

N7LGN NOTES AND NEWS

April 2024

Jonathan Hoffmeier (KEOJRH) Newsletter Editor

Email: KEOJRH@yahoo.com Phone: 425-239-3846



Our Ham Shack of the Month: David (N7MKY) & Annette (KK7AJY) Hunter's base and mobile radio setups. Another nice, clean, functional design.

Elmer in the House: Seems to be very successful with numerous Hams accessing our awesome "Elmer Talent". Come on down to the Post with a radio issue and let the experts handle it or hang out and just talk radio, it's a great group of folks! Next meeting is the Saturday, 21st of April at 2:30PM.



Post Kitchen Remodel: Jay sanding the floor to remove the adhesive residue for the new floor.



N7LGN Club Membership: Is at 58 amateur radio members!

Did You Know? There are 10,869 licensed Ham radio operators in the great state of **Idaho**; 28 Novices, 6413 Technicians, 2553 Generals, 242 Advanced and 1633 Extras. This data is accurate as of 6 March 2024. (Courtesy of the ARRL website)

Just the Facts, 'Mam: This is the percentage of population (per capita) of ham radio licenses per the top five states. In first place is Utah at 0.5703%, second is **Idaho** at 0.5636%, third is Oregon at 0.4953, fourth is Alaska at 0.4635%, and coming in fifth is Washington at 0.4527. It would seem the Western US has the highest concentration of Hams. This data is accurate as of 10 January 2022. (Courtesy of the K8VSY website)

Ready for Breakfast? Saturday April 20th another fine breakfast **MAY** be served by the Legion Ladies Auxiliary to the community at the Post. Not sure if our Post kitchen remodel will be done by then.

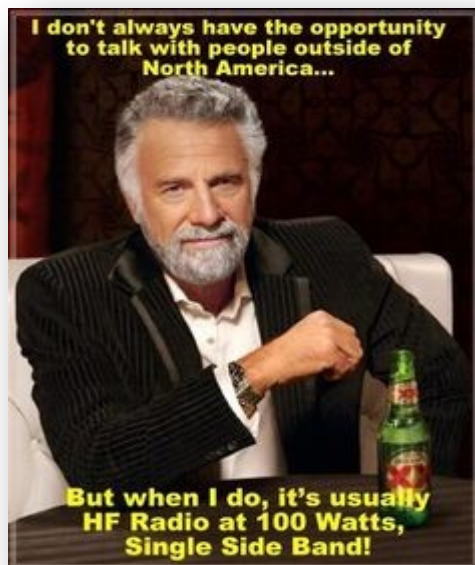
How About Taking the Ham Test? April 20th is the morning to set aside and take your Ham license test. The Technician test will be available for the new folks, the General and Extra tests for those that wish to upgrade their ticket. Testing begins at 10:00 AM, bring your FRN, \$15 in cash or check and a smile...testing has been proven to be painless.

Kamiah HamFest and Swap Meet: American Legion Hall, 618 Main Street Kamiah, Idaho Saturday the 20th of April from 0800 to 1500. Talk in: 146.62, PL 88.5. 146.68, PL 100. Door prizes! Food on Site! Free coffee and water!

Star Ham Radio / GMRS Radio Swap Meet: Saturday May 4th from 0700 to 1300 at the Star Riverwalk Park 979 S Main Street #947. The display spaces and attendance are free, although the display spaces require a reservation. More information at ccox1956@hotmail.com.

Cats and Radios: "I am often asked how radio works. Well, you see, wire telegraphy is like a very long cat. You yank his tail in New York and he meows in Los Angeles. Do you understand this? Now, radio is exactly the same, except that there is no cat." Attributed to Albert Einstein

Every Thursday Night: At 1900, except on holidays, we have the N7LGN Club 2-meter net. We would like to have more NCO's (Net Control Operators) on hand. We have a few regulars now; we would like to have some backups just in case. Some of us get a little tongue-tied at times (Rich) but we just snicker a bit and move on. Receive 146.940, Transmit 146.340, PL 100. Many thanks to Larry Smith W7ZRQ and the Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs for making this possible by letting us use their repeater.



N7LGN Meeting: Meets every 4th Wednesday of the month at the American Legion Post 113 at 22 W. Broadway Meridian, ID. Pizza at 1845, meeting at 1900. Next meeting is the 25th of April, come on down!

SWIARC Spring 2024 HamFest is on Saturday the 11th of May at the Peace Valley Charter School 1845 South Federal Way, Boise. Start and end times not available as of this posting.

Remember Folks: This is your newsletter! I try to put in items of interest to all. You have ideas? Let me know! I can always make this better, don't know if it could get any worse...73's KEOJRH I'll be QRX.

From the Command Center:

Greetings All,

By now, if you went to the March Club meeting, you know we talked about emergency comms in our club. As of this writing, I'm not sure how the club wants to proceed, but I assume we will do something. That means you need to stay tuned!

One of the topics of discussion will be Field Day. The big question is do we want to participate? If so, we need to do some planning. I'll start the process at the meeting, but discuss it on the nets.

Elections will be held in April. March we will open the nominations. This is an opportunity to get involved a little deeper with the club. Up for consideration is President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Club License Trustee and Membership Chairman. Combined, these officers shall be considered to be the Executive Committee of The Club. Right now, I am the president, David Hunter is the Vice President, Alicia Bunnell is the Secretary, and I am the Club Trustee. We do not have a membership chairman. We have a newsletter editor who is Jonathan Hoffmeier.

There are many activities slated for this summer including a Fox Hunt, and as many as three swap meets. We've also heard from TALARC, The American Legion Amateur Radio Club, and they are "back on the air." I've signed up on their feed which apparently will be facilitated by using Echo Link. It looks like there is renewed interest in amateur radio at the national level.

I mentioned there are some swap meets. As you may know we have a lot of gear that we can sell-off and make a few bucks for the club. We will need some help loading the goodies into a truck when we go to the events. I will discuss the issues at the meeting, but if you can help out, it will be greatly appreciated.

73's

Rich Dees

W7BOI

I don't know if you heard anything about this, but when parts of AT&T went down recently, parts of FirstNet went down as well. My FirstNet rep in western Ohio said it was for less than an hour, but that may be the official line. You might mention this if anyone tries to convince you that amateur radio isn't needed anymore. -- Michael Schulsinger, N8QHV

Looking for a married woman, recently cheated on, mad and scorned, who is willing to sell her husbands radios for cheap.

Editor's Musings: I often get asked how I got started in Ham Radio, here's the story I enjoy telling. I think for my eighth Christmas I received a walkie-talkie, it was kind of a 100 milliwatt base station affair, complete with a microphone and CW key, it ran on six D cells. I immediately installed the batteries and with keying the mic, began saying hello, hello! My older sister was watching and she suggested I say CQ, CQ, CQ. She informed me (being older and smarter) that was the way radio operators called for someone to talk to. So I keyed up and said CQ three times released the key and waited...the small speaker crackled with a male voice saying "Well hello young man!" I about fell over! Someone was actually talking to me! I asked who he was and where he was, he snickered and said he knew I was

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close and would step outside his house and look for me and to bring my mom or dad along. My dad said go ahead, I know which house is his. So off I went down the street and soon came upon a gentleman standing on his porch waving at me. He introduced himself as Mr. Black and asked me where my folks were. I told him they stayed home and dad knew what house I was at. He asked if I would like to come in, see his Ham radio station and meet his wife. I went inside, quickly met the missus and was off to see "the radio station!" In one of the rooms he had removed the closet doors and turned that space into his "station." I recall all kinds of metal boxes with lights and meters and fans whirring and everything! He sat down and said he was talking with a friend of his on Guam. I looked a little confused so he showed me on the world map where we were, and where the Island of Guam was. I asked, "you're talking that far away?" He indicated he was and asked me if I'd like to say hi. Well...that was when the bug bit. I chatted with the gentleman about the weather and we signed off. Mr. Black told me I was welcome in his "shack" anytime as long as mom and dad knew where I was at. Needless to say I spent a lot of time in my pre-teen years enjoying Mr. Black's radio station. In my teen years I got into the CB craze, enjoyed putting a station together and meeting a lot of friends. Some day, I thought, I'll take the test and become a Ham. Middle age approached quickly and thoughts of retirement entered my mind daily. I was wanting a hobby to do in retirement that wouldn't take anymore toll on my already semi-worn out body. I thought about ham radio and a big smile came across my face, thinking of Mr. Black and all the questions he answered back in the day. I studied for the test, explored equipment options and took and passed the test. *Have a story about the bug biting you? Send it to me at: gr8alarmguy@yahoo.com*

Reminder: Solar Eclipse April 8

Amateur radio will play many roles in the upcoming solar eclipse that will cross much of North America. Radio amateurs are welcome to participate in ionospheric research that is being conducted.

Find information about the [Solar Eclipse QSO Party on the HamSCI web site.](#)



Many emergency communications groups, including those affiliated with the [Amateur Radio Emergency Service® \(ARES®\)](#) in the areas near totality are planning to be active surrounding the event. Hams will provide communications to served agencies, such as local governments, relief organizations, and other groups that could benefit from resilient communications during a time when millions are expected to travel.

