



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

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

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

IMN for September: Sessions 30, QNI 382, 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

Idaho Amateur Radio Simulated Emergency Test (SET) 2017

About the SET

The SET is an annual exercise sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). As implied in the name, the SET is a simulation of some sort of emergency, designed to test various aspects of the communication capability of various Amateur Radio groups, including the “National Traffic System” and “Radio Relay International”. The SET typically takes place in each ARRL “Section” (in our case, Idaho). It’s a totally voluntary exercise, ARRL Sections and individual Amateur Radio operators may choose if they want to “play” (or not). Traditionally, the SET takes place sometime during the fourth quarter of the Calendar year, typically on a weekend. ARRL has a set of “rules” for running a SET (somewhat like an operating contest), but Sections may depart from that format, if desired. Since your newsletter editor also wears a hat as the “Section Manager” for Idaho, we do our own thing, as described below.

The SET in Idaho (tailored to IMN)

We have conducted these exercises for the past several years in the Idaho Section. The exercises have been “unique” (different every year), to test various aspects of emergency communication in our state. (Note: all IMN’ers are invited to play, no matter what state or province you call home). This year (2017) we have the following objectives:

1. To test “connectivity” from “Action Central” with other Amateur Radio operators.
2. To exercise our operators in the preparation and transmission of a message in the ARRL Radiogram format.
3. To evaluate the accuracy of messages transmitted by participants.

4. To simulate some bureaucracy (like following complicated instructions and completing an administrative activity) that might be encountered in an actual emergency communications situation.

Initial Contact for this SET (“Message One”)

Your editor will send a message to everyone on our IMN Calling list, asking if they wish to participate in Idaho SET 2017. After we have a list in hand of those who wish to participate, we will send a second message that gives specific instructions on your “task assignment”

What will be in the Second Message (“Message Two”)

Each participant will receive a second e-mail, containing a “fairly easy” unique question (may not be related to Amateur Radio), and a unique code phrase. Your answer to the question and a repeat-back of the Code Phrase (in ARRL Radiogram Format) will be used to evaluate how everyone did on navigating the bureaucracy and following instructions. We’ll also include a link to the “standard” ARRL radiogram format, and a suggested content of your reply message.

Final Details

Everyone is encouraged to bring your message to IMN for transmission, but if you’re not comfortable over-the-air, you may submit your reply to message two via e-mail. (We’re concentrating on content, not delivery method). All IMN’ers are encouraged to participate, no matter where you live. And the SET event period is “anytime in October”, so you don’t need to be present on a specific date. Hope you can join us for Idaho Amateur Radio SET 2017!

Digital Noise on Net Frequencies

Well of course we don’t “own” frequencies, but it seems like some in the digital crowd are descending farther into the “traditional CW zone”. If it seems that a digi station is “camped” on 3572 Khz, NCS will normally try to lead the IMN gang UP one Khz to avoid interference.

Solar Storms and Stuff!

The Solar Eclipse of August was pretty mild compared with the recent Solar Storms and resulting “geomagnetic activity”. That translates to strange and sometimes awful band conditions for us regular earthlings who are into “low band short wave radio”. Most of this has apparently been caused by two large sunspots that have been launching Coronal Mass Ejections (CME’s) and it takes quite a while for the situation to settle down. (Better recently, fingers still crossed!)

But Still Good Propagation (Sometimes)

As the Crow Flies Distances from IMN’ers to the QTH of Yrs trooly:

WW6D – 704 miles
VE5SDH – 600 miles
AC7AF – 570 miles
KA7FTP – 542 miles

Your editor hears these “long haul” stations quite regularly, with quite good signals. Of course this analysis is not scientific since we did not monitor every evening of the month, stations mentioned may have (or not) been available each evening, and the distances were found on the internet where everything is known to be true.

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

IMN regular Otis (KM7SM) says his “day job” has put him back on swing shift, but he no longer needs to wear a space suit for work. Otis (during “free time”) has also completed installing a rebuilt engine in his Amateur Radio Mobile/Portable Platform (aka an elderly Jeep). He has a Yaesu aboard and ready to go to work. AND Otis is saving box tops for a new Collins filter for his shack rig.

Idaho Section Traffic Manager and IMN Net Manager Terry (WB6N) is getting ahead of the fall antenna farming season and has spent recent days relocating his antenna farm. Terry says the new location seems to provide quieter reception, and his transmit signal sounds real good!

Humor Division

Daffy – nition: Emulate – ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ (hint: read it out loud)

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

QNI: VE6ADM-2, AC7AF-4, W7ASA-4, VE6AWI-26, K7BFL-10, WW6D-10, KA7FTP-26, W7GB-10, AI7H-28, K9JM-22, K7JV-7, KE7LKW-13, AB7MP-7, WB6N-22, W6PAP-2, W7PKL-7, KF7QNS-15, VA7QQ-17, W7SAG-21, W7SBE-1, VE5SDH-13, KM7SM-13, K7TM-4, W4TVI-9, WI7U-1, K7URU-28, KE7UUJ-2, W5UYH-16, K7VK-5, W7XT-10, KA7YYR-20, AB5ZA-7, total 382

QTC: AI7H-14, WB6N-6, W7XT-5, VA7QQ-2, KM7SM-1, VE6AWI-1, 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