

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



September 2024

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Panhandle Preparedness Expo is coming up this October 5 & 6 at the Bonner County Fairgrounds and BCARC will be having a booth along side BCARES. We are looking for members to take shifts over the course of the weekend. If you are interested, please contact [John Ailport](#).

SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION

BCARC Antenna Farming -Winter Session

Presented by **John Kludt**, K7SYS, BCARC Activities Manager

Propagation, just like farm crops, has seasons. At the August meeting, we reviewed HF antennas currently in use by BCARC. Summer with the usual occurrence of Sporadic-E propagation is the time for 6 meters. As we approach Fall and Winter with the decreasing occurrence of thunderstorms and the attendant crashes of QRN, 160 meters comes a live with signals especially at night. At our August meeting there was some interest in 160m antennas.

While not everyone has the room, there are options for both 160m transmitting and receiving antennas. Almost all of these are wire antennas and considering the approaching season, we thought it might be useful to explore both transmitting and receiving antennas for the 'Low Band.' The primary reference for 160m and 80m antennas is *Low-Band Dxing* by John Devoldere, ON4UN (SK). This publication is a treasure trove of ideas and designs for those interested in chasing DX, WAS, etc. on the 160m 80m and 40m bands.

Come join us as we explore wire antennas that you can build to pursue Low Band communications as we go through the Winter months. This is one place where optimal receiving and transmitting antennas may be different. If you have some room and lots of wire this is a great opportunity for the BCARC antenna experimenter.

NEXT MEETING

September 11, 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

MEMBER NEWS

August Meeting - 50 years and counting!

During the August monthly meeting, BCARC attendees participated in a lively presentation on the many types of antennas that club members have set up, ranging from Verticals, G5RVs and End-fed Wires to Hexbeams and Yagis. Several members discussed the pros and cons of choosing their particular antenna set up and provided pictures.



Earlier this year, the Club was awarded a plaque by the ARRL Board of Directors for 50 years of being affiliated with the organization. There are very few clubs that have been affiliated this long, so it was quite an honor to receive. The award was presented at the meeting to Ken Conradi, *KF7FDN*, as the Club Secretary.



Long Bridge Swim

On August 3rd, 10 BCARC members were on hand to help with the annual Long Bridge Swim in Sandpoint. Members outfitted with GMRS HTs provided by the Swim organization, acted as bridge spotters ensuring that any swimmers that needed assistance during the swim were identified and quickly helped. As part of the pre-swim safety briefing, several of our members won gift cards as a thank you for volunteering!



Thanks to everyone who volunteered their time!

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

August 2024

TOTAL	64
EXTRA	18
GENERAL	33
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



KARS Hamfest & Idaho State ARRL Convention

August 3rd found John Ailport, K7BSV, and John Kludt, K7SYS, and several other club members at the Idaho ARRL Convention and annual KARS Hamfest. If you try to Google “KARS Hamfest” the first item up is the Kankakee Area Radio Society- W9AZ- hamfest in Kankakee, Illinois. No, John and John were not in 9-land but just down the road in Post Falls, Idaho. John, K7BSV, attended as the Assistant Section Manager for northern Idaho. John, K7SYS, attended as an AMSAT Ambassador.



The day started out hot with showers threatening and even though a brief, heavy downpour caused many of the visitors to head for the exit, the event had a great turnout! John Ailport helped man the ARRL tent and several of our members had their own tents selling their wares.

John Kludt, in the role of AMSAT Ambassador, brought



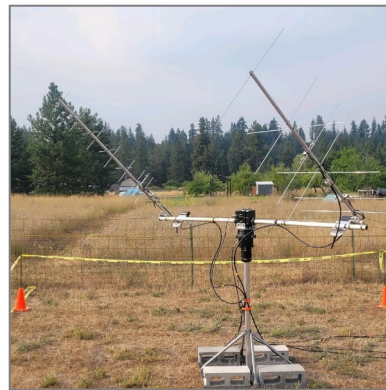
a complete satellite station including, circularly polarized antennas for 2m and 70cm, computer tracking system for antenna and radio control and an Icom IC-9700 to handle the radio duties.



Orbital physics was kind as we had several 10 to 15 minute passes by orbital satellites carrying amateur radio (yes, that is the origin of the terms OSCAR) as well as the ISS. We completed FM contacts using SO-50 (Saudisat) and we made several contacts through the system on the International Space Station. Kenwood very generously donated several TM-D710G radios to the

ARISS program (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station). One of these had been configured to act as a cross-band repeater. While we didn't talk to an astronaut (a rare occurrence), we did talk through the ISS which is still pretty cool! Our last series of contacts were made using SSB (by convention LSB up and USB down) using the Russian satellite RS-44.

A number of people stopped by to chat about satellites. The event organizer stopped by to ask us back next year and thanked us for putting on a “good show.” Watching those antennas move is always fun to watch. All things considered it was a successful outing. We were happy to represent the ARRL, AMSAT and the Bonner County Amateur Radio club. We both hope to see you there next year in early August.



BCARC BREAKFAST

September 28, 2024
9-10:30am

Location

Connies Café
323 Cedar St
Sandpoint, ID



UPCOMING EVENTS

BCARC often participates in and supports local events.

2024 Events:

- ◆ [Emergency Preparedness Expo](#)
October 5 & 6, 2024

Check out our website for more info

www.k7jep.org



Guess Who?

Have you heard? There is a new feature on our website called **Mystery Member**. As a way to get to know each other better, one of our members will be featured each month as a “Mystery Member” - see if you know who they are. Their identity will be revealed at the next Club meeting.

Check out their bio under the [Club Update](#) page.



Business in the front, Party in the Back!



Although BCARC didn't officially have a booth at the Bonner County Fair this year, members did help staff the BCARES and Bonner County Emergency Management booths from August 13th - 17th. And lo and behold, one of our newest members, Erik Gregg, **KE6RIK**, won first place for the Best Mullet!

Congratulations Erik—way to represent!

The Lowly Fuse....by Gary White, K2KKB

There's an old saying, “The ship was lost due to the lack of a \$5.00 part.” That same analogy could be applied to your ham equipment.

The electrical storm the other night started me thinking about my electronic equipment. Thank goodness we don't often have the electrical storms of my native Texas where the prudent person disconnects all their electronic equipment during the storms. But we still have our share of power outages, glitches, and surges.

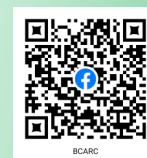


How many of us, including me, have inventoried their equipment for the required fuses and have spares readily available in the proper sizes? How many have bought a piece of equipment at a hamfest or garage sale and checked to see if it had the proper fuses installed (it might surprise you). I have personally witnessed someone take an 8 penny nail, cut it to the proper size, wrap foil around it, and place it in the fuse holder. They said they would change it out later but, knowing them, I doubt they ever did.

If you decide to check your inventory of fuses, note the type, rating, and size of each fuse required. AND, also remember or be aware that some equipment, especially the older equipment, may have internal circuit protection fuses as well as the power fuse. These may or may not be addressed in your user's manual. Downloading and checking the schematic for your equipment will generally show these fuses.

Just a thought...

FOR THE LATEST
CLUB INFO, CHECK
US OUT
ON FACEBOOK



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

AND
ON OUR CLUB
WEBSITE
www.K7JEP.org



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

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/>

September VHF Contest - Sept 14 -16

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. (great opportunity to work folks on 6m) <https://www.arrl.org/september-vhf>

EME Contest 2.3 GHz & Up - Sept 21 -22

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>

10 GHz & Up - Sept 21 - 22

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. See the detailed rules for restrictions.

<https://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

Sweepstakes CW - November 2-4

Sweepstakes Phone - November 16-18

To support amateur self-training in radiocommunications, including improving amateur operating skills, conducting technical investigations, and intercommunicating with other amateurs. Stations in the United States and Canada (including territories and possessions) exchange information with as many other US and Canadian stations as possible on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 meter bands. <https://www.arrl.org/sweepstakes>

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/>.

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.

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.



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*