



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

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IMN for December: Sessions 31, QNI 217, QTC 11

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 |

The New Years Salutation:

Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year to all IMN'ers and friends who may happen upon this newsletter. Holidays are now over, get back to work!

Stuff You Probably Didn't Need to Know About "Years"

In these modern times, everyone uses a Calendar, although yours may be in your smart-phone or computer rather than on the refrigerator. And as "everyone" knows about leap-years, that happen every four years. (If you have not already checked, 2020 is a leap year).

For those of us who love "standards", the length of year has been standardized pretty much worldwide as 365.25 days. So we have three 365-day years in a row, then a "leap-year" of 366 days to catch up with those ¼ days that were previously skipped. (By the way, leap-years are celebrated on years ending in 00, then every four years after). The agreed-upon description of years in modern times is "Anno Domini" or AD for short. If one does not want to refer to Christianity, a common alternative description is "Common Era" or CE for short. So this year is 2020AD or 2020CE. And the International Standards Organization (ISO) wanted to get into the act, and "year" is in their International System of Quantities catalog (ISO 80000-3). Their symbol for year is "a" (annum), and the length of a year is simply 365 or 366 days.

Because the length of a year is not Exactly 365.25 days, an adjustment in leap years will be required sometime in the future (remember the "Y2K" thing?), but that adjustment date will be far beyond our lifetimes. Aren't you glad you learned how to speed-read?

A Note About Electrical Safety When Drilling or Putting Screws in Walls

Snowbird Jim (K7JV) sent in a report last month about a garage remodeling job gone wrong. Jim had a contractor install a "slat wall" (it's something like peg-board) on one side of his garage, but after the guy was gone he found that the garage door wouldn't close, freezer in the garage was inoperative, and the security people called to tell him the AC to his security system had gone out.

As a good ham (and electrical engineer in a past life), Jim carefully sleuthed the situation and determined that the contractor had driven a long screw into a stud, and the screw had penetrated the electrical wire in the stud and shorted the hot wire to the ground wire! Jim fashioned a work-around "for now" as the snowbird urge was extremely strong, but he will have to repair the situation when he returns next spring.

National electric code requires a "Nail Plate" over each electrical wire or plumbing pipe that runs 1.25 inch or less from the edge of the stud, but in this case the contractor must have used a longer screw.

If you have an opportunity to do remodeling in the future, use a 'wire tracer' (like a stud-finder) to locate electrical wires where you plan to drill, and if you're installing drywall, put a Nail Plate over every wire or pipe in the wall, no matter how deep. They're cheap (47 cents at Home Depot).

(Whew!)

More History of Vibroplex and "Similar" Keys

As our readers know, IMN Regular Otis (KM7SM) is an avid collector of things telegraph, coupled with thrift stores! Here is a reprint of info provided by Otis from a recent adventure:

Thrift Store Key Find

While browsing one of our local thrift stores I came across the remnant of a Simi-Automatic Telegraph Key. The most important part of the key, the Lever, was missing. I picked it up and thought it looked a little different than a Vibroplex, but it was the brass tag affixed to it that got my attention. It read as follows:

'THIS MACHINE IS LICENSED
BUT NOT GUARANTEED NOR MANUFACTURED BY

J E ALBRIGHT

253 BROADWAY, NEW YORK.

No. 102

WUTCo "

Delving into the internet, the following information was found on the web site "Radio Boulevard" by Henry Rogers WA7YBS/WHRM concerning this chrome treasure –

Horace Martin and J.E. Albright were in partnership with the Vibroplex Keys, holding all patents on the design of the now famous key. Max Levey of the ATOZ Elect. Novelty Co. made a blatant copy of the

Vibroplex design and called it "Improved Vibroplex". A patent battle erupted in March of 1914 and Martin/Albright won the infringement case against Levey. After the ruling, all "knock off" keys had to be licensed by Mr. Albright. Without this license, the user as well as the employer could be held liable for "unlicensed use". Mr. Albright sold the licenses for \$2.00 and a metal tag had to be affixed to the key in order to avoid threat of prosecution. The licenses were issued through 1914.

I must say that this fine piece of telegraph history will make an awesome paperweight in the shack to hold down Radiograms. // 73, Otis KM7SM

Otis even obtained permission from WA7YBS to reprint the info obtained from "Radio Boulevard". Thanks Otis, and keep the thrift store trail hot!

No Humor or Bull Sheet This Month

December QNI and QTC (30 OF 31 DAYS IN AT PRESS TIME)

QNI: VE6ADM-17, VE6AWI-20, K7BFL-7, WW6D-10, KA7FTP-19, W7GB-3, AI7H-13, K9JM-25, WJ7S-8, K7JV-9, WB6N-17, W6PAP-2, KF7QNS-18, VA7QQ-4, KM7SM-4, K7URU-6, W5UYH-9, K7VK-2, W7XT-8, KA7YYR-13, AB5ZA-5, total QNI 217

QTC: AI7H-8, WB7N-3, total QTC 11

Total Net Time: 206 Minutes (Average about 7 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!!