



June 2018

(www.k7id.org)

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

REGULAR CLUB MEETINGS:

Monday, Jun 11, 7:00 p.m.
Search & Rescue Bldg
10865 N Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho

Topic:

Presenters:

Refreshments: ???

VE Testing

Monday, Jun 11, 5:30 p.m.
10865 N Ramsey Rd.
Hayden, Idaho

Friday, Jun 13, 6:30 p.m.
CDA Shriner's Club
1250 W Lancaster Rd
Hayden, Idaho

Topic: Potluck

Presenters: Everyone

Refreshments: Everyone

VE Testing

Saturday, Jul 14, 9:30 a.m.
CDA Shriner's Club
Hayden, Idaho

Upcoming Events

Field Day June 23-24, 11 a.m.-
11 a.m.
Majestic Park, Rathdrum, ID

Hamfest, July 14
Shriner's Event Center
8AM-3PM

QRM FROM THE PRESIDENT

Larry Telles, K6SPP

Well the sun has finally come out. Now that we know all about the balun, thanks to Tom, W7UAT, it's time to think about antennas. We have a lot of new members who don't possibly have an idea what kind of antenna to construct. With all the good weather coming, we should and will be talking about antenna parties at our next meeting.

The month of June in years past meant the frantic running around due to both a hamfest and Field Day. It all took place in a two week period. This year it's different. The Field Day is on the last full weekend and the hamfest is on the second weekend in July. Our Vice-President Jim, AD0AZ has a list of volunteers and will be contacting you shortly.

For you new hams, let me briefly describe Field Day:

Field Day is ham radio's open house. Every June, more than 40,000 hams throughout North America set up temporary transmitting stations in public places to demonstrate ham radio's science, skill and service to our communities and our nation. It combines public service, emergency preparedness, community outreach, and technical skills all in a single event. Field Day has been an annual event since 1933 and remains the most popular event in ham radio.

As a licensed operator you can operate or log for the operator over this weekend. The club call, K7ID is officially an Extra class. Here is your chance to operate a station on one of the biggest days of hams on the air. We will talk about Field Day at our next regular meeting on June 11.

On the heels of Field Day is our hamfest on July 14. More discussion on this at our upcoming meeting.

If you are not doing anything on Thursday mornings between 8 and 10 a.m., the KARS club has an informal coffee and doughnuts get-together in a vacant store front next to the Mall Food Court in the Silverlake Mall. A bottomless cup and a pastry are only a dollar, and the conversations are free. The subjects we discuss go from soup to nuts.

Hope to see you on Thursday and at the next meeting.

73, Larry Telles, K6SPP

p.s. 73 is singular, not plural

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS)
May 2018 Meeting Minutes

The May 14, 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 7:07 pm by Club President Larry Telles (K6SPP). The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Bob Kesson (K7CGA).

Attendance: Thirty members and three visitors were in attendance.

VE Testing: Nine people tested and the results were as follows:

Passed Technician	3
Passed Technician and General	2
Passed General	1
Passed General and Extra	1
Attempted Technician	2

Minutes: Frank Ten Thy (KG7CUI) moved to accept the April 2018 minutes; Rod Anderson (K7ZBE) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Treasurer's Report:

April 2018

Checking	\$2,223.38
Savings	\$2,477.19
Petty Cash	\$ 96.63
Repeater Fund	\$ 40.00
TOTAL	\$4,837.20

Income: Savings interest (\$0.06), 50/50 Raffle (\$7.50), Memberships (\$253.00), Donations-Repeater Fund (\$40.00), Donation (\$1.00)

Expenses: Duplexer (\$400.00), Liability Insurance (\$300.00), Life Member Tag (\$9.54)

Dave Boss (KF7YWR) moved to accept the Treasurer's report; Adam Crippen (N7ISP) seconded; the motion passed by member vote.

Repeater Committee Report: Adam Crippen (N7ISP) reported that the duplexer and isolator have been purchased and are mounted in a cabinet. Licensing coordination is the next step. Adam will be working on getting the coordination step moving forward.

Upcoming Events:

June 23-24: Field Day. This will be a 24-hour event to make as many contacts as possible. Using the K7ID call, Technician class operators can participate. A sign-up sheet was passed around to indicate interest in participating.

July 14: Hamfest. Adam Crippen (N7ISP) reported that a flyer for this year's hamfest has been completed. Volunteers are needed! Swap table set-up and a potluck

will be held the Friday evening before the event. The cost for a table will be the same as last year. Breakfast and lunch will be available. VE testing will be held at 9:30 AM. The event will begin later in the morning than in previous years. Advertising this event on the Northwest Traffic Net was encouraged.

August 22-26: North Idaho Fair.

Evening Presentation: Tom Macy (W7UAT) gave a presentation on BALUNS.

Raffle Results: 50/50 \$5.50 Dan Latuseck, KG7UWF (claimed)

Membership \$30.00 Garret Textor, KJ6DWY (not claimed)

Rod Anderson (K7ZBE) moved to adjourn; Gary Roth (KE7IAT) seconded. The motion passed by member vote and the meeting was adjourned at 8:37 pm.

FCC Denies Petition Aimed at Preventing Interference from Digital Repeaters to Analog Repeaters

The FCC has turned away a *Petition for Rulemaking* from a Michigan radio amateur that asked the Commission to amend Section 97.205 of the Amateur Service rules to ensure that repeaters using digital communication protocols do not interfere with analog repeaters. Charles P. Adkins, K8CPA, of Lincoln Park, had specifically requested that discrete analog and digital repeaters be separated either by distance or frequency and that digital repeaters be limited to 10 W output, the FCC recounted in its June 1 denial letter, released over the signature of Scot Stone, the deputy chief of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau's Mobility Division. According to the letter, Adkins had characterized digital repeaters as "a major annoyance" to analog repeater operators.

"In 2008, we rejected a suggestion to amend Section 97.205(b) to designate separate spectrum for digital repeaters in order to segregate digital and analog communications," the FCC said in its letter to Adkins. "We noted that when the Commission has previously addressed the issue of interference between amateur stations engaging in different operating activities, it has declined to revise the rules to limit a frequency segment to one emission type in order to prevent interference to the operating activities of other Amateur Radio Service licensees."

The FCC told Adkins that current Part 97 rules already address the subject of interference between amateur

stations, prohibiting, among other things, willful or malicious interference to any radio communication or signal, and spelling out how interference disputes between repeaters should be handled.

“You have not demonstrated any changed circumstances or other reason that would warrant revisiting this decision,” the FCC concluded. “Consequently, we dismiss your petition.”

The FCC did not assign a rulemaking petition (RM) number to Adkins’ petition nor invite public comments. (ARRL News)

Reception Reports Requested as Amateur Radio Heads to the Moon

China launched two microsattellites into a lunar transfer orbit on May 20 in conjunction with the Chang’e 4 mission to the far side of the moon. The *Longjiang-1* (LJ-1) and *Longjiang-2* (LJ-2) microsats were secondary payloads on the launch, piggybacking on the *Queqiao* relay satellite. Also known as DSLWP-A1 and DSLWP-A2, the satellites were maneuvered onto a track to the moon, but LJ-1 then appeared to have encountered problems, and Harbin Institute of Technology, which developed the satellites, was asking for help from the world Amateur Satellite community.

“We lost contact with Satellite A on S band after an orbit adjustment,” Wei Mingchuan, BG2BHC, of Harbin Institute of Technology said. “We just tried to switch on UHF, but we don’t know if it works or not.” He said on 435.425 MHz, the satellite should alternate between 500 bps GMSK and JT4, while the 436.425 MHz signal should be 250 bps GMSK. Both transmit once every 5 minutes.

LJ-1 and LJ-2 also will test low-frequency radio astronomy and space-based interferometry. The astronomy objectives of the two spacecraft are to observe the sky at the lower end of the electromagnetic spectrum — 1 MHz to 30 MHz — with the aim of learning about energetic phenomena from galactic sources, using the moon to shield them from earthbound radio signals. The Chang’e 4 mission will mark the first-ever attempt at a soft landing on the far side of the moon.

Signals from the DSLWP satellites were received after launch by radio amateurs in Brazil, Chile, and the US, as well as by many others around the world. Each satellite carries VHF/UHF SDR transceivers for beacon, telemetry, telecommand, and digital image downlink. Onboard transmitting power is about 2 W.

The *Queqiao* communications relay satellite is required for the lunar far-side landing to facilitate communication with a not-yet-launched lander and rover, because the moon’s far side never faces Earth, and some significant scientific measurements from the dark side of the moon require real-time contact with Earth. *Queqiao* was developed by the China Academy of Space Technology (CAST). (ARRL News)

Iowa National Guard Exercise Pushes Communications Interoperability Boundary

An [Iowa National Guard](#) exercise in late April for the first time saw the use of a common digital mode among military, Amateur Radio, and Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) participants on the 60-meter interoperability channels. Military standard communications mode MilStd 188-110 was pressed into service to pass digital messages during Exercise Stable Mercury. Because Amateur Radio operators on 60 meters are not symbol-rate limited, all parties were able to use a common digital mode at a higher data rate to pass traffic. For RTTY or digital operation, radio amateurs must transmit on the center frequency of 60-meter channels with a bandwidth no wider than that of a USB signal.

The April 23 - 24 communications exercise involved the deployment of Guard units across numerous incident command posts to operate cooperatively with federal, state, local, and auxiliary units. The scenario for the drill was based on an actual severe weather event that occurred 20 years ago, and the April exercise used radar feeds and storm spotter reports taken from the June 29, 1998, Iowa Derecho to inform this training event. A derecho is an extended straight-line windstorm associated with a fast-moving cluster of severe thunderstorms.

Exercise planner and retired Colonel Rob Hedgepeth, KE0GSN, stated that a major training objective for Exercise Stable Mercury was to train in sending voice and digital messages among the various exercise participants via HF radio. The rationale was that introducing a common digital protocol would increase message throughput over what could be achieved using only voice modes.

MARS volunteers Mitch Winkle, AB4MW, and Steve Hajducek, N2CKH, prepared an Amateur Radio version of the software package that MARS members use to interoperate with military units employing the MIL STD 188-110 serial PSK modem embedded in the AN/PRC-

150(C) HF transceiver and its associated “chat” software. Iowa District 1 Emergency Coordinator Paul Cowley, W0YR, led the effort for his state’s ham radio community to load and configure the M110 program in time for the exercise.

Northern Command Interoperability Communications Planner Mark Jensen, WA6MVT, noted that the five 60-meter spot frequencies are the only designated channels where federal, military, MARS, and Amateur Radio operators are permitted to operate together.

Amateur Radio rules impose a symbol rate limit of 300 baud below 29.7 MHz, restricting the types of digital modes that may be used. No such limitation applies on the 60-meter interoperability channels, however, allowing the Amateur Radio community to use the higher-rate Serial PSK mode that MARS and the military use. The M110 program employs a sound card mode, similar to other ham radio community software, and allowed 1,200-baud symbol data rate for this exercise.

The FCC proposed revising the Amateur Service Part 97 rules in response to the ARRL’s so-called “Symbol Rate” *Petition for Rule Making* ([RM-11708](#)), filed in late 2013. ARRL had asked the FCC to change the Part 97 rules to delete the symbol rate limits in §97.307(f), replacing them with a maximum bandwidth for data emissions of 2.8 kHz on amateur frequencies below 29.7 MHz.

Participating organizations in Exercise Stable Mercury included the Iowa National Guard’s Joint Planning Group, Joint Operations Center, 671st Troop Command, Iowa Joint Incident Site Communications Capability, 71st Civil Support Team, Iowa Air Guard’s 132nd Wing Mobile Emergency Operations Center, and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management Emergency Operations Center, among other entities.

The first Exercise Stable Mercury was held in 2014. -
Thanks to Army MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY (ARRL News)

RETURN OF ‘LAST MAN STANDING’ IS A FIRST FOR FOX

DON/ANCHOR: Are you ready for “Last Man Standing?” No, we’re not talking reruns - but we ARE talking QSOs. Mike Askins KE5CXP tells us more.

MIKE: Did your hope of working KA6LMS die with Season Six of TV’s “Last Man Standing?” Take heart: The show’s Mike Baxter KA0XTT hasn’t let his amateur radio license languish and neither has the Last Man Standing Amateur Radio Club. Recent word is that the show will live and breathe again this fall on the Fox network.

The same familiar characters will be back but it’s possible Mike has upgraded some of the equipment in his shack - we’ll see. We have it on good authority that KA6LMS hopes to resume operation from the set on production days.

Fox News quoted actor Tim Allen as saying “I could not be more grateful for the fans who wrote petitions and kept up the passion and incredible support for the show.” According to Fox, “Last Man Standing” was the second most-watched comedy on ABC with an average of 8.3 million viewers. That’s an enviable pileup.

Details were still being worked out, according to producer John Amodeo (amma-DAY-OH), an Extra Class licensee himself, who said “Last Man” isn’t ready to breathe its last.

For Amateur Radio Newslines, I’m Mike Askins KE5CXP.

(FOX NEWS, JOHN AMODEO)

YELLOWSTONE ARES STEPS IN DURING MONTANA STORM

NEIL/ANCHOR: We begin this week’s newscast with reports of amateur response to flooding. While most of the U.S. concentrated on their holiday celebrations over Memorial Day weekend, hams in two parts of the country dealt with crisis conditions. We begin in Montana with the Yellowstone Amateur Radio Emergency Service. Here’s Kent Peterson KC0DGY:

KENT: Amateur radio operators in the Billings, Montana area mobilized over the Memorial Day holiday weekend as a “perfect storm” brought massive flooding to the region brought on by melting mountain snowpack, heavy rain and an anticipated crest of the Yellowstone River. There were concerns too that the region’s complex canal system that feeds local farms could further complicate the scenario. As the holiday weekend began on Friday, May 25th, Brad Shoemaker, Disaster and Emergency Services Director turned to YARES, the

Yellowstone Amateur Radio Emergency Services. Ron Glass WN7Y, the ARRL's Emergency Coordinator for Yellowstone County, activated a net, 23 hams checked in and staffing got under way. Five hams went the next morning to sandbag centers where they helped manage traffic and ensure that no one ran out of bags or sand. In some cases, said Ron, the hams even helped residents load the sandbags into their vehicles. Others staffed the Emergency Operations Center and Net Control while still others served as "loggers" tracking callouts. The weekend operation brought logistics challenges and long work shifts, Ron told Newline, but the hams kept their duties covered. By Monday, as the anticipated rainstorm began to hit hard, hams were dispatched for River Watch Duty and at roadway locations to identify any threatened bridges, flooded roads and other trouble spots identified by the county. The damage ultimately turned out to be less than predicted. Ron told Newline: "Even though the storm dropped over an inch of rain in the first 15 minutes and we were driving through flooded streets the rest of the day, the event was NOT as large as expected." By 3 p.m. that same afternoon, the flood warning was dropped and the EOC went into standby mode, said Ron. He told Newline that YARES was officially deactivated within the hour.

For Amateur Radio Newline, I'm Kent Peterson KC0DGY.

Solar Eclipse QSO Party Research Results Published in Geophysical Research Letters

The first science results from the Solar Eclipse QSO Party (SEQP) last August 21 have been [published](#) in the American Geophysical Union journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. In the paper, "Modeling Amateur Radio Soundings of the Ionospheric Response to the 2017 Great American Eclipse," Nathaniel Frissell, W2NAF, and team present Reverse Beacon Network (RBN) observations of the SEQP and compare them with [ray tracings](#) through an [eclipsed version of the physics-based ionospheric model SAMI3](#). Frissell, a New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) research professor, explains that ray tracing is a method of calculating where a radio wave will go based on electron density - essentially the same as calculating how a light ray through a lens. [HamSCI](#), the Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation organization, sponsored the event.

"From a ham radio perspective, this paper very clearly shows the effect of the eclipse on not just a few, but a very

large number of contacts," Frissell told ARRL. "You can see from the charts that activity drops off steeply on 20 meters during eclipse totality, while 80 and 160 meters open up. On 40 meters, you can see how the contact distance increases in step with the eclipse."

Frissell said another key aspect of the paper is that the researchers were able to use ray tracing to compare the observations to a physics-based numerical model of the eclipsed ionosphere. "We did this by ray tracing hundreds of thousands of ray paths on the NJIT supercomputer," Frissell explained. "The development of this method of comparison also gives us a new tool for comparing datasets like the RBN to actual models."

On 14 MHz (20 meters), eclipse effects were observed as a drop off in communications for an hour before and an hour after eclipse maximum. On 7 MHz (40 meters), typical path lengths extended from about 500 kilometers (310 miles) to 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) for 45 minutes before and after eclipse maximum. On 1.8 MHz (160 meters) and 3.5 MHz (80 meters), eclipse effects were observed as band openings 20 to 45 minutes around eclipse maximum.

By using ray tracing to compare these observations with the SAMI3 model, it was found that the majority of 14 MHz signals refracted off the ionosphere at heights less than 125 kilometers (77.5 miles) in the E region. On the lower bands, 1.8, 3.5, and 7 MHz, it was found that signals likely refracted off heights greater than 125 kilometers (77.5 miles) in the F region.

These observations suggest an eclipse-induced weakening of the ionosphere, and are consistent with numerous prior HF radio eclipse ionospheric studies.

The SEQP generated more than 618,000 RBN spots, 630,000 Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network (WSPRNet) spots, 1.2 million [PSK Reporter](#) spots, and 29,000 log contacts.

The SEQP research paper, along with the geo-located RBN data with solar eclipse obscuration values used in the paper, are being published under an open-access license to allow for further research. The data files can be found under the "Supporting Information" section of the paper. Additional [HamSCI eclipse data](#) is available online. (ARRL News)

Spokane DX Association Co-Founder, Honor Roll DXer Daniel Hearn, N5AR, SK

One of the three founders of the Spokane DX Association, Dan Hearn, N5AR (ex-W5LHP), of Deer Park, Washington, died on April 27. An ARRL member, he was 92. According to Steve Sala, K7AWB, Hearn “had the highest tower in Spokane County.” An Oklahoma native, Hearn was a #1 Honor Roll DXer, with 377 all-time entities confirmed. Hearn served in the US Army during World War II, later earning a BS in electrical engineering and an MS in antenna theory and design, both from Oklahoma State University. He went on to a career in the oil industry and was the holder of 22 patents. — Thanks to [The Daily DX](#) for some information (ARRL News)

MARS Urging Members to Use Computers that are Isolated from the Internet

US Army Military Auxiliary Radio System (MARS) headquarters is recommending that MARS members “migrate to standalone computer systems for [MARS] radio operations,” subject to the availability of a dedicated computer.

“These computer systems (or their associated local area networks) should be ‘air-gapped’ from the internet,” Army MARS Headquarters Operations Officer David McGinnis, K7UXO, said in a message to members. “Although not a requirement for membership at this time, we will continue make this a condition of certain parts of our exercises.”

McGinnis pointed to remarks by Cisco researchers in a recent *Ars Technica* article (<https://arstechnica.com/information-technology/2018/05/hackers-infect-500000-consumer-routers-all-over-the-world-with-malware/?amp=1>) that discussed how hackers “possibly working for an advanced nation” have infected more than a half-million home and small-office computers “with malware that can be used to collect communications, launch attacks on others, and permanently destroy the devices with a single command.”

McGinnis told Army MARS members that MARS Headquarters does not discuss specific cyber threats with MARS members or with the public. “We also cannot confirm or deny information about specific threats,” he said, adding that he had “no specific knowledge” about

VPN Filter malware and no comment on the Cisco report.

For communication exercises this year, MARS established conditions for a certain portion of the drill that requires use of standalone computer systems “normally not connected to the internet.” He said used or refurbished PCs are widely available at low cost and could be dedicated to serve a standalone function.

“The most effective way to protect against threats that come from the internet is to isolate from the internet,” McGinnis added.

“Despite a standalone environment, we assume that all computer systems in private citizens’ hands are infected with hostile software code of some sort and are not secured,” he said. “No amount of virus and malware scanning software changes that assumption. We can, however, isolate computers by disconnecting them from the international network in which hostile software will report and receive instruction.”

McGinnis said future versions of MARS software will check for an internet connection and will disable the software. “We understand this lockout does not provide security in and of itself; rather, its value is in changing the behavior of members,” he explained.

MARS Program Manager Paul English, WD8DBY, told ARRL that the MARS goal is to isolate MARS members’ computers from the internet as much as possible and that isolating members’ computers used for MARS-related activity is “a goal, but has not been directed.” (ARRL News)

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: _____

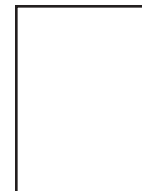
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*RETURN THIS FORM WITH YOUR DUES, (CASH OR CHECK), TO THE KARS TREASURER,
OR, MAIL TO: KARS MEMBERSHIP, P.O. BOX 1765, Hayden, ID. 83835-1765.*

(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.

2018 CLUB OFFICERS

President: Larry Telles, K6SPP
president@k7id.org

Vice-President: Jim Petersen, AD0AZ
vicepresident@k7id.org

Exec. Director: Lindy Bryant, KE0AZD
execdir@k7id.org

Secretary: Sheila Waller, KG7SAA
secretary@k7id.org

Treasurer: Rod Anderson, K7ZBE
treasurer@k7id.org

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

Repeater Trustee: Larry Telles K6SPP
trustee@k7id.org

Repeater Tech: Dale DuRee, KE7VMN

Webmaster: Lenny Gemar, N7MOT
208 691-4735 webmaster@k7id.org

Past President: Dave Boss, KF7YWR
pastpresident@k7id.org

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.