

Frequently Asked Questions

Where do I get more information?

Bonner County ARES information is available at www.bonnerares.org or by contacting any participating member. Only licensed Amateur Radio Operators may become an ARES member.

How do I register as an ARES Volunteer?

Go to www.idahoares.info You can register on that site.

How much does it cost?

Nothing, it's free.

How do I find one of these people and learn what is going on?

Tune in on Monday evenings at 7:00pm to the ARES repeater listed in the **red box on the right**. It is a directed NET but visitors and guests are invited and encouraged to check in. We are organized in an ICS model and core staff have completed FEMA training.

What does it mean when someone asks "are you available"?

We believe in family first—mission second. If your family is safe and in 2 hours you could be available to help somewhere - even sheltered-in-place at home - you are considered available. You should have a minimum of 72 hours of emergency supplies for you and your family. If you could go to an assignment away from home such as a shelter, hospital, or served agency you should take a minimum of 24 hours of food, water, forms, medication, extra batteries and appropriate clothing. Don't forget to take your radio, manuals, and spare batteries.

Should I have some frequencies and repeaters programmed in my radio?

Yes. They are listed on our web site www.bonnerares.org. If you need help or don't have programming software we will help you.

What training do I need ?

Training information is on the web site. Some special training in the Incident Command System (ICS) and ARRL Emergency Communications is helpful but not required to get started. We hold local training classes.

What is Neighborhood Ham Watch?

It is a program we have where you stay sheltered-in-place at home and provide a communication link for your neighbors when traditional communications have been disrupted. It is an important link for the "last mile" into the heart of any disaster.

ARES® NETS

BONNER COUNTY UHF NET Monday 7:00pm

442.500 MHz (+) PL 131.8 Baldy Mtn.

Other Local ARES® frequencies
ARES® Tactical Simplex
146.460 MHz

Sandpoint Low Level Repeater
443.625 (+) PL 136.5

www.bonnerares.org

IDAHO STATEWIDE HF NETS

Digital PSK 31—Tue. 0200 UTC 3578.5 KHz USB
SSB Net—Thur. 0230 UTC 3929 KHz LSB

LOCAL FREQUENCIES

BONNER COUNTY AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
Linked VHF/UHF System

BC ARC NET Sundays at 7:00 PM

Sagle 146.780 MHz (-) PL 100
Hoo Doo 145.490 MHz (-) PL 136.5
Hoo Doo 443.375 MHz (+) PL 136.5
Priest River 144.910 MHz Simplex PL 100.0
BC ARC Simplex 145.600 MHz

ARES® MEETINGS

1 st Tuesday at 5:30 pm
County Building, 1500 Hwy 2
Hwy 2 and Division Sandpoint, ID

BONNER ARES® THANKS:

Bonner County Amateur Radio Club
www.k7jep.org
The repeater owners who volunteered
their equipment.

Bonner County Emergency
Management



Rev. 6-2017
BC ARES ®

www.bonnerares.org

K7BNR

Bonner County Amateur Radio Emergency Service

**A Free Public Service
of Amateur Radio for over 75
years.**

No dues

No club affiliation



WWW.ARRL.ORG

The history of Public Service Communications

Public service communications has been a traditional responsibility of the Amateur Radio Service since 1913. Amateur radio operators at the University of Michigan and Ohio State University, in conjunction with numerous individuals, bridged the communications gap surrounding a large isolated area left by a severe wind storm. Disaster work in those days was spontaneous and without formal organization of any kind.

Today ARES consists of over 80,000 licensed Amateur Radio Operators who have registered with the American Radio Relay League and freely volunteered their time and equipment in order to assist the public in times of need or disaster.

Weather events, earthquakes, fires, infrastructure failure and other serious incidents have proven the value of having a dedicated group of volunteers who are capable of establishing and maintaining communications.

This skill set is needed and welcomed by both public and private agencies whose mission is public safety and the welfare of our citizens. We work in places like shelters, communication centers, base camps, and staging areas. We can get the message through and relieve the load on communication infrastructure thus allowing public and private agencies to more efficiently utilize their staff.

Another valuable service we provide is the ability to deliver real time situation information direct from impacted neighborhoods to Emergency Management officials. We do this through our Emergency Nets after it is gathered from Hams at home and on the road.

Since 9/11 we have worked hard to improve our knowledge of emergency preparedness and be FEMA trained in order to be a professional asset to Emergency Managers.

Bonner County ARES is a cooperative activity between all the hams Bonner County. We strive to work together toward a common goal of helping each other as well as our communities.

Please consider this an invitation to join with us as we move forward to better serve Bonner County citizens and our neighbors.

NATIONAL TRAFFIC SYSTEM



The National Traffic System operates daily and handles message traffic across the US and into Canada. During emergencies where telephone and internet communications are down the traffic on the Net increases. Another major increase in traffic results when serious weather events displace people and emergency shelters are open.

ARRL Radiograms are handled free of charge and may provide the only way that families can notify relatives outside the disaster area that they are OK and where they are staying.

In the era of cellular telephones and computers Amateur Radio Operators have not lost sight of the fact that:

WHEN ALL ELSE FAILS!

AMATEUR RADIO WORKS



SERVED AGENCIES What are they?

The concept of Served Agencies is not new to Amateur Radio. Our hobby has provided critical free communication links to relief and public welfare agencies around the world. We serve the Bonner County Emergency Management Department.

The ARRL maintains MOU's with the Red Cross, FEMA/DHS, National Weather Service, Salvation Army, National Communications System, and the Association of Public Safety Communication Officers.

Many ARES units around the US also serve local law enforcement, fire and EMS providers with critical back-up communications and temporary radio links in areas where there is limited or no reliable public safety communication. This is particularly true in some of the more remote regions of our country.

CONGRATULATIONS

We want to congratulate all those who have just passed the Technician Class license examination. Please tune in to our Net and we would be delighted to hear from you on the air.

For those Hams who have just upgraded their licenses we congratulate you also. Expanding your knowledge and ability to communicate over expanded modes and frequencies is a big step up in this hobby. Hope to hear you around the bands!