



IDAHO MONTANA NET (IMN)

3578.5/7043 KHz Daily - 0300

FEBRUARY 2008

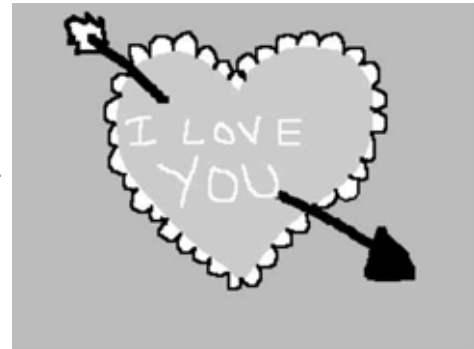
IMN Web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/imn/imn.html>
Manager - Open Recorder: VE7DWG Yrs. Trooly: W7GHT
IMN for January : Sessions 31, QNI 355, QTC 76.

FORMAT

Note the new format. Not using columns. Let me know which you prefer. With or without columns? Thanks.

IMN 160 METER FREQUENCY

Remember - - if NCS decides to QSY the Net to 160, he should leave someone behind (until about 0305Z) to send both early and late comers to that band. Our 160 frequency is 1840 KHz.



SUN SPOT CYCLE 24

The demise of Sun Spot Cycle 23 was originally gestimated to be early in 2007. However, we may not be there yet. The latest projection and forecast gives the bottom of the cycle between December 2007 and April 2008. However, the monthly forecast issued January 2 shows the cycle minimum for February 2008. At least, the forecast guesses that we're about there. When - - still is not certain. We must therefore wait and see!!!

And from the Space Weather News for January 4, we read that "Solar physicists have been waiting for the appearance of a reversed-polarity sunspot to signal the start of the next solar-cycle. The wait is over. A magnetically reversed, high-latitude sunspot emerged today. This makes the beginning of Solar Cycle 24 and the first step toward a new solar maximum * * *"

TRAPPED RAINBOWS

Here's a new development, and one I never thought could exist. Following is copied from the Jan 4 WIA Newsletter: Read and wonder and enjoy:

"A new technique to slow down stop and capture light called "Trapped Rainbow" offers a bright future for the Internet and powerful computers.

"Professor Ortwin Hess, his PhD student Kosmas Tsakmakidis of the Advanced Technology Institute and department of Physics at the University of Surrey and Professor Alan Boardman from Salford University have revealed a technique which may be able to slow down, stop and capture light.

“The technique would allow the use of light rather than electrons to store memory in devices such as computers, enabling an increase in operating capacity of 1,000% by using light’s broad spectrum rather than single electrons. Slow light could also be used to increase the speed of optical networks, such as the Internet. At major interconnection points, where billions of optical data packets arrive simultaneously, it would be useful if we could control this traffic optically, by slowing some data packets to let others through. This system would work in the same way as traffic congestion calming schemes do on our motorways, when a reduction in the speed limit enables swifter overall flow of traffic.

“Professor Hess’ theory shows that if you create a tapered layer of glass surrounded by two suitable layers of negative refractive index metamaterials a packet of white light injected into this prism from the wide end will be completely stopped at some point in the prism. As different component ‘colours’ of white light have different frequencies each individual frequency would therefore be stopped at a different stage down the taper, thereby creating the ‘trapped rainbow’.

“PROFESSOR Hess comments: Our “Trapped Rainbow” bridges the exciting fields of metamaterials with slow light research. It may open the way to the long-awaited realization of an “optical capacitor”. It may, further herald a new realm of photonics with direct application of the ‘Trapped Rainbow’ storage of light in a huge variety of scientific and consumer fields.”

NANO-BIBLE

Also from the January 6 WIA News Letter, we learn that Scientists in Israel claim to have put a version of the Bible on a chip smaller than a pinhead.

The 300,000 words in Hebrew were inscribed on a silicon surface at the Haifa Institute of Technology. The .5 sq mm nano-Bible was written on a silicon surface covered with a thin layer, 20 nano-meters thick, using a focused Ion Beam inscriber.

The researchers say the aim is to increase young people’s interest in nano-science and nano-technology.

TOWERS

The owners of KRKO AM, in Everett, WA wants to add two to four towers at their site south of Snohomish. A Snohomish County official has delayed the project, citing a recent study in the American Journal of Epidemiology that children who live within a certain distance of AM antenna structures are twice as likely to develop leukemia.

I thought this subject was history, but apparently it has reoccurred. I suppose we are now mandated, once more, to stay away from our own antenna radiation. We’ll have to see.

NEW NET

Mike, VE7DXD, new BC/Yukon SM, reports he is trying to start a BC/Yukon SSB Net. We all hope his efforts will bring such a net into existence and that it will flourish.

SPECIAL EVENT IN THE NORTHWEST

Eastern Washington DX Club will operate a Special Event Station W7G 21-23 February to celebrate President George Washington’s birthday. They will operate from the town of George, WA. A special QSL

card will be available. Operators will be W7BJN, N7AU and W7LEA. Contact Brian Nielson, W7BJN, w7bjn@nwi.net

JOHNSON CALLS DROPPING MORSE “SNAKE OIL”

(FROM Jan 20 WIA Newsletter)

One of USA's most respected hams says that the new code-free licensing system is a failure. Writing in the January issue of Worldradio Magazine, the former FCC Rules man, John B. Johnson, W3BE, says that its looking as if the wonder cure to the so-called CW barrier was just old fashion medicine show snake oil and about as effective.

Johnson is the current president of QCWA and won the Radio Amateur of the Year award for his plain language rewrite of the Part 97 Rules while employed at FCC.

Johnson offers no cure for the slow growth trend in today's ham radio. He just notes that dropping Morse has not had any significant impact on drawing newcomers in. His complete article starts on page 18 of the January issue of Worldradio Magazine.



MANYARD WRIGHT, W6PAP MAKING IT BIG

I thought you were informed of the article by Maynard, W6PAP entitled “Octave for Transmission Lines”, which appeared in the Jan/Feb 2007 QEX magazine. But, by golly, I can't find any mention in IMN NLs back then. So, now you have to go dig out your last year's QEX magazine to read that article.

The current, January/February (2008) QEX magazine contains a “follow up” entitled “More *Octave* for Transmission Lines”, again written by the same person - - our own Maynard Wright, W6PAP. Quite interesting and educational. Take a look. If you don't have QEX and wanna see the article, send me a message. I'll make a copy and send it snail mail it to you.

FILIPINO MONKEY

Remember the news article(s) about the threatened attack on US ships in the Persian Gulf, which created a diplomatic row with the Iran government. Well, now the incident is blamed on a prankster. Unfortunately the international press has labeled the intruder as a “Radio Ham”, which doesn't seem true. The U S Navy journal “Navy Times” points the finger at the “Filipino Monkey”. This is a person who listens to ship-to-ship radio traffic and then interrupts, usually with abusive insults.

Rick Hoffman, a retired captain, told reporters “for 25 years, there's been this mythical guy out there who, hour after hour, shouts obscenities and threats. He used to go all night long. The guy is crazy.”

He should be happy. At last he caused an international ripple.

RADIO ACCIDENT IN ARKANSAS

No one was around when a 2,000 foot broadcast tower in Redfield, Arkansas fell. The collapse took KATV television off the air, until temporary facilities could be set up. Crews were just minutes away from climbing the tower to replace cable. The tower was 43 years old and was once the tallest structure in

the world.



HAPPY 75TH BIRTHDAY (ANOTHER SPECIAL EVENT STATION)

Congratulations to the Valley Amateur Radio Club of Oregon on the 75th anniversary its 75 years of charter affiliation with the ARRL.

By making the anniversary truly an affair to remember, club members are on the air with special event station, W7PXL, through next November 11. If you work the station QSL with a self addressed stamped envelope to club call trustee, Larry Lange, W7JS. More information on line at <http://www.valleyradioclub.org>

THE BRASS POUNDERS QUARTERLY

A couple months ago I told you about the availability of a new publication called the brass pounders quarterly. Well, the Second edition now is out. Volume I Issue 2 is available at <http://home.earthlink.net/~bscottmd/bpq0102.htm> (The last group of letter/number refer to Brass Pounders Quarterly, Volume 1, Issue 2. To get the first issue, change them to “bpq01.01.htm”

This is a publication devoted exclusively to Traffic Handling, and for sure, it contains info of interest and help to all of us. Take a peek, then print out.

I'm proud to say that two of the Pacific Area Staff members have articles in Volume 2. They are PAS K6YR, Mgr PAN, and PAS Chairman, and Jerry, AD0A, PAN TCC Manager.

ARRL BOARD MEETING

January 18-19 The ARRL Board of Directors held their Annual January meeting in Houston, TX. The first item was the re-election of Board members, then re-election of committees members. Our own Northwestern Director Jim Fenstermaker, K9JM, was reappointed Chairman of the Administration and Finance Committee, a very important, if not the most important job. Congratulations to him, and to us for having elected him as our Director.

SATELLITE VOICE REPEATER

Remember the AMSAT-OSCAR 16 (AO-16), a digital satellite. Remember also it went out of service. Well, a command team has dealt with the computer problem and now has it up as a voice repeater for an unspecified “test period” using FM voice on the uplink, but DSB voice on the downlink (best received on SSB).

The uplink is 145.920 FM and the downlink is 437.026 SSB +/- doppler shift. The AMSAT people ask that user s restrict their uplink power to a “reasonable power level” and not to transmit without being able to hear the downlink. Please also submit reports via e-mail <ao16@amsat.org>

NEWSBRIEFS:

Several videos on Morse code can be found at <http://youtube.com/watch?v=3bmiEkguQqk>. Thanks to Jim, K9JM for this address. If this spot does not put you into the code videos, type in “Morse Code” in

the space at the bottom of the page.

Remember the strong storms that hit the west coast starting Friday Jan 5? That evening, Jim, K9JM checked into IMN (and later I heard him on PAN), both times with no commercial power. He used his "battery powered" Electcraft K2 transceiver (QRP Rig), and had a fair signal. His antenna stayed up, even though they were visited by an 80 MPH breeze. Gee!!!

Both Bill, W7PKL and Yrs Trooly were out during January. I had to be incarcerated overnight in the hospital for laser surgery on my prostate. Bill, on the other hand was hospitalized about three days for double inguinal hernia repair. Both of us now are back and in good shape. We both thank you for asking.

JANUARY QNI: VE6ADM 9, K7BDU 3, K7BFL 8, N7CM 8, VE7CZW 4, WW6D 20 VE7DWG 17, W7EKB 13, KDD7FAU 5, W7GB 11, W7GCVL 28, W7GHT 29, KE7GYT 10, K6HART 7, W7JG 13, K9JM 24, K7JV 5, AL7KG 6, W7LG 12, VE7OM 5, W6PAP 7, W7P=KL 8, K7PX 3, NB7Q 10, N7RR 16, K7TM 14, KA7U 4, W7WAT 17, WB7WBY 7, K7YB 6, KA7YYR 12, VE7ZE 6, WV7Z 2, KB7AII 1, VA7QQ 1, W7VPK 1 AC7XF 1 WB6W 1, VE7TRM 1. TOTAL 355.

JANUARY TRAFFIC: N7CM 2 VE7DWG 12, W7EKB 21, W7GB 9, W7GHTG 27, K9JM 1, VE7OM 4, TOTAL 76.

NOTE - - not bad Net stats, in lieu of the current conditions, however our Recorder, Dave, VE7DWG said he didn't get all the NCS reports. Didn't elaborate on that. PLEASE - All Net Controls remember, in order to get the NL in the mail on the first of each month it is necessary that you send your NCS Reports to the Recorder as soon as possible (ASAP). If you can't make it with the current condx, there's always e-mail. Dave's e-mail address is: <ve7dwg@yahoo.com>.