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determined the stuff in that intensity probably doesn't do you much good. Most all of the gents used to light neon bulbs and fluorescent tubes off the finals to astound the family and neighborhood kids. We ought not to do that now.

Rick is now Chief Engineer of the USU Telecommunications Dept. which has also been variously known as MLLRP, Radio & TV Services, Distance Learning and the home of the Dish Farm. Next time you drive by the facility on campus, count the satellite dishes on the South side, C band, KU band, up links, down links, and you name it. Rick has been responsible for a tremendous effort in distance learning techniques throughout the state and out of state as well via satellite. Fiber optics, digital signal transmission, up linking techniques and a host of other modern things now are the tools of the trade.

He met his future wife Janis, at the wedding reception of his brother and sister. Ah what influence these affairs have on the singles. He was not sure whether it was the music, the tuxes, or the rhubarb punch refills that did the trick. Nevertheless Janis Merrill, who was born in Albuquerque, NM, wound up in Rexburg attending Ricks. They met there, dated

a couple of years and decided to tie the knot. The Hughes' now have three children, one son, 28 and two daughters, 23 & 25. Two grand daughters, age 3 and 9 months also raid the family ice box.

Rick tells of an incident that occurred on Saturday, 5th. of June, 1976. Does that strike a note with any of you sharpies? That day the Teton dam burst and unleashed billions of gallons of water down through Wilford and points southwards. Homes and farms were inundated, many homes left their moorings and sailed away down the stream. We understand a little hay was made by a manufacturer of some types of pre fab homes to the effect that they were entirely sea worthy. When the news spread, Rick realized that the homes of parents and friends were directly in the path of the flood. Telephone lines were down, power was out, roads were washed out. No contact seemed possible, EXCEPT as you may guess, 75 meter phone contacts saved the day, and he learned that loved ones were safe despite a tremendous loss of property. Next day he arrived at the family home, by the use of back roads only he knew. It was a bit hairy. Get to know Rick-----

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(Emergency Monitoring Network - Continued from page 1)

The group has designated officially the following Statewide Emergency Frequencies for the EMN hubs throughout the area.

- HUB Repeater 448.350 minus split pl> none
- RB 223.440 simplex pl none
- RB 145.710 simplex pl none
- RB 52.560 simplex pl none

This will allow any Ham to call into the Emergency Monitoring Network on the band and frequency of their choice. Beginning July 1st, 2000, the EMN will go online 24 hours a day, we would like all Amateur Groups, their members and their associates to guard these frequencies as 'Emergency Only' and keep regular non assistance communications to a minimum.

The RMRA wants to publically thank John Mabey, Brent Thomas, John Lloyd and also wishes also to recognize and thank the ARES, EERS, MARS, MARA, UVHFS and UARC groups for their vote and continued support in the EMN.

We are now available to start promoting the system, while it's being built. If your Organization would like our 30 minute official presentation, then call Marc Peterson for scheduling at (h)282-6407 or (m)699-3434

The Actual EMN System:

Preface

For quite sometime, the FCC and other official entities have set aside State and National Emergency Channels. On Citizen Band, it is still Channel 9, on GMRS, it's Channel 9, or 462.675, on Marine Band, it's Channel 16, for Public safety, the

National Channel is 155.475, for Statewide, it's 155.505 /460.125, even on HF frequencies, there are Statewide Emergency Channels.

Aside from all of these, there are hundreds of thousand Amateur operators and ham groups, with some of the best organization and frequency coordination in the whole world, yet none of them has implemented a plan to designate any National or Statewide Emergency Monitoring Channels....

UNTIL NOW!

Some parts of the country tell their hams to monitor 146.520 while travelling, but there's dozen's of recent stories that indicate, help is not available on that frequency and rarely available on local repeaters. These local repeaters may be popular and monitored during the day, but they are a ghost town at night.

Regardless of the news media hype about cellular telephone ownership, not everyone owns one and besides tying up 911, the user wouldn't know who to call on their cell phones for help or just directions anyway. There's also the coverage and roaming problems travelers face while on vacations. The time for action is now, on Feb 7th, 2000, QRZ Conducted thi Nationwide Ham Poll:

Question> "Should there be an established Emergency Frequency on each VHF/UHF band?"

Yes, a common well-known Frequency would be best. 74%
2638 votes
No, the bands are too crowded already. 6% 234 votes
Not needed. Cell phones already do the job. 18% 669 votes
Total Hams participating 3545 votes

74 % of the Ham's polled, see that there is a need for a 'designated' emergency channel. So what is the RMRA doing about this in UTAH??

The Emergency Monitoring Network

The Wasatch Front hub of the system will consist of four designated emergency simplex channels on 440, 220, 144 and 52 Mhz. On the 440 band, the system will actually be a repeater hub and will have remote base simplex modules added to include the Statewide Designated Emergency Monitoring Channels of each band. The system will be available and monitored 24 hours a day, by both Amateurs trained by the RMRA and other properly trained volunteers from other Utah Amateur Groups.

The RMRA will design, build and maintain the Wasatch Front system, with the continued aide of other responsible Amateur Radio Groups here in the area. The Salt Lake hub of this system will be located at our mountain top radio site. This site will give coverage from Ogden on the north, down the I-15 corridor, to Nephi on the South. The system does cover parts

of Grantville, but not Tooele,(due to shadowing), west I-80 to the 70 mile marker or so. Coverage east, will include some of Parley's Canyon, at least to the summit.

The system monitor's (volunteer's) will be trained by officers from the RMRA Ranks and volunteer trainers provided by the Salt Lake County Sheriff's Dispatch center. The whole system will function a lot like the original CB Ch 9 system, provided by Salt Lake REACT, where the ham radio operator in need calls in a complaint / emergency to a trained monitor, via the band of his choice, and the trained monitor professionally handles the emergency traffic and then relay's this information to the appropriate Public Safety agency.

For the success of this system to work, a few guidelines must be adhered to by all those involved:

1- The designated Emergency channels on each band cannot be used for regular conversations or communications. This would not only interfere with the entire 'emergency designation' status, but could also interfere with a potential emergency contact or call. All persons and groups in this area, must advertise the designated emergency channel status, so that horseplay and interfering communications will be kept at a minimum. To make this a viable communications emergency system, all groups in within this 'Wasatch Hub' need to respect and support the systems usage.

2- All volunteer monitors are welcomed, but the RMRA and other designated groups involved, must insist volunteers go through an approved training course and be placed on the master monitor's roster for scheduling purposes. Any licensed ham may participate, whether or not you are involved in any club or organization. Rogue individual monitors must join the monitoring team to use the repeater hub system. Use of rogue simplex monitoring and reporting on these channels on your own, is detrimental to the success of the 'professional' status of the network. We must be together on this, for Public safety to respect our reports and calls.

3- All volunteer monitors must speak, write and be able to verbally communicate and comprehend English. Volunteer monitors who are bi-lingual are especially asked to apply, with the upcoming influx of visitors during the 2002 Winter Olympic's.

Technical Aspects

The Northern Utah (Wasatch Front) part of the system will be comprised of one or more UHF HUB repeaters, located at the 5000' of the Bacchus Highway sight, hopefully, the Wasatch Front hub can be moved up to Farnsworth Peak, at some future time, with the proper permission from those involved. Part of the HUB, will be the fulltime remote bases on 220, 144 and 52 MHZ. Users can communicate with the monitors 24 hours a day, via any of those bands, on the designated frequency. The Volunteer Monitors must have at least a 440 Radio, with

outside antenna and clear signal through to the HUB 440 repeater to participate in the system. Whenever the 440 HUB transmits, all three remote bases also transmit, whenever a remote base (220, 144 or 52) receives, this audio is passed to the HUB repeater and rebroadcast to the Monitoring Station via UHF. This is called crossband or simulcast, much like State Public Safety has in place now. This will allow the Volunteer monitor the advantage of needing only ONE 440 transceiver, instead of 4 radios and four separate base antennas at their homes. The 440 HUB Repeater site also extends line of site range, to provide a wide-area emergency monitoring system, on all designated emergency channels, all at one time.

**UTAH STATE (Wasatch Front Area)
Emergency Frequencies**

As of March 21st, these are the actual frequencies which have been designated for the official EMN usage.

HUB Repeater 448.350 minus split pl> none
RB 223.440 simplex pl none
RB 145.710 simplex pl none
RB 52.560 simplex pl none

The EMN needs help. We would like to see UDOT or UTA or other business entity provide the EMN with an office somewhere in the Salt Lake area, to provide an Emergency Operations Office, where EMN and other Amateur Emergency operators can go and monitor in a more professional atmosphere. If you have any ideas, where our trained Public Safety monitors could reside, please let us know. The RMRA and other groups are actively seeking an office for this exact purpose. The EMN would also like a place up at a higher location, to expand the Wasatch Front Hub's coverage. Please contact us if you have any suggestions in this area also.

**THE OHM TOWN NEWS
PO BOX 111
PROVIDENCE, UT 84332**

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