



**IDAHO MONANA NET (IMN)
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IMN Web: www.felge.us/imn/imn.html

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IMN for January: Sessions 31, QNI 304, QTC 10

NCS and Liaison to Other Nets

Day	NCS	RN7	MTN	FARM	NWTN
SUN	W7XT	W7XT	KF7QNS	W7XT	AI7H
MON	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N	AI7H
TUE	AI7H	AI7H	AI7H	AI7H	AI7H
WED	W7XT	W7XT	KF7QNS	W7XT	AI7H
THU	VA7QQ	WB6N	K7ONI	WB6N	AI7H
FRI	AI7H	AI7H	KA7YYR	AI7H	AI7H
SAT	WB6N	WB6N	KA7YYR	WB6N	AI7H

Another Change to QNB List

We're pleased to announce that Leo (K7ONI) has taken on the QNB from Montana Traffic Net (MTN) on Thursdays. Leo (like many of us) is a ham "retread", who was a ham way back when, then had the normal "life gets in the way" adult life. He made his way back into ham radio after retiring from the day job in 2011, and "voila!" (Snoop his QRZ bio, very nice). Welcome back to IMN and thanks, Leo!

The "International Grid Chase"

You might be interested in this year-long event. If you use the Log Book of The World (LOTW) you are already participating. Here is a link to a complete explanation of how it works: <http://www.arrl.org/international-grid-chase-2018>

Band Conditions (Still Awful, ver 3.0)

The latest on "propagation aids": The internet links discussed below show world maps with "highest frequency" contour lines. "Highest frequency" in this context means (sort of), the highest frequency one could shoot a radio wave straight up and have it bounce back down. (Since most of us are fairly short-haul on IMN, this type of map is (sort of) useful). <http://www.spacew.com/www/fof2.html> is back on the air. It automatically updates every five minutes or so. This one is quite "generous" in that band conditions are frequently not as good as what is shown on the map. From Australia, http://www.sws.bom.gov.au/HF_Systems/6/5 shows about the same information. The drawbacks to this one are that it's map is centered on

Australia, so North America looks out of proportion (but perfectly viewable). “SWS” is more “strict”, in that it usually show band conditions worse than “FoF2”. These both take a while to master, both by comparing them side-by-side, and by viewing regularly for a month or so. In your editor’s experience, the two aids never agree, but they both indicate that 80M conditions are improving since about Mid-December (fingers crossed). We’d love to hear from anyone who has another favorite propagation aid, always good to have this kind of stuff in the radio tool box. The good news: We’re almost half way through “winter”, looking toward better FoF2 in the next couple months!

More on the 600 Meter Project

As mentioned last month, your editor has begun to lay out a “600 Meter” station (per the new FCC allocation of 472-479 Khz). The “VFO” will be an elderly but elegant Navy “LM-13 Frequency Measuring Equipment”, which has a signal generator with a low-band capable of 195-400 Khz. This machine began life in 1942 or 1943, was retired from Navy service at the end of WW-II, then passed through an unknown number of Amateur Radio operator hands. The bad news – the nameplate has been removed, and the “calibration book” does not have a serial number. The good news – after 75 years, it works like new! Your editor built a junk-box power supply that included silicon diodes of unknown heritage, and they went ‘poof’ after a week – so the old-fashioned “smoke test” lives on! This three-month project is looking more like five years all the time!

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

IMN Senior Staff Snowbird Jim (K7JV) and XYL Angie continue their winter task from Yuma, AZ. Jim mentioned that the average coldest day of the year at his home QTH in Boise, ID is January 1, with a normal low of 22F and a normal high of 36F. (To contrast and compare, as we write this newsletter the low in Yuma is 53F and the high is 82F). A tough job, but somebody’s gotta do it!

Speaking of January 1, IMN regular Mark (AB7MP) sent a note talking about Straight Key Night (SKN), an informal event organized by ARRL to encourage new hams to try their CW skills plus give us “more experienced” guys an opportunity to see how bad we have gotten on a straight key. Anyway, Mark mentioned that he made his first QSO (as a newly licensed Novice, WB1GCX) on 01/01/78. (Gosh, that was 40 years ago!). The first QSO was with his Elmer, Earl Smith (W1BML), who had also administered Mark’s Novice test. (Mark has his QSL card from that first QSO and says that he gets it out and puts it on the desk on SKN)!

Humor Division

Normally we avoid any humor that might be considered “inappropriate”, but this was just too cute:

Amish - A fifteen-year old Amish boy and his father went to visit the city and arrived at a shopping mall. They were amazed by almost everything they saw, but especially by two shiny, silver walls that could move apart and then slide back together again.

The boy asked, "What is this, Father?"

The father (never having seen an elevator) responded, "Son, I have never seen anything like this in my life, I don't know what it is."

While the boy and his father were watching in amazement, a fat old lady in a wheel chair moved up to the moving walls and pressed a button. The walls opened, and the lady rolled between them into a small room. The walls closed, and the boy and his father watched the small numbers above the walls light up sequentially.. They continued to watch until it reached the last number, and then the numbers began to light in the reverse order. Finally the walls opened up again and a gorgeous 24-year-old blond stepped out.

The father, not taking his eyes off the young woman, said quietly to his son: "Go get your Mother".

And your free "playing with words" commentary:

What do you call a prehistoric reptile with an extensive vocabulary? A thesaurus

What does a thesaurus eat for breakfast? A synonym roll.

I just bought a thesaurus, and when I looked, all the pages were blank. I have no words to describe how disappointed I am.

December QNI and QTC (31 of 31 days in at press time)

QNI: VE6ADM-10, AC7AF-2, VE6AWI-21, K7BFL-7, KA7FTP-17, W7GB-11, AI7H-24, W7IZ-1, K9JM-29, K7JV-4, W7KXB-2, AB7MP-3, WB6N-22, KF7ONI-1, W6PAP-2, W7PKL-3, KF7QNS-21, VA7QQ-12, W7SAG-16, VE5SDH-5, KM7SM-2, K7TM-15, W4TVI-8, WI7U-1, K7URU-11, W5UYH-14, K7VK-5, W7XT-9, KA7YYR-23, AB5ZA-3, total 304

QTC: AI7H-8, W7XT-2, total 10

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