

Volume 2 | Issue 2  
February 27, 2019



# Sparks & Arcs

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*The purpose of the club is:*

*To promote interest in and the advancement of amateur radio, and electronics in general.*

*To promote a good relationship between American Legion members who are licensed radio amateurs and the public through public service activities.*

*To help interested person obtain an FCC Amateur Radio License and current Licensees to upgrade their licenses.*

The monthly newsletter for the Post 113 Amateur Radio Club N7LGN.

## Meeting Notes

Mike B7RWS did a presentation on how to build a J-pole antenna on the cheap with copper pipe. This is a fun project that is easy to do and a good project for beginners. Instructions for how to build one are on the DOWNLOADABLES page of our [N7LGN.ORG](http://N7LGN.ORG) website.

There are also directions on how to build a three-element Yagi antenna from PVC pipe and an old measuring tape. This antenna is easy and fun to build. It will be great for the upcoming fox hunt.

Thom WA7JUL was on hand to program handheld radios with the sixteen channels the club is using. The frequencies for the sixteen channels can be downloaded and printed from here: [Programmed Channel Frequencies](#)

Instructions for manually programming Baofeng radios is now on the DOWNLOADABLES page of the website. Although it is titled for the BF-F8HP, the instructions apply to the UV-5R as well.

The ISRA repeater on 146.94 owned by Larry Smith W7ZRQ has been having some problems. The antenna needs to be replaced. ISRA has contributed \$500. This covered the majority of the cost, but there was still a small shortfall. In appreciation for Larry and ISRA letting us use the repeater for our network, the club pledged \$50.00 to help out. Club members then quickly stood up and opened their wallets. We now have \$130.00 to contribute.

## Equipment

Chuck KD7QJU has generously donated a complete HF set to the club. All we will need to do is jack up the antenna, plug it in, and we'll be ready to go. Our many, many thanks and great appreciation go out to Chuck.

Rich W7BOI and Matt W7LGN have programmed the HT1000 handheld radios donated to the club by the city of Boise. Some were offered to club members for a nominal fee. The will go to the club treasury. Eleven radios sold immediately. Thank you all for stepping up.

Work on the radio shack in the Veterans Memorial Building is progressing. As soon as we can find a licensed electrician to do the wiring on the cheap (free is even better) things should progress rapidly.

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*To participate in activities involving or for amateur radio.*

*To be prepared to respond in cases of declared emergencies or disasters and to offer amateur radio communications where necessary.*

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## Network

We ask that club members (or non-club members for that matter) to please check in on the net Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.94. If you have never done it before, it's easy. Just check in with your call sign, name, and location. If you're not quite ready to talk on the radio, that's fine. Tune in and listen. You'll see just how easy and unintimidating it is.

We would like more people to be involved as a Net Control Station (NCS). It is very simple to do and takes virtually no time at all. Well, maybe a few minutes on a Thursday evening. If you have a license, can read, and press the PTT on your radio, then you qualify. You don't need fancy equipment. You just need to be able to reach the repeater on Schafer Butte. Hey, if I can do it... If you would like to give it a try, contact Rich W7BOI at [rjdees@aol.com](mailto:rjdees@aol.com). He will provide you with instructions and the script. It really is very easy. Don't worry. If you screw up, no biggie. We're here to have fun. We don't judge. Confucius said, "Many hands make light work." The more people we have, the more folks in the rotation and the fewer turns you'll have to take.

## Upcoming Events

There are several events coming up. Details will be posted on our website as the events firm up:

- N7LGN will be hosting a fox hunt in March or April. Date to be determined.
- Elmore County ARES will be hosting "A Day of Discovery" Stem-Fest/Talk-In on April 27<sup>th</sup> in Mt. Home. There is a link on the EVENTS & ACTIVITIES page of our website to the flyer.
- The Nampa VFW will hold an event on June 7 & 8. We will have a tent there for both the American Legion, and for N7LGN.
- Cert Training will be held June 25, 27, and 29 at the Veterans Memorial Building. Check the website calendar for times. Contact Rich W7BOI to sign up.
- General License Class training will begin in July after the new test material is published.
- There is an opportunity for the club to send Santa Grams via CW to Santa Clause for children this Christmas season.
- Rich W7BOI has offered to host a Morris Code class. Interest was very high. Details to follow.
- The club has been asked to participate in cooperation with other ham organizations in several events ranging from helping to provide communications for parades and the Gran Fondo bicycle race in Boise, to helping with security for Girls Sate.

## Meetings

We hold our monthly club meetings on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 1900. Meetings will be at the Veterans Memorial Building 22 W. Broadway, Meridian. All who are interested are welcome to attend.

## Membership

All American Legion Family members (Legion, SAL, and Auxiliary) are eligible. You need not be a member of Post 113 to join. You do not need to hold an FCC license to be a member. Non-Legion family members are welcome to join, but may not vote. This is a great activity for youth. So, if you know of someone who may be interested, bring them along. We'd love to meet them.

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## American Legion Post 113

We are always looking for stories, articles, and tips and tricks for the monthly newsletter. If you have something you would like to contribute, please send them to: [WA7JUL@gmail.com](mailto:WA7JUL@gmail.com)

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