

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



July 2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



We Need You!

Please consider volunteering for the Sandpoint 4th of July Parade (July 4th) and The Long Bridge Swim (Aug 3rd) - we are looking for **10- 12** volunteers for each event. Contact [John Ailport](#) for more info.

JULY MEETING PRESENTATION

Non-Amateur Radio Services in the Community

Presented by John Kludt, K7SYS, BCARC Activities Manager

One of the first things I heard about when moving to North Idaho was FRS and GMRS radio. Not exactly ham radio but seemingly very popular. So I got that license and bought a 5 watt GMRS radio. Now what?

Have you ever wondered what is a GMRS radio? Or what is a FRS radio? How are they different and how are they the same? And what is MURS? We will start off with a RATPAC video that explores these three radio services from the RATPAC library. I know many of you already own GMRS radios. I was interested that there are some seemingly innocent activities you can participate in using your radio that could put you afoul of FCC rules. The frequencies and power limits and even HT construction are matters of FCC regulations that need to be understood by the end-users of these services.

Once we have the basics down, we hope to hear from some local users who are planning to or successfully have integrated amateur radio with these Part 95 radio services.

Join us at our July 10th meeting to better understand what can be gained as these two radio services come together to better serve our communities.



NEXT MEETING

July 10, 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

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Location

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

Corner of Pine &

Division

Sandpoint, ID



Scouting Radio Merit Badge...by Daryl Baird, K6KRG

Presently there are over 135 merit badges those in the Scouting America program (previously known as the Boy Scouts of America) can strive to earn. I was curious about one particular badge; that being the Radio badge and I wondered what is required for scouts to earn it. An online search yielded a .pdf of the official brochure. Do you think you qualify for the highly-coveted Radio badge? Here's a look at what you need to know:

1. Explain what radio is and discuss the differences between broadcast radio and hobby radio; the differences between broadcasting and two-way communications; radio station call signs and how they are used in broadcast radio and amateur radio; the phonetic alphabet and how it is used to communicate clearly.
2. Do the following: (a) Sketch a diagram showing how radio waves travel locally and around the world. (b) Explain how the radio stations WWV and WWVH can be used to help determine what you can expect to hear when you listen to a shortwave radio. (c) Explain the difference between a distant (DX) and a local station. (d) Discuss what the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) does and how it is different from the International Telecommunication Union.
3. Do the following: (a) Draw a chart of the electromagnetic spectrum covering 300 kilohertz (kHz) to 3,000 megahertz (MHz). (b) Label the MF, HF, VHF, UHF, and microwave portions of the spectrum on your diagram. (c) Locate on your chart at least eight radio services, such as AM and FM commercial broadcast, citizens band (CB), television, amateur radio (at least four amateur radio bands), and public service (police and fire). Explain how radio waves carry information and include in your explanation: transceiver, transmitter, receiver, amplifier, and antenna.
4. Do the following: (a) Explain the differences between a block diagram and a schematic diagram. (b) Draw a block diagram for a radio station that includes a transceiver, amplifier, microphone, antenna, and feed line. (c) Discuss how information is sent when using amplitude modulation (AM), frequency modulation (FM), continuous wave (CW) Morse Code transmission, single sideband (SSB) transmission, and digital transmission. (d) Explain how NOAA Weather Radio (NWR) can alert you to danger. (e) Explain how cellular telephones work. Identify their benefits and limitations in an emergency.
5. Explain the safety precautions for working with radio gear, including the concept of grounding for direct current circuits, power outlets, and antenna systems.
6. Visit a radio installation (an amateur radio station, broadcast station, or public service communications center, for example) approved in advance by your counselor. Discuss what types of equipment you saw in use, how it was used, what types of licenses are required to operate and maintain the equipment, and the purpose of the station.
7. Find out about three career opportunities in radio. Pick one and find out the education, training, and experience required for this profession. Discuss this with your counselor, and explain why this profession might interest you.
8. Finally select one of the following areas to discuss more in-depth: Amateur Radio, Radio Broadcasting, Shortwave and Medium-Wave Listening, Amateur Radio Direction Finding

So, do you think you're ready to go for your Radio merit badge? I don't know about you but I have newfound respect for the thoroughness of the curriculum and any scout I see who has the radio badge on his or her sash gets a nod of respect, a tip of the hat, or a handshake from me, probably all three. For more info check out: scouting.org.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

June 2024

TOTAL	61
EXTRA	18
GENERAL	30
TECH	13



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



Event Volunteers Needed

With Summer in full swing, BCARC is once again participating in two of our local events. Both are a great way to support our community and practice your HT skills.

We are looking for **10-12 volunteers for each event**, so if you are interested please contact [John Ailport](#), K7BSV.

Sandpoint 4th of July Parade



As has become tradition, BCARC will be supporting the annual Sandpoint Lions Club 4th of July parade on **Thursday, July 4th**. As in past years, we will be staffing the parade route using HTs to communicate parade progress and any issues that may arise. Club members will meet at 8am that morning with the children's parade beginning at 9:30am.



Long Bridge Swim



BCARC will also be providing the communications support to **The Long Bridge Swim** on **Saturday, August 3rd**. Volunteers will act as Spotters at points along the bridge and use LBS provided radios to communicate with event control and on-the-water aid.

Another Opportunity To Get the Word Out

The Sandpoint Library recently reached out to one of our members, Lee Lukehart, K7AVR/WRAX623, to request help filling a last-minute opening in their "*Natural Connections*" program on **July 20th at 10am**. Of course he jumped at the opportunity and quickly pulled together an interesting program:



Connecting via Two-Way Radio

Even if the internet and cellular phones fail, you can still connect with your neighbors or across county or state lines (and even with other countries). From walkie-talkies to ham radio gear that can reach around the world, the technology of radio has never been more accessible and affordable. FRS, GMRS, MURS, Ham... which of this alphabet soup is the right radio service for you? Come learn some of the options, see expert demonstrations, and get hands-on experience communicating on two-way radio.

But he needs some assistance with the presentation and help during the hands-on portion. If you are interesting, please contact Lee at luke@skysavvy.net.

Link to the library's Events page: <https://ebonnerlibrary.org/events/natural-connections-july/>

BCARC BREAKFAST

July 20, 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](#)
July 4, 2024
- ♦ [Long Bridge Swim](#)
August 3, 2024
- ♦ [Emergency Preparedness Expo](#)
October 5 & 6, 2024

Check out our website for more info

www.k7jep.org



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

13 Colonies Special Event - July 1 - 7

The annual **13 Colonies** special event will begin on July 1 at 1300 UTC and conclude on July 8 at 0400 UTC. Stations representing the original 13 British colonies, plus two bonus stations, will be on the air with 1 × 1 call signs. The event sponsor stresses that participants do not need to work all 13 colony stations to obtain a certificate and do not need to work the two bonus stations for a clean sweep. All HF bands will be in play, with the exception of 60 meters, and simplex on 2 and 6 meters is encouraged. All modes of operation may be represented. GOOD LUCK!! Check out all the event details at: <http://www.13colonies.us>

IARU HF World Championship - July 13 - 14

To support amateur self-training in radiocommunications including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and intercommunicating with other amateurs around the world, especially IARU member society headquarters stations, using the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. <https://www.arrl.org/iaru-hf-world-championship>

VE Testing - July 13

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/>

CQ WW VHF Contest - July 20 - 21

This contest is for 6m and 2m only and is a real opportunity for those who use 6m FT8. Six meters is accessible on the IC-7300 and a number of other modern radios. Please consider getting on if only to cherry pick states! <https://www.cqww-vhf.com/>

KARS Hamfest & 2024 ARRL Idaho State Convention - August 3

KARS has held a great reputation hosting Hamfest in North Idaho for several years. This year, we are kicking it up to the State Convention level. It's a one day event offering vendors, tailgaters, ARRL, various ARES groups, license testing and food truck plus classes covering topics for all levels of experience, ensuring there's something for everyone. <https://k7id.org/article/StateConvention2024?classification=Info>

WW Digital DX Context - August 24 - 25

The WW Digital DX Contest (excludes RTTY) is another great opportunity to work DX using FT8 and wire antennas with low power (less than 100 watts). <https://ww-digi.com/>

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](#)*

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



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AND
ON OUR CLUB
WEBSITE
www.K7JEP.org

