Hams on the air; organize more "field stations" and "roving stations"; make some clarifications to the rules.

### The KARS Hamfest

The KARS Hamfest has traditionally been held the second Saturday of June. (That's 06/11 this year). The Hamfest is the principal source of funds for Club operations, and we should all support that objective. Please support the event by ATTENDING; by spending a few bucks on breakfast (or lunch), and on some prize tickets.

The KARS Resale table will be VERY well stocked this year. We have a number of fine donations by Club members, as well as an estate donation. Excellent used equipment, as well as components for your electronics project. At press time, six hams had already reserved tables. So it looks like a lot of inventory will be available for inspection.

Location: American Legion Hall, 1138 E Poleline Ave, Post Falls.

Date/Time: 06/11/11, 7AM – 3PM

Admission: \$5, Kids 16 and under – Free. (Bring a child or grandchild, or borrow one for the day).

### Field Day 2011

Amateur Radio "Field Day" is an exercise that has been taking place on the fourth full weekend of June, each year since the early 1930's. The objective of the event is to set up a station away from the normal operating position ("in the field"), possibly working with multiple transmitters; and then talking with as many other Field Day Stations as possible during the event period. Field Day has traditionally been an event that generates interest in Amateur Radio from people who visit a Field Day station. This year we (KARS members) have been invited to utilize Kootenai County Fire & Rescue Station #2 for our Field Day Site. At press time it looks like we will operate a two-transmitter station, using commercial power. The station will be open to the public, and visitors make take a tour of the station, and they might be invited to sit at one of the operating positions for a while.

Location: KCFR Station #2, 4320 W Seltice Way, Post Falls.

Setup: 06/24, 11AM until "done"

Event Date/Time: 06/25, 11AM through 06/26, 11AM (a 24-hour operating period)

Wrap-up: 06/26, 11AM until "done"

Admission: Free! (Bring a child or grandchild, or borrow one for the visit).

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### Gear Up for the ARRL June VHF QSO Party

06/01/2011 (ARRL Newslines)

Lots of RF will be generated on 6 meters and up the weekend of June 11-12 during the 2011 [ARRL June VHF QSO Party](#). While many amateurs think of the VHF+ bands as a "local" band for public service, emergency communications or a bit of fun on FM repeaters, weak-signal VHF+ enthusiasts know better. Even with a modest station, it's possible to work hundreds, or even thousands of miles on the VHF bands during a good opening.

ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X, is a big VHF enthusiast. "In more than 25 years of Amateur Radio, weak-signal work on 6 and 2 meters remains the most fun and intriguing activity I do," he said. "There is nothing like a good VHF opening. With its fun and interesting propagation characteristics like sporadic-E, tropospheric ducting, aurora and even meteor scatter and moonbounce, VHF offers QSO opportunities that HF can never satisfy."

Kutzko said the contest weekend is a great time to try 6 or 2 meters: "The June VHF QSO Party occurs at the beginning of the summer sporadic-E season, which can produce intense openings on 6 meters, and in some cases, up to 2 meters. This past weekend saw solid sporadic-E openings on 6 meters from New England to Florida and from Texas to the West Coast. Several stations from the

Caribbean were also heard on 6 meters this Memorial Day. With the summer sporadic-E season heating up, the June VHF QSO Party promises to be a great weekend of excitement on the VHF+ bands.”

Getting on the VHF bands is easy. While there will be some contest activity on FM simplex (especially near large population centers), most long-distance VHF+ QSOs are conducted on CW or SSB — that means horizontally polarized antennas. You will also need a radio that can transmit in those modes. Most of the newer HF transceivers have 6 meters built in, and several also come with 2 meters and 70 centimeters.

“A dipole on 6 meters will work quite well during a decent opening,” Kutzko said. “They’re easy to make and less than 10 feet long. Throw it up in a tree as high as you can and you’ll be in business. For 2 meters and 70 cm, a horizontal loop will work nicely for SSB and CW contacts.” You can find [plans for simple VHF antennas](#) at the Technical Information Service area of the ARRL website, in the “Antennas” chapter of the [ARRL Handbook](#), or in the “VHF and UHF Antenna Systems” chapter of the [ARRL Antenna Book](#).

Because VHF antennas are generally smaller than their HF counterparts, Kutzko said that portable operation is simple: “You can operate from your favorite hilltop, camp site or any location with high terrain and make many QSOs. All you need to know is the [Maidenhead grid square](#) of your operating location, which is the contest exchange.”

For SSB QSOs on 6 meters, tune between 50.100-50.200 MHz. Keep in mind that 50.100-50.125 is reserved for intercontinental QSOs, so don’t transmit there unless you are trying to work DX. 50.125 is the W/VE calling frequency, so listen there for band openings. If the band starts to open up, move off the calling frequency and start making contacts. For the CW operators, you will find CW between 50.080-50.100 MHz. Activity on 2 meters will center around the calling frequency of 144.200. Again, monitor the calling frequency for band openings, but move off when activity starts to pick up. Most 2 meter SSB/CW activity will be found between 144.170-144.230 MHz, and 70 cm activity will center around 432.100 MHz.

“The weekend promises to be a tremendous amount of fun on the VHF and UHF bands. Don’t miss out! All amateurs — from Technicians to Extras, experienced VHF operators to the first-time VHF dabblers — are welcome,” Kutzko said. The [ARRL June VHF QSO Party](#) runs from 1800 UTC Saturday, June 11 through 0300 UTC Monday, June 13 (Saturday afternoon to Sunday evening for most of the US and Canada). Complete rules and entry forms may be found [here](#). All logs must be e-mailed or postmarked no later than 0300 UTC Wednesday, July 13. Questions can be sent via [e-mail](#) to the Contest Branch.

## Central Massachusetts Experiences Rare Tornado, Area Hams Hasten to Help

06/02/2011 (ARRL Newslines)

At least two tornadoes touched down in Central Massachusetts late in the afternoon on Wednesday, June 1. The storm pulverized or sheared off the tops of roofs on Main Street in Springfield, a city of more than 150,000, located about 90 miles west of Boston. A debris-filled funnel swept into downtown from the west, then swirled across the Connecticut River, which runs through the city. Like their counterparts in Alabama and Missouri who responded when storms hit those regions, hams in Western Massachusetts volunteered their time and radios to the American Red Cross and the National Weather Service.

According to ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Emergency Coordinator Rob Macedo, KD1CY, six hams from the Western Massachusetts ARES® group mobilized to support the American Red Cross in staffing shelters in Springfield, Monson and Brimfield, as well as the American Red Cross office in Springfield. “This part of the operation is winding down, and the Red Cross is looking to see what other tasks radio amateurs may be needed, which may include helping out with damage assessment,” Macedo said on Thursday morning.

Stefan Rodowicz, N1SR, reported that hams with RACES were already at the Emergency Operations Center in Worcester County and Springfield when the tornado touched down. Using the call WC1MAC (Region 3 RACES), they coordinated through the Mt Tom repeater and provided communications for the three shelters. Meanwhile, across town, ARES® District Emergency Coordinator Tom Doyle, N1MUV, was stationed at the American Red Cross in Springfield. At 9:30 PM. Doyle told the ARRL that there had apparently been several touchdowns in the region, and normal communications was “ragged, but coming back.” Much of the area was still without power or landline phones, as of the morning of Thursday, June 2.

Macedo said that as of Thursday, ARES® in Eastern Massachusetts has not received requests by the American Red Cross, Salvation Army, cities or towns for assistance. “The National Weather Service in Taunton, Massachusetts — which serves most of Massachusetts, including Boston, as well as Rhode Island and most of Connecticut — is working with Amateur Radio SKYWARN operators from Western Massachusetts,” Macedo explained. “Ray Weber, KA1JJM, and PJ Howe, N1PJ, are assisting the NWS with damage surveys, as is former ARRL Eastern Massachusetts Section Manager Mike Neilsen, W1MPN. Neilsen is a meteorologist and a Special Advisor to ARES®/SKYWARN.” Hams in Connecticut and

Massachusetts conducted SKYWARN nets, providing timely reports to the National Weather Service offices in Taunton and Albany, New York. The Albany office covers Berkshire County in Massachusetts and Litchfield County in Connecticut.

Western Massachusetts ARES Section Emergency Coordinator John Ruggiero, N2YHK, ran net control for the Worcester County SKYWARN Net on the Paxton, Worcester and Marlboro repeater systems, with assistance from Kevin Paetzold, K1KWP. Steve Craven, N9SC, ran the SKYWARN Net on the Mt Tom Repeater.

The Amateur Radio Station at the Taunton NWS office, WX1BOX, was active from noon-11 PM, with SKYWARN self-activating that morning at 8:15. "This was in response to the warm front that produced large hail in advance of the cold front that spawned the severe weather and tornadoes over Northwestern Connecticut, Western, Central and Interior Northeast Massachusetts and Southern New Hampshire," Macedo explained.

Macedo said that the Western Massachusetts Section was severely impacted. "Homes and businesses in 19 communities sustained damage, and at least eight communities — Westfield, Springfield, Agawam, Brimfield, Monson, Wilbraham and Sturbridge — experienced severe damage, including homes that were destroyed," he said. "Southbridge also appeared to be hit hard, as well." The ARRL Western Massachusetts Section includes Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties.

Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick declared a state of emergency and called up 1000 National Guardsmen after the storms. He said on Wednesday, June 1 that the death toll of four persons was preliminary and that police and firefighters were going door to door in Springfield to ensure that no one was trapped in damaged buildings.

According to the Storm Prediction Center in Norman, Oklahoma, Massachusetts hasn't experienced a tornado since 2008. The last killer tornado in Massachusetts was on May 29, 1995, when three people died in Great Barrington, a town along the Massachusetts/New York state border. The state's deadliest recorded tornado on June 9, 1953, killed 94 people in the Worcester area. Worcester is about 50 miles east of Springfield.

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#### RESCUE RADIO: NEWS REPORTS SAY JET BLUE TERMINAL AT JFK NYC IS RADIO DEAD ZONE

According to recent news reports, the \$743 million Jet Blue airlines terminal at JFK Airport in New York is a police radio dead zone. One that puts Port Authority police

officers in a Ground Zero like communications blackout zone that has already led to a number of police injuries.

Newspaper reports say that the problem was discovered by Port Authority personnel about six months before the terminal opened to the public way back in October 2008 This when officials ran down a checklist of safety issues and realized the radio communications deficiency existed.

A permanent fix will cost an estimated \$3 million and is many months away from completion. In the meantime Port Authority police officers assigned to the terminal are reportedly given preprogrammed cellphones at the start of their shifts to call the JFK police command if an emergency crops up.

Port Authority spokesman John Kelly acknowledged cops assigned there were now using backup communication, but maintains that a temporary system implemented in April of 2010 provides partial coverage for officers to be able to use their police radios. (Published news reports)

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### NOTICE

The application page (page 5) incorrectly displays a square box in the box number and the zip code. The correct box number is 1765. The correct zip code is 83835-1765.

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

### 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!

# 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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## 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

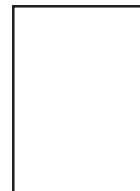
Please Select a Password \_\_\_\_\_

### For Forward Request Only

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**KOOTENAI AMATEUR RADIO SOCIETY**  
**P.O. Box 1765**  
**Hayden, ID 83835-1765**



## **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.

## **2011 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.