



Bonner County Amateur Radio Club

March 13, 2024

VFW Post

1325 Pine Street, Sandpoint, ID 83864

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

18:30 hrs. - Meeting

The Importance of Goals in Amateur Radio
Keeping things alive and interesting

Award Chasing
&
The QSL Process
John Kludt, K7SYS
BCARC Activities Manager
&
BCARC Club Members

100+ Things to do in Ham Radio
Don't say the hobby is boring -
Have fun with Ham Radio by doing some of these

100+
Things to
do In Ham
Radio

Action or Activity	Comment
2M, 70cm SSB or CW	Working the "weak signal" bands can be fun!
6M - what a great band!	Operate the "magic" band on SSB or FM (watch for the many Es openings)
10M - This band can really jump	Join 10-10 international and KEEP THE BAND OPEN!
75 Meter Roundtables	Sometime called the groan and moan nets! Check in on the 3755 Ontario Phone Net
160M	The Gentleman's Band
AM - Operate this "old time" mode	Join one of the AM nets on 80 or 40m
AMSAT - Join and work outer space	Operate one of the amateur satellites like AO-51
APRS - find yourself	And let others know where you are! http://aprs.fi/
ARES	Be more active in your local ARES group.
ARES - Help your local group	Find your local ARES group and start having fun with them. Also strongly consider passing the various courses required to be a valuable asset and officially participate.
ARES nets	Check into ARES nets in your surrounding area
Aeronautical Mobile	Work from an airborne station
ALE – Automatic Link Establishment	Global HF network. http://hfink.com/
Antenna Party – you need a good one to work them	Friends don't let friends build and install HF antennas by themselves!
Antennas - Build'em and use'em	Wire antennas, Yagis, quads, hex beams, - then talk about'em
Astronomy - Radio version	Is E.T. at home. Surf the space waves.
Audio - make it better	Heil, Berringer, audio filters, all things audio. Make your AM signal sound like a broadcasting station.
Badge - tell everyone your callsign and club you belong to	Lots of places make these, some are really fancy
Balloon-atics – launch them, track them	Hams who put expensive equipment (transmitters, APRS, cameras etc.) in balloons and watch them fly away!

<https://barriearc.com/builders-group/articles/download/100-things-to-do-in-ham-radio.pdf>

Why Goals Matter

Goals help focus

Goals help focus. Setting a goal lets you focus on the next step and helps you move in the direction you want. The body follows the mind, so you need ...

<https://efectio.com> › why-sett...

Harder **goals** require a greater effort, **focus**, and energy in order to achieve. Thus, through pushing ourselves to accomplish the **goals** we set, we are not only ...

<https://jobs.washingtonpost...>

Keeping track of how you are making progress on measurable **goals** is extremely rewarding and will **help** you maintain **focus**, and keep your head held high and your ...

<https://www.briantracy.com> › ...

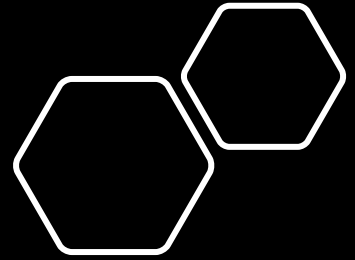
Whether personal or professional, setting **goals** helps us prioritize our time and resources and **focus** our efforts towards achieving our desired outcomes. Without ...

<https://seeken.org> › importan...

Goals Change Over Time

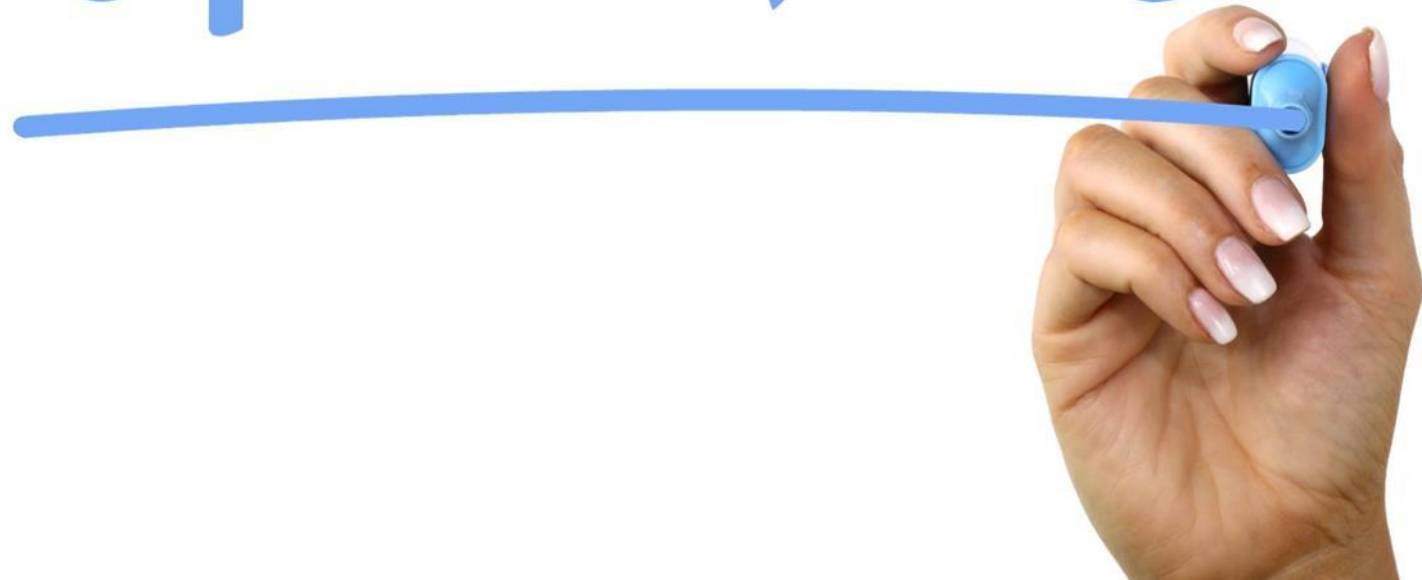
- 1962 – Novice License 5 WPM
- 1963 - General License 13 WPM
- 2 meter AM – Heathkit Twoer
- Mike and Key Friendship Award
- HF CW – Worked All States
- Build an AM Plate Modulator “3970 Gang”
- Reconfigure an SCR-522 for 2m AM - 2m weak signal
- Learn how to operate SSB
- Improve my antennas (constant effort)
- Integrate computers into ham radio – logging programs
- Participate in ARES – when Fldigi was the new hot thing
- Work and confirm 100 countries for ARRL DXCC
- Work 100 grids on satellites

there is
ALWAYS
Something
NEW ^{TO} *Learn*



BCARC Member Goals?

GOALS



Awards Represent One Class of Goals

- Worked All States (WAS)
 - By Band
 - By Mode
 - 5 Band WAS
 - 9 band WAS
- Triple Play
 - WAS – SSB/Phone/Digital
- DXCC – 100 confirmed countries
 - “Stickers”
- QRZ Equivalent Awards
 - United States Award
 - DX World
 - 13 more.....
- Worked All Japan
 - 47 Prefectures
 - *Work and Confirm all 47*
- POTA/IOTA
- Special Event Stations

https://www.qsl.net/va3rj/awards_dx.html

Almost All Awards Require Confirmation

- First Step – keep a record of your contacts

- Paper

- Computer

- N3FJP ACLog
 - DX Labs Suite
 - HRD
 - QRZ
 - Etc., etc, etc

The screenshot shows the DXKeeper 17.4.5 software interface. The main window is titled "Log QSOs" and displays a QSO entry for "Saint Helena (00:56)". The entry details include call ZD7CTO, name Derek, QTH Jamestown, mode FT8, tx freq 21.076121, rx freq 21.076121, and date 3/5/2024. The interface also shows a QSL section with fields for sent, rcvd, date sent, date rcvd, and various vty options. Below the QSL section is the "Online QSL" section with fields for eQSL and LoTW. The "Award" section shows SOTA, IOTA (AF-022), cont (AF), WPK (ZD7), CQ (36), ITU (66), and Country Risk (IH74da). At the bottom, there is a table of QSOs with columns for Call, DXCC, Starting UTC, Ending UTC, Band, Mode, Sent, and Rcvd.

Call	DXCC	Starting UTC	Ending UTC	Band	Mode	Sent	Rcvd
ZD7CTO	ZD7	3/5/2024 02:06	3/5/2024 02:07	15M	FT8	-14	-08
J62K	J6	3/3/2024 04:02	3/3/2024 04:02	20M	SSB	59	59
KH6CJ	KH6	3/3/2024 04:00	3/3/2024 04:00	20M	SSB	59	59
ED8W	EA8	3/3/2024 03:56	3/3/2024 03:56	20M	SSB	59	59
PJ4G	PJ4	3/3/2024 03:55	3/3/2024 03:55	20M	SSB	59	59
ZL1WN	ZL	3/3/2024 01:45	3/3/2024 01:45	10M	SSB	56	53
JA7NVF	JA	3/3/2024 01:32	3/3/2024 01:32	10M	SSB	59	59
JH1KRC	KH1	3/3/2024 01:28	3/3/2024 01:29	10M	SSB	59	59
PW2D	PY	3/3/2024 01:09	3/3/2024 01:09	15M	SSB	59	59
D4K	D4	3/3/2024 01:05	3/3/2024 01:05	15M	SSB	59	59
JA7OWD	JA	3/2/2024 23:41	3/2/2024 23:41	10M	SSB	59	59

Getting that confirmation

- One thing in common with all systems
 - Matching systems
 - Prove that on a certain day at a certain time two stations made a contact
 - Same time UTC +/-
 - Same frequency +/-, usually
 - Same mode, usually
- Just because you sent something in does not mean they sent something in.
- Back checking with your log is important, more so with some methods than others

Mechanics of the Paper QSL

- Many sources of cards at reasonable prices
 - <https://www.customqsl.com/>
 - <https://www.etsy.com/il-en/search?q=qsl%20cards>
- Complete with information in your log
- Place in #6 $\frac{3}{4}$ envelope if going direct
- Address from QRZ.com ***without call sign*** (especially DX)
- SASE Self Addressed Envelope
 - US stamp if within US
 - Most commonly two “green stamps” if overseas

Outbound QSL Bureau

- Complete cards per usual
- Complete ARRL Outgoing QSL Card Bureau Submission Form
- Sort card per rules
- Place in large envelop with check for correct fees (must be ARRL member)
- Ship to ARRL Ongoing QSL Service, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111-1494
- All info at <https://www.arrl.org/outgoing-qsl-service>

Inbound QSL Bureau

- Keep a few envelopes and a few dollars on file with them
- Our Inbound QSL Bureau
 - Willamette Valley DX Club
 - PO Box 555
 - Portland, OR 97207
- <https://www.arrl.org/incoming-qsl-service>

Online Services

- ClubLog OQRS
 - Usually \$5.00 US
 - Okay to donate a little more
 - DXpeditions are *expensive* (Frequently \$500,000 or more)
- M0URX
 - Access via Clublog
 - Alternate <https://www.m0urx.com/oqrs/logsearch.php>
 - Works the same
 - H40WA \$4.00 LoTW only \$5.00 LoTW + Paper QSL Card

A Word on Digital QSL's

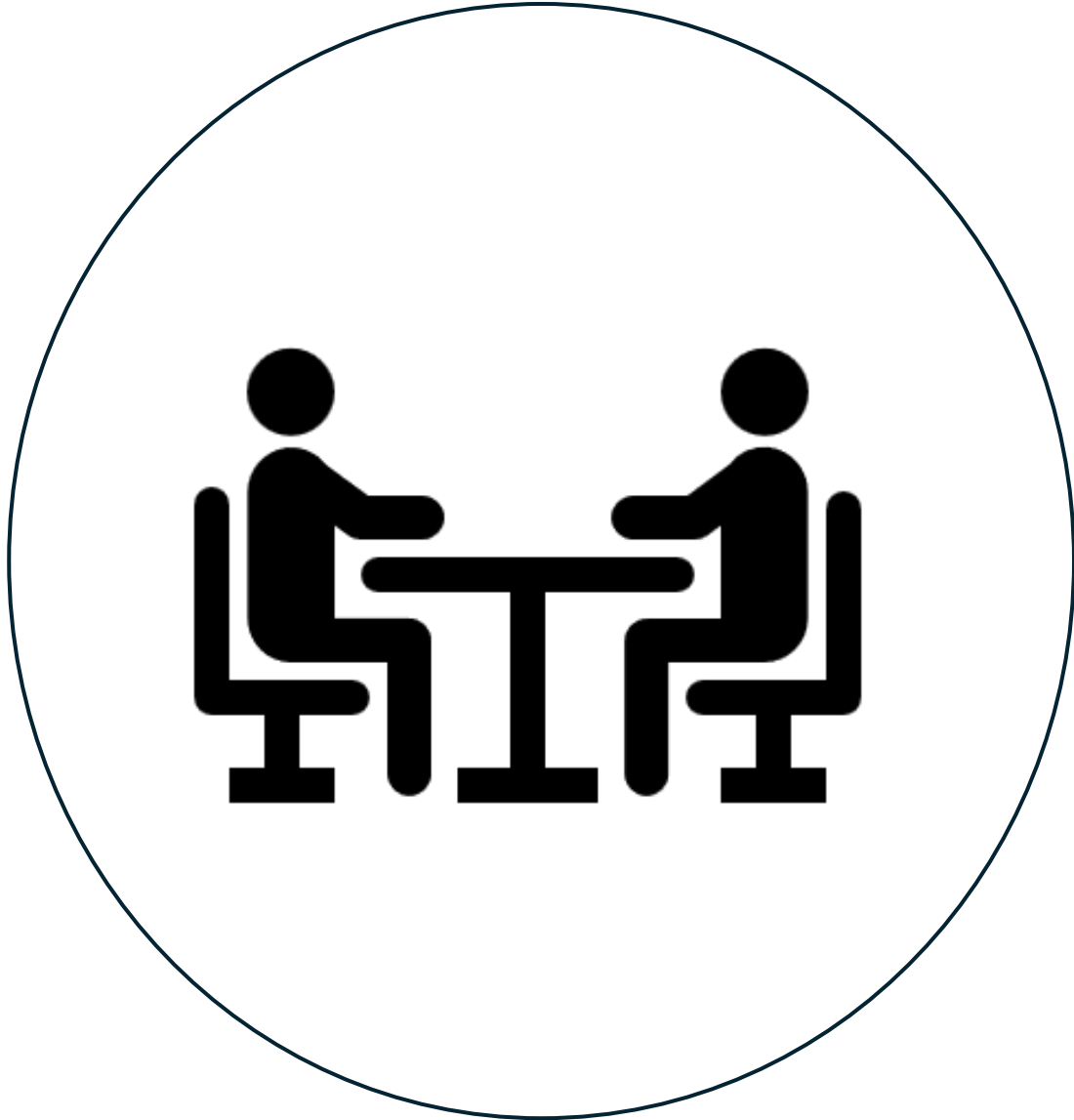
- Online QSL Card sent directly by contacted station
- Currently not accepted for any award
- Many of these stations *also* do LoTW
- You are downloading file from the Internet
 - Have been reported instances of malware associated with these files
 - Buyer beware
- Your choice, I delete mine without opening

Online QSL Recoding Systems

- LoTW
 - Maintained by the ARRL
 - Tied directly to their and other award programs
 - No cost to upload data
 - Small fee when requesting ARRL awards
 - Tightest checks on QSL matching
 - In many circles Gold Standard
 - (Example – easiest way to eQSL Authenticity Guaranteed in LoTW registration)
 - Do not count for QRZ Awards
 - Not logging system per se
 - Several BCARC members available to help get you set up with LoTW
- QRZ
 - Maintained by QRZ.com
 - Do not have to be a paid QRZ subscriber
 - As noted, have their own suite of awards
 - Cost at award issue, discounted for subscribers
 - Do not count for ARRL awards
 - Can be used as a logbook
 - BCARC can help here
- eQSL
 - eQSL.cc
 - Provides secure electronic qsl cards
 - Levels of service
 - Own awards system
 - Do not count toward ARRL Awards
 - Not really a logbook per se (?)
 - BCARC help here, too

Final Thoughts

- Set one or more goals with a system to monitor progress
- Amateur radio goals can and probably should change over the years
- For many goals logging is a great way to monitor progress toward your goals
- QSL cards in some form are required documentation of a contact
- Awards can be a fun way to document completion of a goal
- Keep amateur radio fresh, there is always something new to learn and do.
- Above all it is a hobby, so enjoy it and have a good time



BCARC
Announcements
and
Activities

Executive Committee Announcements

Verbal Report



Detail will appear in meeting minutes on k7jep.org

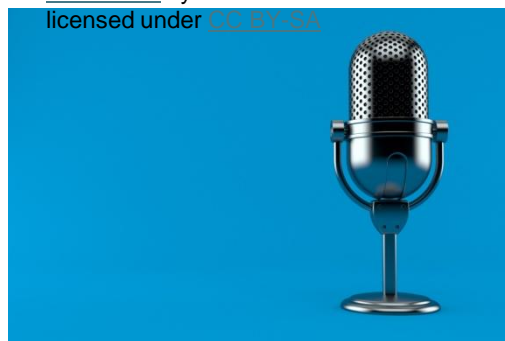
Late Breaking News - IDQSOP

- K7D successful

- K7BSV
- W7BID
- N7HDD
- KE4EW
- K7ZDP
- K6KRG
- K7AVR
- KF7FDN
- K7SYS



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- QSO Count (after log checking)

- CW – 295
- SSB – 911
- Total 1,206 QSO's

- Points

- K7S – 186,796
- K7P – 67,068
- N7U – 190,812
- K7D – 187,925

Upcoming Activities

- Field Day **4th full weekend in June** (there are *5 weeks in June this year*)
 - 2A plus GOTA
 - House of the Lord, Highway 41 Campus, 36245 Highway 41, Oldtown, ID 83822
 - Jimmorford.jm@gmail.com to volunteer
- Other things to consider:
 - Balloon Launch – modified objective
 - Hidden Transmitter Hunt
 - Local POTA/Summer picnic

Breakfast at Connie's Cafe
323 Cedar Street, Sandpoint ID
March 23, 2024
09:00 hrs.

Next Meeting
April 10, 2024
VFW Post, Sandpoint, ID
18:00 hrs. Informal Discussions and Eyeball
QSO's
18:30 hrs. Meeting
Topic: Station Setup for Ease of Operation

50/50 Drawing Winner

- 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