



Affiliate Club

IDAHO SOCIETY OF RADIO AMATEURS

Boise Chapter

May 17 2011

Web Site: www.israboise.com

VHF NET 146.94, 8:30 pm Sundays

President: KE7GKM

Copy Editor KE7GKM

Yrs Trooly:

Our May 17 Meeting “ARES - *When an HT and fresh batteries won't cut it*”

Ken Malgren, K7MAL, Idaho Section Emergency Coordinator for ARES (Amateur Radio Emergency Service) will explain what ARES has recently accomplished in Ada County and Idaho as well as what the local ARES plans are for the future. He will also tell us about the Idaho State Emergency Plan which is rapidly taking shape.

The May meeting will begin at 7PM at Fairmont Junior High, 2121 N. Cole Rd. Boise

ARRL Field Day -- June 25th and 26th. Yeessss!!! The ISRA Boise Chapter will be celebrating the largest on-air Amateur Radio event in the world. Is Field Day a contest, an emergency preparedness exercise, a public outreach event, or simply a fun day on the air away from home. Field day is all of these things.

The fun begins Saturday morning June 25th near the East parking lot at Eagle Island State Park just West of Eagle Idaho off Linder Rd.

The antennas start going up at 9 AM. We need at least six somewhat able bodied hams(boys or girls) to assist with this project. As the antennas are going up we will be setting up two stations. One will be primarily phone (SSB) and the other will be CW. Through the day we will be needing operators and loggers/dupe sheet checkers.

POT LUCK --In the past we have had Pot Luck around 1:00 pm. if we remembered we were hungry. A thought was put forth by one of the club members of having a evening B.B.Q. thingy around 5 to 6 pm while we are taking everything down and packing up to go home. Any thoughts on Pot Luck, BBQ, 1:00 pm, evening or even something else. We do have to be out of the park by dusk. No overnight activity.

We Have

- | | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 115v Generator | 2. One 75 ft extension cord | 3. Misc. chairs |
| 4. One FT 897 radio | 5. 2 six foot banquet tables | 6. one 18 Ft RV trailer |
| 7. Four dipole Antennas | 8 | |

We Need

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. 400 ftt of Extension cord | 2. Two shade canopies | 3. One phone/cw station |
| 4. Antenna Tuner | 5. lots of enthusiasm | 6. More enthusiasm |

What do You Have?

Call Bill Barrus (W7PKL) 362-0619
John Davis (KE7RL) 473-9186

Our April Meeting:

Bob Willis (N7ZF), demonstrated his new 'miniVNA' analyzer. Unlike single-port analyzers that are commonly used to make antenna measurements, the miniVNA is a 2-port vector network analyzer which can characterize antennas and also check cables and circuits – such as filters – at HF and VHF frequencies. Bob's demonstration of the miniVNA included:

- SWR measurements on a 2-meter mag-mount mobile antenna;
- transfer function of a Bencher HF low-pass antenna;
- attenuation measurements of the low-pass output filters inside an Elecraft K2 transceiver;
- coaxial cable length measurement;
- measurement of cable velocity factor.

He showed several Windows software applications that can control the miniVNA, and mentioned the non-Windows applications available for Linux, Java and Pocket PC. A graphical Smith chart can also be created with an Excel macro application called Zplots.

The 2010 Idaho State Convention experience by Bob N7ZF. (Accompanying this article are the photos in this issue. The first four are from Al, N7AL, and the remainder are from John Glen Hall.)



First of all, an excellent job by VOI Amateur Radio Club in the face of a difficult economy and high fuel prices. The Japan disaster also affected the event, as ICOM had to cancel their booth.

I was in the "noise bridge construction" seminar on Friday afternoon with the HP club. They had parts for 25 kits (\$25/kit) and said they could have sold more. The room was packed. One soldering iron per table was not enough, and the "Soldering 101" seminar scheduled for Sunday morning should have been a prerequisite for some people.

W7CNL Summitts on the Air

It was a great workshop idea, but just not enough time to build and tune the bridge with that large of a group. Most attendees decided to finish the project later at home, and there were excellent step-by-step illustrated instructions provided. Clearly there is an audience of attendees that like hands-on activities. One dad brought his son and let him do the soldering. Maybe years from now, that boy will remember that he got interested in ham radio when he built a noise bridge at a hamfest.

The talk by Lisa Spahr at the Friday dinner was wonderful. I wish my XYL had come that night, but I just couldn't get her interested in spaghetti. Ward Silver's talk on Saturday went in a direction that I had not expected, and he made some great points about our role in attracting new people into the ham radio community. I got a lot out of his impedance-matching seminar, too. He is a great communicator.



'Clark Kent' after his SOTA talk

The 'callsignment' store seems to have more stuff every year, as hams recognize the value of that service. It does make the parking lot flea market smaller, but there isn't a lot of space for that anyway. This year I noticed old computer and video stuff starting to appear at the callsignment store and it saddens me. If not controlled, in a few years most of the stuff for sale could end up being non-radio junk. I thought we were trying to stay above that and set a higher standard for the convention. I guess when there is a commission to be made by VOI, exceptions will be made. I was tempted by a couple of Kenwood radios that I saw. Fortunately, someone else took them and saved me from the ordeal of trying to sneak them into the house. My wife is always on "radio alert" around hamfest dates.



I was sitting at a table reading the manual for one of the Kenwood radios that I mentioned when I heard "Excuse me, mister, do you want to buy a radio for \$20?" I looked up and saw a boy about 12 or 13 years old, holding some kind of radio chassis - probably commercial - in his down-streched arms. I said "No. Someone GAVE that radio to you a little while ago." His face looked shocked. "How do you know that?" I said that I knew the man who gave it to him. His response was, "Well, how about \$15 then?" I said no thanks again. His final attempt: "Mister, this radio is very heavy. Do you want me to get a bad back?" Later I told Al Duddles, WA7GSK, about the boy who was trying to sell the radio he gave him from his flea market offerings. Al laughed and said he wanted to hire that kid someday. We decided he wasn't the engineering type, but more likely the management type. Later in the day, Al told me that the kid did actually sell the radio to someone. I miss the on-the-air station. Even if there isn't a high-end radio station available that is being raffled, I would like to see a station operating at the convention. If only for 'ambience'.

I have bought many ham radio books, and missed not having the book vendor here this year. The T-shirt vendor from the Portland area had some funny shirts -- better than the ones I saw at Dayton last

year. She said she makes up the sayings herself. I just didn't see very many people looking at or buying shirts. Makes me think they didn't even cover their costs for coming. I didn't need another t-shirt, but I bought one just to help them. I am a PowerPole junkie. I shouldn't look at that table (DC Power, LLC) because I always find something that I need -- although I never knew that I needed it until I saw it. I think they got about \$70 off me again this year, and I can't wait to see what they bring next year. The tentative dates are April 20-21, 2012 according to the web site. Put it on your calendar and tell your



friends and nearby QSO's.

Notes from the President's

contributed to this news letter -- your editor's job trivial, almost. If you Antenna Fools -- piece in the April issue from the club web page.

Personally, I had a super time at the market I found a WWII J37 key with a leg mount for \$10. I was unprepared for the PowerPole store,



Corner.

Our thanks to those who contributions made the copy missed the great April Fools -- issues, you might look at that

State Convention. At the flee

hi hi. I had a good chat with the helpful Elecraft rep, who just happens to live up in McCall. Again this year, it was certainly great to learn from Ward Silver. I found lots of good stuff at the FREE table, including a pile of Popular Electronics from 1955 to 1967 (Bye-bye tubes – hello transistors. From a 1967 Popular Electronics issue I learned that with CB both using a station as a hobby or diversion and communicating with non-ground waves was illegal.)

Look forward to participating in this year's FD. Surely there is an aspect of FD that's right down your alley. Certainly, bring some friends, family, and an old ham.

10-7 gud buddy, Bob



Photo by N7AL



Photo by N7AL

