

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



May 2024

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

www.K7JEP.org

BCARC73@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Help Wanted!

Looking to become more involved in the Club but not quite ready to run for a Board position? We have several opportunities for you to help us. Please check out our **Help Wanted** section on page 3.



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 an amazing \$89!



The more you buy, the more you could win!

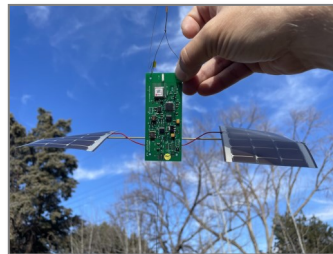
MAY MEETING PRESENTATION

Ballooning & APRS

Ken Conradi, *KF7FDN*, and John Kludt, *K7SYS*

Please join Ken and John as we learn more about BCARC's ballooning project including the tracking of the balloon as it glides around the world. There are basically two types of ballooning projects in amateur radio, high altitude ballooning and pico ballooning. As BCARC, we are pursuing a Pico ballooning project. We will explain the difference between the two types of ballooning projects and why we chose to "pico balloon." Join us to learn about the technical issues behind successfully launching a balloon and then tracking it.

Short of NORAD radar, there are a couple of methods available to amateur radio operators for tracking balloons. They are the APRS (Automated Position Reporting System) developed by Bob Bruninga, *WB4APR* (SK) and WSPR developed by Joe Taylor, *K1JT*, and there are advantages and disadvantages to each... BCARC has access to both. For this initial adventure into ballooning, we will be using the APRS system. We hope in this presentation to give you basic knowledge of both APRS and WSPR and show you how to use web tools to track our balloon as it, hopefully, circles the earth. By the way, you can also use the same APRS system and website to track yourself as you drive around town!



We hope to see you on May 8th either in person or via Zoom!

NEXT MEETING

May 8, 2024

(2nd Wednesday of the Month)

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Board Meeting

5:00 PM

Eyeball QSOs

6:00 PM

General Meeting

6:30 PM

~

Location

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

Corner of Pine &

Division

Sandpoint, ID

April Monthly Meeting

Members who attended the April meeting were given a presentation on Building Your Shack for Ease of Use. Presenter, John Kludt, K7SYS, reviewed the key components of a good shack and where to focus on making it optimal for you. Is your shack safe while also being fun to operate? Access, power, lighting and security are all important factors to consider. Several club members also shared their own Ham Shacks set ups as seen here.



K7BSV



K7NEB



KF7FDN



KE4EW



N7HDD

And here's the video link for the Spark Gap Transmitter– Blue Lightning from the presentation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s8EgTyzG1gl>.

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

Club Name Badges Are Here

The new BCARC name badges have arrived. If you ordered a new name badge, Ken will have them available at the next BCARC monthly meeting and breakfast. Badges are \$5 each.

If you missed this round, you can order a name badge directly from the local company, Turner Promotions at (208) 920 - 3119 or stop in at their new location at 1305 Wright Way, Sandpoint, ID.



Kamiah Hamfest Radio Raffle - We have a Winner!

Congratulations go out to our very own Doug Forster, W6AXR. Doug was the Grand Prize winner of the Kamiah Radio Raffle sponsored by the Clearwater Valley and 3Rivers Amateur Radio Clubs on April 20th. He won a brand new Yaesu FT - 991A. Looking forward to hearing you on the air, Doug!



Additionally, if you gave John A money for raffle tickets during the last meeting, unfortunately he was not able to purchase more tickets as they were sold out before April 15th. Please contact him for a refund.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

April 2024

TOTAL	56
EXTRA	16
GENERAL	29
TECH	11



CLUB 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



FBCS takes 3rd in the School Club Roundup High School Division

The good news is out. The ARRL has finally released the February 2024 School Club Round up Results on April 22nd. The Forrest M. Bird Charter School Amateur Radio Club, *W7FBS* took **3rd in the high School Division and 16th overall out of 102 entries.**

Not bad for our homebrew, fan dipole, center-fed antenna, a borrowed Yaesu FT-991A, and using a plastic cutting board from the school kitchen to amplify the speaker!

This is a great improvement from last year, which was our first try at School Club Round up. Last year our school placed 9th in the High School Division and 51st overall.



Category: School Club - Senior High - W/V/E

Call Used	School/Club	QTH	Score	Rank	CW-Dig Qs	Phone Qs	US	VE	DX	Clubs	Schools
<i>KE0ZNV</i>	HOME SCHOOL	CO	403,248	1	0	1084	48	8	13	9	57
<i>W7WSD</i>	Wahkiakum Mecha Mules	WA	109,151	2	0	503	49	7	4	6	29
<i>W7FBS</i>	Forrest Bird Charter School Amateur Radio Club	ID	63,580	3	0	374	43	5	4	4	22

For complete results, <https://contests.arrl.org/scrscores.php?eid=7&iid=1063>

Once again, thank you to our BCARC and ARES Elmers who helped us be so successful this year in the school club round up. We could not have placed as well as we did without their help. Thank you Dave, *KE4EW*, Dan, *W7BID*, and John, *K7SYS*.

Big Plans for Next Year!

Next year, I am planning on setting up a permanent base station at the school. Unfortunately, my grant proposal for a base station was rejected due to the few students applying for their licenses this year. The grant commission wanted to see bigger numbers and a larger foot print impact. It is difficult building a program without the proper base station equipment. As the advisor, I saw the news as a challenge to continue on my own. I was able to repurpose some funds to hopefully purchase a HF base station for the school. I am going to attempt to purchase an Icom 7300 within the next few weeks. We have no funds for an antenna, but we have grown very adept at building our own out of spare parts and wire we come across!

If anyone in the community would like to donate gently used equipment to the school club's HF base station, please contact me at my school email, markwebber@forrestbirdcharterschool.org.

Thank you, again, BCARC members for your continued support of the Forrest M. Bird Charter School Amateur Radio Club.

~ Mark Webber, *KJ7WOZ*

BCARC
BREAKFAST

May 11, 2024

9-10:30am

Location

Connies Café
323 Cedar St
Sandpoint, ID



UPCOMING
EVENTS

BCARC often participates in and supports local events.

2024 Events:

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

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



Wanting to get more involved with the Club? BCARC is looking for some additional help in several areas. If you are interested, please contact John Ailport, john.ailport13@comcast.net.



Meeting Greeter - 50/50 Manager

We are looking to have a designated Greeter to welcome attendees at our monthly meetings during the hours of 6:00 - 6:30 at the VFW Hall. This person will be responsible for greeting people as they come in, making sure they sign the attendance roster and encouraging participation in the 50/50 raffle. They will also manage the sale of tickets, close raffle ticket sales at 6:30, count receipts so that by the end of the meeting we know how much we took in and what the 50/50 split looks like in dollars. The person will be responsible for distributing the cash to the winner and to the Treasurer as required. This position can be multiple, rotating individuals.

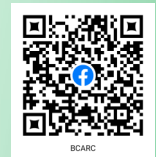
Zoom Production Assistants (1)

We are looking for **1 more** Zoom Production Assistants to help with set up and running of Zoom at our monthly meetings. Responsibilities include setting up the 2 laptops (1 for the presentation and 1 for Zoom management), audio components (microphones, mixer/sound board, wireless mic system), video components (camera, projector and screen). Assistant should be available ~1 hr before the meeting for set up and stay after for breakdown. Assistant will also manage the Zoom meeting and attendee entry queue. Training will be provided.

COAX Writers & Contributors

Do you have a goal or achievement you'd like to share? Do you have special expertise in a particular area like Antennas, DIY projects, operating off-grid, working Digital or other Radio topics? Or do you just have a fun and interesting Radio story you'd like to share with the group? Likewise, if you're a reporter type, maybe you'd like to cover one of the Club events like the July 4th parade, Bridge Swim or Prep Expo. If the answer is yes to any of the above, please let Colleen, *KK7KNL*, know and she will work with you on getting your topic in our Club newsletter.

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



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

Or on our Club website
www.K7JEP.org



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

2024 ARRL Field Day - The countdown has begun!



2024 ARRL Field Day is just around the corner on **June 22nd and 23rd from 11am to 11am**. 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 House Of The Lord Church in Oldtown. Operator sign-up sheets will be available soon for members to sign up for modes and shifts - look for the notice on Groups.io. We will once again be hosting our Saturday Night Family dinner which will be open to members of both groups and their families. More info to come!

VE Testing - May 11

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/>

International Digital Contest- June 1-2

Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using any digital mode (excluding RTTY) that supports the 4-digit Grid Square exchange — attended operation only -- on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>

June VHF Contest - June 8-10

For amateurs in the US and Canada (and their possessions) to work as many amateur stations in as many different 2 degrees x 1 degree Maidenhead grid

squares as possible using authorized frequencies above 50 MHz. Stations outside the US & Canada (and their possessions) may only work stations in the US (and its possessions) and Canada.

<https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

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 CQ 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)

More information on contesting can be found on <http://arrl.org/contest-calendar> and <https://contestcalendar.com/>.

BCARC NETS



K7JEP HooDoo Mtn VHF Repeater / North Idaho Repeater Group Net

145.490 MHz
(-0.6 MHz offset,
136.5 tone)
Sunday at 7pm



Simplex Net

145.600MHz Simplex
Sunday -
immediately
following the
Repeater Net



X-X Panhandlers - 10M Net

28.360 MHz
Sunday at 2pm



*The COAX is edited and
published by
[Colleen Conradi, KK7KNL](#)*