

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



MARCH 2023

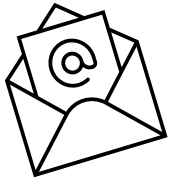


PO Box 792 Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

<http://www.k7jep.org>

email: k7jep@arrl.net

ANNOUNCEMENTS



BCARC member communication is changing! In June, we will be switching to **groups.io** for all member communications.

Emails will no longer be sent via Gmail or other methods and current distribution lists will be consolidated. BCARC members will need to subscribe to the Club **groups.io** ([here](#)) in order to receive direct email communications from the Club. Non-members can access the Club website (<http://www.k7jep.org>) for links to the monthly presentations and this newsletter.

MEETING AGENDA

The March meeting will be a little different. Little PowerPoint and lots of hands on!

We will have several stations set up where you can learn to install Power Pole connectors, install crimp PL-259 connectors on RG-8 and RG-8X size coaxial cables and get new or existing coaxial cables tested using a variant of TDR (Time Domain Reflectometry) technology. Coax and especially the connectors can go bad over time and testing them at RF frequencies can be very illuminating.

You can bring your own DC cables or coax if you have something you would like to make or be tested. Or, we will have cables and coax at the meeting if you would just like to practice. For example, maybe you need a 3' to 6' RG-8X jumper? Please measure the length you need before you come to the meeting. You can make one! Power Pole connectors on the power cable for your radio? Bring the power cable and we will get you setup.

It should be fun and informative – we hope to see you there!

PAST PRESENTATIONS

To download presentations from prior meetings, click [here](#).

NEXT MEETING

March 8, 2023

2nd Wednesday of the Month



Board Meeting

5:00 PM

Pre-function / Workshop

6:00 PM

General Meeting

6:30 PM

Location

VFW HALL

1325 PINE ST.

Corner of Pine & Division

Sandpoint, ID

NEWSFLASH

CQ...CQ...CQ... School Club Round-up, this is Forrest M. Bird Charter School Amateur Radio Club

The Forrest M. Bird Charter School Amateur Radio Club participated in its first ever School Club Round-up. The goal was to make as many contacts as possible from February 13th – February 17th, Monday - Friday without breaching the 6 hour limit per day. Students tried to get as many contacts as possible and even worked a few stations twice on different bands for extra points.

The students had a lot of fun working the radio with volunteers Dave, KE4EW, and John, K7SYS. Dave helped setup the antenna each morning and take down each afternoon. He also gave impromptu lessons in Amateur Radio to my Speech, Cold War History, and American Government classes. John helped assist a middle school Natural Science Class get on the air for the first time. Both KE4EW and K7SYS helped many students and staff members broadcast for their first time.

Included are a couple pictures of our antenna setup and students working the radio. We used 2, 8 foot ladders with 20 foot painter poles as the antenna mast. We raised our student made 10 meter center fed dipole which tuned on both 10 and 20 meters. We setup the antenna each morning and took it down each evening after school. We also used a 20 Meter slopper antenna off the same mast, and a separate 2 meter antenna the kids made for local contacts when the bands closed down on us.

The radio shack picture taken is of two members of our newly created amateur radio club. The one in the foreground won the schools most QSO contest. The student behind him has his technician license and will probably test for general soon. One of our amazing Elmer is in the background, KE4EW.

The radio shack was the high school conference room which was loaned to the club for the week of School Club Roundup, and the feed line for the antenna was fished out the window and raised above the door with old volleyball net masts. Our new slogan might just be, "Whatever works!"

Overall, we had a great time, and this "contest" was a great way to generate interest in amateur radio. Next year, I hope to find new ways to encourage the Bonner County amateur radio community to participate and help spot us on the 2 meter band each day before school is out and encourage the same people to try and find us on the 10 and 20 meter bands throughout the week.

The last day of the contest this year, we parked close by the 2 meter national simplex without being on it. According to the rules, we are not allowed to use repeaters or the National Simplex frequencies. We were hoping to get people to tune us in, but I don't think people understood what we were trying to do. Next year, we will promote the contest more and hopefully get more community support.

As for the results, Forrest Bird Charter School Amateur Radio Club successfully made 66 contacts and over 3,696 points. We are still waiting to see the results and how we did compared to the other schools participating at the high school level.

Thanks everyone for your support during the event and helping us out.

Mark Webber KJ7YOZ
Social Studies Teacher
Forrest M. Bird Charter School



IDAHO QSO PARTY REMINDER

The Idaho QSO Party will be March 11 – 12, 2023. A state QSO party happens annually for any state or given set of states with the goal of having other amateurs work as many counties in the state as is possible. The fun of a state QSO party comes as the amateurs within the state “become the DX.” Everyone will be trying to work you!

For Idaho stations, the goal is work as many states and DX entities as possible. Your score is the total number of QSO’s multiplied by the number of states and Dx entities worked. The exchange is simple. For us it is the three-letter abbreviation for your county.

Logging support can be found withing the N3FJP program suite. Full rules can be found [here](#).

There will be an award to the BCARC member with the highest score for the event!

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

2023 Membership dues are due!

\$25 Individual
\$35 Family

Please remit **with a membership application** at the next meeting or send to:
 BCARC
 PO Box 792
 Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

A membership application can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCARC participates and supports many local events. For more information on the events and volunteering opportunities, click on the links below:

Idaho QSO Party
March 11-12, 2023

Field Day
June 23 – 25, 2023
Edgemere Grange

July 4th Parade
July 4, 2023
Sandpoint

Long Bridge Swim
August 5, 2023
Sandpoint

BCARC CALENDAR