



Ohm Town News

January 1995

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

President's Corner

By Dean Stevens N7WDY

Happy New Year everyone! I hope that all is well with each one of you. I am really looking forward to this new year of working with our new club officers, and implementing some new and exciting fun things for all that are interested.

A fellow ham, whom I respect and admire a great deal, made a suggestion to me that I thought was totally awesome. I had been trying to come up with a way to make our weekly net roll call a little different and fun, but was not sure how. After he finished explaining his idea, I realized this is what I was looking for. Since I am taking care of the data base for the net, I figured, why not!!! Let's do something crazy and different, at least to the newer hams, including myself.

As all of us are aware, net has been called alphabetically by our call sign suffix. Those who check in at least once every four weeks stay on the roll. You miss four times, and your name is not called until you check in again.

For those that have been hams long enough to up grade to the point of being on HF, and participating in some of the nets conducted, we know that you are called according to how consistent you are in checking in. If someone misses, and drops back, your call sign moves up. You thus begin moving up towards the top slot in the net. The longer you stay active, the closer to the top you get. This begins to develop a "net status". On some nets, you can tell who has been a ham the longest, by where they are on the list. SO, let's have a little fun and competition!!! Here's how it will work:

I have 14 weeks of roll calls saved, that I will use to help establish the status of where every one will start out at on the list. You will need to check in at least twice each month to stay on the active list. You miss three times, and you will be dropped off, and placed on the inactive list. (Your call sign and name will still appear, it just will not be called.) To be put back on the active list, you must check in at least two (2) times in

See President's Corner on Page 3

INTRODUCTION TO CONSTRUCTION

By Rick Christensen KA7CHT. From *The Micro-volt*, #9, 1994. Reprinted by permission of the author.

(Ed. Note: Rick offered these suggestions for construction to the November, 1988 UARC meeting on HF and VHF amplifier homebrewing. These suggestions and steps have been edited to be easily applied to any construction project and are good practices to use for your workshop.)

PLANNING STEPS

1. Scope: Keep it simple, non-technical.
2. Store-bought kits require \$\$ up front, but you can plug them in and enjoy them right away.
3. Homebrew requires a plan of attack, a good schematic and a proven circuit that works.
4. Collect data books and determine if the project can be constructed and how hard it will be to get it running.
5. Some knowledge is required, some \$\$\$ and some guts!
6. Basic test equipment is essential -- power meters, load meters, voltage and current meters. A tappable battery or voltage source, oscilloscope and other test equipment can be valuable.
7. Expect to put in a lot of bench time and have a large trash can on hand.
8. Have or find some way to acquire the patience of Job!
9. Talk with friends that have built similar projects and accept their advice and bad experience. If all else fails, buy a kit!

BASIC STEPS OF ASSEMBLY

1. Make your own circuit board. Draw and cut it, then drill for eyelets and ground straps after etching.
2. Use a good layout. Make adequate heat sinks for transistors, especially for power transistors.
3. Be wise in choosing transistors for circuit designs -- run power types at 75% of rated power.

See Construction on Page 3

Ham Profile James (K7OA) and "Beanie" (N7NJS) Lofthouse

By Harl Goodsell W7LTH



Jim K7OA and Beanie N7NJS Lofthouse enjoying the outdoors.

Jim was first licensed as a Novice in 1969, with the call WN7OAU. In 1970 he upgraded to General class and got to drop the "N" from his call sign. In 1977 he moved up from General through Advanced, directly to Extra class and got his present call of K7OA. Jim's first contact was on CW to a station in Missouri on 80 meters, using a Viking 1 transmitter and a Radio Shack DX-150 receiver.

Jim first got interested in Ham radio from reading the Boy Scout merit badge radio book. He couldn't find anyone who knew about Ham radio, so he started playing around with an old AM broadcast radio, tuning down below the broadcast band where he heard strange "swooshing" noises that turned out to be morse code without any tone (due to the lack of a BFO [Beat Frequency Oscillator]). He got a copy of the morse code and figured out the characters. From this he eventually learned morse code at 30 words per minute.

One day Jim heard there was an Amateur Radio class at Skyview High School, so he contacted the teacher (Arol Maughan WA7FMW) and had him test him for the Novice license.

Jim's favorite mode is CW. He has a stack of awards from contesting on his favorite band, 160 meters. He has taken first place in the CQ World-wide contest, Utah Section, at least seven times and took the top spot for the entire W7 call area in the 1974 International DX contest.

Jim stated that probably his most memorable contact

was with a G3 station in England on 160 CW. He received a letter from a Ham in England who wanted to make a schedule with Jim so he could work Utah on 160. Since they knew when the most favorable conditions might be, they agreed to try and work each other at a certain time on a particular day of each week until they succeeded. Well, try as they may, Jim never could hear the G3 station. But Jim wasn't about to give up. Two years to the day that he had received the letter requesting the schedule, Jim heard the weak signal and made a successful contact. This was quite an accomplishment; a contact on 160 meters from Utah to Europe was almost unheard of, due to the power restrictions at that time (English stations were limited to 10 watts).

Jim has worked other modes besides CW. He has been on AM, SSB and FM. He was one of the three Hams on the first team to give the first exams in Cache Valley under the new VE program, and is still helping with them. He has been active with CW traffic nets for many years and was net control on one for a time.

Jim said his most embarrassing event was when he was working a CW station late one night and fell asleep, laying his head on the key and sending out a steady carrier for some unknown period of time. He awoke to a strange loud buzz coming from his radio!

Jim's XYL (wife, in radio talk) is "Beanie" N7NJS. She was first licensed in 1989 with the call KB7HZI, and a year later upgraded to General class. Asked how she happened to get licensed, she replied that she saw Jim having so much fun that she wanted in on it too!

Beanie has been very active in women's amateur radio activities. She helped organize the "Girls' Net", is a member of the YLRL national women's amateur organization and has been on all kinds of committees, including WYMU in 1992, and the first Utah Hamfest, held last May in Ogden. She has also been involved in BARC activities including yummy dinners and has served on the BARC Board of Directors.

After Beanie upgraded she had Jim put up 15 and 20 meter antennas for her, and she began talking to lots of YL's (lady Hams) all over the country. That is where she learned of the YLRL Net. She says they would pass on recipes and do lots of fun things. Not to be outdone, Beanie entered and won a Novice/Tech 10 meter contest in 1989.

Jim and Beanie have a true Ham family. Four of the Lofthouse children also hold amateur licenses. Nissa is KB7IIB, Nicole is KB7IDE, Terry is KB8JXC and Steven is N7RLF.

The Lofthouse family lives in Paradise where they recently built a new house. Jim holds a Utah General Contractors' license and has been a builder for many years. For the past few years he has been working for Weather Shield in Nibley. The Lofthouse QTH is pretty easy to find. Just look for the 65 foot, four inch aluminum irrigation pipe standing straight up in their back yard. That's their 160 meter antenna.

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President's Corner

Continued from page 1

one month, then you will be added to the bottom of the active list again. You stay active, and you start working your way up. The new check in's and calls will need to also check in two (2) times in one month to be put at the bottom of the active list.

Now if there are any ties in the number of times one of us has checked into the net, in the last 14 weeks, I will have the computer randomly pick where we fall on the list for the first time.

I think...this will be something fun for us to watch develop. I hope that everyone will go along with me on this and have fun with it as well as being able to accomplish our net objectives.

Hope to hear all of you on the upcoming nets.

73, -.. . - . - .

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1995 CLUB OFFICERS

President	Dean Stevens 753-2644 P.O. Box 332 Millville UT 84326	N7WDY
Vice President	Clint Jeppsen 752-2315 326 East 200 North Providence UT 84322	KB7ZOZ
Secretary	Cheryl Thurgood 563-5201 41 West 345 North Box 194 Hyde Park UT 84318	N7YUE
Treasurer	Kathy Holt 563-3643 51 North 500 East Hyde Park UT 84318	N7PEN

NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paul Hansen 1676 Est 1600 North North Logan UT 84341	W07N	753-4843
Wally Gibbons 1520 Est 2400 North North Logan UT 84341	WB7ASQ	752-2929
Tyler Griffiths 625 East 400 South River Heights UT 84321	N7UWX	752-7269

NEXT CLUB MEETING

January 15, 1995
7:30 PM at the EOC

Construction

Continued from page 1

4. Use correct parts when building circuits from magazines.

BASIC PROJECT TESTING STEPS

1. Ohm it out -- check for continuity and proper circuit resistance before powering up.
2. Hook up voltage, current and power meters, depending on the type of project. Make sure there is a properly rated fuse in the power supply line.
3. Apply one-half of the final power supply voltage using a tappable battery or variable power supply. Look for components getting warm, wisps of smoke. If all goes well, check for oscillations, etc. with a scope.
4. If all looks good, increase the voltage to the rating required and again look for signs of trouble. Don't exceed the specifications of the transistors in use! The transistors won't stand for it!
5. Tweak the circuit up to its rated efficiency, then put the top on or put it in a box and enjoy.

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1995 Membership Application Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

NAME _____ CALLSIGN _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Individual Membership \$10.00 \$10.00 \$ _____

Family Membership \$10.00 for first person plus \$3.00 for each additional person (living in the same household who wish

to be members of the club. Only one copy of the newsletter will be sent per family membership)(additional members

@ \$3.00 each) (Please list additional family members below who will be members of the club) _____ X \$3.00 = \$ _____

Donation to the repeater/equipment fund \$ _____

TOTAL \$ _____

Make Checks payable to: Bridgerland Amateur Radio club, Inc. or BARC

Mail to Cheryl Thurgood, BARC Secretary, 41 West 345 North, Box 194, Hyde Park, Utah 84318

Dues for BARC are from January - December of each year and are due on January 1.

DECEMBER CLUB MEETING

A great time was had by all at the Juniper Inn for BARC's Christmas Party/December club meeting. Juniper Inn did an good job hosting the party, which was well attended by members. Thanks to committee members Kathy Holt, Bonnie Corbett, Cheryl Thurgood and Chairperson Monique Jeppson, for a nice program and all their hard work on our behalf.

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REMINDER...

Kevin Reeve N7RXE is no longer responsible for the content of this newsletter. (Hi hi). If you have any ideas or articles for the newsletter, please contact Annie Lamon KC7CXM or Bruce Hunsaker KG7WI.

Annie can be reached by phone at 752-3400, and is available in person at The Bike and Lock Shop, 1087 1/2 North Main, Logan.

We will do our best to provide the same quality which Kevin has always produced, but we need your contributions of articles and suggestions to make it all come together!
Thanks again everybody!

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UPCOMING EXAMS

Wednesday, January 4th, 7:00 PM

Davis County Sherriff's Office, 800 West State Street, Farmington. Contact Brent Thomas AC7H, 292-8110.