

Bonner County Amateur Radio Club

January 10, 2024

VFW Post

1325 Pine Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864

18:00 hrs. – Informal Discussions & Eyeball QSO's

18:30 hrs. - Meeting

Current Membership As of end 4th Quarter 2023

Total	65
Extra	17
General	33
Technician	15

HF Operating Potpourri HF Nets and the Maritime Net – Terry, N7BDL HF Bands through the UTC Day – Dave KE4EW HF Modes and Spotting Networks – John K7SYS

About ten minutes per presentation

Questions at the end of all three presentations







GECOA

- International Amateur Radio Union (IARU)
- "Global Emergency Center Of Activity"
 - a place for passing emergency traffic when needed
- 21.360 MHz (15 meters), 18.160 MHz (17 meters), 7.240 MHz, and 7.060 MHz (40 meters), 3.985 MHz and 3.750 MHz (80 meters).
- 14.300 MHz (20 meters).
 - Intercon Net, PacSea General Traffic Net, Pacific Seafarers Net, and the Maritime Mobile Service Network.



Maritime Mobile Service Network

- Formed in 1968 to "serve those who serve" during the Vietnam crisis.
- In those days, no MARS stations on Naval vessels.
- Net provided phone patches on Ham bands, primarily 20 meters.
- Greatly expanded role today, providing weather, emergency contact, health and welfare, and general communications to maritime and other interests.



Maritime Mobile Service Network

- Over sixty individuals from all parts of Region 2.
 - Net Control Operators, management, IT support, back-up NCSs, folks on authorized leave.
- Sixty-two one hour shifts per week in winter, add seven during daylight saving time.
- Each operator takes a single hour, which can be a regularly scheduled or a relief shift.



Maritime Mobile Service Network

- First purpose is to provide communications and support for maritime mobiles and overseas deployed service personnel.
 - Net continues to provide phone patches for maritimes.
- Propagation is a limiting factor, so the net relies heavily on relay stations to accomplish mission.
 - Literally hundreds of amateur stations in western hemisphere regularly check into the net, with many of them acting as relay stations.
 - Multiple NCS stations ordinarily monitor as well.
 - In most cases, we are able to communicate with maritime stations either directly or through a relay station



Maritime Mobile Service Network

Weather is passed along on the half hour.

FZNT01 KWBC 081555 HSFAT1

HIGH SEAS FORECAST FOR METAREA IV
NWS OCEAN PREDICTION CENTER WASHINGTON DC
1630 UTC SUN JAN 08 2017

CCODE/1:31:04:01:00/AOW/NWS/CCODE SUPERSEDED BY NEXT ISSUANCE IN 6 HOURS

SEAS GIVEN AS SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT...WHICH IS THE AVERAGE HEIGHT OF THE HIGHEST 1/3 OF THE WAVES. INDIVIDUAL WAVES MAY BE MORE THAN TWICE THE SIGNIFICANT WAVE HEIGHT. ONLY YOU KNOW THE WEATHER AT YOUR POSITION. REPORT IT TO THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE. EMAIL US AT VOSOPS@NOAA.GOV(LOWERCASE).

PAN PAN

NORTH ATLANTIC NORTH OF 31N TO 67N AND WEST OF 35W

SYNOPSIS VALID 1200 UTC JAN 08 24 HOUR FORECAST VALID 1200 UTC JAN 09 48 HOUR FORECAST VALID 1200 UTC JAN 10

.WARNINGS.

...HURRICANE FORCE WIND WARNING...

.LOW 45N60W 987 MB MOVING NE 35 KT. FRONT EXTENDS FROM 46N58W TO 31N69W. WITHIN 180 NM E OF THE FRONT N OF 34N WINDS 40 TO 50 KT. SEAS 13 TO 22 FT. ELSEWHERE OVER FORECAST WATERS WITHIN 480 NM N SEMICIRCLE...WITHIN 420 NM SW QUADRANT...AND WITHIN 360 NM E OF THE FRONT WINDS 35 TO 45 KT. SEAS 12 TO 18 FT. ALSO FROM 31N TO 50N W OF 46W WINDS 25 TO 35 KT. SEAS 8 TO 14 FT.



Maritime Mobile Service Network

- When not performing primary mission, we encourage general check-ins.
 - With normal propagation, an NCS will talk to between 20 and 25 stations during a typical hour.
 - The Maritime Net is a traffic net, so does not encourage "ragchews."
 - We do encourage stations to participate in the net by acting as relay stations
 - Typically as many as three or four stations will relay for the NCS during an hour
 - We also encourage land and aeronautical mobile stations to participate, as well as low power stations.

s/v Nereida off coast of Chile June 1, 2011



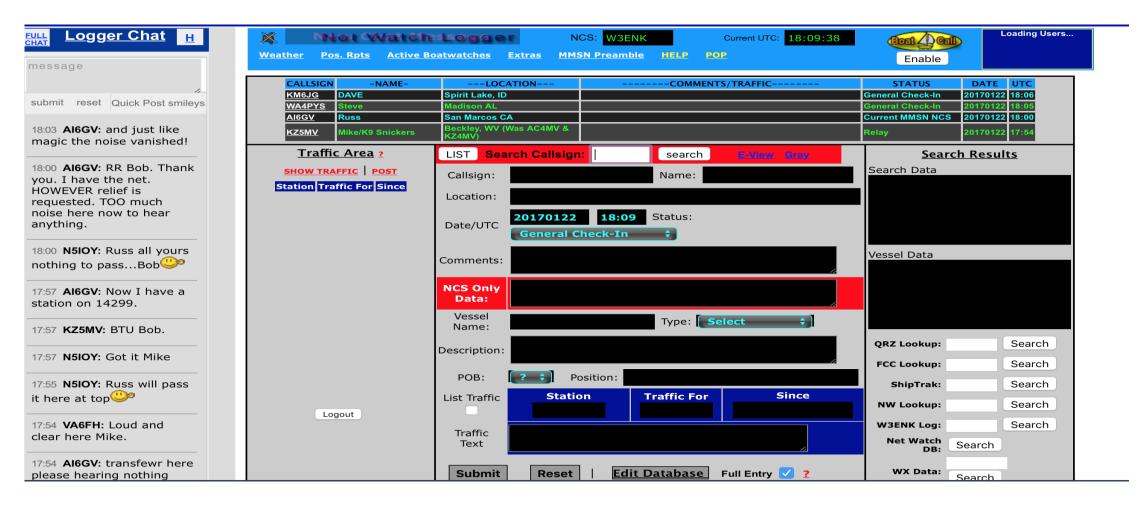


s/v Nereida — Capt. Jeanne Socrates Oldest woman to circumnavigate single handed KC2IOV

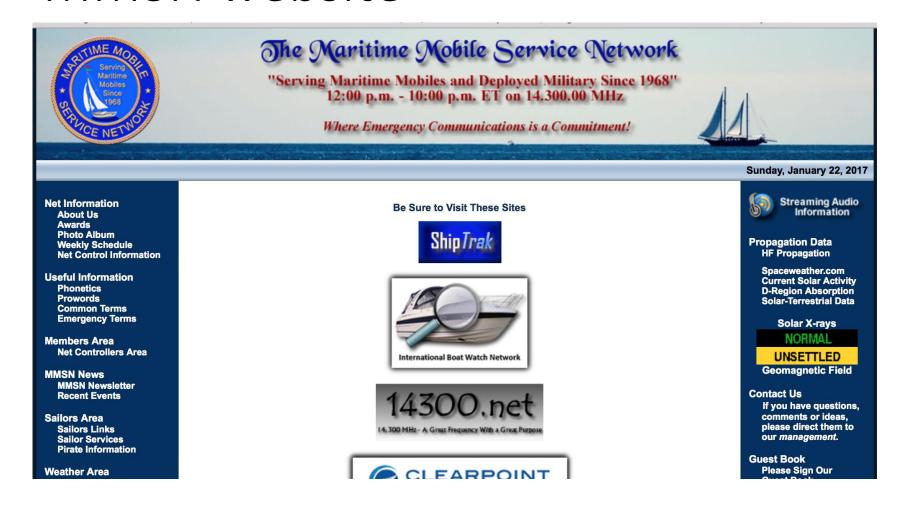


Net Logger





MMSN website



www.mmsn.org



www.mmsn.org www.hwn.org

* www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search *

IF YOU ARE A NEW OR RECENT GENERAL CLASS UPGRADE:

WELCOME TO THE HF FAMILY OF BANDS

- WHAT TO EXPECT FROM OUR HF AMATEUR RADIO BANDS
- A BRIEF LOOK AT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EACH HF HAM BAND
- WHAT THE BANDS MIGHT LOOK LIKE OVER THE COURSE OF A UTC DAY

Each of these bands or family members has a different personality

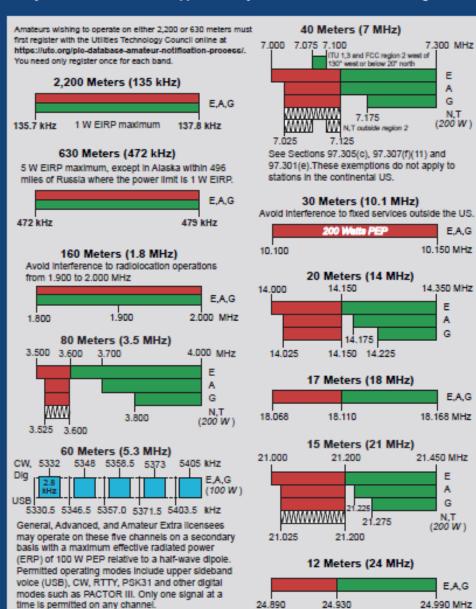
(Be sure to check Band Charts for mode/frequency allocations)

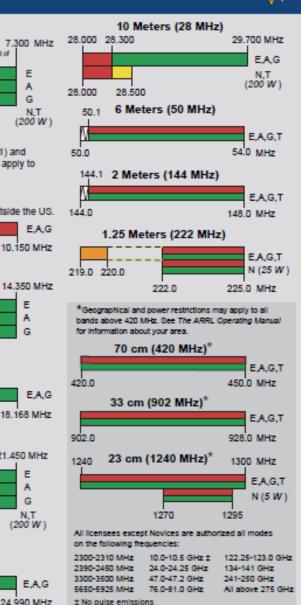


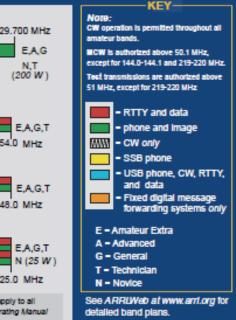
US Amateur Radio Bands

US AMATEUR POWER LIMITS — FCC 97.313 An amateur station must use the minimum transmitter power necessary to carry out the desired communications. (b) No station may transmit with a transmitter power exceeding 1.5 kW PEP.









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Traditional HF amateur bands are considered to be: 160/80/40/20/15/10 meters.

In the early 1980's The World Administrative Radio Conference (WARC) added the 30, 17 and 12 meter bands for amateur use.

- Unlike the traditional HF bands
- Use very little spectrum compared to the traditional HF bands
- No contest activity on these bands
- Check band plan charts for modes/restrictions



PROPAGATION TERMS – A REVIEW

Gray Line Propagation:

The transition region between daylight and darkness.
 Also referred to as the Terminator or Twilight Zone

Sky Wave propagation:

 Commonly known as skip, is a kind of radio wave propagation. These waves are reflected or refracted back to the earth from the ionosphere

Ground Wave Propagation:

 On some bands, These waves propagate over the earth's surface in low and medium frequencies. Also known as a surface wave



160 Meters (1.8 – 2.0 Mhz)

- Actually a Medium Frequency Band (300 kHz to 3 MHz)
- Referred to as "top band" (In the early days of amateur radio it was, in fact, the highest ham band)
- Just above the AM broadcast band (shares similarities)
- Localized communication during the day
- Long distance communications at night
- Very noisy during the summer months quiet in the winter
- Normally requires large antennas



80 Meters (3.5 – 4.0 Mhz)

- Similar to 160 meters but with greater distances
- Also considered a nighttime band
- Reliable band, less subject to variations of the sunspot cycle
- Can be very noise prone to summer static but quiet in the winter
- Used a lot for regular net operations, message handling and "local rag chewing"



60 Meters (5.3 Mhz)

- Not actually a "Band" but a cluster of 5 frequencies or channels shared with government users.
- Operation is limited to USB voice and 50 watts maximum output
- Hams are secondary users of this band
- Must yield to interference problems with Government stations.
- Characteristics similar to 80 and 40 meters.



40 Meters (7.0 – 7.3 Mhz) (NOTE: Always open somewhere)

- Summer daytime distances of 300-400 miles and night time distances of 1000 miles are very common
- Winter days with 500 miles or more are usual and night time conditions usually brings DX
- It is not as affected by the sunspot cycle like the higher bands
- Many nets frequent 40 meters both day and night
- Shared with short-wave broadcasts from countries outside of North America.
- Fairly easy to work DX stations with a modest station and antennas



30 Meters (10.100 – 10.150 Mhz)

- A lot like 40 meters
- Limited to CW and digital modes
- Power is limited to 200 watts output
- Band has slightly longer range than 40 meters
- Typical range for a contact is 1000 miles
- Popular band for QRPers



20 Meters (14.0 – 14.350 Mhz)

- Can be a VERY exciting band with some of the best DX found on any band
- At the bottom of the sunspot cycle, openings to other continents are short and less frequent
- Around the world daytime communications are possible
- During sunspot peaks, can be open around the clock
- Not useful for short-range communications



17 Meters (18.068 – 18.168)

- Band conditions are very similar to 20 meters
- Shares similarities to the 20 and 15 meter bands
- More influenced by the sunspot cycle



15 Meters (21.0 – 21.450 Mhz)

- A lot like 20 meters but a bit more unpredictable
- More influenced by the sunspot cycle
- Less night time activity than 20 meters but can provide much greater distances at the peak of the sunspot cycle

(Note that these higher bands all share similar characteristics)



12 Meters (24.890 – 24-990 Mhz)

- Very heavily influenced by the sunspot cycle.
- At the bottom of the cycle, it is suitable only for very short distance groundwave communications only, for long periods of time.
- At the peak of the cycle, it is capable of communications over thousands of miles with a minimum of equipment.
- A nice mobile band when conditions are right.



10 Meters (28.0 – 29.7 Mhz)

- A fun band, when it is open conditions can be erratic
- Most heavily affected by sunspots
- Lots of DX activity for award hunters
- Easy contacts with minimum power and simple antennas
- Ground wave maybe up to 15 20 miles
- Numerous low power beacons exist worldwide to assist in checking for band openings



Overview:

- 160, 80, 60, 40, and 30 meters are at their best during the winter
- 20, 17, 15, 12, and 10 meters are at their best during the summer
- The combination of day/night, summer/winter, and sunspot cycle variations keeps HF operation interesting
- You never know for sure from moment to moment what you are going to encounter when you tune the bands

Six Meters (50-54 MHz):

- It has been said that:
 "This is a great band if you like having Mother Nature pull your chain."
- Can offer just about any type of propagation
- Sporadic-E propagation likely the most common.
 Peaks around the solstices, June/December
- Unexpected band openings and closings
- You can do almost anything that can be done on an HF band,
 WAS, WAC and DXCC, etc.
- Need a way to monitor the band for openings



To Summarize:

- Listen to the bands
- Learn their personalities
- Communicate
- Log your contacts

For more information and discussions about the HF Bands:

The HF Bands – For HF Newcomers Gary Wescom N0GW

https://www.qsl.net/ad4dx/pdf/radio02.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Amateur radio frequency allocations

Beacon Information:

https://www.dxzone.com/catalog/DX Resources/Beacons/





First a Disclaimer

- There are large number of modes in use on the HF bands
- We can't cover them all
- And it is a little like Fords and Chevy's lots of true believers
- If I don't discuss you favorite it is from lack of time and not lack of interest
- Big Three (in no particular order) in terms of volume
 - Single Sideband (SSB)
 - CW (Morse Code via on/off keying)
 - Digital, specifically FT8/FT4

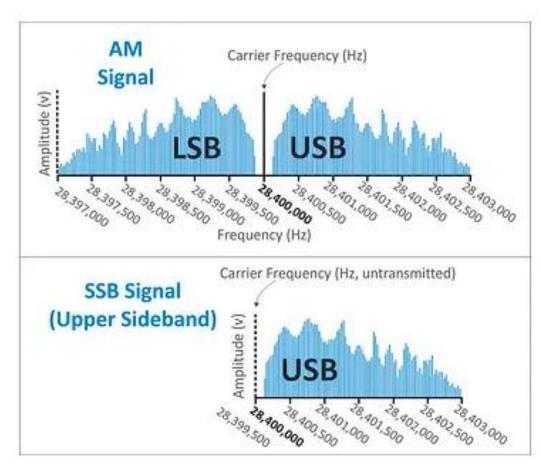
SSB Talking Points

- Discovered in Bell Labs 1915
- First Amateur use 1930's
- "Duck Talk Wars" early 1960's
- By early 1970's SSB was dominate.

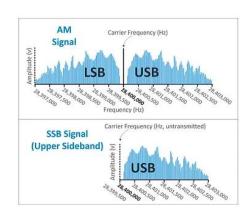
(History of Single Sideband in Amateur Radio, James W. Nash, K\$HMS/V31AW)

- By convention 40M and below Lower Sideband (LSB)
- Again, by convention above 40M including VHF/UHF Upper Sideband (USB)

Single Side Band (SSB)



Some SSB Tips



- Make sure you are on the correct sideband (LSB/USB)
- If on USB sometimes it is easier to tune by going up the dial
- Except during contests and working Dx most people like to operate on multiples of 250 KHz
 - Example: 28.400 MHz, 28.425 MHz, 28.450 MHz, 28.475 MHz, 28.500 MHz
 - During contest or in Dx pileups anything goes!
- Sometimes using narrower audio filters helps
 - Default on most radios is 2.7 KHz
 - If crowded reducing bandwidth to as little as 1.8 KHz can help with loss of audio fidelity increased

Charlie Wobbly (CW)

- CW uses Morse Code but is not synonymous with Morse Code
- Continuous Wave 1913 Edwin Armstrong and Alexander Meissner
 - In theory a pure sine wave on a single frequency
 - No damping as with spark
 - Began replacement of spark in early 1920' spark outlawed in 1934
- Biggest headache Key clicks (too abrupt a turn on and/or turn off)
- Other forms of CW exist
 - Modulated CW (MCW)
 - Sometimes found on FM repeaters for code practice
 - Esoteric variants
- Known for good performance under weak signal conditions
 - Traditionally, "Good ears" "Good Op"
 - Computers can takeover some the chores that used to be done with the human brain and hand ("Fist")

Using CW

- Can be used anywhere in the ham bands
 - Usually used at the bottom of any given band
 - Very bottom frequently "reserved" for Dx and seasoned users
 - Just below the phone band you can find people who send a little slower
 - Watch your band edges!
- Use narrow audio filters
 - 400 Hz is a good place to start
 - Can go higher, lower watch for "ringing" in older radios
- Decoders and Keyers
 - Keyers are helpful for repetitive tasks: calling CQ or a DX station
 - Decoders vary in effectiveness in Preppcomm we have a very good one!

Digital Modes – Old and New

- Disclaimer the current claimant of the "Duck Talk Wars"
 - Frequently cast in terms of which is best? CW? RTTY? FT8?
 - "True believers" on all sides best to avoid and just use what you want
- The Old RTTY (RadioTeleTYpe)
 - Origin 190 year ago (Gauss and Weber 1833)
 - Baudot 6-bit code (Emile Baudot 1869)
 - Radio and Modem added (Teletype Corporation Model 14, 1928)





RTTY Today

- Now almost always software driven
 - FSK and AFSK
 - Software and Hardware modems
 - AEA PK-232
 - MMTTY by JE3HHT and 2-Tone by G3YYD
- Still popular with segments of the amateur radio community
 - Lots of contests
 - Few random contacts
 - Usually thought of as requiring more power
 - No error correction
 - Fading from the Dxpedition scene

Digital Modes –Old and New

- The New the large and expanding family of new soundcard modes
- Two basic branches of the family
 - The weak signal modes designed for minimal messaging over great distances and/or difficult conditions (WSJT-X and family)
 - The verbose modes designed for more complete messaging (JSCall, Fldigi and its many children)
- All or almost all feature error correction to varying degrees
- All have good to excellent weak signal performance
- Most require less power than traditional RTTY over the same path

A Quick Overview of Major Players

- For Dx and Increasing number of contests
 - FT8 and FT4 as found in WSJT-X
 - FT8 runs 15 second cycles, usually 4 cycles per QSO
 - FT4 runs 7.5 seconds per cycle, again usually 4 cycles per QSO
 - MKS144 again WSJT-X family
 - Designed for meteor scatter (bouncing signals off ionized trails left by meteors) on 6m and 2m
 - Use real-time transforms of signal (read a little more computer power)
- For more complex messaging
 - PSK31 family and JSCall
 - Keyboard-to-keyboard chats
 - MFSK 63 family
 - EmComm templated messaging, etc.
 - Olivia family
 - Intended as a replacement for RTTY
 - Olivia contest announced recently
- Good source to sort modes out: http://www.w1hkj.com/modes/index.htm

What Else is Out There?

- FM upper end of 10 Meters
 - Uses Standard FM
 - 10 Meter Repeaters (https://www.qsl.net/kc4qlp/10meterrepeater.html)
- AM still around, the ultimate in good audio
 - Mostly on 160,m 75m, 40m (https://www.arrl.org/am-frequencies)
 - On 160m you will find old Collins broadcast radios shifted to amateur use
- Slow Scan Television (SSTV)
 - 40m (7.165 MHz), 30m (10.132 MHz) 20m (14.230 MHz)
 - International reference site (https://www.pa8s.nl/knowledge-base/frequencies-for-sstv/)
 - Software MMSSTV and others (https://hamsoft.ca/pages/mmsstv.php)

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How Do I Find Other Stations?

- Pick a band, pick a mode, pick an open frequency, then call CQ!
- Polite sequence: "Frequency clear? Is this frequency in use?
 CQ......"

• General rule — marine properties of the state of the st

ARRL Net Directory - http://www.arrl.org/arrl-net-directory-search





+ Learn More



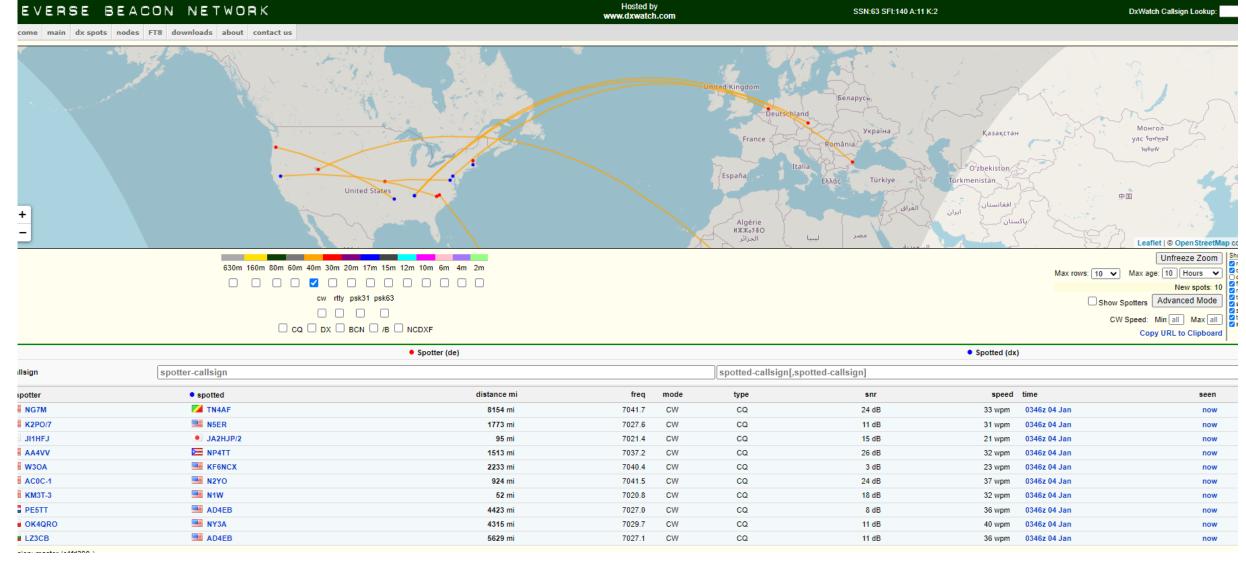
The number of nets found are: 50

All frequencies are listed in MHz.

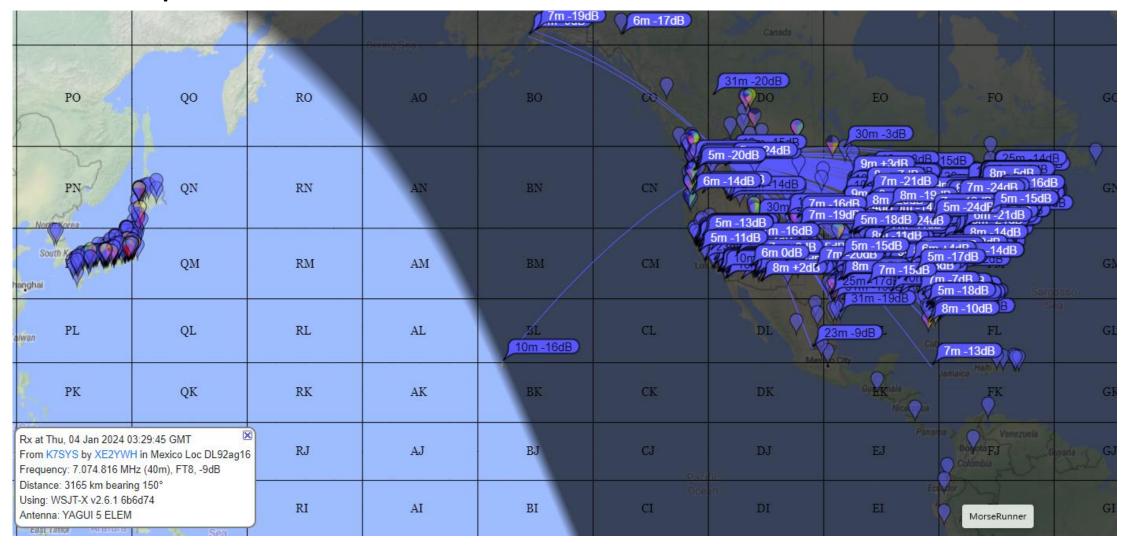
Net Name	Frequency	Days	UTC Time	Time Zone
1721 Round Table group	7.27	dy	2300	
3905 Century Club 40m SSB	7.178	Dy	2330	
3905 Century Club Net	3.904 3.580 7.053 7.2335 14.068 14.084	Dy	0000	
7235 Friendly Net	7.235	Dy	1100	
Adventist Amateur Radio Network	7.27	Sn	1400	
Cave Radio Net	1.999 7.2425 3.996	S, Sn	2340	
Century Club Net WAS 40	7.2335	Dy	0001	
Christian Amateur Radio Fellowship	7.03	Dy	1200	
Clearing House Net	7.23	Dy	1600	

Local

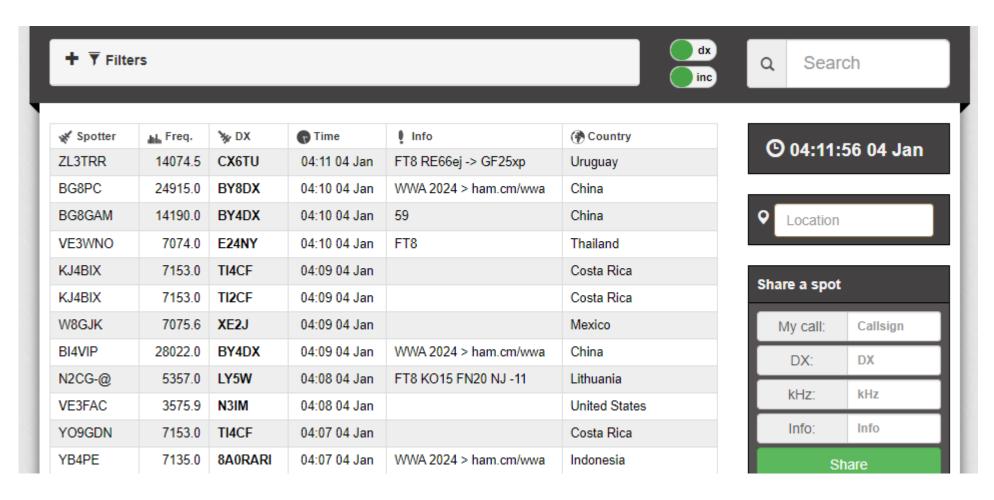
Reverse Beacon Network https://www.reversebeacon.net/main.php



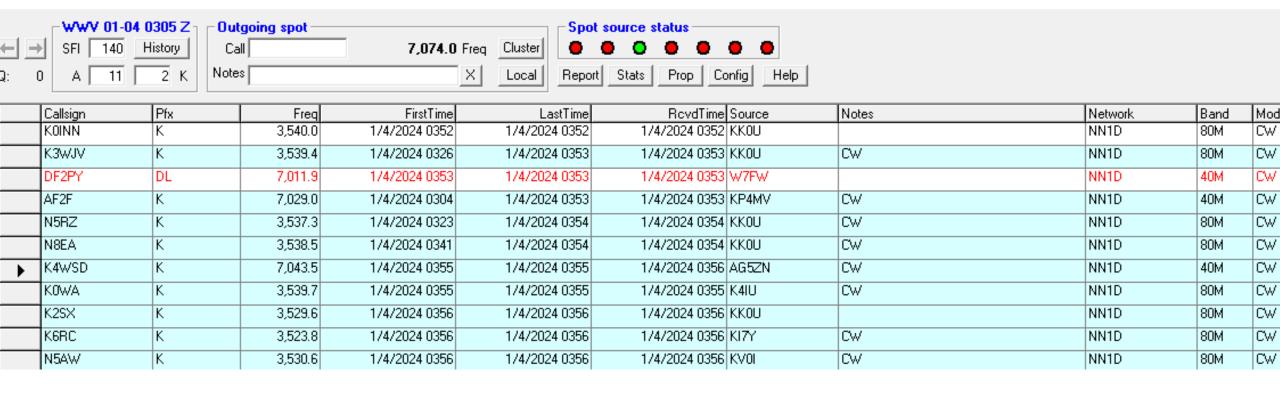
PSKReporter - https://pskreporter.info/



Spotting Networks – Raw Data



Spotting Networks – Summarized Data



https://www.dxlabsuite.com/

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BCARC Business Items and Activities

Annual Business Meeting
As required by law
For 501(c)3 in Idaho

Other Announcements

Annual Business Meeting

- Call to Order by President Ailport
- Declaration of a Quorum by Secretary Conradi
- Election of Officers (New Business)
 - Slate of officers
 - John Ailport, K7BSV, President
 - Jim Moford, KJ7SEN, Vice President
 - Ken Condradi, KF7FDN, Secretary
 - Pat Cox, KJ7SJU, Treasurer
 - Nominations from the floor, if any
 - Call for vote

Proposed Bylaw Changes (new Business)

- Note that these are not compete bylaws, only those sections with proposed changes
 - III. Membership (Delete in its entirety, it serves no purpose)
 - C. A Guest is any individual or business that shares BCARC's mission and objectives but has not elected to become a member or who has not renewed their membershipfor the year by the end of the grace period (See IV.A below)
 - IV. Dues (Delete strike through section. There is no need for a grace period or inactive status as a member can rejoin or renew any time throughout the year.
 - A. Dues must be paid to the Treasurer....on or before the first meeting of the year. A grace period may be extended to the third meeting of the year for renewal of membership
 - E. Members not paying dues by the third meeting will be listed as inactive for the current membership year. Full membership status will be returned once dues are paid.

Proposed Bylaw Changes (2)

- VI. Meetings (Delete the strike through section. Only officers are required to attend Board of Directors meetings. Other club members who desire to attend may also do so.
 - K. The officers, Webmaster and others will conduct a monthly meeting to plan future club activities, prepare for the next activity meeting (and) conduct club business that would only detract from a normal club meeting

Financial Report (New Business)

Bank balances

•	Current OH checking	; balance (<i>less th</i>	an half annual	dues collected)\$ 4346.58
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 Current OH Savings balance (wi 	th remainder of ARDC grant)	\$ 3908.02
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• Total OH cash assets \$8,254.60

Known recurring expenses

 Annual VFW Hall Rental 	\$ 300.00
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- ARRL Club Liability Insurance \$ 200.00
- Post Office Box \$ 166.00
- Total known expenses (excludes any projects, Field Day, etc) \$ 666.00
- Example Field Day 2023 \$561 (food, etc.), Vertical \$600 \$1,161.00

Annual Business Meeting (2)

- Call for other business
- Call to adjourn
- Motion and second
- "Meeting adjourned" President Ailport

Upcoming Activities – Winter Field Day January 27-28, 2024

- Just like FD in June but with a stronger EmComm emphasis
- Quick summary of rules
 - 100 watts max
 - SSB, CW, Digital (no FT8/FT4)
 - Class number of transmitters on the air simultaneously
 - Category
 - Home –participating from or with 500 feet of a permanent livable residence
 - Indoor away from home but in an insulated, weather protect structure on a permanent foundation
 - Outdoor partly or full exposed location
 - Mobile RV, car, boat, etc.
- Complete rules at https://winterfieldday.org/rules.php

Upcoming Activities – IDQSOP & K7D March 9-10, 2024

				160M	_		80M		40M			
Shift Start	Shift End		CW	SSB	Digi*	CW	SSB	Digi*	CW	SSB	Digi*	C\
11:00	12:00	PST										
12:00	13:00	PST										
13:00	14:00	PST										
14:00	15:00	PST										
15:00	16:00	PST										
16:00	17:00	PST										
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21:00	22:00	PST										
22:00	23:00	PST										
23:00	0:00	PST										
24:00:00	1:00:00	PST										
1:00	3:00	PST/PDT										
3:00	4:00	PDT										
4:00	5:00	PDT										
5:00	6:00	PDT										

Upcoming Activities – Field Day June 23-23, 2024 Jim Morford, KJ7SEN, Leader

- Team Leads Needed
 - Digital (FT8/FT4) & CW
 - FD Messaging
 - Computer (Scott?)
 - Logging software configuration
 - Network
 - Antenna
 - Selection
 - Placement
 - Install & Remove
 - Safety Officer
 - Media
 - GOTA (?)

- Team Leads Confirmed
 - SSB (John A, K7BSV)
 - Bonus Points (Ken, KF7FDN)
 - Logistics (Colleen, KK7KNL)
 - VHF Bonus Stations (John K7SYS)
 - Satellite
 - 6 meters

Breakfast at Connie's Cafe 323 Cedar Street, Sandpoint ID January 20, 2024 09:00 hrs.

Next Meeting
February 14, 2024
VFW Post, Sandpoint, ID
18:00 hrs. Informal Discussions and Eyeball QSO's

18:30 hrs. Meeting

Topic: QSO Part Operating Techniques

End of the Online Portion of the Meeting

- Going to be playing a game or two
- Awfully hard to do on Zoom!
- Please join us next month either in person or on Zoom

New for 2024 - 50/50 Drawing

- Completely voluntary effort to raise money for the club
- Purchase as few or as many tickets as you want 1\$/ticket
- Ticket drawn at the end of the meeting
 - 50% proceeds to the winning ticket
 - 50% proceeds to the club





Tic Tac Code