



# THE OHM TOWN NEWS

*Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club*

## October 2005

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

Some great summer activities to look back on !!! (See pages 4 & 5)

### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Recently Amateur Radio has been getting some fantastic press in the wake of disasters. The HF nets have been busy coordinating efforts. These storm have knocked down critical communication networks. Ham radio is there helping. Some amateurs are having great experiences and putting in lots of hours, and others, well they came home disappointed. Something I have learned over the years is to surround yourself with positive people. We have been blessed with great folks in our club who are doers and have a can-do attitude. It makes things fun. Attitude is half the battle. I would like to thank all the amateurs who have assisted with the public service events this summer, who had positive attitudes, who solved problems, and in the mist of a serious situation kept their cool and worked together. My hats off to you, all of you. Many of you are not even from this valley. Thanks so much!!



The Board is hard at work putting plans together for elections, club meetings and the Christmas party. Others are working on a new website to be shown at club meeting. The new site is using some behind the scenes software that makes it easy to update. The new site will have a calendar of events, and if you are into RSS feeds, it will send you those as well. I am hopeful this new site will keep you more informed.

On the subject of elections, the club is always in need of your help. Please consider running for a position. We have 6 positions to fill this year. We have great momentum going, please help us keep it that way.

*(Continued on page 3)*

### HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

Nothing like a chip off the old block is there? We could apply that to the wood pile, sometimes to mother and daughter, but commonly to Ole Dad and a son or sons. Quite a few years ago if you had asked Wally Gibbons (WB7ASQ) if he ever envisioned one of his sons taking up the hobby and getting all fired up about CQs, antennas, & hand helds, he might have said, go way, I have a contact on 6 meters. We have quite a batch of Dad-XYL-YL-Harmonics, in this category in the valley and it's an interesting thing to see the affliction being perpetuated. In Aussie terms, "Good on Ya".

This chip we ought to get to know today is none other than Kelin Gibbons, KE7CMH, an energetic Sophomore at Sky View. Several of his friends started the ball rolling, plus a few good examples from the family bread winner. Some good reading material like "Now you're talking", just happened to be in the right place at the right time and Kelin got the urge, and trotted off to get his Tech license in Dec of 04. Once the disease worsened, complications set in, and a visit was scheduled at the local testing office and he walked off with a General ticket in July of 05.



The real secret is to get involved with our mad group of funnies and catch the spirit. He's gotten involved in field day, Cruise in, and a few other fun activities. When he was asked what his rig inventory consisted of, he rattled off FT60, Yaesu 221, Drake, Icom

*(Continued on page 3)*

# UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

October 8 - Club Meeting  
Club Web Site Information

November 12 - Club Meeting  
Officers Elections

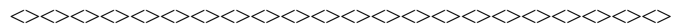
December - Christmas Party  
More information coming

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BARC Club Meetings are normally on Saturday mornings at 10:00 A.M. on the 2nd floor in the EOC at the Cache County Sheriffs Complex on 200 North and 1225 West, Logan, Utah

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ARES Meetings are starting up again, and are usually held on the Third Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M. at the Cache County Sheriffs Complex. Contact Tyler Griffiths for more information or if you want to be involved



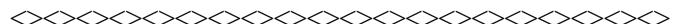
Letter of response from someone who was affected by the events involved with LOTOJA:

Hi Kevin,

As a LOTOJA racer I wanted to thank your organization for the wonderful race support that was given at this years race. I was one of the fortunate few that managed to stay focused on the race, somewhat warm, and able to keep going without worrying about helping stranded cyclists. I was fully aware of the situation that unfolded around me and I imagine it was more stressful for your volunteers than it was for me.

Thanks again and I hope to see your group in future LOTOJA races.

Carl Horton



As reported in the Oct 1 issue of the Herald Journal, Page A3, the Logan Police Department and the Logan City School District are teaming up to install ham radios in each of the city's nine schools. On Friday Logan Police Officer Justin Peterson and network systems administrator Rik Stallings were at Woodruff Elementary School installing a ham radio in the school's office. The radios were surplus from Logan City with the antennas and other needed equipment being purchased with money from a Homeland Security grant. When the radios are installed the teachers and staff will be taught how to call for emergency help and those interested will get more training and eventually obtain amateur radio licenses so they could use the school's radios for personal use.



Answers to questions on page 8:

1-B, 2-B, 3-C, 4-A, 5-B, 6-A

## Club Officers

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*(Ham Profile Continued from page 1)*

306 and a few others. (It appears he might have commandeered Wally's whole inventory) He's using a 100' long wire, good basic stuff, which doesn't readily identify with the dimming of the neighbor's lights or a dog howling when his ears identify a CQ.

Kelin fought the battle of North Park elementary, Greenville middle school, North Cache and now shortly will be coasting thru the Sky View parking lot in the family Benz, stuffed with a few chicks, and sporting a mag mount on top, no less.

Kelin has had to fend for himself at the breakfast table elbowing past two older brothers and a younger sister, however so far he has the reign of Dad's shack all to himself.

Born in Logan and has lived in the same general area in North Logan. Kelin also is a member of the Sky View High Hockey team, has competed throughout Northern Utah with the best. When asked who he thought the best might be, he whispered--the rowdy bunch from Ogden. So far in all the frays, he has come up with not much more than some painful bruises. He should fit into our bunch in great style, as we don't inflict much worse than that in some of our bunny hunts and picnics. He voted our local ice rink as the best, even over the oval in Ogden. Perhaps he might even be the first in the Guinness book of records to stage an ice skating mobile, and put North Logan on the map. Incidentally the sky View Varsity Puck managing bunch took 2nd. place in the State last year.

Some years ago he inherited a banjo and immediately graduated up to a new 5 string job which he uses with the family blue grass group with Dad (who just lost his gear), plunking bass. Doesn't this sound familiar, start out with a QRP rig, inherit an HT, and medium powered HF rig, and then all of a sudden, show up with a 1,500 watt linear and 100' tower with multi element beams looking in all directions. Hint, Hint.

Not sure but this tuneful group might even consider some side line entertainment at the next BARC bash.

Dad & Mom whole heartedly support Kelin in his radio interests as well as the rest of the other bunch who claim Gibbons as a last name at the QTH.

A good go Kelin, keep involved and keep the HF rigs fired up, we need to use our allocated spectrum to the utmost, or other commercial interests might.

73s and keep the books of higher learning cracked open.

*(Presidents Message Continued from page 1)*

At our October meeting we will do something a little different. You will have to come and see what we are up too. The board has some ideas, and we need your input and expertise. This club meeting will allow everyone to give some input.

### **WIMU is Back**

Some of you are too new to Amateur Radio to remember these (myself included) but WIMU, short for Wyoming Idaho Montana and Utah, is the hamfest of the Rocky Mountain West. This hamfest to a break for a few years but is back in Jackson. It was a long tradition for this hamfest to be there in Jackson, well it is back. Look forward to it for August of 2006. Put it on your calendar and lets make a showing there to support this event.

### **Repeaters**

One of the coolest things about being a member of BARC is the bragging rights for the best repeater system in the area. I have been told several times by amateurs visiting the area, or from other clubs in the state how they like our system. It is pretty clean. Last month a new repeater, the 147.20 (103.5 PL) went up West of Clarkston. It is already a great addition to the system. Our repeater experts also went and installed a new system to help the Idaho amateurs out. I am pleased to announce the 146.80 repeater is back on the air. The 146.80 is not a repeater owned by BARC, but we sure do enjoy using it, and miss it when it is down. If any of you know Warren Wilde or hear him on the air AE7TA, please say thanks to him for letting us use it. Also say thanks to the many repeater gurus in our club who have made these all possible.

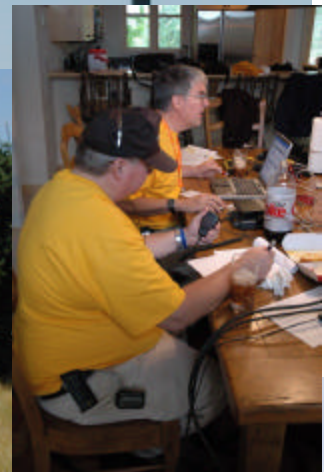
### **Finally**

I hope to see you at club meeting. Bring a friend with you and some ideas on what the club can do the for the coming year.

73's

Kevin Reeve

A few of the High Points of the activities for this summer



# LOTOJA



Montpelier Net control

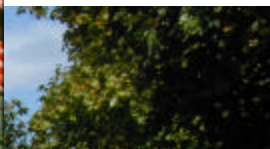
Astoria Feed Zone



Afton Net Control



The Top of Utah Marathon is getting very popular. This year started out a little cool and wet but turned out to be a nice day.



ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JBP, has provided written testimony on Amateur Radio's response in the Hurricane Katrina disaster to the US House Government Reform Committee. Haynie submitted the testimony to the congressional panel September 15 "on the successful efforts of Amateur Radio operators providing communications for first responders, disaster relief agencies and countless individuals in connection with the Hurricane Katrina relief effort" on behalf of the League. "As has been proven consistently and repeatedly in the past, when communications systems fail due to a wide-area or localized natural disaster, Amateur Radio works, right away, all the time," Haynie's statement said. "This report is not, therefore, a statement of concern about what must be changed or improved. It is, rather, a report on what is going right, and what works, in emergency communications in the Gulf Coast and what can be depended on to work the next time there is a natural disaster, and the times after that." The congressional committee, chaired by Virginia Republican Tom Davis, is holding hearings on the Hurricane Katrina response. Haynie told the panel that upward of 1000 Amateur Radio volunteers were or have been serving in the stricken area to provide communication for served agencies such as the American Red Cross and The Salvation Army and to facilitate interoperability among agencies. "Trained volunteer Amateur Radio operators are also providing health-and-welfare communications from within the affected area to the rest of the United States and the world," Haynie said. "In the past week, the Coast Guard, the Red Cross, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency all put out calls for volunteer Amateur Radio operators to provide communications, because phone lines and cell sites were inoperative, and public safety communications facilities were overwhelmed due to loss of repeater towers and the large number of first responders in the area." Haynie pointed out that the main reason Amateur Radio works then other communication systems fail during natural disasters is that it's not infrastructure-dependent and is decentralized. "Amateurs are trained in emergency communications. They are disciplined operators, and their stations are, in general, portable and reliable," he told the panel. The ARRL President also put in a good word for the FCC's Enforcement Bureau for what he called "its efficient and successful efforts" during the hurricane response in monitoring HF nets to minimize incidents of interference. "The Committee should be aware that this vast volunteer resource is always at the disposal of the federal government," Haynie concluded. "The United States absolutely can rely on the Amateur Radio Service. Amateur Radio provides immediate, high-quality communications that work every time, when all else fails." Haynie's complete testimony is available on the ARRL Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2005/09/15/100/#statement>>

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**The ARES E-Letter September 22, 2005**

ARES reports, other related contributions, editorial questions or comments: Rick Palm, K1CE, k1ce@arrl.net

**NORTH CAROLINA'S OPHELIA RESPONSE**

[The following is a report on fine North Carolina ARES activity in support of storm Ophelia from Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK, North Carolina Section Emergency Coordinator, forwarded by SM John Covington, W4CC]. All of North Carolina's coastal counties were activated in anticipation of Hurricane Ophelia. The eastern branch EOC was in contact with the hardest hit counties of Burnswick, and New Hanover. The eastern branch EOC operators used 3927 kHz and 7232 kHz, and the Burnswick County repeater on 147.315 MHz. All operations went smoothly and the participation was great. We had more ECs on HF than ever before, and I would like to stress the importance of having that capability. I would like to see all ECs become

General class licensees for that reason. There was a lot of activity on our coastal linking system, which allows us to get into the outer banks. Richard Marlin, K4HAT, at Cape Hatteras fed us information about the storm effects, and several messages were given to the eastern branch EOC director. All NWS weather stations should have HF capability—I will talk to NWS staff at the Morehead and Raleigh stations about arranging for that capability.—  
Contact NC SEC Bernie Nobles, WA4MOK:  
<bernie\_nobles@unctv.org>

**HURRICANE KATRINA RESPONSE UPDATE**

[Much of the following overview of the current Katrina response was culled from summaries of daily teleconferences of ARES officials in and around the affected areas conducted by Steve Ewald, WV1X, of the ARRL Headquarters staff. After the overview, we have a few compelling reports from the trenches. I think readers will find them to be riveting. - K1CE]

**Texas:** In the Houston area, STX SEC Jerry Reimer, KK5CA, reported that hams are still supporting the big Houston Astrodome shelter. Other shelters in Houston have closed or were consolidated. Ray Taylor, N5NAV, who has reviewed the shelter situation throughout the entire state, said 160 shelters remain open.

**Alabama:** SEC Greg Sarratt, W4OZK, reports that the Montgomery American Red Cross staging area staff has been "slowing down the pipeline" of available Amateur Radio operators because the need for operators is decreasing—more Red Cross shelters and kitchens are getting telephone and cell phone service back. The Montgomery American Red Cross Amateur Radio HF station used the call sign N4AP and the frequencies 3.965 MHz and 7.280 MHz for communication with other Red Cross shelters/kitchens on the air throughout the region. Almost one hundred radio amateurs deployed to Red Cross shelters and kitchens throughout the affected region from the Montgomery staging center. Some operators have gone to the shelters alone, while others have gone in teams of two. Amateur Radio has been the primary shelter communication system for many shelters that do not have reliable means for communicating. Other operators have been given Salvation Army assignments. Alabama SEC Jay Isbell, KA4KUN, said some of the served agencies are "re-tooling" at the moment, and supporting radio operators are taking a rest at home before heading out again on new legs of the assignment.

**Louisiana:** Acting Louisiana SEC Al Oubre, K5DPG, was expecting operators from Colorado, Wisconsin and a team from the ARRL Western Washington section. He was anticipating more Amateur Radio needed for Red Cross ops in St. Bernard and Jefferson Parishes. Oubre said he has 12 radio amateurs on current assignment in Covington, Bogalusa and Franklinton, Louisiana. Phone and cell phone service is slowly returning to some parts of the state. Oubre concluded: "All in all, a good reply from the country in mutual assistance."—Contact Al Oubre, K5DPG: <k5dpg@cox.net>

Benson Scott, AE5V, and Mickey Cox, K5MC, among others, have been handling health and welfare traffic. Scott is doing so via NTS Digital operations and Winlink. They are working on finding outlets to deliver the traffic.

**Mississippi:** In Harrison and Jackson Counties, more repeaters are back on-line as commercial power is restored. The Harrison County EOC is closing its Amateur Radio response operation. Radio amateurs are expected to continue to support the Stennis EOC in hardest hit Hancock county until the end of the month. Northern Florida SM Rudy Hubbard, WA4PUP, has been coordinating Florida ARES operator resources to assist there. Northern Florida SEC Joe Bushel, W2DWR, reported that Amateur Radio operators were helping the National Guard working in this area to keep in touch with the EOC. Mississippi SM/SEC Malcolm Keown, W5XX, stressed the need that SECs and SMs should continue to act as "screeners" for volunteer radio operators coming in from around the country.

## SHELTER OPERATIONS IN HARRIS COUNTY, SOUTH TEXAS

The Harris County Amateur Radio community, lead by the Harris County ARES Emergency Coordinators, continues to assist with communications for various Incident Command elements at both the Astrodome/Reliant Center and George R. Brown Convention Center shelters. More than 130 licensed Amateur Radio operators are participating on-site, with many more support operators behind the scenes. Other amateurs from surrounding counties are also being used in this deployment. Harris County emergency management's Regional Incident Management System (RIMS) is used to track communication events and staffing. To date, 1,626 person-hours of direct Amateur Radio communications support have been provided. A communications link was established between Harris and Galveston Counties to support the use of FEMA-leased cruise ships as shelters. This involved the Galveston ARES EC and Amateur Radio operators of both counties. Alongside the on-site communications support effort, Amateur Radio operators who could not participate in the deployment joined a Harris County ARES health and welfare messaging task force to contact shelters in the greater Harris County area. Task force operators gather messages from shelter residents for assisting in reuniting friends and families. Success stories are already being heard. This focus will remain as long as needed.—Harris County (Texas) ARES DEC, Ken Mitchell, KD2KW

### "FOG OF WAR"—HOUSTON KATRINA RESPONSE DAY 16

[Here is a personal glimpse into the mental and physical challenges facing ARES volunteers, from Hal Merritt, KD5HWW, EC Northwest Harris County ARES—ed.]

"At least I think it is day 16. It is something of a blur. Mental exhaustion is everywhere. The days are so intense that it takes hours to fall asleep. We estimate 2,000 person-hours logged so far. "Things are contracting. We are down to our last few thousand folks in shelters. It was difficult to recruit enough hams but now it is getting to be nearly impossible. Operators have given their all. They have exhausted their vacations and pushed their employers' patience as far as they dare. We have 130 hams on the resource list. "Things continue to change at a rapid clip. By the time we can respond to a need, there can be a change. That can be frustrating for all. This 'fog of war' remains a huge challenge."

### SPECIAL NEEDS SHELTER, BILOXI, MISSISSIPPI

[The mission: care for 1,400 ill and elderly evacuees at the "Special Needs Shelter" in Biloxi. Army MARS members John Pinkard, KD5KXJ/AAM4EMS, and John Whitten, W5JWW/AAA4MS, deployed on August 30 from northern Mississippi. Both were volunteers with the Mississippi State Guard. Pinkard sent the following account of their week's work in Biloxi. -ed.] I am 50 and thought I had seen everything. But this was the most horrendous vision of my life. We deployed as part of the State Guard in support of the Mississippi Medical Detachment and arrived at the special needs shelter at the Biloxi High School. Occupants of the shelter totaled 1,400 persons, mostly nursing home and hospice patients. Most of them had given up hope. They had scant food and water for two days, and were without power or sanitary facilities. The staff (three nurses and one doctor) was overwhelmed and exhausted. They had almost no medical supplies. The scene was one of horror: non-ambulatory occupants were reduced to relieving themselves where they lay. The smell was overpowering. The staff was doing their best, having braved the fury of the storm to remain at their post rendering aid to their helpless charges. They saved lives by dogged determination. I began erecting antennas and setting up a communication room. We ran three portable generators for vital services, cooling fans, O2 concentrators, and communication equipment. We used a Harris commercial HF rig and a Yaesu FT-817, tuned to the local amateur club's VHF repeater. Several HTs were used. Thanks to radio amateurs set up at strategic

points, contact was made with ambulance dispatch, Keesler AFB, Mississippi State Police, and the EOCs for Harrison, Hancock, and Jackson Counties. Contact was also made with Army MARS. Traffic consisted of several requests for ambulance assistance for the evacuation of four critically ill patients, and for supplies and materials. Supplies began to arrive and things began to improve rapidly. While the role of HF operations cannot be minimized, the real star of the show was VHF operations allowing quick access to a wide array of assets, without which the outcome of the operation would have in no way been nearly so favorable.



### MORE ON THE SATERN STORY

Katrina is possibly the most catastrophic emergency in the MARS organization's operational history going back to its conception in 1925 (then known as the Army Amateur Radio Service). Among other things, this was also the most widespread communications breakdown in US history; and the primary mission of MARS is providing backup communications. Significantly, it was the communications know-how of radio amateurs, and secondarily their radio equipment that provided much of the immediate help to the disaster zone.

### AMATEURS SUPPORT BROADCAST STATION ROLE

A low power FM broadcast station, WQRZ-LP is owned and operated by the Hancock County Amateur Radio Association, Inc., a non-profit 501©(3) organization. WQRZ-LP broadcasts on 103.5 MHz and was the only surviving broadcast facility in Hancock County, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina made landfall. The station was granted an emergency waiver by the FCC to temporarily raise its ERP from 100 watts to 2,000 watts to increase its range in order to better serve the public with emergency news and information. The following engineers, both Society of Broadcast Engineers (SBE) members and Amateur Radio operators donated their time and effort to install new equipment and raise the station's power level: Gary Sessums, KC5QCN; Sara Allen, KI4KMI; Gary Minker, KC4UDZ; and Brice Phillips, KB5MPW. We moved the surviving WQRZ-LP studio equipment to the Hancock County EOC and installed it along with brand new equipment, creating a new radio station, allowing the Hancock County Emergency Management staff to talk directly to the public from the EOC. 3,000 portable AM/FM radios were distributed at the food, water, and ice distribution points. Harris Corporation and Marti Electronics provided the equipment used to make this happen.—Gary Sessums, KC5QCN, RACES Officer/ARES Emergency Coordinator, Hillsborough County, Florida

### OPINION: LET'S MAKE ARRL AN "NGO"

Nearly all government emergency responders still regard radio amateurs as outsiders and not part of their system of operations. They don't understand our capability. We don't fit their ideal of an emergency responder, and consequently there is a lack of trust. Non-government organizations (NGO) like the Red Cross are also outsiders but have an accepted, defined role and provide an excellent, needed service. Maybe we, ARRL, should promote ourselves more as an official NGO. I worked for an NGO, Direct Relief International, in Santa Barbara, California, and had a chance to see how they work. NGOs see themselves as outsiders looking in, but take full advantage of that role. I saw them flourish during the tsunami disaster because they are an alternative to government agencies with their attendant problems. Let's make the ARRL an NGO, because that is exactly what we are: an alternative communications resource ready and able to function anywhere and anytime with trained and dedicated volunteers.—John Wallack, W6TLK <w6tlk@yahoo.com> [John is the former ARRL Section Manager of the San Francisco section. - ed.]

## Questions for General Class License

1. (G1B07) What are the restrictions on the use of abbreviations or procedural signals in the amateur service?
  - A. Only "Q" codes are permitted
  - B. They may be used if they do not obscure the meaning of a message
  - C. They are not permitted because they obscure the meaning of a message to FCC monitoring stations
  - D. Only "10-codes" are permitted
2. (G1F02) Without a grant of FCC certification, how many external RF amplifiers of a given design capable of operation below 144 MHz may you build or modify in one calendar year?
  - A. None
  - B. 1
  - C. 5
  - D. 10
3. (G2C01) What means may an amateur station in distress use to attract attention, make known its condition and location, and obtain assistance?
  - A. Only Morse code signals sent on internationally recognized emergency channels
  - B. Any means of radiocommunication, but only on internationally recognized emergency channels
  - C. Any means of radiocommunication
  - D. Only those means of radiocommunication for which the station is licensed
4. (G2E13) Which of the following would indicate the completion of the transmitting of a formal message when using phone?
  - A. The phrase, "End of message"
  - B. The word "Break"
  - C. The Q-signal "QSL?"
  - D. The Q-signal "QRV"
5. (G3C06) What is a characteristic of HF scatter signals?
  - A. High intelligibility
  - B. A wavering sound
  - C. Reversed modulation
  - D. Reversed sidebands
6. (G4D03) What is the output PEP from a transmitter if an oscilloscope measures 200 volts peak-to-peak across a 50-ohm resistor connected to the transmitter output?
  - A. 100 watts
  - B. 200 watts
  - C. 400 watts
  - D. 1000 watts

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PROVIDENCE, UT 84332**



***October, 2005***

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