



Ohm Town News

June 1995

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

President's Corner

Well folks, summer is upon us and our busy time of year has started. June 17th is our **club testing session**. Anyone interested in upgrading, or who knows someone that wants to take an exam, can contact Paul Hansen - WO7N.

That day is also the **Little Red Riding Hood Bike Tour**. This is an all women bike ride. Anyone wishing to participate in providing communications for this event, please contact me as soon as possible. This is not a race, but rather a leisure tour. It will go along the west side of the valley, starting in Wellsville, going to Lewiston, and back to Wellsville. This should be a very relaxing bike ride and possibly some of you ladies might like to participate in the ride. Anyway, let me know if you are interested, otherwise, I will be calling for help.

Field day is on the 24th and 25th of June. There are plenty of things to do to help get set up. You can contact Mike Farr - KG7FZ for further info. We will be planning a Dutch oven dinner that Saturday evening around 4:00 - 5:00 pm. The meat and drink will be provided by the club, and is paid from dues. We ask everyone coming up to bring some kind of a pot luck dish. It does not matter what. We always have plenty to eat and everyone has a great time. Hope to see many of you there.

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Ham Profile

Doug Hendricks - W7LRV

by Dean Stevens

After spending almost 3 hours with Doug and Barbara Hendricks, I walked away from their beautiful home in Cove, at 12:30 a.m. Tuesday morning, realizing that there is nothing I could ever say that could begin to describe the nostalgic and respectful feelings I have for these two wonderful people.

Born and raised in the Richmond/Cove area, Doug (W7LRV) and Barbara have been living in their current home in Cove now for 54 years. They have raised 5 beautiful daughters and now have 27 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. They have been out of the dairy business now for about 2 years, but are still actively farming.

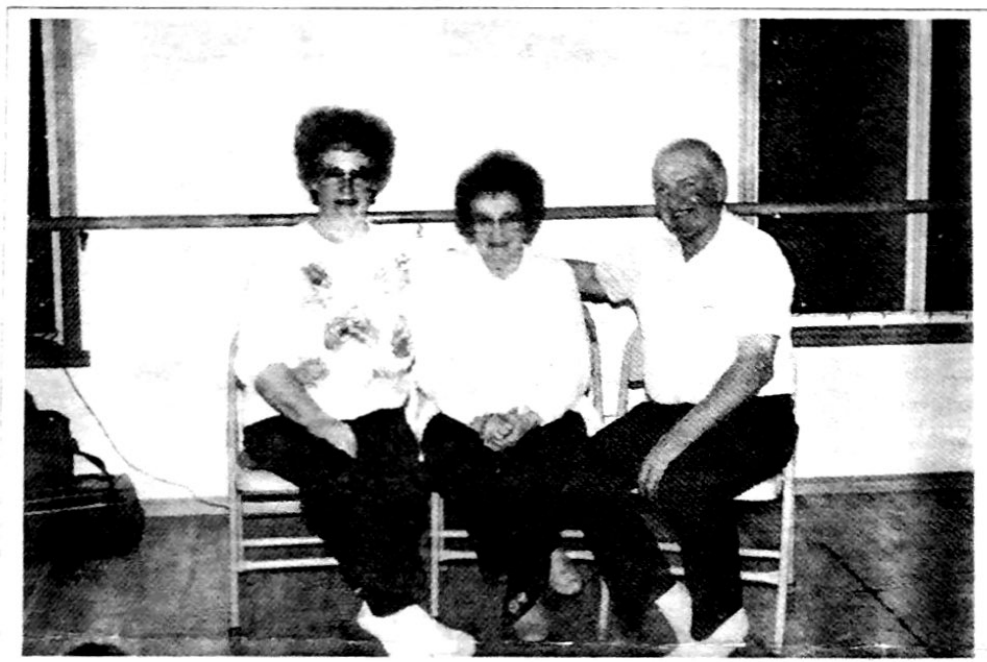
Doug recalls as a small boy he received an erector set with a batter powered electric motor and lights. He said he was more interested in hooking up the motor and lights to the battery than putting the trusses and girders together.

He once found an article on how to build a one tube (O1A) receiver, which he built. That was not good enough, so a second tube was added, then a power supply. Going further than that, Doug even built his own heterodyne. Unfortunately, it never worked. Later, he built a tuned radio frequency (TRF) receiver that did work. Now that really got him fired up. Doug said that he used to get army

surplus parts all the time and was able to obtain a BC-348 receiver from a B-17 bomber. He added a VHF 152-A which enabled him to listen to 10, 6, & 2 meters. Since those days, Doug has built 12 homebrew transmitters.

Chet Ashbey (W7DTB) helped Doug get going in radio. He has since moved to Clearfield. Chet helped start the FARM net (Friendly Amateur Radio Mission), which is still in operation today.

After graduating from high school in 1937, Doug



Barbara and Doug. Between them is Barbara's 95 year old mother.

attended USU and took radio classes from Clayton Clark (AC7O). He would learn radio and antenna theory in class, then during lunch, Clayton would teach code to anyone that was interested.

The interest in radio was always there, but with the outbreak of WWII all amateur radio was suspended. It was not until after the war was over, that Doug received his first license in Sept. 1945. This began the era for 2 meters in Cache Valley which Doug helped pioneer. To Doug's knowledge, Lennard Zimmerman (W7SP) was

the first to ever transmit out of Cache Valley on 2 meters. Doug had another friend, Merrill Andrus (W7IHE) from Smithfield. When he moved to Rexburg, they used to talk to each other all the time using a 4 element beam. "Now this was in the days before repeaters."

Doug has worked all states on 10, 15 and 20 meters, and all DX countries with the exception of the break up country in Yugoslavia, and the two in Czechoslovakia. His latest major DX contact was with Peter I in the Antarctic, named by the Russians after Peter the Great. Adding to

the list of rarities, is his making contact with the first operator that transmitted out of Albania, AA1A, King Hussein from Amman Jordan, Sen. Barry Goldwater (and I got to see these two QSL cards myself) and astronaut Owen Garret, along with many Russian stations which I saw QSLs for as well. Doug still brags up his Rhombic antenna that he used to have until the cows knocked it down.

He says that he made may DX contacts with it.

Doug had a dipole up and was having good luck with his contacts, except for a station in Guam that he could hear, but could not reach, due to the antenna that he was using. So he did some studying, and found that the V beam antenna would be best for reaching that area on 40 meters. He cut down some trees on the west side of the farm to put it up. "Isn't it amazing what we do for radio?" Anyway, he hooked up his "power house" radio he was using at the time that had two 250 THs (a type of tube). I saw

some tubes like that at Doug's house and they are huge! Well, the new antenna worked great. While all of this was going on, Doug had been corresponding with Sherwin Larsen, from Cove who was stationed on Quam. He got acquainted with a guy that was a ham, so in an attempt to reach home, he and Doug set up a schedule to talk. Doug would get up at 4am our time and for the next 18 months they talked every week. The ham complimented Doug many times by telling him that his signal was the strongest he had ever heard. Just as a side note, Sherwin later became Doug's brother-in-law.

Doug recalls, one of the choicest experiences in radio was when he was working some CW and put out a CQ. There was a station that came back from the back east in the W2 area, and the operators CW was just horrible. In fact, it was so bad, that Doug couldn't tell what he was saying, so he went on to other frequencies. A good five to eight minutes had gone by when Doug went back across that frequency, and this guy was still trying to make contact with him. Well, being patient, as Doug is, he started listening and picking out what was being said. As the QSO went on, this man's CW got better, to the point that Doug could understand the basics of what was being said. This gentleman had suffered a stroke that left him quite disabled. This was the first contact he had gotten since his stroke. He thanked Doug over and over so many times for being patient and listening to him. Wow! What a success story!

When Samoa was devastated by a typhoon, Doug was that country's only link to the United States. During the disaster, a lady from River Heights called him and explained that her sister was visiting here from Samoa and was concerned how her family was. Doug had never contacted Samoa before, and knowing how the propagation was, chances of doing so at the time was slim, but he agreed to try. Doug made contact with a station in Hawaii, and explained what was going on and asked for assistance. The other ham said, "oh the Samoan's are over on such and such frequency," so Doug re-tuned and reached a station in Samoa. After explaining what he

needed, the Samoan ham replied, "we are operating from HER home! It is the only power source remaining on the island. Tell her, in spite of the fact that the island has been leveled, her home received only minor damage, and her family is safe." Now wouldn't you know, it just happened that the Samoan HAM was Vaughan Hocks from Preston. Vaughan was as excited to hear from Doug, as Doug was to reach him. Incidentally, a new million dollar radio station on Samoa that normally would have been used for the communication link, had been totally destroyed.

Another time, Doug was contacted by a Lady that was dying from cancer. Her daughter and son-in-law had moved to Samoa several weeks before this. She did not tell her daughter how sick she really was, for not wanting to have her daughter's plans change on the account of her. Well her request was that she have the opportunity to talk with her daughter one more time, face to face. Doug made the Samoan contact two hours before the last plane was to leave Samoa for that day. The daughter was able to make the flight and spend the last few days of her mother's life with her.

I asked Barbara what she thought of all this radio stuff and she smiled and said "It's OK." After her second daughter was born, is when Doug got his license. Barbara said that radio took up most of his spare time, but that she got used to it. She told me that "I would have enjoyed radio much more in Doug's days than now. There was so much more respect for one another on the air and for each other's frequencies then. It's a shame how some people act on the radio." She sometimes goes down to the ham shack with Doug and listens to the QSOs. Both Barbara and Doug say that ham radio has definitely changed. They say HAMS were always helping people talk to family members for foreign students, service men as well as assisting with life and death situations. You get some of that now, but not like it used to be.

Barbara is so sweet and patient, it is no wonder she and Doug have had such a great experience with ham radio. I have sure learned a great deal from the both of them. Just as a side note, if you have an extra 3 hours, just ask Barbra about her Russian doll that her daughter made, and about the ones that she is making now.

Holding the advanced class license, Doug runs a Yeasu FT840, but says that he still prefers the older vintage radios. One word of advice he gave me was to never get rid of my first item of radio equipment that I built. He says things like that are priceless and you will regret getting rid of it later in life. Thanks Doug, I will always remember that and thanks Barbara for all you have contributed to amateur radio.

HAMs, this is what amateur radio is all about, and is definitely history book material!

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Also, on the 24th of June is the *Pony Express* event. That is always full of excitement and well worth your time to help. You can contact Khalil Godfrey - WA7SHW for more info.. For those that want to do both, *Pony Express*, and dinner for *Field Day*, no problem. Khalil and his wife do it every year, and still make it for dinner. Then, if you want, you can stay overnight or come back up Sunday to help run radios. Either way you still can have fun.

There will be **NO CLUB MEETINGS** until September 14th. We feel that summers are busy enough without having another meeting to go to. So enjoy your summer. Each of you will receive an Ohm Town News through the summer, except for August.

ATTENTION: The autopatch has a feature on 911 calls that enables you to reset the patch if your call is going to time out. You can tell when this is going to happen by the "double beep" that will sound prior to timing out. To reset your call, press the PTT button and while holding it down, press *. This will give you

approximately 3 more minutes. Keep in mind that resetting the patch is very hard on the equipment and should not be done very often. The autopatch has the time-out feature on it to protect our equipment, so it will not heat up too much. Your club officers are asking that you **DO NOT!!!** use the reset feature on any other normal autopatch calls. Please reserve this feature for 911 calls only. Any abuse of the reset feature will result in it being done away with entirely. The words of the repeater committee is, either you "**DO IT, OR LOOSE IT!**" I hope all will continue to respect our equipment by using it properly, so it can serve our needs for years to come.

Thanks and have a great summer.
73, Dean N7WDY

Event Calenadar:

June 17: Club Test Session
 June 17: Little Red Riding Hood Bike Tour
 June 24: Pony Express
 June 24/25: Field Day
 July 1: Logan Run
 July 1: Little Mountain Bike Race
 July 8: Mud Flat Cross Country Bike Race
 July 14/15: Peak to Peak
 Sept 14: Next Club Meeting.