

IDAHO SOCIETY OF RADIO AMATEURS, INC

February Newsletter 2012

Web Site: www.israboise.com VHF NET 145.94 8:30 PM Sundays

President: KB7SYE

Editor: Micronta3

We have been without a monthly newsletter for the past 6 months. This is a renewed effort to resurrect that newsy little rag sheet.

We are still planning on having an ISRA Club Meeting on the Third Tuesday at 7pm each month.

The program for February 21 ISRA meeting is in the works. We are planning to have someone come in and talk about putting together a Go-Kit or Go Bag that an Amateur Radio operator would need in case of emergency at home or neighborhood or a whole region in need of Radio Operators.

The Idaho Society of Radio Amateurs, Inc. (ISRA) Club is still operational and membership dues are due for the new year. The dues are \$10.00 annually from February 1 to January 31 inclusive..

The next regular ISRA meeting will be at 7:00pm, February 21, Tuesday, at the Fairmount Jr. High School at 2121 N. Cole Road. Please bring a friend to the club meeting. Topic – Go Kits / Go Bags for Emergencies (List of items you could use for a quick go or emergency situation). We hope to have an actual go-kit to display and talk about why this and not that.

Notes from the January ISRA Meeting

A few club members came together and kept the ISRA club going, with the help of the past Board Members and members. We held a regular meeting on January 17, 2012 with several members volunteering as new Board Members and some volunteering via e-mail..

The ISRA Boise Chapter had their annual business meeting on January 17, 2012. It was a fairly skimpy attendance, but in the course of the evening a new set of Club officers were elected.

Gerald Kroenke nominated the following:

Gaylan Olson, KB7SYE, to be President.
Al Hale, N7AL, to be Vice President.
Gerald Kroenke, KD7ULT, to be Sec/Treas.

Board Members
Mike Shryne, W17MM
Bill Barrus, W7PKL

Nominations were accepted and voted upon.

We wish to give our thanks to the outgoing Presidency and Board members for the many hours spent in dedicated service to the ISRA Club for the past three years. We've had some excellent gatherings with some great guest speakers as well as presentations by Club members.

Short Biographies (very Short) of the ISRA Board members

President ISRA, Inc Gaylan Olson, born & raised in Boise, Idaho. Went to Taft grade school, Hillside Jr. High. I graduated from Capital High School. I spent 18 months in Alaska doing Various jobs. I returned to Boise in 1976.

I was first licensed in March of 1993 while working for Idaho Power as a power plant operator. I have been a member of various radio clubs in the valley over the years. I am also An ARES member. I am married to a wonderful gal named Judy.

I maintain an IRLP/ECHOLink repeater on 443.200 Mhz, Standard offset and 100 Hz tone.

Vice President – ALBERT HALE N7AL

I was born in Missouri and until I started first grade lived in Florida, Washington State, California, New Plymouth, ID and then, Weiser, ID.

I went to grade school at Weiser, high school at Meridian, college in Boise.

I worked for KTVR-TV in LaGrande, OR in the 70's and 80's. Then for the Idaho State Records Center from 1988 until retirement in 2004.

I received my novice ticket in 1965, then general, advanced, and extra in the 70's.

I have a personal web site (alberthale.com).

Sec/Treas -- Gerald Kroenke

I became an amateur radio operator in February 2003 as a technician class. I helped out with events such as bicycle rides, and other fund raisers. I have enjoyed working Net control for events and club Nets. During my employment years, I was in the Air Force and Air National Guard. While in the Air Force I had use of the MARS system to talk to my wife who was back home and pregnant with our sons. I have traveled to Japan, and to Norway (north of the Arctic Circle) and several states. For a while I worked in manufacturing building and testing business aircraft. I was injured in the military, and use a wheel chair after my injury. I now volunteer for Non-Profits groups helping out here and there. I didn't get the radio bug until I took an electronics class with an amateur radio balloon group. I now hold a General license and am studying for Extra Class.

I married my wife, Susan, in Wichita, Kansas but we knew each other growing up in Kansas and dated in our sophomore and junior years. We were married in 1976, and now have two sons. My wife and I have been married 36 years this coming May. Got a job in Idaho and moved to Kuna in 1984 with my wife. My two sons graduated from Kuna Schools. Our sons, daughters-in-law and my wonderful grandchildren live here in Idaho near us. I was on several committees and was elected to the Kuna / School Library Board.

I check into several HF Nets in the evenings, and check into several club VHF Nets around the valley. I also am a member of several clubs in the valley; I thought that I could at least support the clubs by being a member and thus support local repeaters. I am part of the ARES/RACES groups and have been a member of RACES since shortly after I received my license. The past several years I have been working with SkyWarn™ for the Boise Weather Service. Just recently, I helped out on a winter storm alert and receiving reports from other radio operators.

I have had several years of College and many hours of training within the military, but never attained a degree. I have taken ARRL courses online along with several FEMA courses. I have also had CERTS training through Ada County. Learned to shoot and edit shows for airing on Public Access Television (known as Treasure Valley Public Access Television) which, I believe, is a way of getting your information

out to others using our local Television and Cable services. I, with others produced a regularly broadcasted show for a while, and have been doing the City of Boise Council meeting for several years now.

Board Member -- MIKE SHRYNE, WI7MM.

Mike grew up in Great Falls, Montana. In mid 50's became interested in electronics, Short Wave Listening and Ham Radio. Obtained a Hallicrafters SX-110 Short Wave Receiver and put up an end fed antenna for SWLing. Joined a Ham Radio Club, Great Falls Radio Club, Inc. (W7YXG) while in High School. Did not complete the code requirements for the license. Attended several colleges in the 60's and ended up with a two year degree in electronics, also Joined Montana Air National Guard. After school worked fixing mechanical cash registers. Moved to Southern California in 1970 and worked in Electronics as a technician until promoted to engineer in 1977, the same year I was married to Dalia (35 years). Worked through out the 80's as an engineer, being the lead engineer in two start up fiber optic communication companies.

Moved to Idaho in 1990 (Montana is toooo cold). Two children moved on with their lives in 2000. Worked at local electronic companies until 2007. Decided to complete getting license, after 50 years. The other motivation was to learn to relax when talking. Obtained Technician/General in Oct 2009, as KF7FGK, and my Extra in Jan 2010. Bought a used Icom 756 Pro on e-bay. It took till Oct. 2011 to get up a decent antenna (a used Hustler 6BTV ground mounted with 620 feet of radials). 10 meter propagation was insane in Oct. and was able to work many countries. Recently obtained a vanity sign of WI7MM.

Current interests include DX, Rag Chewing, striving toward WAS, DXCC and occasionally logging into one of the local 2 meter nets. Someday interests include Digital, CW, QRP, bread boarding and after a few thousand QSO's maybe net control and after ten's of thousands of QSO's maybe some involvement in emergency Radio. Non-Radio interests include Family, Bible Studies, Tai Chi Ch'uan and genealogy. Also a part time job as "Chauffeur *Gopher*" to support his wife's real estate business. Morse code is going to have to wait for now since his wife's home based Spanish class is going make Mike a so-so student of Spanish.

Board Member, Bill Barrus, Born in Beloit Wisconsin some few years ago. Places I've lived: Beloit Wis., Berkley Calif., Portland Ore., La Grande Ore., Nampa ID., Biloxi Miss., Selma Ala., Boise ID. Thus far, Idaho is home for me and Celeste.

I graduated from Nampa High School a looong time ago. I took a radio class in High School and part of the class work was learning CW at 13 WPM and studying for a general class license. I was first licensed in 1952 as W7PKL. I later upgraded to Advanced Class license (still stuck at 13 WPM). Married my wonderful wife Celeste in 1958. We have seven children with six still living. Worked for the Idaho Air National Guard as a Avionics Tech., 1955 to 1971 and then the United States Forest Service as an Electronics Tech. till 1991. Let my license expire in 1962. (I was working with electronics every day and didn't need Ham radio that much.) Never was good at paperwork and deadlines. Renewed (retested) in 2005. Received the call AD7FM. Did the vanity thing and got my old call back. AD7 just didn't work for me on CW. I am a member of the IMN CW traffic NET, the Utah Beehive Net, The Idaho ERC emergency NET, and am Primary NCS on the ISRA Two Metre NET on Sunday Eve's at 8:30 PM local time.

I have been a past President of the ISRA, Inc club and am glad that someone else has that job now. Currently a board member. E-mail is w7pkl@yahoo.com.

Idaho QSO Party

"Save the Date" -- The 2012 Idaho QSO Party will take place on 03/10/12, 1900Z thru 03/11/12, 1859Z. Complete information available at <nx7tt.com> or idahoarri.info, just click on the QSO Party button.

This year, participants are invited to include "Soap Box" comments with your logs, these will appear on the web page. Hope you will be able to join us.
Ed Stuckey, AI7H, Idaho Section Manager.

Idaho State Convention

The fourth annual Idaho State Convention will be held Friday, April 20, through Sunday, April 22, 2012, at [The Boise Hotel & Conference Center](#) in Boise, Idaho.

For those of you that attended prior conventions, the Boise Hotel & Conference Center is the same location that was formerly known as the "Holiday Inn at Boise Airport".

This is the "must attend" event for all amateur radio operators (and anyone interested in amateur radio) in Idaho and the surrounding areas. Each of the last three years we had approximately 500 people in attendance and we are expecting similar attendance this year.

The Convention will start at noon on Friday, April 20, and conclude with the raffle drawing starting at 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Some of the planned activities include:

- Saturday Morning Welcome and Keynote Address: National, regional, & local leaders, and other VIP guests kickoff the 2012 Idaho State Amateur Radio Convention.
- [Friday Evening Special Seminar](#) featuring a guest speaker; spaghetti dinner included!
- [Saturday Evening Banquet](#) featuring a guest speaker. Your choice of dinner entree: Steak, Chicken, or Salmon.
- [Vendors and Exhibitors](#) including Yaesu, Ham Radio Outlet, and many others!
- [Seminars, Forums, & Training sessions!](#) From "hands-on" technical workshops to informative seminars, there is something for everyone.
- [Amateur Radio License Testing](#): Two testing sessions on Saturday.
- [Consignment Sales](#) & [Tailgate Sales](#): Pick up some "treasures" or "[Sell Your Stuff](#)".

[Raffle and Door Prizes](#): Twenty radios with a total value over \$5,000 plus many other items! Be sure to purchase your raffle tickets at the convention. The more that you buy, the better chance of winning!

For fun I have included a sample Technician Class Test to see if all you old guys can remember what it was like to take their first exam and if you can remember anything. Twenty seven correct answers is a passing grade. We will give you the answers at the February meeting.

Practice FCC technician2010 Practice Test

Q 1: Which of these precautions should be taken when installing devices for lightning protection in a coaxial cable feedline?

(T0A07)

- A. Include a parallel bypass switch for each protector so that it can be switched out of the circuit when running high power.
- B. Include a series switch in the ground line of each protector to prevent RF overload from inadvertently damaging the protector.
- C. Keep the ground wires from each protector separate and connected to station ground.
- D. Ground all of the protectors to a common plate which is in turn connected to an external ground.

Q 2: Which of the following establishes grounding requirements for an amateur radio tower or antenna? (T0B11)

- A. FCC Part 97 Rules.
- B. Local electrical codes.
- C. FAA tower lighting regulations.
- D. Underwriters Laboratories' recommended practices.

Q 3: Why is duty cycle one of the factors used to determine safe RF radiation exposure levels? (T0C10)

- A. It affects the average exposure of people to radiation.
- B. It affects the peak exposure of people to radiation.
- C. It takes into account the antenna feedline loss.
- D. It takes into account the thermal effects of the final amplifier.

Q 4: Which part of the FCC rules contains the rules and regulations governing the Amateur Radio Service? (T1A03)

- A. Part 73.
- B. Part 95.
- C. Part 90.
- D. Part 97.

Q 5: North American amateur stations are located in which ITU region? (T1B02)

- A. Region 1.
- B. Region 2.
- C. Region 3.
- D. Region 4.

Q 6: What is the normal term for an FCC-issued primary station/operator license grant? (T1C08)

- A. Five years.
- B. Life.
- C. Ten years.
- D. Twenty years.

Q 7: When may amateur radio operators use their stations to notify other amateurs of the availability of equipment for sale or trade?

(T1D05)

- A. When the equipment is normally used in an amateur station and such activity is not conducted on a regular basis.
- B. When the asking price is \$100.00 or less.
- C. When the asking price is less than its appraised value.
- D. When the equipment is not the personal property of either the station licensee or the control operator or their close relatives.

Q 8: What type of control is used when the control operator is not at the station location but can indirectly manipulate the operating adjustments of a station?

(T1E10)

- A. Local.
- B. Remote.
- C. Automatic.
- D. Unattended.

Q 9: How many persons are required to be members of a club for a club station license to be issued by the FCC?

(T1F12)

- A. At least 5.
- B. At least 4.
- C. A trustee and 2 officers.
- D. At least 2.

Q 10: What is a common repeater frequency offset in the 70 cm band?

(T2A03)

- A. Plus or minus 5 MHz.
- B. Plus or minus 600 kHz.
- C. Minus 600 kHz.
- D. Plus 600 kHz.

Q 11: Which of the following describes the muting of receiver audio controlled solely by the presence or absence of an RF signal?

(T2B03)

- A. Tone squelch.
- B. Carrier squelch.
- C. CTCSS.
- D. Modulated carrier.

Q 12: What is the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service?

(T2C05)

- A. An emergency radio service organized by amateur operators.
- B. A radio service using amateur stations for emergency management or civil defense communications.
- C. A radio service organized to provide communications at civic events.
- D. A radio service organized by amateur operators to assist non-military persons.

Q 13: What should you do if another operator reports that your station's 2 meter signals were strong just a moment ago, but now they are weak or distorted?

(T3A01)

- A. Change the batteries in your radio to a different type.
- B. Turn on the CTCSS tone.
- C. Ask the other operator to adjust his squelch control.
- D. Try moving a few feet, as random reflections may be causing multi-path distortion.

Q 14: What is the formula for converting frequency to wavelength in meters?

(T3B06)

- A. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in hertz multiplied by 300.
- B. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in hertz divided by 300.
- C. Wavelength in meters equals frequency in megahertz divided by 300.
- D. Wavelength in meters equals 300 divided by frequency in megahertz.

Q 15: Which of the following might be happening when VHF signals are being received from long distances?

(T3C02)

- A. Signals are being reflected from outer space.
- B. Signals are arriving by sub-surface ducting.
- C. Signals are being reflected by lightning storms in your area.
- D. Signals are being refracted from a sporadic E layer.

Q 16: What is the source of a high-pitched whine that varies with engine speed in a mobile transceiver's

receive audio?

(T4A10)

- A. The ignition system.
- B. The alternator.
- C. The electric fuel pump.
- D. Anti-lock braking system controllers.

Q 17: Which of the following is an appropriate receive filter to select in order to minimize noise and interference for SSB reception?

(T4B09)

- A. 500 Hz.
- B. 1000 Hz.
- C. 2400 Hz.
- D. 5000 Hz.

Q 18: What is the basic unit of electromotive force?

(T5A11)

- A. The volt.
- B. The watt.
- C. The ampere.
- D. The ohm.

Q 19: How many volts are equal to one kilovolt?

(T5B03)

- A. One one-thousandth of a volt.
- B. One hundred volts.
- C. One thousand volts.
- D. One million volts.

Q 20: What is the basic unit of capacitance?

(T5C02)

- A. The farad.
- B. The ohm.
- C. The volt.
- D. The henry.

Q 21: What is the resistance of a circuit that draws 4 amperes from a 12-volt source?

(T5D06)

- A. 3 ohms.
- B. 16 ohms.
- C. 48 ohms.
- D. 8 Ohms.

Q 22: What electrical parameter is controlled by a potentiometer?

(T6A03)

- A. Inductance.
- B. Resistance.
- C. Capacitance.
- D. Field strength.

Q 23: What class of electronic components is capable of using a voltage or current signal to control current flow?

(T6B01)

- A. Capacitors.
- B. Inductors.
- C. Resistors.
- D. Transistors.

Q 24: What is component 3 in figure T1?

(T6C04)

- A. Resistor.
- B. Transistor.
- C. Lamp.
- D. Ground symbol.

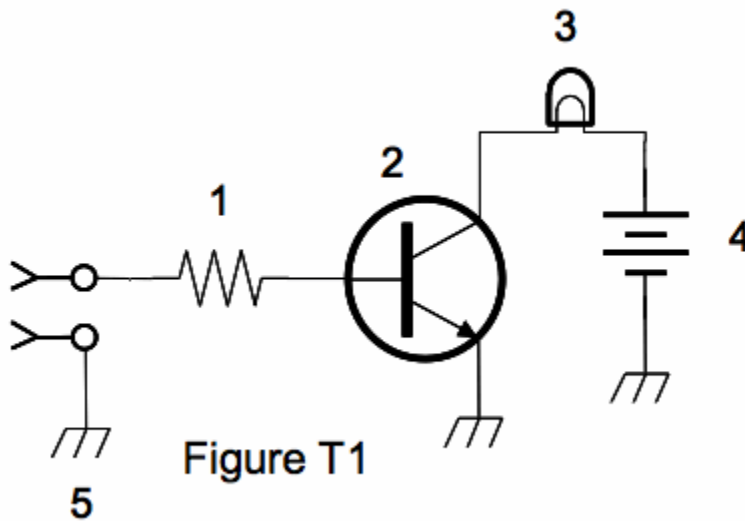


Figure T1

Q 25: What is the name of a device that combines several semiconductors and other components into one package?

(T6D09)

- A. Transducer.
- B. Multi-pole relay.
- C. Integrated circuit.
- D. Transformer.

Q 26: What is the function of a product detector?

(T7A01)

- A. Detect phase modulated signals.
- B. Demodulate FM signals.
- C. Detect CW and SSB signals.
- D. Combine speech and RF signals.

Q 27: What should you do if a "Part 15" device in your neighbor's home is causing harmful interference to your amateur station?

(T7B08)

- A. Work with your neighbor to identify the offending device.
- B. Politely inform your neighbor about the rules that require him to stop using the device if it causes interference.
- C. Check your station and make sure it meets the standards of good amateur practice.
- D. All of these choices are correct.

Q 28: What does an SWR reading of 4:1 mean?

(T7C06)

- A. An antenna loss of 4 dB.
- B. A good impedance match.
- C. An antenna gain of 4.
- D. An impedance mismatch.

Q 29: Which of the following precautions should be taken when measuring circuit resistance with an ohmmeter?

(T7D11)

- A. Ensure that the applied voltages are correct.
- B. Ensure that the circuit is not powered.
- C. Ensure that the circuit is grounded.
- D. Ensure that the circuit is operating at the correct frequency.

Q 30: What is the primary advantage of single sideband over FM for voice transmissions?

(T8A07)

- A. SSB signals are easier to tune.
- B. SSB signals are less susceptible to interference.
- C. SSB signals have narrower bandwidth.
- D. All of these choices are correct.

Q 31: What do the initials LEO tell you about an amateur satellite?

(T8B10)

- A. The satellite battery is in Low Energy Operation mode.
- B. The satellite is performing a Lunar Ejection Orbit maneuver.
- C. The satellite is in a Low Earth Orbit.
- D. The satellite uses Light Emitting Optics.

Q 32: What is a grid locator?

(T8C05)

- A. A letter-number designator assigned to a geographic location.
- B. A letter-number designator assigned to an azimuth and elevation.
- C. An instrument for neutralizing a final amplifier.
- D. An instrument for radio direction finding.

Q 33: Which of the following can be used to transmit CW in the amateur bands?

(T8D10)

- A. Straight Key.
- B. Electronic Keyer.
- C. Computer Keyboard.
- D. All of these choices are correct.

Q 34: What is the approximate length, in inches, of a 6 meter 1/2-wavelength wire dipole antenna?

(T9A09)

- A. 6.
- B. 50.
- C. 112.
- D. 236.

Q 35: What might cause erratic changes in SWR readings?

(T9B09)

- A. The transmitter is being modulated.
- B. A loose connection in an antenna or a feedline.
- C. The transmitter is being over-modulated.
- D. Interference from other stations is distorting your signal.