

The Ohm Town News

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

The Editor's Message

de KC7HYN, Richard

In this issue we have some sad news to report in that we have two friends who became Silent Keys over the past few months. Both these men were so important to the club, and their friendship and help will be especially missed. Don't miss the special *Ham Profile* that was prepared by KJ7LQ, Beanie, for one outstanding ham, AC7O, Clayton Clark. We also will miss KB7VMO, Heber Sharp who died too young and too suddenly. We prepared a short eulogy and life sketch for him elsewhere in this column.

I would like to add something to the eulogy for AC7O since I met Clayton almost 20 years ago...long before I became a ham. At that time Clayton was president of the Sigma Xi society at Utah State University where I was doing graduate studies. I met him at the induction ceremonies where he handed out our certificates for election to the society. I remembered him as warm and friendly to all who were there that night in spite of the considerable time this activity took from his busy life. As KJ7LQ notes, Clayton was a remarkable person with numerous activities and volunteer hours to his credit. Imagine my surprise about two years ago as I walked into the room to take my 5 wpm code exam. Dr. Clark was one of the VEs helping out...boy the pressure was really on! I remember him in typical fashion offering words of encouragement to us nervous greenies, and making sure we were as prepared as possible before starting the tape. I couldn't answer enough of the questions to pass the code exam

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Ham Profile

Brian, KB7FUB and Becky, N7YUG Potts de Howard, KD7AFO and Evelynda, KD7AFN

Brian Potts grew up with lots of radio equipment around. His father enjoyed building Heath kit receivers, and his Navy grandfather had a workroom full of communication equipment that Brian liked to tinker with. Brian was in Australia when he first met an amateur radio operator. He found out this Australian Ham had communicated over the



waves with Brian's father and had even met him before.

In 1987, after completing an LDS mission to Australia, Brian earned his amateur radio license. Brian's call sign is KB7FUB.

Brian was born and raised in Murray, Utah. He went to public schools there and then

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that way, so he carefully looked through my scribblings until he located the requisite 26 letters-in-a-row to pass me. He was pleased I passed...he made me feel so good! His words of encouragement to me as I left the room were "...keep at it, it gets easier" (not true yet, but I'm trying). He had my XYL and me to his home on a couple of occasions where he proudly introduced us to his wife, Helen, and showed off his shack. He just stood there with his hands on his hips smiling as I looked at and fingered his equipment. Oh, and you couldn't miss his house...it was the one on the edge of the golf course with a sizeable antenna farm! He was a great and good man. At his funeral, I couldn't help but feel there was a kind of sad celebration there. Sad because we would miss our friend and mentor, but a celebration because he lived such a full, productive and giving life. 73 Clayton!

I did not know Heber as well as I did Clayton, but I did have an association with him on the emergency service nets and as our communication coordinator in my church group. He was an officer of the newly formed Cache Valley EARN (emergency amateur radio net) and was instrumental in helping to get that off the ground. I also know Heber was one of the most cheerful, let-me-be-involved people you would ever meet. He was always upbeat and smiling, ALWAYS! One of the club members noted that he was quick with a complement and shared those complements with others too. He also knew how to make you feel good. Just a great guy!! We all join in a giant 73 and CUL to Heber.

I took the time this month to also spout off about the help I receive in preparing this newsletter. I am now about 13 months into the job and have found it an excellent tool for me to get to know more of you fellow hams, and to

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Ham Profile

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came to Logan to attend USU. That's when Becky Ashcroft, of Hyde Park, Utah came into his life. They met while enjoying softball together.

Brian and Becky were married in 1987. They currently live in Hyde Park and are the proud parents of two very adorable little girls, Anissa, age 6, and Melinda, age 3.

Becky wasn't very interested in amateur radio at first. She still wasn't interested when Brian told her about the new no-code license. Then, about four years ago, she decided she wanted to get her license and she did! Her call sign is N7YUG.

Brian uses his communication skills in many ways. He especially enjoys emergency communications. He has helped the Cache County Sheriff's office and the Smithfield Fire Department with their communications. He is also a qualified EMT for the Smithfield Fire Department. He works at Logan Regional Hospital in Patient Account Services. He is a licensed CPA.

Becky is an elementary school teacher. She taught in Cache Valley schools for ten years. Now she enjoys staying home with her precious children. She also enjoys children's literature and music.

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Editor's Message

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research and write about interesting stuff. I would like to thank a bunch of you for your continuing help and encouragement. Mary Ann, KB7ZOY was just great as our *Ham Profile* person and I hope she is enjoying her new home in Montana. She also showed me the value of a good editor (which I don't have this month, and hope you will understand any boo-boos). She was great. Let me say that Dean, N7WDY is a real sparkplug that sees to so many details that help with getting this thing out each month. He has been great to work with and is so dependable. I would also like to thank Clayton, AC7O who contributed now and then and who encouraged me so often (as he did when I struggled with 5 wpm). Terry, N7PEG is our net-surfer who comes up with humorous anecdotes from cyber-hamspace occasionally. Thanks also to Dan, KA(zeeero)EOF who is a great ham and always on the lookout for interesting ideas...he introduced us to HAARP. You know what? It may not be proper to plug Square One Printing, but they have given me gobs of technical help and are so understanding when I ask "...ahh, and could you rush that?" They do, and they don't charge us. Great group of folks. I even put in an ad this month so you know where to find them. I know there must be others who have helped me and I apologize if I missed you. Finally, thanks to Clint, KB7ZOZ and all the other officers who keep the club running. 73, KC7HYN, Richard

OCTOBER CLUB MEETING

This month is a DON'T-MISS meeting!! It will be held at 7:30 PM (that's 1930 hours for you military and ham-types) at USU in the Engineering Center, Room EC-107 (that's the same room we often met in last year). The program will revolve around satellites (pun intended!) presented by the Weber State Satellite Group (they put up WeberSat). Should be a fun evening.

Special Ham Profile

AC7O, Dr. Clayton Clark
by KJ7LQ, Beanie Lofthouse

How does one tell about a friend of many years in a short space and still do his lifetime justice? Since being asked to do a tribute to Clayton, it has been a puzzle to decide.

Clayton was born March 9, 1912 and died June 7, 1996. Eighty-four years jam-packed with work, activities, learning and



service. He married Helen Brown in 1933 and they raised two daughters while doing all the above.

Anyone who attended the funeral service for Clayton got a more personal glimpse of his life from family and friends. Here, I will try to tell a bit more about what he meant to those of us involved with him through amateur radio.

I met Clayton and Helen soon after moving here in 1983. Clayton was always a "friendly face" at the club meetings that we began attending, tried to greet everyone if not before the meeting, during the refreshment time following. He was also involved with the testing programs as a VE and was a great supporter of anyone getting ready to study the manuals for the Novice test as well as for any upgrades.

I was impressed with Clayton's ability

Special Ham Profile

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to be involved with so many organizations, not only amateur radio, but all of his volunteer time with many organizations. As a matter of fact, I had no idea there WERE so many organizations associated with amateur radio. Clayton got really involved with the Bridgerland ARC after he retired from his professorship at Utah State University in 1977.

With his background in radar through the Army in WWII, working in atmospheric studies in Washington, D.C. with the National Science Foundation, and his work at USU where he was involved with putting together the elements of atmospheric studies which resulted in the Center of Atmospheric and Space Science at USU, he was a natural for helping those of us who had difficulty grasping what propagation is all about.

Clayton had been willing to help new hams understand the principles of the hobby. He was a wealth of information, always asking us if we understood how his many meters to test SWR, and various other things, worked. If we did not, he tried to put it in terms we all could understand, without overwhelming us or discouraging us. Members of the Board for BARC were always welcomed to meet at his house where there were many work parties as well. He was a great help whenever we had antenna questions. We were always welcome to his home, and it was easy to find with his "antenna farm" so prominent next to the golf course in Logan.

* Clayton negotiated the original agreement with Cache County to have our repeater on Mount Logan using his call sign, AC7O, and was trustee of the autopatch for many years. He also made it clear to the club that by being able to use the repeater and autopatch, we had an obligation to the Sheriff's Department to become trained to help

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Special Ham Profile

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whenever they needed volunteers for communication efforts. He didn't just talk about it, he was willing to train us and to be available as well.

Clayton was one of the first involved here in Cache Valley when the LDS Church organized the Mercury Amateur Radio Association (MARA). He also reported to the state emergency coordinator every evening using Morse code and every day at noon on voice. He was also an avid supporter of the Utah VHF Society.

Clayton really was supportive of those XYLs and YLs (wives and other women) that decided to join their OMs (men) in the hobby. It pleased him that a special class was offered to us when John, AE7T was president of the club and when the committee chairman was Don, WA7VNQ. They did a good job and were instrumental in helping many of us to upgrade and to become involved more in the operation of the club. If we had a question, wanted to just "talk", or whatever, he was very willing.

After Clayton died, the next net held on the 146.720 repeater was a terrific tribute to him from many who had known him through his teaching at USU or through BARC.

His life was pretty much summed up in an article from the *Herald Journal* newspaper that carried one of his quotes: "Our purpose in life is to be active and further the development of society as much as we can." He also firmly believed, to quote him again, "We can not all do everything, but we can all do something."

Thanks for the opportunity to remember our dear friend Clayton Clark.

73s AC7O, Clayton, de KJ7LQ, Beanie

LotoJa, 1996

de KC7HYN, Richard

As usual, I was just a little late. Not but 5 hours earlier I had spent a difficult 25 hours trying to get back from a business trip in Sweden. My eyes were bleary and my XYL, Judy, kept saying "...you gonna make it?" But I heard net control N7RXE, Kevin using the autopatch on the 146.720 repeater. He was asking where the police were to help with the start of the annual LotoJa bicycle race. It was about 6:00AM, I think. For those who don't recall, LotoJa is a contraction for Logan-to-Jackson, get it? LotoJa! Anyway, it is a 203



mile bicycle race that is gaining in notoriety and popularity. It has a healthy prize purse and gathers together various tough, gritty, hardy and somewhat crazy bicycle enthusiasts. BARC volunteer members spend an entire Saturday each year following these persons from Logan to Jackson, Wyoming (actually Teton Village, which is just a little further than downtown Jackson). That's two-hundred-and-three, up-and-down, tear-your-lungs-out miles. The main-man organizer, Mr. Craig Curtis (a very trim, bicycle-looking person) told our BARC leaders that "...absolutely, this bike race would not happen without amateur radio and BARC!" They LOVE us! We provide so much service it

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LotoJa

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is phenomenal. Anyway, to digress, N7RXE located the police, we located the starting, got some spare tires to carry with us, and the start gun went off in rapid succession. In the dark, the really professional bikers (I use the term loosely here) took off in a flash! It took about an hour, but group five (our group) finally headed out north on main street. Our local repeater, 146.720, served as the net until we got into Idaho (well, a little further than Preston) where we switched to the 146.800 repeater which John, AE7T linked to the Star Valley 146.610 repeater; communications were just super almost all the way. We also used the Jackson repeater, 146.910 as we got close to Jackson. Really slick and N7RXE did a superb job keeping everything running smoothly.

Right in the middle here, let me list all the hams and "significant others" (XYLs, YLs, kids, pets, ice chests, mug-holders and bugs) who also were in the foray. Khalil



(WA7SHW) and Sherry (KC7MCP) Godfrey, Doug (KC7JGL) and Jason (KC7SKC) Nelson, Russ (N7QAI) and Cheryl (N7YUE) Thurgood, Farrell (KC7CWX) and Dee Garr, Terry (N7PEG) and Mary Zollinger, Jody (KC7CVI)

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