

THE RAG CHEW

A Newsletter for the N7LGN American Legion Post 113 Radio Club and the Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs

Flex Radio



This is one of the radio's owned by David Hunter. It's a Flex Radio for HF . He recently purchased one of these and has it on the air now. He's uses it on FT8 and SSB. It's an SDR (software defined radio) almost in the pure sense. He's consented to demonstrate this rig at a future club meeting.

So we started a Newsletter

By: Yers Trooly

A long time ago, far, far away, the ISRA had a newsletter edited by Bill Smith. He kept the group informed about club activities and offered operating tips. He was a big proponent of the National Traffic System (NTS) and given the opportunity he would recruit you. In remembrance of Bill,

we offer a "new" version of the ISRA Newsletter. Perhaps Alicia can find some old copies? In my little editorial you'll see and hear about activities, operating events, and educational topics. Might even sneak in a few words about the NTS which I am happy to say is still alive and

well. This newsletter is actually for two clubs. One is N7LGN and the other is ISRA. It's a mix with the oldest club in the valley to one of the newest. Here's a goal: Engage members and bring folks into the hobby. Any ideas you have for that will be appreciated.

In this issue:

- Note from the editor
- Build a switch
- Tech question
- ARRL News
- Club News

Events this month and next:

- Feb 12—Antenna building
- Feb 12—Testing at the Post
- Feb 23—Fox hunt topic's
- March 3—Planet Scientist in Nampa

From The Editor

By: Yers trooly

Egad! Another newsletter. This one is for N7LGN and ISRA. Yup, two clubs. We'll try it for a while, but if no one really cares, we will stop. The idea is to provide a forum for members to ask questions and see what's going on in our world. That means it's kind of an information, education, and idea exchange medium. Because this is the first issue, it won't be all that thick. BUT, because you have the opportunity to submit articles and questions, it should grow.

I think the best part of the newsletter will be questions from you. You can submit them anonymously if you like. No question is really too silly to ask. Moreover, no question related to our hobby is out of bounds. You've heard this before and that is if you ask a question there are more than likely others with the same question that don't want to speak up. Questions asked by members will be answered in the next issue. That means there could be as much as a 30 day delay. It also means what we do with your questions is pass it to a real no-kidding expert to make sure you get a proper and reasonable answer. Indeed, we have experts in our crowd, and if we don't, we'll find them. One thing we don't want to do is provide bad answers.

Included in the newsletter will be tidbits from the ARRL News Line. We'll publish those that make sense for our group. For example, things that are exclusively East Coast items will most likely be passed over. Sometimes those news line articles can be a bit voluminous, so we may paraphrase a bit.

Another feature will be a tech topic for you to ponder and perhaps provide a circuit you can even build. Yes indeed, many of the things presented can be assembled so you can see how it works. We'll start out simple and move to the more complex. You might need to get a few tools. Each month, we'll detail what you need. At the end of the day, if you stick with it, you'll be able to do a great deal around your shack that you have not considered. The hard part is getting the construction parts. We'll give you a clue where to locate the pieces you need. It may involve ordering on-line.

Another feature will be member equipment. You can see what others are using for their hobby. Sharing your equipment may give others some ideas how to get going in perhaps another direction.

Finally, the newsletter name. I started it with "the Rag Chew." It can be called anything we want. It is after all our newsletter. If you have ideas, pass them on. We'll vote on the names. See below how to submit comments.

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Activity Corner

By: Bob Whitlatch,
K6OF

Hello N7LGN Post 113. Welcome to our very own newsletter's Activity Corner. Have a more original name? Please share it with us?

2022 promises a terrific and fun series of programs. Our direction's focus will be fun and hands-on the latest in ham radio operation.

This Saturday February 12th is SW Idaho ARC's antenna building event at Bob's Restaurant banquet room in Nampa. We are invited.

Come build a *2 Meter Tape measure Yagi* antenna, great for fox hunts. A kit costs \$25.00, collected by the SWIARC at the door. There will be soldering stations, antenna analyzers and someone to help you tune the antennas after they are built. A personal antenna is not required to do our fox hunt March 12th.

On February 23rd at our monthly meeting, hams Mike Cooper, W7OSG and Stephen Nipper, N7DJX will share their fox hunting experience with us as we prepare to lead our March 12th Fox Hunt on Saturday March 12th. Stay tuned for more hunting details.

Thursday March 3 American Legion N7LGN SWIARC and are jointly hosting Planetary Scientist, Dr Carl Schmidt of Boston University. The event commences at Nampa's Bob's Restaurant with no-host dinner at 6PM and Dr Schmidt at 7PM.

Apart from hams awaiting Cycle 25, growing solar radiation and HF propagation, what do we know about our Sun? Carl is bringing us what promises to be a fascinating tour of our Sun, a star of spectral class G2 and luminosity class V, a G2V star.

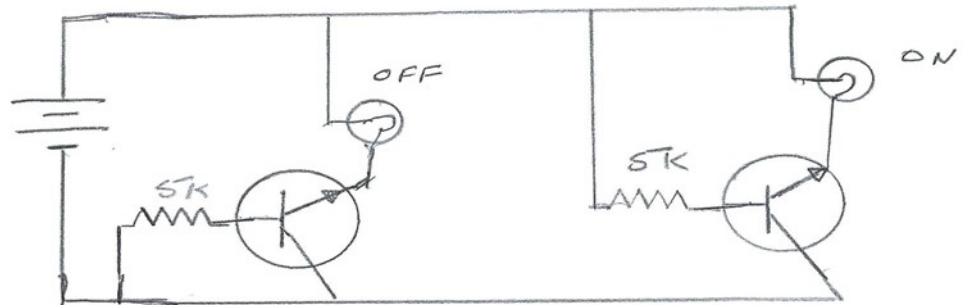
To remove your name from our mailing list or correspond with questions and comments, please e mail me at rjdees@aol.com.

Tech Topic

By: Yers Trooly

This is the first of the tech topics. Please identify the circuit and describe how it works. The transistors are general purpose NPN transistors. You can actually build this and I hope you do. You'll need the parts which you can get at the Resuem in Boise. You'll also need some tools.

If you are going to solder the parts together, consider getting a Vector board available on-line. You'll need at least a low watt soldering iron, some rosin core solder, a pair of diagonal pliers. These tech topics will build on each other, so follow along and prepare to be amazed. Please send you answers to what this gadget really does and how it works. We'll publish the results in the next news letter and provide a some discussion.



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ARRL News

By: ARRL Staff

Research on Ancient Massive Solar Storms Suggests a

02/02/2022

Numerous powerful X-class solar flares occurred last fall as Solar Cycle 25 activity picked up. Jon Jones, N0JK, covered the event in his QST column, "The World Above 50 MHz," in the February issue, and he pointed out, "More powerful flares than these have taken place, such as the Carrington Event of 1859, during which aurora was seen in the South Pacific and in Cuba, and it sparked electrical fires."

Similar events took place in the 20th century, but, as Jones notes, scientists are researching spectacular solar storms that took place as early as 7176 BC and in 5259 BC. The huge solar flare some 9,200 years ago has convinced researchers that we are not ready for the next one, and our modern technology would take a major hit.

Growing Number of Operators Completing WAS on 222 MHz

01/12/2022

[UPDATE: 2022-01-12 @ 1510 UTC] After this story was posted, ARRL announced that it has validated the 222-MHz WAS application of John Swiniarski, K1OR, for WAS # 13. His last contact was with NH6Y in Hawaii on January 9.]

Until very recently, it had been some 35 years since the most recent Worked All States (WAS) was awarded on 1.25 meters. Former ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, in Arkansas, and Marshall Williams, K5QE, in Texas stand at the vanguard of a new generation of VHF enthusiasts aiming at earning the Worked All States (WAS) Award on 222 MHz (1.25 meters). Harrison was issued WAS #11 on 1.25 meters on December 27, 2021, while

Williams was issued WAS #12 on January 11, 2022.

"Since the 1980s, a combination of the old guard and a new group have been pursuing this quest," ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, said. Harrison worked Tom Worthington, NH6Y, in Hawaii, for his 50th state, while Williams followed close behind, working James Colson, K7KQA, operating EME portable from Oregon, for his 50th state.

Amateurs interested in staying abreast of 222 MHz activity can follow the fun on the [222 MHz Activity Reflector](#).

ARRL Surveying Field Day Participants

01/06/2022

The ARRL Programs and Services Committee is seeking input from stations and groups that participated in [ARRL Field Day](#) 2020 and 2021 and has posted a survey. The committee said the survey results may help shape the development of Field Day rules for 2022 and beyond. The survey has already been sent via email to some 13,000 Field Day participants, more than 2,400 Affiliated Clubs, and to the CQ-Contest and VHF-Contesting Reflectors.

"Specifically, as we look toward 2022 Field Day, health and social-distancing concerns may continue in June 2022 during the ongoing world pandemic," said ARRL Radiosport Manager Bart Jahnke, W9JJ. "For 2023 and beyond, the assumption is made that the pandemic will be over, and COVID-related restrictions will be relaxed."

To remove your name from our mailing list or correspond with questions and comments, please e mail me at rjdeer@aol.com.