



# THE OHM TOWN NEWS

*Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club*

March 1999

<http://www.w7ivm.org>

## The President's Message

by Tyler Griffiths N7UWX



I hope everybody enjoyed club meeting last month! Direction finding can be fun, along with being useful. We have had bunny hunts in the past and we should do some again this summer. Bunny hunts are where a hidden transmitter, either manned or unattended (like a balloon), is hidden and everyone else tries to find the transmitter. Dfing can also be useful for tasks like searching for a downed airplane. A few years ago there was a downed plane in the mountains above Smithfield and there were no Civil Air Patrol members available to do any searching. So the hams in the valley pitched in and did some Dfing.

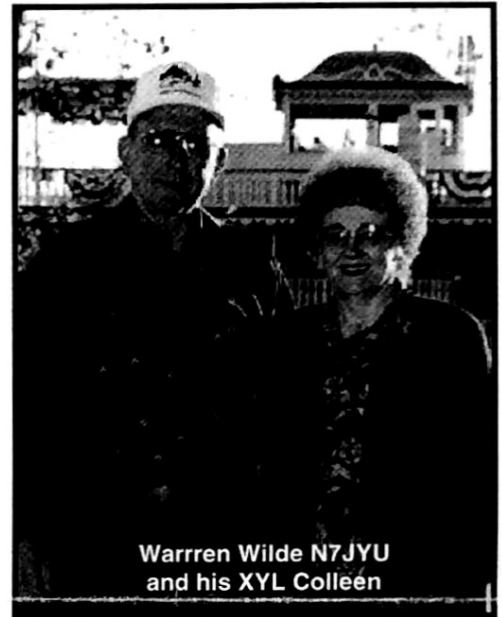
*(Continued on page 2)*

## HAM PROFILE

By Boyd Humpherys, W7MOY

It's about time we paid another visit to our potato clad neighbors to the north. After all with each french fry we consume, it puts a potential ham to work in the process. Let's doff our hats to Warren Wilde, N7JYU, who has called Preston his home for yea many years, being born and schooled there. He has held a license since 87 and currently holds a tech plus ticket. He is presently the trustee for the 146.80 repeater, our doorway to the northland. He is currently armed with a couple of dual band base-mobile rigs, no less than 5 HTs of various configurations, and a Kenwood HF rig. Various roof mounted antennas, officially listed as lightning rods, keep the insurance payments down and good signals coming out of Idaho.

Warren finished High School in Preston, attended the University of Idaho, then finished his BS at USU with specialization in Education, History, Political Science, and Math. He liked the place so much he later returned for an MS in Education and Curriculum Development in 77. Sandwiched between all this activity, he met and married Colleen Lewis, also a native Prestoner, that sounded cool didn't it? They met on a blind date, although he must have had 20/20 vision. He managed to spend a hitch in the US Navy in 57-60 in an interesting field. He had experience in single engine fixed wing aircraft, choppers, and finally serving aboard



Warren Wilde N7JYU  
and his XYL Colleen

blimps in a corridor from Maine to the Azores. He related a rather exciting experience on one patrol when they encountered some rather fierce winds exceeding 75 knots (nautical term for a real Noreaster). The good part comes next when that gas bag with a top speed of 60 knots couldn't make any headway and they came home by way of Bermuda. Sounds like the classical old Army command, "to the rear, march.". These aerial bananas with a crew of 18, 340' long, 36 hours of fuel, sailing along anywhere from 1,500' to 3,000' or so above the salty brine must be exciting duty.

He spent over 30 years teaching Drivers Ed. Now we ought to show a little respect when we are tempted to snort at these Idaho drivers. I suspect he turned out many a good one as I have never been forced into the ditch by one yet.

*(Continued on Page 2)*

### Field Day is June 26,27

#### It's a whole month nearer!!

*This is THE activity of the year!!*

The good folks up north have taken on the assignment to find a site for our outing this year. Warren Wilde N7JYU is heading that up and reported at the last club meeting that he has a couple of good sites in mind. The one at the top of Emigration Canyon sounded neat to me. More details coming later in the newsletter. But, for now, please mark the date on your calendars and plan to join us for the fun..

## 1999 Club Leaders

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### Presidents Message (Continued from page 1)

Other uses would be in finding a stuck radio or a malicious station on the air.

As for upcoming Club meetings, next month we will be doing a demo on using the autopatches on the Club repeater system.

In April we have Tom N1YI coming up from SLC to do a club meeting on APRS, Automatic Packet Reporting System. This should be a interesting meeting, especially if you are into packet or have a desire to be.

In May, if all goes right, we will be having the guys from the VHF society with a presentation on the repeaters in Utah, and Brent Thomas from Utah CEM will be bringing up the new State of Utah Communication Van. However, after talking to them this week we might be moving this meeting to a later date because they will be at the Dayton Hamfest. ( I guess that is a good excuse).

We are trying to get the ARES RACES program going better in the valley and need a lot of help with that. See Kevin N7RXE's article elsewhere in this news letter for more information on this and other Emergency Communications programs in the valley.

I hope to see everyone at the next club meeting. Any input you have on the autopatches would be greatly appreciated by the Repeater Committee and the Board.

## Topic Set for March Club Meeting

The Club meeting for March will be on Thursday, the 11th, 7:30 PM in the Hyde Park City Building.

The topic for this meeting is the proper use of the autopatch. There has been some confusion about how to use the autodial slot numbers and all of that should be made clear at the meeting. Especially invited are all those who are new to the club or to Ham radio.

So plan to come and bring your friends.

### Ham Profile (Continued from Page 1)

He also officiated in basketball, football, volleyball, and other like docile sports for the "Preston Indians," got scalped a couple of times by the fans, but survived otherwise.

They have a son and a daughter, seven grandchildren and two GG varieties. Colleen keeps a tidy home up in Mink Creek where Warren's parents had farmed for many years. She has no objection to Warren's involvement in Ham Radio. What compassionate understanding. She needs a ham license and BARC membership. Something occurred while in the service that probably none of us can match. As a reward for outstanding scholastic achievements, he was chosen to travel to Long Beach in '57 and escort Miss Universe here and there. Eat your hearts out guys!

Warren has served for many years in the Franklin County Search and Rescue team since '68, having served as Commander of the National Search & Rescue Organization in 83-84. He as also served as dispatcher in Preston for some 21 years on weekends and holidays, also was Franklin County Emergency Services Director for some 27 years. He drives a mean snow machine and enjoys the open country on these churning machines when the rest of us are reposing. Welcome to BARC, OM.

## Excellent Web Site

If you have internet access and want state wide information on repeaters, this is a very good site to visit. Kelly only does things in a first class manner.

-Editor, Don WA7VNQ

<http://www.lgcy.com/users/k/kellyv/urpg.html>

## Secretary's Corner

by Beanie Lofthouse, KJ7LQ



The February club meeting was on the 11th. Clair Wyatt talked about direction finding. He's had lots of experience with antennas and used to build all of his own equipment. He had lots of information for the asking!

Warren Wilde was down from Preston and talked about Field Day sites. Several of the Preston group would like to join our Field Day this year and we're looking for a central location.

Jared Luther talked about the Civil Air Patrol.

We voted on the budget, which passed as presented to the membership.

The joint meeting in Preston, which was held the 30th of January, was well attended with 14 from our club and 13 from the Preston area. Mark presented information about the things in which we are involved.

Kevin showed the slides of the repeaters and how they all work together. After the meeting Bill Neville WA7KMF had his test equipment along and several people took advantage of it to test radios and other things.

The meeting went well and the folks up in that area now have a better idea of what has gone into our system and that we'd like them to be a part of our group.

Till next time.

See you at the March meeting.

Beanie KJ7LQ

## Letters to the Editor



YOUR contributions to this column are welcomed. You may contact me by the following modes:

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*E-mail:* donr@deseretonline.com or  
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## Mailing Label Update

Beginning with this issue, your mailing label will have a slightly different look. If you will notice, above your name, in green, is the expiration date of your club membership. At a certain time, probably the November issue, the color will change to amber, as a subtle reminder that you need to plan to renew your membership. Please watch for it. I hope this will be helpful in assuring uninterrupted service from the **OHM Town News**.

—Editor

**How about a letter from YOU in this space next month? Do you have some opinions or ideas you would like to bring to the attention of all members of the club? This newsletter is your vehicle to do that.**

**This is your space. Please use it.**

**Thanks,**

**Don WA7VNQ**

**PS. Guess we could use the space for jokes!!!**

## AC70 Repeater System News



**146.720, 449.625, 146.800,  
145.310, 147.260, 146.640**

## Repeater Committee Meeting Set

The monthly repeater committee meeting will be held on Saturday, the 6th of March at the Cottage Restaurant, 9 am

## Communicating with and through the Russian MIR Space Station

**(Frequency 145.985)**

**See web site at**

<http://web.usna.navy.mil/~bruninga/mirex.html>

Last month at club meeting I talked about the Packet Radio contacts I had made through the MIR Space Station.

The past few months they have been trying experiments with ground stations and schools just digipeating through MIR. So at times there has been a lot of traffic.

Digipeating works like a repeater. Your signal is received and retransmitted back out.

By digipeating and not connecting to the "PBBS" you can pass a lot more traffic (at least in theory). Instead of connecting leaving a message in the mail box. Then some one else connecting and reading the message you just "bounce" it off the MIR.

You can set your TNC (terminal node controller) so that all your beacons and unconnected packets digi through the MIR by using the UNPROTO command. The UNPROTO

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## Civil Air Patrol Seeks Ham Radio Help

Civil Air Patrol is an official auxiliary of the United States Air Force. We're a nonprofit organization, chartered by the United States Congress. In fact, we're older than the Air Force having been organized on December 1, 1941. Our mission is three-fold: Emergency Services, Aerospace Education, and the Cadet Program. To accomplish these goals, CAP has an organized com-



munications system.

This communications system has coverage nearly anywhere in the nation. A system of 2-meter band repeaters and HF frequencies are in place to assist in accomplishing our mission. The equipment is largely composed of our members' personal equipment, donations, and some larger equipment (repeaters, etc.) purchased directly by Civil Air Patrol.

For a number of years, CAP had a repeater in the old tower at the Logan-Cache Airport. The Cache Valley Composite Squadron lost use of the tower and adjacent building in 1995. The repeater was moved to storage in Salt Lake City. All the CAP repeaters in Utah are linked. Obviously, having one missing in Cache Valley is leaving a large gap in this coverage. It is my goal as Squadron Commander to restore this communication capability. If anyone in the club has information where we can put our repeater, please contact me. Being a nonprofit organization,

it would be nice to find a site that has "free" or donated space and electrical power. My home number is 245-0329 or e-mail [lex@xmission.com](mailto:lex@xmission.com).

A little technical info for those interested. This repeater, as those through the state and most of the nation, outputs at 148.15Mhz and inputs at 149.3Mhz. Those high frequencies and strange offset is why most radios need to be modified to operate as CAP radios. However, most 2-meter radios can at least monitor 148.15. So in your travels to other parts of the state give us a listen. Most radio traffic is on weekends, especially if there is a practice mission going on, or when there is a real mission. "Uncle Mike" followed by a 3 or 4 digit number are individual call signs for Utah.

"CAPFLIGHT" followed by 4 or 5 numbers is an aircraft. Please remember, the CAP frequencies are reserved for use by CAP members only. An amateur license is not required for use by CAP members, but they must be authorized by CAP to operate those frequencies.

73,

Capt. Jared B. Luther KC7SKF  
UM401

## Board Meeting

The next regular board meeting of the club will be held on Wednesday, March 17th, 7:00 PM, at the Cache County Sheriff's office board room. It is in the building just behind the City and County Building, at approximately 50 West 200 North in Logan.

Again we would like to remind you that board meetings of the club are open meetings and any interested club members or hams are invited to attend, especially if they would like to have something discussed.

Please, if you have something, contact our President, Tyler, or Beanie so that it may be placed on the agenda.

MIR - (Continued from page 1)

command is usually set to "CQ," but, if you change that to "CQ VIR ROMIR", all your unconnected traffic will be digipeated through MIR. That includes all your beacons and ID packets. So if you set your beacon to say something like mine, "N7UWX River Heights, Utah N7UWX-1 PBBS n7uwx@email.com," the other stations listening will have a little info about you and your location.

I have received confirmations from Texas and Illinois.

You also need to know where the MIR is to contact it. To successfully track it you need some software like STS Plus or some other tracking programs that are available. These can be found easily on the Internet.

By setting my TNC to "BEACON" quite frequently I know I have a good chance of my signal bouncing off on one or two passes a day. The MIR makes a rotation around the earth about every ninety minutes and passes only last ten minutes or less, so you need to be quick on the keyboard to get a successful transmission to bounce off the MIR.

Well that should get you started with the basics. If you have any questions feel free to give me a call or email.

## OHM TOWN NEWS ON THE WEB

It was voted on in Board Meeting that we would publish the current and past Newsletters on the club web page. ([www.w7ivm.org](http://www.w7ivm.org))

Also to be included there is an application for membership. These will be in PDF format. Anyone without a reader can go to the Adobe web site and download the reader for free.

In the meantime, everyone who is a member of the club will continue to receive their hard copy in the mail.

Tyler

*Editors Note: They should be there shortly if not by the time you receive this newsletter.*

## Emergency Communications in Cache County

by Kevin Reeve N7RXE

In Cache Valley, RACES members are involved in emergency communications within individual communities. RACES is an emergency communications group that works closely with State and Local government officials. In Cache County, RACES has charge of setting up and operating what we call "City Stations." These stations were purchased by local communities and consist of a power supply, 2 meter mobile radio, packet TNC, and antenna. Almost all of the communities in Cache County have city stations. Utah State University and Logan Regional Hospital have also purchased radio systems. The purpose of these stations is to give communities a means (through amateur radio) to communicate with other communities, the county, and relief organizations such as the Red Cross.

Experience shows, that in a disaster 911 and public safety frequencies are jammed. Captain Bob Degasser of the Cache County Sheriffs office looks to Amateur Radio Operators to be significant players in an emergency. One only has to read last months QST about the SwissAir 111 crash off the coast of Nova Scotia to know how Amateur Radio operators helped out. Every single mode of communication worked fine, Cellular, 911, public safety frequencies, etc., but they still were clogged with traffic. Interoperability was a big problem among all the agencies involved. Amateur Radio operators, manned the mobile command posts and other stations providing valuable communications assistance to agencies. Not only did they use ham frequencies, they used public safety frequencies as well.

Here in Cache County we need skilled operators. Within each community, it is up to local officials to decide how to handle an emergency situation and how to gather information. The city stations can be used as a central point for gathering that local information, and then communicating with the County. What

we as RACES members will do is provide that link from communities to the county and other agencies. Currently we are in need of Amateurs in Hyrum, and Millville who would be willing to coordinate the operation of the city stations in those communities. All communities could use additional operators who know where the city station is and how to operate it. We also need several Amateurs who are computer savvy to assist in training and trouble shooting city station problems with packet. If you would like to get more involved please let us know. At the March Club meeting, we will have RACES information and application forms available.

**On April 15th at 7:30 PM we will have a county wide emergency net on 146.72. We will activate all city stations and will involve local community leaders in this event. At 8:00PM we will join the State wide VHF Races Net. All amateurs are invited to participate in this event.**

## UTAH VHF SOCIETY

The Utah VHF Society is a statewide organization devoted to operation and support of VHF and UHF repeaters. It performs frequency coordination for the state and conducts a net each Tuesday evening at 2000 hours on the 146.94 MHz repeater. It gives financial support to a variety of repeaters throughout Utah.

Currently, dues are \$10 per year. Membership runs for the calendar year, so all 1998 members (except those who have paid for multiple years) will expire on December 31.

Those wishing to join or renew can do so by sending \$10 to:

Utah VHF Society  
P. O. Box 482  
Bountiful, Utah 84011-0482

New members should include their names, addresses, call signs, and indications of whether they would like to be placed on the roster for the Tuesday night VHF society net.

**PLAN NOW!**

## BARC TEST SESSION

Saturday,  
March 13, 1999  
Campbell Scientific Inc.  
815 West 1800 North  
Logan  
8:00 AM

For advance reservations, call Paul WO7N, our VE coordinator, at 753-4843. He always likes to know a little ahead of time about how many are planning to come.

If you are not yet an Extra class license holder...**SEE YOU THERE!!**

## Training Sessions are in the works.

You should all be aware that in the very near future, our training coordinator, Travis Roberts AB7ZK, together with any and all of us whom he can persuade to help him, will be conducting a series of training classes. The plans initially are for classes to be held to help those already licensed to upgrade to a higher class. There has been a lot of information going around lately about the proposed change in the licensing structure. Attendant to this proposal has grown the idea that it will be easier to wait. Two things to remember: First, it will probably take a long time for this to come about. Second, from what I have learned I don't think it will really be easier to upgrade after the change.

Travis will be releasing more information about these training plans, probably on the nets or in our next newsletter, so stay alert for the news.

I would like to see everyone in the club upgrade at least one license class by December 31st this year. I offer that to you as a friendly challenge.

73,

Don Rawlinson WA7VNQ  
Editor - OHM Town News