



Affiliate Club

IDAHO SOCIETY OF RADIO AMATEURS

Boise Chapter

January 18, 2011

Web Site: www.israboise.com VHF NET 146.94, 8:30 pm Sundays

President: KE7GKM

Yrs Trooly: KE7RL

Announcements

The January meeting of the ISRA, Boise Chapter, will be the annual business meeting with primary focus on the election of officers and two board members for the 2011 Board of Directors. All members who can are encouraged to attend to protect their good name.

Your 2011 dues can be given to the treasurer Bob N7ZF or can be mailed to Id. Soc. of Radio Am, PO BOX 8903, Boise ID 83707.

This year's ARRL Field Day will be held on June 25 and 26. The club has tentatively reserved the usual location at Eagle Island State Park for Saturday June 25. If you have another location that you feel the club should check out for FD, please relay that suggestion to a club officer.

An up-coming club meeting, perhaps February's meeting, is tentatively scheduled to take place at the Reuseum, a store specializing in scientific, industrial, and governmental surplus equipment. It is conveniently located at 108 33rd Street in Garden City. Dave Gapen of Reuseum will likely talk on topics including DIY robotics and the logistics of the store and its on-line operation Obtainium. This program should prove quite interesting. Bring all your friends. Check out both Reuseum and Obtainium on the web.

December was our annual winter dinner. We refer to this dinner as our annual Christmas dinner. Don't know what happened to Santa Clause, I couldn't find him. It was held at the Golden Corral in Boise. You get to pick and choose what you wish to eat, so if the menu was not to your liking

The Winners



Myrtle Hall (OM Jim W4TVI)



Duane Carley W7ZEB



Judy Olson (OM Gaylan

KB7SYE)



Alan N7UD



Becki KE7ZKE

The Who's Who column By John Davis

I decided to pick a couple of the club members at random, and do a "bio" on them, so we all can get to know each other a little better.

My first selection, made by closing my eyes and pointing, is Jack Hotchkiss W7CNL. Many of us had the opportunity to attend the club picnic last summer at Jack's place, and see his ham station, as well as his yard with its duck pond, chicken pens, etc.



.....Jack W7CNL At his operating desk

Jack has been married 46 years, has three kids, and 8 grandchildren. Jack worked 31 years for a telecommunications company, then worked 11 years as a dispatcher for the Idaho State Patrol. He says that was an interesting job that was different every day. Being a ham radio operator helped him get that job.

Jack has been a ham since high school days, and at first shared radio equipment with his brother. At one point he and his brother pooled their money to buy a brand new

Hammerlund HQ140X receiver, that cost about \$300, a lot of money in those days.

Besides ham radio, Jack is in to gardening, but says he needs to cut back this coming season, because it is taking too much time, and he would like to do more fishing with his son. He has a boat, but his son takes the boat, and Jack stays home to keep the gardening under control.

Jack prefers Tentec radios, which are mostly made in Tennessee. Jack is a CW man, and is into QRP (5 watts or less output), and QRPP (one watt or less output). Jack has an award that he is very proud of, and certainly should be, for "Worked All States" at 20 milliwatts, all CW, all on 20 meters. It took him about 1-1/2 years to complete that award.

W7CNL is currently into "SOTA" or Summits of the Air. This is an activity that got organized first in the UK, and is more of a summertime activity, because a lot of mountains cannot be climbed in the winter. This activity has hams called "activators," the ones that climb mountains with portable ham gear, and "chasers," those who stay at home and make contacts with the activators.

Jack says one of the highlights of his ham radio career was attending the QCWA (Quarter Century Wireless Association) annual convention in 2005, which was held on a cruise ship in Alaska. Jack said about 100 hams were on board, and many seminars and social times were held. They also saw lots of the Alaskan scenery. John Davis KE7RL

TO ALL OF MY FRIENDS AND ASSOCIATES IN MY HAM RADIO COMMUNITY - AN EXPERIENCE TOO GOOD TO NOT SHARE WITH YOU.

Today is Saturday, New Year's day. I snow-birding in Arizona, south of Tucson. Last week I met my kids in San Diego and did the usual tourist stuff. Thursday they went to Leggo Land. I was not interested and did not go. I looked in the telephone book and discovered that HRO (Ham Radio Outlet) has a store in San Diego. Off I went and spent a great couple of hours there. While in the store I needed the use of their bathroom. Fortunately, theirs is open to customers. The door is white and not really noticeable until you look for it. On the door is the usual black lettered printed sign saying REST ROOM. Above those words someone used a black felt pen and hand wrote the letters DXCC. Now there is an attention-getter for you. In I went. WOW!! The walls are covered floor to ceiling with QSL cards. From all over the world. Most are from far away exotic places.

Many are rare. An impressive number are from DXpeditions. It is an incredible collection. But it gets better.

None of the cards have the QSL information blanks filled in. None were received in the mail. All have a personal comment and signature written across their face and stapled to the wall. The guy at the counter told me that each ham that posts a card has a legitimate connection to that card. The rule is you must use that bathroom and staple up your card yourself. Apparently the DX community has a "thing" about wall papering the bathroom walls of HRO stores. The counter guy told me hams from all over the world pass through that store and that bathroom. I now claim I have shared the "operating seat" with some of ham radio's legends.

I am not a selfish guy. I like to share. Had I met these guys individually and gripped their hands I could shake your hands and assure you that you have pressed the flesh of a hand that has touched the hands of ham radio legends. Problem is, I am not sure how I can share this one with you. No way do I dance "cheek to cheek". Perhaps each of you now has a "seat" in your home with my name on it awaiting my use? What a thrill it would be for you, I am sure.

Happy New Year from Arizona where the temperature last night was 28 degrees. Today is Saturday New Year's Day and my heating system is broken. The legendary cold well-digger caught up with me. Good luck to me for finding anyone who will fix it before Monday. Looks like I will have to return to Idaho to warm up. Best regards/73s/all the words/etc. Richard Schmidt K7NSW. Home town is Meridian, Idaho.

Another Who's Who by John Davis

My Second club member ham to do a "bio" on is Duane Carley W7ZEB. Duane was scientifically chosen because he was home and answered the phone when I called.

Duane was first licensed in 1953 when he was in the 8th grade in Emmett, Idaho. He and a friend, also in the 8th grade, took their ham tests the same week, and ended up with the friend getting a call sign ending in ZEA and Duane getting ZEB. Duane still has his original call sign, except that he lost it for a while when he lived in Colorado in the days when you had to change your call sign if you moved to a different call area. He had W0NSD, but when he moved back to Idaho, he was able to get W7ZEB again.

Duane has been married about 10 years. He has three kids from a previous marriage, and four grandchildren. Duane worked for Mountain Bell, later to become U.S. West, in equipment engineering.

Duane's first ham rig was pretty much home brew. The receiver was made out of a Zenith console radio, and a home brewed transmitter. He said he had some test equipment that used to upset the neighbors by causing TVI. Duane kind of let the hobby lapse for many years, because of college, family, work, etc, but he did not let his license expire.

W7ZEB likes old National Galaxy radio equipment, and thinks he still has a "side band package" buried somewhere in the garage or attic. He said he used to be able to work Australia, using the rain gutter on the house for an antenna. He now uses Yaesu equipment, and is (like most of us) limited in what antennas he can get away with. His ham activity now consists mostly of a ragchew net on 20 meters, occasionally checking into the farm net, and doing field day. He is currently restoring an antique Multi-Elmac AM station that was originally made to be used mobil or as a base station. The power supply (he says he bought it on the internet at a horrible price) can be fed with 12 volts DC or 120 volts AC.

Duane's other hobbies include machinist work (he has a small lathe, a milling machine, and a larger lathe). He also is learning to weld, and likes to shoot trap. Duane used his machinist

skills to make several VHF/UHF antennas for club members last year.

John Davis KE7RL

From the President's Shack:

The year 2010 was a good one for the club in terms of its monthly programs and its caloric intake. The latter refers to our chowing at FD, at the July picnic, and at the December dinner. For me there was disappointment that we did not make much improvement on our antennas from the 2009 FD. There was also mild disappointment that more of you did join the "operators corps" at FD.

In 2010 I realized a dream from my teen age days to operate with a home brewed station. My new station runs 5 watts, 20/40 meters, and CW with the TX exciter, TX RF amp, and direct conversion RX coming from the designs of

(1) <http://www.qrpkits.com/files/DCxxB.pdf>, (2) QST June 2010, pages 30-33, and (3) <http://www.wa0itp.com/vrx1.html>.

In the recent months I have made over 110 unscheduled QSOs to 29 states/prov with this HB station. Part of my operating strategy is to operate near, but not quite right on, the QRP "watering holes" at 7.03 and 14.06 MHz. I usually call CQ at about 7 wpm. I guess that this speed has resulted in a good number of QSOs with shyer operators with modest CW skills including a 95 years old OM. (OOM?) I then adjust my speed to the contact's speed -- which is almost always less than 15 wpm. Certainly, in making my batch of QSOs my CW confidence has increased while my CW-QSO fatigue level has lowered.

In my list of HB QSOs were some nice surprises. I had QSOs with two of the three of the designers of the rig, namely W6JL in Fall Brook, CA, and NT7S in Beaverton, OR. I made contacts with several stations running under two watts and with some using older rigs such as Viking Rangers from the 60's. Yep, Rangers sure dance when they are not warmed up. It was neat to make contact with Wes Hayward, author of ARRL's "Experimental Methods in RF Design." And, of course, I had a 599 QSL from 3 miles away with W7CNL and his new QRP TenTec rig.

73
Bob