

September 2011

(www.k7id.org)

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Monday, Sept. 12, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Kootenai Search & Rescue**  
**Bldg., Hayden, Idaho**  
**Topic: CdA Fire Cache**  
**Presenter: Justin Mulhauser,**  
**Idaho Dept. of Lands**  
**Refreshments: Joel Brown**

### **ARRL VE Testing Session 9/ 12/11**

5:30 PM Walk-ins welcome  
All exams administered.

**Monday, October 10, 7:00 p.m.**  
**Kootenai Search & Rescue**  
**Bldg., Hayden, Idaho**  
**Topic: DXpedition to Gitmo**  
**Presenter: Quint Webb,**  
**W7CQW**  
**Refreshments: Tom Rich-**  
**mond, NI7W**

### **Upcoming Social Events**

**09/24/2011**

**Spokane Hamfest/Washington**  
**State Convention**  
**University High School**  
**Spokane Valley, Washington**  
**\$5 at the gate for entrance; no**  
**charge for entrance to test.**



Good September Everyone. Hope every-

body is staying as busy as I am. As you can see in the picture, I have been quite busy. The Railroad never stops!

I first do want to apologize about my absence at the recent meetings. Having to work yard shifts, travel on road trips, and study for a conductors examination keeps me quite busy. However I do want to recognize Alan Campbell/KE7DFT and Ed Stuckey/AI7H for stepping up and helping out during my absence.

I hope everybody enjoyed Ice Cream Social as much as I have. I would like to thank Bob and Bonnie Kesson for the use of their house for the Ice Cream Social. Megan, Maggie and I had a great time with everybody. Thank You Alan for bringing the food!

It is that time of the year again. We need to talk about officer nominations. At this point we are putting together a nominating committee. At the September meeting we will discuss the process and October we will present the nominees and in November we will vote in the new officers.

We have just a few "short" months left before the holiday party. We would like to get a small committee together to help start planning the event.

73,  
Thomas  
KD7JUS

## September KARS Presentation – The Coeur d’Alene Fire Cache

This presentation is not about Amateur Radio at all. It is about emergency preparedness, and how public sector agencies have worked together to organize the equivalent of many huge ‘go kits’, for use by firefighting units, particularly during wildfire season. Please join us to hear Justin Mulhauser, Fire Cache Manager for the CDA Fire Cache describe what they do, how they go about it, what happens in the busy (fire season), and how they refurbish equipment that is returned from the field, including VHF radios and portable repeaters. You will hear plenty of excellent ideas about having equipment ready to go back in service when it is put into storage.

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### KARS Barbeque and Ice Cream Social – Recap

On Saturday, August 20, a total of 27 hungry – and “sociable” KARS members and their families descended upon the very pleasant QTH of hosts Bonnie (KE7FPA) and Bob (K7CGA) Kesson, for purposes of enjoying friendships and food. And enjoy we did, consuming a total of about 26 hamburgers, skillfully prepared by KARS VP (and Chef) Allan (KE7DFT). The youngest attendee was little Maggie (no call sign yet) Barrett, age 7 weeks, who was not highly interested in adult food or conversation. But all the rest of us had an opportunity to share stories about ham radio and everything else, get better acquainted with folks we didn’t know so well, and (as previously mentioned) enjoy a hamburger followed by ice cream and fixin’s.

A huge thank you to K7CGA and KE7FPA for the use of their yard and BBQ grill; to KE7DFT, our Chef for the day; and to YL’s Cheryl and Renee for their organization of the event.

(Submitted by AI7H)

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**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!

## KARS Volunteers for the 146.98 repeater work party needed

September 2011 marks the end of summer and the last few weekends available to safely access Mica Peak Idaho before the first snow. Last October a work party was organized for a midweek installation and final systems check. The very morning of that workday it had to be cancelled due to an icing condition on the road leading to the summit. In addition since tower work was scheduled in addition to other checks, it was hoped we’d have a few dry days. It didn’t happen. The repeater remained operational until January after which a persistent loss of receiver sensitivity required shutting down the Mica repeater and using the alternate low profile back-up machine operated via the courtesy of N7ESU at his QTH until we could access Mica again almost six months later in June of this year.

With the help and expertise of Dale DuRee, **KE7VMN**, and several trips to the mountain by Jim Monroe, **N7ESU**, we finally got the receiver retuned and hopefully optimized. Initial reports are that it is working quite well so far. What wasn’t done last year was the installation of the new HD Base Station Antenna and custom mounting bracket fabricated by Wayne Cook, **KA7DIT**. Our present antenna location on the tower is directly *under* larger antennas that when coated with heavy ice, creates the problem of falling ice clobbering our present mounting bracket, knocking the antenna over on its side. When that happens the pattern is no longer directed to the CDA valley below. Receiver coverage then suffers drastically. The new installation requires a ground crew and one or two on the tower. Ropes, wrenches, sealing tape and a calm (gentle wind) day should make quick work of the project. In addition, SWR, power checks, and connector tightening will hopefully improve our chances of making it through this year’s winter.

What is needed are at least two or three 4WD vehicles, capable of carrying two or three passengers and some equipment. Some dates suggested are Saturday’s September 10<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup>, or a Wednesday September the 14<sup>th</sup>. We’ll meet at Hunters Restaurant at about 10:00AM and return there about 1:00PM (for lunch).

We need dedicated folks willing to work. Please e-mail John Hollar [N7JU@arrl.net](mailto:N7JU@arrl.net) expressing your willingness to

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



serve (and your telephone and e-mail address). We also plan a photo shoot for a subsequent KARS meeting if we are successful. Please consider helping us with this important KARS project.

73, John, N7JU



**New Pion controller with custom installation into the 448.975 UHF Master II repeater destined for operation soon.**

**John, N7JU, *diddles* with one of the new Yaesu superstations at Amateur Electronic Supply in Las Vegas, NV. *It's so COOL!***



**Dale Du**

**Ree, KE7VMN, lends a hand on a Saturday to help tweak the "98" Mica Repeater**



## KARS Officers Election Process

Since we have a number of new Club members, and the rest of us tend to forget the process, here is a quick review of how KARS Officers are elected. (This is described in the KARS Constitution, Article V, Section 2. The Constitution may be viewed at the KARS website, as follows: point your browser to [www.k7id.org](http://www.k7id.org) then roll your pointer over "Upcoming Events". A pop-up menu appears, with "Constitution/ By-Laws Final Revision" as the last item. Click on this item for a PDF copy of the Constitution).

Officers are elected annually, and new officers take office on January 1<sup>st</sup>. The election process begins in September, when a nominating committee is selected. The nominating committee consists of three members; one is selected by the Club president; one is selected by the Board of Directors; and one is selected by the Club membership. Once the nominating committee has been selected, they will meet, choose a chairman, select at least one qualified candidate for each KARS elective office, and introduce the slate of candidates at the November meeting. (The nominating committee report will be printed in the November *Propagation* newsletter). It is also possible for someone to be nominated from the floor during the November meeting, providing that the nominee has expressed a willingness to serve.

If, upon closing nominations for KARS officers, there is an exact number of candidates to fill each office, a motion to elect said candidates by acclamation may be accepted from the floor. If the motion is seconded, and is voted affirmatively by the Voting Membership present, the KARS officers will be considered to be unanimously elected.

If there are two or more nominees for any one office, the office may be decided by an open (an

affirmative show of hands) or by a written ballot. A simple majority of the Voting Membership present shall elect all unopposed officers at the November General membership meeting. A separate vote between competing candidates may also be performed individually when an open ballot is taken, or, (if necessary) written ballots may be used.

Persons interested in serving as a KARS officer should make themselves known to the Nominating Committee once it has been selected.

(Submitted by AI7H)

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## FEMA Smartphone Application

Just in time for National Preparedness Month, FEMA has rolled out a smart phone application and SMS tools.

Please consider passing the word around local watering holes for those who might not be hams can know.

OH ... maybe hams can use it too! <G>

<http://blog.fema.gov/2011/08/new-digital-tools-fema-app-and-text.html>

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## Get Tech Ready

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31, 2011 - Recent weather events such as Hurricane Irene, the earthquake on the East Coast and other natural disasters highlight the need for Americans to prepare for emergencies. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the American Red Cross, the Ad Council and Google Crisis Response are collaborating to launch a new preparedness web resource, [Get Tech Ready](#), on behalf of the [Ready](#) campaign.

Released just before the start of National Preparedness Month, this new resource educates individuals and families about how using modern-day technology can help them prepare, adapt and recover from disruptions brought on by emergencies or disasters.

A recent American Red Cross survey showed that the internet, including online news sites and social media platforms, is the third most popular way for Americans to gather emergency information and let their loved ones know they are safe.

“As technology becomes more a part of our daily lives, people are turning to it during emergencies as well. We need to utilize these tools, to the best of our abilities, to engage and inform the public, because no matter how much federal, state and local officials do, we will only be successful if the public is brought in as part of the team,” FEMA Administrator, W. Craig Fugate.

“During Hurricane Irene, we saw people using new technologies in many ways, whether it was thousands of people downloading our new shelter finder App or others using our Safe and Well site and social media to let their friends and family know they are OK,” said Gail

McGovern, President and CEO of the American Red Cross. “People now have more varied resources available at their fingertips that they can use before, during and after emergencies.”

Get Tech Ready provides Americans with tips on how to use technological resources before, during and after a crisis to communicate with loved ones and manage your financial affairs. Preparedness tips on the website include:

- Learn how to send updates via text and internet from your mobile phone to your contacts and social channels in case voice communications are not available;
- Store your important documents such as personal and financial records in the cloud or on a secure and remote area or flash or jump drive that you can keep readily available so they can be accessed from anywhere; and
- Create an Emergency Information Document using the Ready.gov Family Emergency Plan [template in Google Docs](#) or by downloading the [Ready Family Emergency Plan](#) to record your emergency plans.

“Get Tech Ready is a resource that will truly help people in the US and around the world understand how they can use widely available technology to prepare for potential crises,” said Nigel Snoud, Product Manager, Google Crisis Response. “We’re thrilled to be working with FEMA, the American Red Cross, and the Ad Council on this public service project.”

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## Have Some Fun in the ARRL September VHF QSO Party

September is here, and that means the VHF bands have been getting a workout. “If you’ve never experienced the fun of VHF+ operating, the [ARRL September VHF QSO Party](#), the weekend of September 10 is a great place to start,” said ARRL Contest Branch Manager Sean Kutzko, KX9X. “With many HF radios now offering at least 6 meter SSB/CW capabilities - and some offering 2 meters and 70 cm as well - any amateur with a Technician class license or higher can experience long-haul communication on the VHF bands.”

Kutzko advises that hams need to be aware of a few things when operating on 6 meters: In the US and Canada, there is a *calling frequency* on 50.125 MHz USB. Many stations monitor this frequency to listen for band openings. Stations can call CQ on the calling frequency, but when somebody answers, the stations will need to find a new frequency on which to conduct their QSO. It is considered poor etiquette to monopolize the calling frequency for QSOs. (ARRL News)

**35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPOKANE HAMFEST  
ARRL WASHINGTON STATE CONVENTION**

**September 24, 2011**

Hosted by 8 Amateur Radio clubs

**University High School, 12420 E 32nd Ave, Spokane Valley, WA 99216**

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**Seminars, Displays, Activities & Demos**

“BelchFire: a Six Meter Loop Fed Array Yagi” by Lynn, N2HS, Wayne, WA1PMA, & Jay, WS7I; “Morse Code” by John, W7OE; “Introducing a New Compact Wideband Directional Receiving Antenna for HF” by Mark, KB7GF; “Zimbabwe DX’ing” by Bob, Z2/AC7GP; “How To Escape From The Two Meter Trap” by Wilse, WX7P; National Weather Service; ARRL NW Division Director Jim, K9JF; “Many Facets of Ham Radio in Washington”, by Jim, K7CEX, WA State RACES Officer; “Junque” Auction by Wilse & Gimmie, WX7P & AL7LB; “Radio Test Gear” table with Jack, AD7FO; License Exams; RTTY Demo by SDXA; WinLink Demo by IEVHF Club; PSK Demo by Lilac City ARC; ARRL QSL & WAS Card Checker by Jay, WS7I; EmCom Vans; Commercial & non-commercial vendors; Non-stop coffee, sodas, food.

**Raffle & Door Prizes**

1<sup>st</sup> Prize: ICOM IC-7000 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver; 2<sup>nd</sup> Prize: Kenwood TM-V71A Dual Band 144/430 FM Transceiver; 3<sup>rd</sup> Prize: Yaesu FT1900r Mobile 2 meter FM Transceiver

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Friday, September 23th: vendor setup, 7PM-9PM

Saturday, September 24: 8AM doors open to vendors

**Saturday, September 24: 9AM - 5PM doors open to public**

Refreshments & confectionaries available; lunch by Pizza Rita; license exam 11AM; “Junque” Auction 3:00 PM; raffle 4:30 PM; post Hamfest dinner Saturday, 5:00 PM at the Timber Creek Grill Buffet, 9211 E Montgomery Dr., Spokane Valley

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**SPOKANE HAMFEST REGISTRATION**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Call \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number or E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable & mail to:  
Spokane Hamfest, PO Box 2552, Spokane WA 99220-2552

_____ Registrations @ \$5 each	\$ _____
Age 18 & under free	
_____ Commercial Tables @ \$15.00 each	
\$12 if mailed on or before 9/02/11	\$ _____
_____ Swap Tables @ \$7.50 each	
\$5.00 if mailed on or before 9/02/11	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____

No admission charged for license exam only; prepaid registrations will not be mailed, but will be held at the ticket table & available for pickup starting Friday, 9/23, 7PM, & Saturday, 9/24, 8AM; registrations may be confirmed by contacting Dave, K7DWB, at [k7dwb@arrl.net](mailto:k7dwb@arrl.net); swap tables available while they last; admission not included in price of table; admission tickets available at the door; talk-in frequencies: 147.24 MHz (+offset), & 146.58 MHz simplex; contact info: Bob, AC7GP, (509) 327-3188, [ac7gp@hotmail.com](mailto:ac7gp@hotmail.com), <http://www.kbara.org>

# 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

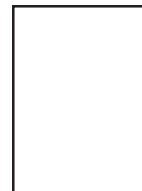
Please Select a Password \_\_\_\_\_

### 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**

President: Thomas Barrett,      KD7JUS  
208 773-3135                      president@k7id.org

Vice-President: Allan Campbell      KE7DFT  
   vicepresident@k7id.org

Exec. Director: Bonnie Patterson, KG6QQM  
   excdirector@k7id.org

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

Treasurer: Tom Richmond,      NI7W  
208 772-0907                      treasurer@k7id.org

Newsletter Editor: Gary Roth,      KE7IAT  
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Repeater Trustee: Jerry Hooper, KA7RNX  
   ka7rnx@arrl.net

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

Webmaster: Larry Telles,      K6SPP  
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Past President: John Hollar,      N7JU  
877 877-0040                      n7ju@jarrrl.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.