



March 2018

(www.k7id.org)

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

## REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

**Monday, Mar 12, 7:00 p.m.**  
Search & Rescue Bldg  
10865 N Ramsey Rd.  
Hayden, Idaho  
**Topic: DVD of DXpedition**  
**Presenter:**  
**Refreshments: ???**

**VE Testing**  
**Monday, Mar 12, 5:30 p.m.**  
10865 N Ramsey Rd.  
Hayden, Idaho

**Monday, Apr 9, 7:00 p.m.**  
Search & Rescue Bldg  
10865 N Ramsey Rd  
Hayden, Idaho  
**Topic: Making QSL cards**  
**Presenters: Larry, K6SPP**  
**Refreshments: ???**

**VE Testing**  
**Monday, Apr 12, 5:30 p.m.**  
10865 N Ramsey Rd  
Hayden, Idaho

**Upcoming Events**  
**Spring Forward, March 11**

**Idaho QSO Party**  
**March 10-11, 11a.m.-12 p.m.**

**Puyallup Hamfest**  
**March 10, 2018**  
**Puyallup Fairgrounds**

## QRM FROM THE PRESIDENT

Larry Telles, K6SPP

Well, Punxsutawney Phil was correct, six more weeks of wet weather. If you don't believe it, look out your window. The earliest mention of Groundhog Day is a February 2, 1840. So what does that mean to us hams. It means six more weeks of antenna installation weather. No one would dare put up an antenna on a warm summer day. They would be run out of Dodge in a New York minute. You tackle antenna installation by the seat of your pants. Once it's up, you don't touch it, because it works.

Building antennas is one of the last things that a true ham can build. At the same time if you ask anyone whom has the best antenna, they will say that they do! I hope that some of you take advantage of this season of antenna installation by making some antennas for The Idaho QSO Party, March 10 and 11. Amateurs in the other 49 states are looking for that call sign 7 from Idaho for their QSL collection, or WAS (Worked All States) certificate. This event happens the weekend before our March meeting. I would be happy to allow a group of you to use the K7ID call sign.

Another way for people to learn who we are and what we do! Another facet of amateur radio is Dxing. The term DX was borrowed from the telephone company. Your prefix is from your Exchange. If a 762 telephone number calls a 664 telephone number, that a foreign or Distant Exchange. Since you may be the Dxr, the other end is the Dxpediton. A small group of amateurs with a burning desire to pack up a lot of ham gear, and travel half way around the world. Once they get to that exotic spot somewhere in the middle of nowhere they set up their gear on a large rock protruding out of the water. At the peak of day with the sun beating down, this group of amateurs break out the umbrellas. The weather can't slow down the contacts. Not even the gun boats with 50 caliber artillery passing by can slow don't filling out the log. In certain parts of the world this has happened. The Dxpediton could be sitting on disputed property of two different governments. But the hams in the rest of the world are happy for the contacts.

At our March meeting, Bob Rosie, W7GSV has loaned us a DVD of the VP8ORK South Orkney 2011 Dxpediton. Located just below 60 degrees south, the South Orkney Islands are within the UN Antarctic Treaty Zone. Both the United Kingdom and Argentina have scientific bases on the islands, but neither nation holds a recognized sovereign claim. The difficulty factor of setting up a Dxpediton is to encounter icebergs, rugged cliffs, and strict environmental

regulations. The Antarctic scenery is unique along with a few penguins running around. It is a very informative DVD which will give you a behind the scenes look at a part of amateur radio you don't think about much.

See you at our next meeting. Thanks for taking the time to read this.

73, Larry Telles, K6SPP  
p.s. 73 is singular, not plural.

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Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS)  
February 2018 Meeting Minutes

The February 12, 2018 KARS meeting was held at the Search & Rescue Building located at 10865 N Ramsey Rd. Hayden, Idaho.

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Club President Larry Telles (K6SPP).

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Kathryn Kent (KI7OVA).

Attendance: Thirty one members and two visitors were in attendance.

VE Testing:

Stephen Wall	Passed Technician
Max Major	Passed Technician
Michael Glauser, WD6AYE	Passed Extra
Rebecca Roos	Passed Technician
Steve Roos	Attempted Technician
Charles Mullenix	Passed Technician
Orville Emerson	Passed Technician
William Spitz	Passed Technician
Kathryn Kent, KI7OVA	Passed General

Minutes: Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) moved to approve the January 2018 minutes as printed in the newsletter; Jim Petersen (AD0AZ) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Treasurer's Report:

January 2018  
Checking  
\$2,978.12

Savings  
\$2,401.95  
Petty Cash  
\$ 55.32  
Drawing Change  
\$ 20.00  
TOTAL  
\$5,455.39

Income: Savings interest (\$0.06), 50/50 Raffle (\$4.50), Memberships (\$203.50) Expenses: January refreshments (\$14.80), Christmas party(\$20.43). Mike Slothower (KG7KSJ) moved to accept the Treasurer's report as read; Jim Petersen (AD0AZ) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Repeater Committee Report: Adam Crippen (N7ISP) presented on adding a new repeater to the KARS Club system. The information presented included: Identification of a site on Little Blacktail mountain, equipment needed to support linking the new repeater to the Mica Peak repeater, and preliminary costs. Frequency coordination as well as more details on equipment and pricing are needed before a decision to move forward can be made. Adam will get more information on equipment and pricing and present his findings at a future meeting.

Evening Presentation: A presentation on DMR was given by Lenny Gemar (N7MOT) and Frank Ten Thy (KG7CUI). Mica Peak Repeater Outage: The recent outage of the Mica Peak repeater (146.980) was discussed. The trickle charger that was powering the batteries failed. Because the CAT controller was powered from the batteries, it too failed when the batteries went down. A new power supply was installed and the repeater resumed normal operation.

Idaho QSO Party: The Idaho QSO party is coming up March 10-11. This year's sponsor is the Treasure Valley Radio Association. Larry Telles (K6SPP) said that he would sign a waiver for anyone to use the KARS Club call sign for the QSO party.

Bylaws Committee: A committee is being formed to revise the KARS Club bylaws. Larry Telles (K6SPP) appointed Dave Boss (KF7YWR) to be on the committee. Members were encouraged to contact Dave to be a part of this committee.

KARS Trailer: There was discussion regarding the possibility of obtaining a portable trailer that could be used by the KARS Club for EMCOMM purposes. Jim Petersen (AD0AZ) said he would inquire at local RV establishments to see if any would be willing to donate something suitable.

Mica Peak: The building on Mica peak may need some work. The door and roof were mentioned as needing some repair.

Raffle Results: 50/50 \$6.50 Mitch Killebrew, K7ZBE (claimed)

Membership \$133.00 Mandy Anderson, K7VMP (not claimed)

Dave Boss (KF7YWR) moved to adjourn; Mike Slothower (KG7KSJ) seconded. The motion passed by member vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

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### NBC News Left Field Report Says Hams “Could Save Our Lives” in a Disaster

A team from NBC News’ nascent digital news unit Left Field was in Hawaii to visit with some radio amateurs to produce a report when the false nuclear missile alert happened on January 13.

Left Field’s report points out how much we rely on cell phones and 21st century technology...and what we would do if these suddenly were no longer available. Amateur Radio operators “are standing at the ready and may save us all,” NBC Left Field said in the tease to its [YouTube version](#) of its report. Accessible [directly from NBC News](#), the report, with Left Field’s Jacob Soboroff, runs 7:22.

“Ham radio is one of the ways you’d be able to hear what’s happening,” when conventional telecommunications systems fail, Soboroff told his viewers.

Among those interviewed in the piece are ARRL Section Manager Joe Speroni, AH0A, and Assistant Section Manager Kevin Bogan, AH6QO. NBC News says its Left Field unit “is a new internationally minded video troupe that makes short, creative documentaries and features specially designed for social media and set-top boxes.” (ARRL News)

### ARRL Requests Expanded HF Privileges for Technician Licensees

ARRL has asked the FCC to expand HF privileges for Technician licensees to include limited phone privileges on 75, 40, and 15 meters, plus RTTY and digital mode privileges on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The FCC has not yet invited public comment on the proposals, which stem from recommendations put forth by the ARRL Board of Directors’ Entry-Level License Committee, which explored various initiatives and gauged member opinions in 2016 and 2017.

“This action will enhance the available license operating privileges in what has become the principal entry-level license class in the Amateur Service,” ARRL said in its *Petition*. “It will attract more newcomers to Amateur Radio, it will result in increased retention of licensees who hold Technician Class licenses, and it will provide an improved incentive for entry-level licensees to increase technical self-training and pursue higher license class achievement and development of communications skills.”

Specifically, ARRL proposes to provide Technician licensees, present and future, with phone privileges at 3.900 to 4.000 MHz, 7.225 to 7.300 MHz, and 21.350 to 21.450 MHz, plus RTTY and digital privileges in current Technician allocations on 80, 40, 15, and 10 meters. The ARRL petition points out the explosion in popularity of various digital modes over the past 2 decades. Under the ARRL plan, the maximum HF power level for Technician operators would remain at 200 W PEP. The few remaining Novice licensees would gain no new privileges under the League’s proposal.

ARRL’s petition points to the need for compelling incentives not only to become a radio amateur in the first place, but then to upgrade and further develop skills. Demographic and technological changes call for a “periodic rebalancing” between those two objectives, the League maintains.

“There has not been such a rebalancing in many years,” ARRL said in its petition. “It is time to do that now.” The FCC has not assessed entry-level operating privileges since 2005.

The Entry-Level License Committee offered very specific, data- and survey-supported findings about growth in Amateur Radio and its place in the advanced technological demographic that includes individuals younger than 30. It received significant input from ARRL members via more than 8,000 survey responses.

“The Committee’s analysis noted that today, Amateur Radio exists among many more modes of communication than it did half a century ago, or even 20 years ago,” ARRL said in its petition.

Now numbering some 378,000, Technician licensees comprise more than half of the US Amateur Radio population. ARRL said that after 17 years of experience with the current Technician license as the gateway to Amateur Radio, it’s urgent to make it more attractive to newcomers, in part to improve upon science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education “that inescapably accompanies a healthy, growing Amateur Radio Service,” ARRL asserted.

ARRL said its proposal is critical to developing improved operating skills, increasing emergency communication participation, improving technical self-training, and boosting overall growth in the Amateur Service, which has remained nearly inert at about 1% per year.

The Entry-Level License Committee determined that the current Technician class question pool already covers far more material than necessary for an entry-level exam to validate expanded privileges. ARRL told the FCC that it would continue to refine examination preparation and training materials aimed at STEM topics, increase outreach and recruitment, work with Amateur Radio clubs, and encourage educational institutions to utilize Amateur Radio in STEM and other experiential learning programs.

“ARRL requests that the Commission become a partner in this effort to promote Amateur Radio as a public benefit by making the very nominal changes proposed herein in the Technician class license operating privileges,” the petition concluded. (ARRL News)

## Amateur Radio Emergency Service Transitioning to New Online Reporting System

The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) will phase out the traditional ARES report forms later this year in favor of an online system called *ARES Connect*, a volunteer management, communications, and reporting system. The new system will allow information to be logged by ARES members and managed through the Field Organization. The advent of *ARES Connect* was among other highlights in “The Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) 2017 Annual Report,” released this week.

“*ARES Connect* is a volunteer management system that covers event signup, reporting, and roster management,” ARRL Emergency Preparedness Manager Mike Corey, K11U, said. “It does not change how ARES operates when serving a partner entity; it is simply a system that will make managing volunteers and events easier.” Beta testing of *ARES Connect* will begin in March. ARES made changes to its report forms last year to make it easier to process information at ARRL Headquarters and to standardize the format for all forms. ARES Monthly Reports have been posted to the ARRL website, providing regular information on Amateur Radio public service communication activity, the report noted.

According to the 2017 report, ARES membership stands at 31,332, up by nearly 13% from 2016. The number of emergency operations events reported was up by 665 from the previous year, with 1,913 reported in 2017. The top three states in terms of ARES membership in 2017 were California (2,265), Texas (1,930), and Ohio (1,858).

Reported ARES events amounted to 51,673 in 2017 - a 4% increase - accounting for 718,930 volunteer hours at a calculated value of more than \$17.3 million.

“There was a noticeable increase in reported activity during August through November,” the *ARES 2017 Annual Report* said. “During this period there was Amateur Radio response activity for hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria; wildfires in the western states, and the total solar eclipse that occurred on August 21.”

According to the report, 26 states gained ARES members, while 13 lost members. (ARRL News)

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### “Awesome” Activity for the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase

“On-the-air activity for the 2018 ARRL International Grid Chase (IGC) has been awesome!” ARRL Contest Branch Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said this week. “The year also began with DXpeditions, as well as several contests at both HF and VHF, to boost numbers. Facebook and social media (Facebook, Twitter #ICG) are abuzz with chatter about the event, the excitement, the grids worked.”

Jahnke said the statistics show the highest overall activity on 40 and 20 meters - not surprising in the winter - and especially strong *digital* activity. He expects phone and CW activity to perk up this month and next, with the ARRL International DX Contest CW weekend February 17 - 18, and the phone weekend March 3 - 4. He also anticipates that February’s statistics will come on strong as participants re-work January grid squares to boost their February scores. As of the January activity upload deadline of February 10 at 2359 UTC, some 23,300 station sites were active in the IGC.

“The leader-board reporting system continues to evolve, with much helpful participant feedback,” Jahnke said. That user input is improving how ARRL reports participation.

“From the statistics, it’s clear that during this period of low sunspots and low winter E-skip and F2, most of the activity on the mid-to-lower bands is digital modes,” Jahnke said. “As we get into the summer E-skip season, we expect to see activity above 15 meters begin its ascent in the totals.”

Jahnke said it’s apparent that participants are taking advantage of CW (and FT8 and other digital modes) on HF to overcome some of the weakened propagation on the low- to medium-frequency bands, and of FT8, JT65, and FSK144/MSK144 on 6 meters and above to rack up impressive totals. “Not to be outdone, in comparison to overall band totals, phone contacts on 80, 40, 20, and 17 meters are strong, and 2-meter and 70-centimeter contacts were strong in January as well,” Jahnke added. Several contests in January, including the ARRL RTTY Roundup and ARRL January VHF Contest contributed to these strong phone and digital numbers.

During January, IGC-eligible contacts matched in Logbook of The World (LoTW) topped 22,000 on 40 meters and 23,000 on 20 meters - the two bands with the

greatest activity - with nearly half the contacts being made on digital modes in both bands. On the new 630-meter band, 31 IGC-eligible contacts turned up in LoTW. (ARRL News)

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### NTIA Targets Portion of 3.4 GHz Band for Potential Wireless Broadband Use

The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has identified 3450 to 3550 MHz for potential wireless broadband use. Amateur Radio has a secondary allocation of 3300 to 3500 MHz, sharing the spectrum with government radars; the popular “weak-signal” frequency is 3456.1 MHz. The NTIA oversees the use of spectrum by federal government agencies.

“America is the world’s leader in Wi-Fi and 4G LTE, and we have claimed an early lead in bringing 5G to reality,” NTIA Administrator David J. Redl said in making the announcement. “It’s essential to American competitiveness that we maintain our leadership in all of these areas.”

The NTIA announcement is “great news,” according to FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “The Commission, working together with NTIA, has already made the 3.5 GHz band available for wireless services, and we recently initiated a process to consider whether all or parts of the adjacent satellite spectrum can also be made available” Pai said. “Altogether, this could unleash a contiguous block of hundreds of megahertz of valuable spectrum for new technologies and services, including 5G.”

Redl said that the NTIA, in coordination with the Department of Defense and other federal agencies, has identified 100 megahertz of spectrum “for potential repurposing to spur commercial wireless innovation.” He said the 3450 – 3550 MHz band “could be a key asset in our nation’s broadband spectrum inventory.” In the US, military radar systems operate in the 3450 – 3550 MHz band, and Amateur Radio compatibly shares the lower half of that band with the military on a secondary basis. Redl said the Defense Department plans to submit a proposal under the Spectrum Pipeline Act to carry out a comprehensive RF engineering study “to determine the potential for introducing advanced wireless services in this band without harming critical government operations.” ARRL intends to contribute to NTIA’s study.

The FCC, in coordination with NTIA and the Defense Department, has already approved rules for its planned Citizens Broadband Radio Service (CBRS) in the adjacent 3550 – 3700 MHz band.

In 2014, UK telecommunications regulator Ofcom announced that it was ending Amateur Radio access to significant portions of the 2.3 and 3.4 GHz bands following a year-long consultation - a rule making proceeding - that involved the release by the Ministry of Defence of 150 MHz of spectrum at 3.4 GHz to prepare for the roll out of future 5G services. Amateur Radio was secondary in the UK on both bands. Ofcom said it expected the spectrum to go on auction in late March. (ARRL News)

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### Permanent WSPR Beacon in Antarctica Now on the Air

The DP0GVN WSPR beacon now is in operation from the German Neumayer III Research Station of the Alfred Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research in Antarctica. The installation is part of a scientific project of the Technical University of Munich in cooperation with the University of Bremen and the German Amateur Radio Club (DARC).

“The beacon is still under test and will be shut down occasionally for more configuration and optimization of antennas and software, before it can be mounted at the final installation site in a few weeks,” said Rainer Englert, DF2NU.

The technology consists of a multiband WSPR receiver that can simultaneously monitor up to eight bands from 160 to 6 meters and feed several hundred receive reports per hour to [WSPRnet](#). The 5-W multiband transmitter also had been commissioned and is working into a vertical antenna.

“After a few days in service, DP0GVN has received several thousand beacons spots already,” Englert reports.

In related news, DP0GVN will be the call sign for Matthias Maasch, DH5CW, starting in February, at Neumayer III Research Station for 1 year, and he plans to be active on HF. For the past year, he has been using DH5CW from the German Antarctic Base. QSL DP0GVN via DL5EBE. - *Thanks to Tom Kamp, DF5JL, IARU Region 1 HF Committee Chairman via Rainer Englert, DF2NU, and [The Daily DX](#)*

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### D-Star ONE Phoenix, First D-Star Communication Spacecraft, Launched

A Soyuz rocket launched D-Star ONE Phoenix and 10 other satellites into orbit on February 1 from Vostochny

Cosmodrome in Russia. Developed by German Orbital Systems in Berlin in cooperation with the Czech company iSky Technology, D-Star ONE Phoenix carries an Amateur Radio relay payload (call sign DP1GOS). It replaces the D-Star ONE nanosatellite that failed to attain orbit following a November Soyuz launch from Vostochny.

Downlink frequencies are 435.700 MHz for telemetry and 435.525 MHz for D-Star. The uplink is 437.325 MHz.

D-Star ONE Phoenix is a 3U CubeSat equipped with four identical radio modules with D-Star capability, operating in half-duplex mode with a power output of 800 mW. The two telemetry and telecommand modules both receive, and both in sequence, so each telemetry frame is repeated. The other two modules are dedicated to Amateur Radio, although only one will operate at a time.

The modules are configured to work as D-Star repeaters, so they retransmit received D-Star frames on the downlink frequency. They also have a D-Star voice beacon. - *Thanks to AMSAT News Service, D-Star ONE* (ARRL News)

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**COFFEE & DONUTS**  
**EVERY THURSDAY MORNING**

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



**Community Mtg Rm**  
**Silver Lake Mall**  
**Coeur d'Alene**

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

Bring a writing instrument **Community Mtg Rm**  
has the napkins for our breakfast table engineering!

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

# Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

**One year membership Rates:**

New Member: \$15.00  Renewal: \$15.00  Family Membership: \$23.00

**Two year membership Rates:**

New Member: \$28.00  Renewal: \$28.00  Family Membership: \$42.00

**Lifetime membership:**

Member: \$150.00

**Information Update Only**

**Are You An ARRL Member?                      Yes / No ( Please Circle One)**

Callsign: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I. \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Nickname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address1: \_\_\_\_\_

Address2: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**OK to publish phone number?                      Yes / No ( Please Circle One)**

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

**OK to publish Email address?                      Yes / No ( Please Circle One)**

**Do you want to receive the emailed Newsletter?                      Yes / No ( Please Circle One)**

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: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

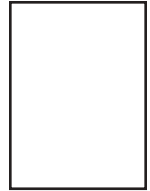
Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Call: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

*RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES, (CASH OR CHECK), TO THE KARS TREASURER,  
OR, MAIL TO: KARS MEMBERSHIP, P.O. BOX 1765, Hayden, ID. 83835-1765.*

(Office use only.)

Cash:		Check #:		Money Order:	
Membership Card:		Roster:		Newsletter:	

**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.

## **2017 CLUB OFFICERS**

President: Larry Telles, K6SPP  
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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 \$23.00 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.