

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



October 2024

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Panhandle Preparedness Expo is coming up this weekend, **October 5 & 6** at the Bonner County Fairgrounds and BCARC will be having a booth along side BCARES. There are still some slots open for members to take shifts over the course of the weekend. If you are interested, please sign up on the spreadsheet posted on [Groups.io](https://www.groups.io).

## OCTOBER MEETING PRESENTATION

### 3D Printing & HAM Radio

Presented by **Mike Stout, K170UD**

Join us for our October monthly meeting on FDM 3D printing - what it is and how it can be useful to ham radio operators.

Topics covered will include:

- ◆ What is FDM 3D Printing
- ◆ What is it good for and not good for
- ◆ What materials do we print with and what are the advantages/disadvantages of each
- ◆ Cost to print in materials, time to print, time to design, investment in printer, investment in software, free resources available



Mike will have his Bambu Lab X1 Carbon printer plus AMS set up and running, so come with lots of questions!



Hope to see you there and we will be back on Zoom.

## NEXT MEETING

**October 9, 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

~

**Location**

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

Corner of Pine &

Division

Sandpoint, ID

## September Meeting - Popcorn and a Movie!

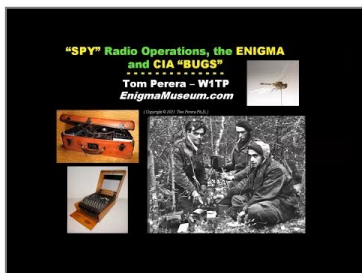
BCARC Members took a break from their regularly scheduled programming and were treated to popcorn and a movie



during the September meeting. The movie of the night was titled, **'SPY Radio Operations, the Enigma and CIA Bugs' by Tom Perera, W1TP.**

In case you were not able to make it, the movie can be viewed on YouTube here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yxhwluagvhk>



## BCARC Officers Election

It's time to start thinking about the 2025 BCARC Officers election. Officer positions include the **President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer** and are held for a 1 year term. Additional information about each position's responsibilities can be found in our Bylaws [here](#).

The election will be held during the **January** meeting.

If you are interested in running, please contact John Ailport at [john.ailport13@comcast.net](mailto:john.ailport13@comcast.net).



## Time to submit your 2025 dues

2025 annual membership dues are now being collected. Dues will remain the same as this year at \$25 for Individual membership and \$35 for Family membership. Please remember to fill out a [membership form](#) along with payment and remit either by mail or at the next monthly meeting.



## Repeater Project is Almost Complete

The ARDC repeater grant is almost wrapped up. HooDoo got a new mast section and new antennas so both the VHF and UHF repeaters are fully operational. Black Mountain and Blossom Peak are also fully on line. RF links have been fixed and last week a Ham checked in from PLUMMER with a 5 watt HT and a rubber duck antenna. Great signal!



The only repeater not complete is Goose Peak near Wallace. The NIRG team needs permission from both the Shoshone County Sheriff and an insurance company, as one owns the tower and the other owns the building with the repeater equipment.

## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

September 2024

|              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>65</b> |
| EXTRA        | 18        |
| GENERAL      | 34        |
| TECH         | 13        |



## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Individual  
\$35 Family \*

\* includes all licensed family members living in the same household

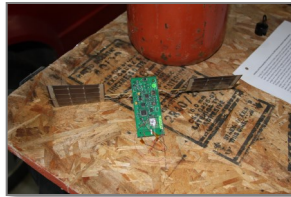
To join, please remit with a [membership form](#) at the next meeting or send to:

**BCARC**  
PO Box 792  
Ponderay, ID  
83852-0792



## Where In The World Is Betty?

On the morning of Friday, August 30th, our dedicated Pico Balloon team and several other BCARC members got up early to prep and witness the official launching of Betty (K7JEP-1), our 2nd Pico balloon. Since our 1st launch of Monica made it as far as the mountains around Glacier Park, MT, the team hoped it had learned some valuable lessons and Betty would fly much higher and farther.

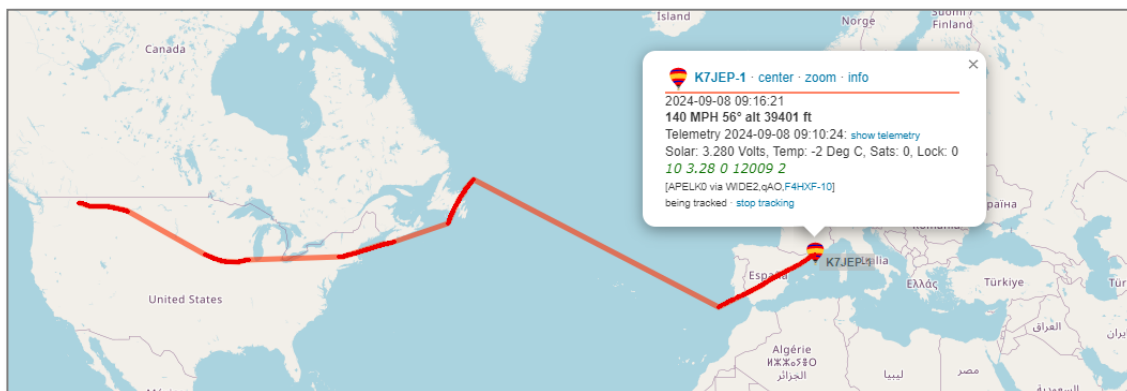


Ken and John prepped the balloon by meticulously filling her so that she would have enough helium for 19.55 grams of lift. They used the same type of APRS tracker as the first launch but this time used a better Yokohama balloon instead of the original Mylar. With all systems GO and optimal conditions, Betty lifted off just around

8:30am. Hopes were high that Betty would fly higher and farther and that she did! By 1pm, she had already passed where Monica went down and was up at 40,000 ft tracking about 60mph. After losing her to darkness that first night, the team waited with anticipation at the sun rose on the second day and lo and behold there she was over the Midwest and by Sept 1st she left the continental United States off the coast of Massachusetts. But would she make it across the Atlantic? The team wouldn't know for a while as there are no receivers in the water. For 7 long days and nights, the team continued to check APRS.fi with no sign of her...hope was fading and then suddenly on the 8th, Betty Lives! Betty was picked up off the coast of Spain. Unfortunately, the celebration was short lived. Betty was last 'seen' that evening over the Mediterranean headed for the southern coast of France flying strong at 39401ft and 140mph. We will never know for sure what happened to Betty...did she hit bad weather or maybe shot down over Ukraine/Russia? Godspeed Betty!



Congrats to the Pico Team - what an exciting ride! Who's ready for another?!



## 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.

So, did you guess September's member? It was **Daryl Baird, K6KRG**

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



## BCARC BREAKFAST

October 26, 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](http://www.k7jep.org)

# CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

## **VE Testing - November 23**

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/>

## **Jamboree On The Air- Oct 18 - 20**

JOTA-JOTI 2024 is the world's largest digital Scout event, taking place online and over the airwaves. This annual event brings together over 2 million Scouts every year in October for a weekend of Scouting and friendship. <https://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

## **50 - 1296 MHz EME Contest - Oct 19-20**

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>

## **School Club Roundup - October 21-25**

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>

## **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](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.

### **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 4<sup>th</sup> 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.



## 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*  
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