

ALL IDAHO AMATEUR RADIO OPERATORS

ARRL NEWSLETTER

November 2024

ANYTHING AMATEUR RADIO

Polly Smith KG7DPO Idaho ARRL Public Information Coordinator (PIC)



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.



Be sure to set your clocks back at 0200 hours on
November 3, 2024

Send in what you or your club did this year. Write an article, submit photos, and we'll get them published to share. ~ Hammie O. Moose, editor



In September, two clubs provided communications in a Search and Rescue exercise.

Left: Camas Prairie ARC president AE7VB at the comms center at Incident Command Camp, his backup was behind the lens.

Below: Members of 3 Rivers ARC gather in the spirit of amateur radio comradery at a city park.



Voice of Idaho

Technician Class

Electronic Fundamentals

A Class for Technician class amateur radio licenses or above

Goals: Understand the nature of Amateur Radio

Demystify the material behind the FCC examinations

Develop understanding for license upgrade

This is **NOT** a license preparation class.

The purpose is to gain understanding of the material behind the examinations

and to extend contact between experienced operators and new operators

Pre-requisite: Ham license, any class

Old timers welcome but preference will be given to new hams

November 9, 2024

Covid Cautions

Hubler terminal

Caldwell Executive Airport

4814 E. Linden Street

Caldwell, ID 83605-8036

No charge for current VOI members

\$10 Non VOI members

Content

Amateur Radio and Station Safety

DC versus AC, Reactance, Inductance, Capacitance,

Root Mean Square, AC and DC, Impedance, RF behavior,

Electronic waves, DB, Current and voltage flow through a circuit

Relevant Mathematics

Receivers, Transmitters, Modulation, Bandwidth, Duty cycle, transmitter tuning

Sign Up at

<https://forms.gle/drBX5mLZCKmsuGG37> or email KD7VZW@gmail.com

Course BEGINS on Saturday at 8:10 AM and concludes by 5:30 PM.

Bring your Lunch (We will be working over the lunch hour)

Sponsored by the Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club Marketing Team

Get On The Air Repeater Class. A Class for Technicians.

Goal: Learn how repeaters work and gain on air experience using simplex and repeaters.
November 9, 2024, 9 am to 1 pm.
No Cost.

Signup and details at <https://forms.gle/y7yMbsLRgBaEJ68v7>

Content

The Repeater and How It Works

Repeater Protocol

On Air Experience

Antenna Show and Tell

Resources for New Hams

Course starts at 9 am and concludes by 1 pm.

Bring your favorite non-alcoholic beverage and snacks.

Bring your radio. There will be radios available if you do not have one.

Optional, bring a lunch and get to know your instructors and Elmers.

Caldwell Executive Airport

Hubler terminal

4814 E. Linden Street

Caldwell, ID 83605-8036

Sponsored by the Voice of Idaho Amateur Radio Club Marketing Team

KD7VZW@ARRL.net

VARIETY IS THE SPICE OF HAM RADIO

By: Kelly Klaas K7SU

Have you tried anything new in ham radio lately? I don't know about you but I sometimes like to try other things in my favorite hobby just to keep the status quo from getting dull. CW is my favorite mode but I do like to venture off into the weeds at times and try other aspects of the hobby. It's even interesting to build a new antenna or turn off the amp and try QRP. My "normal" operating is 20-40-80 meters CW with my Ftdx-10. Sometimes I run a little power just to keep the tube from going flat on my Ameritron AL-80B amp. But I was getting a little bored so I looked around the shack to see what else I had.

WOW! I almost forgot this! I picked up a Pixie QRP Transceiver at the Rupert Swap Meet a couple of years ago and never really did much with it...until now. I actually got two of them although one didn't work. But that's OK. I got them for free. The one that did work was crystaled up for 7.023. I hooked up all the necessary outboard equipment like a 9v battery, a key, and an antenna. I use my Ftdx-10 for the receiver. (Is that cheating?) My digital watt meter told me I was putting out a booming half a watt which is the advertised output for the little unit. I have yet to make a contact as of this writing but I know it's working because I made a few unsuccessful calls and then looked up my call on the Reverse Beacon Network (RBN). There I was. I had been decoded by about a dozen other stations in the Pacific Northwest. If you haven't explored the RBN you should. It's a good way to test out your rig/antennas to see if you are getting out. Apparently, I was. I will keep pounding out the CQs until I connect with someone.

(www.ReverseBeacon.Net) I did modify this Pixie by taking out the 7.023 crystal and attaching an FT-243 crystal socket. Now I can roam the 40-meter CW section with impunity with my collection of 40-meter crystals.



I have two great HF radios in my shack (Ftdx-10 and Ftdx-3000) that are both capable of six



meters but I haven't been on six meters for several years. I have a six-meter beam on the tower but it has issues and at my age and fitness I can't climb the tower anymore. So, I found an old Hustler mobile mast in the shed. These are 56" in length. They do that purposely so you can use the mast only (without any resonators) for six meters. I slapped that baby on a 3-magnet mag mount and plopped it on my shed which has a steel roof. Some of my local ham friends and I have been having some good conversations on six-meter SSB with that setup. I've also decoded some FT8 and even some Pacific Northwest meteor scatter stations with just that vertical.

I also recently modified my mobile setup as it was needing a pick-me-up. I am pretty well equipped in my mobile with HF through 440. My rigs consist of an FT-7800 dual bander that I use mostly for scanning. I also have an FTM-400 which I use a lot and an FT-891 HF transceiver. My mobile HF antenna is a Tarheel II. My favorite is mobile CW! But I went the next step and hooked up the 891 with a

RigBlaster NoMic I've had sitting around for a while and connected that to my Panasonic Toughbook computer (running Windows 7!). Now I can go digital mobile. Come to think of it I now have a fully capable all-mode mobile POTA station. I can just find a listed POTA park, pull off the road, and activate POTA. I love this hobby. I've tried a couple of other fun things as well but I will save them for another issue.

How long since you have tried something new in ham radio? Maybe it's just what you need to spark your waning interest again. Give it a try.

Idaho ARRL Calendar

To send an item for the Idaho ARRL Calendar on the web site...

<https://www.idahoarrrl.info/eventsform.html>

To send a Silent Key announcement, the web page explains how...

<https://www.idahoarrrl.info/skreport.html>

To Update a repeater in your area...

<https://www.idahoarrrl.info/RepeaterForm.html>

To make a suggestion to the Idaho ARRL team...

<https://www.idahoarrrl.info/suggestions.html>

-- Kelly Klaas

Ham Radio Operator K7SU

Woodworker

Voice Over for ads and audio books



RATPAC live sessions on Wednesday evenings

One of our latest presentations

[Keeping Up with Amateur Radio News & Events- General, ARRL, EmComm, DXing, Contesting & More](#)

Keeping Up with Amateur Radio News & Events

Anthony Luscre, K8ZT



Catch up on almost 400 recorded videos at <http://tiny.cc/ratpac-list>.



<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



RATPAC Committee Recruitment Announcement



The RATPAC committee is actively seeking additional members to join our dynamic and dedicated team. This is an excellent opportunity to contribute to our mission and work alongside a group of passionate individuals committed to making a meaningful impact.

If you are interested in becoming a committee member, please contact us at ratpac.plan@gmail.com. We welcome all inquiries and look forward to expanding our team with individuals who share our vision and enthusiasm.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

The RATPAC Committee

Radio Amateur Training Planning and Activities Committee (RATPAC)

professional development is evident in the quality and consistency of its weekly presentations. The committee's efforts have established a robust platform for amateur radio operators to expand their knowledge, refine their skills, and stay abreast of the latest developments in the field.

In conclusion, RATPAC stands as a beacon of knowledge and community for amateur radio operators worldwide. Through its weekly Zoom presentations and extensive post-session resources, the committee not only disseminates valuable information but also fosters a global network of passionate and knowledgeable radio enthusiasts.

Youtube: <https://tinyurl.com/y8sc3jyy>

Website link: <https://www.ratpac.us>

FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/ratapacfb>

As the Public Information Coordinator (PIC) for Idaho, I am seeking stories from around the state from our Public Information Officers (PIO) to do a PIO Corner section. PIOs are the boots on the ground for their sections. Below is the first submission from a Ham who attended his first Pacificom though in a different state, I recruited him to tell of his experience. ~ KG7DPO



Pacificom bills itself as the largest Ham convention in the southwest and was held in October in San Ramon, California. This three-day event had 1200 in attendance; in comparison, Sea-Pac had 1500 this year.

Many vendors were present. Elecraft had the largest booth and introduced the KH1 Transceiver. Over \$11,000 in prizes were given out with the KH1 Transceiver as the Grand Prize.

All weekend there was something to check out.

Friday featured an all-day antenna forum. During the second presentation, a security alarm evacuated the hotel and thankfully was only a false alarm.

Saturday morning featured breakfast with Gordon West. The breakfast ended with the famous pickle demonstration. Gordon placed two 12V probes in the pickle and when the Morse Code key was pressed the pickle glowed.

Early Saturday, two parachutists combined this hobby with Ham radio, jumped from 15,000 feet, and made radio contact with several Hams in the audience. Normally they use VHF/UHF radios, but sometimes they use HF. During their descent to California soil, they made a contact in New Hampshire.

The weekend featured many Forum Presentations about amateur radio topics with a small swap meet on Sunday.

Submitted by,

David Brainerd WB6DHW

WB6DHW is the Public Information Officer for Lewis and Idaho Counties in North Central Idaho. He was asked to submit his experience as a first-time visitor to Pacificom.

Do you have an Idaho based Net?
Drop an email to
ALLIDAHOHAMS@gmail.com
with the day, time, and time zone,
please.
Idaho has two time zones!

Clearwater Valley Amateur Radio Club

Sundays

PDT 7:00 PM 146.7600 Tone 1318

PDT 7:30 PM 145.4900 (no tone)

Magic Valley/Twin Falls Amateur Radio Club

Tuesdays

CST 7 PM 146.76 Mhz Tone 88.5

Questions—Lee at lee@leeandjeanne.com



iHeartCraftyThings.com



Idaho State ARES Nets
Thursdays - Spring/Summer
Phone: MDT 0830/2030 - PDT 0730/1930
Digital: MDT 2100 - PDT 2000

3 Rivers Amateur Radio Club

Tuesdays

PDT 6:30 PM 146.62 88.5

Followed by Simplex Net 145.54

Info3riversarc@gmail.com

Camas Prairie Amateur Radio Club

Tuesdays

7:30 PM 145.68 100 MHz

As many know hurricanes Helene and Milton hit the southern eastern states hard.

The devastation is unfathomable with the loss of lives, homes, and even towns. These areas are now in the recovery phase.

During the storms in many places Ham radio was the only communication. WinLink was also used and showed how valuable it is as a part of Ham emergency communications.

A moratorium was requested for WinLink users outside the affected area to last until early November.

Thank you for your cooperation!



WINLINK

GLOBAL RADIO EMAIL

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

Join the Net

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

ARRL The National Association for Amateur Radio®
860-594-0265
sewald@arrl.org

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...

**LIBRARIES • SCHOOLS AND CLASSROOMS • COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES
• 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:

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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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