



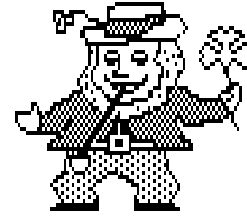
**IDAHO MONTANA NET (IMN)**  
**3578.5/7043 KHz Daily - 0300**  
**MARCH 2009**

IMN Web: <http://home.earthlink.net/~k7bfl/imn/imn.html>  
 Manager - Open Recorder: VE7DWG Yrs. Trooly: W7GHT

IMN for February Sessions 28, QNI 358, QTC 50

DAYLIGHT TIME

Daylight time returns Sunday March 8, 2009. Here's the "Summer" list of HF nets of interest to IMN'ers. Remember IMN, MTN, and FARM stay on the same Zulu time year around. Our own, IMN net time, will be 8PM PDT, which is 9PM MDT.



<u>NET</u>	<u>FREQ</u>	<u>DAYS</u>	<u>TIME (GMT)</u>
Idaho CD Net	3990	M-F	1400
Mont Sec Net	3900	Sun	1400
WSN	3658/7038	Dy	1430
DRN7/c1	7238/3925	Dy	1745
DRN7/c2	7238/3925	Dy	2315
MTN	3910	Dy	0030
WARTS	3970	Dy	0100
OSN	3587	Dy	0130
WSN	3563/7038	Dy	0145
FARM	3937	Dy	0200
BCEN	3652	Dy	0200
RN7/c4	3560/7048	Dy	0230
IMN	3687.5	Dy	0300
PAN/c4	3652/7052	Dy	0330
RN7/c4	3560	Dy	0430
WSN	3563/7038	Dy	0445
OSN	3587	Dy	0500

**160 METERS**

I guess no one should be surprised or alarmed at the response to last months' inquiry about 160 capability. A total of 8, including Yrs Trooly, indicated ability to QSY to that band. So the thought of changing to 160 again has to be abandoned, I'm very sorry to say.

One interesting event occurred as the result of the inquiry, however. One RN7/1 sked, I had

a bunch of traffic for Don, K7BFL, but condx were bad. So we decided to try 160. Gee gosh - - what a difference in both sigs. We both went from “zulch” on 80. to 599 on 160. Great change.

So you see, there is a good reason to stick up a wire for that band. What’s more, if you do, you will find a lot of activity there.

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### **CURRENT IMN FREQUENCY**

The current IMN Frequency, 3578.5 KHz, started out pretty well, BUT the digitals seem to be working their way into our space. Maybe we ought to move (again). If you agree, please gimme your suggestion for another frequency. When looking another place, remember we have only 75 KHz to play with on 80 meters: 3525 - 3600 KHz.

How about listening, especially on weekends (when contests are prevalent), and give us your recommendation for a move. Thanks.

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### **PROPOSED NEW NTS AWARD**

ARRL officials recently have begun kicking around a proposal for a new NTS Award. This will be named in favor of George Hart, W1NJM, long time ARRL Communications Manager and in 1949, a co-founder of NTS (at which time he was the National Emergency coordinator (NEC) for ARRL). The Award will be issued each year to the most deserving NTS official. Mickey Cox, K5MC has circulated the current proposal. We now wait to see what the high ranking officials have to say about it. The Proposal follows:

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The George Hart Distinguished Service Award is to be presented annually by the Board of Directors to the licensed radio amateur whose service to the ARRL's Field Organization is of the most exemplary nature. The Distinguished Service Award is named in honor of George Hart, W1NJM, long-time Communications Manager at ARRL Headquarters and chief developer of the National Traffic System.

A. Selection criteria:

1. Operating record within the National Traffic System;
2. Participation within the Amateur Radio Emergency Service; and
3. Station and leadership positions held within the Field Organization.

B. Procedure:

1. Nominations shall be accepted from anyone.
2. Nominations shall be submitted to the Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager at ARRL HQ by October 1.
3. Nominations should document as thoroughly as possible the nominee's lifetime activities and achievements within the Field Organization. It is expected that nominated candidates will have 15 or more years of distinguished service in at least two of the three items identified in the selection criteria.
4. The Membership and Volunteer Programs Manager will appoint a Review Committee consisting of one Section Manager, one Section Traffic Manager, one Section Emergency Coordinator, all three of whom shall serve in different Sections, one member of the Programs and Services Committee, and the Public Service Specialist at HQ to review the submitted nominations.
5. The Review Committee will forward its recommendations to the Board of Directors by December 15.
6. The Board of Directors shall make the final determination at its Annual Meeting.

C. The Award shall consist of:

1. An engraved plaque and cover letter.
2. Coverage in QST.

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## **ARRL CHANGING ITS 160 METER FREQUENCY**

ARRL is changing its frequency on the Top-Band. Starting Monday, March 9, the League's Maxim Memorial Station W1AW will be using a new 160 meter frequency of 1802.5 KHz for its 160 - CW transmissions. The change is being made to accommodate increasing activity near the current bulletin frequency of 1817.5. The move should reduce the possibility of interference.

It also will allow us to check "long distance" skip on that band.

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The following was submitted by Rob Griffin, K6YR, Chmn PAS, and SM Santa Barbara Section: Thank you, Rob.

### **"ONE 'BK' DOES NOT DESERVE ANOTHER."**

CW continues to be a viable and popular mode of operation within the Amateur Radio Service.

But while popular, its effectiveness still depends upon sound operating practices. Operator skill in this regard should not be confused with merely the ability to send and receive a contest exchange at high speed. In decades past, much attention was paid to nurturing the full range of proper CW practices: publishing practical operating aids and advice, mentoring, recognition – and setting a good example.

Experienced operators have no excuse for sloppy or poor practices. New operators hear such stuff and, before long, another lousy practice becomes commonplace and accepted (what I call IPC, Improper Practices Creep).

By way of a notorious example, my favorite IPC is use of the prosign BK (for break). One BK does not deserve another!

If a transmission is short, the prosign BK can be sent as shorthand for "I'm turning it over to you to transmit." For the responding station to then send BK to start transmission is not only unnecessary, but it obfuscates the meaning of the prosign and wastes time.

CW operators who are serious about wanting to preserve and promote the mode need to nurture proper operating practices and take more responsibility in fighting IPC.

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Rob Griffin, K6YR

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## **LEARNING CW LIKE A PARROT**

*From: Don, K7BFL*

*Copied from January WSN NL)*

Many years ago I learned of a new (to me) process to learn the morse code. My friend Jim Voyles (WB7QEL, now K7JV) had just received his General class license. He was anxious to quickly increase his cw speed to over 20 wpm so he could get his Extra Class license. During one of his QSO's he hooked up with Mac (I think his call was K7CD in Hayden, Idaho). Mac learned of Jim's desire to increase his code speed and offered to help in a unique (to Jim and me) way.

Mac sent a short (2 letter) word, with his Keyer speed set at over 20 wpm, to Jim...  
 Jim would repeat the word back to Mac...  
 If Jim did not send he word back correctly, Mac would send it again....until Jim got it right...  
 over and over and over....different words...  
 Mac would send a longer, longer (3-4 letter) words to Jim...  
 Jim would repeat the word back to him...  
 Eventually Jim had mastered very long words, “parroting” them back to Mac.  
 Next came two words at a time.....then three words at a time.....etc.  
 In a very short time Jim has mastered the art of receiving cw at a fast speed; primarily because he heard the “word” as a unique sound.  
 I have used his process to help several new hams. It seems to work!  
 During recent sessions with Heidi, KC7CCL, we have used the single word “parroting” process to enable her to receive a radiogram, sent by me. Using this method I am very confident that when she sends QSL, I KNOW that she got the entire radiogram with 100% accuracy (or a least exactly like I sent it). Have any of you had any similar experiences with “parroting”? Is there some way that two stations could indicate to each other that they would go into the “parrot” mode to more easily facilitate the accurate transmission and reception of words?

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**HAMFESTS:**

- Mar 7 Mike and Key ARC, Puyallup WA a Pavilion Exhibition Hall, Western Washington Fair Grounds
  - Mar 21 MicroHAMS Digital Conference, Redmond, WA Microsof Corporate Campus, Redmond, WA
  - Apr 4-5 Comunicions Academy 2009, Seattle Community College
  - Apr 24-26 Idaho State Convention, Boise, ID
  - May 9 Stanwood-Camano Hamfest, Stanwood, WA
  - June 5-7 Northwest Division Convention (SeaPac), Seaside, OR
  - Jun 12-14 Wenatchee Hamfest, Dryden, WA
  - Jul 17-19 Montana State Convention, Essex, MT
  - Jul 18 Coos County Radio Club, North Bend, OR
  - Aug 7-9 Pacific Northwest DX Convention, Spokane WA
  - Aug 8 Radio Club of Tacoma, Spanaway, WA
  - Sep 26 Washington State Convention, Spokane WA
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**BIRTHDAYS:**

- N7YQQ 3-10
- VE6ADM 3-11
- W7YPC 3-18
- WB7AIK 3-19
- KC7SRL 3-25
- W7WAT 3-28



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to each of you. May you have many more.

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**NEW MORSE CHARACTER**

The following is a copy of a CW-related message that Mac, W9WV created for MARS distribution. It concerns a *NEW MORSE CODE CHARACTER*. I, personally, do not think it will be used in the place of the current use of the word "AT" while sending e-mail addresses using CW. But, we'll see. This is FROM Mac, W9WV. And thanks Mac:

DE NNN0SZO 903  
R 182355Z FEB 2009  
FM NNN0SZO SCA  
TO NNN0UYH AZ

BT

UNCLAS

SUBJ: COMMAT COMMENTS

1. ON MAY 24, 2004, THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE TELEGRAPHIC TRANSMISSION BY SAUMEL B. MORSE OF THE WORDS "WHAT HATH GOD WROUGHT," THE INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION (ITU) ADDED THE "@" (THE "COMMERICAL AT" OR "COMMAT") TO THE MORSE CHARACTER SET.

2. THE COMMAT IS THE DIGRAPH "AC" (THE LETTERS "A" AND "C" RUN TOGETHER), PROBABLY TO REPRESENT "A[T] C[OMMERCIAL]" OR THE LETTER "a" INSIDE THE SWIRL THAT APPEARS TO BE THE LETTER "C."

3. YOU MAY SOUND OUT A COMMAT AS DI-DAH-H-DAH-H-DI-DAH-H-DIT.

4. THE COMMAT WAS THE FIRST OFFICIAL ADDITION TO THE MORSE SET OF CHARACTERS SINCE WORLD WAR I.

BT

NNNN

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**NEWSBRIFES:** Former IMN'r, Doug Dunn, K7YD, was just re-elected Montana Section Manage. He had no opposition. Congrats, Doug.

Jim, W4TVI and xyl Myrtle flew out of Boise on Thursday, February 26 heading for Chile. From there they plan to paddle to New Zealand and ultimately back home. Sounds like a wonderful trip.

Al, W7GCL, continues on the disabled list. His "Assisted Living" room is different than his old place, and with his eye sight is very minimal any more, he has yet to found his way around his new room, and to his rig. Note he failed to check into IMN all of February and of consequence has been dropped from the calling list. Doggonnit/

Ken, W7EKB, still has a lot of noise on 80 meters. He is quite sure it is from the power line. So he's now snooping with a direction finder. Good luck, when you find it Ken. Most power companies will come right out and repair the noise makers. Hope yours will too.

**FEBRUARY QNI:** VE6ADM 15, K7BDU 5, K7BFL 3, N7CM 9, WW6D 18, VE7DWG 12, W7EKB 9, KA7FAU 9, W7B 11, W7GHT 25, AI7H 20, K6HRT 2, W7JG 4, K9JM 25, K7JV 10, AL7KG 2, JQ7L 2, W7LG 5, W7MTL 15, VE7OM 4, W6PAP 3, W7PKL 14, K7PX 2, NB7Q 18, VA7QQ 8, K7TM 9, W4TVI 18, KA7U 11, K7VK 8, W7VPK 2, W7WAT 9, WA7WBY 5, W9WV 4, KA7YYR 19, VE6ZE 5, W6QNE 1, KF7XY 1, K6XQV 1. TOTAL 358.

**FEBRUARY TRAFFIC:** VE7DWG 4, W7EKB 4, W7GB 1, W7GHT 35, KA7U 6. TOTAL 50