

Volume 3 | Issue 1  
January 22, 2020



# 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 newsletter for the Post 113 Amateur Radio Club N7LGN

## Meeting Notes

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 available for use by all club members. If you hold a General or Extra Class license, contact Rich W7BOI, Thom WA7JUL, or Mike WB7RWS for access. If you hold a Technician Class license, you may use the HF radio, but you must be supervised by a General or Extra Class license holder. Contact Rich W7BOI, Thom WA7JUL, or Mike WB7RWS 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.

ARRL generously donated an Amateur Radio Handbook worth \$50.00 to our club. We held a free raffle for the book. Kip KJ7BZF was the lucky winner. Thank you ARRL.

Thom WA7JUL announced that there is now a QSL page on the N7LGN.ORG website. There is a contact form on that page for you to enter the specifics of any contacts you make. Thom will then post them on the page. If you know you are going to be on the air at a certain time and frequency and are looking for contacts, fill out the form with the particulars and Thom will post it. Our website has visitors from around the world, so the word will get out.

Matt W7LGN reported that the American Legion Department of Idaho collected toys and cash worth about \$18,000 to donate to the MISTI kids. He suggested that we sponsor events such as various fund raisers, Santagram, and possibly a swap meet. Please Contact Matt if you would like to participate with helping our kids, or have some ideas about what we as a club can do to help these kids and their families.

## Equipment

Keith KJ7BZC is working on making an antenna from Christmas tree lights. When he's done he will give us a demonstration. Should be interesting and fun.

Larry W7LRY demonstrated a DIY resonance antenna and how it can boost receiver signals. He will provide plans so we can post them on the web.

If anyone needs coax, please let us know. We have a lot of it to give away.

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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 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 (any class), 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. However, it would be appreciated if you would contact Rich W7BOI to let him know if you will be attending.

Rich W7BOI is in the process of contacting AMSAT to obtain a pass so our scouts can talk with the International Space Station. This should be a lot of fun and very educational for our scouts. More to come on this activity.

ISRA Meets the third Thursday of each month at 1900. The meetings are at the Idaho Pizza 6624 N. Glenwood in Garden City. ISRA has been very generous in letting us use their repeater for our network. Let's show them support by attending their meetings and joining their club.

Larry W7ZRQ hosts a network every Sunday evening @ 2100 on simplex 146.440. All are encouraged to support Larry and check in to the net.

N7LGN will once again host a Morse code class. This class will be open to all who are interested. Date TBD. If you would like to join the class, please contact Rich W7BOI at [rjdees@aol.com](mailto:rjdees@aol.com).

We are starting the planning stage for doing a Santagram event at MSTI for the kids. All who are interested in participating please contact Rich W7BOI, or Matt W7LGN.

March 14: We will be holding our first Fox Hunt of the year. We'll meet at the Veterans Memorial Building at 0900 for coffee and donuts while the fox goes out and hides. Entry fee is \$5.00 per two-person team (\$2.50 for each team member). Proceeds will used for a 50/50 raffle and to help defray the cost of the coffee and donuts. The first place prize is the much coveted Fox Trophy. You need not have a FCC license to participate. We'll hook you up with a licensed operator. This is a great activity for youth and a great way to introduce them to the world of ham radio. No pre-registration is required. Just show up for some fun.

April: We will be holding Technical License classes in April. These classes will roll right in to the General License classes for those who wish to upgrade their licenses. Exact dates will be announced later.

October 17: Jamboree On The Air (JOTA) with the Scouts will be held at the Veterans Memorial Building this year. At last year's JOTA, the scouts were able to contact 25-30 stations from the East to West coast.

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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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<https://n7lgn.org/>  
<http://americanlegionpost113.com/ham-club/>

Mail: PO Box 113  
Meridian, ID 83680

If you are an American Legion Family member, we encourage you to join the American Legion Amateur Radio Club (TALARC). Use the link below for more information.

<https://www.legion.org/hamradio/about>

