THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

March 2006

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

HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

If any of you living in the South end of the valley get carried away and start a conflagration in your castle or other structure, there's a good chance one of our members would arrive shortly and douse it and you with some water. That capability rests with none other than Travis Swan, N7ZWH, who is fully supported by a good frau, the former Stacey Sessions, KD7FXI. This pair has upped our voting power along with the other great teams and OMs in the South end of the valley. They have made Hyrum their QTH shortly after jointly signing their names on the dotted line as evidence they intended to get married several years ago.

They faked me out in arrival instructions to the home domicile. Usually the dead give away is to scan the horizon for antennas, it generally never fails. This time it did. What initially appeared to be a couple of 2 meter ground planes on the roof turned out to be a couple of lightning rods of the appropriate quarter wave length. Zounds, foiled again. He has his antennas in the attic, a pretty shrewd diversion.

Travis has held his Tech ticket for about 15 years, Stacey since about 99. He bears the honor of being in the 10th. graduating class at Mountain Crest,

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Spring is here, and lots of exciting events are around the corner. As many of you are aware, we are currently teaching a ham radio class to foster more interest in the hobby and help those interested prepare for the exam. We had 17 show up for the class, and many of them are under 18. There are a variety of interests in the hobby as well, including HF. It is exciting to be a part of this class. I do not think all of them will be ready for the March exam, but no doubt they all want to become a ham radio operator. We have some families participating. We will have another class is the fall, and maybe one sooner if there is interest and we can find available instructors.

In this issue you will find the budget to be voted on at the March club meeting. It is no different than most years. According to the bylaws we must vote on a budget each year and publish this in the Ohm Town News before the vote. (It will be printed next month).

I wish to thank Rik Stallings N7XZ for putting on a fantastic presentation at the last club meeting. All of us have computers in the shack, many of them connected to the internet. I learned a lot from Rik.

A list of summer activities was passed around at the last meeting, If you are not able to be at a meeting to sign up for one, then give Tyler a shout to get on the list for this year.

The board is working on a build it party for May. We do not have exact plans yet but should soon. One idea floating around is battery chargers for these 7.5 amp hour sealed led acid batteries. That could be fun.

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Ham Radio class a big hit! More info on page 2.

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 2006

March 11, 8:00 A.M. - VE Test Session
Held in the Old Main Building room 407 at USU.
Old Main is located on the west end of the USU Campus, the building with the A on the tower. Park on the south side of the building and enter on the east side.

March 11, 10:00 A.M. - Club Meeting
Mel Parkes, AC7CP, ARRL Section Manager will speak

April 22 - Northern Utah Hamfest

May 25 ? - Mt. Man Rendezvous

May 19 -21 - Dayton Hamvention

June 3 ? - Cache Classic

June 10 ? - Cache Valley Biathlon

June - Utah Hamfest

June 9, 10, 11 - Hamcon

June 23 & 24 - Wasatch Back Relay

June 24 & 25 - Utah MS 150

June 24 & 25 - Field Day

BARC Club Meetings are normally on Saturday mornings at 10:00 A.M. on the 3rd floor of the Cache County Sheriffs Complex on 200 North and 1225 West, Logan, Utah

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ARES Meetings 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.

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Ham Radio Class A Big Hit

The Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club and Utah 4-H teamed up to offer a 3 night class to help students prepare for the technician class license exam. There are currently 17 adults, teenagers, and kids in the class who are excited to become part of the hobby. They all have different interest in the hobby, including HF communications, and emergency communications. Kevin Kessler, KE7AAF the state director of 4-H, Kevin Reeve N7RXE, and Bob Wood, WA7MXZ are teaching the course. More have expressed interest in the class, but are unable to attend because of other Thursday night conflicts. Look for at least one more class this year. If you are willing to help teach a class, let a member of the board know.

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Answers to questions on page 6:
1-C, 2-A, 3-C, 4-C, 5-B, 6-D, 7-C

(Presidents Message Continued from page 1)

Our March meeting will feature Mel Parks our ARRL section manager who just changed his callsign and I can not remember what it is. Mel is a great speaker and you will learn a lot from him.

We will be meeting on the 3rd floor of the sheriffs office from now on. The room is better suited for club meetings and we do not have the door security we have in the EOC.

Hope to see you all there in March.

73,

Kevin Reeve

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(Ham Profile Continued from page 1)

where the consistent East wind has bent over students for quite a spell. He indicated the group of brave souls who have built homes on the far East side of Hyrum, have slowed down the neighborhood gale force winds considerably.

He has a 2 meter HT, and a couple of older 2 channel commercial rigs on 2 installed in a couple of the family racers.

Travis received his BS in Business Information Systems and presently works for Wescor as their webmaster, which is the primary source of sheckels for the Ham equipment fund. He also serves as a volunteer fireman for Hyrum city. He tells of some exciting and rather somber experiences with the fire brigade. He was on the site with the recent CO2 deaths in the city, they were close friends. He recalls crawling on the floor in another recent house fire when the heat and flames had apparently reached a supply of ammunition. Bullets and casings were flying in all directions, they weren't sure if they were being fired on or if they should raise a white flag. Fortunately the area of fatalities has been kept to a minimum.

He served a mission for his faith in bonny auld England, aged several years by driving on the left hand side of the road, and mastered a few cockney phrases that might startle one a bit.

His spouse Stacey, was born in Salt Lake City, the family living in Evanston, WY at the time. Must have been an exciting run to the hospital. She and the family lived in Morgan, she then attended USU with a degree in Microbiology and a job for a period at Hyclone. Just think guys, she may have had a hand in coming up with your flu shot vaccine. The Swans have two harmonics, girls, 3 years and 9 months.

Now for the clincher. His mother just happened to be her advisor while she was at USU. Does that sound like a plot or not. Apparently she forwarded some pictures of her advisees to Travis while in the UK, indicating some promising individuals. An appropriate introduction was made about 8 hours after touchdown at the SLC airport and things got better thereafter. It seems Ham matches are made in heaven as well as in Hyrum. Stacey whammed the exam at about 100% and has enjoyed the convenience of communications since. She has been excited about the joint involvement from the beginning. About time to spring the 80' tower project isn't it Travis?

Welcome to the rowdy bunch, folks.
73s.

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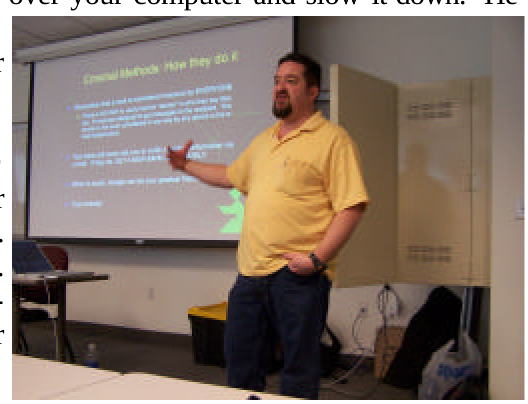
February Club Meeting topic: Protecting your computer

Club members and guests were treated to a fantastic presentation by Rik Stallings, N7XZ on protecting your computer from viruses, worms, and other nasty things that can take over your computer and slow it down. He

also talked about bogus emails that look like your banks or other financial institution trying to steal your information. Your bank will never ask for info through an email. Do not fall for these. Rik provided some advice on software tools for protecting yourself.



Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club Log-in # _____
Application for the Year 2006 Membership
Dues are in effect January 1. 2006 through December 31. 2006

Name _____ Call Sign_____ Date Paid _____

P.O. Box _____ Street Address _____
City _____ State_____ Zip Code_____
Home Phone ( ) _____ Work Phone ( ) _____
Phone # for Auto-Dial Slot_____ E-mail_____

Individual Membership - $25 $ _____

Additional Family members in same household - $3 ea $ _____
(One Newsletter per household)
Names and call signs of additional family members Total $ _____
Name _____ Call Sign _____
Name _____ Call Sign _____

Are you an ARRL Member? ____

Mail your completed form and a check to:
B.A.R.C., P.O. Box 111, Providence, UT 84332-0111
B.A.R.C. is a non-profit organization

The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 05 February 3, 2006

==>"SUITSAT-1" LAUNCHED FROM ISS

"SuitSat-1" is orbiting Earth! ISS Expedition 13 flight engineer Valery Tokarev released the unique and enthusiastically anticipated satellite into orbit February 3 at 2303 UTC as he and ISS Expedition 12 Commander Bill McArthur, KC5ACR, began a six-hour space walk. SuitSat-1 consists of a discarded Russian Orlan spacesuit reconfigured to function as a free-floating Amateur Radio transmit-only satellite. Activated at 2259 UTC, the satellite was programmed to come to life some 16 minutes later on 145.99 MHz. The 16-minute delay is said to be a crew safety measure. SuitSat-1's deployment over the south-central Pacific Ocean was the first task of the space walk. "Dosvidanya! Good-bye, Mr Smith!" Tokarev said in Russian as SuitSat, unhooked from its tether and pushed away from the space station, tumbled slowly away into the void. "It's moving at the specified acceleration." A project of the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program <http://www.rac.ca/ariss>, SuitSat drifted off until it appeared as a mere speck silhouetted against brightly illuminated Earth below. The NASA trajectory operations officer at Mission Control called it "a good deploy within the cone for safety to ensure no re-contact with the International Space Station." NASA-TV provided live coverage of the space walk and SuitSat-1's release. The Amateur Radio community, students, scanner enthusiasts, space fans and others have been eagerly awaiting the launch of the most novel satellite ever to orbit Earth. SuitSat-1 will transmit its voice message "This is SuitSat-1 RS0RS!" in several languages plus telemetry and an SSTV image on an eight-minute cycle as it orbits Earth. The three batteries powering the satellite are expected to last about a week, and SuitSat-1 should re-enter Earth's atmosphere after several weeks of circling the globe. SuitSat-1's 500 mW transmitter will report mission time, suit temperature and battery voltage (28 V is nominal) down to Earth. Its single Robot 36-format SSTV image is said to be similar in resolution to a cell-phone quality picture. SuitSat-1's signal should be strong enough to hear using a VHF transceiver or scanner and a simple antenna. Its payload also includes a CD containing hundreds of school pictures, artwork, poems and student signatures. JH3XCU/1 in Japan posted the first reception reports, noting a weak signal. Those who copy the SuitSat-1 transmissions on 145.99 MHz are asked to post a real-time report on the SuitSat Web site <http://www.suitsat.org/>, which contains additional informational links. Initially, its orbit will approximately coincide with that of the ISS. Later, as SuitSat-1's orbit begins to decay, it may show up a few minutes earlier than the space station. The AMSAT Web site offers a listing of ISS passes <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/> and a graph showing the position of the ISS <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/tools/predict/satloc.php?lang=en&satellite=ISS>. ARISS invites schools and other educational groups—formal or otherwise—to post educational outreach reports and SSTV images via e-mail <suitsat@comcast.net> ARISS International

Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, credits ARISS-Russia's Sergei Samburov, RV3DR, and his colleagues with coming up with the spacesuit-cum-satellite concept. SuitSat-1--called Radioskaf or Radio Sputnik in Russian—is a first test of that idea, he says. If successful, there's another unneeded Orlan spacesuit still aboard the ISS. For a SuitSat-1 QSL, send signal reports accompanied by a large (9x12 inch) self-addressed, stamped envelope to the appropriate address: USA: ARRL, SuitSat QSL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111-1494 USA. Students will receive a certificate commemorating their reception. Those who receive the SSTV picture or copy the "special words" will get a special endorsement on their certificate. The special words—in English, French, German, Spanish, Russian and Japanese—are embedded in the pre-recorded greetings in multiple languages from students around the globe. SuitSat-1 has piqued the imagination of the news media over the past couple of weeks. In addition to articles in The New York Times, the Houston Chronicle and Associated Press, National Public Radio, Fox News, CNN, the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, MSNBC and others also produced broadcast or cable news reports. A magazine article is set to appear in Aviation Week and Space Technology. Additional information about SuitSat on the AMSAT Web site <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/SuitSat/>. See "This is SuitSat-1 RS0RS!" by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO <http://www.amsat.org/amsat-new/articles/BauerSuitsat/index.php>. ARISS is an international educational outreach with US participation from ARRL, AMSAT and NASA.

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The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 07 February 17, 2006

==>FCC NONCOMMITTAL ON "MORSE CODE" PROCEEDING ACTION

Just when the FCC will act on the "Morse code" proceeding, WT Docket 05-235, remains hazy. The Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order (NPRM&O) last July proposing to eliminate the Element 1 (5 WPM) Morse code requirement for all license classes. The Amateur Radio community has filed more than 3800 comments on the proceeding, and additional comments continue to show up, even though the formal comment deadline was last October 31 (with reply comments by November 14). The next—and most-anticipated—step for the Commission is to formally adopt any revisions to its rules and conclude the proceeding with a Report and Order (R&O) that spells out the changes and specifies their effective date. "There really is no news," an FCC Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staffer told ARRL this week on background. "We certainly hope to release WT Docket 05-235 sometime this year, but we're not making any predictions at this time. We certainly are not saving up any big announcements for Dayton Hamvention." Beyond eliminating the Morse requirement, the FCC declined proposing any other suggested changes to the Amateur Service. The proceeding began with 18 petitions for rule making—many just calling for the elimination of the Morse requirement but some asking for more far-reaching changes in the Amateur Service rules. The various petitions attracted a total of some 6200 comments. The FCC subsequently consolidated the petitions—including one from the ARRL asking the FCC to establish a new entry-level license class and to retain the Morse requirement only for Amateur Extra class applicants—into a single proceeding designated WT 05-235. The FCC has not proposed extending HF privileges to current Technician licensees who have not passed a Morse code examination. In its NPRM&O the FCC suggested that in a no-Morse-requirement regime, "codeless Techs" could gain HF access by taking the Element 3 General class written examination. Any FCC decision to eliminate the 5 WPM Morse code requirement for HF access would have no impact on either the current HF CW-only subbands or on the CW privileges of Amateur Radio licensees. Before it releases an R&O on the Morse code proceeding, however, the WTB wants to wrap up action in another Amateur Radio-related docket—the "Phone Band Expansion" (or "Omnibus") NPRM in WT Docket 04-140, released April 15, 2004. A dozen petitions for rulemaking, some dating back to 2001, were consolidated in the Omnibus proceeding. In that NPRM, the Commission proposed to go along with the ARRL's Novice refarming plan aimed at reallocating the current Novice/Tech Plus subbands and expanding portions of the 80, 40 and 15 meter phone bands. The FCC also agreed with an ARRL proposal to extend privileges in the current General CW-only HF subbands to present Novice and Tech Plus licensees (or Technicians with Element 1 credit). WT 04-140 further proposed to essentially do away with FCC rules prohibiting the manufacture and marketing to Amateur Radio operators of amplifiers capable of operation on 12 and 10 meters.

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The ARRL Letter Vol. 25, No. 08 February 24, 2006

==>ARISS MAKES IT OFFICIAL: TREMENDOUSLY SUCCESSFUL" SUITSAT-1 IS SK

SuitSat-1 is now a confirmed "Silent Key." So says its sponsor, the Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) program. In operation for more than two weeks, SuitSat-1--designated AO-54--easily outlasted initial predictions that it would transmit for about one week. ARISS International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, says the mission captured imaginations around the world, despite a much-lower-than-expected signal strength. "The outreach, press requests and visibility of SuitSat were absolutely amazing and appear to be unprecedented for a ham radio event," Bauer said. "While the press requests are just now starting to wane, we expect that you will continue to see SuitSat status reports and pictures in magazines, Web sites and other literature over the next few months." The more than nine million hits at the SuitSat Web site attest to the level of interest in the SuitSat-1 experiment, Bauer noted, calling the tally "quite impressive indeed!" ….. The AMSAT/ARISS team already is looking forward to a SuitSat-2. "Correcting the signal strength issue would be a top priority for this flight," Bauer said. "So would be a longer-term power generation device, like solar arrays." Although no longer transmitting, SuitSat-1 could continue orbiting Earth for another 70 to 120 days, depending on atmospheric drag, Bauer said. More information on the SuitSat-1 project, including QSL information, is available on the AMSAT Web site <http://www.amsat.org/> and on the SuitSat Web site <http://www.suitsat.org/>.

Questions for Technician Class License

1. (T2B03) What name does the FCC use for telemetry, tele-command or computer communications emissions?
A. CW
B. Image
C. Data
D. RTTY

2. (T5A05) If you transmit from another amateur's station, who is responsible for its proper operation?
A. Both of you
B. The other amateur (the station licensee)
C. You, the control operator
D. The station licensee, unless the station records show that you were the control operator at the time

3. (T7A17) If an ammeter marked in amperes is used to measure a 3000-milliampere current, what reading would it show?
A. 0.003 amperes
B. 0.3 amperes
C. 3 amperes
D. 3,000,000 amperes

4. (T8D06) How long should you make a quarter-wavelength vertical antenna for 440 MHz (measured to the nearest inch)?
A. 12 inches
B. 9 inches
C. 6 inches
D. 3 inches

5. (T9B15) Which of the following will allow you to monitor Amateur Television (ATV) on the 70-cm band?
A. A portable video camera
B. A cable ready TV receiver
C. An SSTV converter
D. A TV flyback transformer

6. (T0C10) Which of the following is considered to be non-Ionizing radiation?
A. X-radiation
B. Gamma radiation
C. Ultra violet radiation
D. Radio frequency radiation

7. (T0F15) In which of the following areas is it most difficult to accurately evaluate the effects of RF radiation exposure?
A. In the far field
B. In the cybersphere
C. In the near field
D. In the low-power field

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March, 2006

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