



THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

MARCH 2003

>>>>> <http://www.barconline.org> <<<<<<

HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

How about those apples? We have been interested in watching the construction of a new home about half a block up the road. Nice to have some new neighbors. A Young family with two young gals. We've struck up a good friendship. One day he stopped by and asked what that crazy loop of wire was circumnavigating my front yard. You wouldn't be a ham by any chance would you? Well one thing led to another and would you believe it, he turns out to be Morgan Davidson, KA7ZNX, his spouse Anna Lisa and the two harmonics, Savannah 5, and Victoria 2.

As I figure it, the ratio of Hams to non believers is improving considerably in our neck of the woods. I think we could muster up a sizable support group for the first applicant for a 300' tower. Who knows we may even be an influence in politics.

Morgan has an ICOM HT, with a mobile



whip, also a Kenwood HF rig. He has held a tech license for 11 plus years and true to the inbred Ham spirit, has been scrutinizing all the nearby trees for guy wire possibilities.

He was born in Gold Beach Oregon, then mi-
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President's Message

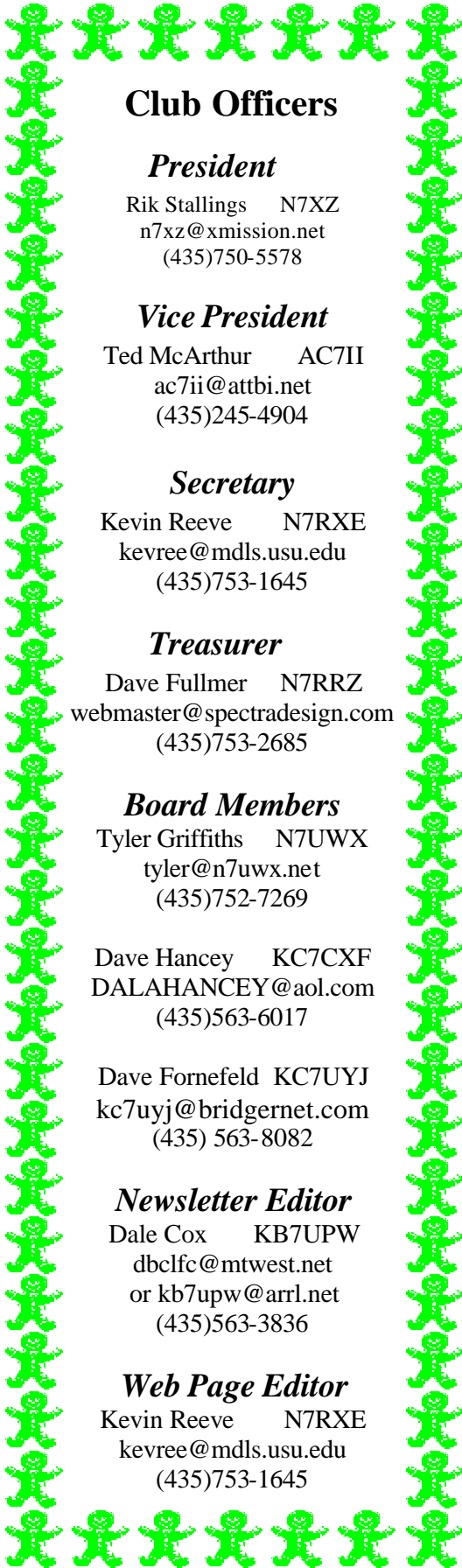
To begin, I'd like to thank all those who came to February's club meeting. We had the best turnout in recent memory. Special thanks again go to Mark Richardson (W7HPW) for his fine presentation on IRLP. Since the presentation our local node (#3925) has been very busy. This is a much maligned mode, and it is gratifying to see that people will keep an open mind and give it a try even though it might not fit into everyone's picture of what Ham Radio should be about.



I've been monitoring the arguments on IRLP's merits for some time. The purists condemn the mode because it uses the Internet to communicate. They claim that this removes the challenge of working DX, and they also point out that this type of communications can't be relied upon in an emergency. To this, I say they are absolutely correct. When working DX on IRLP, my enthusiasm is indeed tempered by the fact that performing miracles of communications with the aid of a billion dollar telecommunications network isn't quite the same as working Europe on 10 meters. I also agree that you'd have to be nuts to trust the Internet during any type of major emergency.

On the other hand, there are things you can do with IRLP that simply aren't possible on any other mode. The other day I monitored a round-table rag-chew session consisting of stations in Alaska, Boise, South Africa, and Wales. Anyone who has monitored the local node on 447.000 MHz has probably heard or participated in something similar. The real nice thing is that all these stations could hear each other. Granted I've only been a Ham for a few years now, but I doubt you will ever hear that on HF no matter how good propagation is.

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Club Officers

President

Rik Stallings N7XZ
n7xz@xmission.net
(435)750-5578

Vice President

Ted McArthur AC7II
ac7ii@attbi.net
(435)245-4904

Secretary

Kevin Reeve N7RXE
kevree@mdls.usu.edu
(435)753-1645

Treasurer

Dave Fullmer N7RRZ
webmaster@spectradesign.com
(435)753-2685

Board Members

Tyler Griffiths N7UWX
tyler@n7uwx.net
(435)752-7269

Dave Hancey KC7CXF
DALAHANCEY@aol.com
(435)563-6017

Dave Fornefeld KC7UYJ
kc7uyj@bridgernet.com
(435) 563-8082

Newsletter Editor

Dale Cox KB7UPW
dbclfc@mtwest.net
or kb7upw@arrl.net
(435)563-3836

Web Page Editor

Kevin Reeve N7RXE
kevree@mdls.usu.edu
(435)753-1645

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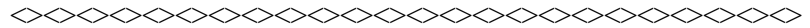
grated with his family down to Monument Valley where he graduated from HS. They centered their activities, both school, church, and shopping in Cayenta, Ariz, and Mexican Hat. His father Warren, taught school in the area and incidentally exposed Morgan to that infectious affliction known as electronics and Hamming, he himself having an extra ticket, WY7D for 20 years or so. Seems like I recall something of ancient origin about teaching a child in the way he should go-----Morgan served a mission for his faith in Venezuela and Aruba in 91-93.

You would be correct in assuming he learned Spanish and another tongue spoken in Aruba, called papiamento. He described that as some sort of mis mash of several other tongues, usually leaving a person scratching their heads afterwards.

He has now been serving in the National Guard 23rd. Army Band for 8 years, plays the trumpet and has had some interesting experiences. One was serenading Pres. Bush at the State Capital with "Hail to the Chief" when he visited for the Olympics. You gents ought to learn that tune. When the good frau is rattling your chains a bit, you could hum that melody and it should warm up the temperature quite a few degrees. They also played at the inaugural of Gov. Leavitt. (Take notice--BARC board of directors, wouldn't that group be nice for some dinner music at the next Christmas social?) Morgan is employed at USU as a research engineer in the Robotics Lab. They are doing some interesting things with machinery doing mankind's work. He mumbled something about teaching one such creation to automatically call "CQ". We'll see how that effort turns out.

His spouse Anna Lisa was born in Murray, and with her father in the military, traveled around the country a bit, and finally touched down in Payson. She teaches the flute and both play in the University band and orchestra and otherwise make beautiful music together. She thinks Amateur radio is quite cool. Now that is a prime example of a good attitude. She'll undoubtedly make the new house a comfortable home.

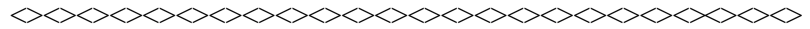
We are thinking of sharing opposite ends of a big rhombic, that's really cool.



Club Meeting Plans for March

BARC Club meeting is normally held on the second Thursday of the Month, for March that falls on the 13th. We will have the pleasure of a visit from Mel Parks (AC7CP), our local ARRL section leader, along with a Home Brew extravaganza! Bring your projects and come join in with the fun.

7:30 P.M. at the Hyde Park City Offices Building



Class being taught to prepare for ham radio license testing!

To be held in Tremonton at the end of March.

Exact date and location to be announced.

Stay tuned to the Tuesday net or contact KD7OUP at

kd7oup@arrl.net

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SIX-YEAR-OLD OREGON GIRL GETS GENERAL TICKET

A six-year-old girl from Roseburg, Oregon, has upgraded from Technician to General. Mattie Clauson, KD7TYN—a fourth-generation Amateur Radio operator in her family—could be the youngest General-class operator in the US. Her new ticket was granted January 13.

Mattie allowed that the Element 3 test "was pretty hard" and she had to study for a long time before passing it on her third attempt. "The Element 3 test was a lot harder than the Tech test," she said. She was ambivalent about the 5 WPM Element 1 Morse code exam, characterizing it as "not too hard, just a little, but kind of easy too."

Her parents, Tim and Charlotte Clauson, AC7SP and KD7QZB, say Mattie became interested in Amateur Radio when she was five. The Clausons discovered "a kid-friendly study book," Ride the Airwaves with Alpha and Zulu by John Abbott, K6YPB (no longer in print—Ed). The Clausons say Mattie, who already knew how to read, dove into it right away. Her mom and dad helped her to study, explained the "hard questions" and encouraged her to take practice tests at various Web sites. She obtained her Technician license last July and became KD7SDF.

The Clausons said Mattie learned Morse code using several different computer programs, and they helped her practice by tapping out letters—and later words—for her. In the end, she passed her code exam on the very first try. For the time being, Mattie says, she's sticking with phone operation but plans to give CW a try in the future. Mattie says she prefers HF over VHF "because I can talk to people in other countries."

Homeschooled with her sisters, Mattie loves to read, and that may contribute to her precocity. Among her favorites books are those by Cynthia Wall, KA7ITT, Encyclopedia Brown, and Nancy Drew. Her parents say ham radio has been a very useful tool in homeschooling—in terms of letter recognition, spelling, science, geography and other subjects.

The Clausons say Mattie doesn't consider herself "someone special" since passing her General test,

and neither do they. "We do not feel that Mattie has any abilities above any other child," Charlotte Clauson said. For her part, Mattie says she hopes that she can be an inspiration to other youngsters her age to get involved with Amateur Radio. "I think that since I got my license, whether Tech or higher, other kids can do it also," she said. Mattie's late great grandfather, S.A. "Sam" Sullivan, was W6WXU; his daughter, Joan Brady—Mattie's grandmother—now holds his former call sign.

"The ham community has also been very supportive, especially in the Roseburg area," said Charlotte Clauson. "Their enthusiasm has made Mattie's experience with ham radio very positive." A article on Mattie Clauson appeared February 3 in the Statesman Journal of Salem, Oregon <<http://news.statesmanjournal.com/article.cfm?i=56021>>.

Tim, Charlotte and Mattie Clauson all are ARRL members. Mattie and her mom now are working on their Amateur Extra tickets.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 22, No. 07 February 14, 2003 UTAH AMATEUR RADIO ANTENNA BILL ON ITS WAY TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

Less than a month after its introduction, Utah's Amateur Radio antenna bill is on its way to the desk of Gov Michael Leavitt. The bill unanimously passed the Utah Senate February 13, 26-0. The measure, HB 79, was introduced January 20. It earlier passed the Utah House, 65-8.

"I would like to express appreciation to the many Amateur Radio clubs and individual Amateur Radio operators throughout Utah who spent many hours publicizing this bill and ensuring Utah representatives and senators were contacted about the importance of this bill," said ARRL Utah Section Manager Mel Parkes, AC7CP. "Once the bill is signed Utah will be come the 17th state to enact PRB-1 legislation."

Sponsored by Rep Neal B. Hendrickson, HB 79, "Regulation of Amateur Radio Antennas," made it through the house 11 days after getting a favorable committee recommendation. The Utah Senate Business and Labor Committee unanimously approved HB 79 and sent it to the Senate floor February 6. HB 79 would prohibit municipalities and counties in Utah from enacting ordinances that fail to comply with the limited federal preemption known as PRB-1. The measure would require that local ordinances involving placement, screening or height of an Amateur Radio antenna that are based on health, safety or aesthetics "reasonably accommodate amateur radio communications" and "represent the minimal practicable regulation to accomplish the municipality's purpose."

Parkes has credited Mike Davis, KD7FQD, and John Hanson, KI7AR, for developing the bill and getting Hendrickson to sponsor it. A copy of the proposed legislation is available on the Utah State Legislature Web site <<http://www.le.state.ut.us/~2003/bills/hbillint/hb0079.htm>>.

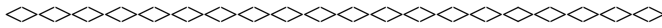
(Presidents Message continued from page 1)

The real virtue of IRLP is that it allows beginners to get a little of the DX experience. It lets people see what they're missing on HF and gives them a reason to upgrade their licenses. A Technician license and a low power UHF rig are all you need to talk to the world. I know that my own interest in getting active on HF has grown enormously, and my own informal, non-scientific poll of other IRLP users has been nearly unanimous in supporting this sentiment.

The biggest reason not to reject IRLP is that contributing to the advancement of the radio art is one of Amateur Radio's five reasons for existing. The thing I've always loved about Hams is the way they are always looking for cool new ways of talking to each other. I would hope that we would never find ourselves moving from cutting-edge Technologists to Luddites. There's room for everyone!

I'll step off my soapbox now. Coming in March will be Mel Parks (AC7CP), our local ARRL section leader, along with Home Brew Night! If you've been working on a project you're dying to show off, we're all dying to see it. Come on out and have fun!

73 de N7XZ



HAMS TAKE ON SNOWSTORM, FLOOD DUTY IN EASTERN US

Amateurs in the Eastern US this week responded after heavy snow in some regions and icy conditions and flooding in others knocked out and disrupted communications in several states.

In Kentucky, Section Emergency Coordinator Ron Dodson, KA4MAP, reported that northern and central Kentucky was under ice and snow February 17 as a result of precipitation over the weekend. Dodson said the City of Lexington and Fayette County were hardest hit. At one point, some 65,000 customers were reported without power after ice-laden tree branches felled utility lines. At week's end, Dodson reported that work was continuing on power restoration in Lexington and Fayette County, where about 30,000 remained without power. Lexington-Fayette County Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) teams activated February 16 to provide communication support for road crews, power crews and at four shelters set up at American Red Cross and Salvation Army offices for those without heat due to the power outages. Dodson said Amateur Radio was providing links on VHF and UHF between all field operations and the local Emergency Operations Center in Lexington as well as with the state EOC in Frankfort, Kentucky's capital. "We have flooding occurring in southern and eastern portions of the state where all the precipitation fell as rain," Dodson said earlier this week. Many area highways were closed due to high water. Paintsville-Johnson County Emergency Coordinator John Hager, N4KJU, reported that ARES activated February 16 after meet-

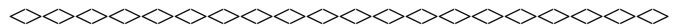
ing with local emergency managers. Fifteen ARES members responded, and activation on VHF provided communication for the fire department and rescue squad when commercial power was interrupted for about five hours. Hams were deployed at all 10 county fire departments and at the EOC. Dodson said the ARES response gave the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government "an up-close-and-personal look at Amateur Radio and how they can benefit from it." Dodson praised amateurs who participated despite having troubles of their own at home that included no power, frozen pipes and trees covered with ice.

In the Washington, DC, area—which received more than two feet of unwelcome and unusual snowfall—virtually all travel was reported paralyzed. Prince George's County, Maryland, Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) was activated to assist in picking up and delivering dialysis patients to and from local facilities as well as providing other needed transportation assistance. Murray Green, K3BEQ, reports that the county EOC was activated, and Deputy Radio Officer, Frank Scott, K3HDM, took the reins as net control station. Primary communication was via VHF repeaters.

In Northern New Jersey, ARES and SKYWARN activated 15 SKYWARN nets that garnered 173 checkins during the storm, said Section Emergency Coordinator Steve Ostrove, K2SO. In all, reports were logged from nine New Jersey counties as well as two in New York and one in Pennsylvania. Hams put in nearly 70 work-hours.

In Ohio, Section Manager Joe Phillips, K8QOE, reports that hams responded to weather emergencies throughout the day February 16. Phillips said the Ohio Single Side Band Net (OSSBN) was called into an emergency session by Assistant Section Manager Connie Hamilton, N8IO, and Ohio Section Emergency Coordinator Larry Rain, WD8IHP. "Icy streets and falling snow clogged roads and ice covered trees striking power lines caused power outages throughout Ohio," Phillips said. "The OSSBN moved emergency traffic and kept Ohio hams in constant contact with the Ohio Emergency Management Agency." He said in the Dayton area, Amateur Radio operators with four-wheel drive vehicles stood by to transport essential personal such as medical personnel to their jobs.

In New England, which is much more used to heavy snowfalls, the newly formed Worcester Emergency Communications Team (WECT) in central Massachusetts activated a net at the request of Worcester emergency management officials. The net ran most of Presidents' Day—when the majority of the snow fell in the region. "The activation gave us a chance to test our capabilities and explore both our strengths and weaknesses in terms of emergency communications," said Worcester ARES EC and City RACES Officer Mark Rubin, WB1ARZ. Rubin said the team set up a VHF station at the Worcester EOC. At one point, he and another WECT member were atop the EOC roof in blizzard conditions setting up a 5/8-wave antenna. More than two feet of snow fell in some parts of Southern New England.



Answers to questions on page 6
1-C, 2-D, 3-A, 4-B, 5-D, 6-C

Questions for General Class License

1. (G1A11) What class of amateur license authorizes you to operate on the frequencies 21025 - 21200-kHz and 21300 - 21450-kHz?
 - A. Amateur Extra class only
 - B. Amateur Extra and Advanced class only
 - C. Amateur Extra, Advanced or General class
 - D. Amateur Extra, Advanced, General or Technician class
2. (G1E07) If a repeater is causing harmful interference to another amateur repeater and a frequency coordinator has recommended the operation of both stations, who is responsible for resolving the interference?
 - A. The licensee of the repeater that has been recommended for the longest period of time
 - B. The licensee of the repeater that has been recommended the most recently
 - C. The frequency coordinator
 - D. Both repeater licensees
3. (G2C02) During a disaster in the US, when may an amateur station make transmissions necessary to meet essential communication needs and assist relief operations?
 - A. When normal communication systems are overloaded, damaged or disrupted
 - B. Only when the local RACES net is activated
 - C. Never; only official emergency stations may transmit in a disaster
 - D. When normal communication systems are working but are not convenient
4. (G3C01) What is the average height of maximum ionization of the E region?
 - A. 45 miles
 - B. 70 miles
 - C. 200 miles
 - D. 1200 miles
5. (G5A08) What happens when the impedance of an electrical load is equal to the internal impedance of the power source?
 - A. The source delivers minimum power to the load
 - B. The electrical load is shorted
 - C. No current can flow through the circuit
 - D. The source delivers maximum power to the load
6. (G9B05) Approximately how long is each leg of a symmetrical delta-loop antenna driven element for 24.9 MHz?
 - A. 10.99 feet
 - B. 12.95 feet
 - C. 13.45 feet
 - D. 40.36 feet

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PROVIDENCE, UT 84332**

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