

N7LGN Amateur Radio Club
25 October 2023 - 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

Secretary/Membership: Alicia Bunnell - Present

Vice President: Matt Wrobel - Absent

Introduction of Members: Attendees (18 Present):

Rich Dees W7BOI, Alicia Bunnell W7YUT, Dean Bunnell W7DBX, David Hunter N7MKY, Annette Hunter KK7AYJ, Ron Giuntini, KB7GK, Chuck Crooks KD7QJU, Caleb Moose W4XEN, Marty Jones KK7JSJ, Kevin Evenson KG7CHH, Dave Gipson KC9EI, Mike Wittek K7MHW, Andy Cohen KK7IED, Curtis Egge W8CDE, Ed Kronholm N9XGT, Joe Aragon N7ZXO, Thayne Olaso KJ7WDU, Ken Kaae K7KNX.

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

Treasurer's Report: \$1,841.51. Motion to approve and seconded.

Committee Reports:

- Repeater: David stated the repeater is working great.
- 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

Other Simplex Net: AmRRON Meets on Wednesdays at 8 PM on 146.42

Activities/Announcements:

- ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) proposal deadline: Spring 2024 for the ISS crew contact in 2025. Discussion on using telebridge as communication to contact the Astronauts aboard the ISS.
- No November meeting as it is Thanksgiving holiday.
- Christmas Party – December 27. It will be potluck and white elephant gift exchange. Details to be provided.
- January 24, 2025 Meeting - Presentation on “Cube Sats” by Caleb Moose

Presentation: “NanoVNA” by John Kernkamp

NanoVNA (VNA) or vector network analyzer is an inexpensive tool for amateur radio. The VNA is useful for basic troubleshooting, and it is an inexpensive way to check and set-up your antenna; plot information against two axis, such as SWR; measure antenna frequency, easy way to test coax cable, etc. John mentioned some limitations, such as small screen, SMA connector, limited dynamic range, cannot save images – maximum 100 sample points. The NanoVNA cost is about \$58, it has a 2.8-inch screen. The NanoVNA is not a replacement for the professional VNA that does accurate measurements for high power sites, such as for TV stations, towers, etc. The HP VNA in 1993 cost was \$50,000 and in 2023 the Keystone VNA cost is about \$25,000. John provided an overview on how to operate the NanoVNA, including illustrations of SWR across a band of frequencies and how he set-up his antenna. He also mentioned there are some bad and good You Tube sources. The following are some user groups and information: <https://groups.io/g/nanovna-users> <https://groups.io/g/nanovna-f> and Absolute_Beginner_Guide_NanoVna_V1_6.pdf

Report on Shakeout Exercise Event: Rich mentioned the event was around 10 AM on October 19 and asked if anyone participated. It is a drill to learn to prepare for a disaster using Winlink; information's available at: https://www.winlink.org/content/great_shakeout Let's mark our calendars for next year and register as a group!

New Business: Membership Application (Membership period: Jan to Dec), available on the website: <https://americanlegionpost113.com> go to Ham Club, click on Ham Club Downloadables to obtain the membership application. Any questions contact Alicia at redcat003@outlook.com.

Old Business: None

Give Away Drawing: Mike won an SWR meter, Dean a ham radio coaster and Kevin a ham radio mouse pad

Meeting Adjourned at: 8:40 PM

Secretary: Alicia Bunnell W7YUT