

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



September 2025

P O Box 792, Ponderay, ID 83852-0792

www.K7JEP.org

BCARC73@gmail.com

www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Don't miss the hunt!

BCARC Tally Ho! Fox Hunt will now take place on **September 27th** right after our new event BCARC C&D. Check out more info on page 3!

Webmaster Backup Needed

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



SEPTEMBER MEETING PRESENTATION

Solar Panels, Batteries, and Assorted Accessories

Thinking about “going solar?” Are you maybe wondering what is involved and how much it will cost? Maybe you want to run your 100 watts station for the full 24 hours of Winter Field Day, January 24th & 25th 2026. Not much sunlight at that time of the year, so what is it going to take?

Please join us as **Lee Lukehart, K7AVR**, walks us through the world of solar power and batteries. You may recognize Lee from his work with BCARES and as the leader of the local VE Team. Lee has worked extensively with solar power and batteries, so please join us as Lee explains the “How To” of solar panels and the associated batteries.



NEXT MEETING

September 10, 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

September 8, 2025

11:00 AM

Miller's Country Store

1326 Baldy Mountain Rd

Sandpoint, ID

MEMBER NEWS

August Meeting

Our August meeting included an interesting presentation from Wes Lamboley, W3WL, all about DXing...what is it, how can you get started and all the fun that can be had exploring the unique locations. There is a great video on the Bhutan Dxpediton that



everyone should watch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSl-nD3pcko>.

The full presentation can be found on our website [here](#).



KARS Hamfest did not disappoint!

On August 9th, quite a few of our BCARC members headed south to the 2025 KARS Hamfest and ARRL Idaho State Convention in Post Fall and it did not disappoint! Several folks set up tables to sell their radio wares and John Kludt, K7SYS, and Ken Conradi, K7FDN operated an AMSAT earth station making QSOs using

several satellites including the HADES "PocketQube" and even the International Space Station.



Bonner County Fair 2025

Once again, BCARC members along with BCARES and BC Emergency Management helped staff a booth at the Bonner County Fair this past August 12-16. Members helped educate the public on opportunities to get involved with ham radio and to help the community during emergencies especially with the Sunset Fire on Lake Pend Orielle being top of mind. Thanks to all who helped setup, staff and tear down the booth!



Did you know we are on Facebook?



Originally created so that we could get the 'Social Media' points for Field Day, our Facebook page has now become a go-to place for timely Club and Ham Radio information. Thanks to **Joe Mauk, W7KMJ**, for recently taking over the page and adding some great content! Check it out!

<https://www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep>

PAID MEMBERSHIP

August 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



Let's try something new!

BCARC Coffee & Donuts (C&D) Saturday, September 27th at the VFW Hall



Instead of holding the monthly breakfast at Connie's in September, we are going to offer coffee, donuts and pastries for members at the **VFW hall**. Our "eyeball QSO" session will start at 9:00 a.m. and will run to 10:30 a.m. We are charging **\$5 per member or guest**. That entitles you to coffee & refills plus donuts or a slice of coffee cake or a pastry. Bring your own mug! If you have a favorite coffee cup or a radio-themed cup you'd like to show, bring it with you. Coffee's always better in your own cup! Do you have a new piece of ham radio kit? Something you built or just bought? Bring it! Gadgets are always good for starting conversations.

Special note: Toward the end of C&D, **Johnny, K7SYS**, will go over some simple, close-range fox finding techniques. We will then leave the VFW hall and reconvene at Pine Street Woods for the **Tally -Ho! fox hunt**.

Tally Ho! BCARC Hidden Transmitter Hunt (aka a "Fox Hunt")

It was a close thing, but enough of you indicated interest that we are going to proceed with the "close in" Fox Hunt, **September 27th** most probably at Pine Street Woods. Why "close in"? One of the hard parts of Fox Hunting is the last 2,000 feet or so. For that, you probably don't need a Yagi. Just an HT preferably with some means of cutting down signal strength, "attenuation", is fine. After coffee and donuts, we will conduct a brief workshop on methods of attenuation that are useful when you get really close. Like, maybe, take off the antenna! Or maybe a spent toilet paper roll covered with aluminum foil? There is always "body shielding" – place yourself between the signal and your radio. You could listen to a harmonic of the fundamental frequency. That is where a dual band HT comes in handy. There are always brute force attenuators and offset attenuators. We will go over all of this before we head to the woods.



This will be the last "close in" practice. Assuming there is interest, the next go 'round will be a little more complicated. The location will be vague: somewhere within the Sandpoint City limits, or Sagle or Selle Valley. There you will need your Yagi to triangulate the approximate location of the Fox. Then using the "close in" techniques we have been practicing, you can precisely locate the Fox.

The more members and guests who are involved, the better. Please mark your calendar for **Saturday the 27th of September** and we hope to see you on another amateur radio adventure. *Tally ho!*

The Frozen Chosen - BCARC to Officially Participate in Winter Field Day 2026

The BCARC Board of Directors has officially sanctioned participation in Winter Field Day (WFD) 2026.



Joe Mauk (W7KMJ) has been appointed as the event chairperson. The dates are **January 24th from 16:00 UTC to January 25th until 21:59 UTC**. The club has secured the use of the community room at the Stillwater Ranch located 6.2 miles west of US95 on Dufort Road.

WFD is very similar to the June FD with an emphasis on emergency communications using CW, SSB and Digital modes such as PSK, Packet, Winlink, JS8Call, etc. FT8 and FT4 are specifically prohibited. The club will be operating as in "Indoor" station. Volunteers are needed to help with planning. Please contact Joe Mauk via email: jmauk@icloud.com More information on Winter Field Day can be found at www.winterfieldday.org

BCARC COFFEE & DONUTS

September 27, 2025
9-10:30am

Location

VFW HALL

1325 Pine Street

Corner of Pine &

Division

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



What Makes a General a General (Part 4) by Judy Baird, W7JKB

This month's focus is about digital mode operations. Some of you may already be familiar with the 20-meter band which is a very popular place to make contacts.

POP QUIZ:

Question 1 *In what segment of the 20-meter band are most digital mode operations commonly found?*

Answer: Between 14.070 MHz and 14.100 MHz. FT8 transmissions are commonly found on the frequency range of 14.074 to 14.077 MHz which is also part of the 20-meter band. As a reminder, your General voice privileges in the 20-meter band are between 14.178 and 14.347.

Question 2 *What are the most common frequency modulation methods for RTTY?*

Answer: AFSK (audio frequency shift keying) and FSK (frequency shift keying). AFSK sends the proper audio tones directly into the audio input of an SSB transceiver. FSK allows the transmitter to shift its carrier between the mark and space tones.

Question 3 *Which mode is normally used when sending RTTY signals via AFSK with an SSB transmitter?*

Answer: LSB (lower sideband) is normally used when sending RTTY signals via AFSK with an SSB transmitter. RTTY is designed to consistently use LSB.

Question 4 *What is the most common frequency shift for RTTY emissions in the amateur HF bands?*

Answer: RTTY signals are composed of two tones. One is called the mark and the other tone is space. The difference between mark and space frequencies is referred to as the frequency shift. The most common RTTY FSK shift is 170 Hz.

Question 5 *What is FT8?*

Answer: Part of the WSJT (Weak Signal Joe Taylor) suite of digital modes, the FT8 digital mode is found in the digital band portion and accomplished by sending for 15 seconds then listening for 15 seconds for a response. Since FT8 transmits in 15 second windows, computer time is required to be accurate within approximately one second for operation to ensure you are consistent with other stations.

Question 6 *What is the standard sideband for FT8 when using AFSK?*

Answer: USB (upper sideband) has become the generally accepted standard for most of the newer digital modes used in ham radio, including FT8.



There is also a service called Winlink that uses digital protocols to send email-like messages over ham radio. A form of packet radio, it is a world wide messaging system that uses amateur radio frequencies over the internet and is capable of working both VHF and HF band operation. In Winlink, you will connect with a Winlink Remote Message Server (a gateway). When you are ready, transmitting a connect message on the station's frequency which is published on the internet will establish contact with the digital messaging system. It acts as a pseudo internet for those without regular internet access, using ham radio setup and a computer!

Next month, we'll tackle operating CW (continuous wave), the world of Morse code.

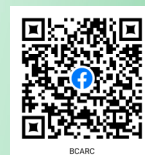
Are You Interested in Learning Morse Code?



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.

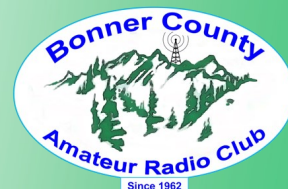
FOR THE LATEST
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[www.facebook.com/
bcarck7jep/](https://www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/)

AND
ON OUR CLUB
WEBSITE

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/>

September VHF Contest - Sept 13-15

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/september-vhf>

EME Contest 2.3 GHz & Up - Sept 13 & 14

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>

10 GHz & Up Contest (Round 2) - Sept 20-22

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. <https://www.arrl.org/10-ghz-up>

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

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*