

# THE COAX NEWSLETTER



August 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/](https://www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/)

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### More BCARC Fun!

We have 2 more BCARC events planned for this month and next - **BCARC Radio's in the Park - August 30th** and **BCARC Tally Ho! Fox Hunt - September 20th**. Check out more info below!

### Webmaster Backup Needed

BCARC is looking for a backup Webmaster for the club website. If you are interested, please contact [Gary White](#) or [Daryl Baird](#).



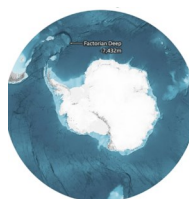
## AUGUST MEETING PRESENTATION

### **Dx 101 – Overview of Dx and DXpeditions**

Many BCARC members from time-to-time try to work "Dx." Have you ever wondered if there is an official definition of "Dx." If so, what is it and how is it defined? Who is the keeper of the "official list"? What's involved in working Dx? The formal list is defined and maintained by the ARRL Awards Committee. There are currently 340 "entities" on the DXCC list. An "entity" might be a country. It could also be a land mass isolated from other entities by a large distance. A great example of this is Bouvet Island, the most remote uninhabited island in the world. Deep in the Southern Ocean, it is a dependency of Norway. And a group of dedicated hams are going there to put it on the air! Why? Probably, to borrow from George Mallory when asked why he wanted to climb Mt. Everest, "Because it's there!" Always an island? Ask Wes about his trip to Bhutan. Another great adventure.

Please join us as **Wes Lamboley, W3WL**, shares the basics of Dx and Dxpeditons with us. Wes is a veteran of several Dxpediton. Some of these Dxpeditons have been to very remote places in the "Southern Ocean." If you tip up a globe and look at Antarctica, around it you will see nothing but water. That, anything below 60 degree South latitude, is the Southern Ocean. And Wes has delightful stories to tell about his journeys into the region so those of us sitting at home can work an "ATNO" – an "All Time New One."

The next time you hear a "rare one" you will better understand what is involved in getting it "on the air."



## NEXT MEETING

**August 13, 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

~

**Board Meeting**

August 4, 2025

11:00 AM

Miller's Country Store

1326 Baldy Mountain Rd

Sandpoint, ID

July Meeting

Members who attended the July meeting were given a presentation on FT8 and FT4 functionality beyond just the initial setup, by John Kludt and Joe Mauk. Joe also provided a live demo of the WSJT-X FT8 interface. There was also an update on Field Day results (see below) and the 13 Colonies contest. The full presentation can be found on our website [here](#).



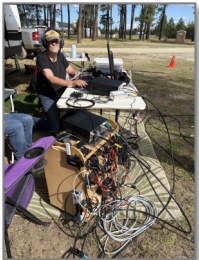
BCARC ARRL Field Day 2025

We set two goals for ourselves for Field Day 2025. The first goal was to have some fun and the second was to do better than we did the year before. On both accounts Field Day 2025 was a very successful undertaking. We returned to the Edgemere Grange on Priest River. We are beginning to learn about the site; what works for station locations, antenna locations, etc. That is one of the advantages of returning to the same site year after year. We ran as 2A again with a phone station and an SSB station. Alas, we could not run CW as we had no CW ops, next year, we are going to fix that! The comradery was excellent as was the meal provided Saturday night by “Chef D’ Baird.”



So how did we do? Better than we did last year!

Year	GOTA	CW	Digi	SSB	Total QSO's	Bonus Points	Final score
2022	No	4	0	174	178	970	1334
2023	Yes	50	120	260	430	1310	2550
2024	Yes	0	259	321	580	1990	3668
2025 est.	Yes	0	479	373	852	1780	4882



While we left some bonus points on the table, GOTA helped make up the difference. All things considered, we all had an enjoyable outing.



Although it may seem a bit early, some of us are already thinking about the 2026 running of Field Day. We'd like to go back to the Grange. GOTA is a must. What about going to 3A? We could run an SSB station, an FT8 station and maybe a third station split between CW and FT8. We have challenged the BCARC CW Special Interest Group members to keep practicing and be prepared to operate that CW station. How about a better set of antennas for the phone station?



Simple dipoles for 75/40/20 a little higher up might improve the performance. The club now owns a two element Yagi for 20/15/10m. Maybe we share them between the two FT8/CW stations?



Thanks to Daryl, K6KRG, for his leadership on the 2025 version of the event. We hope all you all are willing to join with the other members of the BCARC family as we look forward to Field Day 2026.



PAID  
MEMBERSHIP

July 2025

TOTAL	74
EXTRA	29
GENERAL	34
TECH	9
Studying	2



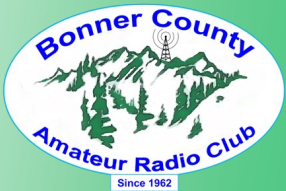
CLUB  
MEMBERSHIP

\$25 Individual  
\$35 Family \*

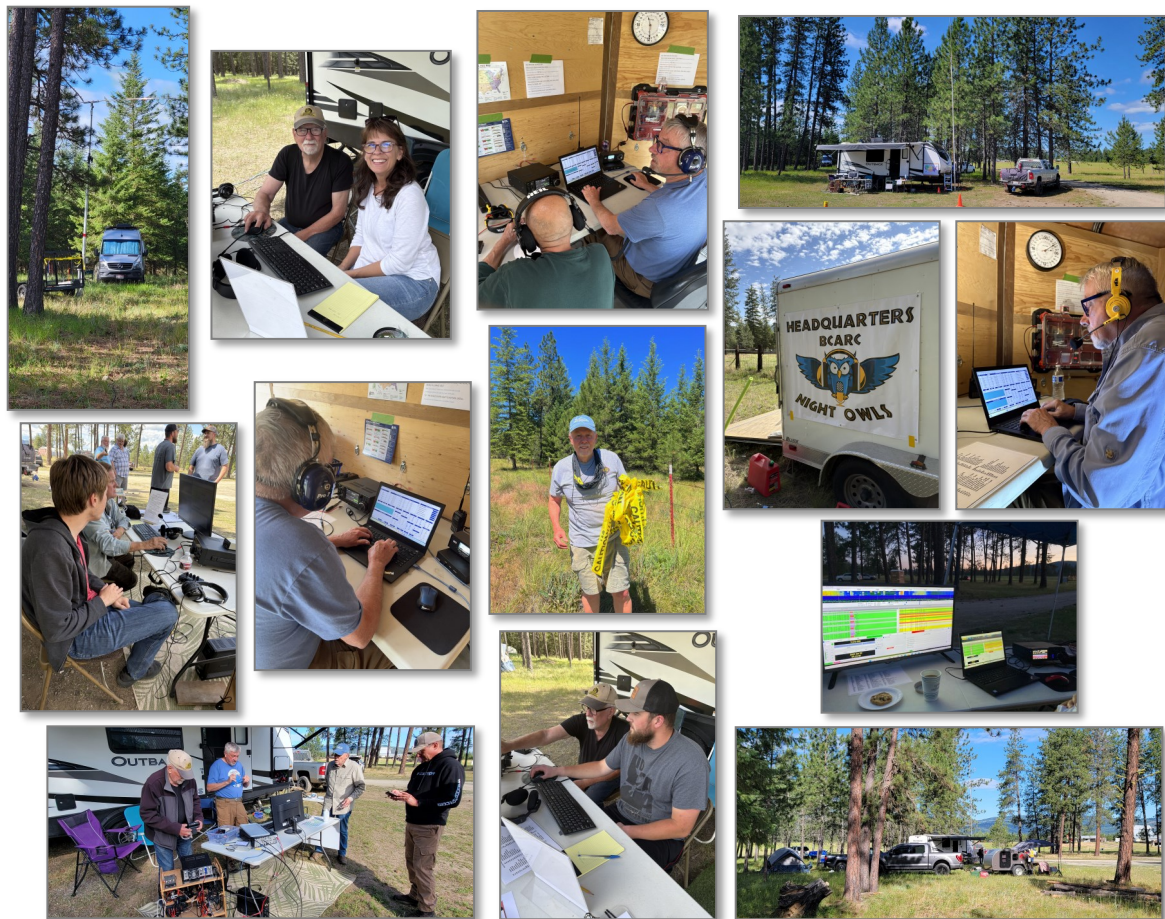
\* includes all licensed family members living in the same household

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

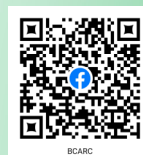
BCARC  
PO Box 792  
Ponderay, ID  
83852-0792







FOR THE LATEST  
CLUB INFO, CHECK  
US OUT  
ON FACEBOOK



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

AND  
ON OUR CLUB  
WEBSITE

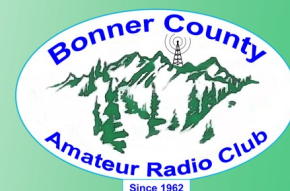
[www.K7JEP.org](http://www.K7JEP.org)

## **Ramblings About HF DXing and Other Options** by Dave Immel, KE4EW

I think we all know what HF DX is. It refers to radio contacts with stations that are normally far away, often across continents or countries. When you think about what DX is, it likely conjures up some sort of connection to that far away place. What is the climate like there? Isolated, on a tropical beach or an uninhabited ice-clad island? In a crowded city or the countryside? Yes, there is something fascinating about the radio sitting on your desk connected to a wire in the backyard that could connect you to that place, perhaps only for a few seconds or even for a conversation. It might even give you that feeling that somehow you stopped by and were there for a visit. For some, making this connection has or could become an obsession, especially for the rarest of DX. Perhaps not so for the new ham.

Working that rare DX may not be for everyone. An occasional easy contact into the Caribbean, South America or elsewhere in the world might be easy. Sure, go for it. The amateur radio hobby these days is loaded with a vast array of options to explore. All still involve the basics of communicating in one form or another. Remember, most, but not all the stations in that DX pileup likely have a substantial investment in large antenna arrays and more than just simple, basic station set-ups. The new ham may be intrigued by contacting that far away rare DX station but may soon be turned away after learning what that "pileup" is like.

Back in April, Dave, K7ZDP gave a well-done Parks On The Air presentation. This may be a lower key option to serious DXing and still offer the excitement and challenges of making POTA contacts or even going for some of the awards that POTA offers. Or better yet actually activating a park yourself. You might tune up the band and find a POTA activator taking calls. It seems here everyone is taking a turn and many even get a response on their first call. The activators could be a DX station but more than likely a U.S. or Canadian station out there in a park by a lake or on a beach. Yes, a bit more laid back than joining that DX pile-up down the band. Maybe looking into that pile-up is something to consider doing further down the road. Meanwhile getting your feet wet with POTA might be a great option .... for now.



## Upcoming BCARC Field Events

Two events have been scheduled for BCARC members interested in getting outdoors and doing some field work alongside other members.

### BCARC “Radios In The Park” - Saturday, August 30th at Round Lake State Park, 8 am to 2 pm



We have rented the large Ponderosa pavilion at Round Lake on August 30th, starting at 8:00 a.m. and continuing until 2:00 p.m. This event is intended for BCARC members to set up their field radios & antennas to operate and demonstrate to others. We're hoping that participants will be willing share the use of their radios with others who are interested in giving field work a try.

Also, Round Lake is a *Parks On The Air* (POTA) location, US-2247.

Depending on how much activity there is during the event, POTA operators may wish to attempt to activate US-2247. POTA operators should be willing to explain how POTA is done, including how they spot and log their contacts.

There is a \$7.00 per vehicle Idaho resident entrance fee to enter Round Lake State Park. Consider acquiring the Idaho State Parks Pass available at the DMV office for \$10.00 that is valid for a full year.

Additional details about **Radios In The Park** will be posted to the club's [groups.io](https://groups.io) message board.

### BCARC “Tally Ho! Fox Hunt” - Saturday, September 20th at Pine Street Woods, 9 am to 2 pm

Remember that tape measure Yagi antenna you built as a club project back in October of '23? Well, it's time to dust it off, rig up an attenuator for it, charge up your HT and do some radio transmitter hunting (aka fox hunting) with other BCARCers out at Pine Street Woods in September.

The plan is to meet at the Sandpoint library (room number, TBA) at 9 a.m. for a 1-hour briefing then to regroup in the PSW parking lot the start of the hunt. Additional details for Tally Ho! will be provided at the September general meeting and posted to the club's [groups.io](https://groups.io) message board.



## Thank You!

A BIG shoutout to all the BCARC members who helped out with the annual Sandpoint Lion's July 4th Parade! Many people said the crowd was the largest turnout in a while!



John – K7BSV, Ken – K7FDN, Gary – K2KKB, Judy – AC6DY (plus one), Terry – N7BDL,  
Dan – W7BID, Doug – W6AXR, Keith – AI6OO, Colleen – KK7KNL

## BCARC BREAKFAST

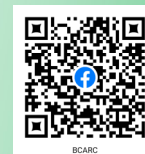
August 23, 2025  
9-10:30am

### 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](https://www.K7JEP.org)





## **What Makes a General a General (Part 3)** by Judy Baird, W7JKB

Hopefully you are making progress with your studies for your General privileges. Summer can be a busy time with lots of activities so perhaps you have put things on hold for now with the intent of picking it back up in the fall. If so, that's just fine. This month's focus is about operating phone (voice) on HF and might be a good review for you when you are ready.

### **POP QUIZ:**

**Question 1** *What is the most common used mode of voice communication on the HF bands?*

**Answer:** Single Sideband (SSB). SSB splits a traditional AM signal with its two sidebands into a single sideband. Only one sideband is transmitted. The advantage compared to other analog voice modes like AM signals which use both sides is less bandwidth is used which allows greater power efficiency. AM signals on SSB frequency are typically around 2.8 kHz.

**Question 2** *What are the two flavors of SSB?*

**Answer:** Upper sideband and lower sideband. USB is used at 10 MHz and higher while LSB is used below that.

**Question 3** *Which mode is most commonly used for voice communications?*

**Answer:** It is a commonly accepted practice that 160-, 75- and 40-meter bands use the lower sideband and that any frequency in the 20-meter and higher bands use upper sideband for voice.



**Question 4** *Which mode is commonly used for SSB voice communications in the VHF and UHF bands?*

**Answer:** As a general rule the upper sideband is used on the 20-meters and higher bands which includes VHF and UHF. The 20-meter band has frequencies of 14 MHz or higher.

**Question 5** *What mode is most commonly used for voice communications on the 17-- and 12 meter bands?*

**Answer:** Unless the test is talking about a frequency less than 14 MHz, the answer is most always upper sideband.

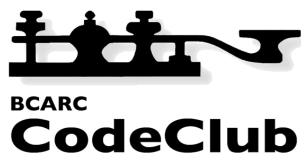
**Question 6** *What is one of the biggest exceptions to the USB/LSB rule?*

**Answer:** 60-meters uses upper sideband instead of lower. It is also the band that only has 5 frequency channels.

Remember there are commonly accepted practices when operating HF. Once you've picked a band and mode and chosen a frequency, there are also commonly accepted practices for making your call, such as knowing Q-codes and how to avoid harmful interference. For example, be familiar with voluntary band plan restrictions for your license level and make sure you are keeping a 2-3 kHz separation between your signal and adjacent frequencies.

Next month we'll move on to digital mode operations where the 20-meter band is a very popular place to make contacts.

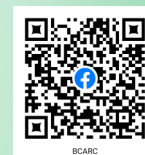
## **Are You Interested in Learning Morse Code?**



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](https://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](mailto:bcarc73@gmail.com).

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



## CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

### **VE Testing - September 13 - 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/>

### **222 MHz and Up Distance Contest - Aug 2-3**

Work as many stations as possible on the 222 MHz through 241 GHz bands using any allowable mode. A station in a specific grid locator may be contacted from the same location only once on each band, regardless of mode. <https://www.arrl.org/222-mhz-and-up-distance-contest>

### **10 GHz and Up - Aug 16 -18**

For North American amateurs to contact as many amateur stations in as many different locations as possible in North America on bands from 10-GHz through Light. Amateurs are encouraged to operate from more than one location during this event. See the detailed rules for restrictions. <https://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

### **EME Contest - Aug 16 -17**

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>

### **Rookie Roundup - RTTY - August 17**

Rookie Roundup is a contest aimed at Amateurs licensed for three years or less. This six-hour event is held three times per year (April, August and December). Rookies can contact anybody, while "Old Timers" make contact with only Rookies. Mentoring is a big part of this event!

<https://www.arrl.org/rookie-roundup>

### **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)

### **Webmaster Backup**

Do you have experience with WordPress or would you like to learn how? Do you have any eye for design? BCARC is looking for a back up Webmaster to assist Gary White with updates to BCARC's website. Full training will be provided. If you are interested, please contact [Gary White](#) or [Daryl Baird](#).

### **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? 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



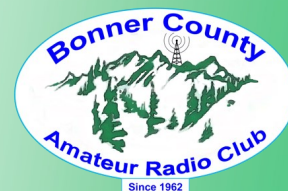
### **Simplex Net**

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*