

The  **Ohm Town News** February 1996
Logan Utah **Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club**

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

de KB7ZOZ, Clint

The benefits of ham radio are countless! There is virtually something for everyone. Ham operators are probably best known for their contribution during times of disaster. When all else fails, the ham operator traditionally gets through. But in addition, over the years, amateurs have contributed much to electronic technology. They have even designed and built their own orbiting communications satellites.

On the other hand, amateur service isn't just for the technically inclined. It is for everyone of all ages. There are ham radio operators under eight years old -- and many over eighty. Most hams are just plain folks.

As our club grows there is an ever-increasing interest in providing a variety of opportunities for its members.

In the course of our daily living we often think that our main focus is on emergencies., but let me quote what the FCC has outlined as our basic purpose: "The rules and regulations in this part are designed to provide an amateur radio service having a fundamental purpose as expressed in the following principles: 1. Recognition and enhancement of the value of the amateur service to the public as a voluntary non commercial communication service, particularly with respect to providing emergency communications. 2. Continuation and extension of the amateur's proven ability to contribute to the advancement of the radio art. 3. Expansion of the existing reservoir within the amateur radio service of trained operators, technicians, and electronics experts. 4. Continuation and extension of the amateur's unique ability to enhance international goodwill." (FCC 97.1)

If not expressed explicitly then there is
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HAM PROFILE

Niel (N7PEO) and Kathy (N7PEN) Holt
de Mary Ann, KB7ZOY

Niel and Kathy Holt have had their technician licenses since the summer of 1990. They have devoted their time and talents to BARC almost from the beginning. Kathy was treasurer of the club during 1995. Niel was a board member in 1992 and 1993, and vice-president in 1994. He was a member of the repeater committee, and along with Wally Gibbons (WB7ASQ), Lynn Bates (N7YSW) and



Robert Low (N7UBX), built the 147.20 repeater. Niel is the trustee of the 147.20 repeater.

Niel and Kathy both graduated from USU in 1989 -- Niel in Electrical Engineering and Kathy in Accounting. When Niel became employed at the Space Dynamics Lab at USU, he became acquainted with another employee at the lab, Wally Gibbons. One day Wally

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certainly the implication of a great variety of activities expected of the ham operator.

Our attention to emergency services reminds me of my days in law enforcement. We were required to qualify with the handgun every six months. There was a great emphasis on always being ready in case someone pulled a gun on you. There was training, practicing, watching films, "squad room" chatter, and etc., all done while engaged in regular daily activities. Yet most law-enforcement officers spend their entire careers without ever actually using their firearm against another person.

All of our activates help prepare us for the time of an emergency. Each time we participate in a net we are learning the protocol for proper procedure. Each time we use our radio we become more familiar with its capabilities. Each time we associate with one another we become more comfortable and confident in that association. All of which contributes to a smoother operation in the event of an emergency or disaster.

It's great that amateur radio is so diversified. It can accommodate each of our own individual needs (if we all had the same interests the world would lopsided and tip over).

Not only are there the structured groups such as RACES, ERRS, MARA, and MARS, but there are the less-structure groups such as the biathlon, Mountainman Rendezvous, Field Day, and LO TO JA, just to name a few.

There are those activities with little or no structure. A wife of one of our hams said that her husband wasn't much interested in talking on the radio, he was simply interested in building. I hear others talking on the air about the DX contact they made, while others are discussing digital contacts. Still others discuss their tracking of satellites or their balloon chase. Others discuss the tower they have just erected or an antenna which is sure to catch the gaze of all passers-by.

With your participation in any of these events and/or groups you are getting the training you need to participate in any emergency

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communication that may come along.

Beyond that I hope our training at club meetings can help you identify one or more areas of interest.

It is your club officers desire to make the club fulfilling to as many as possible.

At our last board meeting we discussed the possibility of having someone write the history of BARC.

The "old timers" are always talking about interesting things that have happened with the club. I have been extremely impressed with some of these stories and the effort to which some people have gone to provide us with what we now have.

I think all of the club members who don't have the opportunity to hear these stories, would also be interested in knowing how the club has developed and who is responsible.

Therefore, I am very pleased to announce that Beanie, KJ7LQ, has accepted the challenge to write the club history. She will begin right away and will be contacting some of you for information.

If you feel like you have some information or ideas for the history please contact either Beanie or one of the club officers.

I am also most happy to announce that Mary Ann Nielson, KB7ZOY, has accepted the invitation to write the "Ham Profile" each month. As most of you know, I have been acquainted with Mary Ann and her writing for quite some time and I know she will do an outstanding job.

Just in Passing

A few of us had breakfast at the Chuck Wagon Restaurant. We had a great opportunity to chew the "fat". Many subjects came up and none reached conclusion. But the morning special consisting of three large pancakes, two eggs and sausage or bacon only cost \$1.99.

We look forward to seeing you there next time...usually the Saturday morning (8AM) following the club meeting.

The other day my son came back to work from lunch to find a note on his desk. The note asked him to call the Nelson Funeral Home and to ask for Mira Mains.

73's and we'll "see" you all on the net. KB7ZOZ, Clint

HAM PROFILE

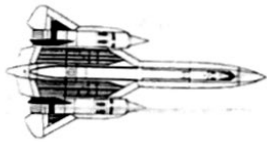
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suggested that Niel might like amateur radio. At Wally's suggestion, Niel bought the book *Look Who's Talking*. He and Kathy studied together, took the test together, and have been enjoying the hobby ever since.

Their love of amateur radio is obviously contagious. After they joined BARC, others in their family became interested. One of Kathy's brothers, Robert Parkinson (now KC7BDV), Niel's father Ralph (now KC7CWT), Niel's mother Gloria (now KC7CVU), and two brothers and one sister-in-law recently got their licenses. They put this hobby to good use each summer when Niel's family members take their annual vacation trip to Yellowstone. Several families travel together, and communicating with each other along the way is both convenient and enjoyable.

The Holts haven't accumulated a lot of equipment but use their handhelds and a mobile rig on a regular basis. Kathy usually monitors at home most of each day. Niel has become active in packet radio and communicates with family members who live outside Cache Valley as well as other club members.

Niel grew up in Smithfield; Kathy is from Wellsville. They moved to a new home in Hyde Park in 1993. They are the parents of Heather, age 5, and Eric, age 18 months.



LET'S TALK

BARC, the EOC, emergency preparedness and the Sheriff's Office.

de N7WDY, Dean

(As most of you know, we were recently informed that BARC would no longer be able to use the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for our club meetings; the following was prepared by N7WDY to help explain the situation - Ed.)

Some of our club members have been disappointed in the extreme that we will no longer be able to use the EOC in the Sheriff's Office. The extreme feelings I have heard include "we have been pushed out", "our time
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has been wasted". and "we shouldn't support the Sheriff's Office if this is how we are going to be treated". Clearly, some feelings have been hurt over this change, and this negativism is affecting the attitude of others in the club. While it may be easy to feel this way, we need to have a look at the whole picture before a negative judgement call is made toward the Sheriff's Office. It is my hope that this write up will help all understand the situation.

First, it is important to remember that amateur radio has something for everyone and for every interest. We can do whatever we chose to do in amateur radio. Some like to be involved in the bicycle or horse races, the rendezvous, helping scouts, the car show, or other similar public-service activities. Some prefer projects and construction, others the social aspects. Still others enjoy being involved with the County Sheriff, the RACES/ARES, ERRS, MARS, MARA, and other emergency-training activities. We all can pick and choose among the many facets of the hobby, and can budget our time and involvement as we see fit. Depending on your personal circumstances, this hobby may or may not be a full-time avocation; again, the degree of involvement is your decision. BARC is the "hub" around which the various activities revolve, and provides the people to fill these many aspects of the hobby, including the community-service aspect which is part of the amateur-radio charter.

With that reminder, let us now discuss the "riff" about the loss of the EOC which is causing some less-than-constructive criticism and hard feelings. I believe these criticisms and hard feelings are understandable to a degree but, as I said above, need to be brought into context with other changes within the Sheriff's Office. Recall that in the days of George Becker, he wanted the club to meet in the EOC to show the state that this room was being utilized by a group (BARC in this case) that would assist with community services for which the room was originally intended. With time, the EOC has become much more emergency-ready (maybe you've noticed some of the emergency activities reported in the *Herald Journal*) so that in case of bona-fide emergency, appropriate
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officials from state and county agencies could walk into the EOC and immediately begin performing the duties they have been trained to conduct. As the room now sits, there are forms, papers, log sheets, and county and state information packets at each of the telephone stations in the EOC room. In addition, there is a big-screen computer system now in the middle of the room ready to come on-line in a moment's notice. These updates and changes have been instituted as a result of a State of Utah mandate that will avoid delay in case of a full-fledged emergency. This, incidentally, was the ultimate goal on which George Becker was working. This assignment, naturally, has been passed to the next person responsible for emergency preparedness, which is Bob DeGasser. Now, understanding the degree of preparedness, it is fairly easy to understand that the presence of large groups in this room would be contrary to the purpose. Believe me, it is not because they don't trust us, because they do, and very much so! Don't forget, we were asked to help in the area of preparedness which we did and for which the Sheriff's Office is very grateful. Part of BARC still includes emergency preparedness, as noted above, and those who are interested are encouraged to continue in these areas. They can be involved through RACES/ARES which will allow continuing involvement with the county. If that is your interest, please continue to be involved, but please understand the reasons for the new EOC policy. Yes, it was a very convenient room, and yes, we got spoiled, and yes, the parking was terrific. But it is time to move forward by understanding the whole situation.

Before we leave this topic, I would like to make you aware of a few additional items...items that continue to benefit BARC. As many of you know, when George Becker was in charge of building the EOC he had an additional phone line installed so that BARC could use it as a valley-floor autopatch. The problem with this, from BARC's perspective, was that if there ever was an emergency, we would lose that phone line. Bob DeGasser felt that since BARC's services are so important he went to

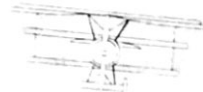
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Sheriff Sid Groll and asked that a separate phone line be installed in the radio room for an autopatch so that BARC communications would not be lost during an emergency. This request was approved, and is being set up at county expense.

Further, and as many of you already know, Cache County pays the State of Utah for the site rental on Mount Logan where our repeater is located. This is \$600 per year! If the county didn't pay this fee for us, guess what? Yep, dues would go up! My point here is we have a wonderful relationship with the county and I would hate to see us ruin a good thing over this necessary change to EOC policy.

Bottom line here. Have we been dealt with unfairly? No. Are we wanted and needed? Yes. Do we as members of BARC have something to offer the county and state, and so they realize this? Yes. Will the emergency amateur radio group be able to fulfill obligation to the county for paying repeater-site rent? Without doubt, yes. Are we going to continue having fun with this hobby? Yes. Are YOU going to get what you want from the hobby? Man, I sure hope so, it's all there! You decide, but most of all, enjoy.

Thanks and 73's, N7WDY, Dean.

**SHERIFF'S EMERGENCY RADIO TEAM**
de KB7FUB, Brian

(This should be a companion article to the one called *Let's Talk* elsewhere in this issue, and should help assuage the concerns some have about county involvement - Ed.)

The Cache County Sheriff's Office will begin accepting applications during February to form a Sheriff's emergency radio team. Interested amateur radio operators should pick up an application at the Sheriff's Office beginning February first. Completed applications should be returned to the Sheriff's Office by March first. Applications will not be accepted after March first. The Sheriff's Office will conduct interviews during March, with the emergency radio team beginning services and training in April.

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SHERIFF'S TEAM

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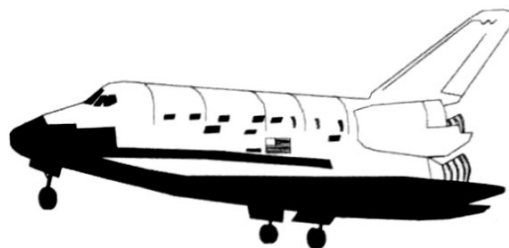
Application requirements include: time commitment, availability for participation in training, exercises, and emergency call-outs; 18 years of age or older; resident of Cache County; personal background check by Sheriff's Office; technician or higher amateur radio license, current or applied-for Utah RACES license number; and willingness to keep information confidential.

The purpose of the Sheriff's emergency radio team is to provide field radio communications during county emergencies. The team will work under the Sheriff's direction, and support the communication needs of the Sheriff's Office and other emergency organizations by staffing and maintaining the Sheriff's mobile command-post vehicle.

The team will consist of 15 to 20 individuals on a call-out roster. Members will receive additional training in field dispatching, incident command procedures, map reading, emergency field operations, and other radio communications needs.

Amateur radio operators interested in emergency communications, but who are not able to participate in the Sheriff's emergency radio team should participate in RACES/ARES and other emergency radio organizations. All amateur radio operators are encouraged to participate in the RACES/ARES program in Cache County. RACES/ARES will provide emergency communications in the local city EOCs as well as the county EOC during major emergencies. RACES/ARES members may also provide emergency communication support along with the Sheriff's radio team as needed.

If you have questions please contact Captain Bob DeGasser at The Cache County Sheriff's Office at 752-4103, or Brian Potts, KB7FUB, at 563-6467.



1996 BARC OFFICERS

President	Clint Jeppsen	KB7ZOZ	752-2315
Vice Pres.	Kevin Reeve	N7RXE	753-1645
Secretary	Cristi Anderson	KB7RAV	245-5027
Treasurer	Dan Anderson	KA0EOF	245-5027
Board Memb.	Dave Auger	WB7CFT	208-852-0577
Board Memb.	Ellis Hancey	KC7CXE	563-3857
Board Memb.	Dean Stevens	N7WDY	753-2644

1996 COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Repeater	Bill Neville	WA7KMF	753-4352
	Bob Wood	WA7MXZ	753-2119
	Wally Gibbons	WB7ASQ	752-2929
	Niel Holt	N7PEO	563-3643
	John Stohel	AE7T	208-852-3094
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		
Building Projects/Saturday Activities	Dan Anderson	KA0EOF	245-5027
	Clair Wyatt	NV7B	752-3823
	Stan Wellard	N7UXC	753-0433
Newsletter	Richard Wilkinson	KC7HYN	563-3532

THAT'S ALL FOR THIS MONTH!

Don't forget the Club meeting is February 8; listen to the Tuesday Net for details. This month there will be a display for touchy-feely transceivers, receivers, whatever. And don't forget to vote on the budget! **PAID YOUR DUES?** 73 and QED de KC7HYN

