

# The Ohm Town News

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

## President's Corner

de KB7ZOZ, Clint

It doesn't seem possible but Summer is over. Did you all get done what you wanted to? I didn't. But all in all, it was a good Summer. With the farmers wanting rain I felt kinda' guilty enjoying the warm Summer days as I did. Now we can have winter and get all that moisture everyone wants.

As most of you know, our repeater committee worked hard and got a lot of work done on the repeaters. Red Spur 145.310 was linked to Logan Peak 146.720 to give us excellent coverage from the East. It is a hard link so remember while talking on the air, you are not only being heard in northern Utah and southern Idaho, but well to the East in Wyoming.

There was also work done on the Mount Sedgwick 146.800 repeater. The antenna had been badly treated by Mother Nature, but was still functioning quite well. You have probably noticed that for a while and periodically it has also been linked to the 146.720. This will not be a hard link. The code for this link will be made available to those who are contributors to the repeater fund.

With these improvements in the repeaters we now have extensive 2 meter capabilities. Going North and South, we have contact from North of Idaho Falls (last week I used the 146.800 from Spencer, Idaho) to the Salt Lake City area. Which includes most of the heavily traveled areas.

I'm not really sure how far East we go, but I have heard comments it is pretty far.

We all need to take the time to thank our repeater committee whenever we see one of them. They have put in a lot of volunteer hours this Summer.

The 1996 committee members were Bill Neville, WA7KMF, Bob Wood, WA7MXZ, Wally Gibbons, WB7ASQ, Niel Holt, N7PEO, and John Stohel, AE7T. There were others who also helped on the projects. Thanks again to all you guys.

With the end of the year fast approaching, we are looking for candidates to run for officers during the coming year. Should you desire to run or to nominate someone who you think would make a good officer, please get those names in as soon as possible. On the night of elections, we will take nominations from the

continued on page 3...

 **BALLOT ON PAGE 6.**

## Ham Profile

KC7CXE, Ellis Hancey

de Howard, KD7AFO and Evelynda, KD7AFN Morrill

Ellis Hancey, KC7CXE, has worked in electronics repair all of his adult life. He was always interested in Ham radio, but only got involved two years ago when his son, Dave, KC7CXF, said, "Come on, Dad, let's go do it together!", and they did! They passed the tests and received their licenses on June 21, 1994.

Ellis was born in Hyde Park, Utah in 1930. He grew up and attended schools there until he graduated from high school. Then he went to Purdue University in Indiana. He worked and attended college for a while and then decided that was just too much. He enrolled in an electronics correspondence course through the DeForest



Institute (now DeVry Institute). He graduated from that program in 1952.

Meanwhile, while living in LaFayette, Indiana, He met Dora Buchanan. They were married in 1949. A

continued on page 3...

## My View from Mount Sedgwick

It Sure can be Lonely Up Here!

On October 7th, the BARC repeater committee including Bill Neville, WA7KMF, Wally Gibbons, WB7ASQ, Brent Yeates, KA7FAP, John Stohel, AE7T, and Dean Stevens, N7WDY paid me a visit. Boy, it was sure nice to see these fellers! I knew that when they started pulling the test equipment, hardware, antennas and other stuff from Bill's Ford Explorer, I was in for one heck of a treat with all the attention, not to mention that all my problems would be fixed!

First, off went my power supply (ahhh....time to rest!). During that time, my new controller and link radio



The Sedgwick Crew. L-R, John, AE7T, Dean, N7WDY, Wally, WB7ASQ, Brent, KA7FAP, and Bill, WA7KMF

were installed. It was tedious for Wally, John and Bill who had to make sure every wire was in it's correct place (I CAN be picky). At the same time Brent and Dean were busy installing my new coax and link antenna to Mount Logan (a new friend and some company up here!), and they also replaced my old 450 repeater antenna which got broken during the last harsh winter up here. Once this new antenna was installed, Brent tested me with his awesome antenna analyzer. I heard them say "OH, OH,..." (actually, they said something else but I had trouble understanding it because my power supply was off, you may recall) "...we have a BIG problem!" Well, you see when my 450 antenna broke last winter, water was allowed to funnel down into my heliax cable which saturated my shielding (have you ever had rain water trickle down your back inside your warm sweat shirt?...same thing here, ugh). Anyway, the whole thing had to be replaced. At the same time they checked and adjusted my 2 meter antenna and feedline which showed all was OK here (I knew that!). After lots of tinkering and futzing, they achieved perfect, yes PERFECT, SWRs on

continued on next column...

## Mount Sedgwick

...continued from previous column

all my antennas! Whew, I passed muster! My power was finally turned back on and the surge of power felt good. I knew from that time on, Bill, Wally and John were going to spend the rest of the afternoon programming and double-checking all of my new equipment to be certain it would function properly. Brent and Dean spent their time securing all my feed lines and, of course, supervising the rest of the guys (supervision is my favorite part). The guys only stopped for a short lunch before getting back into my innards.

While I take it for granted sometimes, I think it would be appropriate to mention here that all the guys were really amazed at the view from my home up here. Dean got so excited when he saw the Grand Teton from here that I thought he might blow an excitement capacitor. Of course, the comments were mostly how far one can see



Wally, WB7ASQ, tweaking on Sedgwick

from here. I admit it, my view is spectacular!

Finally at about 7:00PM the sounds and shuffling and probing stopped and it got quiet. The guys were now returning all the equipment to Bill's vehicle. I said "good bye" and "thank you" for all the tender loving care they all showed me this day. I was tickled to see all of them look up one more time at my splendor with big smiles on their faces as if they were saying "...well guys, we did it again. What a successful day!" Thanks Repeater Committee. You're great!!

73, de 146.800, AE7T/R

(I can't hide it, this piece had Dean, N7WDY, as my ghost-writer. Thanks Dean!)

✦ **CLUB MEETING on 11/14 @ 7:30PM in EC107, USU Engineering. Elections!! and Jody Reese, KC7CVI on Cache Valley EARN. Be There!!!**

## President's Corner

...continued from page 1

floor. However, this does not give those members filing our absentee ballots the opportunity to vote for them. So please get the names in as soon as possible. Elections will be held during November's club meeting.

We have a great club and it has been a great opportunity for me to associate with you all throughout the past two years.

73, Clint, KB7ZOZ

## BARC and the Repeater System

de Kevin Reeve, N7RXE

What an exciting time for members of BARC. It has been a couple of years in the making, lots of planning, work, and mountain expeditions. The BARC repeater system is almost complete. It took a little longer than expected as small problems took a few months to solve and delayed the systems installation. Five mountain-top expeditions have been made in September and October alone. A big thanks is owed to all of those who have taken time out of their busy schedules to work on the system and make the trips to the mountains. Bill Neville WA7KMF our repeater chairman has pulled it all together. He has been assisted by many others. Two of the mountain-top trips were made during weekdays so arrangements at work had to be made. Programming of system codes to link and unlink the repeaters is being completed and as soon as the programming is complete, access codes will be distributed to members. Please read the rest of this article so you can appreciate what has

continued on page 4...

### 1996 BARC OFFICERS

President	Clint Jeppsen	KB7ZOZ	752-2315
Vice Pres.	Kevin Reeve	N7RXE	753-1645
Secretary	Irma Wellard	KB7ZON	753-0433
Treasurer	Dan Anderson	KA0EOF	245-5027
Board	Dave Auger	WB7CFT	208-852-0577
Board	Ellis Hancey	KC7CXE	563-3857
Board	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 Tests	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
	Newsletter	Richard Wilkinson	KC7HYN

## Ham Profile

...continued from page 1

few days after the wedding, they came to Logan, Utah to open their very own business. They named it Intermountain Radio and TV (us old-timers may remember it on the corner of 10th north, in that spot where there is nothing now! - Ed). After 36 and a half years of daily enjoying his profession, and looking forward to every day's challenges solving intriguing electronic problems, he retired on May 1, 1986.

Starting in January of 1983, Ellis began new full-time work repairing medical electronic equipment at the Logan Regional Hospital. He still works there part-time. While starting up his labors at the hospital, other challenges started pouring in. During this same time, while maintaining his work at Intermountain Radio & TV, he was also called as an LDS bishop. And then his sister died leaving him in charge of her estate. Ellis found handling all these situations at once especially challenging.

Ellis and Dora are the proud parents of eight children, with an even balance of four boys and four girls. They lost one boy in infancy. They are now pleased to be grandparents to twenty-three grandchildren. Most of their children along with the grandchildren live in the Cache and Salt Lake Valleys. One daughter lives in Los Angeles, California and one son lives in Virginia.

Ellis believes he was probably the first person to see TV pictures in Cache Valley. In the Summer of 1952, he and a buddy took a truck, a TV, and antenna, and a generator to explore the mountain tops for a spot with good antenna reception. They found a suitable spot where his buddy held up the antenna while Ellis hooked the equipment together and fine-tuned to where he could watch a Channel 5 broadcast by KSL-TV. In November of that year, Channel 5 announced that they would be providing Cache Valley residents with their broadcasts. To be sure to witness the first broadcast, Ellis had a TV on, close to his work bench, tuned to KSL-TV, for several days. On November 15, 1952 he saw the first test patterns and broadcasts which KSL provided for Cache Valley.

He became an expert at installing TV repeaters. He designed and installed several systems in Utah and Idaho. He installed the first cable system in Cache Valley in the Wellsville Mountains. He later changed it to a TV translator station which was in service for twenty-three years.

Ellis has many, many hobbies. He has been involved in scouting for many years and has received the Silver Beaver Award. He is busy with his church work and is currently serving as Stake Name Extraction

continued on page 4...

### Ham Profile

...continued from page 3

Director doing genealogical research. He enjoys hunting and fishing. He and his son particularly enjoy hunting the mighty Wapiti (elk) simply with bow and arrow. He also holds a private pilot license. Years ago he flew quite a bit, but considers it too expensive to do much now.

Dora and her hubby enjoy gardening together. He says he grows the stuff you can eat while she grows the stuff that looks good. Recently, the Logan Regional Hospital held a pumpkin growing contest. Ellis' entry was a whopping 136-pounder! He is progressing towards his goal of raising a 200-pounder.

When Ellis retired, he and Dora moved back to Hyde Park to the same property where he was born and raised. Dora says her husband is now their neighborhood's kind and generous repairman. He has a wonderful workshop where he repairs whatever needs fixing for whomever needs it! This includes autos, lawn mowers, other mechanical things and, of course, electrical and electronic equipment!

Ellis wants you all to know that he has really enjoyed meeting and getting to know so many new people through Ham radio! He is currently on BARC's Board of Directors and has appreciated working with so many good people.

### BARC and the Repeater System

...continued from page 3

taken place and, understand my closing remarks, frank discussion and the Club's stand on the repeater system.

I believe a history of 72 repeater system is necessary to bring the new hams up to date and to remind the rest of us what took place. The 72 Repeater was placed on Mount Logan October 6th, 1987. The repeater is there because of the work of the late Clayton Clark AC7O. Clayton convinced the county to help us gain access to the state radio building at the site. In addition he convinced the county to pay the monthly site fee of \$60.00. In return we (BARC) agreed to use the repeater to help in emergencies and prepare ourselves to be of service when the time came. To this day we have been true to our word. The repeater has been used to assist with several searches, the Beaver Mountain fire, and recently during the loss of 911 service.

In 1994 Bill Neville WA7KMF presented to the BARC officers a plan to completely update the 72 repeater system and install a new linkable repeater at Red Spur. A letter was sent out to all Hams in the valley inviting them to contribute \$25.00 to this system. The total cost of the new system was estimated at \$3,400.00.

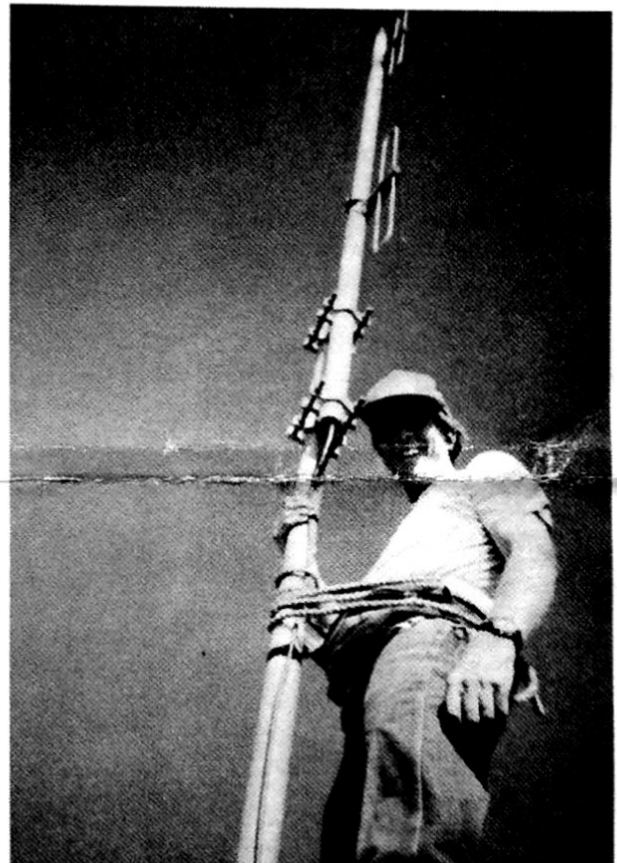
continued on next column...

### BARC and the Repeater System

...continued from previous column

Crescent Communications gave us \$1,200.00 in return for advertising in the OHM Town News. The rest came in from hams in the valley. Some of the equipment was bought, built, and donated by members of the repeater committee. If you compare the equipment in the repeater systems with the bills the club has paid it doesn't add up. Someone has donated a lot of stuff. In September of 1995 the new 72 repeater system went on the air. This upgrade included a linkable UHF (449.625) repeater at the same site. In addition the Red Spur repeater (145.31) went on the air.

In October of 1995 the Repeater committee made a presentation about the new system and some future plans. Bill Neville had located a site on the Promontory mountains that we could put a new repeater at. In addition John Stohel AE7T invited BARC to link in the 80 to the new system. The club agreed and invited those



John, WB7WET, on the job at the 146.720 repeater. He's about 15 miles up with only that little rope!!

who had not paid the \$25.00 towards the new system to contribute so that the linking hardware could be

continued on page 5...

**BARC and the Repeater System**

...continued from page 4

purchased. Money from the Beaver Fire Donation (given to BARC by the Forest Service for enhancement to the repeater system and emergency communications) was allocated to buy controllers for the 80 and Promontory systems. It was decided then that only those who had contributed the \$25.00 to the repeater system get the benefits of the linked system. The individual repeaters will remain open to all licensed hams. But the codes for linking the repeaters, accessing the weather, time and auto dialer slots will be available only to those who have contributed.

Now it is 1996. The 80 repeater can now be linked to the 72. A new antenna was put up on Redspur and the link radio replaced. Three trips have made to Mount Logan for maintenance work and programming. Thanks to the efforts of Dan Anderson KA0EOF weather information from the Campbell Scientific weather station is hardwired to the repeater. Work now progresses on a linkable repeater for Promontory Point. This system will give us coverage into the Wasatch front.

A rebuilt system with an autopatch will be installed at the



Here he is, Dean, N7WDY, holding up the tower while a new sky is placed on top.

Cache County sheriffs office. Wow! What a system. I would hate to even try to count the hours and dollars put in by Bill and the repeater committee to make this a reality. They deserve a big BARC thanks!

**THE BOTTOM LINE**

The money you pay for dues to the club is spent on activities, the newsletter, field day and operations. None of this money goes to pay for the repeater or phone bills.

continued on next column...

**BARC and the Repeater System**

...continued from previous column

Only money contributed to the repeater fund pays for equipment, maintenance, and the monthly phone bill. The two phone bills alone for the 72 and 80 autopatches are \$400.00 a year. Mountain tops make great locations for repeaters, however weather is hard on antennas, and equipment. We usually replace one antenna and some piece of equipment or cable each year. This all takes dollars. Unfortunately we have many hams in the valley who use the system, make lots of autopatch calls, but do not pay a thing. The repeater donations are strictly voluntary. You do not have to pay them to be a member of BARC, nor do you have to be a member of BARC just to support the repeater system. However if you use the repeater system and autopatch then you should pay.

Many people ask how much they should contribute. Here is what the BARC officers have put in place. For linking codes, auto dialer slots, and weather and time codes you pay a one time \$25.00 fee and then contribute \$10.00 per year towards the repeater fund. If you paid the \$25.00 already to help build the system then you are all set. Your \$10.00 yearly maintenance donation should be paid in 1997. If you just want to use the stand alone repeaters as they are and use the autopatch but do not care about linking then you should pay the \$10.00 per year suggested donation. Remember we are not closing the repeater system. The individual repeaters will remain open like they have been. The added features and linking codes are closed to those who pay. If you haven't contributed the \$25.00 and want the linking codes then pay the \$25.00 which will cover 1997 and then start paying \$10.00 each year starting in 1998. We will be publishing a BARC repeater system book and wallet card with the codes on it before 1997 begins. Again the \$25.00 is a one time fee per family household. It makes it fair for those who back in 1994 & 1995 contributed this (and many paid more) to get the new system on the air. This is a way for those who are new to become a part of this effort.

I do not think this is too much to ask. Most of you have shelled out over \$300.00 for radios. Many have nice new dual banders costing over \$500.00. Remember your coverage and use of these radios would be very limited with out the repeaters. We have the best repeater system in the state. I can tell you first hand that those who spend the hours to build and put the systems in place take great pride in their work. They want it to be the best around. We need to keep it well maintained so it can serve us and our communities in time of emergency. In the mean time we will enjoy it and have lots of fun using it. Finally, a big thanks is owed to all of you who have contributed financially to keep the repeaters going.