

N7LGN Amateur Radio Club
24 January 2024 - Minutes for the General Meeting
Meeting Location: American Legion Hall Post 113, Meridian, Idaho

Meeting: Richard Dees called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the **Pledge of Allegiance**.

Officers Present:

President: Rich Dees - Present Vice President: Vacant Secretary/Membership: Alicia Bunnell - Present

Introduction of Members: Attendees (16 Present):

Rich Dees W7BOI, Alicia Bunnell W7YUT, Dean Bunnell W7DBX, David Hunter N7MKY, Annette Hunter KK7AYJ, Ron Giuntini, KB7GK, Caleb Moose W4XEN, Tony Van Vlimmeren KI7FPM, Kevin Evenson KG7CHH, Ken Kaae K7KNX, Jim Szatkowski N9SKI, Mike Rivers (no call sign), Mike Wittek K7MHW, James Roething K7IDO, Steve Dennin KJ7EWE, Paul Baeder W7PSB

Reading of Minutes: Previous meeting minutes were posted and emailed. Motion to approve and seconded.

Treasurer's Report: \$1,912.51 Rich reported the financials for the club, as provided by the American Legion's Post 113 Finance Officer. Motion to approve and seconded.

Committee Reports:

- Repeater: David stated the repeater is working great and is being used more.
- Nets: Rich reported the following:
 - 1) 94 Net – Meets on Thursdays at 7:00 PM on 146.94
 - 2) Simplex Net– Meets on Thursdays at 7:30 PM on 147.420

Activities/Announcements:

- W7M special event
- Next Meeting: February 28 - Give Away Drawing will be the ARRL 2024 Handbook

Presentation: “CubeSats” by Caleb Moose

Caleb brought a CubeSat he built and mentioned these are small satellites built for educational purposes and used by radio amateurs. He also brought his Arrow antenna, a 7 element portable handheld satellite he uses for tracking and stated you do not need a complex antenna. The antenna was mounted on a tripod (so your arm doesn't get tired). A ppt video was presented: “A Beginner's Guide to Amateur Radio Satellites by David Bowman G0MRF” available at: <https://slideplayer.com/slide/5265433/>. The ppt provided an overview of Satellite Types – Transponders Repeaters and Data, including what you need. A YouTube presentation by K6UDA, A Beginner's Guide to Ham Radio in Space showed you do not need fancy equipment and steps on tracking - he got lucky as contact was made with an astronaut. Most astronauts are hams. Another YouTube, KB8M used his homemade antenna. He did not make contact with an astronaut but tried again on another day and made contact. There are many software tracking systems, some sources of information are: 1) The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation (AMSAT) - it's aim is to foster amateur ham radio participation in space and its website includes links with information, such as: Communications Satellites available at: <https://www.amsat.org/two-way-satellites/> AMSAT tutorial covering satellite basics <http://www.work-sat.com> 2) Orbitron, Free app for amateur radio satellite tracking; it pulls information from NORAD. Click on Amateur Satellite – it has a lot of databases.

New Business:

- Post Clean-up and Meeting Location was discussed. Members were informed we need to clean up food/mess on the floor before leaving the meeting – “mop the floor”. Meeting locations were proposed, such as Idaho Pizza. Members agreed to hold meetings at the Post and to clean up. Motion to approve and seconded.
- Food – Pizza at the Post. Motion to approve and seconded.
- VP Election – Rich noted the VP vacancy. Dave Hunter agreed to serve as VP. Motion approved by unanimous show of hands and verbal vote and seconded. Rich also mentioned General Elections are in April.
- Elmer In The House – Monthly session to be held Sunday afternoons. Dean mentioned the need to mentor beginners or less experienced amateur ham radio operators. Need Volunteers to help with this project. Rich to check Post calendar; will send email. Motion to approve and seconded.

Old Business:

- No ARISS project - Barbara Morgan STEM Charter teacher stated unable to participate due to deadlines and work. (ARISS deadline: Spring 2024 for the ISS crew contact in 2025).
- Silent Key's radio equipment - Rich to inform Dean (W7DBX) of the equipment that is to be cleaned. The equipment will be catalogued, and the list will be distributed sometime in the near future.

Give Away Drawing: Annette won a case, Kevin and David each won a Braun flashlight

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:30 PM

Secretary: Alicia Bunnell W7YUT