

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 K7BNR ARES repeater listed in the **red box in this brochure**. It is a directed NET and 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.

ARES® NETS

BONNER COUNTY UHF NET K7BNR Monday 7:00pm

442.500 MHz (+) PL 131.8 Baldy Mtn.

Other Local ARES® frequencies
ARES® Tactical Simplex
146.460 MHz
ARES DIGITAL FM Simplex
146.480 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
TO N IDAHO REPEATER GROUP**

BC ARC NET Sundays at 7:00 PM

HooDoo 145.490 MHz (-) PL 136.5

BC ARC Simplex 145.600 MHz

ARES® MEETINGS

1 st Tuesday at 5:30 pm
Bonner County Multi-Use Facility
465838 Hwy 95 Sagle, ID (Dufort Rd & 95)

BONNER ARES® THANKS:

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

**Bonner County Emergency
Management**



Rev. 9-2019
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 over 400 Bonner County Hams at home and on the road. In 2019 we reached out to other private and faith based organizations in Bonner County to help get real time information to Bonner County Emergency Management officials.

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.

ADVANCE COORDINATION TEAM

We are fortunate in Bonner County that we have a variety of organizations that focus their efforts on emergency preparedness and planning. Amateur Radio is part of their overall plan for communications. In 2019 we reached out to these organizations to meet and talk about mutual coordination of communications.

Our first meeting was well attended this summer. With that in mind ARES is working with these other organizations to facilitate the flow of critical information into, and out of, the Bonner County Emergency Operations Center.

We will continue to work on a plan and hope to test it with an exercise in the fall of 2019.

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. In Bonner County 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.

THINK ABOUT HOW

YOU CAN HELP

If you have your Amateur Radio license or just passed your Technician test please consider helping through whatever organization you choose.

Please tune in to our Net on Monday nights at 7:00 pm - we would be delighted to hear 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!