

The Ohm Town News

The Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

The President's Corner

de Dave Fullmer N7RRZ

I would like to thank all of you who came to January club meeting; we had over 60 people come. As for the club bylaws, we were not able to vote on the 97 budget, so it will be the first item of business in the February club meeting.

So far this year we have asked the following hams to chair activities in the coming months:

Training: Travis Roberts KC7HHK
 VE Testing: Paul Hansen WO7N
 Activities: Kevin Reeve N7RXE
 Field Day: Jim Lofthouse K7OA
 Mike Farr KG7FZ

Thanks to them for their willingness to serve.

As per the topic of last month there have been some great comments pointed out; the following letter is from **Jim Lofthouse K7OA**, he pointed out some of the things bothering him, and I am sure some of you can see what he is talking about.

Subject: 10-4 good buddy... HA! #200

Yes, things on the repeater have changed dramatically in the past 5 years. In years past, the repeaters were used for emergency and distress calls, which were actually few and far between. The major activities on the repeaters were rag chewing, fellow shipping, swapping info and technical data. (discussions of antennas and equipment, etc.)

Those were good times, when on club nights or for other scheduled Ham events the repeaters were hopping with talk-in traffic, and the gang would get on the air while driving to and from work, just to associate and check road and/or weather conditions. There was never a morning going to work that there was not someone to talk to and everyone who was on the road checked in to say good morning. It was from this sort of activity that many good friendships bloomed among the operators.

From my perspective, I will say that those with whom I shared those times are among my best friends today...friends I met through the medium of radio and would never have known otherwise. Our trails just did not cross in our day to day activities. Further, our friendships would never have materialized except for the

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Ham Profile

de Howard, KD7AFO, and Evelynnda, KD7AFN, Morrill

Meet N7RRZ, Dave Fullmer, your new BARC President. Dave was born in Aberdeen, Maryland in 1961. His father was in the Army, so Dave lived in several interesting places before he came here to Logan in 1973. He lived in Germany, California, Bountiful (Utah), Alaska, and Davenport (Iowa).

It was in Davenport that he, his father and older brother first got into radios. They worked with radio-controlled airplanes, CB radio, shortwave, and Heath kits. Dave's brother, Mike, KZ7O, has been a ham for 15 years now. In 1991, when the NO-CODE license became available, Dave and several members of his family



jumped right in and earned their licenses. They wanted to be able to communicate with each other while enjoying hunting and other activities throughout the valley.

Dave listens to 2 meters and 70 centimeters regularly. He has obtained a permit and is working to set up his own 440 repeater. He likes movies and playing on the computer. He lives in North Logan and is not married. He says his work is his play.

He has plenty of work and hobby activities to keep himself busy. He is currently employed by the Cache County School District where he takes care of maintenance and repair of of all their copy machines, computers, and audio-visual equipment for the district.

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exchanges we had on 2 meters and the local repeaters. This is what fellow shipping is all about. Is fellow shipping listed among the purposes of our club repeaters? If not, we are missing the boat!

These days you can scarcely get any response at high commute times. If you do get something going, someone will definitely accuse you of being "long winded" or tying up the repeater....comments I find out of place and disgusting. Long windedness is the guy who times out the repeater. A long conversation is not long-winded as long as the transmissions are kept short and time is allowed for breaks. If time is allowed for breaks, and breaks politely acknowledged, no one can say the repeater is tied up!

So. . . . what brought about the changes???

For one thing many of the new gang are, or were, CB ers. It is just a matter of fact that they will bring much of their B.S. with them to the Ham bands (unfortunately). Many are still active on the CB bands. It is hard to lose old habits while you still participate in the other service, and perhaps just as hard to remember which mike you have in your hand.

The lure of Ham Radio to many is the prospect of having mobile landline service without cost. Some ham has demonstrated the use of the autopatch to an acquaintance and said there is no fee for its use. "Wow I gotta get into that!" is the reaction. So they test and get licensed simply to get this free service, without paying any special attention to the basis and purpose of Amateur Radio. It amazes me how many stupid questions are asked by newcomers, about things that are explicitly spelled out in any of the study manuals for the exams. They have no interest in radios, electronics, or Ham tradition, just want the auto patch for personal and selfish reasons. Any other communications are just in their way.

Others have gotten licensed because of the MARA program, which is fine, but that is about where their interest ends too. Soon as their new nicad's get weak, they put their radios in a drawer and forget about them.

One thing that had a big impact on operations locally was when the repeater went to Mt. Logan and the County agreed to pay our site rent. We were in return to back up the Sheriff with an auxiliary communications mode. This was great, but the emergency and preparedness thing got way over-played to the point that it became almost a sin to do anything on the repeater that did not support the Sheriff or promote emergency preparedness. Net topics became almost solely

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President's Corner

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emergency oriented. The newsletter became the same, and along with that, many snide remarks about "idle chit-chat, long windedness, unnecessary communications, proper protocol, and etc."... in the end, this change offended and intimidated so many people that the repeater switched from a pleasant place to greet your friends and promote fellowship, to a Sheriff's repeater where you better not tie it up with frivolities. People didn't dare push the PTT for fear of a reprimand. Many quit the hobby all together because of this, some just quit talking on the repeaters, and, I must add, quit paying club dues and repeater-support donations.

I suppose it never occurred to the powers-that-be that the repeater can do both. The better we know each other, and the more we use our equipment, the more likely it is that we can provide a worthwhile service in times of need.

Here is some of my input on the subject (for what it is worth). If it were up to me to set protocol and procedure for the repeater, here is what I would recommend:

1. Emergency and distress calls take first priority.
2. Mobile calls are high priority. No one should feel bashful or hesitate to break in to any other activity with these type calls.
3. All communications be legal and in good taste for an audience of mixed gender and all age groups. In other words, for the general populace of the coverage area. This is not a private line. We are heard all over.
4. No communications be made to further the needs of your own business. By business I mean something in which you are engaged for monetary gain.
5. CB-type talk be a no-no.
6. All operators be courteous and allow breaks without grumbling.
7. All prospective users be made to feel welcome to break-in and join-in.

(Now, here is where I expect to meet some opposition) To encourage rag-chewing, fellow shipping, and talking-in to events, the following guidelines be established:

1. Keep transmissions short (i.e., time on the PTT). I suggest 15 - 20 seconds max.
2. Wait for the *courtesy beep* before keying to allow for breaks.
3. Keep subject matter and language appropriate for the audience as noted above.
4. Be willing to politely allow breaks for whatever reason.
5. No CB type talk!

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President's Corner

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Some have said they get tired of listening to all the chit-chat which seems to be the reason rag-chewing is discouraged. May I suggest to them there is probably a button on their radio labeled "POWER", which if used appropriately will fix that problem.

As for the auto patch, I think enough has been said without my input.

The only other thing I would like to see is that the cover-up tones be removed from operation. Those things are very annoying and I feel they are unnecessary. An operator using the patch has just ID'd and told his intentions. Those monitoring know he is going to dial. We don't need a computer-generated noise to tell us so. Any one just turning on his rig should have the courtesy to listen for half a minute before transmitting which is just proper procedure to avoid collisions anyway. Dave, please feel free to share my "humble" opinions with the board and members.
73, Jim, K7OA

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He also manages his own business, "Spectra Design and Sound", which runs lights and music for dances. If you or your teenagers attend many dances in the area, you've probably enjoyed his work. He's been doing this since 1976. For the past three years he has also run an audio transferring service, for transferring everything from wire reel recordings to digital audio tapes to CDs.

Dave attended North Cache and then Sky View High School. He participated in the marching and concert bands, the swim team, the light and sound crew, and took his first drafting and electronics classes there. He graduated in 1979. Then he attended USU for two years, studying Mechanical Drafting. Next, he spent two years studying electronics at Bridgerland Vocational Center.

While he was in school, he worked for USU's Space Dynamics Lab drawing and making testing devices. Later he worked at Thiokol in Test Engineering. He has also worked for Associated Business Products in Salt Lake City, where he was trained as a copy machine service technician. He worked at JK Business Machines as the service manager for 4 years and then convinced Box Elder School District they should hire him to be their own, in-house service manager. After three years there, he got himself hired by Cache County School District to be their service and maintenance manager.

Dave is happy and said he's got a good life. He

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Ham Profile

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likes to have fun. As club president, he has a couple goals he would like to achieve. First, he wants to provide projects and activities that club members want. He asks that you please give him your input on what you'd like to see the club do. Next, he'd like to reactivate and involve the older hams, the "fathers of the club". He respects them for their experience and would like to see more of them participating again.

**CLUB MEETING**

February 13th @ 7:30 PM in the Hyde Park City Hall Building, 113 East Center, Hyde Park, Utah. Enter on the west side of building, ground floor. Parking is available in the city lot & in the church parking lot just west of the building.

- The 1st topic will be voting on the Club Budget.
- The 2nd topic is from the Repeater Committee who will discuss the repeater systems around the valley & how they work.

There will also be a sign-up sheet for public service events, great fellowship, and of course the crackerbarrel! See you there!!

Ham Radioactive

de Kevin Reeve, N7RXE

Wow! Looks like things are underway for an exciting new year for BARC. It's also nice to be able to sit back and take a breather as the new club officers head things up. There are a couple of things I have learned over the past couple of years. First is your club officers sacrifice a lot of personal time to keep the club going. BARC has around 150 members. January-March are busy times just keeping the membership roster and financial records up to date as the dues come in and new members join. Making sure the newsletter gets put together and out the door is another big job. We all need to thank Richard for that. The second thing I have learned is that they can not do it without you. That's right, YOU!

This is what I mean by becoming radioactive. Now, my definition of radioactive does not mean sitting home in your chair talking on the 72 or the HF bands. No! What I am getting at is becoming involved with the club and the club activities. Every field day takes lots of people to make it work. If only a few help out then it becomes lots of work and no fun. If a whole bunch help out, then it takes a little work and can be lots of fun. Mike Farr KF7ZX and Jim Lofthouse K7OA will co-chair Field

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