

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



August 2024

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

[www.K7JEP.org](http://www.K7JEP.org)

[BCARC73@gmail.com](mailto:BCARC73@gmail.com)

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



We still need **a few more volunteers** for The Long Bridge Swim on August 3rd. We meet at the pavilion at City Beach at 7:30AM (snacks, water, coffee and t-shirts are provided) and finish by around Noon. If you can help out, please respond on Groups.io and/or contact [John Ailport](#) for more info.

## AUGUST MEETING PRESENTATION

### Antennas Around BCARC

Presented by **John Kludt**, K7SYS, BCARC Activities Manager  
and other Club members

“There is no perfect antenna...and they sure are fun to play with!!

A while back we took a successful virtual tour around the ham shacks of several BCARC members. Summer is about outside antenna work and we thought we might tour the antenna farms of some of the BCARC crew. Some farms are quite large while others are located on city lots. Most are in support of “wire and 100 watts” activities. Some involve directional antennas while others are more of the “omni” variety.



Come join us as several members present their antenna setups, what they like about them and what they wish was just maybe a little bit better.

## NEXT MEETING

**August 14, 2024**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> 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

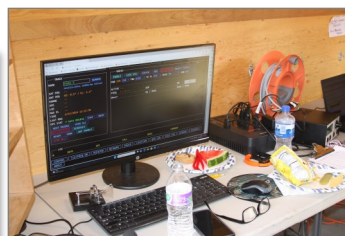
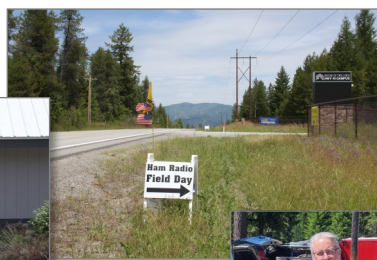
VFW HALL  
1325 Pine Street  
Corner of Pine &  
Division  
Sandpoint, ID



## MEMBER NEWS

### 2024 Field Day

Another Field Day is in the books! What a successful event and great turn out! Every Field Day has its challenges and this one was no different. Early on participants had to sort through issues with interference between the Digital and GOTA stations and then just as members were sitting down for the amazing taco bar dinner, power went out in the building! But we persevered and bested ourselves from last year! Preliminary results are looking fantastic - 265 Phone QSOs, 259 digital QSOs, and 54 GOTA QSOs. With the addition of 1,990 bonus points, we are looking at a grand total of **3,668 points!** By comparison, last year we scored a total of 2,550 points. The big difference was probably due to having a GOTA station and the dramatic increase in Digital activity. A huge thank you goes out to our planning committee without whom we couldn't have pulled this off - John Ailport (SSB/VHF), Colleen Conradi (Logistics), Ken Conradi (Bonus Pts), Paul Coombs (Safety), Mark Earls (Media/Public Info), Doug Forster (Power), Jessi Henderson (GOTA), John Kludt (6m/ Satellite), Jim Morford (Lead, Digital), Mike Olson (GOTA), and Scott Rasmus (Networking).



## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

July 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



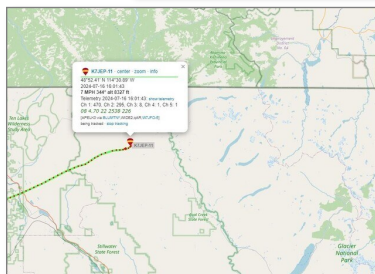
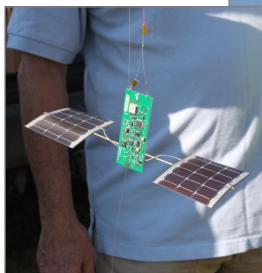




Even got a fly-by from our very own Dave Guinee in his son's float plane!

## Pico Balloon Launch

After successfully launching a test balloon on July 9th, BCARC members gathered again in the Selle Valley on July 16th to launch their official Pico balloon - K7JEP-11. With near perfect conditions, you could feel the excitement in the air as the balloon slowly ascended, rising over the valley and clearing the mountains! After tracking the balloon via APRS.fi for nearly 7.5 hours and reaching over 26,000 ft in altitude, it started a fairly rapid descent near Glacier Park in Montana and ultimately lost contact near Hornet Mtn. While the team was hoping for the balloon to ride the jet stream and circumnavigate the globe at least once before returning to Earth, they don't consider this a failure by any means. In fact, they consider this quite a success for their first time out and a great learning experience. Plans are already underway for another launch in the near future.



## BCARC BREAKFAST

August 17, 2024

9-10:30am

Location  
Food Court  
Bonner County  
Fairgrounds  
Sandpoint, ID



## UPCOMING EVENTS

BCARC often participates in and supports local events.

### 2024 Events:

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

Check out our website for more info

[www.k7jep.org](http://www.k7jep.org)





## Sandpoint July 4th Parade

As has now become tradition, BCARC members helped out the Sandpoint Lion's Club with their 4th of July parade in downtown Sandpoint. They manned key points along the parade route with HTs and communicated with Net control on parade progress and any issues. Thanks to all that helped out.



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](mailto: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](mailto:KK7KNL), know and she will work with you on getting your topic in our Club newsletter.

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WEBSITE  
[www.K7JEP.org](http://www.K7JEP.org)



## CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **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, they are kicking it up to the State Convention level. It's a one day event offering vendors, tailgaters, ARRL, AMSAT and 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>

#### **222 MHz and Up Distance - Aug 3-4**

Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands using any allowable mode. A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode. <https://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>

#### **10 GHz and Up - Aug 17-18**

For North American amateurs to contact as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. <https://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

#### **Rookie Roundup - RTTY - Aug 18**

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. Rookies exchange information with as many other stations as possible on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter HF bands. <https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

#### **EME 2.3 GHz and Up—Aug 24—25**

To work as many amateur stations as possible via the earth-moon-earth path on any authorized amateur frequency above 50 MHz. <https://www.arrl.org/eme-contest>

#### **WW Digital DX Contest - 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/>

#### **VE Testing - September 14**

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 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](#)*