

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



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

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 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.



## DECEMBER MEETING

*Time to Celebrate!*

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE  
BONNER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB'S  
YEAR END CELEBRATION!

**DECEMBER 11, 2024; 6-8 PM**

VFW HALL, SANDPOINT, IDAHO

YOU AND YOUR FAMILY ARE INVITED FOR PIZZA & DESSERT, DOOR PRIZES AND MORE!

PLEASE **RSVP** TO THE [GROUPS.IO POLL](#) NO LATER THAN **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 6TH** AND LET US KNOW HOW MANY WILL ATTEND

IF YOU BRING A **NON-PERISHABLE FOOD ITEM**, YOU WILL RECEIVE AN EXTRA DOOR PRIZE TICKET!  
ITEMS WILL BE DONATED TO THE BONNER COMMUNITY FOOD BANK.

## NEXT MEETING

**December 11, 2024**

*(2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the Month)*

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**Year End Celebration!**

**6 - 8 pm**

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**Location**

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

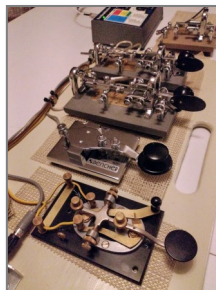
## MEMBER NEWS

### November Meeting

During the November meeting, BCARC members were treated to a presentation on CW by our very own **Dave Immel, KE4EW**. From smoke signals to semaphores to Morse Code, Dave took us through a brief history of communication and how CW has evolved into what it is today. For those who are interested in learning CW, he recommended two groups - CWops - [www.cwops.org](http://www.cwops.org) and the Long Island CW Club - [www.longislandcwclub.org](http://www.longislandcwclub.org) - both offering good training instruction. Dave even brought along several of his straight keys and electronic keyers to try out. We also enjoyed another round of TicTacCode,



emcee'd by Dan, *W7BID* who is also another CW aficionado. The game is a great intro to CW and Dan is willing to work with anyone interested in learning CW.



This and past presentations can be found on our website at <https://k7jep.org/monthly-publications/>

### BCARC Officers Election

There is still time to put your name in the hat to run for a 2025 BCARC Officer position. 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](#). So far, the currently slate of candidates is:



- ◆ President: Daryl Baird, *K6KRG*
- ◆ Vice President: John Kludt, *K7SYS*
- ◆ Secretary: Ken Conradi, *KF7FDN*
- ◆ Treasurer: Vern Walters, *A17WS*

The final slate of candidates will be released later this month and 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).

### Field Day 2025....need your feedback!

Two options were presented to the Club at the November meeting, regarding the direction for Field Day 2025. The BCARC Field Day team is planning to slim down the logistical efforts with meals and related items, and would like feedback from club members on the style of operation.

**Option 1:** Continue the process we have used for the last two years of trying to do better than the previously year in total points. That means maximizing time on the radios for the full 24 hours and operating to maximize QSO's per hour. Typically for the operators that will involve a lot of time on one frequency calling CQ and quickly handling QSOs. Also means planning and working to get all possible bonus points and strong attention to antenna placement, interference between stations, etc.

**Option 2:** Focus our efforts on encouraging participation and helping our members become better HF radio operators. There would be less/ little emphasis on points and more one learning and practicing radio operation skills and things like tuning in stations which are difficult to hear and practicing skills in making contacts.

Members will vote on the direction at the **January meeting**. If you are interested in joining the Field Day team, please reach out to John Ailport, [john.ailport13@comcast.net](mailto:john.ailport13@comcast.net).

## BCARC BREAKFAST

December 21, 2024

9-10:30am

### Location

Connies Café  
323 Cedar St  
Sandpoint, ID



## CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

November 2024

TOTAL	69*
EXTRA	20
GENERAL	33
TECH	15

\* one member studying

## CLUB MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Individual

\$35 Family \*

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

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

### BCARC

PO Box 792  
Ponderay, ID  
83852-0792



# CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

## **VE Testing - January 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/>

## **160 Meter - December 6-8**

For Amateurs worldwide to exchange information with W/VE amateurs on 160-meter CW. <https://www.arrl.org/160-meter>

## **10 Meter - December 14-15**

For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band. <https://www.arrl.org/10-meter>

## **Rookie Roundup- CW- December 22**

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

## **Straight Key Night - January 1st**

This 24-hour event is not a contest; rather it is a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage. Participants are encouraged to get on the air and simply make enjoyable, conversational CW QSOs. The use of straight keys or bugs to send

CW is preferred. There are no points scored and all who participate are winners.

<https://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>

## **RTTY Roundup - January 4-5**

Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using only the Radioteletype (RTTY) mode on the 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. <https://www.arrl.org/rtty-roundup>

## **January VHF - January 18-20**

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. <https://www.arrl.org/january-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/>.

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).



## **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**, 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 5pm



*The COAX is edited and published by*  
***Colleen Conradi, KK7KNL***