



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

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IMN for October: Sessions 31, QNI xxx, QTC xx

NCS and Liaison to Other Nets

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

Surely We Must Be Near the Bottom of the Sunspot Cycle (?)

During the month of September there were only three sunspots observed. This ties with the month at the bottom of the last Sunspot Cycle (Cycle 23). NOAA says that the cycle is ahead of the curve (their prediction was that Cycle 24 would hit bottom in January 2020). They also say that we shouldn't get too excited about Cycle 25, as it will be about the same as Cycle 24, with 95 to 130 sunspots, compared to an average maximum of 140 to 225. NOAA quietly admits that they have a lot to learn about solar cycle prediction, as we are only completing the third forecasting cycle (they started doing sunspot prediction in 1989).

The Band Plan Too-Doo (continuing forever?)

Turns out the band plan thing is in the hands of the FCC. There is talk of reducing the size of the SSB portion of the band (take away 50 khz at the bottom of the phone portion, so it would start at 3650 instead of 3600 khz), then allocate 3600 to 3650 to digital, particularly Automatically Controlled Digital Stations (ACDS), which would be a relief to us poor CW stations who never see them coming. There are several "RM's" (Request for Modification to FCC rules) in the works, particularly RM-11759. There are no set rules about how long (forever?) the FCC can take to make a decision, seems there are politics in their line of business also, so we'll just have to wait and see...

About Another Communication Service

Presumably all hams spend all their time on the ham bands. But then there is the Cable TV and Satellite TV business, and there has been a recent eruption of haggling between “content providers” (like local TV stations, as well as “networks” that don’t have local stations), occasionally ending up with the Cable and Satellite companies cutting off broadcasting of the “offending” service. A always wondered who-pays-who in the business, it turns out that the content providers charge the Cable and Satellite companies for the right to broadcast their valuable content (which of course gets included in our Cable / Satellite company bill). One possible answer is to go “over-the-air” like we hams do (in their lingo, it’s “cut the cable”). More on Over the Air (OTA) next paragraph.

Setting Up for Over the Air TV Reception

(It seems like just last week, but we all made the change-over from Analog to Digital service in 2010. It was supposed to be a big-bang event, but was actually strung out over several months in the various TV markets.)

If you used the OTA capability on your new Digital TV, one of the first activities was to do a “scan” (all Digital TV’s have this capability) to find all the channels available in your area. (If you used Cable or Satellite service, this was all taken care of in their translator box).

If you did the “scan” procedure back in 2010, you may need to do it again, as the FCC asked many TV stations around the country to change their frequencies back in mid-September. The TV stations retain their channel numbers, but the frequencies are not sequentially higher for higher-numbered channels.

If you would like plans for an easy-to-build digi TV antenna, drop me a note and I’ll send a copy and a picture.

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

Lead snowbird and IMN regular Jim (K7JV) and XYL Angie are set to launch for their usual winter visitation to NV and AZ. (Jim said it would precisely happen on 11/02). Readers will recall that engineer Jim has outfitted their mobile home with special antenna features that allow him (sometimes) to keep in contact with IMN and other HF friends when on the road. There was no report this year about how big the snowbird gang will be. Best wishes to Jim and Angie on their annual trek!

Great news from John (formerly known as W7SAG). John has captured the vanity call sign WJ7S, the J and S are the initials of his first and last name. Nicely done!

Humor Division

Nautical Joke

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? Answer: A nervous wreck.

Halloween / Thanksgiving Joke

What does the turkey do for Halloween? Answer: He's a goblin.

Cafeteria Joke

What do you call the back of a Cafeteria? Answer: Bacteria

October QNI and QTC (30 OF 30 DAYS IN AT PRESS TIME)

QNI: VE6ADM-13, VE6AWI-26, K7BFL-7, WW6D-17, KA7FTP-13,
W7GB-13, AI7H-20, K9JM-4, K7JV-4, AB7MP-6, WB6N-16,
W6PAP-4, KF7QNS-22, VA7QQ-21, W7SAG-7, KM7SM-15, K7URU-19,
W5UYH-13, K7VK-10, W7XT-3, KA7YYR-19, AB5ZA-12, W7ZIW-1,
total QNI 285

QTC: AI7H-16, VA7QQ-6, total QTC 22

Total Net Time: 272 Minutes (Average about 9 Min/Session)

Volunteers Always Needed

If you are interested in helping us out at IMN, we're all ears! A long list of interesting jobs is available. (For info, all staff members are in the same pay grade).

Address Corrections

Let us know if you change your e-mail address, and / or if you don't wish to receive the IMN Newsletter any longer.

73 // Yrs Trooly – Ed, AI7H

(Your interesting story or picture could appear HERE!) Send it if you got it!!