

Volume 2 | Issue 4  
April 24, 2019



# 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

The fox hunt was a real success. Four teams competed. First place went to the team of Steve N7BJX and Mike W7OSG. They received the highly valuable and much coveted Master Fox Hunter Trophy. They located the fox in two hours. Well done! The fox team was Bill N7OCV and Mike WD7RWS. They pulled some nasty tricks out of their fox hole to try and confuse everyone, but overall, not nasty enough, because they got found! Our next hunt will be on June 22. Check the website for details.

N7LGN will host testing for all license classes the second Thursday of each month. Testing will begin at 1830 at the Veterans Memorial Building 22 W Broadway, Meridian. If you take the test through us and pass, there will be significant club dues incentives.

If you would like to become 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.

The members present voted to host the IDQSO Party in March 2020. A committee will be formed to put it all together. On the Events & Activities page of our website, there is a button where you can download the PowerPoint presentation.

The members present voted to raise annual dues from \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for youth under age 18 to \$12.00/\$6.00, then prorate the dues based on the month that a new member joins. All memberships renew January 1<sup>st</sup> each year.

Rich W7BOI hosted a Morse Code class. Two members completed the class and are well on their way to becoming proficient. Rich will host another class for those who are interested.

## Equipment

Rich W7BOI gave a presentation of a Handy-Finder for locating signals, and Matt W7LGN showed his new directional antenna with attenuator. Rich also purchased a fox transmitter to be used during our next fox hunt.

Mike WB7RWS has a line on a super deal for solar panels. These panels are 37 volts, 8 amps. They would be ideal for charging backup batteries. Contact Mike at [wb7rws@gmail.com](mailto:wb7rws@gmail.com) for further details

Work on the radio room in the Veterans Memorial Building is progressing. We have received two bids for the electrical work. We are waiting for two more bids to come in, then we will decide on who will do the installation. More to come.

---

*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. If there are problems with that repeater, we will switch over to 147.380. For those having the club frequencies preprogrammed, that will be channel 13. 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. Some have hosted with their handheld radios. You just need to be able to reach the repeater on Schafer Butte. We would like to have enough operators so that Rich can do up a schedule. That way nobody gets stuck doing it every week. 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.

## Upcoming Events

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

- 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 May with testing in July after the new test material is published. The training will be in three hour sessions over six weeks.
- 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.
- Our next fox hunt will be held on June 15. Details will be posted on the website.
- 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](mailto:WA7JUL@gmail.com)

---

Location: 22 W. Broadway  
Meridian, ID 83680

<http://americanlegionpost113.com/ham-club/>

Mail: PO Box 113  
Meridian, ID 83480