

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



June 2025

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Summer Fun!



As the weather warms up, BCARC and Community Events heat up too! This year, BCARC members will have the opportunity once again, to help support several community events including the Sandpoint July 4th Parade (**July 4th**), the Long Bridge Swim (**August 2**), the Bonner County Fair (**Aug 12-16**) and the Preparedness Expo (**Oct 4-5**). We also have something in the works for **Labor Day** at Round Lake State Park, so mark your calendars and stay tuned for more info!



JUNE MEETING PRESENTATION

Field Day 2025

The big event, Field Day on the fourth weekend in June is almost here. And Field Day will be on the program for this month. We are going to start off with a short delightful video of Field Day circa 1962. That was in the days before transceivers were commonplace and not every radio had a built in VFO. Sideband was frequently generated using the phasing method and sideband generators were added to AM transmitters. Receiver selectivity was aided by using a "Q-Multiplier." Join us as we watch this video of a piece of nostalgia

and discuss the differences between then and now.

Logging SSB contacts during Field Day can be a challenge. We will set up several laptops on a network and practice calling CQ, giving our exchange, "K7JEP 2A Idaho", and logging the received exchange. It should be an enjoyable adventure in simulated Field Day activity.

Please join us for the June BCARC club meeting at the VFW Hall, corner of Division and Pine Street here in Sandpoint.



NEXT MEETING

June 11, 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

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Board Meeting

June 2, 2025

11:00 AM

Miller's Country Store

1326 Baldy Mountain Rd

Sandpoint, ID

MEMBER NEWS

May Meeting

Last month, attendees at the May meeting were presented a “double feature” - a great history of call signs by Gary White, K2KKB, and the all important (but sometimes forgotten) need to factor in RF Exposure by Doug Forster, W6AXR. Attendees were asked to bring their past call signs and John Kludt and Dave Immel did not disappoint! The presentation can be found on our website along with other past presentations. In addition, Gary, surprised several of our long time members for their dedication to the club and the craft with **Mentor Award**



certificates- Congratulations to John Ailport, Dave Immel, John Kludt and Dan Parkin!



Field Day 2025 Update - June 28-29

Everything is falling into place for FD25 at The Edgemere Grange! Kick-off for calling “CQ Field Day!, CQ Field Day! Kilo Seven Juliet Echo Papa” at the Voice station and for sending “CQ FD K7JEP 2A ID” at the Data station starting at 1100 hours (1800 Zulu) Saturday, the 28th. The GOTA station will be up and running from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. All GOTA participants will be using K7SYS, station chief John Kludt’s callsign. A nice buffet is planned for the set-up crew, station chiefs and operators and their plus-ones for Saturday afternoon, starting at 5:00 p.m.



Now is the time to get on the Operator Schedule!

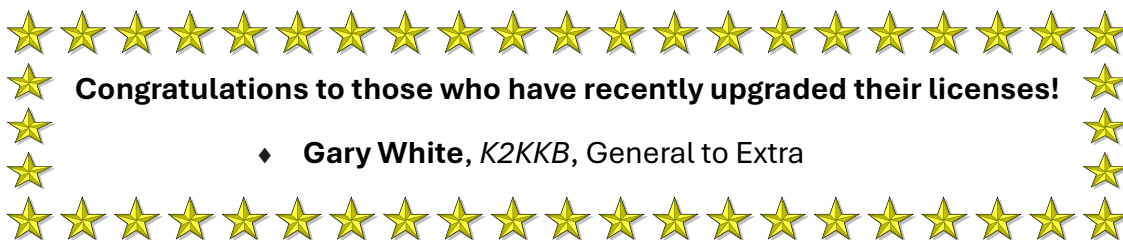
FD25 Wants You! Send an email to [John Kludt/K7SYS](mailto:John.Kludt@K7SYS) and say you’re ready to sign up! John will grant you access to the online sign-up sheet and he’ll send back some simple instructions. You can schedule time in the chairs at the SSB station, the FT8 station, or both!

We also need volunteers to help at the BCARC Information Station from 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Saturday.

Come on out on the 28th!

Sending CW! by John Kludt, K7SYS, BCARC Activities Manager

There is an active interest in BCARC to learn CW. We even have a CW subgroup on our groups.io page. While receiving CW is one thing, learning to send is another especially if using a straight key. Getting the spacing and the timing correct is a real art. Toward that end Dan, W7BID, will set up his key and practice oscillator at the back of the room before the June meeting. If you would like to practice sending CW with CW Master Dan as your coach, practice will begin at 18:00 hrs. at the VFW Hall just before our regular meeting. See you there!



PAID MEMBERSHIP

May 2025

TOTAL	69
EXTRA	29
GENERAL	31
TECH	8
Studying	1



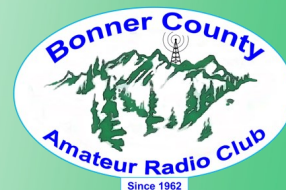
CLUB MEMBERSHIP

\$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



What Makes a General a General by Judy Baird, W7JKB

Perhaps you have held your General license for some time now. Or you recently upgraded from a Technician. Or you may be studying with the intent to take an upcoming exam. Regardless of which of these best describes your status, this article is going to review some of what makes a General a General and tosses in some potential test questions so you can check your progress.

As a General class amateur radio operator, you receive new privileges. Your first thought as a new ham might be “So what does that exactly mean to me?” For starters, you get more “room to roam!” You get wider access to several bands and parts of bands that you didn’t have as a Technician.

With that General ticket, now’s the time to really start looking at the US Amateur Radio Band chart.

POP QUIZ:

Question 1. *On which HF and/or MF amateur bands are there portions where General licensees cannot transmit?*

Answer: 80 meters, 40 meters, 20 meters, and 15 meters. Generals use the upper frequency portions of these bands.

Question 2. *On the 40 meter band, in which frequency range are General licensees prohibited from operating as a control operator?*

Answer: 7.125 MHz to 7.175 MHz.

Question 3. *What frequency range makes up the 10 meter band?*

Answer: 28 to 29.7 MHz. Technician license holders can operate SSB phone from 28.3 to 28.5 MHz. Generals can operate phone and image from 28.300 to 29.700 MHz.

Question 4. *Can a General class operator transmit CW on all bands?*

Answer: Yes.

Question 5. *Can I immediately start working in permitted band segments once I pass my General test?*

Answer: Yes. Once you receive your Certificate of Successful Completion of Examination, until your upgrade shows up in the FCC database, you can operate in band segments allotted for General operators by adding a slash and the letters “AG” to your call sign. You can drop the slash and the “AG” once your upgrade is shown in the database.



To prepare for your exam, repetition and memorization are key. There are several online sites that are excellent resources. These sites provide videos and quizzes to help you assess your progress and readiness to test.

hamradioprep.com

This site includes separate Technician, General, and Amateur Extra courses, each with easy to follow videos, quiz questions that are from the actual tests, and tips to help getting correct answers on the exam. There is even a course on Ham Radio Basics covering topics such as getting to know your radio, repeaters, logging contacts, POTA, Digital, Satellite, and even Morse Code.

hamstudy.org

This site also includes separate Technician, General, and Amateur Extra study modes, quizzes, and practice tests.

hamradioschool.com

This site includes quizzes and practice exams for all three licenses. The General section has eight study chapters with quizzes and 16 practice exams.

garyjohnson.org/general-class-course

Although I am not familiar with this site and it was not part of my own study routine, fellow BCARC member Vern Walters/AI7WS recommended the Gordon West Radio School. Vern used it to prepare for his recent exam. This link will take you directly to the six video sessions for the General class. Check it out!

Please feel free to use our club’s groups.io site to share information about other sites you have used to prepare for your test. It’s also the perfect place to share comments and suggestions that might be helpful to other club members. Look for an article in next month’s newsletter that will include more info and Pop Quiz questions for review. Remember, stay curious and try to learn something new every day. Best of luck with your studies!

BCARC BREAKFAST

We are taking a break from our usual monthly Connie’s breakfast and will be at Field Day at the Edgemere Grange - June 28-29.

Hope to see you there!

**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



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

VE Testing - July 19 - 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/>

Digital Contest (FT8/FT4) - June 7-8

Amateurs worldwide contact and exchange QSO information with other amateurs using any digital mode (excluding RTTY) that supports the 4-digit Grid Square exchange — attended operation only -- on the 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 and 6 meter bands (Technicians are limited per FCC Rules to the 10 and 6 meter bands). <http://www.arrl.org/arrl-digital-contest>

Museum Ships Weekend - June 7-8

Organized by The Battleship New Jersey Amateur Radio Station, there are over 101 ships participating this year. As they state, this is not a contest but a FUN event! <https://www.nj2bb.org/museum/>

June VHF Contest - June 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. <https://www.arrl.org/june-vhf>

More information on contesting can be found on <http://arrl.org/contest-calendar> and <https://contestcalendar.com/>.

Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs Swap

Meet - June 14

Located at Plante's Ferry Park, 12320 E. Upriver Drive, Spokane Valley, WA 99213 <https://www.arrl.org/hamfests/inland-empire-vhf-radio-amateurs-swap-meet>

2025 Field Day - June 28-29

To contact as many stations as possible on the 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-Meter HF bands, as well as all bands 50 MHz and above, and to learn to operate in abnormal situations in less than optimal conditions. BCARC will be operating at the Edgemere Grange in Priest River. <https://www.arrl.org/field-day>

17th Annual 13 Colonies Event - July 1-7

Try and make contact with special stations in all 13 original colonies. <http://www.13colonies.us/>

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)

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 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](#)*