

The Ohm Town News

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

The Editor's Desk

KC7HYN, Richard

Our president was unable to get a message out to the constituents this month, so I've been asked to sub. It is actually a great assignment since this will be my last newsletter. I have been called to other things with my job and they preclude my continuing as your editor. But what a great experience this last two years have been for me! I think sometimes y'all were too kind in putting up with my mistakes, especially the picture part! I got to meet and be friendshipped by some really special people in the valley. I was glad I got to know Clayton, AC7O, before he became an SK. I think back on him as the Ham's Ham...knowledgeable, humble, helpful, willing, giving...all the attributes I feel exemplifies someone truly dedicated to the hobby (and indeed to life).

As far as the newsletter itself goes, I am very grateful especially to Dean, N7WDY, on whom I could always rely for help getting this letter out each month. As I've said before in these pages, I am also indebted to Terry, N7PEG, to Dan, KA0EOF, new-mom and Ham-Profile person Evelynda, KD7AFN, and all the others who submitted articles, gave constructive criticism, submitted "attaboys" or who generally took an interest in their newsletter. Of course, this change does not mean I am gone forever (gosh, I hope not anyway), and will see you on the air or eye-ball-to-eyeball.

I don't know about the rest of you, but I gained some appreciation for the repeater committee during the recent loss of our machine. I know they have been very frustrated trying to get the thing back on line. The

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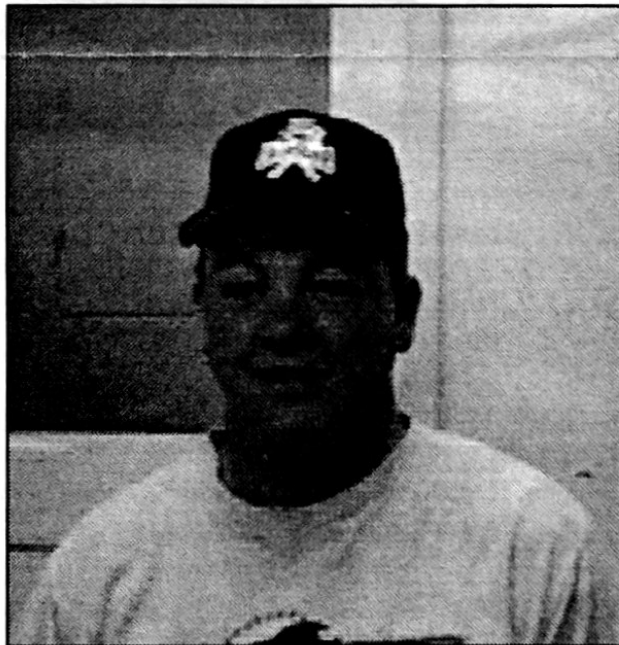
Ham Profile

Gary "Travis" Roberts, KC7HHK

by Evelynda, KD7AFN

Gary Roberts was born in Jerome, Idaho and is the oldest of five children. He graduated from Bear Lake High School in 1991. He attended Idaho State University for a year and then the College of Southern Idaho. He is now studying at Utah State University majoring in Computer Science. He is single and likes to go by the name "Travis".

He was first introduced to ham radio by his aunt and uncle shortly after he returned from



serving an LDS mission in Florida. He got his license in December of 1994. He really enjoys being able to communicate through Ham radio. He thinks Ham radio is a great hobby and offers many different aspects to those involved. Travis says he likes tinkering with gadgets and

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Ham Profile

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equipment. His special interest is computers; he likes the ways they can be used with Ham radio. He especially likes "bunny hunts"...racing to see who can locate the transmitter first using HFCW and different equipment.

Travis is currently employed at Campbell Scientific where he is an Information Systems Programmer and an Assistant Network Administrator. He also spends time developing Web sites for the Internet on the side. In high school, he enjoyed helping set up one of the first high school TV stations. They would broadcast sports events, elementary school programs, and other school programs and activities. It was an interesting experience and opportunity for him.

Travis is advancing the hobby in Cache Valley by serving as the Club Treasurer for the BARC this year. Take time to say "hello" to Travis when you get the chance.

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challenge seems to be in securing access from the "powers that be"...not a major problem, just one of getting schedules synch'ed. Like the rest of you, I'm sure, I have missed not having it while it's down! Great opportunity to see how you do simplex, however, and I have heard quite of few doing that. Also don't forget the 146.800 repeater is linked (and has been used for our nets), and the 146.640 valley-floor repeater is also up and running (and has a "patch") for those of us in Cache Valley and suitable environs. Bottom line here is to be patient, the repeater committee is working hard on solving the problem.

I hope at least some of you maintain interest in HAARP as reported in couple of newsletters. Maybe Dan, KA0EOF, will keep us informed of the next tests, which, if I recall reading on their Web site is not too far down

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the road. It was pretty exciting to hear their first transmission.

I was really pleased to see last month's article on working the Mir spacestation. I haven't had any luck yet, but am convinced it is something I'm doing wrong. I intend to keep trying and hope you do too. Thanks to Travis, KC7HHK, for that one.

Finally, don't forget this month is Field Day, the last weekend of the month...June 28th and 29th. Jim, K7OA, could use help and can be reached either by phone or on the air. Remember, a lot of people doing just a little is easier than a few doing a lot!! Your help is welcomed (it's a great chance to get some free ham-radio learnin'). While the forest service (or whatever gurus control the space) have approved use of the site, we need some people to "squat" on the site a couple of days before so as to secure our FD QTH. He has an article with suggestions later on in this newsletter. Don't forget the date, and don't wait for an engraved invitation....you're invited!

Finally, we got some takers on the want-ads this month...I invite you to peruse the list and see what you might be interested in adding to your shack. I hope this takes off...great way to add or subtract from your junk pile...er...equipment, yeah, that's what it's called, equipment.

Field Day 1997

by Jim, K7OA

Unless you're new to the hobby, are someone who doesn't care, or are totally numb to your surroundings, you know the end of the this month is Field Day. Field Day is the single most popular event in Ham radio and is held the last weekend of June every year (this year the dates are June 28-29). Field Day is a twenty-four hour period during which we make as many contacts as possible. Yes, score is kept,

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Field Day

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and we do it with computerized logging systems. For those of you who have only had exposure to VHF/UHF, this is a great opportunity to try your hand at HF...including CW if you're so-inclined. We now have a club-owned tent in which we will set up operations (OPS) and we'll go all through the night! Since the date always corresponds with our June club meeting and sort-of the last meeting of the year, we hold one of the best potluck dinners ever (BARC will supply the meat, potatoes and root beer). Oh, FD (as it's called) will be in the same place as last year, which is the campground just before you make that left-hand bend in the road to Beaver Mountain Ski Resort. Take Logan Canyon from Logan (duh), take the Beaver Mountain turnoff, go about a quarter mile or so (until the road curves left), and we'll be just to your right in the campground. We've had, in my opinion, some of the best times in BARC at our FD. If enough people help, we might even get in the ARRL record books, who knows? We always need help, so if you'd like to get involved, the committee can use it...call me at 245-6632. We need some kind camping-type people to head up early to stake out our place at the campsite.

To help make FD the best experience ever, we have compiled what I suppose will end up being an incomplete list of needs. But we hope it will be at least a help to get started on what you should bring to FD. Some of these will be shack needs, but I don't think it hurts to list everything since I personally would prefer having too much to having too little. In that spirit, here goes:

General Items

- Antenna ● Wire (all types)
- Coax cable ● Solder Iron (portable is best)
- Connectors (all types - RCA, 1/8, 1/4, mini, coax, etc.)
- Solder ● Propane torch

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Field Day

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- Computer, with logging program
- Chairs ● Tables, incl for banquet
- Telescoping mast (Jim has one, others?)
- Twine ● Rope
- Tools, hammer, shovel
- Extension cords (110 volts)
- Lights ● Power bar/surge protector
- Paper ● Pencils
- First Aid Kit ● Toilet Paper
- Saw ● Rain fly
- Grounding rod and attachments
- Duct tape ● Electrical tape
- Radios (we need a CW rig)
- Generator and fuel
- Flashlight ● Coleman lamp
- Speakers ● Headphones

Personal Items

- Camping gear (tent, bags, pads, the works)
- Chairs ● Dinner utensils
- Bug Repellent
- Drinking water (it's a dry camp)
- Soda pop ● Munchies and snacks
- Food ● Coat and/or raincoat
- Pencil/pen ● Paper/tablet/pad
- Prescription medications
- Aspirin, other medications
- Sun screen ● Toilet articles
- Wood for campfire
- Towels

Put this one on the calendar right away...plan to attend all or any part you can... I promise a good time for all!! 73, Jim

Want Ads

We got some good ones this month. Remember to contact the person who's selling, not BARC.

I. From W7MOY, Boyd @ 801-752-4868

- EPUT meter (counter), Berkeley Model 554, rack mount, 9-99 KHz - make offer.

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Want Ads

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- High voltage power supply, 1500 VDC @ 140 ma - \$20.
- Oscilloscope, 5", Dumont model 304-H - make offer.
- Video monitor, 8", Conrac model CNB8 w/manual - \$10.
- Potentiometric Voltmeter-Bridge, new, ESI model 300 w/manual - \$15.
- DC power supply, 0-24 VDC @ 1.5 A, Lambda model LT-2095M - \$20.
- Selsyns, 120 VAC, 60Hz, GE model 2J55VB1A - \$10.
- Silicone rectifiers, stud mt, 1N1581, 6A, 600 V PIV, quantity of these - \$0.50 each.
- 3" meters, calibrated in VSWR, 50µa. Quantity of these. Make your own bridge - \$5 each.
- ARC-5 aircraft transmitter, 2.1 MHz, 1625 output tubes - \$5.
- Card rack, H.H. Smith type 3050, 19" wide w/card holders - \$20.
- Voltage stabilizer, Raytheon type VR-6115, 95-130 VAC input, 500w - \$20.
- Trunk lip antenna mount, Avanti model AV-509 - \$2.50.
- Medium duty whip antenna spring, Avanti model AV-530 - \$5.
- Truck mirror antenna mount, Valor model 101 - \$2.50.
- Quantities of coaxial relays, BNC connectors, 26 VDV coil, SPDT, Dow Key model 230202 - make offer.

II. From Chris, KG7EZ, phone 208-237-3939. He monitors the 146.800 machine if you have questions.

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Want Ads

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- Rohn 55-foot fold-over tower complete with thrust bearing, mast, rotor mounting plate and guys \$550.
- 3 element tri-band Cubic Quad with 24 foot, 3 inch boom, spiders, spreaders, and boom-to-mast plate - \$125.
- 4 element tri-band Cubic Quad with 30 foot, 3 inch boom, spiders, spreaders, and boom-to-mast plate - \$150 (does not include the wire elements).
- Heath Kit SB-200 linear amplifier - 1200 watts P.E.P., 80-10 meters - \$300.
- Hufco HF frequency counter with LED readout, model TWS-6 - \$30.
- Yaesu YO-100 monitor scope - \$100.
- Palomar model 50 SWR/Watt meter - \$20.
- Swan WM-200 SWR/Watt meter - \$50.

III. Call 755-2269 (answer machine...all calls returned!) for a Yaesu FT-51R dual-band HT. Like new. Includes dual rapid-charger, 2 NiCad battery packs, and 1 alkaline battery pack - \$425.

WEB Humor

(Yet another WEB find sent to us by Terry, N7PEG. This one is strangely linked to those maddening set of instructions that seem to say our brains are only one step up from Mormon-green Jello®. Anyway, we found it pretty entertaining. - Ed.)

IMPORTANT! READ THIS BEFORE USING YOUR NEW RADIO!

Congratulations! You have just purchased an

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Web Humor

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extremely fine radio in a strikingly attractive designer case that would give you thousands of years of trouble-free service, except that you undoubtedly will destroy it via some typical bonehead Ham maneuver. Which is why we ask you to:

PLEASE FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE READ THIS OWNER'S MANUAL CAREFULLY BEFORE YOU UNPACK THE RADIO. YOU ALREADY UNPACKED IT, DIDN'T YOU? YOU UNPACKED IT AND PLUGGED IT IN AND TURNED IT ON AND FIDDLED WITH THE BUTTONS, AND NOW YOUR CHILD, THE SAME CHILD WHO ONCE SHOVED A POLISH SAUSAGE INTO YOUR VIDEO CASSETTE RECORDER AND SET IT ON "FAST FORWARD", THIS CHILD ALSO IS FIDDLING WITH THE BUTTONS, RIGHT? WE MIGHT AS WELL JUST BREAK THESE RADIOS RIGHT AT THE FACTORY BEFORE WE SHIP THEM OUT, YOU KNOW THAT?!

We're sorry, we just get a little crazy sometimes because we're always getting back "defective" rigs where it turns out that some dumb Ham inadvertently bathed the device in acid for six days. So, in writing these instructions, we naturally tend to assume that your skull is filled with dead insects, but we mean nothing by it.

OK? Now let's talk about:

1. UNPACKING THE RADIO:

The rig is encased in foam to protect it from the Shipping People, who like nothing more than to jab spears into outgoing boxes. PLEASE INSPECT THE CONTENTS CAREFULLY FOR GASHES OR IDA MAE BARKER'S ENGAGEMENT RING, WHICH SHE LOST LAST WEEK, AND SHE THINKS MAYBE IT WAS WHILE SHE WAS PACKING RADIOS.

Ida Mae really wants that ring back, because it is her only proof of engagement, and her

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Web Humor

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fiancee, Stuart, is now seriously considering backing out on the whole thing in as much as he had consumed most of a bottle of Jim Beam in Quality Control when he decided to pop the question. It is not without irony that Ida Mae's last name is "Barker", if you get our drift.

2. PLUGGING IN THE RADIO:

The plug on this device represents the thinking of the electrical industry's Plug Mutation Group, which, in a continuing effort to prevent consumers from causing hazardous electrical current to flow through their appliances, developed the Three-Pronged Plug, then the Plug Where One Prong is Bigger Than the Other. Your device is equipped with the revolutionary new Plug Whose Prongs Consist of Six Small Religious Figurines Made of Chocolate. DO NOT TRY TO PLUG IT IN! Lay it gently on the floor near an outlet, but out of direct sunlight and clean it weekly with a damp handkerchief.

WARNING: WHEN YOU ARE LAYING THE PLUG ON THE FLOOR, DO NOT HOLD A SCREWDRIVER IN YOUR OTHER HAND AND TRIP OVER THE CORD AND POKE YOUR EYE OUT, AS THIS COULD VOID THE WARRANTY.

3. OPERATION OF THE RADIO.

INSTRUCTIONS: For results that can be the finest, it is our advising that: NEVER to hold these buttons two times!! Except the battery. Next, taking the (something) earth section may cause a large occurrence! However, if this is not a trouble, such rotation is a very maintenance action, as a kindly (something) viewpoint from Drawing B.

NOTE: WE MANUFACTURE ONLY THE ATTRACTIVE DESIGNER CASE. THE ACTUAL WORKING CENTRAL PARTS OF THE RADIO ARE MANUFACTURED IN AN ORIENTAL COUNTRY. THE INSTRUCTIONS WERE TRANSLATED BY

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