

The PARC S-Meter

An Electronic Newsletter of the
Panoramaland Amateur Radio Club
PO Box 7
Colville, WA 99114



February 2025 No. 169



Who have you helped recently?

President's Message

As the cold nights of January pass into the colder days of February, our efforts to improve or modify our stations find their way inside the shack. Those of us who live on the valley floor have enjoyed a near snowless winter. This has given us the freedom to access antennas, coax, connections, and more for a longer than usual time.

Last year, I used this “inside time” to focus on learning more about the equipment and software I already had. While I had worked hard to learn how to program my

WAYS TO STAY IN TOUCH

Club Website:

<https://www.qsl.net/k7jar/Home.html>

S-Meter e-mail:

parcnews@hotmail.com

Club Repeater K7JAR

Output 146.62 MHz;

Input 146.02 MHz PL Tone 77

Next Meeting Friday

February 21, 2025

Meeting QTH:

VFW Hall 135 Hwy 20,

Colville, WA

Off Highway 20 and

Aladdin Rd

CLUB NET: Sunday

Evenings 8:00 pm Local

Like Us on Facebook:

Panoramaland

Amateur Radio Club

radios using direct entry methods on the radio, I had neglected to become proficient with the various programs used to enter frequencies. Spending the last year playing with these programs has done a lot to help me better understand the importance of organizing channels efficiently.

The recent growth in licensed hams and PARC membership has provided me with many opportunities to help new operators learn to program their radios. Sometimes it takes me quite a while to get the radio set up in a way that makes sense to the newly licensed operator. I think that this is partly because I am often trying to explain the program to the new operator. They often begin to understand something they did not previously understand. Invariably, this then changes how they want their radio set up. I will suggest an idea that I think may work for them. Again, the new operator will then realize something else they were not sure of. This will then restart the process. Once we decide on a program they like, I will write it to their radio. After a few weeks of use, I am sure to get a message detailing some of the changes they would like to make. I have acquired a collection of saved files for various hams. While this may seem cumbersome or time consuming, it has really helped me to learn how to manipulate the software better every week.

I remember the first time I programmed a radio using software. It seemed like such a waste of time for so few frequencies. I found myself questioning why anyone would ever put 100 or more channels into a single radio. It was easy to be confused in those early days since I did not know of more than 10 channels. I did not foresee the growth that I would experience. Now I am making lists of call signs, frequencies, radio nets, programming software, user profiles, and much more.

I believe that all this work has helped me to empower new and old hams alike. The more that I help people, the more people I see helping each other, as well as themselves. This is good news for all of us. The more we help each other succeed the stronger we are. By having a strong club, we will have the necessary skills and knowledge to help new and old members with tasks that may be intimidating or overwhelming.



Club members like Chuck KJ7TRK, Jim W7JWT and Baron KI7FDU are always helping other hams.

I often wonder what it was like to be a new ham decades ago. There were very few resources available as freely as information is today. Without someone to help and

guide them, they would have a monumental challenge ahead of them. I tip my hat to those older hams who propagated the hobby back in the day. Without their patient teachings, our hobby would have met its fate long before I was able to get my ticket.

What radio projects do you work on during the “inside time” of winter? Do you help other hams to tackle projects they might not have been able to do alone? Come to our meeting on February 21st and tell us about it. We open the doors to the Colville VFW at 7:00 pm.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Seth Morris KJ7ZBC

President

Sunday Net Check-ins February 2, 2025

ARES net 17 members and 6 visitors, 1 regional official

PARC net 15 members 3 visitors

Summary of the January 17 Meeting

Conducting President Seth KJ7ZBC

Attending 15 members, 5 guests

The meeting began with the president inviting everyone to introduce themselves. Members were reminded that club dues are now due. He explained the club’s HRO raffle.

The minutes of the November and December meetings were reviewed and accepted.

Testing: Testing took place. VEs were Baron KI7FDU, Chuck KJ7TRK and David KF7QEN.

The results: 4 new Techs and Don KK7URE passed his General test.

Announcements

Fund raiser dinner and auction for Bob Gumm will be held at the Kettle Falls American Legion hall on February 15 with spaghetti dinner donation \$20.

Treasurer’s Report Bruce KC7H

Bruce reminded us that there were HRO raffle tickets for sale, \$1 each, or 6 for \$5. As well as club patches and stickers.

Cash on Hand	134.68
Checking STCU	334.69
Savings STCU	1305.62
CD	4219.79
TOTAL	5994.78
Reserved for the repeater	2211.00

Reserved for ARES	237.96
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Check-ins on the nets for Sunday, January 12, 2025

ARES 16 members 3 visitors 1 regional ARES officer

PARC 15 members 2 visitors

There were problems with the repeater link to Spokane on the nets.

Board Report

No report.

ARES Report

No ARES meeting since the last PARC meeting. There was ARES training at the county EOC on January 4. ARES has welcomed 3 new members.

Old Business

Seth KJ7ZBC updated the club on plans for club t-shirts. The club has plans to have a Fox Hunt to be discussed at the next board meeting. John KL7LL reminded everyone about NEWARC's upcoming Winter Field Day. See the story below.

New Business and Sharing

Cynthia KI7AYR shared 3D printed wire wrappers that had been created by her son Rich KE4WLE. They were passed out to everyone who wanted one. Many thanks were offered to Rich.

Minutes submitted by

Baron KI7FDU

Secretary

Recent ARES Net Training Topics

Jan 5 Scott K7SAH Preparedness in the face of possible terrorist attacks; general discussion.

Jan 12 Shannon KK7CHS Experiencing operational stress during an actual disaster, a severe ice storm in Lexington, Kentucky, Feb 2003.

Jan 19 Malcolm WB7WUQ A personal perspective on the transformations in the electronics industry generally and amateur radio specifically in the United States.

Jan 26 Judith KG7WT Battery Dos and Don'ts and a general discussion.

Upcoming Events

PARC quarterly board meeting will take place Wednesday, February 12 at 6 pm in the Carpenters Union Hall on Main Street in Kettle Falls. Contact Aaron KJ7CHW if there is an item you want the board to discuss.

Kootenai Amateur Radio Society (KARS) is once again sponsoring a **free Amateur Radio Technician License Class**. The class begins Tuesday March 18 from 7-8 pm and will run for 8 weeks. All classes will be conducted on-line using the Zoom platform. Participants need a computer with internet access or be able to connect with a cell phone or tablet. Although the course is free, participants need to obtain the ARRL Ham Radio Technician License Manual 5th Edition, published July 2023. It can be purchased through Amazon or any ham radio website. Manuals are also available in Kindle format which enhances their study value.

If interested, send Dale DuRee KE7VMN, the instructor, an email to be included in the zoom invitations to the class. Dale Duree KE7VMN, 208-819-4376, grumpydaleradio@gmail.com



The Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association (KBARA) is hosting the **Spokane Hamfest** Saturday, April 26, 2025, Horizon Middle School, 3915 S Pines Road, Spokane Valley, WA 99206. Doors open at 9-4 pm. The event is being sponsored by six clubs: The Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs, Kamiak Butte Amateur Repeater Association, Northwest Tri-State ARO, Spokane DX Association, Palouse Hills ARC & Washington Digital Radio Enthusiast. With set up for vendors on Friday, the Spokane Hamfest on Saturday April 26 will include a flea market, seminars, demonstrations, displays of all kinds, vendors, licensing exams, swap and commercial size tables, door prizes, a fox hunt, coffee and snacks. Here is a link to the Spokane Hamfest flyer which includes registration as well as sign-up for swap and commercial tables. Admission is \$5 and for those under 18 years of age admission is free.





A Successful NEWARC Winter Field Day

The Northeast Washington Amateur Radio Club held their third successful Winter Field Day at the end of January. Almost half of the folks who turned up at the Chewelah Country Club for the weekend event were members and friends of PARC.

The organizer of the event, Ed Zeiser N7ELZ, was very pleased with the turnout and the activities.

Guy Fiola N7YRT, a club officer, said, “Ed did a great job of putting it together, getting out the word and then overseeing it. When we first did a Winter Field Day a couple of years ago, we just thought it would be a fun challenge to get out in the snow, not actually snow camping, but get our antennas out there; test our equipment in the winter and just enjoy the fun.”

Guy N7YRT invites PARC members to NEWARC's monthly meetings the first Saturday of each month. They meet for breakfast at 9 am at the Rusty Putter (Chewelah Golf Course and Country Club) and then continue there with a meeting at 10 am.



Winter Field Day as an actual event across the US amateur radio world began in 2006. Since then, the Winter Field Day Association was created. But the event is nowhere near as regimented nor as well known as the ARRL Field Day.

From the website <https://winterfieldday.org/> we read “Winter Field Day is an exciting annual event for amateur radio enthusiasts, taking place on the last full weekend of January. It offers a unique opportunity for radio operators to set up field operations in remote locations, enabling them to connect with other participants worldwide. You may choose to participate solo or get your friends, family, or whole club involved. The Winter Field Day Association strongly believes that ham radio operators should practice portable emergency communications in winter environments. This is because freezing temperatures, snow, ice, and other hazards pose unique operational concerns.”

The Association is a small group dedicated to the original purpose of WFD and its core principles which are:

- **Natural disasters are unpredictable and can strike when you least expect them.**
- **Your training and operating skills should not be limited to fair-weather scenarios.**
- **Preparedness is the key to a professional and timely response during any event.**

Antennas at the NEWARC field day were set up outside with the temperature around the mid-20's and about 4 inches of snow. Participants got a little taste of the cold.



The antenna set up for Cynthia KI7AYR, an end-fed half wave.

Baron KI7FDU and John NL7LL were there among PARC members who have joint membership.

“I didn’t do any operating this time,” said Baron. “I tended to just circulate and answer questions. I was also there as VEC for the testing that took place.

“I like Winter Field Day because it is not as big and formalized as the summer one,” says Baron. “There are people here I haven’t seen for a while, there is the social feature that you don’t always get in the summer. We could just visit, and for those operating, they could turn to us with questions.

“Kevin KG7GCM was there with his rig and he had questions about Winlink, what a ham can do with it, the types of messages that can be sent.”

“I wouldn’t have been able to get my antenna up and tuned without John KL7LL, Harold AD7QJ and Baron KI7FDU’s help,” said Cynthia KI7AYR. This was her second Winter Field Day and her first operating her own station. John KL7LL made a special effort to stabilize her mounting pole! As a result of successful tuning, she made several contacts with other WFD hams around the country, assisted by Guy N7YRT. She used Amateur Contact Log for recording the contacts.

“This Winter Field Day was definitely a nice surprise for me,” said Cynthia who got her General license just a little over a year ago. “I was using the end-fed-half-wave antenna my son Rich KE4WLE had sent me for Christmas.”

There were a handful of other radios being operated by Ed N7ELZ , Kim KC7OON and Harold AD7QJ. As Baron pointed out, at Winter Field Day everyone is less formal, there is more chit chat as club information is exchanged. There are fewer stations operating so contacts are more casual and a station is more willing to ask how your own Winter Field Day event is going, friendly remarks exchanged.

Meanwhile . . . taking way too seriously the name “ Winter” Field Day, six hardy members of the Inland Empire VHF Radio Amateurs set up their equipment up on a field in Green Bluff just north of Spokane. Lead by club president Jeff NZ2S, they held out until around noon when they were greeted by a club member with steaming hot chili.

“I was plenty warm out there,” says Jeff, “but I had to take off my gloves to do contact recording. That was when the 8 F hit me.” Nonetheless, he made 27 contacts, and 25 were made on CW.

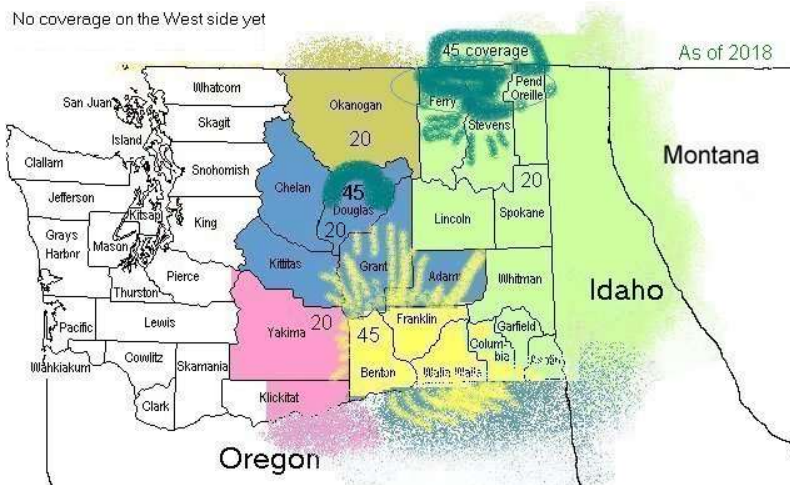


There was apparently a Spokane ARES group also hanging out in the cold, but those attending the NEWARC event much preferred their venue. “We had a nice clear view from the expanse of the clubhouse windows of our antennas hanging out in the cold while we were toasty inside. And the soup and sandwich lunch was delicious.”

Spokane Repeater Group Offers an Amazing Repeater System

As you travel across Washington, do you want better coverage with your 2m mobile

station when working a repeater? Check in to the Spokane Repeater Group whose system covers central Washington, into Idaho and BC. Spokane Repeater Group sponsors the 147.20 MHz repeater, which is an open system and available to all responsible amateurs who seek a nice sounding system. If you would like to join



the group, go to <http://srgclub.org/>, check out the FAQ's and . . . join. Karl AK2O is the system developer and overseer.

Calendar

February 2025	
2	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control Jim W7JWT
2	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm
6	AmRRon Net, Colville Repeater 7:00 pm
9	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control Baron KI7FDU
9	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00 pm
10-14	<u>School Club Roundup</u>
15-16	<u>International DX – CW</u>
16	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control Don KK7URE
16	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm Net control Cynthia KI7AYR
18	ARES Meeting, VFW Hall, Colville, 6:00 pm
20	AmRRon Net Colville Repeater, 7:00 pm
21	PARC monthly club meeting 7 pm, 6 pm dinner at Rancho Chico in Colville
23	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control Seth KJ7ZBC
23	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm
25-26	NEWARC Winter Field Day, Chewelah Golf Clubhouse, contact ezeiser@yahoo.com

March 2025

1-2	<u>International DX– Phone</u>
2	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control
2	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm
6	AmRRon Net, Colville Repeater, 7 pm
8	Idaho QSO Party
9	Youth on the Air (YOTA)
9	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control
9	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm
16	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control
16	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm
18	ARES monthly meeting VFW Hall 6 pm
20	AmRRon Net, Colville Repeater, 7 pm
21	PARC monthly club meeting 7 pm, 6 pm dinner at Rancho Chico in Colville
23	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control
23	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm Net control
23	North America SSB Spring
30	ARES Sunday Night Net 7:00 pm Net control
30	PARC Sunday Night Net 8:00pm

For those who enjoy contesting, be sure to check out ARRL's Contest Corral.

<https://www.arrl.org/files/file/Contest%20Corral/2024/June%202024%20Corral.pdf>

And then there is the WA7BNM Contest Calendar.

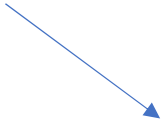
<https://www.contestcalendar.com/contestdetails.php?ref=739>

And the Ham Radio Event Calendar

<https://www.qsotoday.com/hamradiocalendargoogle.html>

S-Meter, official newsletter of Panoramaland Amateur Radio Club, is published monthly. It is emailed to members and anyone who has an interest. Direct questions or comments about the newsletter to Cynthia KI7AYR at cjriebe@netscape.net or Parcnews@hotmail.com

Keep going 😊



Panoramaland Amateur Radio Club Membership Application

Welcome and thank you for supporting your local Amateur Radio association.

Annual Club dues are \$15.00 for individuals and \$20.00 for a family (all must be living at the same address). Membership extends from January to January of each year. Annual dues that are paid after the 1st of September will be applied through the following year.

If you would rather just donate toward our repeater fund, any amount would be gladly accepted. Please make sure to note this on your donation so that the money is applied to the correct account.

Please fill out the form below. Remit your payment in person at a monthly meeting, or by check, made out to PARC, mailed to the following address:

PARC
P.O. Box 7
Colville, WA 99114

Name(s) _____
Call Sign(s) _____
Mailing Address _____
City/State _____
Zip _____
Telephone _____
Amount Paid _____
Email Address _____
ARRL Member _____ Yes _____ No

The PARC maintains the 146.620 (77.0 Hz tone) repeater located on Monumental Mt., near Colville, WA. All licensed Amateur Radio operators are welcome to use this open repeater system. Your support would also be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Bruce Fortune, KC7H at (509) 675-1710: or visit the PARC website at: <http://www.qsl.net/k7jar/>