

**IDAHO SOCIETY OF RADIO AMATEURS
BOISE CHAPTER**

March 17, 2008

CLUB WEB: <http://israboise.com> CLUB NET: 144,94 8:30 PM Sundays

President: W7PKL

Yrs. Trooly: W7GHT

Boise Chapter ISRA next will meet Tuesday March 17, 2009 (St. Patrick's Day) at Fairmont Jr. High School, 2121 North Cole Road, Boise, Idaho. The time is 7:00 PM. The program will be presented by Bob Willis, N7ZF, who will tell us, and bring us up to date about APRS. Sounds like a great program and, for sure, Bob is a good speaker. Plan on being there.

FORWARDED TO (AND FROM) W7PKL

“Amateur radio operators enjoy personal (and often worldwide) wireless communications with each other and are able to support their communities with emergency and disaster communications if necessary, while increasing their personal knowledge of electronics and radio theory... However proliferation of the internet and its popularity among youth has caused the decline of amateur radio in the past five years alone, the number of people holding active ham radio licenses has dropped by 50,000 even though Morse Code is no longer a requirement.”

We all must acknowledge the above, and we all must do something about it. One way of combat is to attract younger people who might possibly join us. How about bringing possible candidates to the meeting. Invite them to visit your own ham shack.

ISRA BOOTH AT CONVENTION

President Bill, W7PKL is sending out “feelers” on setting up a table at the Idaho Ham Convention, April 24-26. He wants to attract new members and to get more youngsters interesting in becoming a ham. Good idea. The cost for the table will be \$14.00 (I think).

Bill needs volunteers to help expound the high lights and virtues of our Club. Who will raise their hand? If none, expect the officers to come rambling in mass with clubs in their hands. Don't want to hear you got “banged” over the head, so be ready to help.

W5D DESECHEO ISLAND

Did anyone work W5D during last month's trip to Desecheo Island? A few report they heard nothing but a mountainous pile-up of stations (world wide) trying to contact the group, but no one I have asked managed to work the station. I was just asking the wrong persons, I guess. Reports are that W5D managed to exceed 100,000 contacts on February 23rd. The historic (100,000) contact happened at 0414Z on February 23 between K5D and E77U from Bosnia Herzegovina.. Their total contact number reached 115,728. Fantastic.

DECEMBER BANQUET

During our January Meeting, Yrs Trooly brought up the placement for our December Banquet meeting with the QCWA Group. Since it is the local QCWA Club that initiated the December Banquet, it was felt they should have the final say, whether to return to the Great Wall or stay with the Golden Corral. The census of our Club was to stay with the Golden Corral.

It took only a moment for Don Clower, KA7T, president of the QCWA group to obtain the wants. Someone made a motion and a unanimous vote almost immediately ensued. Thus our December Banquet will be at Golden Corral.

Reservations have been made. We will eat at 6:00 PM, Tuesday, December 15. Enuff said, I hope.

CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Here's a list of members as of March 1 as shown by our Secy?Treas Bob Sulanke's records. Who hasn't paid. Look below.

| NAME | DUES |
|-----------------------------|------|
| Adams, Brian, W7CVS | |
| Ahmann, Robert, W7SC | Life |
| Barrus, Willaim, W7PKL | xx |
| Blue, Todd, KK7WB | xx |
| Brigante, Vince, KE7GBC | xx |
| Carley, Duane, W7ZEB | xx |
| Carraway, Harold W7OSH | |
| Davis, John , KE7RL | xx |
| De Lucia, Dain AA7YE | xx |
| Elliott, Mike, K7BOI | xx |
| Fujii, Edson, W7IZZ | xx |
| Hale, Al, N7AL | xx |
| Hall, James, W4TVI | xx |
| Hotchkiss, John, W7CNL | xx |
| Kliethemers, Robert, KB7DXN | |
| Kronke, Gerald, KB7ULT | xx |
| Maunua, Joseph, KA5TWS | xx |
| Matschke, Wil, N0KHL | xx |
| Matschke, Barbara | |
| Muhlestein, Dale, WE7Y | |
| Norlen, Margaret, KC7KLL | |
| Norlen, Richard, WB6URE | |
| Olsen, Gaylan, KB7SYE | xx |
| Pentecost, Gene, W4IMT | |
| Rhines, Doc, W7DOK | xx |
| Rich, Doug, W7DVR | |
| Smith, Larry, W7ZQ | Life |
| Smith, William, W7GHT | xx |

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| Siles, Jack, KC8BX | |
| Sulanke, Bob, KE7GKM | xx |
| Voyles, Jim, K7JV | xx |
| Wickstrom, Al, W7GCL | xx |
| Willis, Robert, N7ZSF | xx |

PRACTICE CW ON 2-METER NET

Are any of the “newbies” interested in learning or improving their CW? If so, we can consider copying the Kansas City example. There, the Kansas City 145.37 Repeater for the Independence of CW over FM Net, meets at 1900 Central Standard Time every Monday night. Anyone with an interest in Morse and who owns a CW practice oscillator is more than welcome to participate.

And we could copy their ideas.

THAT’S NOT A BOMB

A sad but funny story came out of Omaha, Nebraska. That’s where police and a bomb squad blew up a trap from a ham radio antenna because nobody could figure out what it was. It all happened on Thursday, February 26th. That’s when both agencies were called out following the discovery by a cleaning crew of a device they thought looked like a PVC pipe bomb.

The house in question belonged to Bob Rennolat, W0AEX. There had been an electrical fire in his house 2 weeks before and he had hired the clean-up crew but it had no idea as to what it had found. So, rather than take chances, the bomb squad decided to blow it up. That’s when they realized it was not a bomb but a piece of W0AEX’s ham radio gear.

Ironically, W0AEX lives next door to a fire station, so they didn’t have far to go to put out the fire or blow up the trap.

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.

NEWSBRIEFS:

New e-mail address for Todd, KK7WB is: kk7wb@yahoo.com.

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 very minimal any more, he has yet to find his way around his new room, and to his rig.

Presidents Corner

I really enjoyed our February meeting. Bob Sulanke stood in for Homer Brauer and gave a fun and interesting presentation on what you can do with a triode tube. It was really kind of fun to see Bob work with the mock-up that Homer had built up. Jim Hall was also involved as a technical advisor and helpmate with the oscilloscope that Bob was not familiar with.

Will, N0KHL, showed up to the meeting. Wil hails from the midwest and has been transplanted in Nampa. Glad he could come over from Nampa and visit with us. Wil and Barbara are new members of the ISRA Boise Chapter.

A couple other new members are Mike Elliott, K7BOI, and Joseph Maurus, KA5TWS. I'm looking forward to meeting you in the near future. Like maybe at our up-coming meeting. We will be hearing from Bob Willis, N7ZF, as he gives a comprehensive overview of the Automatic Position Reporting System (APRS). He promises to keep it fairly simple for those of us who are technically challenged .

There has been a lot of news media coverage about a fellow named Capt. Chesley B. "Sully" Sullenberger. The March issue of EMCOMM MONTHLY, the official journal of the World Radio Relay League (www.emcomm.org), shared a quote attributed to Capt. Sully.

"For 42 years, I had made small, regular, deposits of education, training and experience. And the experience bank was sufficient that on January 15, I could make a sudden large withdrawal."

WRRL goes on to say -- Unless you have been living in a cave, you have heard the story of U.S. Airways Flight 1549, "Cactus 1549," that struck birds shortly after takeoff from New York City's LaGuardia Airport, lost power in both engines and "splash landed" in the Hudson River. The cool, calm and disciplined actions of Capt. Sullenberger, the other four crew members, the air traffic controllers, and the first responders (both professional and volunteer) who assisted in the rescue resulted in 155 lives saved with only a few injuries.

The voice recordings of the air radio traffic is an example of proper procedures for emergency communicators by voice radio. E.g. - they used SAY AGAIN as opposed to the improper "please repeat". There were a few "breaches" in proper procedure, but considering the critical nature of the emergency, they performed well.

Radio amateurs who are serious about public service and emergency communications make regular deposits to their "experience bank" whenever they pick up a mic or put their hand on a key. They practice and use proper operating procedures every time they are on-the-air. Not just during nets or actual emergency incidents. In other words, they make "small, regular, deposits of education, training and experience." Then when an actual emergency occurs, they are PREPARED, to make "a sudden large withdrawal" if needed.

There you have it from WRRL. They said it much better than I could.

In spite of the snow, freezing rain, ice and cold winds, Spring is coming.
Field Day in June. ISRA/QCWA Summer picnic in August.

Bill Barrus W7PKL