

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



October 2023

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Have you voted yet?



The BCARC Activities Manager is hard at work planning for 2024 and we want your input! What topics would you like to hear more about and what sort of hands on activities would you like to participate in? So far, the top 3 topics are: HF Operating and Antennas, All Things SSB and Antenna Analyzers.

There's still time to vote....go to our survey on groups.io under **Programs for 2024** and check as many boxes as you are interested in...don't forget to click the **Vote** button to submit. Don't see the topic you are really interested in? Contact johnnykludt@gmail.com.

Vote	
<input type="checkbox"/>	VHF Operating Techniques and Antennas
<input type="checkbox"/>	HF Operating Techniques and Antennas
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Things CW
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Things SSB
<input type="checkbox"/>	All Things Digital (Not RTTY)
<input type="checkbox"/>	RTTY
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kit Building How To (Maybe build a kit?)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Basic Contesting
<input type="checkbox"/>	QSLing and Awards (LoTW, QRZ, eQSL - DXCC, WAS, WAC, WAZ, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Using Antenna Analyzers (MFJ, Rig Expert nanoVNA, etc.)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Refresher on Basic Electronics
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Vote

OCTOBER MEETING PRESENTATION

Parks On The Air – “POTA”

Presented by **Jeff Banke, N22S**

Amateur Radio is always more fun if you have a goal. Looking for something to do that has a competitive challenge but isn't a hard core radiosport contest or 48-hour contest? Something that you can work on your own schedule? How about choosing from an international list of parks, and taking your radio to one of those parks and putting it “on the air.” Or maybe you would rather stay and home and look for others who are putting those parks on the air. Folks who put parks on the air are called “activators.” Those who work them are called “hunters.” And, yes, there are certificates for both activators and hunters as different levels of success are achieved.

Please join us as Jeff Banke, N22S, joins us via Zoom from his home QTH in Colbert, WA, to share his adventures with us as both an *activator* and a *hunter*. According to POTA webpage Jeff had has 967 QSO's with 600 parks as a *hunter*. He has also done a couple of activations. Jeff will share with us the details on the program as well as some practical tips on both doing activations and maximizing your success as a hunter.

We hope to see you either in person or on Zoom as we learn about another fun way to “play radio.”

NEXT MEETING

October 11, 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

MEMBER NEWS

Yagi Antenna Build

BCARC members gathered on September 16th at John Ailport's house, after the monthly breakfast, to build their very own 2m Yagi antenna out of just PVC pipes, tape measures and some wire and connectors! More than 11 people, cut, soldered and pieced together the components and tuned the antennas with an analyzer before testing their skills at finding a hidden transmitter. If you interested in building your own Yagi, instructions and a parts list are on our website.



BCARC BREAKFAST

October 28, 2023

9am – 10:30am

Location

Connie's Café
323 Cedar St
Sandpoint, ID

BCARC NETS

Every **Sunday at 7pm**

K7JEP HooDoo Mtn
VHF Repeater /
North Idaho Repeater
Group Net

145.490MHz
(-0.6 MHz offset; 136.5 tone)

Simplex Net

*(Immediately following the
Repeater Net)*

145.600MHz Simplex

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family

To join, 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](#).



Members and the public will also have an opportunity to test their hunting skills at the first ever BCARC Transmitter Fox Hunt on September 30th and October 1st at the Panhandle Preparedness Expo. You just need an HT and Yagi or other directional antenna. Hunts will begin at 11am and 2pm on Saturday and 11am on Sunday. Meet at the ARES Command Truck.

BONNER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
SEARCH & RESCUE TRANSMITTER FOX HUNT

A friend is lost in the woods. Luckily, they have their HT radio. However, in order to conserve battery life, they only key up the radio from time-to-time. Your mission, should you choose to accept it, is to find your friend before their battery dies.

As a follow on to the Bonner County Amateur Radio Club's Yagi build workshop, we are offering our first ever Transmitter Fox Hunt during the Panhandle Preparedness Expo at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. Join us to test your hunting skills...you just need to bring your HT and a Yagi or other directional antenna. We will be offering 3 hunts during the Expo—

- ⇒ Saturday, September 30th - 11am & 2pm
- ⇒ Sunday, October 1st - 11am

~ Meet us at the ARES Command truck behind the Expo building ~

Bonner County Amateur Radio Club

PANHANDLE PREPAREDNESS EXPO

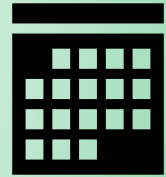
This message will self-destruct in 3, 4, 2, 1...

UPCOMING EVENTS

BCARC participates in and supports many local events.

Check out the BCARC Calendar on our website for more information by clicking on the icon below.

BCARC Calendar



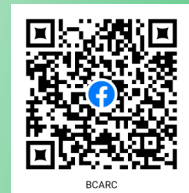
UPCOMING MONTHLY MEETING PROGRAMS:

November 8

Solar/Battery Power for Radios and Computers
John Ailport, K7BSV

December 13

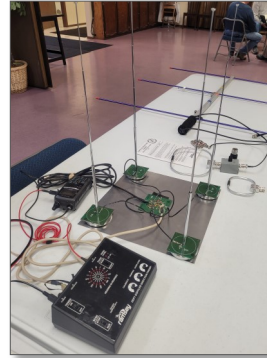
Year End Celebration & Pizza Social
For Members and Families



September Club Presentation

BCARC Activities Manager, *John Kludt, K7SYS*, gave a great presentation on Transmitter Hunting, aka Fox Hunting, and Directional Antennas. Attendees learned about the basics of hidden transmitter hunting for both fun and as a practical skill. Several examples of directional antennas were also on display.

This presentation, as well as past presentations, can be downloaded [here](#).



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Panhandle Preparedness Expo—

September 30—Oct 1

Runs from 9am—5pm on Saturday and 9am—3pm on Sunday. Bonner Co ARES will have a booth present. BCARC will also be conducting Transmitter Fox Hunts at 11am/2pm on Saturday and 11am on Sunday. Meet at the ARES Command Truck.

www.panhandleprep.org

VE Testing – October 14

This is your *last* local opportunity this year to sit for the Technician, General or Amateur Extra license exam. Provided free of charge by our local BCARES group. Testing begins at 10:00am at The Library – Sandpoint Branch. [License Exams - Bonner County ARES/RACES \(K7BNR\) K7BNR \(bonnerares.org\)](#)

** In 2024, testing will happen on odd months, starting in January.

School Club Roundup—October 16-20

Even though our local Forest Byrd School is not participating in this one, watch for other schools and given them a contact.

[School Club Roundup \(arrl.org\)](#)

November Sweepstakes

This is a great one for SSB and CW the goals being to work as many US and Canadian sections as possible. Work them all and score a

"clean sweep" and get a coveted "Clean 'Sweep' coffee mug or pin for purchase from the ARRL.

[Sweepstakes \(arrl.org\)](http://www.arrl.org)

Ten Meter Contest—December 9-10

This is a CW and phone event to work as many stations as possible. All licensed Amateur Radio operators can play in the one as Technicians have 10 meter SSB and CW privileges as well. With the sunspots being elevated 10m has been hot of late. Give it a whirl! Need a 10m antenna? BCARC members can help.

See <http://www.arrl.org/10-meter> for details.

HF Activity Group - Daily

Hello, is anyone out there?? Have you ever struggled to determine your stations propagation? Well, here is a way to check. The HF Activity Group is open to anyone and its sole purpose is to check out your stations propagation. You merely give your call sign at the beginning and wait to be called upon, make your CQ call and then listen as to where you are being heard. And if you like, hang around and give reports back.

The daily schedule is:

17M on 18.157.5 MHz at 1730-18:30z;

15M on 21.383 MHz at 18:30z;

12M on 24.970 MHz at 19:15z;

10M on 28.570 MHz (when time and band allows)

CALL FOR ARTICLES

Do you fancy yourself a budding journalist? Do you have expertise in antennas, digital mode, DIY radio projects or other interesting radio topics? We would love to have you write an article for our monthly newsletter! If you are interested, please contact us via our club email: bcarc73@gmail.com. We will follow up with you regarding the next publication opportunity.