



IDAHO MONANA NET (IMN)
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May, 2017

IMN Web: www.felge.us/imn/imn.html

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

IMN for April: Sessions 30, QNI 311, QTC 29

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	VA7QQ	WB6N	W7XT	WB6N	AI7H
FRI	AI7H	AI7H	KA7YYR	AI7H	AI7H
SAT	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N	AI7H

The Idaho State Convention (sometimes known as the Boise Hamfest)

The weekend of 04/21 – 23 yrs trooly and XYL attended the Idaho State Convention, very interesting, hectic, fun. (So much convention, so little time...). Had an opportunity to meet IMN'er John (W7SAG) who was not only an attendee, but the event treasurer. Also had dinner with Jim (W4TVI) but it was a huge table and we had to shout across. Otis (KM7SM) was there but I missed him. There was an interesting "Last Man Standing" CW Contest sponsored by the Magic Valley ARC, and participants included KM7SM and W7SAG, who won third place for copying 25 wpm. Yrs trooly was not able to participate because of other convention activities, but was able to copy some of the proceedings from out in the hall. Plenty of other stuff going on as well, it's always fun to see the strange things that hams are buying and selling at the tailgate party!

The 2017 Solar Eclipse

One thing widely discussed at the Idaho State Convention was the upcoming Eclipse of the Sun. This will be the first eclipse that has swept across the continental United States since 1918. The eclipse path will cross central Oregon and southern Idaho, and all hotels and RV parks in the affected area are fully booked. It is understood (not verified) that all renters of porta-potties are also sold out. The eclipse event will take place on Monday 08/21/17. Here is an online link: www.eclipse2017.org There is plenty of info there, including a map of the sweep area. Some or all of AB, BC, WA, OR, ID, MT, WY, UT will experience at least a partial eclipse, and EYE Protection is very important if you look "at" the sun at all. You can buy them online at the web site above, also you may be able to get them from your eye doctor. We'll keep you updated if and when we receive additional information.

New Net Control Station

We welcome Al (officially Allen), VA7QQ as our IMN NCS for Thursdays, beginning in May. Al has been an IMN'er for so long he is an honorary "Idahoan", even though his QTH is Penticton, British Columbia. (If you are geographically challenged, BC and ID have a common border).

Upcoming Amateur Radio Events

Save the date: ARRL Northwestern Division Convention (aka Sea-Pac) will take place 06/02 – 06/04, in Seaside OR. W7XT and AI7H will be there, hope to meet a few other IMN'ers on site.

Latest News On Amateur Radio Parity Act

Same story as last month. (Nothing).

Lightning Protection Reminder

All of us who live in the western US and Canada have it "pretty easy" regarding thunderstorms, with only 5 to 30 "thunderstorm days" per year, according to NOAA. But yrs trooly has already abandoned the shack on three occasions during 2017 when thunder was heard. General rules for lightning protection:

- 1) "Keep Lightning Outside" – (good grounding with a common ground point)
- 2) Have an equipment disconnect scheme (when you shut down, disconnect antennas)
- 3) Stay out of the shack during a thunderstorm.

Getting a "complete" protection program together takes a while (your editor is now eight years into the six-month project here), but well worthwhile.

As mentioned last month, here are a couple of "aids" to get an idea of where lightning is at:

www.lightningmaps.org

This one has quite a few bells and whistles, and you can zoom in on your local area.

<http://thunderstorm.vaisala.com/explorer.html>

This one is nice because it is so simple.

News From Around the Net (Sometimes Known as the "Bull Sh e e t")

Net Manager Terry (WB6N) reports that he and XYL Dianne will be traveling to CA for a few days in May to attend the college graduation of a grand-daughter! Congrats, Terry!!

Otis (KM7SM) has been warming up as a relief IMN NCS for some time. (Secretly, this is because Otis is also a car nut, and likes to tune up the IMN Staff Car). Otis will be our host NCS one day during Terry's absence.

RN7 Net Manager Scott (W7IZ) is on a ham radio equipment distribution and resupply mission. This involved transfer of some WW2 goodies from somewhere in OR to W7EKB in ID, then a trip back east for fresh boat anchors. It's good to replenish the boat anchor gene pool!

Humor Division

It is a “known fact” that Benjamin Franklin used a straight key during his lightning and kite experiment.

Alternative Definition: “OCD” means Over Compensating Dude.

The new trampoline park only accepts cash because someone wrote them a check and it bounced.

Idea for beating the winter-time blues – make recordings from the Weather Channel during the summer, then re-play them during bad weather next winter.

April QNI and QTC (28 of 30 days in at press time)

QNI: VE6ADM-7, AC7AF-7, VE6AWI-22, K7BFL-8, WW6D-6, W7EKB-2, KA7FTP-23, W7GB-9, AI7H-21, W7IZ-1, K7JV-8, AL7KG-2, KE7LKW-3, AB7MP-6, WB6N-22, W6PAP-2, W7PKL-5, KF7QNS-5, VA7QQ-14, N7RR-1, W7SAG-22, VE5SDH-6, KM7SM-9, K7TM-11, W4TVI-8, WI7U-2, KE7UUJ-2, W5UYH-20, K7VK-9, W7XT-14, KA7YYR-20, AB5ZA-14, total 311

States/Provinces represented include: AB, BC, CA, ID, MT, OR, SK, UT, WA, WY. Not bad for a “little Section Net”!

QTC: W7EKB-3, AI7H-8, W7XT-18, total 29

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