

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



February 2024

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

www.k7jep.org

BCARC73@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't miss out of all things BCARC!

If you did not renew your membership as of **January 31st**, you have been dropped from Groups.io and access to meetings via Zoom. To renew, fill out a [membership form](#) along with payment and remit either by mail or at the next meeting. As soon as your paperwork is processed, your Groups.io account and Zoom access will be reinstated.

Feeling Lucky?

Don't forget our monthly 50/50 fundraising raffle at each meeting. For \$1 per ticket, you have a chance to win 50% of the pot, with the other 50% going to help support Club activities. Last month's pot was \$67! The more you buy, the more you could win!



FEBRUARY MEETING PRESENTATION

Idaho QSO Party Operating Tips

A Roundtable Discussion

March 9-10 sees the running of the annual **Idaho QSO Party**. Idaho stations try and contact as many Idaho and non-Idaho stations as possible and Non-Idaho stations try to contact as many Idaho stations as possible. For Idaho stations the real fun comes about because we are the DX. Everyone is trying to contact us and that can change our operating styles.

This year, BCARC has been asked to host the bonus call **K7D** worth 500 points to people who contact K7D. While this is a real honor, with it comes some responsibility. The whole country is going to be looking for K7D. That means we need to be there on SSB, CW and maybe FLdigi or JS8Call for as much of the 24 hours of the IDQSOP as possible. Spell SPUD, **K7S**, **K7P**, **N7U** and **K7D** and those stations get an extra 2,000 points added to their score. If you are interested in putting K7D on the air, please contact Johnny at johnnykludt@gmail.com.

There also seems to be some confusion around participation under your own call, being a rover traveling to other Idaho counties and being a K7D station. One of the goals of this round table is to clear up the confusion between these three distinct ways of playing in the 2024 running of the Idaho QSO Party.

Please join us for a round table of experienced BCARC IDQSOP operators including David Immel, **KE4EW**, Mike Olson, **N7HDD**, and moderated by BCARC Activities Manager, John Kludt, **K7SYS**, who will share with us their tips and tricks to maximize the number of contacts you make during this year's event. We hope to see you for this informative and interesting program of the Bonner County Amateur Radio Club. The presentation will also be streamed via Zoom.

NEXT MEETING

February 14, 2024

(2nd Wednesday of the Month)

~

Board Meeting

5:00 PM

Swap Meet

6:00 PM

General Meeting

6:30 PM

~

Location

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

Corner of Pine &

Division

Sandpoint, ID

MEMBER NEWS

2nd Annual BCARC Swap Meet - February 14th

Back by popular demand, we will hold our second annual February 'informal' swap meet at 18:00 at the VFW Hall corner of Division and Pine Street, just before our regular February 14th meeting. We will set up some extra tables as we did last year for items "surplus to your needs." This is a great opportunity to decrease excess inventory and maybe generate a little cash for that next project. And who knows, maybe find a new treasure at a very reasonable price!

Please have all items clearly marked as to condition and asking price. Okay to horse trade, and barter etc. Please remember that whatever you bring to this event must either leave in your car or someone else's. This is always a lot of fun. So time to start looking for those treasures you just no longer really need!



Support Our Local Charter School During The ARRL School Club Round Up

During the week of February 12 - 16th, Forrest M Bird Charter School (FBCS), under their new school club call sign, *W7FBS*, will once again be participating in the ARRL School Club Round Up.

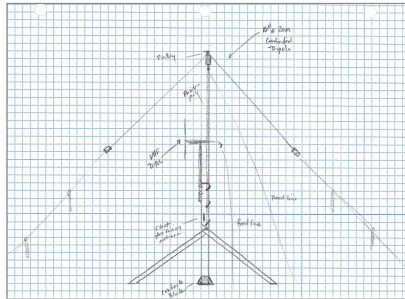
BCARC member and FBCS Social Studies teacher, **Mark Webber, KJ7YOZ**, is currently guiding the students in the final stages of their center-fed Fan Dipole Antenna build that will be tuned for use on 2, 10 and 20 meters.



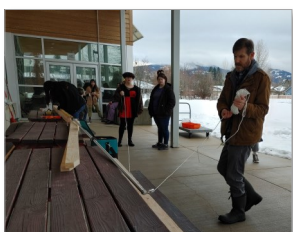
As part of this semester's History of Telecommunications class project, students have been working on this build and are excited to put it to use!



They also worked with one of the math teachers to create the angle cuts necessary for the base and they will teach the geometry class at the school how applied geometry worked in the build.



On February 7th, FBCS will hold an all school assembly during which students Natalie, Draven, Lyric, Caden and Ravin from the class, will be introducing the student body to amateur radio and encouraging students to sign up to work the radio during the week of the Round Up. Several BCARC Elmers who have graciously agreed to help through out the week, **Dave Immel, KE4EW**, **John Kludt, K7SYS**, and **Dan Parkin, W7BID**, will also be introduced. Since FBCS is competing as a school, those who operate the radio will also be on Forrest M. Bird Charter School's first ever sports team!



Last year, the school competed in the School Club Round Up and took 9th place out of 17 in the high school division, an amazing feat for their first year! You can help support them this year by getting on the air during the week starting at 10am daily on frequency 145.600 and responding to their CQs!

For more info, check out FBCS at forrestbirdcharterschool.org and ARRL School Round up at www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup.

BCARC BREAKFAST

February 24, 2024

9-10:30am

Location

Connie's Café
323 Cedar St
Sandpoint, ID

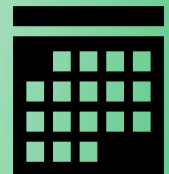
UPCOMING EVENTS

BCARC often participate in and supports local events.

2024 Events:

- ◆ Sandpoint 4th of July Parade
- ◆ Long Bridge Swim
- ◆ Bonner County Fair
- ◆ Emergency Preparedness Expo

For more information, check out the Club calendar on our website by clicking the icon below.



January Monthly Meeting



2024 started off with a bang and **All Things HF!** A trio of BCARC members provided an interesting presentation with several short talks on HF including HF Bands Through the Day, HF Nets including the SSB Maritime Net and different HF band modes. This kicked off a series of planned presentations devoted to all things HF. Look for additional HF presentations scheduled through out the year.



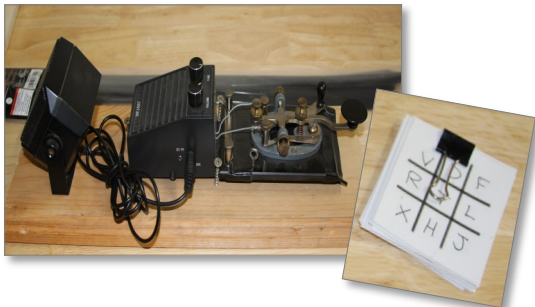
Traditional HF amateur bands are considered to be: 160/80/40/20/15/10 meters.

In the early 1980's The World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) added the 30, 17 and 12 meter bands for amateur use.

- Unlike the traditional HF bands
- Use very little spectrum compared to the traditional HF bands
- No contest activity on these bands
- Check band plan charts for modes/restrictions



In addition, this meeting served as BCARC's Annual Meeting during which Officers were elected to the Board of Directors for 2024. As there were no new members running for office, the members of the 2023 Board of Directors were re-elected for another term... President - John Ailport, Vice President - Jim Morford, Secretary - Ken Conradi, and Treasurer - Pat Cox. The President also reviewed the Club budget for 2024 and updates to the By-laws were reviewed and approved.



Along with another lively round of Tic-Tac-Code, the Club also held it's first 50/50 fundraising raffle taking in a total of \$67!



This and past presentations can be found on the club website at K7JEP.org.

2024 Field Day - Join the Team!

The 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 as a 2A station setup with one SSB and one FT8/FT4/CW transmitter, along with Satellite and 6m at a location in Oldtown.

But it takes a team to pull this off. Please consider joining our planning team—we are looking for help in all areas. If you are interested, contact Jim Morford at jimmorford.jm@gmail.com.

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Individual
\$35 Family *

* includes all licensed family members living in the same household

To join, please remit with a [membership form](#) at the next meeting or send to:

BCARC
PO Box 792
Ponderay, ID
83852-0792

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

As of January 2024

TOTAL	68
EXTRA	17
GENERAL	34
TECH	17

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

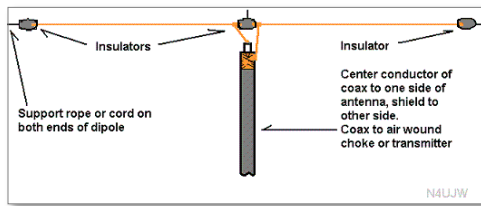


www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

Hey Panhandlers, there's a new NET in town!

10 WHAT? There is a band that evokes excitement all over the world. It doesn't require glowing tubes of power, towering antenna farms or elite ticket status. 10 meters (28MHz) is a Technicians answer for HF microphone time. Dependent on the sun, this band requires only 16.5 feet of wire for a dipole. That's 8.25 ft per side.



Sunspot cycles occur every 11 years. Cycle #25 is coming up and already the world meets on 10m. BCARC is taking advantage of this low power, easy antenna band as we meet on Sundays at 2200z (2pm local time) on 28.460MHz. The purpose of this gathering is to give everyone a controlled setting in which to experiment with SSB, especially those who are new to SSB. If you are new to SSB, please recall that 160, 80 and 40 meters, for historical reasons, are LSB (Lower Side Band) and everything above 40 meters is USB (Upper Side Band).

In addition, some of us have 10-10 numbers from 10-10 International. If you have one, please have it handy. In 1962, a group started a club called 10-10 International. To join 10-10 you must work 10 people who are members and get their 10-10 number. So, what is a 10-10 number and how do you get a one? Work ten folks who have a 10-10 number, collect those numbers and then apply to 10-10 International for your own 10-10 number. If we can get enough activity, we could then turn this gathering of BCARC members on 10m into an official 10-10 net!

But really there are no lofty goals here other than creating a watering hole for interested BCARC members and anyone else who wants to join to use SSB on 10 meters. Hope you can join us!

School Club Round Up - February 12 - 16

Support our local Forrest M. Bird Charter School under their new club call, *W7FBS!* Each 5-day event runs Monday through Friday from 1300 UTC Monday through 2359 UTC Friday. A station may operate no more than 6 hours in a 24-hour period, and a maximum of 24 hours of the 107 hour event. <https://www.arrl.org/school-club-roundup>

International DX - CW - February 17 - 18

To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. One contest period is CW-only and one is Phone-only. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

For more contesting information visit: <http://arrl.org/contest-calendar>

VE Testing - March 9

This is your next local opportunity 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. <https://bonnerares.org/wp/license-exams/>

HF Activity Group - Daily

Have you ever struggled to determine your stations propagation? The HF Activity Group is open to anyone and its sole purpose is to check out your stations propagation. Simply give your call sign at the beginning and wait to be called upon, make your QC call and then listen as to where you are being heard.

Daily Schedule:

17M on 18.157.5 MHz at 1730 - 1830z

15M on 21.383 MHz at 1830z

12M on 24.970 MHz at 1915z

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

BCARC NETS



K7JEP HooDoo Mtn VHF Repeater / North

Idaho Repeater Group Net

145.490MHz
(-0.6MHz offset, 136.5 tone)

Every Sunday at 7pm



Simplex Net

145.600MHz Simplex

Sunday - immediately following the Repeater Net



X-X Panhandlers - 10M Net

28.460MHz

Every Sunday at 2pm



The COAX is edited and published by Colleen Conradi, KK7KNL.