

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



November 2023

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Are you an ARRL Member?



Did you know that in order for BCARC to be an ARRL affiliated club and receive ARRL benefits, we need to have at least 51% of club members with an ARRL membership. So that we can provide proper documentation to ARRL, please respond to our survey on Groups.io and let us know your ARRL status.

[Groups.io Topic: ARRL Membership](#)

### Time to submit your dues.



2024 annual membership dues are now being collected. Dues will remain the same as this year at \$25 for Individual membership and \$35 for

Family membership. Please remember to fill out a [membership form](#) along with payment and remit either by mail or at the next monthly meeting. Dues will be due as of **January 31st, 2024**.

### Year End Celebration!

Let's celebrate! Don't miss our Year End Celebration at the December meeting. More info on page 3 and an invite coming via Groups.io.



## NOVEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION

### Batteries and Solar Power For The Shack (and Portable Operations!)

Presented by **John Ailport, K7BSV**

Ever wonder what it would take to run a 100-watt class station including your computer(s) for 24 hours on battery power backed up with a solar charging system? Our own **John Ailport, K7BSV**, will be giving us the lowdown on how to make that happen at the November meeting of the Bonner County Amateur Radio Club. Please come and learn how to size your batteries and your solar panels. Although there are 12-volt computers and monitors, most of us have systems that require 120 VAC for operation. John will give some tips on how to keep those computers and monitors running while on "battery power" through the night.

The program will include information on:

- ◆ Types of batteries-lead acid, AGM, deep cycle, LiFePO4
- ◆ Calculations on how much battery (amp hours) you need for various applications including use with inverters for radio use.
- ◆ Portable solar panels you can use to keep the batteries going if the power goes out; and how many watts do you need.
- ◆ Charge controllers.
- ◆ Controlling RFI from the equipment.

We encourage you to attend in person but as is our new routine, we will also stream the presentation on Zoom.

## NEXT MEETING

**November 8, 2023**

(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month)

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**Board Meeting**

5:00 PM

**Pre-function / Workshop**

6:00 PM

**General Meeting**

6:30 PM

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**Location**

VFW HALL

1325 PINE ST.

Corner of Pine & Division

Sandpoint, ID



# MEMBER NEWS

## Transmitter Fox Hunt

BCARC members and the public got an opportunity to participate in BCARC's first Transmitter Fox Hunt! Staged during the Panhandle Preparedness Expo at the Bonner County Fairgrounds on September 30th and Oct 1st, folks practiced finding a cleverly hidden transmitter with their HTs and directional antennas, many of which were built at our Yagi Antenna Build workshop earlier in the month. We hope to make this an annual event!



## BCARC BREAKFAST

**November 18, 2023**

9 – 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)*

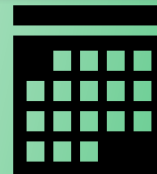
145.600MHz Simplex

## 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



## And the results are in!

Thank you to everyone who voted in the Programs for 2024 survey! We strive to make our programs interesting to the membership and it really helps us better serve you if we have an idea of what you would like to hear and learn more about. We have compiled the results and it looks like **HF Operating Techniques and Antennas** was the clear winner with 14 votes, followed by **All Things SSB** with 10 votes and **Using Antenna Analyzers** with 9 votes. Our Activities Manager is now working on developing these into programs and finding expert presenters. If you are interested in being a presenter, please contact John Kludt at [johnnykludt@gmail.com](mailto:johnnykludt@gmail.com).

Survey Results	Votes
HF Operating Techniques & Antennas	14
All Things SSB	10
Using Antenna Analyzers	9
VHF Operating Techniques & Antennas	7
All Things Digital (not RTTY)	6
Kit Building	6
Basic Contesting	6
QSLing and Awards	6
RTTY	4
All Things CW	3
Refresher on Basic Electronics	3

## 2024 Officer Elections



BCARC Officer elections are coming up in January and while our current Board members are willing to continue serving, new interested parties are always welcome! Officer positions include the President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer and are held for a 1 year term. Additional information about each positions responsibilities can be found in our Bylaws [here](#). If you are interested in running, please contact John Ailport at [john.ailport13@comcast.net](mailto:john.ailport13@comcast.net).

## 2024 Field Day—Join the Team!

Yes, yes....it's never too early to start planning! 2023 Field Day was such a success, we thought we'd do it again!

2024 ARRL Field Day is being held the weekend of June 22nd and 23rd. Under the new call sign of K7B, we will be partnering with BCARES and probably as a 2A station setup with (one SSB and one CW/FT8/FT4 transmitter) + Satellite & 6m.

But it takes a village to pull this off. Please consider joining our planning team—we are looking for help in all areas including overall lead, station leads, logistics, media relations and more. If you are interested, please contact John Ailport at [john.ailport13@comcast.net](mailto:john.ailport13@comcast.net) or John Kludt at [johnnykludt@gmail.com](mailto:johnnykludt@gmail.com).

## BCARC YEAR END CELEBRATION

**December 13th, 6pm at the VFW in Sandpoint**

Wow! What an amazing year BCARC has had and we are ready to celebrate!

Instead of our regular meeting and presentation, the December meeting will be a time to gather with friends and family and celebrate our accomplishments.

We invite **you and your family** to join us for pizza, beverages and some fun.

**Look for more info and an invite coming soon on Groups.io!**



## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

**\*\* 2024 dues are now being collected \*\***

\$25 Individual  
\$35 Family\*

\* includes all *licensed* same household family members

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](#).

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

AS OF SEPTEMBER 2023

TOTAL	64
EXTRA	16
GENERAL	28
TECHNICIAN	13
FAMILY	7

**FOR THE LATEST CLUB INFO, CHECK US OUT ON FACEBOOK!**



[www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/](https://www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/)



## October Club Presentation

Once again, BCARC members were treated to a great presentation on **Parks On The Air – “POTA”** presented by *Jeff Banke, NZ2S*, via Zoom. Attendees learned what it takes to be both a ‘hunter’ and an ‘activator’ from a master who has over 967 QSO’s with 600 parks as a *hunter*. This presentation can be downloaded [here](#) (124mb), and past presentation can be found [here](#).



## CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 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 ARRL.

November 4—6—CW Sweepstakes

November 18—20th—SSB Sweepstakes

[Sweepstakes \(arrl.org\)](#)

### 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 this 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.

### Rookie Roundup—December 17—CW

To encourage newly-licensed operators (“Rookies”) in North America (including territories and possessions) to operate on the HF bands and experience competitive Amateur Radio operating. Experienced operators (“Non-Rookies”) are strongly encouraged to participate and help new operators – either on the air or in person. [Rookie Roundup \(arrl.org\)](#)

### 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](mailto:bcarc73@gmail.com). We will follow up with you regarding the next publication opportunity.