

Volume 2 | Issue 7  
August 28, 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

We would like to welcome our newest member, Isaac Larsen. Isaac has just passed his technician exam and will receive his call sign shortly. Welcome Isaac!

We would like to remind all those who would like to join ARRL, or who want to renew their membership to please do so through the club.

ARRL is currently working with the FCC regarding the frequencies for digital communication. Right now the FCC proposal is to pack all the digital frequencies into the bottom of the bands. This will result in overcrowding. Being that this has been in the works for about three years, the chances of this being resolved in the near future are pretty remote.

If you would like to renew your ARRL membership, or join ARRL, we ask that you please do this through N7LGN. We receive a \$2.00 donation for each club renewal, and a \$15.00 donation for anyone joining ARRL through the N7LGN club. Application forms will be available on the Downloadables page on <https://n7lgn.org/>

The HF radio in the club radio room is up and running. It is available for use by all club members. If you hold a General or Extra license, contact Rich Dees, Thom Juul, or Mike Cline for access. If you hold a Technician license, you may use the HF radio, but you must be supervised by a General or Extra license holder. Contact Rich Dees or Mike Cline for access.

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.

During the last testing session, four applicants passed their tests.

Matt W7LGN researched having embroidered club patches made. He found that it would be too expensive. Thom WA7JUL will check on the cost of having patches printed.

CERT Training is complete with several of our members becoming CERT certified. The CERT team will meet during the Disaster Awareness Day activities at the post on September 28, 2019

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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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## Equipment

Work on the radio room in the Veterans Memorial Building is complete. The antennas have been installed and the HF system is up and running. We are still in need of a VHF/UHF radio. The receiver on the one we currently have is toast. If you have a spare VHF/UHF radio sitting around not doing anything, please consider donating it to the club. That is all we are needing to make our systems complete.

Negotiations are still in progress for the Canyon County Antenna Ordinance. The current proposal is that antennas may go up to 35 feet. Taller than that, and a conditional use permit would be required. That would incur a lot of time and expense levied upon the permit requester. That battle will probably be going on for some time. We'll keep you updated.

## Network

It looks like the antenna issues on the 147.940 repeater have been resolved. N7LGN members contributed funds to Larry Smith to help defray the cost of the new antenna. Installation is complete. The network is back on the air Thursday evenings at 1900 on 146.940. All club members are encouraged to check in. Non club members are also welcome to check in. We would love to hear from you.

We need more people to be involved as a Net Control Station (NCS). It is very simple to do and takes virtually no time at all. 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 147.940 repeater on Schafer Butte. 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

VE testing for all license classes is held at the Veterans Memorial Building the second Thursday of each month at 1830. All who wish to take their exam are welcome. Reservations are not required.

September 7: We will be teaming up with Boy Scout Troop 1 at the block party in Kleiner Park. However, the fox hunt that was scheduled is canceled. We found that this event was going to be extremely crowded and would not accommodate a hunt. We will plan a fox hunt for a future date.

September 28: Disaster Awareness Day will be hosted by Legion Post 113 from 1000-1600.

October 19: The Boy Scouts will host a Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) at the Gem Island Sports Complex in Emmett. We will have HF, VHF/UHF and D-Star systems set up for demonstration and use by attendees. All are welcome. Come out and support the scouts and N7LGN.

November: We will be hosting Santagram booths for the children. One will be setup at MSTI, and one at another location to be determined. Details to follow. Actual dates will be announced.

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## American Legion Post 113

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

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