



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

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IMN for March: Sessions 31, QNI 309, QTC 25

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 |

Gale Conard (W7VPK), SK

We sadly share the news that Gale (W7VPK) became a Silent Key in early March, at age 81. Gale was an IMN regular for a number of years, and also acted as a NCS and liaison until a family illness required him to step down in 2016. Gale was a ham's ham, involved in a lot of experimentation with QRP, receiver circuits, and antennas (including tower climbing). Gale once told me that he had an awful time with soldering. When I asked "why is that", he said "because I'm blind". (Go back and read the sentence about "ham's ham")! Gale had been blind since birth and said that the challenge didn't hold him back too much. RIP, Gale!

Report From Doug Bender (WW6D)

Fellow IMN'ers may recall that Doug and family lost their home and contents in the wildfire that destroyed a good part of Santa Rosa, CA last fall. Doug reports that they have re-settled in a condo (with antenna restrictions, of course), but he has been listening to IMN via software-defined radio (SDR). Link: <http://websdr.org/> (note: this one takes a while to load up). Doug selected a receiver site at Half Moon Bay, CA, and says copy on IMN is quite good at least part of the time. Doug also sends compliments to Helen (KF7QNS), our newest NCS, and remarks that she is indeed a 'smooth operator'!

Idaho QSO Party (Old Business)

As mentioned last month, the Idaho QSO Party took place on 03/10 and 03/11. We were concerned about participation because of band conditions, but are pleased to report that 89 logs have been received, only two less than the previous year!

More on the 600 Meter Project (Oh My!)

Actually had a couple of nice days so went out to look things over at the antenna farm. Since a wire dipole would be almost 1000 feet long, and should be about 500 feet high to “work right”, that design has been retired. Now looking at using the (puny) 160 Meter vertical with a big loading coil at the base. First calculation on the coil looks like around 70 turns on a five-gallon bucket. We may be able to send a signal as far as the edge of the yard with this antenna.

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

IMN Regular Dick (W7XT) reports that his right arm is plumb worn out (hopefully not from brass-pounding), and he will be enduring some surgery to have it fixed. His surgery will require having the repaired arm in a sling, secured to his chest, for several weeks (no cheating allowed). Dick says he’s experimenting with left-handed keying (the Q-signal is “QLH”), and some of us have encouraged him to practice keying with the left foot (“QLF”) since the weather will be warmer and the foot could be out for fresh air. Dick is putting up with the helpful suggestions (so far).

IMN’er Wayne (AB5ZA/7) reports that his day job has taken him to Anaconda, MT and he’s experiencing some Murphy Law. Wayne had some rig problems and is operating QRP CW while in Anaconda. Back at the ‘real’ ham shack in Butte, he has 80M capability and more power to work with.

IMN extreme southern outpost commander Jim (K7JV) is reported to be on the road, headed back to Boise, ID from Tucson, AZ with planned arrival in the first week of April. It will be good to hear Jim on the air from the home QTH after the lengthy deployment. (Tough job but somebody has to do it!)

Humor Division

Free joke supplied by another old mature ham (Harry, K7HK):

The lawyer says to the wealthy art collector and business tycoon: “I have some good news and I have some bad news...” The tycoon replies: “I’ve had an awful day, let’s hear the good news first”.

The lawyer says: “Well your wife invested \$5,000 in two pictures this week that she figures are worth a minimum of \$20 to \$30 million.”

The tycoon replies enthusiastically: “Well done...very good news indeed! You’ve just made my day; now what’s the bad news?”

The lawyer answers: “The pictures are of you with your secretary.”

Current Worst short jokes:

Snail Joke –

Two snails talked about how awful it is to be a snail, because it takes so long to get anywhere. One of them thought it would be really fun to own a car and get around quickly. He decided to splurge and buy a Jaguar model S. The second snail would assemble a number of other snails alongside the road to watch when his friend with the Jaguar passed by, and he would say “Look at that S-Car Go!”. (It helps to read out loud).

Three Legged Dog Joke –

The gnarled three-legged dog walked into the old-west saloon. He carefully looked at the patrons, then said (in a really loud voice), “OK, which one of yew shot my paw?”

Law Joke –

Everyone in the ham world knows all about Ohm’s law, but are you acquainted with Coles Law? It’s about thinly sliced cabbage. (Read it out loud and real fast).

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

QNI: VE6ADM-3, AC7AF-9, VE6AWI-27, K7BFL-5, KA7FTP-18,
W7GB-12, AI7H-24, K9JM-6, K7JV-4, AB7MP-4, WB6N-22,
W6PAP-4, KF7QNS-27, VA7QQ-7, W7SAG-22, VE5SDH-14, KM7SM-2,
K7TM-17, W4TVI-6, K7URU-28, W5UYH-12, W7XT-11, KA7YYR-24,
AB5ZA-1, total 309

QTC: AI7H-11, WB6N-8, VA7QQ-1, W7XT-5, total 25

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