



Ohm Town News

January 1994

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

Preparing for emergencies is no game!!

By Jeff Tingey KF7ZX

As the building lurched and rolled, the operators at the San Mateo, California power substation braced themselves in doorways. They could hear violent snapping and crackling outside. The sharp clang of falling metal. Loud hissing. Shattering porcelain. "It was scary," said system operator, Bruce Watkins. "Serious, big time scary."

After 15 seconds, all was quiet. The silence seemed as deafening as anything the men had just heard during the earthquake. Watkins walked to the back door of the station and looked at the power yard. "Oh my God," was all he could say.

It was October 17, 1989 at 5:04 p.m., and the substation that delivered power to much of San Francisco was down.

I'm sure that most all of us remember watching television, listening to our amateur radios, or stereos and thinking to ourselves, "this could have been happening in Utah!" Are we ready for the devastation that an earthquake of 7.1 could cause? Are we prepared to help? Have we made certain that our families will be safe?

Disaster "will" strike quickly and without warning. What would you do if basic services such as water, gas, electricity or telephones were cut off?

We can get our families ready for an emergency in advance by:

1. Finding out what can happen

What disasters are most likely to happen in your area? For example, do you live or work near a fault or in a flood plain?

2. Creating a disaster plan

Explain that dangers of fire, severe weather and earthquakes to children. Choose places to meet and someone to call in case of an emergency.

3. Completing this checklist

- Post emergency telephone numbers by phones.
- Show each family member how and when to turn off the water, gas and electricity at the main controls.
- Teach each family member how to use the fire extinguisher.
- Install smoke detectors on each level of your home.
- Stock emergency supplies such as water, food, blankets, etc.
- Take Red Cross first aid and CPR classes.
- Determine escape routes from your home.
- Find safe spots in your home for each type of disaster.

4. Practicing and maintaining your plan

You may request free family protection publications by writing to the Federal Emergency Management Agency, PO. Box 70274, Washington, DC. 20024. Ask for *Your Family Disaster Plan and the Emergency Preparedness Checklist*.

If you're like me, heaven forbid, sometimes I get overwhelmed with all the necessary things that should be one to prepare for a disaster, and I find myself hoping we make it through another year. Plans are good to have, however, the strength of any recovery is in the people, not the plan.

I hope each one of us can develop a desire to prepare and care for those we love, in case of a disaster. We all know, the question is not "If a disaster strikes" but "when a disaster strikes."

Let us "prepare now" to have a pleasant and prosperous 1994!

BARC Club Officers

President	Dean Stevens	N7WDY
Vice President	Niel Holt	N7PEO
Secretary	Cheryl Thurgood	N7YUE
Treasurer	Brian Potts	KB7FUB
Board Member	Joe Corbett	N7NJR
Board Member	Tyler Griffiths	N7UWX
Board Member	Terry Zollinger	N7PEG

DUES

Dues for the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club, Inc. are \$10.00 per person or \$12.00 per family per year. Dues can be paid to the Treasurer or any executive officer and are due January 1st of each year. Only one copy of *The Ohm Town News* will be sent to a single address unless full memberships are paid for each person wishing to receive a copy. The Club maintains with a separate fund, several repeaters and autopatches in the valley. Your voluntary donations to this fund are appreciated.

The inside back cover of this newsletter has a application for membership form. Please fill it out when paying your dues. This will help the club maintain an accurate record of members. Send your dues to:

Brian Potts, Treasurer
Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
83 Pineview drive
Hyde Park, UT 84318

The *Ohm Town News* is published monthly except August. Please send any correspondence, articles, or address changes to the Editor...

Kevin Reeve N7RXE
162 North 500 East #B
Logan Utah 84321

January Club Meeting

Date: January 13, 1994 at 7:30 pm

Location: Cache County Sheriff's Office

50 West 200 North, in Logan

Enter the East Doors and take the elevator down.

Come learn more about Packet Radio and also see AC7O's portable radio rack and system complete with HF, Packet, and much more.

Nets

VHF Nets

Bridgerland	Tuesday 9:00 PM	146.72
MARA (local)	Sunday 9:00 PM	147.20
UARC info Net	Sunday 9:00 PM	146.62
UARC Packet	Sunday 8:00 PM	146.62
UBET	Wednesday 8:00 PM	145.29/145.43
VHF Swap-Net	Tuesday 8:00 PM	146.94
RACES*	3rd Thur. 8:00 PM	146.68/146.49

UHF Nets

Bridgerland UHF	Wednesday 8:00 PM	449.80
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HF Nets

Beehive	Daily 12:30 PM	7.272
HF slow code	Daily 7:30 PM	3.710
FARM	Daily 8:00 PM	3.937
MARA (voice)	Saturday 7:30 AM	3.918
MARA (cw)	Saturday 8:00 AM	3.723
RACES*	3rd Thur. 8:00 PM	3.650
Utah MARA (voice)	Saturday 8:30 AM	3.873

Code Practice

K7HLR	Daily 7:30 & 9:30 PM	156.58
	also on 3.698 MHz & 7.092 MHz	

*NOTE: RACES Net is on VHF in even months and on HF during odd months. You must have a RACES number to check in.

EXAMS

Please verify these times and dates with the contact person.,

Tues, January 24, 7:00 PM

Granite High School Seminary, 33rd S. 3rd E., Salt Lake

Call: Eugene McWherter, N7OVT (484-6355)

Novice-Tech

Sat, February 5th, 8:00 AM

Blue Cross Blue Shield Bldg, 2455 Parley's Way

Call: Gordon Smith, K7HFV (582-2438)

PRE-REGISTRATION (over fone is OK) is STRONGLY recommended!!!

Wed, February 16th, 7:00 PM

UVSC Campus, Provo Campus, 1395 N. 150 E. Room 115

Call: Steve or Susan Whitehead (465-3983)

Club Station

Terry Zollinger N7PEG is the Club Station Manager. Before using the equipment you must be checked out on it by Terry. Contact him at 753--0345 or 750-3928. No equipment is to leave the room without his approval.

Presidents Corner...

By Dean Stevens N7WDY

I would like to extend a congratulations and a job well done to the Christmas party committee. All of us that attended had a great time and got a kick out of the stories provided by Jamie Forbush N7XLH, and Jennifer Davis N7QAP. "We loved your outfit Jamie." I was pleased to see the number of people turn out for the dinner. I hope every ham operator in the valley can feel comfortable with each other and have a desire to be a part of the fun we have.

I have named 1994 the "YEAR OF EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS." The big question I hope we all can ask and come to realize, is "NOT IF, BUT WHEN." Someday our valley will have it's turn for the worst. We might be here for it and maybe not. It might be our children. No one knows. The question we need to ask ourselves is, are we ready to deal with a full blown

emergency/disaster

? I know that if we were to have that asked today, we all would have to say no. Each one of us has work to do on getting prepared. We have had many club meetings on technical aspects, including antennas, methods of communications, different equipment etc. Now I feel we need to put together our skills on how to deal with an emergency. Those of us that attended the RACES meeting on DEC

16, at the Sheriffs office really got your eyes opened to the reality of how complex a disaster can become, and what our roll is in dealing with it.

I hope more people in the club and even those that are not members come to realize that we all need to work together as a team. It is "ALL FOR ONE, AND ONE FOR ALL." Please understand that there are no boundaries or "clicks" between organizations when it comes to emergency disaster relief. We have a great

clique

obligation not only to ourselves and families, but to the communities in which we live.

Some of the goals that have been set by your club officers to help us become more prepared and united are:

- To promote more friendliness on the repeaters
- Have mini workshops
- Training, and drills on *mock* mach disasters
- Have classes on CPR/first aid
- Have classes and workshops designed to interest those of us with little or no knowledge about electronics
- Club activities: outdoor games, go to dinner, have club breakfasts, low tech balloon launches and hunts, bunny hunts.

These are a few of the ideas that have been discussed at our monthly board meeting. If any of you have a suggestion, or comment, on what you would like

to see done as a club, please notify one of the BARC officers, so we can implement it into our plans.

I feel this year is going to be very busy. With activities that we currently support, along with the implementation of the other activities that have been mentioned, there are many ways that each one of us can become involved some way or another in the club and have a sense of belonging and worthwhile. No

one should feel left out. If you do, get with one of the club officers and we will help you feel like you are as important as the other, Because you are!

I hope to see all of you to the club meetings and activities, and most of all, encourage you to **BECOME INVOLVED!**



1994 BARC Club Officers

(Back Row) Terry Zollinger N7PEG, Tyler Griffiths N7UWX, Brian Potts KB7FUB, Dean Stevens N7WDY. (Front Row) Niel Holt N7PEO, Cheryl Thurgood N7YUE, Joe Corbett N7NJR

"I'VE GOT MY TICKET, SO WHAT NOW?"

By Harl Goodsell W7LTH

The ranks of Amateur Radio have swelled tremendously in the past few years since the entry level no code technician license has been made available. Here in Cache Valley most of the new Hams are to be found on 2 meter FM. and a few on 440 FM.

I would like to invite all of these new Hams to consider some of the other challenging and fun modes of Amateur Radio operations.

HF CW is a lot of fun and can be a real challenge if you would like to stimulate your mind a little. Learning the Morse Code takes some effort but is not really very difficult. It is also one of the least expensive modes of operation to get into. A low cost, low power transmitter and receiver can be made from mostly junk parts (or inexpensive kits can be purchased) and can be used with a simple antenna to work stations throughout the States and even other parts of the world. You will need to upgrade to the Tech-plus (5 wpm CW) license or pass the Novice test to work the HF CW Bands.

HF SSB is another very popular mode. Here again you can build your own rig (a bit more difficult) or purchase a used transceiver for less than a new 2 meter handheld. A simple multiband antenna or random wire antenna used with a home made antenna tuner will let you meet a whole world of interesting people. To operate HF SSB you will want to upgrade to General class or higher because unlike CW, the only HF band available for SSB to a novice or tech-plus licensee is 10 meters, and during the next few years of this sun spot cycle there will be little activity, distance wise, on 10 meters. With a General or higher class license you can operate on all the available HF bands.

How about HF RTTY? This is a real-time mode of computer operation. You can have reliable contacts world-wide with as little as 25 or 50 watts. For this mode you will need, in addition to a HF transmitter/receiver and antenna, a TU (terminal unit) or a TNC that has an RTTY mode in it. There are several sub-modes of RTTY such as AMTOR (which is an error free mode) and HF Packet which

is similar to VHF Packet but runs at a slower baud rate.

Another fun mode is Slow Scan TV. With this mode you can talk on SSB and send and receive still pictures (black and white or color) throughout the world.

All of the above modes on HF require a license upgrade from the standard entry level Technician class. However there are some fun modes available to you with just this license. There is regular fast scan TV. If you have a camcorder you already have the most expensive part of your station. A good 10 watt ATV transceiver is available for under \$500.00. Add a home made beam and a color or black and white TV and your station is complete. The drawback is that your transmit-receive range is only about 10 miles and you need lots of locals on ATV if you expect to work anyone on this mode.

The regular Technician license will allow you to work many of the Ham satellites. There is also Moon Bounce an Back Scatter operations and packet.

The point I am trying to make is that if and when you tire of auto-patches and repeater use, why not take advantage of the many other privileges that your Ham radio license gives you. Try it, you'll like it!

73 ... _-_-

ARMY MARS NEWS

Neil Erickson N7YUY is Zone 1 Coordinator covering Cache, Rich & Boxelder counties.

Dave Rhodes is state Army Mars Public Relations Coordinator

The local Army MARS group will be working on a radar shelter that will house a repeater to cover northern part of state. Neil Erickson will be coordinating this effort.

Contact Neil Erickson N7YUY for more information.

AUTOPATCH

Some simple guidelines when using the 146.720
Autopatch

1. Listen! make sure repeater is not being used (unless it is an emergency) and if you are not in the valley make sure you have a strong enough signal into the repeater.
2. Identify yourself and intention with a statement like this. "<your call here > for the Autopatch"
3. Transmitt the "*" tone .
4. Dial the telephone number
5. If waiting or on hold for awhile identify to let others know that someone is still on i.e. "<your call> holding " or just give your call.
6. Limit your calls to 3 minutes or less (autopatch will close after aprox 5 minutes)
7. When finished give your call and say you are closing the patch.
8. Close the patch by transmitting the "#" tone.

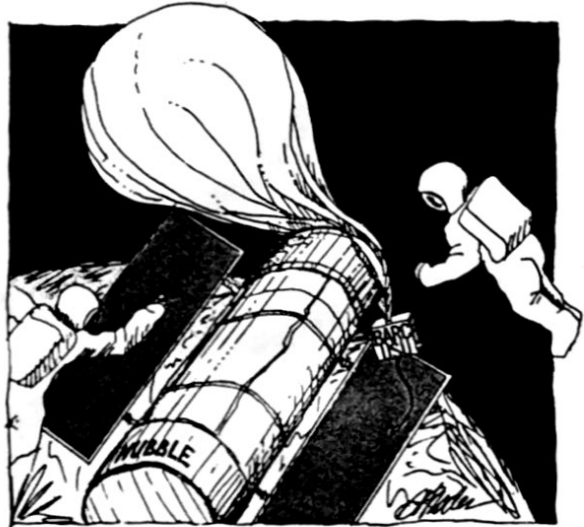
Most of all be courteous and use common sense.

NOTE: On 911 calls only you can reset the 5 minute timer by transmitting a "*" tone while the autopatch is active.

Thanks...

Thank you BARC friends. We Appreciate You!!!

Jim & Beanie Lofthouse & family



"A... HOUSTON, I THINK WE SOLVED ONE OF THE PROBLEMS..."

Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club Membership Application

NAME _____ CALL _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____

STATE _____ ZIPCODE _____ PHONE _____

List additional family members and callsigns below only if you are paying for a family membership

Dues to the amateur radio club are \$10.00 per person per year or \$12.00 per family per year. On family memberships only one copy of the club newsletter will be sent unless individual memberships are paid for each copy of the newsletter desired. The club maintains a seperate equipment/repeater maintenance fund Your voluntary contribution to this fund is greatly appreciated.

Membership dues \$ _____ Equipment/Repeater fund \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Please give this along with your payment to any executive officer or send it to: Brian Potts, Treasurer BARC, 83 Pineview Drive Hyde Park Utah, 84318.