



**IDAHO MONANA NET (IMN)**  
**3572 KHZ Daily – 0300Z**  
**January, 2014**

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

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

IMN for December: Sessions 31, QNI 448 QTC 30

### 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

### Memories of Bill Smith (W7GHT)

Dear IMN'ers and Friends,

Our net founder and long-time Section Traffic Manager Bill passed away on 12/05/13. We are repeating the very eloquent obituary which first appeared in the Idaho Statesman newspaper:



#### **William M. Smith 1922 ~ 2013**

William M. (Bill) Smith (age 91) passed away on December 5, 2013 at St. Luke's Hospital in Meridian, Idaho, after a short illness.

Bill was born October 17, 1922 in Moscow, Idaho. His parents were Earl B. and Pearl M. Smith. Early in his childhood the family moved to Boise. During his elementary school years he was to meet his future wife, Joyce E. Shroyer.

In school, Bill excelled in music, both trumpet and vocals. In addition to music, Bill developed a keen interest Amateur Radio. These interests would remain throughout his life. Bill's preferred mode of communication was Morse code. His first FCC amateur radio license (W7GHT) was issued in 1937 and signed by President Herbert Hoover - a fact in which Bill took great pride. Bill graduated from Boise High School in 1940 and entered the College of Idaho.

During World War II, Bill received a commission into the U.S. Army OSS. Because of his

proficiency with the Morse code, he was stationed in England and France to provide communications between Allied forces and the Free French. After the war, Bill returned to U of I College of Law, earning his degree 1952. Bill then returned to Boise to practice law and work for the Idaho Tax Commission.

Bill married Joyce Shroyer in 1959. Bill was active in civic activities in Boise including singing with the Boise Gleeman and playing with the Boise City band. Bill was also active in Boise's Masonic Lodge and the Miss Idaho Pageants.

In 1972 Bill was appointed as Magistrate Trial Court Administrator for Idaho's 2nd Judicial District. During his 15 years on the bench, Bill and Joyce made their home in Craigmont, Idaho. He retired in 1987 and returned to Boise in 1997 to be closer to family.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Joyce E. Shroyer, his brother, Gene C. Smith, and one son-in-law Dr. Theodore E. Keats. Survivors include daughters Becki Elliott (Michael) of Eagle, Idaho, Patt Hart Keats of Charlottesville, Virginia, and Kaaren Smith (Shikiah) Kaylor of Redmond, OR. Bill was "Papa Bill" to his grandchildren including Mike Goodrich of Boise, Idaho, Greg Goodrich (Paula Cook) of Caldwell, Idaho, Shelley Barrutia (John) of Boise, Idaho, Scott Elliott of Boise, Idaho, Dr. Matthew Keats, of Virginia Beach, Virginia, Ian Keats and Bradley Keats of Charlottesville, Virginia and Geoff Caylor (Virginia) of Portland, Oregon. 11 great grandchildren, 2 great-great grandchildren as well as 2 nieces and a nephew survive Bill.

Throughout his life, Bill maintained his devotion to his hobby - Ham Radio. Bill was a member and officer in many Ham Radio organizations - both on a local and national level. One of his most outstanding achievements was the formation of the National Traffic System, to move messages during times of disaster. He received numerous Ham Radio achievement awards, not the least of which was having Worked All U.S. Counties by Morse code. Until 2012, Bill remained active instructing and licensing new Hams into the hobby. The Ham Radio community will long recognize the callsign - W7GHT.

The family would like to express their profound gratitude to the doctors and nurses of St. Luke's - Meridian. We would like to especially thank the staff on the sixth floor for the wonderful care and compassion that they provided Bill in his final days.

At Bill's request, no formal funeral service will be held. His body will be cremated and interred at Cloverdale Memorial Garden, Boise, Idaho. In lieu of flowers, it is requested that donation be made to the Idaho Humane Shelter of Boise, ID.

To share memories with the family please visit William's memorial webpage at [www.cloverdalefuneral.com](http://www.cloverdalefuneral.com).

**Published in Idaho Statesman on Dec. 11, 2013**

I have received a large number of e-mails from fellow Amateur Radio operators who knew Bill, with content too vast to include in a year of newsletters. So, yrs. trooly has taken a small extract from that content (we guess it is all 100% accurate), and it is presented below, in no particular order:

There was a time a couple of years ago when Bill's keyer went on the fritz. He didn't have a straight key but was still on the air. When asked how he did it, Bill explained that he tuned up on SSB and used the mike button to key the rig!

Bill loved his Ten-Tec Omni rig and MFJ tuner. Normally he tuned up on the IMN frequency about 20 minutes before net time (just to make sure he had the best SWR). Net Control Stations could always hear (like a beacon) that brief tune-up, then “DE W7GHT AR”

In addition to being a traffic guy, Bill was an avid “County Hunter”, and had the “Worked all Counties” certificate (there are 3079 Counties in the US). In his younger days, Bill also mobiled to many Counties in Idaho and Washington, so that he could QSO fellow County Hunters who needed contacts in those Counties. (Many stories on this!). Some of the mobile business was team activity, Bill was the operator and his wife Joyce (but everyone called her “Oly”) was the driver. In earlier times, Bill did mobile CW with a Vibroplex bug, and explained to some admiring hams that the “dit” spacing changed, and “dah’s” could be shorter or longer when turning corners! Several correspondents reported that the car involved was an elderly Datsun, with several hundred thousand miles on the odometer.

Bill was our Section Traffic Manager (STM) in Idaho before there even was such a thing. The modern ARRL records show his “appointment date” was 01/01/1975, but that was when they transferred everything to a computer. He became the “Idaho Route Manager” (RM) in 1947 or 1948, when the “modern” National Traffic System was organized. Bill asked to be relieved as STM in 2011, but we asked if he would stay on as “STM emeritus”, and he agreed. So we guess his term of service was about 64 years!

Bill was originally licensed on May 15, 1937, at age 15, and received his call (W7GHT) “right out of the hopper”. He continued with that call for his entire life.

Although yrs trooly never QSO’ed with Bill on ‘Phone, we understand his phonetic for the call was “Whiskey Seven Great Horned Toad”. He was “Bill” to the ‘Phone guys, but “WM” to us on CW (“it’s shorter”, he said).

Bill was very active in training Traffic Handlers. One of the RN7 NCS told me that he still uses Bill’s e-mailed guidelines and script for running RN7 on his nights.

Bill also was quite involved in Ham Testing, and several IMN’ers (as well as other Idaho hams) have reported that he was one of the VE’s at their testing sessions.

Bill was the founder of the Idaho-Montana Net (IMN), which started up in April, 1970. He said there wasn’t enough traffic for individual state nets, so that’s how the IMN idea was decided upon. He also felt that it was important to have a newsletter, because net attendance would start falling off after a month or two if there was no “net news”.

He personally typed the monthly IMN newsletter, used a mimeograph machine to make copies, and mailed (at his own expense) the newsletter to all IMN’ers and several other interested parties. The newsletters were similar to today, with Bill’s sense of humor and intentionally terrible spelling. The oldest known newsletter is from April, 1991 (long before yrs trooly came to Idaho). Amazingly, seven hams on the current roster were on the roster back then!

Bill once mentioned that his first transmitter was a type 53 dual-triode tube, which used 2.5 volts for the filament, and 90 volts on the plates. He couldn't afford to buy new 90 volt batteries all the time, so he invested in a 90 volt "battery eliminator" that caused his signal to have a nice hum. He also saved up enough cash to buy a 3720 KC (remember when they called them Kilocycles?) crystal so he could participate on an area net (possibly the old "Gem Net").

Bill had been thinking about "downsizing" since about 2008, as his large home in Boise was getting to be too much to take care of. But he didn't actually make a move until July, 2010. At that time he told yrs trooly that he was going off the air, he didn't know for how long. To my astonishment he was back on the air the following evening. His report was: "The antenna goes out the window and straight up to the second story, then across the court to another second story. Dunno how many feet - but plenty. Loads up just fine on 80 and 75. Haven't tried other bands yet." (Guess he was bragging about the MFJ Antenna Tuner).

After he was there for about a year, he reported that "Things are OK here in the old folks home, at least I don't have to cook for myself".

There is an unconfirmed report that, once upon a time when he lived in Lewiston, ID, Bill lived very close to a church. The church installed a new audio system, and the next Sunday Bill (who was chasing DX at the time on 20M) had an amazing signal into that new audio system, thereby introducing the entire congregation to ham radio.

A number of hams reported that Bill helped them achieve WAS by giving them an Idaho QSO (Idaho being a "rare" state), and one reported that he received his 5-band WAS certificate after working W7GHT on all five bands. Bill (of course) held 5-band WAS certificates for both phone and CW.

The "modern" National Traffic System was envisioned by ARRL to be organized by time zone, so there would be Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific zones. Bill and other hams in the Mountain zone objected to this for a number of reasons (much of it had to do with propagation). Bill strongly lobbied George Hart (who was the NTS "heavy" at the time), and eventually convinced George and HQ that NTS would be better served by Eastern, Central, and Pacific Zones. The reason for this short story is that, because of his outstanding public service over SIX decades, Bill was one of the three inaugural George Hart Distinguished Service Award winners, in 2010. Bill was also awarded a Presidential Volunteer Service Award, and was the first ham elected to the Idaho Amateur Radio Hall of Fame.

And on top of that, he had enough time to have a family and work a day job!