

THE COAX NEWSLETTER



October 2025

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www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Panhandle Prep Expo - This Weekend!



October 4-5th at the Bonner County Fairgrounds. Looking for volunteers! If you are interested in working our booth, please sign up here: <https://bit.ly/Bonner-2025-PrepExpo-Volunteer-Schedule>

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](#).



OCTOBER MEETING PRESENTATION

Echolink - What's That?

Presented by John Kludt, K7SYS, VP & BCARC Activities Manager

You may have heard some discussion of Echolink and wonder what is that? Join us at the October meeting as we discover where this technology fits into the amateur radio playground.

According to the Echolink website :

“EchoLink® software allows licensed [Amateur Radio](#) stations to communicate with one another over the Internet, using streaming-audio technology. The program allows worldwide connections to be made between stations, or from computer to station, greatly enhancing Amateur Radio's communications capabilities. There are more than 350,000 validated users worldwide — in 159 of the world's 193 nations — with about 6,000 online at any given time.”

All of this is accessible from your 2m HT. And even your cell phone! Please join us as we discuss the technology behind Echolink and maybe even make a few contacts. One of the great things about amateur radio is there are so many ways to “play radio.” And Echolink is another one of them.



NEXT MEETING

October 8, 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

October 6, 2025

11:00 AM

Miller's Country Store

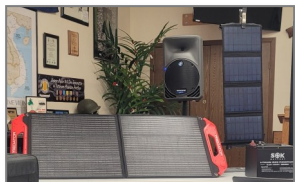
1326 Baldy Mountain Rd

Sandpoint, ID

MEMBER NEWS

September Meeting

Attendees at our September meeting, were given an excellent presentation by our very own, Lee Lukehart, K7AVR, entitled **Power UP - Running your ham radio long-term on portable power.** It included determining how much power you might need, sizing your energy source, how to replenish that energy source and how much it might cost.



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



Time to submit your 2026 dues



2026 annual membership dues are now being collected. Dues will remain the same as this 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.

Dues will be due as of **January 31st, 2026.**

BCARC Subgroups on Groups.io by John Kludt, K7SYS, BCARC VP and Activities Manager

As you all know, groups.io is the platform we have adopted to facilitate communications within the club. In addition to allowing us to share information with the entire club, groups.io allows us to set up subgroups. These subgroups allow us to share information between members with similar amateur radio interest without generating what might be seen as "spam" by those not sharing the interest.

Currently we have two subgroups online and available:

CWStudy subgroup – this group supports those interested in learning the art and science of CW.

Morse code was the original form of communication between radio amateurs. First it was used for spark gap transmissions and then it was used for continuous wave (CW) transmissions. It is the oldest of the radio communications modes still in use today. The members of this group share their progress in learning Morse code and new tools they are discovering to help them learn Morse code and CW on-the-air techniques.

DXAlerts subgroups – this group supports communications between BCARC members who are interested in working DX. Distant stations frequently "pop up" out of nowhere. In the FT8 world they may be on unusual frequencies or may be using sub-modes of FT8 such as Fox/Hound (F/H) or MSHV. If on SSB or CW they could be anywhere on the dial and frequently will be listening on one frequency and transmitting on another ("working split"). This group exist to alert each other that "something is up" and give us all a chance to work an ATNO, an "All Time New One."

Although it does not exist as of yet, we could create a POTA subgroup. Ever wonder who within BCARC is a POTA Activator or POTA Hunter? Curious as to what they are planning next? Ever wonder what equipment they are using? What a wonderful idea for a subgroup! All we need is someone to ask to set it up.

What other interest might you have that would be of interest to a subset of BCARC members? If you are a BCARC groups.io user and are interested in forming a subgroup or joining an existing subgroup, just contact us and we will make it happen. Contact info johnnykludt@gmail.com

PAID MEMBERSHIP

September 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



Panhandle Preparedness Expo - October 4 - 5

Its that time of year again!.....the Panhandle Preparedness Expo will be 4-5 Oct at the Bonner County Fairgrounds.

As usual, BCARC will be in the booth with ARES and CERT to let people know all about Ham radio and encourage them to get licensed and to join the club. We usually get far more interest at the prep expo than we do at the county fair. Last year we handed out over 100 repeater maps and a lot of BCARC trifolds.



This link goes to the Prep Expo website: <https://panhandleprep.org/>

This link takes you to the sign up sheet Lee Lukehart developed. We would sure like a few more members to sign up, particularly those members who are not already in ARES/RACES.

<https://bit.ly/Bonner-2025-PrepExpo-Volunteer-Schedule>

Ten-Ten Panhandlers – Going “Official” by John Kludt, K7SYS, VP & BCARC Activities Manager

Well, it's *almost* official. Thanks to Dan Parkin's, W7BID, and his never ending enthusiasm and support the Panhandlers have enough interested persons with Ten-Ten numbers to apply to make our Sunday night “official.” Our application is in the mail. What does that mean? For starters we get a listing in the directory of Ten-Ten organizations with nets, <https://www.ten-ten.org/chapter-net-times/>.

But what is Ten-Ten International? Here is how they describe themselves:

Ten-Ten International Net, or 10-10 for short, is an organization of amateur radio operators dedicated to maintaining high levels of amateur radio communications on the 10-meter amateur band (28.0-29.7 MHz). Established in 1962, 10-10 has grown continuously since that day, with some ups and downs according to the numbers of sunspots and the openness of the band. As you read this, the number of 10-10 numbers issued to members is over 78,000. 10-10 would welcome your membership in the organization if you have an amateur radio license with 10-meter privileges.

It is frequently rewarding to be a member of something bigger than just the local picture. Ten meters is a little like six meters in that sometimes it can suddenly spring to life only to drop back out again. And if no one is calling “CQ” it will always appear “dead.” Ten-Ten exists to make sure someone is always “making some noise” on 10 meters. Ten has been great for the last year or so. But unfortunately, time and the sunspot numbers march on as we move into the decline in the solar cycle. Being an official member of Ten-Ten International is one way to doing our part to make sure that BACRC and the Panhandlers are “making some noise” and keeping 10 meters alive.

Don't Forget - The Frozen Chosen - Winter Field Day 2026

Doesn't that chill in the air make you think Winter Field Day??

January 24 - 25th, 2026

Stillwater Ranch located 6.2 miles west of US95 on Dufort Road.

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

October 25, 2025
9-10:30am

Location
VFW HALL
1325 Pine Street
Corner of Pine &
Division
Sandpoint, ID



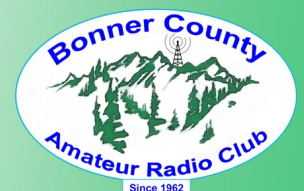
**FOR THE LATEST
CLUB INFO, CHECK
US OUT
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[www.facebook.com/
bcarck7jep/](https://www.facebook.com/bcarck7jep/)

**AND
ON OUR CLUB
WEBSITE**

www.K7JEP.org



What Makes a General a General (Part 5) by Judy Baird, W7JKB

The weather's getting cooler and it seems the bands are getting hotter! Perhaps you are spending more time in your "shack" and contesting or trying to capture certain countries to achieve goals you've set for yourself. Now might be the perfect time to enter the world of Morse code, if you haven't yet, or to work on your sending and receiving skills.

POP QUIZ:

Question 1 What is the maximum bandwidth for CW?

Answer: CW signal's bandwidth is around 150 Hz.

Question 2 To minimize interference to stations on adjacent frequencies, what's a good practice when selecting a transmitting frequency?

Answer: It's recommended you select a transmitting frequency spaced 150Hz to to 500Hz apart from others.

Question 3 When answering a station calling CQ, what frequency should you use to respond?

Answer: It's a good idea to match the frequency on which they are operating. The term "zero beat" means matching the transmit frequency to the frequency of a received signal.

Question 4 CW operators "talk" or copy at so many words per minute. At what speed should you send when answering someone?

Answer: Always send your code at the fastest speed at which you are comfortable copying but no faster than the CQ. Meet them at their speed.

Question 5 Signal reports in phone conversations include readability and strength. What is the third element included in a CW report?

Answer: CW signal reports include a T for tone. The tone of a CW signal is given a scale of 1 (very rough) to perfect at 9. An RST of 599 would indicate clear readability of a strong signal with a perfect tone. There are quite a few codes in CW operating so, for example, instead of sending 599 in CW, you might get a 5NN as a signal report. The "N" is short code for 9. Sending "dah-dit" for N is faster than "dah-dah-dah-dah-dit" for 9.

Question 6 What are prosigns in Morse code?

Answer: Prosigns are unique dot-dash groups, such as SOS. Two others you may encounter are AR, the end of a formal message, and KN, sent at the end of a message to indicate "listening for specific stations".

Question 7 What are Q-codes in Morse code?

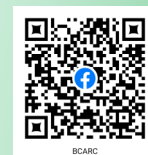
Answer: These are short phrases or commands. For example, ending with QRZ or CQ, means "anyone can call me" or "who is calling me". QSL means "I have received and understood" and QRS means "send slower" (this is the Q-code Daryl uses a lot!).



There are a number of Morse Code learning resources available that will assist you with the development of your sending, receiving, and listening skills. Some to try are:

1. **YouTube.** All you have to do is type "Learn Morse Code" into the YouTube search box to see an almost limitless list of videos to help you get started in "Morse."
2. Good as YouTube is, the best starting point for learning Morse Code is the **Long Island CW Club**. Go to longislandcwclub.org to learn more. And, LICW has a YouTube channel that explains all of the basics. LICW has a membership fee but use of the site's Practice Page is free.
3. Reach out to our club's CW guys. **Dan Parkin W7BID, Dave Immel KE4EW, and John Kludt K7SYS** are always interested in helping members get started with Morse Code. They will answer questions about keys, code practice oscillators (CPOs), and how to develop strong sending and receiving skills.

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



CONTESTS, NETS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

VE Testing - November 15- 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/>

EME - 50 to 1296 MHz - October 11-12

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>

Jamboree On The Air- October 17-19

JOTA-JOTI 2024 is the world's largest digital Scout event, taking place online and over the airwaves. This annual event brings together over 2 million Scouts every year in October for a weekend of Scouting and friendship.

<https://www.arrl.org/jamboree-on-the-air-jota>

School Club Roundup - October 20-24

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>

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

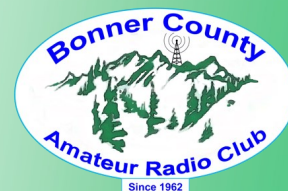
145.600MHz Simplex

Sunday -
immediately
following the
Repeater Net



X-X Panhandlers - 10M Net

28.360 MHz
Vertical polarization
suggested
Sunday at 5pm



*The COAX is edited and
published by
[Colleen Conradi](#), KK7KNL*