

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



December 2023

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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**.



## DECEMBER YEAR END CELEBRATION!

*Let's Celebrate!*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
BONNER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB  
YEAR END CELEBRATION!

**DECEMBER 13, 2023; 6 - 8 PM**  
VFW HALL, SANDPOINT, IDAHO

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED FOR  
PIZZA, SALAD, BEVERAGES AND A BUNCH OF FUN.

A LOOK BACK & A LOOK AHEAD, AWARDS, DOOR PRIZES AND THE  
WORLD PREMIERE OF THE BCARC FIELD DAY VIDEO!

PLEASE **RSVP** TO THE [GROUPS.IO](https://groups.io) INVITE  
BY **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8** AND LET US  
KNOW HOW MANY WILL ATTEND.

ALSO, IF YOU BRING A **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM** YOU WILL GET AN  
EXTRA RAFFLE TICKET!



## NEXT REGULAR MEETING

**January 10, 2023**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> 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

### 2024 Officers Election

The BCARC Officers election will be held during the January meeting, so it will be important for you to attend in person in order to vote (voting cannot be done over Zoom). The current slate of officers will be available by mid-December and you should be receiving a mailing of the list and a proxy form (in case you cannot attend.)



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 position's 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).

### 2023 Field Day Final Results Are In!

Field Day is not a contest.....but the results in ranked order by class just came out in the December issue of QST. Class A, a club station/non-club with 3 or more operators was the most popular class with 1,217 logs submitted. Class 2A (two signals on the air at the same time) was the most popular category. Idaho had 49 entries of which 25 by manual count were stations in the field and the remaining 24 were Class D (home, emergency power), Class E (home, commercial power) or Class F (EOC operations). The highest transmitter count for Class A operations was the Conejo Valley ARC with 18 signals (18A) on the air at the same time! Wow, that must have taken a lot of planning and a boat load of bandpass filters!

The highest score in Idaho for field stations was produced by the Idaho Mountain ARS KX7ID plus GOTA station AI7RV with a score of 4,888. They ran in Class 3A. By way of a refresher that means they kept three stations on the air at KX7ID plus a fourth GOTA station transmitter, AI7RV.

So, what happened in Class 2A? **The top scoring Idaho station was (drum roll) K7JEP with 2,550 points!** Nationally the highest scoring 2A station without a GOTA station was the Carbon County DX Club, N7W, in Wyoming with 8,220 points. Food for thought, the top 8, 2A operations all had GOTA stations in tow. N7W without a GOTA station was number 9 in 2A.

Yes, it is not a contest. But being **#1 in the 2A Category** in Idaho has a nice ring to it. *Well done team!*

### 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).

## ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

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

\$25 Individual  
\$35 Family\*

\* includes all *licensed* family members living in the same household

To join, please remit with a membership application at the next meeting or send to:

BCARC  
PO Box 792  
Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

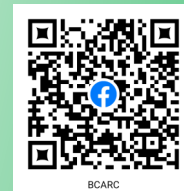
A membership application can be downloaded by clicking [here](#).

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

AS OF DECEMBER 2023

TOTAL	60
EXTRA	16
GENERAL	30
TECHNICIAN	14

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




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




## November Club Presentation

Once again, our very own **John Ailport, K7BSV**, gave a great presentation on Batteries and Solar Power For The Shack and Portable Operations. This and past presentation can be found [here](#).




### Batteries and Solar Panels for Your "Shack"

- Why might you consider including batteries in your radio shack.
- What kind of battery to you want/ need?
- Do you need an inverter?
- How much power do you need?
- What if one battery is not enough?
- Keeping them charged.
- Solar Panels.
- Solar panel charge controllers.
- Permanent or Temporary Hookup.



### What Kind of Battery?

- Lead Acid Automotive Batteries – lowest cost, work well, good in cold, can off-gas and leak, very heavy.
- Deep Cycle batteries – various chemistries.
  - Lead Acid – many used for trolling motors, RVs etc. Good with solar, very heavy.
  - AGM – a different kind of lead acid, heavy, good deep cycle performance, safer than "old style" lead acid.
  - Li-Ion – NOT WITH A TEN FOOT POLE!!!!
  - LifePO4 – Excellent power, lightweight, minimal safety concerns, Expensive!, not for subfreezing conditions.



### Solar Panels

- Lots of options
- Various sizes, weights
- Lots of options on wattage
- Most portable setup come with a charge controller
- Make sure the controller has the right voltage for your battery
- You can get complete sets with battery, solar panel, etc.
- Solar Panels/charge controllers can produce RFI!!



### Temporary or Permanent Hookup

- Are you going to run on battery all the time?
- Do you want to "be prepared" if the power goes out
- How complicated do you want to make it.

**Permanent:**

- Hard wire everything and make it neat.
- Standard automotive 12V connectors

**Temporary:**

- Can use "go-box" or Field Day/ POTA setup
- Use Anderson Power Poles or 12V SAE plugs; or battery clips



## CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### 160 Meter Contest—Dec 1-3

For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. See [160 Meter \(arrl.org\)](http://www.arrl.org) for details.

### 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—CW—December 17

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



## BCARC BREAKFAST

**December 16, 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

