



**IDAHO MONANA NET (IMN)
3572 KHZ Daily – 0300Z
December, 2013**

IMN Web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/imn/imn.html>

Net Manager – Terry, WB6N
Newsletter Editor – Yrs. Trooly (Ed, AI7H)

IMN for November: Sessions 30, QNI 398 QTC 19

NCS and Liaison to Other Nets

Day	NCS	RN7	MTN	FARM
SUN	W7VPK	AI7H	W7VPK	AI7H
MON	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N
TUE	AI7H	AI7H	W7VPK	AI7H
WED	W7EKB	W7EKB	W7EKB	W7EKB
THU	W7VPK	WB6N	W7VPK	W7VPK
FRI	AI7H	AI7H	KA7YYR	AI7H
SAT	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N

Report on the Multi-State Simulated Emergency Test

As previously reported, ARES/RACES units in several northwestern states participated in SET 2013, titled “Hack Attack” (a simulated attack by unknown intruders on all sorts of internet capabilities, principally in Oregon), way back on November 2. The organizers are still going over the After-Action reports, but we do think that the “County Participation Count” was as follows: OR-30; ID-14; WA-6; CA-5; and NV-2 (with numbers subject to correction, of course). We re-learned a lot of things (like how it is incredibly slow to send message traffic via voice nets; how 40M SSB is the pits in morning hours because of Asian broadcast station interference; how five or six hours is a long time to continuously sit at a single operator station; and how all of the emergency communications machinery needs regular oiling). We’re guessing that there will be more of these multi-state exercises, and Yrs Trooly continues to lobby for more NTS involvement.

News From Around the Net

IMN’er goes on Depedition!

This just in from Bob Church (K7YB). Direct from the horse’s mouth...
“The other half and I were out of country on our vacation to Belize Nov20-25 and absent from the airwaves here. This all started when I booked a villa next to the Caribbean on Ambergris Caye. San Pedro, Belize. After arranging the vacation I noticed there was a CW contest (CQ

WWDX) scheduled during our stay. Well, a good contest should never get in the way of time off (or should a vacation never get in the way of a contest?) The planning began back in September and I filed for my Belize ham ticket (V31YB). Next I needed a lighter power supply as the Astron 20 was HEAVY! On my doorstep shortly thereafter was a switching power supply from Astron which received a quick bench check for RF hash (NONE) on the HF bands. That was quickly followed by an Off Center Fed Dipole and 100 ft of coax. The Yaesu FT-857 developed some problems that need attention, so the trusty (and Heavier!) IC-756 Pro II was pressed into service. I managed to pack it all into the carry-on luggage with headphones, paddles, straight key, power supply, coax and microphone. The carry-on luggage route for the equipment seemed to be the best, instead of trusting my equipment to the ramp monkeys. Clothing etc went in another carry-on my other half had plus the suitcase with more clothes as checked baggage.

We landed in Belize City after a day long trip through Atlanta and got a short hop out to San Pedro, Ambergris Caye. Alas, Delta managed to lose the main piece of luggage with clothes and TOOLS. It did arrive the next day early in the evening and I got some assistance from the Caribbean Villa Hotel maintenance guy with stringing up the dipole. One end attached to the roofline about 25 feet up and the other in a palm tree 10 feet off the ground. Coax and power were applied and SWR checked and I was ready. Signals were GREAT on 40-20-10 (the bands covered by the OCFD)...and into the maelstrom I plunged!

Shortly after getting on the air in the contest, I realized the call sign was a bear to send accurately in a hurry. And my 18 wpm was not up to some of the speed demons in the contest. I was getting my head handed to me in a big way! It took a day of operating to finally get the call out at a speed that was comfortable and with no repeats because of my errors. I've operated Field Day on CW and enjoy it, but some of these operators were FAST! I humbly continued on with my vacation DX operation and managed to get 110 contacts in the contest and create some short pile-ups there and on phone. My CW skills will get some much needed attention between now and the next CW contest.

Operating from another country and as DX in a contest was a great experience. I plan on doing it again. Great to be back."

And a longer Duration (but shorter distance) Expedition

Jim Voyles (K7JV) and YL Angie recently had the "migration urge", and reported in from Lake Havasu, AZ, while enroute to southern AZ. Jim reports that it was slow going for a while (they got into the recent snow storm), but they're doing well now. Also, Jim says he's somewhat challenged with only a small antenna on the motor home (although he has a nice signal in to IMN on a quiet evening). Also (during idle moments while basking in the desert sun), Jim is engineering a better stealth antenna for the home QTH, which will be a project for next spring.

Now, Back to “Hacking”

Everyone has heard of computer viruses, malware, and spyware, but this is something new, called “Crypto-Locker”. If this gets into your computer, it encrypts all of your user files (like e-mails, documents, pictures, etc.) and then asks for a “ransom” to restore them. IMN “Regular” Jim Harvey (W7YV) passed along some information, which we’ll repeat here:

Read the story on this first link (from KSL's Bill Gephardt):

http://www.ksl.com/?sid=27682515&nid=148&s_cid=rss-extlink

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CryptoLocker>

<http://www.ibtimes.com/cryptolocker-virus-infects-12000-computers-one-week-how-hackers-are-avoiding-detection-1473046>

Good set of threat avoidance and mitigation info here:

<http://www.us-cert.gov/ncas/alerts/TA13-309A>

How to Report Monthly Traffic (Station Activity Report, or “SAR”)

The following is provided by our Idaho Section Traffic Manager (and IMN Net Manager) Terry O’Keefe (WB6N):

Let’s all use the same format for our station activity reports. The categories may be condensed into one mixed group as follows, providing that you carefully observe the correct order of figures, and use a zero if no credit in a category:

[ORIG] / [RCVD] / [SENT] / [DLVD]

EXAMPLE SAR MESSAGE:

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NR 6 W3XYZ 7 SPARKS MD SEP 1
WB6N
AUGUST TRAFFIC 3/5/6/2 TOTAL 16
X 73
W3XYZ
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Not to over-think it, but here’s some additional info from Yrs Trooly: If your station handled any traffic (no matter what net), you should send a Station Activity Report (SAR) to your STM (you deserve the credit!) by the Fifth Day of the month. The STM rolls up all the SAR’s and forwards them to ARRL HQ by the Eighth Day of the month. The format is always exactly as shown above, so all you need to do is keep track of your Originated, Received, Sent, and Delivered messages each month, and plug them into the template. Yes you may also count any message that you Originate as “Sent”. (The QTC Information in the next paragraph is just the traffic that you sent on IMN during the past month).

QNI and QTC Information for November, 2013

(Includes 29 of 30 Net Days)

QNI: VE6ADM-13, K7BFL-7, WW6D-13, VE7DWG-19, KG7E-3, K7EK-4, W7EKB-4, KD7FAU-7, W7GB-10, W7GHT-16, AI7H-21, K9JM-11, K7JV-10, AL7KG-15, KE7LKW-7, NQ7L-3, AB7MP-7, WB6N-24, W6PAP-2, W7PKL-6, VA7QQ-5, N7RR-6, KM7SM-12, K7TM-9, W4TVI-10, WI7U-8, K7URU-18, K7VK-5, W7VPK-20, WA7WBY-19, WA7WYW-5, K7YB-4, W7YV-23, KA7YYR-26, VE6ZE-8, AB5ZA-11, VE7OM-4, KD7JZ-1, TOTAL = 398

QTC: AI7H-12, WB6N-3, W7VPK-2, W7GB-2, TOTAL = 19

Corrected QNI and QTC Information for October, 2013

(Includes 31 of 31 Net Days). QNI Total: 389, QTC Total: 29

Help Wanted!

We are always looking for additional Net Control Stations to help out at IMN. There are two possibilities – one, as an occasional relief operator, and two, as a “regular” NCS one evening per week. Plenty of free coaching and advice available if you’re interested. All Net Control operators are nervous when first starting out, but it soon becomes a rewarding experience. Please contact ai7h@arrl.net for complete details.

Address Corrections

Let us know if you change your e-mail address, and / or if you don’t wish to receive the IMN Newsletter any longer.

And a Holiday Greeting to All

We wish you a joyous holiday and a prosperous new year!

73 // Yrs Trooly – Ed, AI7H