



**IDAHO MONANA NET (IMN)  
3572 KHZ Daily – 0245Z  
April, 2017**

IMN Web: [www.felge.us/imn/imn.html](http://www.felge.us/imn/imn.html)

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IMN for March: Sessions 31, QNI 304, QTC 37

**NCS and Liaison to Other Nets**

Day	NCS	RN7	MTN	FARM	NWTN
SUN	W7XT	W7XT	W7XT	W7XT	AI7H
MON	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N	AI7H
TUE	AI7H	AI7H	AI7H	AI7H	AI7H
WED	W7XT	W7XT	W7XT	W7XT	AI7H
THU	WB6N	WB6N	W7XT	WB6N	AI7H
FRI	AI7H	AI7H	KA7YYR	AI7H	AI7H
SAT	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N	AI7H

**The ARRL and Costs / Benefits**

As most of our readers know, the ARRL is a membership organization for Amateur Radio operators, like Costco is a membership organization for shoppers, or AARP is a membership organization for old people. In each case, “you don’t have to belong, but there are a lot of benefits if you do”. The ARRL has taken a lot of heat recently because dues were increased from \$39/year to \$49/year. (It’s “cheaper” to buy membership in 3-year blocks, \$140/3 years – or a lifetime membership {if you plan on living long enough} for \$1,225). The prices just mentioned are for our IMN’ers located in the US. Prices are somewhat higher in Canada. Yes, the ARRL could have done a better job of managing this by making two or three price increases over shorter periods of time, rather than waiting 15 years to raise the dues.

But the point of this article is about the benefits. The most visible benefit is the *QST* Magazine, which has been in continuous publication since 1920. While some of us are pack-rats and keep tons of old *QST* issues (my oldest is from September 1945), an excellent benefit is the *QST* online version, and the “ARRL Periodicals Online Search”. Go to [www.arrl.org/qst](http://www.arrl.org/qst) to “kick the tires” on getting *QST* online and/or viewing old articles. (Sadly the online search feature does not include musty smells or coffee stains).

A second ARRL Membership benefit is “Forums”. While online forums abound, the ARRL Forum might give a good second opinion on what (almost everything ham-related) you are researching. There are currently about 1,800 topics and 5,400 comments in the ARRL Forum. See [www.arrl.org/forum](http://www.arrl.org/forum) for details on this.

## **Items For Your Planning Calendar (and an Oops!)**

The Idaho State ARRL Convention, Boise, ID 04/21/17 to 04/23/17. The “biggest” day will be Saturday 04/22. Now for the (Oops), your editor listed the wrong website for this event in last month’s newsletter. The correct website is: [www.idahostateconvention.com](http://www.idahostateconvention.com)  
Hope to see some of you there!

## **The Idaho QSO Party and (Lack of) Propagation**

The Idaho QSO Party (IDQP) took place over the weekend of March 11-12 this year. The number one complaint was “Where were the Idaho stations?” While this year was probably the worst in the past five or six, we still had 88 logs received at press time. Not too much DX this year, as 20 Meters was the only “high” band open. (As an aside, your editor had the pleasure of working OM2VL {Slovak Republic} on both 20 and 40M during the event. OM Leslie is a County hunter and has worked 40 of 44 Idaho Counties. He comes around most years as one of our regular DX contacts during IDQP).

## **Latest News On Amateur Radio Parity Act**

No change since last month. The Senate has bigger fish to fry. It’s still there.

## **Propagation Updates**

Old news: The first sunspot of Cycle 25 was reported in December, but did not reappear in January. From talking with “experts” in this area, my understanding is that there can be both “old” and “new” sunspots present on the Sun during the Solar Minimum. (But they weren’t able to explain to me in civilian terms how one can tell the difference).

You might look at these “aids” (yes, one must look at them a few times to get the hang of it):

[www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/space-weather-enthusiasts](http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/communities/space-weather-enthusiasts)

This one (above) helps you view the “solar wind” and things happening on the sun.

[www.lightningmaps.org](http://www.lightningmaps.org)

This one is helpful to check where all that QRN is coming from.

## **Help Wanted!**

We really could use one or two additional net control stations for IMN. If you’re interested, please contact Net Manager Terry (WB6N) or yrs trooly, we’ll be happy to explain the benefits!

## **News From Around the Net (Sometimes Known as the “Bull Sh e e t”)**

Vick (K7VK) is one of our snowbirds. He is normally the last to leave and the first to come back in Spring. We understand he was in AZ “avoiding sunburn” in late February, and he is now wearing it off back in MT.

And Jim (K7JV) reported that he was having a bout of “wannagetbacktoldahofever” in early March, but a weather report from Boise cured it. Bet he’ll be back in early April.

Bob (K7TM) reported (from Casa Grande, AZ) that QRN can be awful in RV parks. He and YL Vonnie (WA7YEI) were headed on to Benson, AZ, and the RV park there claims to have a ham shack and an astronomical observatory! He has also just returned home from snowbirding.

Net Manager Terry (WB6N) recently suffered a serious antenna droop because of heavy wet snow and ice. Fortunately he was able to hike out there with the aid of snowshoes, and get things back together within a couple of days. We understand it took another two days for his feet to warm back to normal.

Mark (AB7MP) also got his antenna back up "less five feet". It seems that a section of his center support mast has enough of a warp that it cannot be extended (thanks to a previous encounter with a falling tree branch).

The two above independently reported that winter antenna parties are *the most* fun.

## **Humor Division**

Not much room this month, will provide a couple of "Daffy-Nitions":

Offshore Drilling: When sailors practice marching exercises on an aircraft carrier, while at sea.

Turf War: When customers argue about who gets the last roll of sod down at the plant nursery.

## **March QNI and QTC (30 of 31 days in at press time)**

QNI: VE6ADM-2, AC7AF-5, VE6AWI-24, K7BFL-6, WW6D-12, W7EKB-2, KA7FTP-25, W7GB-10, AI7H-24, K7IRA-1, W7IZ-1, K7JV-4, AL7KG-4, AB7MP-4, WB6N-26, W6PAP-3, W7PKL-4, KF7QNS-5, VA7QQ-23, W7SAG-18, VE5SDH-2, KM7SM-8, K7TM-1, W4TVI-8, WI7U-3, K7URU-11, W5UYH-15, K7VK-3, W7VPK-1, W7XT-15, KA7YYR-26, AB5ZA-9, total 304

QTC: W7EKB-12, AI7H-11, WB6N-2, W7XT-11, KM7SM-1, total 37

## **Newsletter Contributions Welcome!**

If you have an interesting news story, or some reportable activity (ham or otherwise) is happening at your QTH, please send it in and we'll share with all in our newsletter family.

73 // Yrs Trooly – Ed, AI7H