



# THE OHM TOWN NEWS

*Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club*

April 2000

<http://www.w7ivm.org>

## Presidents Message

By Tyler Griffiths  
N7UWX



I think that most of the club members that get email from the club got a message from me authored by Bob Bruninga WB4APR, the father of APRS, about "DIGITAL! All the world is going digital! What about Ham radio?" Well let me step in to my soap box because I have a special place in my ham-hart for Packet Radio. If you did not get the email, Bobs message said in part...

"DIGITAL! All the world is going digital..!"

"What about HAM radio?????"

"Please, this is not meant to undervalue the great and dedicated contributions of all those HAM volunteers that work so hard at public service, but tonight it just struck me ..."

"I was driving home late, and for the entire 30 minute commute, our local repeater was involved in an EOC exercise. The NET control was reading and spelling what seemed like most of the words in a backlog of text messages. In that 30 minutes he passed about the same amount of traffic as my THD7 HT could do in 5 seconds with packet."

"I found myself wondering why, in the year 2000, our HAM radio response to the loss of the public telephone service in an emergency, is to revert back to 1800's use of voice for reading messages over a radio that is 100% fully capable of sending the message 100 to 1000 times faster and ERROR FREE!"

"What happened to packet? Every PC, every palm device, every digital device does (or at least SHOULD) have a plain ASCII text capability."

Our FIRST attempt at re-establishing message communications should not be to drop back to voice, but should be hook up what we have to try to establish plain ASCII DIGITAL links."

"Instead of having these volunteers every 3rd Tuesday of every month practice reading and spelling messages, wouldn't that time be better spent teaching everyone how to plug a TNC into a serial port and how to run HYPERTERM (or PROCOMM)?"

(continued on page 2)

## FIELD DAY 2000

Field Day \feeld da \ (noun): 1) An event to test the readiness of Amateur Radio Communications: 2) A chance to meet new friends and test the limits of your favorite hobby: 3) Part of the core fun of amateur radio.

Everyone mark June 24 & 25 in your calendars for field day. (It's always the 4<sup>th</sup> full weekend in June) Every year in June Hams form all over the US and Canada test their ability to set up an emergency Communication Center. This year as in the past few our club we be setting up in a beautiful camping area by beaver creek just below Beaver Mountain Ski Resort. We set up a large tent and hang antennas in the trees put computers radios and heat in a large tent. Then at 12:00 noon on Saturday we start the contest. The contest is to see how many other people who are also setup somewhere in the boonies you can contact. We record the contacts on computers and send in the log.

Everyone is encouraged to participate; we will have control operators present so anyone can operate HF radios with just a few minutes of training. This will go on for 24 hours. The goal we normally work for is to have as many people run the radios as want to. If you have just upgraded but don't have equipment to use your new privileges, thinking about upgrading or wanting to get your licenses. Come see what can be done below 30 Mhz.

We will also have things above 30 Mhz APRS, PACKET and 2 Meters and maybe Satellite, this is the time to show the public what we do. Bring friends and family with you. This event is for everyone not just Hams.

Saturday night we will be having a huge Pot Luck dinner everyone is welcome even if that's all you want to come up for. Several come up the night before to get set up and have fun hiking or what ever you like to do when camping. The main reason for field day is to have fun.

Don't feel like camping you can stay at the Beaver Creek Lodge <http://www.beavercreeklodge.com/> or by Phone 800-946-4485. It's just 5 min away.

If anyone would like to help Rik and I with field day please contact us.

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Rik Stalling KB7GNX [kd7gnx@arrl.net](mailto:kd7gnx@arrl.net) 750-5578

(Presidents message – continued from Page 1)

It really does frustrate me that packet has died, because of all the time and efforts that people put in to our local and State Packet system. Although most of the system is still up and running it gets used very very little. It even got to the point that the BBS that I had running in Cache Valley was taken off the air and put on APRS (I think that will change soon).

Some of you may say well why not use APRS for all our packet needs but with APRS there is no error checking so it's possible to get errors. And if the network gets really busy you will get collisions and can get info from two different packets arrive on your screen.

I think APRS's usefulness for emergency communications revolves around being able to show graphically were stations, search area and shelter locations are. You could also "broadcast" info to a whole group of people more quickly at one time. Ideally regular packet would be used for large messages, lists of supplies or lists of names. But still comes the point that every one needs to be on the same page.

Quoting Bob again...

"Why don't we forget all this fancy software, and make sure that EVERY ham is trained to operate his TNC with any dumb terminal software and let that be the fundamental basis for emergency communications of message traffic when the phones go out. (NO HTML, no Attachments:-)"

If we all could use a common software package and know how to hook up our TNC's to a computer and your radio we could have reliable digital communications running in an emergency. But is that possible?

We will be touching on this subject more on the "Cache Valley Emergency Radio Net" on Sunday Evenings in the coming months. So if you are interested in "Digital Communications" feel free to come and join.

Well, stepping off my soap box...

Our next club meeting will be on Fox Hunting/Bunny Hunting. This is a great opportunity to find out more about Bunny Hunting and join in the fun. There will be a short presentation/learning session at the beginning of club meeting then we will all be "set free" to go hunt for the bunny with our new learned skills!

So see ya at club meeting!  
73 de Tyler N7UWX

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#### Upcoming Test Sessions

14 April, 2000	7:30 P.M.
Mantua, Utah	
10 June, 2000	8:00 A.M.
Campbell Scientific	Logan, Utah

### Secretary's Corner: Nadene KD7BGS

Tyler Griffiths opened the March BARC Club Meeting. Everyone introduced themselves, with several new members present.

Announcements included the Utah Hamfest 2000 to be held July 7, 8, and 9; and the Eastern Idaho UHF Society Hamfest on April 22.

The next BARC Test Session will be held June 10. If you plan to test that day, please contact Paul Hansen at 752-4843 or Travis Roberts at 787-8374.

Summer Club Activities are fast approaching:  
May 27, 28, 29: the Mt. Man Rendezvous  
June: C.V. Biathlon, Mud Flat Bike Race, Pony Express (24<sup>th</sup>), and Field Day (24, 25)

July: Cruise-in (1<sup>st</sup>), Up the Dam Hill.

Later in the Summer: Cache Classic bike race, Little Mt. Bike Race, Lotoja, Top of Utah Marathon, and Jota.

Plenty of opportunities to serve with other club members.

The majority of the meeting involved 'Show and Tell.' We have many talented club members who can make do with 'home brew.'

We had a good group in attendance, and it was great to see everyone out.



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### HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

With the beginning of the new millenium, new changes in the Amateur regulations, and technology that seems to have no limit, it was deemed proper to get re-acquainted with the world's first known Ham. Does this stir your imagination a bit? Although he never claimed that title, his experiments opened the door to a world of communication he and his associates never dared dream of. Do you give up, it is none other than a modest gentleman by the name of Heinrich Rudolph Hertz who was born in Hamburg, Germany on Feb. 22, 1857. His father was a prominent lawyer and legislator. Being of a natural inquisitive nature, he enjoyed building instruments in the family workshop.(do any of you have that strange desire?) He began his college studies at the University of Munich, shortly transferring to the University of Berlin, where he received his Doctor of Philosophy degree magna cum laude. While in Berlin he served as an assistant to Hermann von Helmholtz, one of the foremost physicists of the time.

In 1883 Hertz became a lecturer in theoretical physics at the University of Kiel, later being appointed professor of physics at Karlsruhe Polytechnic. In 1886 Hertz married Elizabeth Doll, daughter of a Karlsruhe professor; they had two daughters.

(Continued on page 3)

(Ham profile—continued from page 2)



In the 1880s physicists were trying to obtain experimental evidence of electro magnetic waves. Their existence had been predicted in 1873 by the mathematical equations of James Clerk Maxwell, a British scientist. In 1887 Hertz tested Maxwell's hypothesis. His first QRP rig consisted of an oscillator made of polished brass knobs, each connected to an induction coil and separated by a tiny gap over which sparks could leap. Could this indeed be the origination of the term brass pounder?) He reasoned that if Maxwell's predictions were correct, electromagnetic waves would be transmitted during each series of sparks. To confirm this, Hertz made a simple receiver of looped wire, the ends of which were separated by a tiny gap. This crude predecessor to the triple conversion, variable IF bandwidth, digital processor of today, was placed about five feet from the oscillator. Can you imagine the gleam in the eyes of the experimenters when corresponding induced currents produced sparks across the gap of the receiving coil?

Thus the first DX CW transmission, was sent and received at a whopping distance of about five feet. Although neglecting to apply for a station and operator license from the Government, he proceeded to delve into the mysteries of this strange medium that travelled through what many then called the Luminiferous Ether. We now have clouded the issue with such terms as ozone, stratosphere, E layer, F layer, vaccum of outer space, and other devious terminology.

Through his basic experiments he had solved two problems: (1) he had conclusively demonstrated what Maxwell had only theorized, that the velocity of transmitted waves was equal to the velocity of light, and (2) he found how to make electric and magnetic fields detach themselves from wires and to go free as "Maxwell's waves." Marconi several years later furthered his basic findings.

Hertz died in Bonn, Germany in 1894 of blood poisoning at age 37. In the early 1920s, fellow scientists proposed the term "cycles per second" be changed to "hertz" in his honor, a term now generally in use throughout the world. Good on ya OM.

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 13 ARLB013  
>From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT March 8, 2000  
To all radio amateurs

SB QST ARL ARLB013  
ARLB013 Amateur Radio Spectrum Bill  
Introduced in Senate

The Amateur Radio Spectrum Protection Act bill now has supporting legislation in the US Senate. Idaho Sen Michael Crapo has introduced a bill that mirrors the house bill, HR 783. The Senate measure has been designated S 2183.

"In introducing this bill, we want to do something for Amateur Radio in return for all the good it has done the people of Idaho and elsewhere in the US by providing a reliable means of backup communication in times of emergency," Crapo said. He also pledged to promote the bill in the Senate.

Like the House version, the Senate bill, if enacted, would require the FCC to provide equivalent replacement spectrum should it ever be necessary to reallocate Amateur Radio frequencies for some other purpose.

The new Senate legislation was introduced with bipartisan co-sponsorship from Senators Daniel Akaka (D-HI), Susan Collins (R-ME), Blanche Lambert Lincoln (D-AR), Bob Smith (R-NH) and Olympia Snowe (R-ME).

The bill's introduction comes on the heels of a visit to Capitol Hill by the recently elected ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, and First Vice President Joel Harrison, W5ZN.

So far, the House version of the spectrum bill has drawn bipartisan support, with 140 cosponsors to date, and has met with no opposition. However, Congress, and the all-important House and Senate Commerce committees, have been preoccupied with non-telecommunications matters and the Amateur Spectrum Protection Act has not yet moved out of committee. The new Senate bill provides additional motivation for the Congress to consider the legislation.

NNNN

		Area Net Times	
VHF Nets:			
Sunday	8:00 P.M.	UARC Packet Net	146.62
	9:00 P.M.	UARC Info Net	146.62
Monday	8:00 P.M.	MT. Harrison Net	147.00
	9:00 P.M.	VHF SSB Net	144.25
Tuesday	7:30 P.M.	Weber Co. ARES	146.90
	8:00 P.M.	VHF Swap-Net	146.94
	9:00 P.M.	Utah Co. ARES	147.34
	9:00 P.M.	Bridgerland Net	146.72
Wednesday	8:00 P.M.	UBET Net	145.29/145.43
	8:00 P.M.	Salt Lake ARES	146.88
	9:00 P.M.	MARA Net	145.49 North 146.74 South

Thursday	7:00 P.M.	Davis Co. ARC	147.04
	7:30 P.M.	Tooele ARS Net	145.39
	8:00 P.M.	CSERG	145.77
3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday	8:00 P.M.	Races (1)	145.49 146.68
HF Nets:			
Beehive	Daily	12:30 P.M.	7.272
HF Slow Code	Daily	7:30 P.M.	3.708
FARM	Daily	7:00 P.M.	3.937
MARA (vioce)	Saturday	7:30 A.M.	3.918
MARA ( CW)	Saturday	8:00 A.M.	3.723
RACES (1)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat.	8:00 A.M.	3.918
Utah MARA	Saturday	8:30 A.M.	3.873

(1) RACES Net is on VHF in even months (Feb, Apr, etc) and on HF during odd months (Mar, May, etc). You must have a RACES number to check in.

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PO BOX 111  
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## *March, 2000*

### *Some Contents...*

Presidents Message .....	1
Field Day Info .....	1
Secretary's Corner .....	2
Ham Profile: Mystery Guest .....	2
Senate Bill .....	3
Area Nets .....	4