

The Ohm Town News

The Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

de Clint, KB7ZOZ

Spring is here! And how beautiful. With all the welcome rain, everything is blooming and green. What a time to be alive.

I, myself, have been quite busy and so spring kind of reached out and grabbed me on an overnight camp out.

I've been doing some spring catch up around the yard too. And while standing, looking and wondering where to go next I can't help but notice that the antenna is still leaning to the Jones'. You remember - the one everyone looks at as they drive by my place. I have found that if I point my directional kind of northwest it doesn't show its attitude quite so badly.

I hear some of you on the air talking about your antennas also. Some are going to make those long-needed repairs. Some of you are going to be putting up new ones. And I hear some need some fine-tuning.

But all-in-all you're going up in the air. Remember, **SAFETY FIRST!**

Recently, a friend of mine was installing an antenna on his roof. He lives in a fairly remote area. I think his closest neighbor is over a half mile away. They had the antenna extended and up. For some reason, unknown to me, they lost their hold on the antenna and it crossed the power line. His son was electrocuted and was instantly killed.

This is of course a tragic thing. If you have ever been in a like situation, you can well imagine the horror that that father experienced.

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HAM PROFILE

de MaryAnn, KB7ZOY

Although Stan Wellard (KJ7WV, formerly N7UXC) has been interested in amateur radio for 30 years, he didn't get his license until five years ago. Since that time-- due to his influence--more than 15 family members and friends are now hams. Those 30 years ago, Stan was in the U.S. Air Force, working in electronics. While stationed in Libya, he listened often to the shortwave radio.



It piqued his interest, but fear of CW kept him from applying for a license. After leaving the Air Force, Stan attended the University of Utah, and graduated with a BS and MS in electrical engineering. He worked in the Department of Biophysics at LDS Hospital in Salt Lake City for eight years. A job opportunity came at Utah State University. Stan, who disliked the traffic and travel in Salt Lake, gladly accepted, and has been an engineer in the Space Dynamics Lab at USU for 16 years.

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President's Corner

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And then the thousands of things that go through your mind, all those "should-haves."

Safety begins with your attitude. If you make a habit to plan your work carefully and to consider the safety aspect of a project before you begin the work, you will be much safer than the person who is eager to get the job done and just jumps in. Don't work in a haphazard manner. Be sure and prepared. Learn to have a positive attitude about safety. Think about the dangers involved with a job before you begin the work. Don't be the one to say, "I didn't think it could happen to me."

Having a good attitude about safety isn't enough, however. You must be knowledgeable about common safety guidelines and follow them faithfully. Safety guidelines can't possibly cover all the situations you might face, but if you approach a task with a measure of "common sense", you should be able to work safely.

So much for that, but do be careful and enjoy this summer.

73's KB7ZOZ

June Club Meeting

ARRL Field Day, 22-23 June 1996, noon-to-noon

The long-awaited Field Day WILL be our June club meeting. Because the Seeholtzer family was so appreciative of the effort hams put forward by helping with communication during the fires a couple of years ago near Beaver Mountain Ski Lodge in Logan Canyon, they have invited the club to hold Field Day activities in their parking lot. There will be cement-slab tent camping and other campsites available gratis courtesy of the owners! We need help setting up on both Friday and Saturday, if you can help, Nate (AB7GO) could sure use your help. Contact him to volunteer...he's sure to say "thanks."

Ham Profile

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When Dave Bunnell (N7PEH), a co-worker at USU, told Stan about the new no-code license, he was ready to "plunge in." Harl Goodsell (W7LTH), also at the Space Dynamics Lab at that time, monitored the 7.2 repeater and kept Stan interested and encouraged until he passed the test for technician class no-code in October 1991. Then he gathered his courage and began studying the code. He passed the 5 wpm code test six months ago, and passed the 13 wpm code test and written tests for general and advanced one month ago. Not bad for someone who put it off for three decades!

After Stan became involved in amateur radio, it wasn't difficult to convince his son, Clint (KB7PNI), to do the same. He passed his test in the spring of 1993. He then passed the code and written tests for general and advanced at the same time his father did in April of this year.

Three more Wellards followed in quick



succession. Clint convinced his sister, Stacy (KB7ZOO), to study for the test. Then Stan's

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wife Irma (KB7ZON) decided to study at the same time. And when Clint's wife Susan (KB7ZOM) was told that Stacy and Irma were studying, she also accepted the challenge. All three of them received their technician no-code licenses in November 1993. Uncles, aunts, cousins, and many others from Utah to California are now involved in amateur radio thanks to the Wellard influence.

Stan is from Inkom, Idaho. Irma is from Pocatello. They have been married 35 years and have five living children, ranging from ages 33 to 17. Most of Stan's spare time is spent with the hobby he loves most--building antennas. "Antennas are the only variable you can change," he explains. Stan is fascinated with balloon flying and is designing electronics to hopefully fly one this summer.

Irma is a bus driver. She drove for the Logan City School District for five years, and has been driving for LTD for three years. She also has many hobbies--singing (she took vocal lessons with daughter Stacy for two and a half years), playing the piano, cake decorating, sewing, crocheting, knitting, tole painting and cutting her own wood. She was ecstatic last Christmas when Stan bought her a drill press! And she also admits to being addicted to Nintendo!

Stacy, 17, is a junior at Logan High School. She recently returned from Washington, D.C. where she attended for a week with the Logan High Close-Up program. She is active in Chauntaires, drama club and debate. She also has enjoyed going to balloon activities with her dad. In addition to school work, extra-curricular activities and amateur radio, she works at Burger King Restaurant.

Clint was in fifth grade when his

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parents moved to Logan from Salt Lake. He attended Logan City schools and graduated from Logan High. He served a mission for the LDS Church. He received his bachelor's degree from Utah State University and is finishing his MS degree in cardiac rehab. Like his mother, he drives a bus for LTD and previously drove for Logan City School District. He attended the National Transit System Rodeo in Milwaukee May 19 and 20. Besides amateur radio as a hobby, Clint also likes fishing and hunting.

Susan Hirschi, daughter of Loran and Marcelle Hirschi, and Clint met at a youth conference in 1984. Susan had moved to Logan from Oregon with her parents when she was eight years old. Although both Clint and Susan attended Logan High, they did not meet until the youth conference. While Clint was on his mission, Susan attended Ricks College. They were married three months after his return in 1992. Susan graduated from USU with a degree in Family and Human Development. She works part time at Fred Meyers. They have two children--Stephanie who is three years old and Tiffany who is 20 months old. Tiffany was born with spina bifida and has had six operations thus far in her little life. Much time and attention are given to Tiffany by devoted parents and grandparents. Clint has calculated that they have traveled 30,000 miles to and from Salt Lake for her hospital care. Susan has made good use of amateur radio during their many miles of travel.

Project HAARP: A Plan to Alter the Earth's Ionosphere

(Thanks to Dan, KA0EOF for sending us

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HAARP

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articles from the Fall, 1994 and Winter, 1995 issues of *Earth Island Journal* from which the following was excerpted. This journal is an environmental watch-dog publication and raises issues against HAARP at great length...while we don't want to diminish the environmental concerns, we tried to extract those things that would seem to be of interest to us as ham radio operators. This is really interesting stuff, and well worth the time reading about it. - Ed.)

There is a plan afoot to alter the ionosphere in tests to be conducted in Alaska. The site is a 51-acre plot of ground on which an antenna array will be constructed to direct up to 1.7 gigawatts of energy into the ionosphere. That's 1.7 billion watts! The antenna array would actually consist of 360 seventy- to eighty-foot tall antennae occupying four-acres of the research site. As we know, the ionosphere is about 35-500 miles above the earth's surface; Alaska presents a good location to conduct these experiments since the earth's magnetic lines of force are converging in the northern latitudes. The actual site will be near Gakona, AK which is, according to my Atlas, about 170 air miles east northeast of Anchorage. As the proposal says, the purpose of these experiments is first to determine how the ionosphere responds to these high-wattage challenges and how long it takes for the ionosphere to recover from such assaults. The second purpose is to investigate the potential to create "mirrors" with which to transmit HF/VHF/UHF over great distances. The "mirrors", of course, are a euphemism for areas of increased ionization against which radio beams may be bounced and re-directed. HAARP (which is short for High Frequency Active Auroral Research Project) will pulse

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beams in 4-5 campaigns per year starting probably in 1997.

The military is funding much of the research and has an interest because of the potential to detect in-coming missiles (especially cruise-type), to "neutralize" such missiles, to communicate over greater distances, and to send signals to submerged vessels at sea. There is also talk about directing these giga-watt beams back into the earth to detect underground structures (kinda' X-ray for the earth). Again, the military is interested so as to detect such things as Kaddafi's underground biological/chemical warfare facilities. Interesting stuff! There is also talk of using this technology to alter global weather patterns by causing a heat-induced shift in the jet stream. More interesting stuff.

While there is expected to be not only an increase in ionization, but also the attendant increase in temperature, it was pointed out that the sun regularly bombards the ionosphere with 10^{11} to 10^{12} watts (that's, lets see...1,000 to 10,000 billion watts, or, like, one to ten million million watts..anyway, getting close to the trillion-dollar national debt!) so it is "expected" that the relatively low HAARP doses will "significantly" but temporarily perturb the ionosphere; the energy from the sun, it is expected, will "flush" away these perturbations in a matter of hours or days at the most. Here are some interesting stats: each campaign will driven by six 3,600 hp diesel generators consuming 191,800 pounds of diesel fuel per day, each campaign will require ten preparation days, 14 experiment days and four shut-down days, and, as noted above, there will be 4-5 such campaigns per year, it is expected that the ionosphere will rise in temperature by about

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HAARP

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80°F during each campaign, there will be an electron-density increase of 20% below 124 miles, and increase electron density by 10-15% above 124 miles for each campaign.

Incidentally, 8.0 and 10.0 MHz are the frequencies that will be used to transmit this power into the atmosphere.

Well, there you have what I hope is the crux of the experiments. Consider yourself informed. As I said last month, perhaps we won't even have to worry about sun-spot cycles communication-wise in the future. There are two sides of me on this particular issue. The first side says "hey, KEWELL" (which is 90's for "wow!, that's really neat"); that kind of mega-science is really interesting and takes Ben Franklin and the kite-and-key thing to new heights! The other side of me says "HEY, whoa" (which is 90's for "...ahhh, could we talk?"); what if we really don't know what all this will do to our planet (sometimes scientists are willing to play the 'come line' in an I-really-don't-know-what-this-is-going-to-do-but-it's-cool crap game of life; they sometimes lose). At any rate, I hope we proceed carefully with these experiments because it sounds as if this "futzing" could really change things, and perhaps globally. What a great topic for those dull parties when everyone just sits around and stares at each other! You could be the life of the party! Hey, write back with your comments if you'd like, I'll be listening.
73, KC7HYN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(For a while there, I thought I was perhaps writing to people without any opinions or a desire for input to their newsletter. But, yoikes, I finally got a letter to the editor over the 5WPM code thingy I mentioned in the May newsletter. THANK YOU for the response, they are

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Letters to the Editor

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always welcomed and, in my opinion, an important part of newsletters! Someone IS alive out there! Here is the letter in its entirety. We also got a nice letter of thanks for the efforts on Ham Profiles for the newsletter, and that is also enclosed - Ed)

Dear Editor,

Please accept my thanks for the time and effort you contribute toward making *The Ohm Town News* the professional and entertaining paper it is. I look forward to receiving it each month. However, in the last issue, I discovered a thought that cries out for rebuttal. I hope you can find room to print another opinion.

In the last paragraph of the "Hotel Yankee November" column, you said "...maybe his plan (to limit code requirements to 5 WPM for all license classes) has some merit and should be considered. Also, 2 meters has injected new life into the amateur radio business (which means lower prices and more features), so maybe a change would be healthy for the whole hobby." In the same paper, KB7ZOZ said "...To get an idea how bad an uncontrolled airway is, just get on the CB for a while". I would suggest that if we "dumb down" the license requirements to make it easy for everyone we won't have to listen to the CB problem. We will be the problem.

The real problem is not that the testing is too hard, but that for some people, it exceeds their motivational level. That's THEIR problem. But hardly an excuse to lower the CW requirement. I have a difficult time thinking of anything that is made better by lowering standards. I have worked as a VE during the past several test sessions and am convinced more than ever that those who want to upgrade can and will learn the CW required.

If we find that we are losing members

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