

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



February 2025

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

### Reminder to submit your 2025 dues

2025 annual membership dues are now being collected. Dues will remain the same as last 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. Remember this helps fund all of our exciting activities!

### Feeling Lucky?

Once again, we will be having our monthly 50/50 fundraising raffle at each meeting. For \$1 per ticket, you have a chance to win 50% of the pot, with the other 50% going to help support Club activities. The more you buy, the more you could win!



## FEBRUARY MEETING PRESENTATION

### Optimizing Receiver Performance – What Do all Those Knobs and Menu Items Do?

Presented by **David Immel, KE4EW**, and **John Kludt, K7SYS**

If you have purchased a radio manufactured in the last twenty or so years, it has an adequate receiver in it and it has a plethora of knobs and menu items to keep you entertained. With normal use on an empty band the default settings are just fine. But what if you get the desire to work that DXpedition in the South Pacific? Or maybe you are operating on Field Day with many operators in a small band segment? How can I best pull that weak signal from the South Pacific out of the noise? And how can I remove that strong signal who is interfering with the signal I really want to hear?

Most of us use only a fraction of the capabilities of our transceivers. Join us to explore how many of those knobs and menu items on your radio can be used to improve the receive performance of your radio. While we will focus on the IC-7300, things like RF Gain, AGC, bandwidth filters, preamps, attenuators, noise blankers, noise reduction, notch filters and more can be found on almost, if not all, modern transceivers. Please join us as we unravel the correct use of all these tools through a chalk talk and an informative video. Dave Immel, **KE4EW**, will join us with an IC-7300 to show us in real-time how to tweak your radio for the best receiver performance under the most demanding circumstances.

And what is the alligator all about?



## NEXT MEETING

**February 12, 2025**

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

### **Eyeball QSOs**

6:00 PM

### **General Meeting**

6:30 PM

### **Location**

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

Corner of Pine &

Division

Sandpoint, ID

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### **Board Meeting**

February 3, 2025

11:00 AM

Scotchman's Coffee

509 N 5th Ave

Sandpoint

## MEMBER NEWS

### January Annual Meeting

On January 8, 2025, BCARC called to order the 2025 Annual Business Meeting. After an official quorum was declared, members reviewed and approved the 2024 financials and were presented a draft 2025 budget. Members also voted and overwhelmingly approved a new slate of members for the Board of Directors. Congratulations to **Daryl Baird**, President; **John Kludt**, Vice President; **Vern Walters**, Treasurer; **Ken Conradi**, Secretary. Newly elected President Daryl then presented outgoing President **John Ailport** with a custom award for his 4 years of outstanding service to the Club.



### HAM RADIO ETIQUETTE

Provided by **Dave Immel, KE4EW**

Below are a few Ham Radio Points of Etiquette. They are reminders to seasoned operators as well as newcomers to the hobby:

- ◆ Take the time to listen to the repeaters. Get familiar with local nets and how they operate. When checking into a net, always follow the net control station instructions.
- ◆ Speak like you were talking to someone face to face. Key the mike, AND THEN start to talk. Don't start speaking as you key the mike. Repeater have a short delay before transmitting. If you start speaking too soon, your first few syllables or words may not be heard. Make sure you have finished talking before unkeying the mike. Give your call sign clearly, and slowly.
- ◆ Use plain English and avoid jargon as much as possible. Keep transmissions short and concise. Q-signals are really a Morse code shorthand. They have their place if voice communications are marginal.
- ◆ Avoid falling into the habit of using cute isms: "Roger-Roger", "QSL on that"... etc.
- ◆ When using phonetics, use standard phonetics, "Alpha, Bravo, Charlie"... etc.
- ◆ If you are listening and would like to have a conversation, just give your call sign. You can add "monitoring", or "listening". Calling "CQ" on a repeater is generally discouraged.
- ◆ When you wish to communicate on a frequency, listen for a time before talking, there may be a conversation in progress.
- ◆ If you want to join a conversation, give your call between transmissions rather than using the term "Break-Break". You will be acknowledged and allowed into the conversation.
- ◆ If you want to talk to a station that may be monitoring, call using their call sign once or twice, then your call sign.

## PAID MEMBERSHIP

January 2025

TOTAL	34
EXTRA	14
GENERAL	13
TECH	6
Studying	1



## 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



- ◆ In an emergency, give your call and say "emergency" rather than using "Break-Break". Saying "emergency" will make it clear why you are interrupting, and it will also get more attention from those just listening.
- ◆ Make sure you ID (state your call sign) according to the rules but avoid over ID'ing.
- ◆ The rules state: "at the end of each communication, and at least every 10 minutes during a communication."
- ◆ It is generally frowned upon to "Ker-chunk" a repeater. That means keying up your radio for just a moment so that the repeater transmits, usually you hear the "courtesy beep" afterwards. This is annoying to the repeater owners and control operators. If you want to make sure you are transmitting normally, make sure you give your call sign.

Remember....if you are a new ham don't be afraid to ask questions. You will make friends and have fun.

## Support our local Charter School during the School Club Roundup - February 10-14, 2025

As a club, for the last couple of years, we have supported the **Forrest Bird Charter School** in their efforts during the ARRL School Club Roundup. This year they have a dedicated radio station built around an IC-7300, a 2m FM radio and permanent antennas for 20/15/10 and 2m. The station will be operating under the school callsign **W7FBS**. Mark, *KJ7YOZ*, Dan, *W7BID*, and John, *K7SYS*, will be present in the role of advisors and control operators if one is needed for those students without a license. This is a major event for the school. Their operating schedule is as follows:

Times	Bands	Frequencies
10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	2M	145.600 = BCARC Simplex
10:30 AM - 4:00PM	Start at 10M and work in order	
Stay as long as QSLs	10M	28.450 - 28.497
	15M	21.300-21.400
	20M	14.250-14.297

You may work the school once on every band. The school will issue a certificate to any BCARC member who works W7FBS on all four bands. Last year Forest Bird High School was the nationally third ranked high school in the contest. Let us all pull together and help get them to #1 this year!

## Idaho QSO Party – The SPUD Run - March 8-9, 2025

There are several State QSO Parties every year. The goal of these parties is to contact as many stations within the state as possible, usually over a 24-hour period. The Idaho QSO Party will be March 8-9 this year. It is also known as the SPUD Run. To encourage participation there are bonus points available to stations who spell **S-P-U-D**. The Bonner County Amateur Radio Club has again been asked to support the letter "D".

*So how does that work?* We have reserved with the ARRL the callsign K7D for the duration of the contest. The modes used will be SSB and CW. Sorry no FT8 as it does not support the exchange which includes our three latter county abbreviation (BNR). We may have two stations on the air at the same time on the same band *if they are not on the same mode*. The bands in use are the non-WARC bands, 160/80/40/20/15/10 meters. As stations giving out the "D" in SPUD, we are not eligible for awards. In exchange when using the K7D callsign you become the Dx that everyone wants to get into their log!

*"I'd like a turn at being K7D so how do I do that?"* If you are a BCARC Member and you are interested in being K7D send an email to [johnnykludt@gmail.com](mailto:johnnykludt@gmail.com). You will be given access to a database with slots by time, band and mode. If you see a slot that you would like to operate, enter your callsign in the slot and it is yours.

*"I would like to take a turn as K7D and I would also like to participate under my own call. How do I do that?"* That is a good approach. Just keep the logs separate, one for K7D and one under your own call. At the conclusion of the event submit both logs in Cabrillo format. There are a number of logging programs out there that will work. As a club we have had particularly good results with the N3FJP State QSO Party log. It can be found at [n3fjp.com](http://n3fjp.com).

More information will be available at the February meeting. We hope you will join us in supporting K7D. <https://www.idahoqsoparty.org/>



## BCARC BREAKFAST

February 22, 2025  
9-10:30am

### Location

Connies Café  
323 Cedar St  
Sandpoint, ID



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



# CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

## **VE Testing - March 8**

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/>

## **School Club Roundup - February 10-14**

Support our local Forrest M. Bird Charter School. 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>

## **International DX - CW - February 15-16**

To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands.  
<https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

## **International DX - Phone - March 1-2**

To encourage W/VE stations to expand knowledge of DX propagation on the HF and MF bands, improve operating skills, and improve station capability by creating a competition in which DX stations may only contact W/VE stations. Use only the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meter bands. <https://www.arrl.org/arrl-dx>

## **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 Daryl Baird, [daryl.baird@gmail.com](mailto:daryl.baird@gmail.com)



## **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](#)*