



# THE OHM TOWN NEWS

*Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club*

# April 2004

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

## HONORARY HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

With the arrival of the month of April, which incidentally occurs every year, some casual observers may have sensed a bit of laxity in the intellectual integrity of these pages. In order to lay these inordinate thoughts to rest we really ought to spend some time learning a bit about a person who exemplified the spirit of Amateur Radio like few others.



Seldom has anyone ventured on the mortal stage who has stirred the vision and imagination as one who was born in San Francisco in 1883. At age 4, he began tracing illustrations from the humorous book, *History of the United States*. By age 8, he couldn't lay down his drawing tools, tracing from scores of books, newspapers, and calendars. While helping a friend delivering magazines, he literally basked in the smell of the ink on the pages and stated this preference over the most exquisite perfume. He was bitten.

His father, a rather practical person, disdained this inclination and insisted that he pursue the study of Engineering at the University of California at Berkley. He persisted in these efforts and graduated with a degree in Engineering in 1904. He landed his first job as an Engineer with the City of San Francisco, designing sewer systems for \$100 a month.

Possessing a restless spirit and being distressed at the seeming "lethargy of the city employees", he vowed that he would not spend the next 40 years behind the same desk, showing false loyalty to corrupt Politicians. He jumped ship so he could draw cartoons for the San Francisco Chronicle for \$8 a week. His submissions most often found their way to the wastebasket and he was required to sweep the floors and file the pictures from the morgue to stay on the payroll. Things were a little skinny to say the least, but he hung there, (another Ham quality). A break came, he started sketching athletes during sporting events, that increased sales, a color comic strip was started, gifted artists from the leading illustrated magazines, who initially inspired him ear-

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

April is our emergency preparedness month. We have an exciting speaker lined up from the Office of Emergency Services and Homeland Security. Maralin Hoff better known as the Earthquake Lady will be speaking to us. I hear her presentations are fun and very visual. She will have all kinds of things to show us including 72-hour kits. You will not want to miss this one. It will be held at the Science and Technology Library room 120.

Emergency preparedness is something we as amateurs should be leaders on. I believe it is our efforts and ability to get on the air when everything else fails is key to this hobbies existence. The ARRL is touting amateur radio to the FCC, and other government agencies as a fantastic resource for emergency communications. This message of our emergency communication skills may be the only thing that saves our frequencies from those with lots of dollars. It is not our use of the frequencies that will save them, just listen to the 2-meter band in our valley or even Utah. Only a few repeaters have any sort of talking going on them. Many are on APRS, and HF. I know I have probably struck a sensitive cord with some of you, who for what ever reason are in HAM radio purely for the hobby of it. That is fine, I got into it for the hobby, not for the emergency communications side of things. But I have had a lot of fun working with agencies and providing communications in an emergency. I see the value in having us involved.

As many of you know some hams in this valley have been involved with the Sheriffs office as a team to assist with emergency communications. The main purpose is to staff the EOC in an emergency. During this past year some members of this group helped to build a mobile EOC for the county. It is a great asset to the county and was designed and finished by the amateurs. In March it was called out for a real event for the first time. The nice thing is that it worked as designed. We learned some things that need to be added, Search and Rescue really liked how it worked, as did the County Emergency Coordinator, Daron Henrie. Addi-



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## Events Calendar

### Club Officers

#### President

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

#### Vice President

Gary Roberts AG1T  
groberts@smithfieldfire.org  
(435)563-9528

#### Secretary

Julie Dabb KC7RPP  
(435)797-6724

#### Treasurer

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

#### Board Members

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

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

Tom Baldwin KD7TRN  
tomb@cachecomm.com  
(435)232-6699

#### Newsletter Editor

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

#### Web Page Editor

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

### April Club Meeting

Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Science and Technology Library, Utah State University room 120. Maralin Hoff known as the "Earthquake Lady" will present to us. Her topic will be on earthquake preparedness. Her presentations are very visual and entertaining and include 72 hour kits.

### May Club Meeting

Saturday May 8<sup>th</sup> 10:00 AM Cache County Sheriffs Office Rich Fisher NS7K from the Davis Club will present to us on HF and contesting. Every year he and Jim Lofthouse K7OA get together for the 160 meter contest. No phone here, just straight CW.

### June Club Meeting / Activity

Field Day Saturday & Sunday June 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
Our annual fun event for everyone. Come talk around the world and enjoy good food, and great company. Camp out or come for the day. Location will be in Logan Canyon. We are going to be checking out a new site when the snow melts.

### Summer Activities and Events.

Summer is just around the corner. It is time to get involved in some activities and summer public service events. Sign up at club meeting or send an email to Tyler Griffith N7UWX@comcast.net. Do not worry if you have never done one before. These events are a great way to sharpen your communication skills.

MT. MAN RENDEZVOUS - May 28<sup>th</sup>

(just Friday usually) Memorial Weekend

C.V. BIATHALON- June 06

PONY EXPRESS - no date as yet

FIELD DAY - June 26, 27

UP THE DAM HILL - No date yet

CACHE CRUISE IN - July 3

LITTLE MT. BIKE RACE - No date yet

CACHE CLASSIC BIKE RACE - September 3-6 Mostly Sat & Sun

LATOJA - September 11

TOP OF UTAH MARATHON - September 18

BEAR 100 - September 25

JOTA Jamboree on the Air - October 16, 17

**Grandma's corner**  
**She needs more room, she has eyes on my shack**  
**She'll help you load the truck !!**

**1 Relay rack, 7' high, enclosed sides**  
**rear door, 19" wide, RCA Blue**  
**Just right for all the 2 m gear**  
**\$50 OBO**

**Several Power transformers**  
**120 VAC pri, 24 VAC sec @ 4.5 A**  
**Get one for the mother in law**  
**New \$5 ea OBO**  
 Boyd Humpherys W7MOY 752-4868



## Club Store Report

The club store has been very successful. The club store is stocking basic items used by hams. The store was started in May of 2003. The items in the store are not sold for a profit, but are marked up just enough to cover expenses like shipping, taxes etc. This is a service to club members so they have the equipment they need to participate in public service events, emergency exercises, and to maintain their stations in good working condition. Last year the club allocated \$1,200 to get the store going. Some of the money was used to purchase a cash box, receipts and setting up a checking account for the store. As of March 17<sup>th</sup> 2004 there is a balance of ~\$200.00 in the store account. The rest is located in physical inventory. Some of the items in the store are listed in the chart to the right.

Answers to Questions on Page 6:  
1-A ,2-B ,3-B ,4-B ,5-D ,6-C

RG-213 coax	.45 /foot
RG-8X plus coax	.22
Red & Black ZIP CORD power cable <b>12 gauge</b>	.45
Red & Black ZIP CORD power cable <b>16 gauge</b>	.32
Red & Black ZIP CORD power cable <b>18 gauge</b>	.26
Anderson Power Poles (2 pairs = 2 red 2 black, 30 AMP)	3.00
Various Anderson Power Pole Adapters available	
Small extension speaker with 1/8" mini plug	4.00
PL-259s	1.25
Reducers for PL-259s	.45
UHF - BNC or BNC - UHF adapter	2.25
SMA - BNC	4.76
PL-258 Barrel connector connects pl-259 to a pl-259	1.50
SO-239 Panel Mount	1.50
UHF BULK HEAD	3.50
BNC Panel Mount	1.75
Line kits for NMO mount antennas	15.00
L Brackets for NMO mount	3.00
N connector -- Solder type	\$3.50
Dual Band NMO TRAM antenna 144/440 mobile requires NMO mount	

An unusual view of the antenna building party at the BARC club meeting on March 6th, by Dave Fullmer





(Presidents Message Continued from page 1)

tional Hams are needed in each community to be prepared to man the city stations. All the cities in the county have a 2 meter mobile radio somewhere. Many of these have not been exercised since Y2K. If you are interested in helping with these, please step up. We need everyone to be involved.

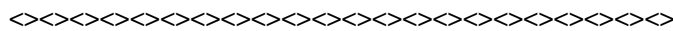
Summer Activities are just around the corner. Be sure to sign up to help with one of the events. This is an exciting part of the hobby. I have a lot of fun helping out with the various events. Do not worry if you have never done one before, just sign up, and someone will give you some pointers. All we need are willing hams. It is these public service events that help us get prepared to help out with emergency communications.

During the month of March a group of hams volunteered their services to offer VE exams. I appreciate your efforts. In another effort, a group of hams assisted some boy scouts to earn their radio merit badge. I received a call at work the other day from a newly licensed amateur radio operator. He is excited about the hobby and it's potential with kids. He wants to work with us to start a kids club in the valley and then take that effort state wide through 4H. I cannot think of a more exciting thing that sharing this hobby with youth. In October the club will help around 20 boys earn their radio merit badge. We can tie this into the Jamboree on the Air and let these boys talk around the world. We will need some HF radios, antennas, and instructors for this.

We have some exciting club meetings still to come, Field day is in June, I hope you come ready for that one. I hope you are spreading the word about the fun we are having. Bring a friend to join in on the fun. I think the word is getting out. I have noticed a lot of new faces at the club meetings, and some we have not seen for awhile.

Finally I appreciate the support and assistance everyone is giving. What an exciting hobby, I hope you are having as much fun as I am.

73, Kevin Reeve N7RXE



(Ham Profile Continued from page 1)

lier, were hired, his career was launched. He became a sports cartoonist for West & East coast leading newspapers. He created the characters Boob McNutt, Lala Palooza, Mike & Ike. His cartoon series "Foolish Questions" & "Sideshow", hilarious depictions of wacky inventions became nationally syndicated. His engineering background and his unique ability to draw ridiculous solutions to easy problems skyrocketed him to success. (sound familiar?)

By now he was earning \$100,000 + a year. (Another Ham quality). He won a Pulitzer prize in 1948 for some political cartoons warning of the dangers of atomic weapons. The Smithsonian Institute displayed an exhibit of his life's work in 1970, the first cartoonist thus honored.

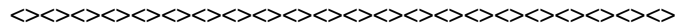
His inventive depictions of crazy inventions was undoubtedly influenced by the upcoming machine age. The lifestyles of the country were changing. As Designs for newer ways to do things emerged on a daily basis, our engineering illustrator delighted the country with his ingenious solutions on how to do things in subversive manner.

He spent 55 years drawing cartoons of machines and contraptions. He believed that most people preferred doing things the hard way instead of using a more simple and direct path to accomplish a goal. He sincerely believed that machines were a "symbol of man's capacity for exerting maximum effort to achieve minimal results". Webster's Dictionary defined his efforts as "accomplishing by extremely complex, roundabout means what seemingly could be done simply".

I would suggest our board consider him for honorary membership in BARC, as so many organizations across the country have done. (A Patron Saint perhaps??)

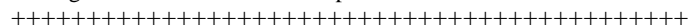
Now that most has been said or done, yes ----his name, just about forgot that. Reuben Lucius Goldberg (Rube Goldberg) (1883-1970) as his reputation has attested, infects a few of us, and that's good. Otherwise we would plod in the same old furrows all day. TRY IT, it just may work.

73s, gang



**The ARRL Letter Vol. 23, No. 10 March 5, 2004**

Bogus ARRL.net messages circulating via e-mail: Several members have notified ARRL that they have received e-mail messages alleging to be from the ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <<http://www.arrl.org/members-only/emailfwd.html>>, "The ARRL.net team" or some variation. The messages, which often carry a subject line along the lines of "Warning about your e-mail account," indicate that the recipient's ARRL E-Mail Forwarding Service <call sign>@arrl.net address will be closed within three days because of an alleged violation of acceptable practices. These messages are false and did not come from The ARRL Forwarding Service. They are the result of one of the variants on a number of viruses now permeating the Internet. A file usually is attached to these messages. As always, do not open any attachments that you cannot identify. Opening the file could result in your computer being infected by a virus. This is only one of the several virus-laden messages currently propagating across the Internet. The ARRL advises its members to be cautious in opening any message and/or attachment, even if it appears to be from someone you know. All of these viruses use e-mail addresses from the address book of an infected computer to falsify the "From:" address in the header to make it appear that the message is from someone the recipient knows.



**==>FCC CLARIFIES DOCKET NUMBER FOR FUTURE BPL COMMENTS**

The FCC says anyone filing comments on the its Broadband over Power Line (BPL) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in ET Dockets 03-104 and 04-37 should reference only the latter docket number, not both docket numbers. The ARRL was among those who had asked the FCC to clarify the matter. The deadline to file comments is Monday, May 3. Reply comments are due Tuesday, June 1. "To simplify this filing process and minimize the burden on both interested parties and the Commission's resources, we are requesting that parties responding to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making submit comments, replies and any other pleadings or information only in the newly established ET Docket No 04-37," the FCC said this week in a public notice. Written comments may be filed via the Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) <<http://www.fcc.gov/cgb/ecfs/>>. The Commission says that commenters should include their full name, US Postal Service mailing address and ET Docket No 04-37 when completing the transmittal screen. The FCC ECFS Express system <<http://gullfoss2.fcc.gov/ecfs/Upload/>> also now is accepting brief comments on the BPL proceeding, which is the top item on the list. For additional information on filing comments, see the FCC public notice <[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DA-04-760A1.doc](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DA-04-760A1.doc)>.

==>HAMVENTION PLANNING, PREPARATIONS GOING FULL TILT

Hamvention <http://www.hamvention.org> General Chairman Gary Des Combes, N8EMO, reports all is going smoothly as the 2004 show approaches. Hamvention will take place Friday through Sunday, May 14-16, at Hara Arena in Trotwood, near Dayton, Ohio. The theme for the 53rd Hamvention is "The Year of the Contact." "Things are going well, and my team is outstanding," Des Combes said in summing up Hamvention's preparations to date. "I really am fortunate to have the best volunteers in the world." Des Combes says all forum slots have been filled, and about two-thirds of the inside exhibit spaces have been spoken for—which, he points out, is ahead of last year. Des Combes says advanced ticket sales and flea market signups appear to be strong. "We are compiling data now, but demand is very high," he said. Hamvention has another mailing in the works in an effort to attract additional exhibitors. Des Combes also notes that the Hamvention Web site has been upgraded and now provides for on-line, credit card ticket purchases. Under the banner of its Great Lakes Division, the ARRL will offer a Hamvention forum, "How Grassroots Action Gets Lawmakers' Reaction," on Friday, May 14, 12:15 PM. Moderated by ARRL Great Lakes Division Vice Director Dick Mondro, W8FQT, the forum will feature an introduction by ARRL Great Lakes Division Director Jim Weaver, K8JE, and participation by ARRL General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, who will discuss "How to Influence Congressional Representatives," ARRL New England Division Vice Director Mike Raisbeck, K1TWF, on "Getting State Legislators to Work with Us" and ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, who's titled his remarks "ARRL: Tighten that Cinch, and Go Do It!" The annual ARRL Forum gets under way at 8:30 AM on Saturday, May 15. Check the Hamvention Web site <http://www.hamvention.org> for additional details.

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==>FCC INVITES COMMENTS ON AMATEUR RADIO RESTRUCTURING PLANS

The FCC is seeking comment on three plans, one from the ARRL, that would reshape the Amateur Service licensing structure. Each Petition for Rule Making responds to World Radiocommunication Conference 2003 actions last summer that made changes to Article 25 of the international Radio Regulations. While differing substantially in some other aspects, the three petitions call for modifications at Amateur Radio's entry level and for a three-tiered license system. One petition goes beyond licensing structure to recommend additional changes to amateur testing and HF digital privileges. A fourth petition focuses solely on the Morse requirement. Comments are due by April 24 on all four petitions.

Designated RM-10867, ARRL's petition asks the FCC to create a new entry-level license class—being called "Novice" for now. It would offer limited HF CW/data and phone/image privileges on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus certain VHF and UHF privileges. The League plan also would consolidate Technician, Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) and General licensees into a new General license that no longer would require a Morse examination. Current Technicians automati-

cally would gain General privileges without additional testing. Applicants for Amateur Extra would still have to pass a 5 WPM Morse code examination, but the General and Extra written exams would stay the same. A news report "ARRL to Propose New Entry-Level License, Code-Free HF Access," www.arrl.org/news/stories/2004/01/19/1/, has further details. Frequently asked questions (FAQs) are addressed on the ARRL Web site, www.arrl.org/news/restructuring2/faq.html. An



"unincorporated grassroots organization," the Radio Amateur Foundation (RAF), has filed a petition designated as RM-10868. Its wide-ranging filing asks the FCC to modify the Technician ticket to allow restricted HF phone, data, image and CW privileges. The group also proposes retaining the 5 WPM Morse requirement for General and Amateur Extra applicants, upgrading Advanced class holders to Extra and all Novices to Technician. The Radio Amateur Foundation said it sees no need to change licensing requirements for General or Amateur Extra applicants. The RAF also wants to scrap existing Amateur Radio question pools and start over from scratch, keeping the question pools out of the public domain and requiring a 10-day waiting period before retesting. In addition, it would permit only Generals and Amateur Extras or Technicians licensed more than two years to request vanity call signs. The RAF has further asked the FCC to permit digital experimentation from 29.0 to 29.3 MHz at bandwidths of up to 15 kHz. In his two-page petition designated RM-10869, Ronald D. Lowrance, K4SX, calls on the FCC to retain the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for General class applicants and to raise the Morse requirement to 13 WPM for Amateur Extra class applicants. He called Morse code "the most reliable mode of communication" in an emergency. Lowrance would make no change in Technician licensing requirements. The National Conference of Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (NCVEC) wants the FCC to establish a new entry-level license called the Communicator class. Its petition, designated RM-10870, reiterates its call—first made last fall in RM-10787—to altogether eliminate the Morse code testing requirement. The NCVEC's petition would upgrade all current Novices to Communicator class. The NCVEC would further upgrade all existing Technician and Tech Plus (Technician with Element 1 credit) licensees to General and all Advanced class licensees to Amateur Extra without further testing. Once the Morse requirement goes away, NCVEC said in its filing, "there will be no effective difference between the Technician and General class licenses." The new Communicator ticket would permit a power limit of 100 W on bands below 24 MHz and 50 W on all frequencies above 24 MHz. Communicator licensees would have to use commercially manufactured equipment (or gear built from a commercial kit). They could operate both voice and digital modes on 80, 40, 15 and 10 meters plus VHF and UHF up to 70 cm. All three license restructuring plans call for changes to the present HF subbands. Interested parties may view and comment on these petitions via the FCC Electronic Comment Filing System, www.fcc.gov/e-file/ecfs.html. When entering the RM number in the ECFS "Proceeding" field, RM must be in capital letters and the hyphen must be included.

NNNN

## Questions for Technician Class License

1. (T3B12) What happens to signals that take off vertically from the antenna and are higher in frequency than the critical frequency?
  - A. They pass through the ionosphere
  - B. They are absorbed by the ionosphere
  - C. Their frequency is changed by the ionosphere to be below the maximum usable frequency
  - D. They are reflected back to their source
2. (T6A04) How do you call another station on a repeater if you know the station's call sign?
  - A. Say "break, break 79," then say the station's call sign
  - B. Say the station's call sign, then identify your own station
  - C. Say "CQ" three times, then say the station's call sign
  - D. Wait for the station to call "CQ," then answer it
3. (T8B08) A mobile radio may be operated at home with the addition of which piece of equipment?
  - A. An alternator
  - B. A power supply
  - C. A linear amplifier
  - D. A rhombic antenna
4. (T9B04) How does the Doppler effect change an amateur satellite's signal as the satellite passes overhead?
  - A. The signal's amplitude increases or decreases
  - B. The signal's frequency increases or decreases
  - C. The signal's polarization changes from horizontal to vertical
  - D. The signal's circular polarization rotates
5. (T0E05) Why are Amateur Radio operators required to meet the FCC RF radiation exposure limits?
  - A. The standards are applied equally to all radio services
  - B. To ensure that RF radiation occurs only in a desired direction
  - C. Because amateur station operations are more easily adjusted than those of commercial radio services
  - D. To ensure a safe operating environment for amateurs, their families and neighbors
6. (T0F13) Why does the FCC consider a hand-held transceiver to be a portable device when evaluating for RF radiation exposure?
  - A. Because it is generally a low-power device
  - B. Because it is designed to be carried close to your body
  - C. Because its transmitting antenna is generally within 20 centimeters of the human body
  - D. All of these choices are correct

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***April, 2004***

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