

ALL IDAHO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

ARRL NEWSLETTER

April 2024

ANYTHING AMATEUR RADIO

Polly Smith KG7DPO Idaho ARRL Public Information Officer (PIO)



Idaho ARRL “One-stop” email address for ALL Idaho Amateur Radio Operators.

ALLIDAHOHAMS@gmail.com

Please send your news, events, activities, and pictures.

Be sure to include recent Silent Keys (SKs)

Do you have questions or comments? Send them.



April is the fourth month of the year.

It is one of four months to have 30 days.

April's flowers are the Sweet Pea and Daisy.

Meteor showers happen each year between

April 16 to 26

“April” comes from the Latin word *aperire* which

means *to open*. This is because April is a time

when flowers start to bloom and

trees start to grow new leaves.



Idaho ARRL Affiliated Club Coordinator (ACC)

Rich Casper, WB7ML

idahoanghost@gmail.com

Rich oversees Idaho's club coordination, working with clubs to promote their activities at the monthly Idaho ARRL meeting.

Contact Rich to promote your club—we want to learn about you!

Search & Rescue & HAMS

In August 2015, a lightning storm caused a series of wildfires in the Clearwater Valley, which resulted in substantial destruction to Orofino, Kamiah, and the



neighboring areas. What eventually became a Complex Wildfire caused the loss of lives and destroyed numerous homes and outbuildings. The electrical poles and cell phone towers were also significantly damaged during the firestorm, leading to limited or no access to cell phones and the internet.

The Idaho County Sheriff's Office in Grangeville, Idaho, experienced a power outage and their expensive generator failed. All their computers and radio systems went down essentially and created significant communication challenges between their dispatch, emergency services, and law enforcement in the affected areas.

Sheriff Doug Ulmer (standing at right at a recent SAR meeting), who had gone through a catastrophic weeks-long nightmare as a deputy, was elected as sheriff with the goal of implementing a communications backup plan. The 3 Rivers Amateur Radio Club pitched the idea of using Ham radio and

invited him to attend a club meeting to introduce his idea. He expected to interact with around eight people for a question and answer session but was pleasantly surprised to see that there were "only" thirty-four members in attendance, which revealed how well Ham radio was already integrated into the communities. He recognized the significance of this resource and offered our club the opportunity



to join his search and rescue group.

Several individuals joined the Idaho County Sheriff's Posse, which is one of two search and rescue organizations in the county. The other organization is the Grangeville Mountain Rescue Unit (GMRU). Although separate, both organizations train together. Last year, we participated in a mock search exercise that tested our communication skills and highlighted areas

where we needed improvement. We shared the lessons learned from the exercise with our club and other Amateur Radio Clubs we are members of.

In late March, some of our Hams volunteered on a mission to serve as boots on the ground and shuttle drivers along the state highway corridor of Highway 12. They communicated via Simplex frequencies while also monitoring the sheriff's frequencies, which provided support communication to the state police and deputies.



As Hams and members of the SAR team, we don't need to wait for emergencies or disasters to occur to put our skills into action. SAR and Hams are involved in supporting upcoming events together, such as the Clearwater Rush Jet Boat races and the Kooskia Day Fun Run, and the Parade. By providing additional radio assistance to the deputies and SAR members, we can make these events safer and more enjoyable for everyone involved.



Photo on page 3 is Sheriff Ulmer addressing ICSO Posse members. Photos this page are more of the meeting. Left photo is the Mock SAR exercise Comms area.

[RATPAC](#)

RATPAC Amateur Radio presentations are **FREE** and available for viewing and/or download.

Does your club, group, or organization need a presentation? We have well over 300 of them and growing. <https://tinyurl.com/3zjnunw6>

If anyone needs an article for local or section newsletters

Anthony Luscre

K8ZT

Ohio Section: Section Youth Coordinator & Education Outreach

K8ZT Radio website—

www.k8zt.com

Amateur Radio Resources for Students/Youth —

www.k8zt.com/hry



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2128884758?pwd=RG94eEY2L3FiMEg0U3ZiWmhXaEdwdz09>

Meeting ID: 212 888 4758

Passcode: RATPAC

Watch previous sessions on YouTube: www.youtube.com/c/RATPAC

Check out the list of upcoming and past sessions at

Tiny.cc/ratpac_list

Or view just EmComm-related sessions at

Tiny.cc/rpem

RATPAC offers free online presentations via Zoom for clubs upon request. Submit request, date & time to

Ratpac.plan@gmail.com



This new series will focus on Radio Fundamentals, On-Air Operations & Techniques for new or veteran Emergency Communicators.

Check out this short 8 minutes video:

[First Steps in Amateur Radio Emergency Communication Prep from RATPAC ~03/212024 \(youtube.com\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=03/212024)

First Steps in Emergency Communications Prep- Setting Up a VHF/UHF Station

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT



How well does your club advertise its presence within your community?

*Published articles in magazines or newspapers, a newsletter, such as this one? **Today's youths** follow all sorts of platforms including Facebook and Instagram.*



<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2128884758?pwd=RG94eEY2L3FiMEg0U3ZiWmhXaEdwdz09>

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10-Meter Project

Dr. Jackson (Mike) Dunlap, K7MYU

Philosophy/Background

Having been an Amateur Radio operator for nearly 65 years, I have come to understand that Amateur Radio has an extensive set of cultures. There is the culture of VHF repeaters, the culture of contesting, the 75-meter culture, and, of course, DX. Each culture has its own dynamics and protocols.

Over the last decade or so, I have become increasingly concerned that we bring new people into the hobby without significant exposure to the true nature of Amateur Radio. Many of these new operators are only exposed to VHF repeaters, and in many cases, not even that. The one-day, get a Technician license class only serves as an entry permit and may not even expose the new licensee to the culture of VHF repeaters. My local radio club tries to plug this gap through an extensive set of presentations, meetings, project builds, mentoring, and repeater classes.

Missing is the joy and thrill of HF. Alas, the Technician has very limited HF privileges. However, I believe that exposure to HF provides strong incentives to upgrade to General. I believe this is a key to retaining that person in the hobby. The primary impediment is learning Morse code. Until recently, SSB and digital use of HF has been restricted due to the sunspot cycle. Now, with Cycle 25 ramping up, 10 meters offers worldwide exposure to HF.

My challenge was how to expose our new technicians to HF without requiring a license upgrade or major investment in equipment. The goal of the Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club 10-Meter-Project was to achieve this goal for roughly \$100 or less.

Underlying Elements

Technician license holders have access to 10 Meters from 28.000 to 28.500 Mhz. This provides for the operation of SSB, CW, and Digital. 10 Meters is back and often, open worldwide. It will only get better over the next several years. A basic dipole antenna for 10 Meters is about 16½ feet long and can be practically invisible. It is easy to mount at a half wavelength or more for good performance. Components to build a 10-meter dipole are available for under \$50. Most old transceivers cover 10 meters and many hams have old equipment in working order. In addition, the old transceiver just might come with an Elmer.

Our Implementation

The Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club formally adopted the 10-Meter-Project under the leadership of its Marketing Team. The project collected a number of used transceivers. Each participant was assigned an Elmer, usually, the person loaning the transceiver. Each participant built, tuned, and tested a 10-meter dipole antenna. During the antenna build, we discussed how ½-wave antennas work, how to determine antenna bandwidth, how to tune a ½-wave dipole, dipole installation, and how to hide a 10-meter antenna in an HOA environment. A bonus was direct contact with club members who are experienced hams.

Personal Experiences

Stewart Pennington, KK7OYI

I was introduced to ham radio in the 1950s when I saw my older brother communicate with Korea and Africa by just stringing a wire to a tree from his bedroom window. Then about a dozen years later after I earned my Novice license, I set up an inverted V dipole on our roof. But due to poor sunspot activity and not being active in a club to

‘show me the way’, I soon lost interest. Now, 50 years later & retired, I’m re-engaging with my new Technician license. I found everything changed: repeaters, digital communications, multiple modes to choose from, software-defined radios, etc. - so many new things to explore and learn. The Voice of Idaho Radio Club’s repeater class for newly licensed Technicians was an invaluable introduction for me to understand how the ham world works. Currently, I’m getting set up for DXing. So, I’m focusing on getting my antenna up and shack completed. Another month or so (after the snow subsides around my house), I’ll be able to string my 10-meter antenna (bought from the Hewlett-Packard Amateur Radio Club) to a tree in the back. I believe 10-meters is the gateway to an enriched ham experience. I’ve learned a great deal by going through this process and engaging with experienced hams. Later, I want to explore contesting and venture into the other modes of the digital world and also try low-power CW transmissions.

Jim McMahon, KM6KER

I am 69 years old and have had a Technician License since 2017. I am one of those “one-day” Technicians. I have taken the Voice of Idaho Radio Club’s repeater class and used my two handheld radios to practice. In this project, I built a 10-meter dipole antenna from a kit devised by the Hewlett-Packard Amateur Radio Club. Later that week, I was able to mount the new antenna on the roof gables of my shop. After positioning and connecting my rig, I successfully made my first radio exchange with an enthusiast in Oregon and another in North Carolina.

I’ve ordered the books to study for the General license. I recently returned to Mike’s

shop to build and tune a 20-meter antenna in anticipation of my General license. The result of this project is that I am much more involved in amateur radio.

Judy Beardsley, working on her Technician license

I am pursuing a ham radio license to be able to talk with family and friends in various locations within the USA. I am also very interested in the ability to talk with others in other countries. I have learned a little and discovered that I will need to at least get the next level of license after Technician to be able to do this. I am very fortunate to have found a group of individuals locally who are interested in helping a newcomer learn as much as possible and build my first antenna. It is very exciting to have hands-on experience and to learn from very experienced Elmers.

Postscript

Projects like this have the potential to energize Amateur Radio. Feel free to use the ideas as an adjunct to your club or as an independent project. Hopefully, this article will stimulate your thoughts about how we can expand and energize Amateur Radio.

Dr. Jackson (Mike) Dunlap, K7MYU
Executive Vice President, Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club (VOI)

Dr. Dunlap is an Extra Class Ham first licensed in 1960. Dr. Dunlap holds advanced degrees in Education and Computer Science. He taught Computer Science for over 25 years and then worked for HP for 15 years. Dr. Dunlap is active in HF and DX. Dr. Dunlap is a member of the VOI, HP Boise ARC, and Willamette Valley DX club. Dr. Dunlap's key interest is in mentoring new hams.



**Do you have an Idaho based Net?
Drop an email to ALLIDAHO-
HAMS@gmail.com with the day,
time, and time zone, please.**



**Idaho State ARES Nets
Thursdays - Autumn/Winter
Phone: MST 0830/1930 - PST 0730/1830
Digital: MST 2000 - PST 1900**

Magic Valley/Twin Falls Amateur Radio Club

hosts a weekly net on 146.76 Mhz (tone 88.5) in the Twin Falls area every Tuesday at 7 PM (CST). The net is operated by 4 to 5 volunteer amateur radio operators who take turns as Net Control Stations.

You do not need to be a member of MVARC to participate in the net.

The net manager position was held for several years by Lee Bunch WB7CYO. As of January 1, 2024, Terry, MVARC's president, took over the net manager role and successfully recruited a couple of new net control station operators.

If you have questions reach out to Lee at lee@leeandjeanne.com

Global Radio Email

Idaho Winlink Net for 2023

–Don Gardner W7PJ, Idaho SEC

We began taking Winlink seriously in December 2022. Two years later, by the end of 2023, we had 112 participants who checked in 2,062 times throughout the year.

Each month, we assign different tasks to the participants, such as using various ICS and Winlink forms. You can find more information about this at

<https://winlinkofidaho.blogspot.com/>

Soon we will have Idaho-specific ICS forms to use.

To make this activity more engaging and enjoyable, we have a special event called **Winlink Wednesdays of Idaho Net Century Club** for participants who have checked in 100 times are awarded a certificate of achievement.

Join the Net:

[Winlink Wednesdays of Idaho
\(winlinkofidaho.blogspot.com\)](https://winlinkofidaho.blogspot.com/)



WINLINK

GLOBAL RADIO EMAIL

[Winlink Express | Winlink
Global Radio Email](#)

Join the Net

[Winlinkofidaho.blogspot.com](https://winlinkofidaho.blogspot.com/)

Is Your Club Wanting To Become an ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest or Convention?

Check out these links!

Please refer your club to this on-line guide:

<http://www.arrl.org/files/file/Hamfest/ARRL%20Hamfest%20and%20Convention%20Guidelines.pdf>

The ARRL Convention and Hamfest Planner is the most comprehensive guide that I know of, and a link to this pdf document can be found on the ARRL Web's site at the bottom of the page that discusses how to "Become an ARRL Sanctioned Hamfest or Convention."

<http://www.arrl.org/arrl-sanctioned-events>

It's very good to know that KARS is already approved to host the ARRL Idaho State Convention on August 3. <http://www.arrl.org/hamfests/2024-kars-arrl-idaho-state-convention>

If there are questions or clarifications that are needed about the information in this booklet or elsewhere about hosting a convention, please let me know. I will be happy to try to provide answers and updates.

Best wishes to KARS and to you as you prepare for a great ARRL Idaho State Convention.

73,

Steve Ewald, WV1X
Field Organization Supervisor

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Idaho QSO Party Spud Run 2024...It's a Wrap!

By Kelly Klaas, K7SU

The 2024 Spud Run was a lot of fun and a big success. Each year it seems to get a bit more popular. I want to thank everyone who participated in the fun this year and especially those who operated the Special Event Stations K7S, K7P, N7U and K7D.

We had 359 logs submitted this year. That's four more than last year but many of those who send in personal logs each year were busy with the Special Event Stations this year. Otherwise, I'm convinced we would have had many more logs submitted.

We activated 32 counties this year compared to 28 last year. Eleven of those counties were BONUS counties so we are making progress.



The Idaho High Score Winner this year was Ray Johnson, W7QDM of Ammon. The Out-of-State High Score Winner was Dave Tucker, KA6BIM from Coquille, OR. Congratulations to you both and thanks for participating. They both have received their wooden winners' plaques.

If you want to rack up some points next year you will want to consider activating four bonus counties including Caribou, Fremont, Oneida and Teton Counties. Each of those counties will be worth 1500 bonus points!

For 2024 results and a link to print your certificate go to www.IdahoQSOParty.org. Everything you need will be on that site.

It's never too late to get ready for next year! The Spud Run in 2025 will be held on March 8 and 9. We hope to see you on the radio!

Kelly Klaas K7SU

IDQP Spud Run Coordinator

MVARC

HAMFEST

MAY 11th

Educational Events
HAM Meetup
& Radio Swap Meet

Coax & Connectors
John Kernkamp **WB4YJT**

AREDN
Jon Glauser **KG7KMV**

FLDigi
Mike Leister **N7XH**

Working Linear Birds
Tony Galli **KK7BTT**

And More TBA!

Presented By:



PEACE VALLEY

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL

1845 S Federal Way, Boise, ID 83705

SWAP MEET **8AM MST**

CLASSES **9AM MST**

All IDAHO POTA PALOOZA

Sponsored by the South West Idaho ARC

www.k7swi.org

When – 18 and 19 May 2024

Where – Any POTA reference area in Idaho

All bands and modes (POTA is not a contest)



Check the POTA online map for new Parks. There have been many recently added new BLM Campgrounds and Reservoirs in the Four Rivers, Owyhee, Bruneau, Jarbridge, Burley, and Shoshone BLM Districts and are in the process of adding the remaining eligible Parks in the remaining BLM Districts

You must have an account on the Parks on the Air website to earn Activator or Hunter credit. It is free to and easy to sign up for an account. For activator credit you must keep and upload a log to the web site. Hunter credit comes from the activator log. Note the POTA park number system has changed to a more international supportive system. The parks in the US have changed from “K-xxxx” to “US-xxxx” for United States Parks

What to expect – most, but not all, of the BLM Campgrounds should be open. Check road and weather conditions before you depart. Important that you check the conditions for each BLM site as some sites experienced significant flooding and may not be open. Many of the BLM sites are in remote areas with primitive dirt roads which are not passable when wet with no services and no cell service. Take extra food, fuel, water and spare tires and travel with two or more vehicles for your safety. For remote areas it is good to check to see if there are any local repeaters you can access if you need help because cell phone service may be nonexistent. Take extra caution when activating near rivers and creeks as water levels will be high this time of year.

Do not place wires in trees in any park with “Wildlife, Refuge, Habitat, Conservation, Restoration, Historic, State Park, or parks with high pedestrian traffic” several parks closer to the east coast have been removed from the POTA system by the request of the park because of the actions of a few amateurs. In general trees should be avoided, especially during nesting season.

Take a 40m antenna, who knows how many other Idaho Parks you can make contact with.

<https://parksontheair.com/> <https://parksandrecreation.idaho.gov/>

<https://idfg.idaho.gov/visit/wma>

https://www.blm.gov/sites/default/files/documents/files/StateRecreationGuide_0.pdf



2024 Events

Email to have yours
listed



[ARRL Field Day](#)

This is the link to the 2024 Field Day Portal. It has all the information clubs or individual operators need for this year. Field Day is the last full weekend of June, which is June 22-23.

<https://field-day.arrl.org/>

ARRL Idaho State Convention

August 3, 2024 2130 N Meyer Road

Post Falls

Outdoor venue

Host: Kootenai Amateur Radio Society



15th Annual Tailgate Swap Meet Mini-Cassia Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Saturday, August 17, 2024

9:00 AM-1:00 PM

Minidoka County Fairgrounds
085 East Baseline Road Highway 25

Rupert, Idaho

For further info:
Kevan KD7IYA 208 431-8802 // yogtak6057@gmail.com

ARRL Library Book Set

The ARRL Library Book Set includes the most popular ARRL publications, and is intended for ARRL Affiliated Clubs and members who wish to gift or donate a set to a local library, school, or classroom. The set is available at a special price of \$250 (includes US ground shipping).

The Set Includes These Books (subject to availability when ordering):

- The ARRL Handbook for Radio Communications (softcover)
- The ARRL Antenna Book for Radio Communications (softcover)
- The ARRL Operating Manual for Radio Amateurs
- The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual
- The ARRL General Class License Manual
- The ARRL Extra Class License Manual
- Understanding Basic Electronics
- Basic Antennas – Understanding Practical Antennas and Designs
- Your First Amateur Radio HF Station
- Get On the Air with HF Digital
- FCC Rules & Regulations for the Amateur Radio Service

DONATE BOOKS FOR...

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• STUDENT RADIO CLUBS • STEM OUTREACH • MAKER AND HACKER SPACES**

Terms: Orders must be pre-paid and must include the name of the library, school, or institution intended to receive the library book set. Editions sent will be those available at the time the order is received. Publications and prices are subject to change without notice. Applies to orders purchased directly from ARRL:

ARRL

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Phone Toll-Free (US) 1-888-277-5289; pubsales@arrl.org

For more information | www.arrl.org/Library-Book-Set



form rev. 2/2024

<http://www.arrl.org/amateur-radio-grants>



From the desk of Kelly Klaas K7SU

Need help getting your Club organized. Here is the information on the Ham Club Online web site. This is a site where you can get your club organized.

<https://www.hamclubonline.com/>



Final Comment

Finally, as with any newsletter, we need your contributions, your Idaho related articles, your photographs.

Please submit your Idaho news to ALLIDAHOHAMS@gmail.com

The next page is contact information for the Idaho ARRL Leadership



To read past newsletters:

<https://www.idahoarrl.info/Newsletter.html>

Idaho ARRL website [Idaho ARRL](#)

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