



Ohm Town News

October 1995

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

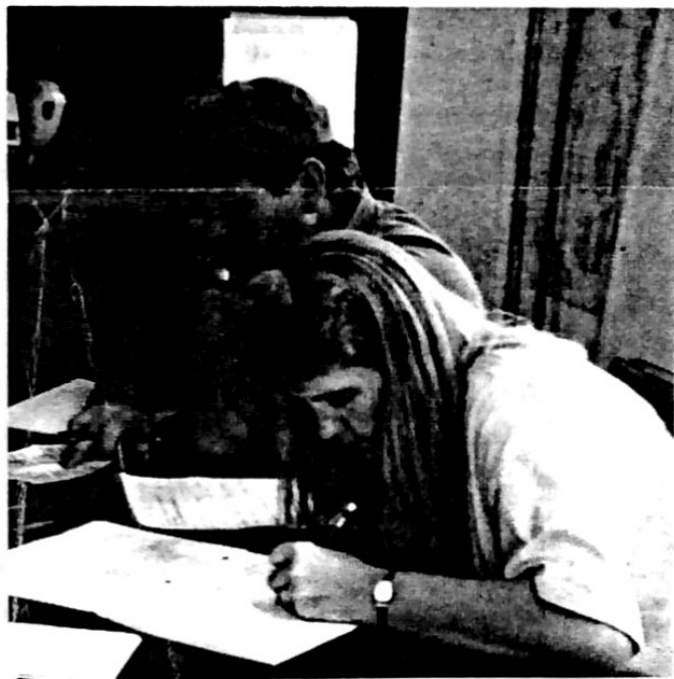
ARES/RACES Supports county sheriff in search for lost hiker

Cache Valley ARES/RACES members assisted the Cache County Sheriff's Office in the search for a lost hiker at Tony Grove from August 26 to August 28, 1995.

Radio operators assisted search efforts on Saturday by staffing the Search and Rescue's Hasty Operations van. Operators provided communications between search groups, commanders, the Cache County Communications Center, and provided amateur radio phone patch calls.

Sunday, the mobile command post, "The White Elephant", vehicle was set up at the Tony Grove parking lot. Radio operators assisted in communications, radio traffic and kept track of all searchers.

Searchers from the lost hiker's community as well as citizens from Cache County helped search on Monday. A General Call for available radio operators was made to come help with communications for the various search groups.



(Command post: Tammy Stevens, N7YTO and Jeff Tingey, KF7ZX)

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President's Message de N7WDY, Dean

It was great to see the wonderful turnout at our last club meeting, and to have our repeater committee chairman inform us on our new repeater system. Everyone seemed to come away excited and pleased with the work and the improvements. Thanks to Bill and Bob for taking the time to be with us. (As a side note, a few people mentioned they had heard a lot about Bill and Bob, but had never seen them. They were beginning to wonder if these two really did exist. But after our meeting, their minds were put at rest.) The repeater committee and engineers were present and introduced others in the group. Many were amazed at the number of individuals who helped with our project. Thanks to all who contributed in whatever way to help accomplish our goals to date. Everyone who contributed financially was given a nice certificate of appreciation. What makes our club unique is everyone helping and getting involved. As president of your club, I want to say THANKS for the enthusiasm and support from each of you. Your willingness to be a part of the great movement in our club makes the difference. It a pleasure to be associated with each of you!

The portion of the club meeting dealing with repeater fees and contributions was a little confusing and I feel clarifications are in order. I stated during the meeting that those who previously paid \$25 to help get the repeater project started (our request to club members starting about March 1994) would be requested to start paying a \$10 per year repeater maintenance fee in 1996. I further stated that those who pay a \$25 repeater activation fee this year or next, will be asked to start paying the \$10 repeater maintenance fee in 1997. Your club officers subsequently discussed this issue and concluded that since the system is not complete (links and codes that have not even been developed), there is no reason to start charging for something that you can't yet enjoy. Therefore, the club officers decided the following. The \$10 per year repeater maintenance fee will start January 1, 1997 for those who paid \$25 initially or through 1996. Note that for those who paid \$25 in the beginning to get the system started, there will be a slight benefit because of the time between repeater donations. This is a small way to say "thanks" for believing in the repeater committee and for helping a dream become a reality. However, if any of you are inclined to donate \$10 as a repeater maintenance fee starting in 1996, it will be very much appreciated and will be used for good purposes. Remember, those who have

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After the hiker was located, radio operators continued their support until all the search groups and individuals were accounted for.

All our equipment, with a few minor inconveniences from our antennas being too close to each other, functioned properly. All operators who volunteered performed in a professional manner.

The family of the hiker and Captain Bob Degasser from the Sheriff's office thanked the ARES/RACES organization for their assistance. A few items Captain Degasser wanted communicated to all volunteer operators were these: first, to remind all operators that radio traffic is not secure. We must be careful what we say during emergency operations. Second, operators not participating in the emergency should refrain from trying to contact the command post and asking questions regarding the emergency. Third, participating operators should stay where they are assigned and perform their assigned function until they are released by the commander or appointed officer. Our function during emergencies is to provide communications and handle radio traffic as needed.

We appreciate all those who helped during the search. Everyone did a super job. We encourage all amateur radio operators to obtain their State of Utah RACES number and be active in all BARC, ARES/RACES and other amateur radio activities.

Thanks, Brian KB7FUB

1995 BARC OFFICERS			
President	Dean Stevens	N7WDY	753-2644
Vice Pres.	Clint Jeppsen	KB7ZOZ	752-2315
Secretary	Cheryl Thurgood	N7YUE	563-5201
Treasurer	Kathy Holt	N7PEN	563-3643
Board Memb.	Paul Hansen	WO7N	753-4843
Board Memb.	Clint Wellard	KB7PNI	797-6718
Board Memb	Tyler Griffiths	N7UWX	750-9222
1995 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN			
Newsletter	Richard Wilkinson	KC7HYN	563-3532
Repeater	Bill Neville	WA7KMF	753-4352
	Bob Wood	WA7MXZ	753-2119
Training	Kevin Reeve	N7RXE	753-1645
VE Testing	Paul Hansen	WO7N	753-4843
Club Station Equipment			
	Terry Zollinger	N7PEG	797-3928
Building Projects/Saturday Activities			
	Dan Anderson	KA0EOF	245-5027
	Clair Wyatt	NV7B	752-3823
	Stan Wellard	N7UXC	753-0433

President's Message, Continued from page 1

not paid a \$25 repeater activation fee, and who do so during the remainder of 1995 or during 1996, will receive full privilege (links, codes, etc.) when available and will be asked for a \$10 repeater maintenance fee starting in 1997. These activation fees will be used to help purchase needed equipment to complete our repeater system, and the maintenance fee will give you the new access codes each year. There are also those good souls who are inclined to pay more than these minimum fees, and we want you to know that your added generosity is greatly appreciated. Incidentally, the \$25 activation fee is one-time, and the fees are per family, not per individual.

We also recognize that there are hams who are not interested in links, codes and all the other "bells and whistles", but who want to use the .72 and .80 as open repeaters. In these cases we would appreciate an annual \$10 repeater maintenance donation to help with upkeep of the repeaters (phone bills, needed repairs, and contingency funds).

Another, separate issue is dues paid by some to the VHF Society. While we appreciate the support we receive as a result of members who belong to this society, these funds do not go very far in helping to maintain our repeaters. Membership in and fees paid to the VHF Society do not bring sufficient funds to maintain our repeaters, and it is unfair to think VHF Society membership alone fulfills the share of help that's needed.

Finally, I need to clarify club membership dues. These are completely separate from any repeater contributions or support. The club dues cover this newsletter, allow voting privileges, funds the Cracker Barrel socials, and helps pay for a main dish and drink at the annual Field Day activities. The bottom line, as they say, is IF YOU USE THE REPEATERS CONSISTENTLY IN ANY WAY AS IF YOU WERE A RESIDENT OF THE IMMEDIATE AREA, PLEASE FINANCIALLY SUPPORT THE REPEATERS! I hope this is clear, and I hope 'nuff said. If no, please call me personally so we can discuss.

Since this year is rapidly coming to a close, each of you should be thinking of whom you want to represent you as club officers next year. Possibly, you yourself would like to run for an office of leadership in the club. If you are interested, please contact one of the current club officers (who can be found elsewhere in this newsletter) and let us know of your intention, or of the person or persons you would like as representatives next year. The election committee will then make contact with the individual or individuals to confirm willingness to serve. This nomination process needs to be completed by the 21st of October.

Let's make 1996 another awesome year and keep the momentum developed over these last two years going strong!

DE - N7WDY
73

Ham Profile

Brent and Vicky Yeates, KA7FAP and KA7GXN

A native of Cache Valley, Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, received his Novice license in 1979 from Lonnie Paul, W7GPN. He recalls when he was ready to upgrade to General, he filled out the application, sent it in to the FCC and they notified him as to when and where to be for the testing session. In those days, the FCC would send field agents from San Francisco to administer the test. Brent says it was like going through basic training. The test was held in SLC at the U of U Campus Armory. You could not talk at all in the room, and the testing session was very regimented. At that time, 5 wpm code was required, and you had to pass the Theory 1 and Theory 2 tests. Brent passed his test for General with no problems, but because he filled out the application wrong when he sent it in, the examiners would not let him take the code for General even though he was ready. So he came away with what was then the Technician license. Brent feels code is more an initiation thing to amateur radio. When he got his ticket, he felt if you wanted your license bad enough, you had to work for it. Of course, times have changed since then and so have the requirements to get licensed.



Brent has always had a love for radio. He was about 12 years old when he built his first "Knight Kit" walkie-talkie. From there, his interest for building and restoring radios has blossomed. He built Heath Kit's first digital low-band radio, an SB104A along with many other Heath Kit products that he still has in his shack. He even built his first TV, right after he and Vicky got married. When you walk into Brent's shack, you are stunned to see wall-to-wall radios. Not only ham radios,

Continued next column

but Motorolas. Brent has found his niche in amateur radio by obtaining old Motorola equipment, cleaning and fixing them up and then using them. He has equipment I have never seen before, let alone heard of. He is very proud of his radios and the care he gives them. He definitely has a great talent for what he does.

Brent is seldom heard on the radio, but he definitely keeps abreast of what's going on by listening. When he got licensed, autopatches on 2m were just getting started. When some of his friends saw him use the autopatch to contact an individual who let them out of private property they had gotten locked in while hunting, they were really fascinated with the technology and equipment. They had never seen or heard of such a thing before! Another time when he was in the mountains, he came across a sheepherder who was crawling out of the brush on his hands and knees. His horse had thrown him, hurting his back so he could not walk. He had crawled quite a distance when Brent found him. Brent got on his Kenwood TR2400 handheld, made contact with a person on a Salt Lake repeater (he could not get into the Logan repeater from his location). This fellow then called the Highway patrol and notified them of the situation. They also contacted the sheepherder's boss in Tremonton, and got a Cache County Sheriff to help bring him out. Brent stayed with the sheepherder until help arrived.

Brent has always "been there" for the club by assisting with repeater projects and by providing needed material to accomplish our tasks. Thanks Brent!

Vicky Yeates, KA7GXN, also a native of Cache Valley, received her Novice license from Darrell Sorter, WB7FCB, in 1980, then later upgraded to Technician. She went to the armory in SLC to sit for her exam like Brent. She said that was one of the scariest moments of her life. She is not sure how true this statement is, but other hams have said that she is the first native Cache Valley Lady to receive an amateur license. She really likes being involved in radio with Brent and has always tagged along, being a part of whatever he was doing. She never once has felt shunned or set aside because of the radio hobby. She feels it is very important part of a husband and wife relationship to be involved with your spouse in a common hobby. This is especially true for Vicky when it comes to radio because Brent has always had an obsession for it.

One of the reasons she got her license was the ability to communicate with Brent when they were not together, and to be a source of help to others when in need. But in one case it was Vicky who needed help and benefitted from her radio license. One day Vicky and her sister were travelling through Sardine Canyon when the fuel in the diesel truck they were

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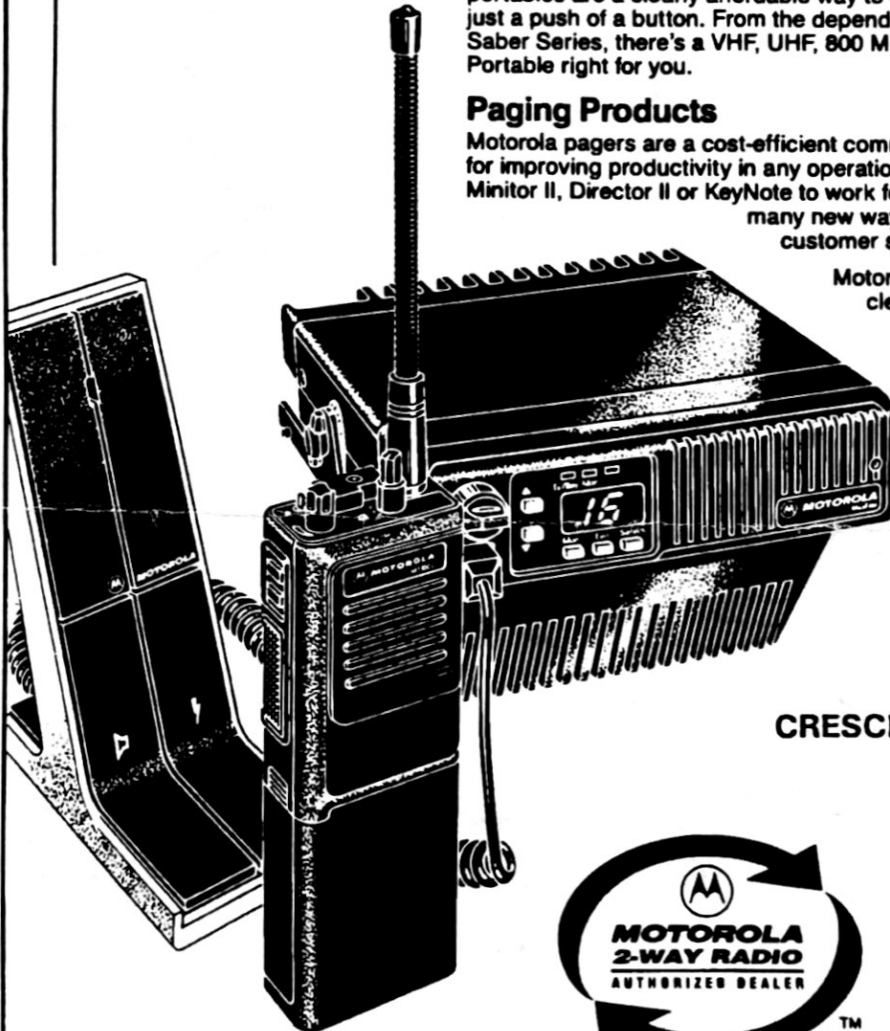
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driving jelled. They were stranded with a two-week old baby, no heat and an outside temperature below zero. Vicky got on the radio and asked for help. Sy Stolzenberger, W7IVM, came on the radio to assist. He called Brent on the phone and informed him of what happened. Brent first got on the radio to her and then headed out to get them back home. By having a radio with her, Vicky, her sister and the baby received the help they needed within a half hour. She feels lucky that they did not have to spend any more time in the cold than they did, and was happy to have her license. Vicky has used her radio numerous times before and after that experience to assist other motorists with problems.

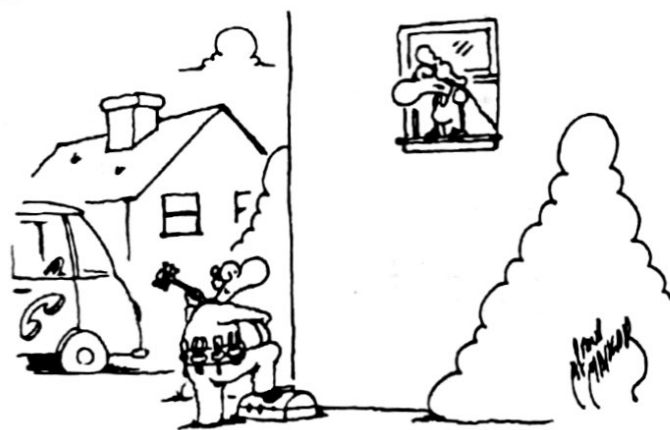
Vicky noted that radio has changed a lot from when she first got licensed in that talk on amateur frequencies was much more structured and strict than it is now.

Brent and Vicky are the parents of three wonderful sons and they own and operate their own business: Logan Auto Parts at 50 West 400 North in Logan.

Thank you for the opportunity to get to know the two of you better. We look forward to a life-long friendship.

Dean and Tammy Stevens, N7WDY and N7YTO

Alan (KC7CXN) and Annie (KC7CXM) Lamon would like to announce the birth of six AKC rottweiler grandpuppies. Ursula had two girls and four boys. Ready to go to new homes: 10/13/95 For more information call: 752-3400



"For the last time... I don't want to invest in AT&T"

Why Radio Amateurs are called "Hams"

(This article was pulled off the Internet by Mike KC7JUW to whom we thank for this piece...the most likely story to my thinking...I looked up the author on QRZ, and he is real. Anyone else have any stories? Ed)

The word "HAM" as applied to 1908 was the station call for the first amateur wireless station operated by some amateurs of the Harvard Radio Club. They were Albert S. Hyman, Bob Almy and Poogie Murray. At first they called their station "Hyman-Almy-Murray". Tapping out such a long name in code soon became tiresome and called for a revision. They changed it to "HY-AL-MU" using the first two letters of each of their names.

Early in 1909 some confusion resulted between signals from amateur wireless station "HYALMU" and a Mexican ship named "HYALMO". They decided to use only the first letter of each name and the station call became "HAM".

In the early pioneer days of unregulated radio, amateur operators picked their own frequency and call letters. Then, as now, some amateurs had better signals than commercial stations. The resulting interference came to the attention of congressional committees in Washington, DC and Congress gave much time to proposed legislation designed to critically limit amateur radio activity. (sound familiar? - Ed.)

In 1911, Albert Hyman chose the controversial "Wireless Regulation Bill" as the topic for his thesis at Harvard. His instructor insisted that a copy be sent to Senator David I. Walsh, a member of one of the committees hearing the bill. The senator was so impressed with the thesis that he asked Hyman to appear before the committee. Albert Hyman took the stand and described how the little station was built and almost cried when he told the crowded committee room that if the bill went through they would have to close down the station because they could not afford the license fees and all the other requirements which the bill imposed on amateur radio.

Congressional debate began on the "Wireless Regulation Bill" and the little station "HAM" became the symbol for all the little amateur stations in the country crying to be saved from the menace and greed of the big commercial stations who didn't want them around. The bill finally got to the floor of Congress and every speaker talked about the "...poor little station HAM".

That's how it all started. You will find the whole story in the Congressional Record. Nation-wide publicity associated station HAM with amateur radio operators. From that day forward, and probably until the end of time in radio, an amateur is a HAM. Well, there you have it. I have heard many other stories behind HAM, however, I think this is the straight dope.

73, and hope you enjoyed it.
Jim Heil - KB5AWN @ KA5KTH - Houston, TX