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Sparks & Arcs

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

Once again we had a good turnout at our meeting on March 27.

Congratulations to Paul Taylor AG7TL for receiving his Extra Class License. Paul took all three exams in one sitting and passed them the first time. Way to go!

Mike WB7RWS did a presentation on a DIY Yagi antenna on the cheap with PVC and an old measuring tape. The plans are on the DOWNLOADABLES page of our website. These are highly recommended if you are going to participate in the upcoming fox hunt. This is a very easy project for beginners and costs about \$5.00 to build. There are also directions on how to build a J-pole antenna from copper pipe on that page. There is a link to an article about the Near Vertical Incidence Skywave on the ARTICLES page. We are considering this so we can communicate to Norther Idaho during emergencies.

N7LGN will host testing the 2nd Thursday of each month at the Veterans Memorial Building. Testing will begin promptly at 1830. Testing will be for all license classes.

If you are interested in becoming a Volunteer Examiner (VE), you can apply to the ARRL for certification. You do not need to be an ARRL member, but you must hold at least a General Class License.

Equipment

Matt WTLGN has purchased batteries for the HT1000 handhelds. If anyone would like to purchase a battery from him, he'll be ordering some more soon. If you would like one (or a couple), he's letting them go for cost. You may contact him at mosinmatt@gmail.com to put in your order.

Work on the radio shack in the Veterans Memorial Building is progressing. We are in the process of requesting bids for the electrical work. Hopefully we will find some kindhearted licensed electrician who would be eager to support Post 113 and the N7LGN ham club. More to come on that front.

The club decided that keys to the radio room should be limited so that access to the equipment can be controlled. By unanimous vote, President Matt Wrobel W7LGN, Trustee Rich Dees W7BOI, Membership/PR Chairman Thom Juul WA7JUL, and Technical Committee member Mike Cline WB7RWS will have keys

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.

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. All licensed hams are invited. If you're a newbie and have never done it before, it's easy. Just check in with your call sign, name, and location.

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 once in a while 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. 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 on April 20. Registration will start at 0800 at the Veterans Memorial Building. The fox hunt will commence at 0900. It will last for 2 ½ hours. We'll meet back at the start at 11:30 for pizza and awards. Entry fee is \$2.50 a head, \$5.00 per car. Entry fees are for a 50/50 drawing. Half to go to the drawing winner, the remainder to the club coffers. This will be a 2 meter hunt. Grab your compass, map, and Yagi and come join us for some fun.
- Elmore County ARES will be hosting "A Day of Discovery" Stem-Fest/Talk-In on April 27th 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 May with testing in July after the new test material is published. The training will be in three hour sessions over six weeks.
- There is an opportunity for the club to send Santa Grams via CW to Santa Clause for children this Christmas season. To accommodate this, Rich W7BOI will host a Morse Code class on April 12 and 23 at the Veterans Memorial Building in Meridian from 1900-2100 each day.
- 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.
- There will be a Field Day held on June 22-23. Announcements of club organizational meetings will be published. Rich W7BOI and Matt W7LGN are coordinating with Meridian City Hall to find a location to set up.

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.

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

Location: 22 W. Broadway
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