



THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

FEBRUARY 2001

<http://www.baronline.org>

Presidents Message

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS

Amateur radio is touted by many to be the greatest hobby in the world. Little wonder when you consider the diversity of activities found in the hobby. To many, the equipment and the electronics are the meat and potatoes of the hobby. Building and experimenting with new modes and components is quite popular. To others it is the fascination of two way communications with stations around the globe, contesting, earning operating awards, or just plain rag chewing. Public service, and emergency communications are also a big part of the hobby. What ever your interests are in the hobby today, if you stay active you will find yourself diverging into some of the other aspects of the hobby and you will never run out of new frontiers to investigate.

As I look back over the years I have been an amateur; I have found many interests among those things here listed, but the one most important, satisfying, and long lasting thing I have found is friends. I cannot count the many good people I have met through the hobby. People I would probably never have met otherwise. The interesting thing about this is the diversity of these people. People, of all ages, from all walks of life, male and female, with differing religious, ethnic and cultural backgrounds, brought together through the common bond of amateur radio. It has long been my philosophy, that if one is humble and alert you can learn something of value from everyone you meet. What a great resource these fine amateurs have been to me.

Thank You.
Jim K7OA

VE TEST SESSION

A VE test session will be held at Campbell Scientific on March 10, 2001 at 8:00 A.M.

HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

One of our fellowship who really takes organization seriously is KC7SJX, Dixon Allen. Dixon has held his tech license since 94, has attended some field day activities, worked with the Utah Marathon in medical checks and has participated in several emergency assistance helps. Dixon sports a Kenwood HT, Yaesu Ft 2500 mobile, Icom 2 meter base and a Yaesu Ft-900, one for each hand, and a spare for the frau at home.

He is presently construction supervisor for Lundahl Building systems and was involved in construction for himself for about 6 years or so. He was born in Ogden, however we wont hold that against him, since within a year he decided that Cache Valley was the preferable spot to list on his future ham ticket as home address. They live in Smithfield and he graduated at Skyview, attended USU, and has done work on his Masters degree with an interest in clinical audiology. Those of



us who can't hear that DX, Dixon may just be the one to fix things up for us. Dixon spent a year in Alaska, whether hunting for a bonanza, salmon fishing, or drilling for oil, he failed to mention. He does like hunting, fishing, and the outdoors, and Alaska has a lot of all three of

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Julie Dabb KC7RPP Club meeting report

Club meeting was Jan. 11, 2001, the first meeting for the New Year with the new officers now in control (ahh power is sweet), of the club. Dave Fullmer, the new president, opened the meeting with announcements on that there is to be a test session on March 10th at Campbell Scientific, and that the web page has moved to www.barconline.org. He also introduced the new board members.

Ted gave his report on the repeater and opened it up to questions such as should we open up the auto-patch, and if we do, will the paying members still get the auto-dial slots. Another one was what else is up there? There is a lot of stuff for the state of Utah like forest service and weather stations up there. We also discussed the equipment needed for maintaining the repeater and the costs involved.

Next Dave opened up the floor for ideas on where the club wants to go in the coming year. Some of the suggestions were making it more open to new members, and more activities like bunny hunts. People also suggested that we set aside a part of the meeting for orienting and meeting new members. Another suggestion was to move the club from a repeater oriented club to a more HF club with more on 6 and 10 meters.

Lastly we looked over the budget for the past few years, and how for the past two years we have gone in the hole. The only reason we could cover costs was by using a savings account that the club had set up that is now down to just over two hundred dollars.

I hope you now know what we did at the meeting this month, and enjoyed reading the first article that I have written for the club.

Club meeting activity on February 8th

Item one: Vote on the budget.

For the activity in February, there will be a demo on how to get on the air with HF. It will be oriented toward doing it on a limited budget. The plan is to actually set up a station and operate it from the meeting place. This will not be strictly show and tell, but those present will be invited to help build the station. That part of it will mostly consist of hanging up an antenna and plugging in a few wires.

73 Jim K7OA

Repeater Committee Report

In our last Repeater Committee Meeting we worked on the budget that we would like to propose to the club. After conferring with the board we discovered that we would not be able budget for all of the items. If for extreme circumstances we do need more the board could tap the contingency funds. We have had some recent problems that have been reoccurring with our repeaters. We would like to try and fix them this year. We purchased new coax and antenna at the end of last year. These items Should help eliminate the static and crackling we hear from time to time on the .72. Although we can't be sure because of not absolutely knowing the cause, we believe that an isolator and harmonic filter will help with the problem we saw during the day of our last club meeting (These items will most likely have to be omitted because of there high price). The problem where the repeater kept keying up then un-keying (or picket fencing). This may have been due to a distant station or another frequency getting into ours. We also would like to add a voice delay on the link and auto-patch ports. We already have one on the 146.72. This is the reason why the first word of your conversation doesn't get cut off on the .72 if you don't hesitate after pressing the PTT button on your radio. But this problem still exists on the 147.26, 145.31 and the auto-patch. Also, we have been talking and e-mailing amongst ourselves about where we should go with new projects as a Repeater Committee. One of the Conclusions we came to is that we have quite a large system already. To continue to maintain it will eat up much of the clubs funds and resources just in maintenance. There has been less interest lately in building a "Snowbird Link Repeater". Also we have encountered problems of being able to find a Site that could get to the snowbird link hub. We decided to no longer Pursue this project. We have come up with some other uses for the equipment that was purchased for that project. But instead of the repeater committee using club equipment funds for this projects that may not be to everyone's fancy, we would like to ask the club mem-

bership to tell us what they would like. Maybe a 2 meter/10 or 6 meter repeater. Or a repeater linked to the Mount Logan repeater located on the west side of the valley to pick up the shadow areas. Or, build a portable repeater for special events or unforeseen emergencies. Another alternative is possibly doing nothing at all. Maybe you have some other ideas. The only difference will be that instead of using the club dues money, these project funds would have to come as donations to build that particular project. This will provide us with a good way to know if it is what you as a club member really wants, if they want anything. One of the last items we discussed was whether we want to continue to make it a requirement to log into the system to make auto-patch calls, get the weather, or some of the other neat features and functions of the repeater system. We would still like to give member special privileges on the BARC System. Possibilities include: autodial slots, repeater linking, emergency tones, weather, and special autodials (CSI Weather, State Road, Airport, etc.). These functions will still be held as confidential to club members only. I think with the amount of cell phones out there now days has increased in use, but will curtail the need for an auto-patch. It will require us to be more diligent in monitoring our system to make sure it isn't abused. We would like to have the membership vote on these issues and let each of you decide so we'll give it time for discussion and a few months we will bring it to a vote.

Ted McArthur AC7II
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The Ohm Town News

We are considering making the Ohm Town News newsletter available via e-mail as an option. The plans are to provide it in a .PDF format. This format can be read using the Acrobat Reader that is available free of charge on the internet and also distributed with many software packages. Some of the reasons for this offer would be to provide a quicker more up to date service and to reduce costs. It will still be printed and mailed to those who want to continue with that format.

For those interested please let me or someone on the Board know so we can begin this service.

Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club Proposed Budget for 2001

	2000 Budget	2000 Actual	2001 Budget	
Budgeted Income				
Member Dues	\$3,500.00	\$2108.75	\$1875.00	(based on 75 members)
Equipment Donations	\$0.00	\$129.00	\$0.00	
Total Income	\$3,580.00	\$2244.75	\$1875.00	
 Budgeted Expenses				
Autopatch Phone Bill	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$200.00	
Christmas Party	\$300.00	\$190.64	\$300.00	
Club Fees	\$18.00	\$15.00	\$18.00	
Equipment	\$3,445.00	\$2843.27	\$150.00	
Field Day	\$500.00	\$555.96	\$300.00	
Insurance	\$575.00	\$574.75	\$0.00	
Misc. Expense	\$300.00	\$11.97	\$100.00	
Newsletter	\$650.00	\$492.77	\$650.00	
PO Box	\$14.00	\$14.00	\$30.00	
Soc. & Refresh.	\$360.00	\$159.99	\$250.00	(8 club meetings at \$30 each)
Supplies	\$100.00	\$15.05	\$100.00	
Contingency Fund	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$850.00	
Total Expense	\$7,462.00	\$4873.40	\$2948.00	
 Net Income	 (\$3,962.00)	 (\$1,164.49)	 (\$1073.00)	

Absentee Ballot Proposed 2001 Budget

*Vote to be taken Thursday, February 8, 2001
Hyde Park City Office Building, 7:30 p.m.*

As to the adoption of the proposed 2001 budget as presented in this newsletter, I am

IN FAVOR.

OPPOSED.....

INSTRUCTIONS:

This ballot must be either sent by mail in time to be received prior to the meeting or it may be sent with another member of the club who is coming to the meeting. The mailing address is:

**BARC
P.O. BOX 111
Providence, UT 84332**

Good Fences, Good Neighbors.

Neil Dabb KC7GCL

The old adage good fences make good neighbors is true more often than not. That solid reminder of the edge of each neighbor's private space helps prevent misunderstandings that might destroy the friendship that often develops between good neighbors. Written laws or bylaws act as a fence between the members of an organization or club. They act as a solid reminder of the bounds and limits leaders and members of the group have.

Last year there were hard feelings expressed with respect to some of the unwritten rules concerning club dues and a grace period. This year a member of the club expressed concerns that the club had become too political. While it is unfortunate that those feelings had to surface, if we view bylaws as a well built fence, and make sure we are each willing to do our share especially when it comes time to volunteer and help with club activities then bylaws become the cement that keeps friendships in the club alive and well for many years.

While unwritten laws exist in every organization, they should be the exception rather than the rule. Members must remember that *it is the set of written laws, not the unwritten laws that govern the group and define where each persons space ends and begins. When an unwritten law becomes so well established that members of the organization take offence when those laws are not followed to the letter it should be seriously considered by the group, and either written into the document governing the organization, or systematically done away with.* Don't kill the messenger just because the news is bad. Someone must bear the news that we are in violation of the rules, whether it be intentional or inadvertent. Someone has to take the initiative and especially with respect to the club, it will be much easier on everyone if those in violation will use that news to solve the problem, rather than make life miserable for the messenger and those around him.

There are plans to make being in the club more fun, and get new members into the club. As long as we view the rules as a fence to protect each other rather than a baseball bat used to beat on each other being in the club can be a great experience for everyone.

qed.

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those. When asked if he had a particular affinity for any foreign languages, without a falter, he said sure, "CW". That's a new one for you Brass pounders.

Just a word or two about the other half of the team, his good wife, the former Diana Williamson, was born in Arizona, and they met at USU. Her father was a contractor and he may have had to agree to some similar profession in the preliminary interview. She is an able homemaker, a scouter (good on ya!!). Dixon mentioned that she is interested in quitting, has made hundreds, which is no small task. How about that BARC, think the guys might be interested in a little class in the subject? You know, something to do while waiting for the net to begin, (or end). Their family consists of five children, three girls, two boys. When asked if any of them were interested in Ham Radio, he replied, yes, all of them. How's that for a positive attitude? Their oldest daughter is involved in some volunteer work for the Red Cross and is taking a class in Amateur Radio.

While we are on the subject of radio classes, it would be proper to mention that Dixon, amongst his other duties, has been teaching some classes in Amateur Radio. The next is scheduled to begin in February. Classes will run for about 4 - 5 weeks and materials are very reasonable. Many have asked about it. So pass the word around and give him a call for details.

Dixon is also in charge of Emergency Communications for Smithfield city, was instrumental in the construction of a communications center at the fire station, has set up an emergency communications van equipped with several radios, a couple of cell phones and other good stuff that will handle packet and the works. The facilities there are really a backup for 911 for the north end of the valley and would be a viable backup for the EOC in Logan.

They were involved in communications during the several fires along the mountain face this last summer when evacuation was a distinct possibility. At present he is involved in some intense communications training with several local Amateurs in the use of this equipment, and that gents, is the proof of the pudding.

Welcome Dixon.

VHF Society Swap Meet

The annual VHF Society meeting and swap meet will be held at 8:00 A.M. on Saturday February 24, 2001 at the Utah State Fair Park.

It is being held in the fine arts building just south of the administration building. From the north, use the 600 North exit from I-15, then go west to 1000 W, then south to the Fair Park. Enter through the iron gates on 10th west (about 100 N into the BIG parking lot). Take the first left (50 yards?) and proceed south about 100 yards.

In the past, the swap meet has been at the Sunnyside National Guard Armory near the U of U. The National Guard has moved out of that building, and it has been sold, hence the need to find a new location.

Admission is \$2, unless you are a VHF society member (which is recommend).

Dues for the VHF Society are \$15 annually, send dues to:

Utah VHF Society PO Box 482 Bountiful, UT 84011-0482

Beginners Ham Radio Class

Starting on Thursday February 1, at 6:30 P.M. there will be a beginning Ham Radio Class for those interested in the Technician Class License. The class will be on Thursdays through the month of February. It is being held at the Smithfield Armory on First North between Main and First East. There is a cost of \$10 to cover handouts and materials, and you will need your own copy of "Now You're Talking" from Radio Shack. For more information contact Clyde, AC7KN, at 563-9492.

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PROVIDENCE, UT 84332**

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