



THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

March 2008

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

President's Message

Radio Direction Finding (Bunny Hunt)

The Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club has a rich history of Radio Direction Finding, termed "Bunny Hunting" by many groups including ours. Ask a member who has been around for more than a few years and at least two experiences from the past will be shared. The most humorous is when Jim Lofthouse, K7OA, was the bunny incognito. Dressed as a transient looking for a ride, he would emit his position and then enjoy watching people drive right past him looking for a little box or something. The other stories deal with tracking USU experiments launched via weather balloon. Valley hams tracked the balloons as they drifted east towards Bear Lake or west-northwest over the mountains west of Malad.

We practice radio direction finding for fun and to hone our skills so that we are ready in the time of need. The practical applications of RDF include tracking down a mis-behaving transmitter in addition to search and rescue or experimentation like the balloon launch.

I had a blast just last fall when after some severe thunder storms we had some interference starting before our Tuesday night net. Some radio was transmitting a carrier only signal continually into the 146.720 repeater. The net was started on the 146.640 valley floor repeater and a few people reported signal observations from their locations. I had left my QTH (home station) and traveled out a little west of Logan to take a reading away from the buildings. The general consensus was South. I headed to the Heritage Center and from there it seemed like the signal was still from the South or perhaps Southeast. From in Hyrum it seemed like the signal was from the dam. After four confusing readings I decided to get out of town and south of the dam. Finally the signal seemed stronger to the south once again. By this point I had switched over from my directional 'tape measure' antenna to the 'rubber duck' and used the body shield method. When I came into paradise even this method provided too much gain, so I removed that antenna and found that I was next to the source of the signal and contacted the owner of the transmitter who had been away from home. It turned out that the radio was in a VOX like mode that seems to have been stuck in transmit when the thunder storm had rolled through.



The quiriness near Hyrum dam is similar to what Bob Humphries, KD7BHB, experienced last March during our club's RDF exercise. The transmitter was located on the next East to West road just North of the Cache Country Sheriff's Complex, but Bob was picking up two potential source directions as he took readings from Valley View highway. The slightly stronger signal seemed to not be towards the transmitter's location. Bob persevered and swung around the marsh area taking readings and finally ended up within an eighth of a mile of the transmitter, certain that he was close. During that exercise we practiced working as a team, going to assigned locations and taking readings. I ran the net control and entered the data into Xastir, a program often associated with watching hams drive around and broadcast APRS signals. Xastir has received praise from Bob Bruna, the APRS mastermind, for it's radio direction finding features. I was able to take reports from directional antennas

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 2008

VE Test session - March 6 at 7:00 P.M.

March Club Meeting - March 8

April Club Meeting - April 12

May Club Meeting - May 10

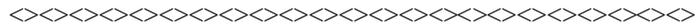
Mountain Man Rendezvous - May 21,22,23

Cache Valley Biathlon - June 14

The VE test sessions are held at the Merrill Cazier Library, Utah State University, FACT Center Classroom at 7:00 PM

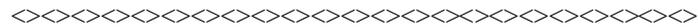
BARC Club Meetings are normally on the 2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00 A.M. on the 3rd floor of the Cache County Sheriffs Complex on 200 North and 1225 West, Logan, Utah

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.



The Listening Post

Name	Frequency	Days	Time
Notes			
VHF morning rag chew	146.720- 103.5	M-F	6:30AM
VHF evening rag chew	146.560	M-F	4-5PM
BARC Net	146.720- 103.5	T	9:00PM
SLC SSB VHF Net (horizontal polarization)	144.250 USB	M	9:00PM
Logan Storehouse ERC (W7MOY)	146.420	1&3 Sn	8:30PM
Ogden Utah North VHF (W7OGD)	145.590	2,4 T	7:15PM
SPARC Net (Sedgwick Peak)	146.800- 88.5	1 W	8:00PM
RACES VHF Net (IRLP) (even months)	147.200+ 103.5	3 Th	8:00PM
HF daily rag chew	7.228	Dy	12:00PM
High Noon Net (relaxed)	7.240	Dy	12:00PM
Beehive Utah Net (NTS)	7.272	Dy	12:30PM
HF daily rag chew	3.904	Dy	6:00PM
Ogden Utah North HF	3.993	1,3,5 T	7:15PM
RACES HF Net (odd months)	3.918	3 S	8:00AM



Answers to questions on page 8:
1-B, 2-D, 3-C, 4-D, 5-D, 6-A, 7-C

(Presidents Message Continued from page 1)

and omni-directional antennas. Surprisingly in this case the overlap of three omni-directional readings pointed out the relative location of the hidden transmitter faster than the directional readings.

I hope we have some good weather this Saturday so we can get out and release a little cabin fever with a fun outdoor activity. If we don't, bring your 'go kit', your bag of ham equipment and essentials to grab and go for an emergency and lets show off and share ideas.



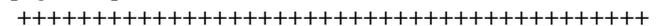
You Might be a Ham Operator if:

1. When you look at a full moon and wonder how much antenna gain you would need.
2. When someone asks for directions, you pause, wondering if long or short path would be best.
3. Your cell phone ring tone is a Morse code message of some kind.
4. You have accidentally said your Amateur Radio call sign at the end of a telephone conversation.
5. Your favorite vacation spots are always on mountain tops.
6. You have driven onto the shoulder of the road while looking at an antenna.
7. If you ever tried to figure out the operating frequency of your microwave oven.
8. When you look around your bedroom of wall to wall ham gear and ask: Why am I still single?
9. You actually think towers look pretty.
10. Your family doesn't have a clue what to get you for Christmas, even after you tell them.
11. You refer to your children as your "Harmonics".
12. You actually believe you got a good deal on eBay.

ARRL News and Information

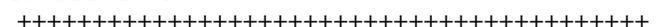
The ARRL Letter Vol. 27, No. 4 February 1, 2008
==> **ARISS INTERNATIONAL CHAIRMAN MOVES INTO NEW POSITION AT NASA**

Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) International Chairman Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, was named recently as the NASA Headquarters Chief Engineer for the Exploration Systems Mission Directorate (ESMD). ESMD is NASA's initiative to develop a sustained human presence on the moon, promote space exploration and serve as a stepping stone to Mars and beyond. As ESMD Chief Engineer, he provides systems engineering advice and consultation to resolve some of the most demanding and complex technical and organizational challenges within the Exploration Program. Bauer and Rosalie White, K1STO, are the two ARISS delegates for the US. He is the Vice President of Human Spaceflight Programs for the Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. Bauer was a 2006 nominee for the Rotary National Award for Space Achievement, bestowed upon him for "his tireless work to engage the youth of our nation and the world in the exploration of space through unique direct communications made possible by Amateur Radio on human spaceflight missions." Bauer is the recipient of NASA's 2002 Outstanding Leadership Medal, the 1997 NASA Exceptional Achievement Medal—bestowed for Pioneering Efforts in Spaceborne GPS—and NASA's 1992 Exceptional Service Medal (for agency contributions in GN&C). He received the Silver Snoopy Award, the highly prestigious NASA Human Spaceflight Awareness award, in 1992. For more information about ARISS, please visit the ARISS Web page <<http://www.rac.ca/ariss/oindex.htm>>.



W1AW Receives New Equipment for 160 Meters:

Within the next week, W1AW, The Hiram Percy Maxim Memorial Station, will replace the exciter and amplifier currently being used for the 160 meter broadcast equipment with brand new gear—an ICOM IC-756ProIII and a new ICOM IC-PW1 amplifier. This equipment replaces a Ten-Tec Omni VI+ and Ten-Tec Hercules II amplifier. W1AW Station Manager Joe Carcia, NJ1Q, said, "It's still important that W1AW maintain its presence on the air. Despite current technology, Amateur Radio operators still look to W1AW for code practice and bulletin transmissions, Frequency Measuring Tests, Field Day messages, emergency communications, frequency beacons—these can't be transmitted unless the equipment is fully functional and performing properly." When the new 160 meter equipment is installed, W1AW's broadcast equipment will consist of the following: 10 meters—ICOM IC-756Pro/Harris RF-3230 amplifier; 15 meters—ICOM IC-756ProII/Harris RF-3230 amplifier; 17 meters—ICOM IC-756ProII/Harris RF-3230 amplifier; 20 meters—ICOM IC-756ProII/ICOM IC-PW1; 40 meters—ICOM IC-756ProII/Command Technologies 40-meter amplifier; 80 meters—Ten Tec Orion I/Harris RF-3230 amplifier, and 160 meters—ICOM IC-756ProIII/ICOM IC-PW1.



"ARRL's Hands-On Radio Experiments" and "ARRL's VHF Digital Handbook" today at the ARRL Online Store <<http://www.arrl.org/catalog/>>.

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ARRL Gearing for Up Dayton Hamvention:

ARRL EXPO returns to Dayton Hamvention, to be held May 16-18, 2008 at the Hara Arena in Dayton, Ohio. The huge ARRL exhibit area is a showcase of displays, activities and program representatives to enhance your ham radio experience. The ARRL EXPO is open to all Hamvention attendees. Meet ARRL President Joel Harrison, W5ZN, other ARRL officials, volunteers and staff knowledgeable on a wide variety of topics. Among the highlights of the exhibit space will be a card checking area for operating awards, activities for young hams, the ARRL bookstore and more. ARRL Membership Manager Katie Breen, W1KRB, is the ARRL EXPO coordinator. "We are looking at some new and exciting venues within EXPO, but I'm not ready to spill the beans quite yet! We are focusing our attention this year on the theme of technology and on Hamvention's theme celebrating ham radio fellowship—stay tuned for more news. We sincerely thank the 2008 Dayton Hamvention Committee and their volunteers for all they do to make this a signature convention; we are so pleased to participate." Keep an eye on the ARRL EXPO Web site <<http://www.arrl.org/expo>> for updates.

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Wisconsin Hams Assist Injured Driver:

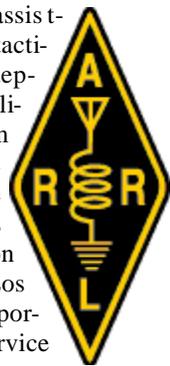
On Wednesday, February 27, Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC, of Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin, received a radio call on the 147.150 Madison repeater requesting emergency help. Robert Stout, WB9ECK, of Monticello, Wisconsin, told Sprecher that a vehicle had gone off the road through a guard rail, stopping short of a creek. The driver was injured and trapped in his vehicle and an ambulance was needed at the scene. Sprecher called the Dane County sheriff's office to relay the information. Stout, via the repeater, kept Sprecher apprised of the driver's injuries; Sprecher, in turn, updated the sheriff's dispatch with the information. Stout remained at the scene providing aid until local police arrived. Sprecher relayed all information to the dispatcher until local authorities arrived and assumed control. "It sounds like the guy drove off the road through a guard rail and may have not been found had it not been for WB9ECK. It was also unknown how long the driver had been over the embankment before being found. This could have been a lot worse had WB9ECK not become involved," Sprecher said.—Information provided by Brian Sprecher, KC9LCC

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Los Angeles County Hams Honored for Community Service:

On February 27, members of the Disaster Communications Service (DCS), based at the Carson Sheriff Station, received individual and group awards from the State of California, the County of Los Angeles, the Carson Sheriff Station Support Foundation and the City of Carson, California for their participation in a wide range of both planned and emergent events. These 27 Amateur Radio operators provided almost

8000 hours of service to the agencies, including assisting in providing assistance during a bicycle race, tactical alerts due to civil unrest, funerals for fallen deputy sheriffs and the fires that plagued Southern California. Members of their Rapid Deployment Team spent five days on Catalina Island, serving as the primary means of communication between the island and the mainland until telephone systems were restored. The service provided by the Carson Station DCS volunteers saved the taxpayers of Los Angeles County almost \$320,000, "but more importantly, they selflessly provided an invaluable service that is a critical component to the safety of our communities and families," the DCS coordinator said. Thirteen deputies, a firefighter, two station volunteers and two citizens were also recognized in the second annual event that pays tribute to Carson sheriff's deputies and supporters for their work in the city. More information can be found at the Los Angeles County Disaster Communications Web page <<http://laccds.com/carson-awards-endpage.html>>.



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500 kHz Distance Record Broken Again:

On February 21, Neil Schwanitz, V73NS/WD8CRT, on Roi-Namur in the Marshall Islands, received a signal from experimental station WD2XSH/6. This experimental station, operated by Pat Hamel, W5THT, is located in Long Beach, Mississippi -- 6679 miles away from the island in the Kwajalein atoll. This contact breaks the previous record for the longest 500 kHz contact. That record, set in January 2008, was for a distance of 4737 miles from Cottage Grove, Oregon to Roi-Namur. An article on Hamel's station appears in the March issue of QST. The ARRL 500 kHz experimental license, WD2XSH, was issued in September 2006 and has 20 active stations. Fritz Raab, W1FR, of Vermont, serves as experimental project manager for The 500 KC Experimental Group for Amateur Radio <<http://www.500kc.com>>. Additional information can be found at the experiment's Web site and also in the July/August 2007 issue of QEX <<http://www.arrl.org/qex/2007/07/raab.pdf>>.—Information provided by Fritz Raab, W1FR

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"Swiss Army Knife" Now Available for PIOs:

The 2008 edition of the "Swiss Army Knife for PIOs" CD is now available. This "toolkit-on-a-disk" is designed to be a handy reference for Amateur Radio public relations officials. Topics on the disk include how to write press releases, give interviews and talk to groups; how to deal with legislative issues affecting Amateur Radio; audio, video and picture files; how to write articles for ARRL publications such as QST; how to connect with youth; information on ARRL public relations awards; how to promote Field Day in your community; FEMA course information, and more. To receive a copy, send a self-addressed stamped envelope (please make sure the envelope is large enough for a CD disk) with at least two units of postage and a note to Public Relations, ARRL, 225 Main St, Newington, CT 06111. This disk is available to anyone with an interest in spreading the word about Amateur Radio.

Questions for Technician License

1. (T1C04) Which frequency is within the 6-meter band?
 - A. 49.00 MHz
 - B. 52.525 MHz
 - C. 28.50 MHz
 - D. 222.15 MHz
2. (T3C09) What type of subjects are not prohibited communications while using amateur radio?
 - A. Political discussions
 - B. Jokes and stories
 - C. Religious preferences
 - D. All of these answers are correct
3. (T5C11) What is the term for a series of repeaters that can be connected to one another to provide users with a wider coverage?
 - A. Open repeater system
 - B. Closed repeater system
 - C. Linked repeater system
 - D. Locked repeater system
4. (T8A12) When must priority be given to stations providing emergency communications?
 - A. Only when operating under RACES
 - B. Only when an emergency has been declared
 - C. Any time a net control station is on the air
 - D. At all times and on all frequencies
5. (T8C09) What is the preamble of a message?
 - A. The first paragraph of the message text
 - B. The message number
 - C. The priority handling indicator for the message
 - D. The information needed to track the message as it passes through the amateur radio traffic handling system
6. (T9B04) What is the radio horizon?
 - A. The point where radio signals between two points are blocked by the curvature of the Earth
 - B. The distance from the ground to a horizontally mounted antenna
 - C. The farthest point you can see when standing at the base of your antenna tower
 - D. The shortest distance between two points on the Earth's surface
7. (T0A03) What is connected to the green wire in a three-wire electrical plug?
 - A. Neutral
 - B. Hot
 - C. Ground
 - D. The white wire

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