

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



May 2025

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

www.K7JEP.org

BCARC73@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Meeting Feedback Wanted!

We really like to make sure that we are providing content at our meetings that you are interested in. Please make sure to fill out the groups.io survey after each meeting to let us know how we did.



MAY MEETING PRESENTATION

OF RF Exposure and Callsigns

Presented by **Doug Forster, W6AXR** and **Gary White, K2KKB**

Every year for Field Day **Doug, W6AXR**, does the required FCC RF Exposure calculations for our stations. Each of us should have done those for our home stations and should at least have some idea of the minimum required safe distance for our portable operations. When I am out doing POTA how close can someone safely approach my antenna? What if the Park Ranger asks a question about RF Safety? And why does this matter? Please join us as Doug walks us through the basics and shows us how to make the calculations for our home stations.



The second part of the meeting will deal with Amateur Radio callsigns, their origin and their history. Did you know there was a time when there were no callsigns? It wasn't that long ago that your callsign had to match the district in which you lived. That was kind of nice as it gave us a clue as to where the bands were open. **Gary, K2KKB**, is going to walk us through the history of US Amateur Radio callsigns. Ever wonder about those 1x1 and 1x2 callsigns and how to get one? Why would you maybe want one? Is AE5EE a "good" callsign for CW? It is short but maybe or maybe not. If you have had more than one callsign, please wear it or bring a sample of a QSL card from your callsign history.

We are looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting.

K7FDN
K7BSV
K7SYS

NEXT MEETING

May 14, 2025

(2nd 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

~

Board Meeting

May 5, 2025

11:00 AM

Miller's Country Store

1326 Baldy Mountain Rd

Sandpoint, ID

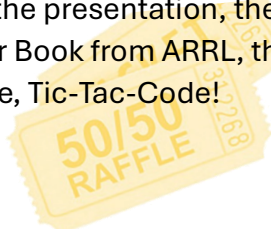
April Meeting

Attendees at the April meeting were treated to a great presentation by Dave, K7ZDP, on all the ins and outs of becoming a POTA Activator. Dave has conducted numerous activations and

shared his personal experience along with Bob, KC7GTQ, who brought some of his equipment including a very portable mini computer, BuddiPole and cool backpack to bring it all with you!

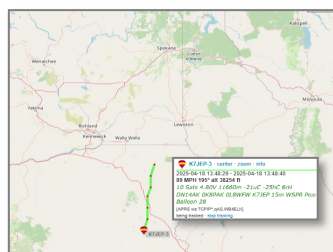


After the presentation, there was a drawing for The Parks on the Air Book from ARRL, the monthly 50/50 raffle and of course, Tic-Tac-Code!



Another Balloon Launch....Another Learning Experience

On April 18th, under perfect weather conditions, the BCARC Balloon team launched their latest balloon, K7JEP-3 (aka Doug) from the Selle Valley. The balloon rose quickly, almost straight up, with very little wind moving it until it finally gained enough altitude and started moving South. The team was excited as this was the first balloon with a WSPR tracker (15m HF) that would allow more constant signal connection especially over areas that previously went dark, like the Atlantic Ocean. Unfortunately, Doug was not long for this world. After moving into Oregon about 4 hours later, the signal was lost abruptly just south of Baker City. Although we won't know for sure, in retrospect a missing swivel may have been the culprit. The team, however, continues to learn from each launch and remains undeterred. Another tracker has already been ordered. Onward and upward!



PAID MEMBERSHIP

April 2025

TOTAL	62
EXTRA	23
GENERAL	28
TECH	10
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



On Working Split – CW and SSB by John Kludt, K7SYS

Of late, the term “working split” has come up as we have discussed contacting a DX station using SSB or CW. So what exactly does that mean and how do you do it with modern rigs? And why do DX stations use split? Let’s see if we can explain the basics.

For casual conversations many stations and even station in foreign countries operate simplex. Transmitting and receiving are done on the same frequency. When there is only one or maybe two stations answering a CQ that is a manageable situation. But what if there are twenty or thirty stations calling all on the same frequency as the station calling CQ? First it is very difficult for the CQing station to pick anything out of all of the noise of competing calling stations. Second, if you as the answering station are lucky enough to be called, it is difficult if not impossible to hear the CQing station calling you through the din of all people calling him. In a word it is chaos!

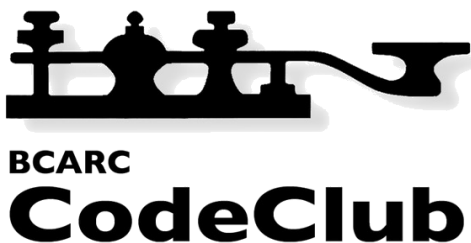
Enter “split.” The CQing station is on one frequency and that is the only station on that frequency. The answering stations, including you, are a different frequency. Actually a bunch of frequencies. On CW, the minimum split is usually a minimum of 1 KHz above the CQing station. On SSB, the minimum split is usually a minimum 5 KHz above the CQing station. We say minimum because the CQing station wants you to, and sometimes will actually say, “spread out.” This is where panadapters come in very handy as you can actually see the shape of the “pileup.” The pileup would be all of the stations trying to call the CQing station. And those pileups can be huge: 10, 20, 30 or more KHz wide. Your job is to try and find a place in the pileup where you have a chance of being heard. That is an entire discussion for another time.

So using the IC-7300 as an example, how do you do that? There is a button in the upper right hand cluster of buttons labeled “SPLIT.” Pushing that button will shift the radio to transmit on the VFO B frequency and receive on the VFO A. You can then use the VFO B knob to adjust your transmit frequency while keeping the VFO A receive frequency unchanged. Here is a link that demonstrates the process <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vQ8-0EiCsr4&t=148s>

One caution on split and that is when **not** to use it. Never use split during a contest or during casual conversation. Even with a DX station if it is again just casual contacts don’t use split. If the DX station is using split they will let you know. On CW you will hear “UP”, dit dit dah, dit dah dah dit, and on SSB you might hear something like “Up 5.” The DX station is letting you know they are listening beginning at 5 KHz above their transmit frequency.

If it were only that easy! Getting through a pileup is a real challenge but that is part of the fun of Amateur Radio.

Are You Interested in Learning Morse Code?



The BCARC CodeClub has been started for those BCARC members who are interested in learning Morse Code and those interested in helping members learn it. The *club-within-a-club* started in late February. It is in its early stages but six members have already joined and all are welcome. A sub-group in BCARC’s groups.io mail service has been set up so CodeClub members

can get in touch for practicing and gaining more familiarity with code-learning tools that are available. For more information contact Daryl K6KRG via email at bcarc73@gmail.com.

BCARC BREAKFAST

May 24, 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/](https://www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/)

AND
ON OUR CLUB
WEBSITE

www.K7JEP.org



Field Day 2025 Update - June 28 - 29

Daryl, K6KRG, FD25 committee chairman, reports that the stations set up for Field Day this time around will be limited to five: one for single sideband (SSB), one for digital (FT8), one for UHF, one for the special Get On The Air (GOTA) station, and the very important "Information Station" where club members will be on hand to greet visitors and tell them about Field Day and about BCARC. The station locations on the grounds of the Edgemere Grange have been worked out and the radios, antennas, and laptops for QSO logging have been acquired. Pat, KJ7SJU, will again be our Safety chief this year and both Doug, W6AXR, and John, K7BSV, will be helping with the set-up and take-down activities starting Friday, June 27th.

During May, Judy, K7JKB, and Daryl will be working on the "hospitality" aspects for Field Day. The Field Day Operator sign-up sheet will be out soon and members will be notified when they can sign up for their shifts at the radios and to staff the Information Station.



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

VE Testing - May 10 - 10am

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/>

Boundary Amateur Radio Club

Monday Night Net - 7:30pm

W7BFI - Part of the North Idaho Repeater Group
Output 146.960 MHz
Input 146.360 MHz
CTCSS 123.0 Hz
<https://www.w7bfi.com/>

Pend Orielle County Radio Group

Wednesday Social Net - 7:30pm
W7POC - Cooks Mountain Repeater
145.470- PL 100.0
<https://pocrg.org/>

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

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



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](#)*