THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

January 2007

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

Happy New Year!

HAM PROFILE

by Boyd Humpherys W7MOY

BARC has a lot of notables, famous, talented, eager, young, even younger, old, educators, men of the earth, tinkerers, keepsake collectors, etc., etc. We also have a "Flying Dutchman", in none other than Ernie Vandenwijngaert, KB7ZNH. As most would correctly guess, the name signifies some Dutch and Belgian ancestry. Asked if he knew the individual by the name of Peter Updyke who stuck his finger in the pie(wups-I mean the dike), and saved the wooden shoe group from an untimely bath, he said no, but he lived right down the road, on the left hand side.

Ernie got his ticket back in 91-92, now holds an advanced ducat. He sports a couple of suspected gray market Kenwood HTs probably manufactured in Holland, a couple of Kenwood and Alinco base and mobile units and another Kenwood blaster that keeps the birds off the wires and the neighbor's dog scratching his ears. His stealth windham has "Quest" labels stuck all over it to stymie the neighborhood vigilanties. Just ONE of his several vehicle mounted antennas is a 5/8 wave vertical, a comet 440 and a HF version which on occasion draws the stares of the local constabulary. His motto, keep on the move, you're harder to track that way.

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Wow. 2007. Time marches on and brings a lot of changes with it, including some switching around in the club officers and board. I want to thank everyone for the moral support I have received so far. I appreciate the other officers and board members who were willing to serve the club for 2007. It will be a team effort to keep the forward momentum going that Kevin Reeve and other past presidents, officers and board members have built up.

The FCC has been busy. The HF band changes part of the "Omnibus" proceeding published to the Federal Register in November and taking effect last month had a number of nets scrambling. Now the "Morse code" proceeding has been announced and should be published some time this month. These changes have influenced our initial plans for the club meetings between now and Field Day.

The January club meeting will be an "Informal Homebrew Expo". We invite you to bring your ham related projects built from scratch, kits or custom modifications. Hopefully these will spur some ideas to help us further the radio art as well as identify projects for a build-it party in the spring. I'm sure there will be some

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 2007

January 13 (Saturday) - Club meeting
Homebrew Expo - bring you masterpieces, or anything that you have that you would like to show off

February 10 (Saturday) - Club meeting

February 15 (Thursday) - UHF RACES Net 8:00 P.M.

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

Club Store News By N7RXE

The Club store has just been restocked with the following.
Coax Cable RG 213 and RG 8x
All kinds of connectors and adapters including N connectors
SMA to UHF female cable – NEW
Anderson Power Poles & Anderson Power Splitters
TRAM 2meter/440 NMO antennas
Mag Mounts, Line kits and L brackets for mobile antennas
ARRL Technician and General Class License books
More

The Club store is available at club meetings and you can also contact me and stop by the house. Kevin.reeve@usu.edu 753-1645

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(Presidents Message Continued from page 1)

discussion about the FCC "Morse code" changes as well as the past "Omnibus" changes from December.

In February we will be voting on the 2007 budget. We will also have a General and an Extra class study session to help those who are interested in upgrading in March.

After your early morning test session in March, come on over for an APRS. This is a topic we haven't covered for a while. I have talked to a few people who have said that they have tried packet or APRS but ran into some snags. Hopefully you will join us so we can help out.

Hopefully the weather and orbits will be nice in April for a satellite presentation. This is a topic that Kevin Reeve (N7RXE) has been interested in seeing covered for some time. Afterwards we will have a bunny hunt.

May will be our last formal club meeting before the summer break. It seemed like a great time to have a build-it and fix-it party to put together some fun projects and prepare our equipment for field day. We hope to have a digital HF station set up to show off some of the fun digital HF modes like PSK-31. Maybe someone will hide the bunny for us to find afterwards.

Jacob / kd7yko

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

(Ham Profile Continued from page 1)

Thanks to a good local sponsoring family a few years back, Ernie's parents came over to the US and settled in Happy Valley. According to Ernie, his dad, a tailor by profession, could fix up anything that most people could rip apart. Ernie was born in Logan, attended the Ellis, Junior High, Logan High, and garnered a BSEE at USU. Incidentally one of his grade school teachers, Merlin Olson's mom, as we understand it, deciphered his early mixed Flemish-English homework. He learned both languages and as he described it, really impressed the rest of the class with his scholarly presentations.

Ernie served a mission for his faith in the Pittsburgh area and quickly found the big city was considerably larger than the modest hamlets here in the valley.

As would be expected amongst this austere group, he recalled some interesting experiences wherein the use of his ever ready equipment, probably saved some lives. One incident involved a desperate call for help from a 72 year old deer hunter, stuck near the top of Mt. Harrison,(147.0 repeater location near Burley). Through a lengthy series of 911 calls to local and Box Elder Co. search and rescue personnel, a six hour rescue mission finally retrieved the nervous ham from the grips of an uncertain fate, thanks to Ernie's efforts.

Another almost first on the scene event in a Sardine Canyon head on collision some years back, brought some immediate help from both Box Elder and Cache County crews, when no other communications were possible. Thanks to the use of the .72 repeater.

Several other incidents serve to emphasize the willingness & capability of the Amateur Radio fraternity.

Ernie and spouse have three harmonics, a couple of boys and a gal, scattered hither and yon, none yet afflicted with the electronics bug, but who knows.

Ernie has been involved in the design of ultrasonic gear, initially for Lundahl Instruments, holds 5 patents and has some real interesting ideas on using H2O in powering combustion engines. NOW watch the price of water go up. The members of BARC will undoubtedly get some sort of discount. Glad you're aboard Ernie, 73

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Most Americans unprepared for disaster, study says

By Mimi Hall 18 Dec 2006 USA Today

WASHINGTON — Most Americans haven't taken steps to prepare for a natural disaster, terrorist attack or other emergency, according to a new study on preparedness, and only about a third have made plans with family members about how they would communicate with one another during a crisis.

More than five years after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks and more than a year after the devastating Gulf Coast hurricanes highlighted the need for people to take disaster preparedness seriously, emergency management officials say they are frustrated that so many people remain complacent.

"People have this attitude of 'it's not going to affect me' or 'I'll have time to prepare,"' says Robert Palestrant, acting director of emergency preparedness and homeland security for Miami-Dade County.

He says the message about preparedness from the city, county and state in Florida has been "consistent and constant" but too many people still don't listen.

"There's a lot of frustration on our end," Palestrant says.

The nonprofit Council for Excellence in Government developed a Public Readiness Index as part of its report, rating people's preparedness on a one-to-10 scale based on answers to 10 questions. The questions range from whether people know about their community's disaster plan and how to find the emergency broadcasting channel on the radio to whether they've prepared a home disaster kit and established a meeting place for family members.

The average score on the index was 3.31.

"Clearly we're disappointed with the overall number," says the council's director, Patricia McGinnis, who hopes the index will catch on as a tool for businesses, schools and individuals to rate and improve their preparedness.

The council also developed an online "RQ (Readiness Quotient) Test" to allow people to test their own preparedness at www.whatsyourrq.org.

The report also found:

People 65 and older were less likely to be prepared than younger people.

People with higher education and income levels were likely to be better prepared than others.

Hispanics are less prepared than whites and African-Americans.

Parents of schoolchildren who know about their school's emergency plans are likely to be much better prepared, but most parents didn't know details of the school emergency plans.

Full-time employees who know about and have practiced company disaster plans are better prepared.

McGinnis says the survey shows that emergency managers would be wise to work through schools and businesses to promote preparedness.

"There's not any silver bullet," she says, "but we're looking for a tipping point to make it a movement."

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Note from the Editor: The following is an excerpt from the R&O from the Federal Communications Commission regarding the recent changes to the Amateur Radio service. This contains only the Introduction and Executive Summary of the report, for the remainder of the report and discussions of the information please see the complete report as found on the ARRL or FCC Web sites, at http://www.ARRL.org or http://www.FCC.gov.

Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Rules
To Implement WRC-03 Regulations Applicable to Requirements for Operator Licenses in the Amateur Radio Service
Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing the Amateur Radio Services

REPORT AND ORDER AND ORDER ON RECONSIDERATION

Adopted: December 15, 2006
Released: December 19, 2006

INTRODUCTION AND Executive Summary

1. In this *Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration* (*R&O*), we address comments received in response to a *Notice of Proposed Rule Making and Order* (*NPRM*) in this proceeding, released by the Commission on July 19, 2005, which sought comment on proposed revisions to the Commission's Amateur Radio Service rules. The *NPRM* addressed eighteen petitions for rulemaking. Generally, the *NPRM* proposed to eliminate the requirement that an individual must pass an international Morse code telegraphy examination in order to qualify for any amateur radio operator license.

2. As discussed below, this *R&O* implements the proposals set forth in the *NPRM*. Specifically, we will amend our Amateur Radio Service rules by:

- revising the examination requirements for obtaining a General Class or Amateur Extra Class amateur radio operator license; and
- revising the operating privileges for Technician Class licensees to include the operating privileges that are authorized to Novice Class licensees.

3. We conclude that these actions will further the public interest by removing unnecessary requirements

Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club Log-in # _____
Membership Application for the Year 2007

Dues are in effect January 1. 2007 through December 31. 2007

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

from our Rules. Moreover, we believe that these changes will (1) encourage individuals who are interested in communications technology, or who are able to contribute to the advancement of the radio art, to become amateur radio operators; and (2) eliminate a requirement that may discourage amateur service licensees from advancing their skills in the communications and technical phases of amateur radio.

4. In addition, in order to further address concerns of the amateur radio community, we take this opportunity to resolve a petition filed by the American Radio Relay League, Inc. (ARRL) for partial reconsideration of the *Report and Order* in WT Docket No. 04-140 (the *Phone Band Expansion* proceeding), which the Commission released on October 10, 2006. Among other actions, the Commission authorized amateur stations to transmit voice communications on additional frequencies in certain amateur service bands, including expanding the 75 meter (m) band, which is authorized only for certain wideband emissions, from 3750-4000 kHz to 3600-4000 kHz, and commensurately reducing the 80 m band, which is authorized only for certain narrowband emissions, from 3500-3750 kHz to 3500-3600 kHz. The ARRL argues that the 75 m band should not have been expanded below 3635 kHz, in order to protect automatically controlled digital stations operating in the 3620-3635 kHz portion of the 80 m band. We conclude that these operations can be protected by providing alternate spectrum in the 3585-3600 kHz frequency segment.

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The ARES E-Letter December 20, 2006

LETTERS: "NATION'S OLDEST WEATHER NET"

In the November ARES E-letter I read with interest the item about Wisconsin's Badger Weather Net. The net was described as the nation's oldest weather net, organized in December 1964. While this net has been in operation for a long time, there is another Weather net called "The New England Weather Net," operating continuously even longer, since December, 1955. I first checked into the New England Weather Net in August 1959, and am currently the Tuesday net control operator. I have been active in this net for the last 47 years serving as net control for much of that time. The New England Weather Net was founded by a small group of amateurs in the Boston-Cape Cod area who were interested in exchanging weather information and communicating with other amateurs involved in the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute and the "Texas Towers" early off-shore radar detection operations. Members of the Weather Net were able to provide that vital link to the mainland that was so appreciated by those stationed at sea and on the towers. The net is still active today with 30 to 40 stations reporting their weather conditions each morning from all of New England, to as far north as Nova Scotia, as far south as Florida, and as far west as Idaho. There are check-ins from 17 states, primarily in the eastern section of the country. The net meets each morning from 0530 to 0620 local time. At 0620, a summary of the reports received is given by the net control station. Each report contains the station's temperature, barometric pressure, wind speed and direction, cloud cover, precipitation amounts, 24 hour temperature gradient and any other data the reporting station wishes to give. All stations are welcome and no membership is required. We meet every day except Sunday on 75 meters at 3905 kHz. Additional information can be received by contacting the net manager Dave Haas, N1PT, Lancaster, New Hampshire. See <http://newn.org/about_newn.asp> --John P. Bretz, KE2EA <KE2EA@infoblvd.net>

MISSISSIPPI HAMFEST FORUM REPORT HIGHLIGHTS KATRINA STATUS

[ARRL Delta Division Director Henry Leggette, WD4Q, and Vice Director Karl Bullock, WA5TMC, attended the Ocean Springs, Mississippi Hamfest last month. Here are portions of Bullock's report. - ed.]

This was the first hamfest I'd been to on the Gulf Coast since Katrina. The hamfest was a success, though the clubs there have lost membership, and are in the rebuilding stage. The ARRL Forum was the liveliest ever. The attendees were the hams who walked through the fire last year, and we listened carefully.

TRAINING. "We're going to have to look at NIMS training, whether we like it or not", was a recurring comment, along with "but, none of these courses instruct hams how to communicate in an emergency. Such training should be done in person. Clubs would be ideal for conducting this training. Certification would be nice upon completion. Needed is a syllabus, and some training aids, probably in the form of a DVD video that clubs could obtain at minimal cost from the ARRL."

Other comments: Assembling a working station isn't enough. Training on message handling is needed. Attendees liked our idea of having HQ originate test emergency messages, in addition to taking another look at strengthening the SET. "We weren't ready then, and we're not ready now," was a resonant comment.

LICENSE EXAMS. There should be some emphasis on emergency communications in the VEC Question pool.

LACK OF EQUIPMENT. On the coast, pre-disaster, the local hams had constructed an emergency communications station complete with equipment necessary to manage a large-scale local disaster. They had radios across the spectrum, including SHARES, local government, HF, VHF, digital, antennas, and backup power with fuel. It was totally destroyed in the early hours of Katrina. Nothing else came close to providing that capability, and equipment that would show up would disappear when those who brought it had to go home. The equipment from HQ was welcome, but again, not everything the operators needed. They didn't have a solution to the problem, but we do need to look at providing more capability in these large disasters.—Karl Bullock, WA5TMC, Delta Division Vice Director, and member, ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee.

Questions for Extra Class License

1. (E1A16) For each ITU Region, how is each frequency band allocated internationally to the amateur service designated?
A. Primary service or secondary service
B. Primary service
C. Secondary service
D. Co-secondary service

2. (E1G13) Under any circumstance, what is the maximum transmitter power for an amateur station transmitting emission type SS communications?
A. 1 W
B. 1.5 W
C. 100 W
D. 1.5 kW

3. (E3C01) What effect does auroral activity have upon radio communications?
A. The readability of SSB signals increases
B. FM communications are clearer
C. CW signals have a clearer tone
D. CW signals have a fluttery tone

4. (E4E11) What is the amateur station activity known as fox hunting?
A. Attempting to locate a hidden transmitter by using receivers and direction-finding techniques
B. Attempting to locate a hidden receiver by using receivers and direction-finding techniques
C. Assisting government agents with tracking transmitter collars worn by foxes
D. Assembling stations using generators and portable antennas to test emergency communications skills

5. (E5G03) What is the Q of a parallel R-L-C circuit if the resonant frequency is 7.125 MHz, L is 8.2 microhenrys and R is 1 kilohm?
A. 36.8
B. 0.273
C. 0.368
D. 2.72

6. (E6C06) Why do CMOS digital integrated circuits have high immunity to noise on the input signal or power supply?
A. Larger bypass capacitors are used in CMOS circuit design
B. The input switching threshold is about two times the power supply voltage
C. The input switching threshold is about one-half the power supply voltage
D. Input signals are stronger

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