

August 2015

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, Aug. 10, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: ???
Presenter: ???
Refreshments: ???

VE Testing
Monday, Aug. 10, 5:30 p.m.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho

Monday, Sept. 14, 7:00 p.m.
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho
Topic: ???
Presenter: ???
Refreshments: ???

VE Testing
5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 14
10865 N. Ramsey Rd.

Upcoming Events
Spokane Hamfest and State
Convention
September 26
Doors open at 9:00 a.m.
12420 E 32d Ave
Spokane Valley, WA
Talk-in: 146.52 or 147.38

Letter From the President

Dave Boss KF7YWR
boss@infinityusers.com
208.290.8590

As I looked back at last year's August newsletter I mentioned I was just short of having all the guying done on my tower. Last week, the guying was finished. (No reason to get in a hurry here). Nylon ratchet straps will indeed survive a fall, winter, spring and another summer in case anyone was wondering. Real cable is in all the places it should be and it looks pretty nice if I do say so myself. The five-band vertical has been replaced with a Cushcraft A-3 tri-band Yagi. The main beam that originally was 1 ½ inch x .058" wall Aluminum round tube was replaced with a 1 ½ inch x .120" wall square tube with new homebrew insulators and element brackets. The original design used only u-bolts to attach the elements and had a tendency to crush the thin walled tube with repeated adjustment. The new beam eliminates this issue and is much more robust. Most all other projects have been in the comfort of the shack before it heats up too much.

The heat we have endured this year has been horrid and any and all projects I have to do have been curtailed any time the temperature is above 80 degrees, I can't wait till it cools down a bit. I cannot recall a summer with so many 90 plus days and even a number in triple digits. We are only used to an average of 18-19 ninety plus days here and we were nearly there by early July, and the hot days of summer just keep on coming...

KARS Remote Club House

My XYL, Joyce, KG7FAK, has reminded me that we need to start fundraising / material raising for the KARS Clubhouse if we want to see it become a reality. The club has all the equipment necessary to get on the air, but no home for it. Those interested in establishing a working group for this project are welcome to contact me to set some goals and dates to meet in order to get this rolling. Anyone interested in a site inspection is welcome. Rick Van Landingham, KI7I, our club trustee for the K7ID call has researched some of the caveats of using our club call and other possibilities.

KARS Christmas Party

Gabbee, KE7ADN, has posed the question of what we are going to do for the Christmas Party and I did not have good answer for her. Please consider what you would like as a club and bring suggestions and concerns to the meeting and we will put the wheels in motion for this event. We have plenty of time to make this a memorable occasion, so put on your thinking hats and let's prepare for a good time.

Echolink — Digital Nets and other stuff

Mike, KG7GPM, has voiced an interest for a 2 meter digital net to practice the digital side of Ham Radio. To start with, an evening net once a week to get the bugs worked out. Anyone interested please join in the discussion at the meeting. There are numerous programs to use and this could be good practice for those in ARES/RACES as well.

In talking with Dale DuRee, KE7VMN, we have room on our repeater for an additional radio that could support the Echolink Node we have registered. Some details need to be worked out with the Internet connection and where to make that connection and a frequency to work on, but the capabilities are there. Again more discussion needed.

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society
July 2015 Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 7pm by Club President Dave Boss (KF7YWR). Ed Stuckey (AI7H) led those in attendance in the Pledge of Allegiance. License testing was conducted twice, the first following Dale Duree's Technician Class, to which 14 individuals braved the test, resulting in the following: Deborah Preston-New Technician; Joan Wycott-New Technician; Mike Goodwin-New Technician; Stephen Murphy-New Technician; Mike Laughlin-New Technician; Daniel Latuseck-New Technician; Jack Preston-New Technician; Russel Woodward-New Technician; Allan Knight-New Technician and General; and even Dale himself advanced to Extra Class. Testing was also conducted prior to the club meeting with the only attendee: Travis Tysz-New Technician.

Treasurer's Report:

May 2015 Report: Checking \$1,764.16, Savings \$1,600.40, Petty Cash \$102.03 for a total of \$3,466.59. Expenses consisted of: additional Technician Manuals \$283.49, Stamps \$19.60, Office Supplies (Envelopes) \$10.59, Life Membership Name Tag for Gary Holland \$9.36, Rental of American Legion building in Post Falls for the Hamfest \$500.00. Total expenses paid: \$823.04.

June 2015 Report: Checking \$3,480.09, Savings \$1,625.44, Petty Cash \$96.78 for a total of \$5,202.31. Expenses consisted of: Harbor Freight Magnetic Towing Light for KARS Trailer \$9.41, Costco-Hamfest \$141.65, Winco Foods-Hamfest \$123.45, WalMart Post Falls-Hamfest \$16.84, WalMart Hayden-Field Day \$67.72, Super One Foods Rathdrum-Field Day \$5.25. Total expenses paid: \$364.32

KARS Hamfest 2015 Report: Admission Receipts \$900.00 with a Net of \$400 after facility rental, Door Prize Raffle \$107.00 with a Net of -\$277.60, Grand Prize Raffle \$615 with a Net of \$8.00, Kitchen Receipts \$425.00 with a Net of \$143.05, Table Rental Receipts \$53.00. Total Net for the Hamfest was \$326.45.

The bank service charges have been reversed and thus far have not reappeared.

Motion to approve the Treasurer's Reports as read was made by Mike Slothower (KG7KSJ), 2nd by Gabbee Perry (KE7ADN). Motion was passed by member vote.

Old Business:

The MOU with Kootenai County has been finalized and returned by the County. The MOU is for the club repeater on Canfield Mountain (the mountain just northeast of Coeur d'Alene for any new to the area) and is valid for five years. If anyone would like to review the MOU, please contact the Club Secretary Adam Crippen (N7ISP) to make arrangements.

The club had purchased additional ARRL Technician Class License Manuals for Dale's Class, the club has 9 books remaining which we will need to find owners for. The current question pool is valid until 2018, these books would make a great Christmas or even an addition to a licensed ham of any license class. To get a copy of the License Manual please see Club President Dave Boss, the cost is \$27.

501(c)3 Tax Exempt Status Update. Reinstatement needs to be completed by September/October timeframe. Help is needed in filing paperwork to the IRS. Anyone who knows a Tax Lawyer or Attorney who may be interested in assisting pro bono is urged to contact Club Treasurer Rod Anderson or any Club Board Member.

KARS Field Day at Majestic Park in Rathdrum. Ed Stuckey presented the results and recap of the Field Day event. The club operated as a 3A with an additional GOTA (Get-On-The-Air) station for newly licensed hams or those unlicensed. Total station contacts were 422, with multipliers and so forth the club's total points were 2042.

New Business:

Dave Boss has brought the topic of a club ham shack. Dave stated that he has the trusses needed to construct an approximate 14x22' floor building. Dave has also stated that the proposed building could be erected on his property near Silverwood (XYL preapproved). At this point there has only been discussion on this topic and club members are encouraged to weigh in on this topic with their opinion.

The May Meeting Minutes were approved by the attending members. Motion made by Ed Stuckey (AI7H), 2nd by Jim Banks (KF7TFJ).

Repeater Maintenance. Some maintenance is needed for the Mica Repeater (146.98MHz). Dale Duree is scheduled to work on the Mica repeater on July 18th. Canfield Mountain weed control is needed, however due to the fire danger and weather conditions the weed control has been placed on hold due in large part to the restrictions imposed by the US Forest Service. When the restrictions are withdrawn we will readdress the topic of flattening some weeds on the mountain.

Bearpaw Galindo (KE7ADT) has requested that the club try and organize an Amateur Extra License Class, those in attendance were asked to weigh in if they were interested in attending an Extra Class Course (provided that we can organize one). If any members have not already weighed in and are interested, please contact Club Secretary Adam Crippen.

Club Presentation:

This month's presentation was conducted by Club Vice-President Allan Campbell (KE7DFT) on the topic of Basic Electronics and Ohm's Law.

July Raffle Drawings:

50/50 Raffle Winner: Larry Telles (K6SPP) \$13

Membership Raffle Winner: Jim Monroe (N7ESU) – Jim was not present at the time of the drawing and therefore the \$233 pot will roll over to next month.

I do not have a record of the meeting "officially" being motioned to be closed, if someone can refresh my memory for the minutes it would be appreciated. If by chance we did not have a motion to adjourn, then I will make the motion, do we have a 2nd?

ARRL Board Approves Dues Hike, HF Band Plan, 2016 National Parks Centennial Event

Meeting over the weekend in Windsor, Connecticut, the ARRL Board of Directors has approved a \$10 increase in the League's annual dues rate, effective January 1, 2016. In doing so, the Board adopted a recommendation of the Administration & Finance Committee. ARRL basic dues have been held at \$39 a year since 2001. In addition, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan — with some tweaks, okayed a National Parks On The Air (NPOTA) operating event in 2016 to celebrate the National Park Service centennial, began the search for a successor to ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ, who will retire next May, and named several ARRL award recipients. Sumner said the League has done as much as it can to hold off a dues increase for more than a decade, but now it's a necessity, not an option.

"One of the most difficult decisions a membership organization faces is a dues increase," he said. "Over the past 14 years we have managed to hold the increase in expenses to just 19 percent, against a US inflation rate of 32 percent over the same period. We have implemented operating efficiencies that allowed reducing the staff by 15 percent while expanding the range of services to members and to Amateur Radio as a whole. We created a development program, offering to those members who have greater financial capacity an opportunity to support their national association at a higher level."

Enhanced membership services since 2001 include inauguration of Logbook of The World® (LoTW), a digital edition of *QST* at no additional cost, expanded *QST* and video product reviews, ARRL publications for Kindle, [Online Exam Review](#), and free license renewal assistance. The League also has upgraded its public service support with additional staff, the [Ham Aid](#) program, [Emergency Communications Training](#), and the [ARES® E-Letter](#). Also new since 2001 are the [Education & Technology](#) program, the Teachers Institutes on Wireless Technology, and the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station ([ARISS](#)) program.

Advocacy on behalf of Amateur Radio has included relentless defense of Amateur Radio spectrum, the Amateur Radio Parity Act, and an increased awareness of the value of Amateur Radio on Capitol Hill. The League

also mounted a centennial celebration in 2014 that included a national and six regional conventions, the Centennial QSO Party, and W1AW portable operations.

Details of ARRL's revenues and expenditures are available in its *Annual Report* archive for 2002 to 2014.

“ARRL manages its resources judiciously and keeps costs as low as possible while maintaining a consistently high level of service for all members,” Sumner concluded. “Raising dues will ensure that high-quality programs and services will continue for all members as we provide a unified voice that protects and promotes *all* of Amateur Radio.”

ARRL HF Band Plan

In other business, the Board adopted amendments to the ARRL HF Band Plan recommended by the HF Band Planning Committee in its July 2015 report, with one major change from the proposals as outlined in the April 2015 issue of *QST* and [summarized](#) on the ARRL website. That change was to set the upper RTTY/data limit for 20 meters at 14.125 MHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 band plan.

Rule Making Petition to FCC

The Board also authorized the preparation of a rule making petition to the FCC, seeking changes in the 80 and 75 meter bands that are consistent with majority opinion among more than 1000 responses to an online membership survey. The petition would seek to shift the boundary between the 80 meter RTTY/data subband and the 75 meter phone/image subband from 3600 to 3650 kHz. It also would restore privileges in the 3600-3650 kHz segment to Advanced, General, Technician, and Novice licensees.

In addition, the League will ask the FCC to shift the automatically controlled digital station (ACDS) band segment from 3585-3600 kHz to 3600-3615 kHz, consistent with the IARU Region 1 and Region 2 band plans, and authorize Technician and Novice licensees to use RTTY/data emissions in their 15 and 80 meter band segments, the latter contingent on expansion of the 80 meter band.

CEO Successor Search

Additional details are forthcoming, but the Board will begin its search for a successor to CEO Sumner, who has set a target retirement date of May 1, 2016. Sumner will be 67 and will have been on the Headquarters full-time staff for 44 years. He was named Secretary and General Manager in 1982, with a change in title to Executive Vice President in 1985, and the additional title of Chief Executive Officer in 2001 (the title of Executive Vice President was phased out in 2011).

ARRL Award Recipients

The Board also named several recipients of ARRL awards:

Anna Veal, W0ANT, is the recipient of the 2014 Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Award for youth, in recognition of her involvement, service, and leadership throughout the Amateur Radio community.

David L. Hershberger, W9GR, was named to receive the 2014 Doug DeMaw, W1FB, Technical Excellence Award on for his work in reducing audio distortion in SSB transmission, as described in his article “Controlled Envelope Single Sideband” in the November/December 2014 issue of *QEX*.

The Board recognized the principals and developers of Broadband-Hamnet™ for their contributions to microwave mesh networking with the 2014 ARRL Microwave Development Award.

Randy Thompson, K5ZD, was named the winner of the 2014 Philip J. McGan Silver Antenna Award for outstanding volunteer public relations success over many years — and especially for achieving national media coverage of the 2014 World Radiosport Team Championship.

Amateur Radio Enforcement Plan

The Board also directed the CEO, staff, and General Counsel to develop and, under the supervision of the Executive Committee, execute a plan to improve timely and visible enforcement in the Amateur Radio Service, most notably in the areas of RF interference from power lines and Part 15 and 18 lighting devices and malicious interference to HF net operations and VHF/UHF repeaters.

ARRL 2016 National Convention

The Board authorized the holding of an ARRL National Convention in Orlando, Florida, February 12-14, 2016, in conjunction with the 70th anniversary of Orlando HamCation.

Strategic Plan

The Board okayed preliminary recommendations of the ARRL Strategic Planning Working Group and authorized the continuation of the group's activities with final recommendations due at the Board's 2016 Annual Meeting. (ARRL)

Amateur Radio Vanity Call Sign Fee to Disappear in September

The Amateur Radio vanity call sign regulatory fee is set to disappear in the next few weeks. According to the best-available information from FCC sources, the first day that applicants will be able to file a vanity application without having to pay a fee is Thursday, September 3. In [deciding](#) earlier this year to drop the regulatory fee components for Amateur Radio vanity call signs and General Mobile Radio Service (GMRS) applications, the FCC said it was doing so to save money and personnel resources. The Commission asserted that it costs more of both to process the regulatory fees and issue refunds than the amount of the regulatory fee payment.

“Our costs have increased over time, and now that the costs exceed the amount of the regulatory fee, the increased relative administrative cost supports eliminating this regulatory fee category,” the FCC said in its [Report and Order](#), which appeared on July 21 in *The Federal Register*. “Once [it’s] eliminated, these licensees will no longer be financially burdened with such payments, and the Commission will no longer incur these administrative costs that exceed the fee payments.”

The FCC raised the Amateur Service vanity call sign regulatory fee from \$16.10 to its current \$21.40 for the 10-year license term in 2014. The \$5.30 increase was the largest such fee hike in many years. In a typical fiscal year, the FCC collected on the order of \$250,000 in vanity call sign regulatory fees.

The FCC said the revenue it would otherwise collect from such regulatory fees “will be proportionally assessed

on other wireless fee categories.” Congress has mandated that the FCC collect nearly \$340 million in regulatory fees from all services in fiscal year 2015. (ARRL)

Amateur Radio Becomes Primary on 1900-2000 kHz on August 6

Amateur Radio will be upgraded from secondary to primary in the 1900-2000 kHz segment of 160 meters in the US on August 6. That’s the effective date of the WRC-07 implementation *Report and Order* and WRC-12 *Order* portions of a lengthy FCC document released on April 27. Both appeared in the *Federal Register* on July 7; the *Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM)* of the same proceeding was published in the *Federal Register* on July 2. The Radiolocation Service (RLS) has been primary in the band segment. The FCC also made a secondary allocation of 135.7-137.8 kHz to the Amateur Service, but this band will not be available until service rules have been adopted.

“The FCC action with respect to 1900-2000 kHz reduces the possibility that we might suffer in the future from new radiolocation deployments,” said ARRL CEO David Sumner, K1ZZ. “On the other hand, we will have to put up with radio buoys that have been operating illegally in the band but that now have been ‘regularized’ by the Commission.”

The FCC said that while it had believed there was no non-Federal RLS use of the 1900-2000 kHz band, the record indicated there are maritime users, including the US “high seas” migratory species fishing fleets, making use of radio buoys in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans as well as within 200 nautical miles of the coast. It did not identify these users in the WRC-07 proceeding, however, “because they did not appear in its licensing database,” it said.

“Apparently, fishing vessels have operated radio buoys in US waters under the belief that a ship station license issued under Part 80 of the Commission’s rules permits operation of the buoys,” the FCC *Order* continued. The FCC said a Part 80 license applies only to stations in the maritime services and does not authorize operation of

radio stations requiring a Part 90 license, “such as the radio buoys at issue here.”

The FCC said its action regarding 1900-2000 kHz supports increased use of 160 meters as reported by commenters in the proceeding and provides “spectrum support” for Amateur Radio emergency communication. The FCC said its action also offers the Amateur Service “the long-term security that primary status entails.”

In removing the primary RLS allocation, the FCC added a new footnote to the US *Table of Allocations* that provides for radio buoy operations in the 1900-2000 kHz segment on a primary basis in Region 2 (the Americas) and on a secondary basis in Region 3, which limits operations to the open sea.

“The Commission nevertheless recognized the public benefit associated with the use of radio buoys by the US commercial fishing fleet,” the FCC continued. It adopted a waiver of the Part 80 and Part 90 rules to authorize offshore radio buoy use by commercial fishing vessels, concluding that the granting the waiver was in the public interest. “Use of these radio buoys allows such commercial fishing vessels to locate their fishing lines and nets more quickly, which saves them fuel and time and reduces the likelihood that fishing lines and nets will be lost,” the FCC said.

The FCC said that since the buoys “appear to use low power and narrow bandwidths,” they should have “minimal impact” on Amateur Radio users of the 1900-2000 kHz segment.

The FCC also concluded that it is in the public interest to establish a secondary Amateur Radio allocation at 135.7-137.8 kHz - 2200 meters, although the new band is not yet authorized for amateur use. “In accordance with the WRC-07 *Final Acts*, the Commission also restricted use of this secondary Amateur Service allocation to amateur stations transmitting a maximum equivalent isotropically radiated power (EIRP) of 1 W.” The Commission is [inviting comments](#) until August 31 on how it should structure operational rules for that allocation as well as for a proposed 472-479 kHz allocation, 630 meters. (ARRL)

Party Balloon Carrying Ham Radio Payload Circles Southern Hemisphere a Second Time

After travelling for more than 110,800 km (68,696 mi) aloft, the record-setting pico balloon PS-46, carrying an Amateur Radio payload, completed its second circumnavigation of the Southern Hemisphere, before descending into the Indian Ocean on July 18 due to bad weather. The helium balloon and its solar-powered 25 mW payload were launched on May 23 by Andy Nguyen, VK3YT.

“It was an exciting but also an exhausting eight weeks for many hard-core trackers,” Nguyen said. “Their perseverance ensured the balloon was tracked almost around the clock. It was hard work, and the little party balloon was becoming part of the daily routine for many of us.”

More than 20 “regulars” were among those who tracked the high-altitude flight, monitoring the payload’s 20 meter signals in *WSPR* and *JT9* modes. Stations in Virginia and Florida, as well as in Peru and Argentina were among those hearing the balloon’s beacon.

The last station to hear the balloon was Vince Harrison, ZS6BTY, in Pretoria, South Africa. The balloon had been at an altitude of about 9000 meters (29,530 feet), but quickly descended into the ocean.

PS-46 had circumnavigated the Southern Hemisphere the first time in 12 days, and it was starting its third trip around when it went down. The flight had twice flown over the Pacific Ocean to South America, then across the Atlantic Ocean to Africa, and across the Indian Ocean back to Australia. Its longevity was attributed to the more northerly route taken and the absence of storms at this time of year.

Nguyen’s earlier [PS-41 balloon](#) was the first such balloon to circle Earth. He is already planning his next balloon flight. – *Thanks to Jim Linton, VK3PC* (ARRL)

**COFFEE & DONUTS
EVERY THURSDAY MORNING**

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



**IHOP
Coeur d'Alene**

**TALK-IN: 146.980, PL127.3
443.975, PL136.5**

Bring a Writing Instrument. **I. House Of Pancakes**
has the napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society



PO Box 1765, Hayden, Idaho 83835-1765

Please complete the entire form and return with your payment

Single Year membership

New member \$15.00 Renewing \$15.00 Family \$23.00 Info Update Only

Two Year Membership

New member \$28.00 Renewing \$28.00 Family \$42.00

Call Sign _____ Class _____ Expires _____

First Name & Initial _____ Last Name _____

If renewing, only fill in information below that has changed since last application, otherwise complete.

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____ E-Mail Address _____

ARRL Member _____ May we publish Limited information _____ (Y/N)

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

Signature _____

K7ID.org Request Form

First and Last Name _____ Call Sign _____

Would you like your (call sign)@k7id.org email 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 Webmail access POP Access
(Please complete the bottom & Sign) I wish to opt-out of K7ID.org

Please select a user name _____@K7ID.org

Please select a Password _____

For forward request only

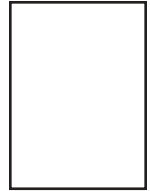
Email address _____

Signature _____

Internal Use Only

Cash	<input type="checkbox"/>	Check	<input type="checkbox"/>	Money Order	<input type="checkbox"/>
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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.

2015 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 repeaters on 146.980 and 443.975, and a packet repeater on 145.510 Mhz.

Anyone interested in Amateur Radio is welcome to join. Dues are \$15.00 (individual) and \$20.00 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.