

The Ohm Town News

The Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

de KB7ZOZ, Clint

The other day I was browsing through some old issues of *The Ohm Town News* and found it interesting that similar topics seem to keep coming up.

There is an old saying among sociologists that states "...you can't tell the extent of crime in a community by the types of arrests the police make".

For example, if the police were making lots of traffic arrests and few arrests for serious offenses, then you could assume the community was fairly well crime-free.

I have to assume the same is true in other areas also. If this is a good hypothesis then we have to assume there are not a lot of problems within our club. Because we get to spend most of our time on fun things.

But there is one topic which seems to keep coming up. And that is the improper use of the radio. Some of these are just plain mistakes and there is no blame. Other times there are serious offenses.

In the February 1995 issue of *The Ohm Town News*, Dean, N7WDY, then club president, talked about some children playing with the 2-meter radio. During a recent net he discussed a situation where someone, either un-licensed or using a false call sign, was using the auto patch.

In the first situation we have not heard the children on the air again. Either the owner of the radio took care of the situation or everyone became more cautious and secured their rigs. In either case, the situation was cleared up.

And thanks to several of our fellow hams, the second situation has also been taken care of. Hopefully by the time this newsletter comes out, the conclusion will be common knowledge. But at this writing the information must remain confidential.

As hams we enjoy a great privilege: the ability to interconnect with the telephone system. There is no way to calculate the value of the lives and property that have been and can be saved by the wise use of the auto patch in emergency situations. The public interest is well-served by amateurs with this interconnect ability.

But, as with any privilege, this one can

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HAM PROFILE

WB7CFT, Dave Auger

de KB7ZOY, MaryAnn

Dave Auger (WB7CFT) and his wife, Marge, have pictures of their eleven grandchildren, ages 3 months to 16 years, adorning the living room of their comfortable home in Preston, Idaho. They have been married for forty two years and are the parents of three daughters and who have provided these treasured grandchildren. Rhonda and her husband, Butch, live in Oregon and have three children. Darlene and her husband, Daryl, live in Preston and have four children. Karen (KB7TTW) and her husband, Jared (KB7TOC),



live in Salt Lake City and have four daughters. Dave challenged all his daughters to become hams. Karen accepted the challenge as did her husband, Jared. Darlene's 12-year-old daughter, Shannon, is studying now to take the test. Dave says it is a relief to him to be able to carry on conversations with Karen as she and her family travel from Salt Lake to Preston, especially if Jared is not with them.

Marge was born in Uniontown, PA. She and Dave met when Dave was in the Army, stationed at Fort Meade, Maryland. They were married in Cumberland, Maryland in November of 1955, and when Dave was

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Ham Profile

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discharged from the Army six months later, they promptly moved to Dave's hometown, Preston, Idaho, where they have lived ever since. Dave has been an auto mechanic for 33 years and owns his own business in Preston.

Dave had been a CB'er for a number of years, especially interested in "DX". He decided amateur radio would be more of a challenge, and started studying. He received his Novice license in the fall of 1973. The requirement at that time was that a Novice license be upgraded within two years or the license would be void. He recalls that the policy was to write to the FCC to get an appointment to take the upgrade test, which was given only once or twice a year. At that time the written test was given after CW was passed. If the written test wasn't passed, the CW was voided and both had to be re-taken at a later date. Dave skipped the Technician license and passed his CW at 13wpm and the written for General class within the two-year limit. He passed his Advanced class two years ago and his Amateur Extra class one year ago.

Dave attended a BARC club meeting with Ross Hansen (WB7BYZ) soon after getting his license, but did not become a member until a couple of years ago. He was elected as a board member almost immediately and gives Dean Stevens (N7WDY) the "credit" for getting him to volunteer for the position. He attends meetings when he can, and he and Marge have been enjoying the Saturday morning club breakfasts each month.

The sturdy tower in his back yard is topped with a 2-meter, 22-element Cushcraft and an HF 10, 15 and 20 meter tri-band. For HF, Dave uses a Yaesu FT101E. For 2 meters, he uses a Kenwood hand-held and a Kenwood 241A. A small bedroom in their home has become a neat, compact radio shack. His shop is equipped with a 2-meter Midland 13-510. Now Dave is learning about packet.

Dave is also a pilot. He also enjoys hunting and fishing. Marge is a master breadmaker and candymaker. She enjoys sharing her accomplishments with others, especially adorning grandchildren. (And this author was lucky to receive a loaf of her homemade bread too...delicious!) Marge also is delighted to prepare lunch each weekday for one of the grandsons who attends school near their home. Marge is Dave's support system and greatest fan, and says "...I'm proud of him and his accomplishments."



President's Corner

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be abused, and the penalty for abuse could be the loss of the privilege for all amateurs.

Many clubs have chosen to close their auto patch privileges to non-club members. Generally speaking, we have not had many serious problems with either our repeater or the auto patch. I believe the reason we have not experienced problems is basically two-fold. First, we have responsible hams in our area. The second reason is part of the first. We police ourselves.

To get an idea how bad an uncontrolled airway is, just get on the CB for a little while.

I have said it before and will say it again, I'm very proud to be affiliated with BARC. Your individual integrity makes "hamming" very pleasurable.

Keep up the good work.

As an item of information for those who were not at our last club meeting, Cristi, KB7RAV, had resigned from her position as club secretary. At the April club meeting we voted on a replacement and are pleased to welcome KB7ZON, Irma, as the new secretary. We welcome Irma and hope she will enjoy her position with the other officers of the club.

Also, and again for those who were not able to attend our April club meeting, you missed a real treat! We held the meeting (some are calling it the antenna party) at the home of KC7CXE, Ellis, at his shop in Hyde Park. He has THE dream shop! If you haven't seen it, it's worth your time to make an excuse to go out and see it. Of course you'll come away with envy in your heart.

It's been good to hear the real success of that "party". I'm sure you've all heard the chatter on the radio from those who made antennas and now are trying them out.

And they do work!

I would like to extend my thanks on behalf of the club to Ellis for his hospitality in making his shop available to the club. He was very generous in his time, tools and supplies. I hope in some way we can repay his kindness. I've known Ellis for about 30 years and he has always been an outstanding example for me to look up to. Thanks again Ellis!

And a word of thanks to MaryAnn, KB7ZOY, for her continued work on the *Ham Profile*.

We are looking forward to a very event-filled summer. For your information, we are making plans for Field Day to be held at the county fairgrounds in Logan. We are hopeful more of you can come and participate with it being so close this year. There will be camping

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President's Corner

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space for all who would like to make a weekend of it. More information will be given as the time approaches. The dates are June 22nd and 23rd. 73s, KB7ZOZ



May Club Meeting

May 09, 1996, 7:30pm

At the Cache County Fairgrounds

Buildings toward the south; look for our people

Live HF demonstrations, Voice and CW

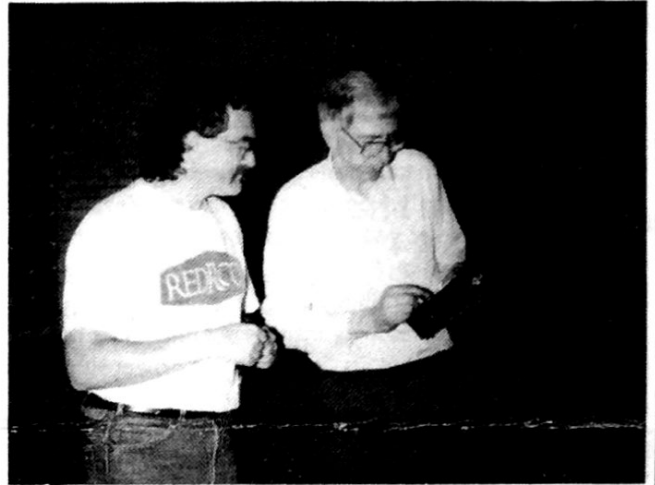
MORE ON OUR APRIL MEETING

Thanks to the watchful camera eye of N7RXE, Kevin, we were able to capture some of our members enjoying themselves at our last club meeting (aka, "the antenna party"). See if you can recognize some of the people we often only know by their call signs.



Both Eric, KB7BDT (middle) and Tyler, KC7QET (left) are being instructed by Nate (AB7GO) in the fine art of recharging internal batteries with a healthy dose of RF. Unfortunately, one of the side effects is an intractable grin.

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In this next picture, we see one of the more interesting aspects of our meeting. Ellis, KC7CXE, and our host that night you may recall, is helping Andrew, KC7OZS tune the twin-lead J-pole he just built. Ellis is using one of those fancy MFJ-259 SWR analyzer thingys that will tell you antenna resonant frequency and impedance. It will also tell you the actual frequency at which your rig is transmitting. Ellis and Clayton (AC7O) had fun helping us understand how well we did building our antennas and how well our rigs were transmitting. Neat!



Here we see Gary, KC7EUW (center) and Stan, formerly N7UXC, now with a new call sign since he upgraded to Advanced (sorry we didn't have your new call Stan), and a new and as-yet un-identified ham (sorry we missed your name and call) all working on the copper J-pole antennas (or actually one is working the others are "supervising"). We learned a lot and we had some serious fun. Also, and not immortalized on film, was a terrific cracker barrel! Of course, we hope this will be an annual (at least) fun, educational, and profitable evening.

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Stolen and Illegal Radios.

de N7RXE, Kevin

What a month for problems with radios! In case you haven't heard, someone stole the 2 meter radio and Astron power supply from the club station. Yes, I said stolen. For those of you who have been in the club shack you have used the log book to log in and out as you come and go. Since nobody logged in and reported that they borrowed the radio, word was put out on the nets. After a week and no leads, the radio and power supply was reported stolen and an investigation is under way.

What is sad about the whole thing is that everything points to an "inside job". By "inside job" I mean that somebody with the combination to the door took the radio. Someone knew exactly what they were after. They didn't take the HF rig, the antenna tuners, the dummy load or the computer, they took a 2 meter mobile radio and power supply. As a result the club station has been closed until the Board can meet and discuss the situation. I hope I am wrong and it wasn't a ham. I really hope I am wrong!

In April we had a guest appearance on the 72 repeater. This guy thought he was clever by using a legitimate call sign, however his mannerism and lack of knowledge was picked up by a couple of our younger hams monitoring the 72 who were able to gather some information on this guy before he left the air. With their help, the case has been turned over to the police for further investigation.

Some hams have asked about the proper way to handle illegal stations on the ham bands. Here are the steps and some pointers.

1. Get other hams involved immediately. Call on the telephone and have other hams work to get signal strength and direction on his signal. Do not use the radio for this ham-to-ham contact, use only the phone lines. The more hams throughout the valley who can get signal information the better. In addition, a club officer should be notified as soon as possible. The club has a Doppler direction finder (thanks to the generosity of Clayton Clark and several other hams who put it together) that can be deployed and it has proven itself to be able to track a radio transmission faster than anything else we have here in the valley. It will also be the club officers who will decide when to seek assistance from law enforcement officials, and will coordinate that effort. A coordinated effort will be more effective than many individual ones.

2. Get a tape recording of radio transmissions.

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Stolen

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Voice recordings only help later for positive identification and proof if police or legal action is required. Everyone has heard the many stories on news-line about illegal transmissions. We will need lots of proof. Keep a written log of times, direction and signal strength as well.

3. Ignore or keep them talking. Sounds like a catch-22, however this depends on the type of person making the transmissions. Most of the time those trying to maliciously interfere will get bored and move on if you ignore them. Those who are trying to perpetrate a legitimate ham will keep talking and may not suspect that we are wise. These are the ones to keep talking while other hams track the signal. Remember though, do not take the law into your own hands.

I know how exciting it is to be a ham tracking down the unknown signal. However, an individual effort will only be enhanced when others are involved. I have found that two heads are always better than one and I have been on enough "bunny hunts" to know that if you get three readings on a signal from different locations and plot the direction on a map, BINGO, it narrows down the area really fast. Otherwise you drive around in circles and the bunny sits around for a long time or gets away.



Hotel Yankee November

...At it again

de KC7HYN, Richard

Well, it's time for me to push the figurative button to expose the old half millimeter lead and put it to paper. I didn't get any bad vibes from my first column as I passed my first year on the push-to-talk button, so in spite of promises to cease and desist, here I sit musing the time since the last dubious prose. I continue to enjoy my new-found interest in this hobby, and think there may be some value in rambling about my experiences...not the least of which is to fill space in this newsletter. The alternative article on HAARP was just too long to both read and condense with my self-imposed closing deadlines. So let me bore you with some of my dribble. I promise to dabble in HAARP next issue...you'll be

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interested...we might not have to worry about sunspots and their cycles! Got your interest, didn't I?!

I found out again how great a supporting wife can be this past January when she let me (...ahhh, encouraged me...) to invest in my long-standing dream of owning an HF rig. Since I'm a tech-plus, and dying to get my General class, it was pretty easy to justify. Also, Nate (AB7GO) and Clayton (AC7O) whetted my appetite by giving me guided tours through their shacks...gosh, how I love all those knobs and buttons...man, don't you just love the feel and smoothness of the main-tuning knobs on those HF rigs? (Incidentally, I'm great at justification and rational, and am giving lessons if you'd like to apply to learn how I do it!). This investment was doubly justified since it was very close to my real birthday (within days in fact), during which I discovered I am half way to 104 years old...certainly well past middle age since I know few people at that venerable age and certainly ALMOST too late to teach this dog new tricks. To digress, she forced me into the truck and off we went to Ross' in Preston. I left with a Kenwood TS-450SAT, power supply, and a five-band Maldol vertical! And some of that "real" coax and silver-coated connectors....Wow! Who said we have to grow up anyway!? (Oh, I almost forgot, I have all serial numbers recorded.)

What an experience putting the antenna together! Bless the Maldol people in Japan. They are trying so hard to learn English! First, I didn't realize it would be so tall! The family had to step over it since I had it laying from the kitchen, down the hall to the front door. Twenty-eight feet and all kinds of stuff hanging off the side. My XYL, I'm sure, was wondering what she had started when I mounted the thing in our stairwell, hooked it up and started listening. Finally after some pleading ("...ahh, Richard, do you think you could find a way to put your 'pole' outside?") I did find a way to jury-rig the thing outside. I loved the Maldol verbiage in the instructions..."...in the area of the gust, it is necessary to put the nylon ropes to the ground". Huh? After no less than 15 minutes of pondering on that one, I figured out they meant to guy the antenna if I lived in an area with wind gusts. And so it went.

And then there was the ground, and the connectors on the coax, and an external speaker, the keyer cable, and then on the air. HF is so cool! I had some challenges trying to get the antenna tuned (guess I didn't know about that part at first....I do now!), but once

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Hotel Yankee November

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that was done, Viola! I found out pretty fast that the code tapes don't help alot, but that a good way to build copy speed is to try an keep up with some of the people on the bands. I also found out some real speedsters haunt the Novice bands. At first I thought "hey, jerk, why don't you leave the space to us dummy slow guys" but then realized how much they were helping me. After a couple of weeks of listening, I screwed down my courage and sent out an 'KN' to someone sending a 'CQ', which means I sent a response to someone who wanted to talk. My first actual CW QSL was KC7PFP in Arizona, also a tech-plus. It wasn't very good because of QSB (fading), a little QRN (atmospheric noise), and because I choked, but it was for real! I think the keyer is not a help at this point because I can send pretty fast, and the person at the other end seems to assume I am a better CW'er than I really am, and starts pouring it on (either that or they have a keyer too). I think I'll go back to a straight key until I can copy faster. Since then I've logged WA, AR, TX and WI. No QSL cards yet, but I know I need to get some for myself so that I can start the "wallpaper" collection. If you haven't tried HF yet, you need to! It will expand your enjoyment of this hobby immensely. Field Day will be a good chance for you to "get your feet wet". My favorite band is becoming 40 meters, but I always check 10 meters just in case. One night at about 11PM 10 meters just opened up and SSB signals came in from NV, NM, CA and MT! I kept listening and trying to be polite for a "breaker", but before I could get on, 10 meters just disappeared! Weird! Must have been some local ionization that allowed that short (about 30 minutes) window. I'll be ready and more bold next time!

Oh, I got a letter the other day from KB7PNQ, Guy Matizinger, who asked me to sign a petition to limit code requirements to 5WPM for all license classes. Since I'm busting my tush to get to 13, my initial thought was "no way, I'm working hard to get into the fraternity of CW'ers". But then I got to thinking (sometimes a dangerous thing for me to do, but that is another story). The regulatory, technical and operational knowledge would still be tested in the writtens. And the 2-meter band has taught all of us the proper use of radio equipment. And I can say that I would NOT try to converse with someone smoking along at 25wpm, but rather try to find a "ham of my speed". And I wouldn't be restricted to the Novice bands (often very limiting and frustrating). Maybe his plan has some merit and should

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