

The Ohm Town News

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

The President's Corner

By Dave Fullmer N7RRZ

I would like to thank all of you that came to the February club meeting, we had a very good turnout. As per what went on, see Kevin Reeve's article in this issue.

As it comes closer to spring (warmer) weather, we hear that we all might be busy doing some kind of flood control in the Cache Valley area, we all need to be prepared for the worse by making us available for what ever lies ahead. I remember seeing a picture of some of our great ham operators in the paper doing just that at the end of January this year (1/27/97), Way to go, you looked good!

As per one of our goals, we still need some ideas that you want to do this year as per building projects, bunny hunts, parties or what ever. Just remember you are all apart of this club too. I have included a layout of other state net schedules for everybody's information. (See inside)

The following was take out of DCARC Communicator in Davis County.

Repeater Do's and Dont's

Here are some rules for use of repeaters. Obviously, there may be more - the best way to learn proper repeater etiquette is to:

Listen, Listen, listen. This can never be stressed enough. Always listen to a repeater or simplex frequency for a minute to make sure the frequency is not being used by others.

Speak clearly and don't talk directly into the microphone. Hold the microphone perpendicularly to your mouth and speak across it. this will make your transmitted audio less muffled and more understandable.

If someone is having a hard time hearing your signal, do not increase your voice level. Increasing your voice level into your microphone only causes your transmitted signal to deviate more and increases the difficulty of being heard. Screaming into the microphone does not cause your

Continued on page 2...

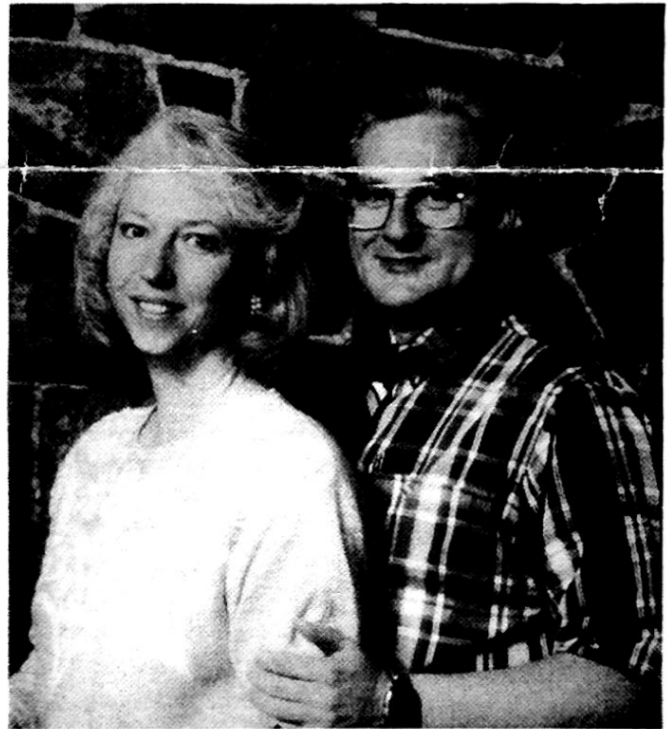
Ham Profile

Farrell Garr, KC7CWX

By Howard, KD7AFO and Evelynda, KD7AFN Morrill

Meet BARC's new Vice President, Farrell Garr, KC7CWX. He first saw ham radio in action about eight years ago. He was a Varsity Scout Coach and was working with his scouts on a Peak-to-Peak Adventure. Lanny Nalder, KB7DAF, was with them, making confirmation calls and autopatching on his 2-meter radio. Farrell was impressed with the idea.

About three years ago life slowed down enough for Farrell to get a ham radio license



himself. He credits Dean Stevens, N7WDY, with helping him get involved.

Farrell currently lives in Providence and is the proud father of six children; all of whom are girls, except for five. One evening back in 1969 he was on his way to a date when he stopped briefly to

Continued on page 2...

Ham Profile

...continued from page 1

visit with a friend of his. This friend introduced him to a young lady, Dee Snell, from Spanish Fork who happened to be there at the time. He was very impressed and asked her for a date. They've been together ever since. They were married on September 10, 1970.

Farrell is originally from Millville. He attended Millville Elementary, graduated from South Cache High School, and attended USU for a year. After that he served an LDS mission to Texas. He spent some time in the Army and was trained as a Microwave Radio Repair Technician. After his training he served in Taiwan for a couple of years.

For several years Farrell worked in Law Enforcement here in Cache Valley. He was the Captain of the Logan Police Reserves for about five years, and then he became Hyrum's first Police Chief. About twenty years ago he took a job at Thiokol as a Journeyman Machinist, and he's been there ever since.

Farrell is a trained EMT. He and his family enjoy camping in their fifth wheel trailer, hunting, and fishing together. Dee and Farrell both have been very involved in the Boy Scouts for many years. They have served in almost all aspects of the scouting program and both have received the Silver Beaver Award.

Farrell is a member of RACES and also helps with the Sheriff's Emergency Radio Communications. He's enjoyed being able to use his ham privileges to visit with other hams and help people in times of distress. Farrell has had lots of training and experience in helping and serving others. He'd be a good man to be acquainted with and we're fortunate to have him working on our team.

President's Corner

...continued from page 1

radio to put out a stronger signal.

When using repeaters or linked repeater systems, do not key or unkey your microphone at the moment your start or finish talking. Key your microphone, take a deep breath, think about what you are about to say and then start talking. Give

Continued on next column...

President's Corner

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yourself about a one-second head start with keying of the microphone before you start talking. This allows the repeater and/or linked systems to turn on. This helps insure all listeners will not miss any part of your transmission.

If the repeater has a courtesy tone, then wait for it before you begin transmitting. This allows other stations to break in if necessary and allows the repeater systems to reset their timeout timers. If the machine does not have a courtesy tone, wait one second between transmissions to allow the repeaters to reset and others to break in.

Do not acknowledge any jammers. Ignore them. Resist all temptations to set the jammer straight. This is usually the response the jammer is looking for anyway. Ignore them and they will go away.

Always remember to identify properly - every 10 minutes and at the end of your transmission. When using a repeater, the repeater will always remind you when it identifies.

If you use a hand-held with a "stubby ducky" or "rubber duck" antenna, always ask for a signal report to see if you are making it into a repeater. Little rigs put out little signals. Repeaters are not magical "receive all" devices. In fact, many have less sensitivity than your own radios to help them survive at repeater sites where there is lots of intermod. Repeaters also run lots of watts into large antennas. Just because your HT hears the repeater full-scale and full-quieting doesn't mean the machine will hear your 100mw into a one-inch stubby ducky antenna. Any excessive noise caused by a partial quieting signal made by weak signals is irritating to those who monitor repeaters for an extended time. When using linked repeaters, the excessive noise becomes worse through each link of the system.

Other operators and other people with scanners are always listening. Do not say anything that should be kept quiet or private, especially any vacation plans of your own or of friends. Most of all, sound friendly, professional and courteous.

Don't use fancy radio jargon. Things like "...roger...", "...copy that...", "...that's a big 10-4...",

Continued on page 3...

President's Corner

...continued from page 2

'...the handle here is...' etc. are often habits carried over from CB, HF and other such areas. Talk as though you are talking to someone face-to-face.

Don't break into a conversation unless it's an emergency or you have something of value to add.

Don't carry on a conversation longer than necessary. Allow others to use and enjoy the system. Remember, many repeaters operate on batteries and solar power.

Don't announce "no contact" or say you're "clear" when you don't contact the station you are calling. Everyone knows that fact. It uses unnecessary power at the repeater site.

If you would like to initiate a contact, listen to be sure the frequency is not in use. Make a call. "K7XYZ, K7XYZ. This is WA7ABC." Two calls are usually sufficient to get a reply, even if the called station is scanning. Do not call someone over and over. Turned off radios can't hear. If you want to talk to anyone, call "...CQ, this is WA7ABC". If there is no reply, do not keep repeating the CQ over and over. Make another CQ call after an appropriate time has passed. If no reply, move to another repeater.

If you are a frequent user of a repeater, then help support it. Repeaters cost a great deal of time and money to build and operate. Join the affiliated club or donate a few dollars regularly to the club or trustee.

These guild lines are not designed to teach you everything you need to know to operate on repeaters. They are just guidelines. Always listen, become familiar with other amateur operation and to others who use the repeater. Don't just jump in, key the microphone and start jabbering! Listen and learn.

"JUST ANOTHER OLD MAN'S OPINION"

By Dean Stevens, N7WDY

First off, I would like to let each of you know that I respect Jim, K7OA a great deal. I have gained mountains of knowledge from listening to him and how he feels. We have had some good things come about for the benefit of the club, such

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Another Old Man...

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as the way the net roster is done now. It is fun to see the dedicated individuals to the net, attempting to work their way up to the #1 position on the roster. May I encourage us all to continue working up the list and be proud of the position we hold.

Another aspect Jim has contributed to our club is the outstanding Field Days we have enjoyed over the past several years. What a great teacher for ALL of us to sit by and learn from. There have been many times I wished I could just spend hours with him absorbing all of his knowledge.

Now onward. I have heard many comments about the article Jim wrote last month. Feelings have ranged from all in favor, to very offended. Too bad it was included in the President's Corner. It would have been taken better by many if the article was under it's own author's heading. I appreciate the privilege of hearing Jim's opinions and please keep in mind that we all are entitled to our own opinions. My hope is that we all can continue to have and show the respect for each other that's deserved.

May I take a moment to share with you my feelings. Hopefully we all can come away with a better understanding as to why things have been the way they were, and why they are the way they are now. (Wow! what a mouth full.)

In the days when obtaining your ham ticket was the most grueling ordeal to ever have to go through and you got that ticket by pure desire, dedication, learning, insanity, or what ever else it took, CB's were not the popular thing. Maybe they hadn't even been invented yet. I really don't know. Many of our seasoned ham's obtained their ticket in that era. With that comes being proud of all the hard work it took. (My hat is off to all who fit this scenario. Thank you for your dedication. May we all learn from it.) Now, I remember the 70's when CB was the big thing. That is when many of us, including our current club president, became involved in radio. Others were involved in Heath Kits, experimenting in electronics, remote control airplanes, you name it...somewhere up the line we all started somewhere. Through the years, CB has become less desirable, due to the filth passed over

Continued on page 4...

An Old Man..

...continued from page 3

the airwaves. That is why many moved to the ham bands. May I inject that at the time CB was at its peak, there were not a lot of hams here in the valley and those that were, had the bands to themselves which enabled them to rag chew to their heart's content. I agree that should still be done. Once CB got old and folks became disappointed with it, many started looking for something better. (I am not trying to defend CB's who perpetrate trash on the radio, and I never will.) Yes, ham radio came into the picture for them. That is when the number of ham operators started increasing. Then came the No-Code Technician license. Wow! What an increase then. From that time on, things have not been the same and never will be. Now back to my original thought. Thank you for the opportunity to become affiliated with the upper-class ham folks. Yes, it is hard to loose old habits, but please give our new people a chance and help them. What has happened to the Sys and Claytons who used to put their arm around the new people and say, you are doing a good job, but this is where you can improve...and then showed them how? This is called **ELMERING**. It seems this is being lost more and more each year. Maybe too many of our hams have actually found that all so famous button on their radios labeled POWER. I hope not, because this elmering needs to be a big part of our club, for the benefit of all. And you know what? This will help develop friendships that you would never have if you had not taken the time to help others. Also, if we do not hear our seasoned hams on the air helping teach the new hams, how are they to learn the proper protocol? Maybe that is why we are hearing so much garbage on the repeater lately. (Just a thought to consider.)

Each one of us got involved in amateur radio for one reason or another. Some for the hobby, some for MARA, some for RACES/ARES, some for HF, some for CW, some for PACKET, some for keeping in touch with spouses...the list can go on and on. Great! Welcome to amateur radio and enjoy. It does not matter in what area you are involved because there is room for everyone. If that is as far as a person wants to go in amateur radio, it

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An Old Man..

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is their choice. It does not mean they are not good operators just because they do not have the same interests as others. We have some fantastic radio operators that contribute a great deal to the club, hobby and the community that have no desire or need to go any further. (Thank you for all you do, and please keep it up.) There are many areas people can be a part of that fulfill their interest which is a good thing now considering the number of operators we are getting these days. Do you realize that the majority of the financial and fellow shipping support of this club is done by the newer hams? I would hate to think of what would happen to our club and all the equipment we have if we were to loose this support. Think about it! It takes **ALL** of us working together to make our club run smooth and have the fun everyone should have.

Finally, I would like to address the emergency preparedness part of our club. I was president of the club when this was a hot-and-heavy topic with some members, and I feel there needs to be some clarification on this subject. Here is a history lesson on how it all came about: When I came into amateur radio, the repeater had been on Mt. Logan for approximately six years. Jeff Tingey KF7ZX elmered me. He was involved in RACES with Dr. Clayton Clark AC7O. This is where I started receiving my training. Not knowing there were so many other facets of amateur radio, I got all excited about the emergency preparedness thing, because that is all I heard. Well, the following year, I was elected as a board member, then the next year, ram rodded in to being president by John Stohel AE7T. Knowing what I did, which was very little, I attempted to be the president. This is about the time that others in the club were starting to get tired of emergency preparedness stuff. It was not until late fall that I found out by listening to fellow hams, that (a few) people were getting fed up with emergency-preparedness stuff and started withdrawing from the club. All year long, this topic is all that was being talked about, even in my President's Corner ...because that was all I knew! George Becker N7YUH was at the time over the Sheriff's communication team and he was very adamant in

Continued on page 5...

An Old Man..

...continued from page 4

seeing things ran HIS way. When I heard this, I realized it needed to stop and the club needed to take another direction. That is when Brian Potts KB7FUB, Kevin Reeve N7RXE Tyler Griffiths N7UWX Terry Zollinger N7PEG and myself started talking about how to separate the emergency preparedness stuff from the club, so the fun/social/hobby aspect of amateur radio would be there for those who wanted it and those that wanted emergency preparedness could have that too. The main idea was to not have them conflict with each other. The thought process began, ideas developed and there were literally months of discussion, not only at board meetings, but countless hours on the phone. Finally we felt it was time to implement our ideas. Jody Reese KC7CVI was called to take our ideas and put them into action. He began the process while continuing to counsel with us and make adjustments where needed. Jody in turn called people to assist him in the effort to pull all emergency-type organizations together into one main group. The intent was to have one main group helping fulfill the responsibilities of the several sub groups. It was decided that RACES/ARES, MARA, and ERRS was to handle all the emergency training including nets on Sunday nights and articles in the *Ohm Town News* that pertained to their activities. It was our intention to have BARC handle the social aspects and hobby-type activities of the club. This new emergency-prep organization is now called the CACHE VALLEY EMERGENCY AMATEUR RADIO NET (CVEARN).

Well folks, now you know. Many hours have been spent putting this program together and those who have been involved are very proud of their accomplishments. I hope all of you realize this fact, and can appreciate what has been done to benefit all of us. As I've said before, what ever you want out of amateur radio, you can have. Choose what you want, go as far as you want but most of all, have fun and please keep amateur radio as it was intended. Use proper protocol and language. Clayton Clark would always encourage us by saying "...take pride in your station. Improve it when and where you can. Do not be afraid to ask questions.

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An Old Man..

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And most of all, lean on the older hams to help you."

Club members, please do not take this article as an attack on any of you, because it is not. I respect each and every one in this club. You all contribute a great deal to the group. Please take this article for informational purposes and as an encouragement to keep the fire burning! For that is how it was intended. If any of you feel different, I respect you for your feelings. Please get with me and let's visit. May all of us come away with an invigorated desire to elmer our new hams, help each other out all we can, and for heaven's sake, have fun!!!

February's Club Meeting*By Kevin Reeve, N7RXE*

Over 50 hams were on hand to approve the budget for the next year and listen to a presentation by members of the repeater committee. The budget passed, and has provisions for allocation of funds to complete the repeater system. The repeater committee showed off the repeater guide that was ready for distribution. This guide, complete with pictures, provides a repeater map, information about each repeater system, basic guidelines and rules, and control codes. Features available at this time include weather information from Mount Logan, touch-tone read back, digital voice record and playback, linking, and auto-dialer slots. After the meeting, the new guide was distributed to those who had contributed the one-time \$25.00 to the system. Additional copies are available for \$2.00 each. The repeaters and autopatch on each repeater remain "open access." Only the feature codes and link codes are closed and for member-use only. Additional codes will be mailed as soon as the programming of the controllers is complete. Ample room was left in the guide for this purpose. Guides will be mailed in March to those who live outside of Cache Valley. They are also available for pickup by contacting Kevin, N7RXE, or Janet KC7GCK at 753-1645.