



THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

May 2009

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I would like to thank Tyler Griffiths N7UWX, Cache County ARES Emergency Coordinator, for the Cache County ARES Mini Emergency Communications conference that was presented at our April club meeting. Also a thanks to those who helped with the different parts of the conference;



Ted AC7II for Winlink, Bob KD7BHB and Boyd W7MOY for Grab & Go Kits, Bill WA7KMF and Brett N7UXA for Coax cable & connectors, Kevin N7RXE for Portable antennas, Terry N7PEG and Shirley AD7TL for Radio program-

ming, and Batteries and Anderson connectors by me. We had a great turn out and there was a lot of good information to help us to be better prepared for emergency situations.

For the next couple of months there are a lot of public service events that our club participates in. Public service events are a great way to learn and gain experience with your radios and equipment and it also help us practice skills that may be needed in emergency situations. The events are usually low key and fun. Take a look at the event activities that are on the BARC web page. The activities information is located on the left side under 'Navigation', then click on Topics > then Activities. Once you have the Activities window open, scroll down until you see '2009 BARC Activities Sign-Up'. If you would like to volunteer to help with any of these events, please sign up.

HAM PROFILE

Stephen and Nyree Bevan
by Brent Carruth AD7VF

To ham radiophiles the vintage Swan 500C with its tubes and 500 watts is a veritable treasure. The receiver audio is superb with a sound quality unique to tubes that audiophiles prefer to the modern digital sound. Learning how to 'dip the plate' or 'peak the grid' should be part of the experience of every ham radio operator -- doing this is not for the novice, however, lest the tubes be damaged.

Far from novices, Stephen, KE7WAV, and Nyree, KF7ATM, Bevan of Mendon, Utah both have their General Class licenses and a Swan 500C HF radio, on loan from a friendly neighbor, Gary Spence, N7BFZ. They use this radio to talk to Stephen's father, William, N3DVI, in Missouri on the 40 meter band using a horizontal dipole antenna which Stephen made with the help of his neighbor. He added a coax balun and the

SWR was an amazing 1:1 the very first time! His first use of this radio was CW at 3wpm which, with practice with his father, is now 5wpm. He is a member of the



Straight Key Century Club, #5500, which promotes learning Morse Code through events and awards, see <http://www.skccgroup.com>. In addition to Missouri, he has worked stations in California, Washington, Hawaii, Michigan, Virginia and Canada. He is pursuing his goal to earn the ARRL award for working all states.

Stephen's interest in amateur radio was nudged by his father who practiced Morse Code with him. He

(Continued on page 3)



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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 2009

May Club Meeting — 9 May 10:00 AM

Mountain Man Rendezvous — 20-21 May

Little Red Riding Hood — 6 June

VE Exam — 13 June 8:00 A.M.
In the Computer Science Lab in Old Main (USU Campus)

Cache Valley Biathlon — 13 June

Tour De Cure (Box Elder Co.) — 13 June

Wasatch Back Relay — 19 June

June Club Meeting/Field Day — 27-28 June

MS 150 — 27-28 June

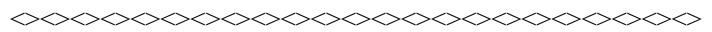
Cruise In — July 4

LOTOJA — September 12

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. Due to scheduling the April meeting will be the 18th at 1:00 PM

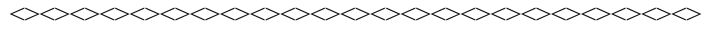
ARES Meetings are usually held on the Third Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M. at the Cache County Sheriffs Complex. Due to the presentations at the BARC Club meeting this month there will not be a meeting in April. Contact Tyler Griffiths for more information.

If you are able to help with the activities this year please sign up so that we can coordinate the work. The way to sign up is on the Internet, you can go to the club web site at: <http://www.barconline.org>. On the left side of the page in the Navigation area click on Topics and then Activities. If you have questions contact one of the Club Officers.



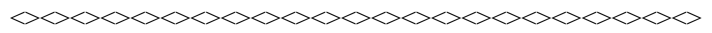
Thanks to everyone who came out to the Club Meeting in April, there were many who helped with the several sessions, and there were many who came to learn what is going on in Emergency Communications. This was the 1st time we have done this. Hopefully we can do this as a annual event.

Ted McArthur
AC7II



May BARC Club Meeting

The BARC club meeting for May will be on Saturday the 9th at 10:00 A.M. at the usual place (see above). It will include information about Field Day, what Field Day is, some of the setup and activities that will be involved, the food, the fun, the radios, why you will want to come and participate in the activities.



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

(Ham Profile Continued from page 1)

passed the code test but missed the written test by one question as a teenager. Years later, at the VE exam session on 18 Sep 2008, he passed the Technician class exam, earning his license. A very hands on radio enthusiast, Stephen also has a Heathkit HW7 CW radio that operates on the 40, 20 and 15 meter bands. He built an impedance match to use headphones on this radio and wishes to do the same for his Yaesu VX-170 2 meter handheld transceiver. To say that he is an enthusiast might be an understatement and his wife, Nyree, would agree.

Nyree loves math and has a great ability to learn so easily much of the technical aspects of amateur radio. She was a student in the Mendon Technician class course taught by David Leikis, KG7EW, and Kent, AD7HK, and Shirley, AD7HL, Larsen and others in February and March 2009. At the VE exam session held in the FACT Lab, Room 204, Merrill-Cazier Library, USU on 5 March 2009, she passed both the Technician and General Class license exams with perfect scores! Asked how she accomplished such a tour de force she gracefully answered how helpful David and Shirley were. Also, she mentioned studying the ARRL General Class license manual with her husband who took the exam with her.

Stephen and Nyree both have a Yaesu VX-170 2 meter handheld transceiver which they use mostly in the valley, such as checking into the weekly Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club Tuesday evening nets and the twice monthly Logan Storehouse ERC nets. They also take their radios traveling such as recent visits to Idaho and Nevada where Nyree is from. Stephen grew up mainly in Maryland and Virginia. They met at Brigham Young University where she graduated in family science and he in anthropology. They are the parents of two girls and one boy with one girl on the way in June. Being a mother of three (and soon to be four) young children keeps Nyree very busy as this author observed when she tenderly addressed their needs while providing interesting biographical stories for this article. Stephen is a Driver's License examiner and you may see him the next time you are there, so be sure to say to hi and remember to give them both a call on the '72 repeater some time.



The BRRR Group

By Dale Cox, The Ohm Town News Editor

You ask, what is the BRRR Group? Well, it is the "Bridgerland Radio Rocket Recovery" group. A couple of months ago, a group from Utah State University, called the Experimental Sounding

Rocket Association, came to the BARC club meeting and wanted to know if the club was interested in helping them with a project. This group consists of university students, under the direction of Dr. Paul Mueller, that design, build, and fly model rockets. These are not the little tiny models, these are about 8 or 10 feet tall and one of the objectives is to reach an altitude of 10,000 feet. They are usually equipped with electronics to measure their flight paths including the maximum altitude. They can also have video recording and other equipment that records their flights. With the



Engine test firing at Logan Airport

larger more expensive rockets and the additional equipment, they are interested in getting assistance tracking and locating them after their flights. This group also sponsors a competition in June and invites other universities from across the nation to participate with them. (Check out some of the past competition at <http://soundingrocket.org/pastcomp.aspx>.) The competition this year is planned to be held in central Utah, in the Green River area. They are asking BARC to assist any of the groups that would like our help. We will provide a small transmitter that they will place in their rocket, then when the rocket is flown we will help them locate and retrieve their equipment. Currently a group of about 6 Ham radio guys have been involved, with Guy Hatch KE7WAT as our coordinator.



Before the final flight

As part of the development of the USU rocket we were invited to a couple of (attempted) test firings of the engine held at the Logan airport. There was then to be a test firing of the full rocket by Pigeon Mountain off Highway 30 about 37 miles West of Park Valley. Some of us went with on April 25th and tested one of the transmitters that we have, and tried out our antennas and attenuators. The rocket, called the Tropos 2,

didn't turn out to have the greatest time. The whole flight was just about aborted because of the wind, then when they decided to fly it, the fuel igniters had problems. Two attempts were made while we were there, both of which failed. They were going to see if they could make another attempt but told us that we didn't need to stay if we didn't want to, and we had been there for half the day so we left. Guy later received this e-mail from Dr. Mueller:

Hi Guy,

Sure enough, after you left, we were able to get the rocket to fly! It turns out that one of the igniters didn't fire on the first attempt, so we were able to fix it and try one more time. The students did an amazing job of improvising. We launched in the middle of a dust storm, but it was basically our last chance so we went for it. Unfortunately, the motor didn't ignite until a good amount of nitrous had come out (we obviously still have ignition problems), so it had low thrust (at least we think this is what happened--we're still looking at it) and climbed pretty slowly before turning sideways and flying cruise- missile style. It got up to maybe 200 feet. As it got lower, the recovery sequence started but it didn't have time or altitude to be effective. The rocket hit at a shallow angle about 500 feet away, and was mostly destroyed. The tank and motor seem to have survived, and we think your transmitter is ok. The white plastic container was broken and I think the transmitter was found separately. We disconnected the 3-pin (right?) connector and it's up in the shop (I forgot to bring it home). I also have the black sweat-shirt that Chris borrowed from y'all--I'll wash it and get it back to you.

That was very frustrating--we have some ideas on how to improve ignition. But the students will be gone for the summer so we may not get much done. We'll see.

Thank you again for coming out--I don't think we'll use that site again! I'm in the process of buying some land that is about an hour closer, so we may use that from now on. And maybe we can get a standing waiver from the FAA so we won't be limited to specific dates that we have to apply for 45 days ahead of time!

I'll put the transmitter picture on the web site for the teams--I'm looking forward to the competition. I was hoping to launch the Tropos 2 again there, but I don't think that's going to happen!

Paul

There is sadness in Mudville! Hope our little 'Bee' is OK. Well, that's rocket science. Thanks again for all who came. Guy KE7WAT

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update -- April 2009
Division website: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

== Field Day: Map your site for other Hams and Visitors ==
Whether it's to be enjoyed with a bunch of friends, a local club, or an ARES group, in the mountains or in the city, Field Day is only two months away! We hope you and your club are gearing up to be a part of the fun.

ARRL once again offers a useful feature on its website: A tool that displays Field Day sites and information across the United States and Canada, thanks to Google Maps. While you or your club members may know where your particular Field Day site will be located, the real beauty of this feature is that it informs other Hams, prospective Hams, or visitors where Field Day efforts will take place in their areas. Is your site shown on the map?

Head over to <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd/locator.php> to see what Field Day sites are nearby, or to add yours. This tool is only as good as the number of people who make use of it, so please post your site and spread the word to all the Hams you know, especially those new to the hobby.

Information packets and rules for the 2009 event are available for download at <http://www.arrl.org/contests/announcements/fd> See you on the bands this June 27-28!

==== 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention =====
About ONE month remains til the 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention (May 29-31). Have you made plans to join close to 250 hams (and growing) in beautiful Estes Park, Colorado...gateway to Rocky Mountain National Park? Registration online and by mail is happening right now, and special hotel rates have been negotiated for convention attendees.

Among the guest speakers: Harold Kraemer WJ1B (ARRL Chief Operating Officer), Gordon Hardman W0RUN (2009 Desecheo Island DXpedition participant and chief engineer of Alpha Radio Products), Mike Gruber W1MG (ARRL EMC Engineer and contributor to "The Doctor Is IN" QST column), Cheryl Muhr, N0WBV, YL columnist for WorldRadio Online (formerly WorldRadio Magazine), Editor for YL-Harmonics the Young Ladies' Radio League's (YLRL) Bimonthly magazine, and Brian Milesosky N5ZGT (Director, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division).

Nearly 30 technical and non-technical forums, great meals, transmitter hunts, special event station W1AW/0, and much more await you. Not to mention one heck of a time meeting and greeting hams from all over the Division and country. It'll be a great event with a very fitting theme: "Amateur Radio: Resilient, Relevant, Ready"

The hotel, where the Convention is being held, is almost at full-capacity, so reserve your room soon!

Please mark your calendars and visit the Division convention's website at <http://www.hamconcolorado.org> for more details, including registration information. Join us for a great time at an awesome venue!

==== Upcoming hamfests, tailgates & conventions =====
May 22-24 Wyoming ARRL State Convention (Casper, WY)
May 29-31 2009 Rocky Mountain Division Convention

(Estes Park, CO)
 July 18 Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association
 Megafest (Monument, CO)
 August 14-15 Duke City Hamfest (Albuquerque, NM)
 August 16 Denver Radio Club Hamfest (Golden, CO)
 September 25 Alamogordo Hamfest (Alamogordo, NM)

Links to websites belonging to the above events are found on the Rocky Mountain Division site: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

If you're organizing a Hamfest, convention or tailgate, please consider having your event ARRL-sanctioned. Sanctioning details can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/hamfests/>

===== Upcoming on-air activities =====

In addition to chewing the rag with fellow hams, here are some additional on-air activities which await you on the airwaves.

Upcoming special event stations:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/spev.html>

Upcoming contests:

<http://www.arrl.org/contests/calendar.html>

Operating awards: <http://www.arrl.org/awards/>

===== Final note... =====

Please touch base with your Section Manager if he can be of assistance to you:

- Jeff Ryan K0RM (Colorado): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=CO>
- Don Wood W5FHA (New Mexico): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=NM>
- Mel Parkes NM7P (Utah): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=UT>
- Garth Crowe N7XKT (Wyoming): <http://www.arrl.org/sections/?sect=WY>

Vice Director Dwayne Allen and I continue to welcome your concerns, questions or ideas regarding ARRL policies. See you on the airwaves!

73,

Brian Milesosky N5ZGT, Rocky Mountain Division Director
 Dwayne Allen WY7FD, Rocky Mountain Division Vice-Director
 Division website: www.RockyMountainDivision.org

The ARES E-Letter

Published by the American Radio Relay League

April 15, 2009 [The following is a summary and perspective of two vital ARES issues--training and recruitment--provided in the landmark report of the ARRL National Emergency Response Planning Committee of two years ago, which continues to resonate today. Principal author is Kay Craigie, N3KN, chairman of the committee and currently the ARRL's First VP. -- K1CE]

For many years, Amateur Radio has longed to be taken seriously by governmental authorities as a professional-quality resource in disaster response. Although there are areas of the country where achieving and maintaining emergency management agencies' respect is still a struggle, Amateur Radio's service during 9/11 and the major hurricane disasters of the 21st century has brought us a new level of respect and new opportunities at the national level.

Being taken seriously as a resource comes with a price, however. It is a price that must be paid by individual volunteers, not in dollars but in precious personal time. When the federal government instituted the National Incident Management System (NIMS), it imposed a set of requirements on state and local emergency management agencies and their

personnel. Affected personnel include not only paid employees of emergency management and related agencies but also volunteers such as those in volunteer fire companies, ARES, and RACES. If the emergency management agencies are to continue receiving federal funds, personnel must complete a number of FEMA training courses having to do with the Incident Command System (ICS) and NIMS. Individuals who do not complete the training will not be allowed to participate, even as volunteers.



These FEMA courses are free of charge, available on line or sometimes in person at emergency management offices, and not particularly difficult. The courses are useful in familiarizing volunteers with the specialized vocabulary and principles of the Incident Command System and showing where communications fits into the ICS structure. This is valuable knowledge, because if Amateurs - particularly those in leadership positions - cannot "talk the talk" then authorities may well assume that we cannot "walk the walk."

However, the required courses have little or nothing to do with the specific duties performed by Amateur Radio emergency communicators and may be time-consuming for the volunteer to complete. Just as many volunteer firefighters who have been on the job for decades resent being forced to take courses that they perceive as unrelated to their competency in fighting fires, many experienced ARES communicators have objected to being required to pass a set of government courses that they consider irrelevant and a waste of time.

The obligation to pass a list of FEMA courses in order to be allowed to participate with an ARES group that serves emergency management is making it harder for ARES groups to recruit and retain volunteers. For amateurs whose participation in emergency communications is the main thing or the only thing in their Amateur Radio lives, taking these courses is not perceived as an imposition. But what about Amateurs with a less-fierce personal devotion to emergency communications? Most ARES volunteers and prospective ARES volunteers also have various other interests in Amateur Radio. Their desire to take part in emergency communications, no matter how sincere, exists in some kind of balance with their other interests.

Being told they must spend part of the limited personal time they have to devote to their Amateur Radio avocation in taking jargon-laden courses could be the last words they hear on their way out the door.

Like it or not, these formal requirements are here to stay and more may follow. At the national level, Amateur Radio has earned the respect we always wanted, bringing us closer to the emergency management establishment. The challenge now is persuading both casual ARES volunteers and experienced volunteers to meet the requirements that follow from being part of the system. This will not be easy. The national-level ARRL must be aware of that and develop ways to help local and Section ARES officials bring their volunteers, both old-timers and newcomers, into the new era.

Another challenge following from being more a part of the establishment is ensuring that Amateur Radio does not

lose that famous ability to improvise and innovate which permits us to accomplish supposedly-impossible tasks. Bureaucracies are by nature inflexible, and disaster plans run to thousands of pages of dense language in small print. A major asset that Amateur Radio brings to any disaster is our ability to decide on the fly when to go by the book and when to close the book and just go. If Amateurs give up the "McGyver" component of our character in order to fit into the establishment whose respect we desire, then we will have been absorbed into the "all else" that typically fails. As a national organization, the ARRL needs the wisdom to help ARES organizations achieve the best balance between being "cowboys" and being "suits."

Given the challenges of recruiting and retaining ARES volunteers in the present emergency management environment, the ARRL should improve resources available for outreach to amateurs who are not now involved in and knowledgeable about emergency communications.

Amateur Radio's value as an emergency resource is the first item listed in Part 97's statement of the basis and purpose of the Amateur Radio Service. Everyone with a United States Amateur Radio license should feel some duty to be prepared to provide communications in an emergency. Our common experience, however, is that the majority of licensees may give lip service to emergency communications - especially when they want to persuade neighbors to accept their antenna installations - but are not active in ARES, RACES, SKY-WARN, SATERN, or similar organizations even in the immediate aftermath of the disasters we have observed over the past five years. The reality is that too few will prepare, even in the highest-threat areas.

How do we reach more Amateurs nationwide with the message about emergency communications? If we cannot get uninvolved Amateurs to come to an ARES meeting, then we must go to where those Amateurs congregate. Amateurs with expertise in both teaching and emergency communications are able and willing to develop lively in-person introductory presentations that catch people's interest through hands-on experience with radio equipment, messaging, and so on. These presentations could be distributed by the ARRL and would be suitable for club meetings and conventions. This is not intended to replace or undercut the ARRL's on-line emergency courses but rather to stimulate interest in emergency communications among Amateurs who have never heard of the on-line courses or never considered taking them.

An ARRL video showing what ARES communicators actually do both in preparing for and serving in disasters, with examples from many parts of the USA, would also be useful in catching the interest of the uninvolved. The League should pursue the cost effective development of such a video.

It is possible that these presentations, whether videos or in-person seminars, may not yield a huge number of new ARES volunteers. However, if we always do what we always did, then we will always get what we always got. Today, "what we always got" is not sufficient to live up to our self-promotion and our growing obligations to government and charitable agencies.

The ARRL should begin developing effective universal emergency communications training materials aimed specifi-

cally at the Amateur Radio operator who is not already active in emergency communications, to be delivered through ARRL-affiliated clubs and ARRL convention programs.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 15 April 17, 2009

==> ARRL COMMENTS ON BROADBAND PROVISIONS IN RECOVERY ACT

On March 24, 2009, the FCC invited comments from interested parties concerning the Commission's consultative role in the broadband provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act) <http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2009/db0324/DA-09-668A1.pdf>. In the Recovery Act, Congress assigned grant and loanmaking responsibilities to the Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service (RUS). On April 13, the ARRL, through General Counsel Chris Imlay, W3KD, submitted comments <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/files/BroadbandDefinitionDocket09-40.pdf>> that expressed concern as "the threshold for what constitutes 'broadband' is a critical determination that will inevitably determine the success or failure of the [Broadband Technologies Opportunities Program] BTOP <<http://www.ntia.doc.gov/broadbandgrants/>> program going forward."

In the League's comments to the FCC, the ARRL asked the Commission to adopt as the definition of broadband "those technologies capable of the minimum threshold bidirectional speeds [as recommended in the ARRL's comments], without variation among the type of broadband technology under consideration, as a minimum threshold in order to be considered for grants or loans of public funds."

While the FCC has no funds under the Recovery Act for grant or loanmaking, it does, however, have what the Commission describes as "an important role to play in providing expert, technical advice to the NTIA" as it establishes the BTOP, "and the Commission may also provide expert, technical advice to RUS as it proceeds with its own programs."

Imlay pointed out to the Commission that the ARRL actively participates in the Committee for Communications Policy of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers-USA (IEEE-USA CCP), "which has engaged in considerable discussion of universal access to high-speed broadband networks, and in particular, broadband definitions and target goals for broadband deployment" <<http://www.ieeeusa.org/volunteers/committees/ccp/>>.

He told the Commission that the ARRL "wholeheartedly concurs" with that organization's views on broadband technologies, as detailed in its position statement, 'Nationwide High Speed Broadband Data Services,' that says "The most important short-term goal is broadening ubiquitous availability [of broadband]. Data rates should be sufficient to provide the equivalent of several channels of bidirectional, high resolution video, achievable by expanding the capabilities of current technologies" <<http://www.ieeeusa.org/policy/positions/broadband.pdf>>.

The IEEE also says that it "initially advocates" the achievement of at least 20 Mb/s bidirectional speed with 90

percent availability throughout the nation within five years. "The wide penetration of such speeds will achieve most of the expected benefits and accommodate numerous simultaneous applications per household or small business. Of course, greater speeds can be had by those with greater needs. We further advocate the achievement of at least 100 Mb/s bidirectional speed with availability to all businesses and households within 10 years. The technology necessary to meet this goal is scalable to almost any future need at inexpensive upgrade costs."

Imlay said that IEEE-USA's position statement concludes that there are "two overarching goals for nationwide high-speed broadband networks: widespread availability and high performance." In providing public funds to achieve widespread availability, Imlay stated that the FCC, NTIA and the RUS should ensure that high performance should not be set aside to achieve that goal. "This," he told the Commission, "to ARRL, means the establishment of a floor for throughput of at least 20 Mb/s bidirectional speed for funding of broadband systems to be developed between now and 2014, and 100 Mb/s bidirectional speed for those systems to be implemented between 2014 and 2019. Expenditure of public funds should be limited to the technologies that can meet these goals."

The IEEE-USA statement also notes, Imlay explained to the Commission, that the FCC's recently adopted definition of broadband speed "is a series of tiers, starting as low as 768 kb/s. As noted in the statement, this is woefully inadequate to perform even current computing applications." Imlay called for an elimination of tiers "at least for purposes of determining what broadband technologies should be funded with public funds."

Imlay, in his comments, said that the "most urgent" of the FCC's "consultative issues with the NTIA" involve defining just what broadband is. "The Commission is obligated pursuant to the Recovery Act to consult with NTIA on the establishment of a national broadband service deployment and expansion program, and the NTIA is obligated, through the BTOP program, to provide access to broadband service to consumers residing in unserved areas," he said. "It is not useful in the expenditure of large sums of Recovery Act funds to promote broadband technologies that do not include the capabilities needed by individuals and businesses located in rural or underserved areas. Therefore, the threshold for what constitutes 'broadband' is a critical determination that will inevitably determine the success or failure of the BTOP program going forward."

The ARRL recognizes that the FCC has struggled with this definition for some time, Imlay wrote: "Indeed, in the Notice of Inquiry in Docket 09-51, FCC 09-31, released April 8, 2009 (at 15-16), the Commission stated that 'Broadband can be defined in myriad ways. In order to ensure that all people of the United States have access to broadband capability, we must make sure that the Commission appropriately identifies goals and benchmarks in this regard...In addition, to the extent that broadband is defined by 'speed,' should the Commission consider raising the speeds that define broadband? Should we distinguish among the various broadband technologies?" <http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/

[Daily_Business/2009/db0408/FCC-09-31A1.pdf](http://www.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/2009/db0408/FCC-09-31A1.pdf)>

Imlay said that it is the ARRL's position that the definition of "broadband" should include an "absolute lower threshold, minimum bidirectional speed. It should not be a variable concept determined by technology. To do otherwise is to provide grants and loans of public funds to technologies whose benefits are, in the medium term, inadequate and which might, for example, render businesses in rural areas less competitive than those located in urban areas. It is, in other words, not useful to fund the creation of infrastructure that will be obsolete in the near term or less useful than other technologies which provide greater speeds. That simply perpetuates the status quo, where there will still, going forward, be adequately served and underserved areas. The status quo is quite obviously unacceptable to Congress, and it should be.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 17 May 1, 2009

==> ARRL IN ACTION: WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO LATELY?

This feature -- including convenient Web links to useful information -- is a concise monthly update of some of the things ARRL is doing on behalf of its members. This installment covers the month of April.

The ARRL worked with Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX) as she sponsored HR 2160, the Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act of 2009, in the US House of Representatives <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/30/10792/?nc=1>>.

Upon request from the FCC, the ARRL submitted comments to the Commission defining "broadband" <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/15/10768/?nc=1>>.

The ARRL Foundation awarded scholarships, including the prestigious William R. Goldfarb Memorial Scholarship, to 49 outstanding young radio amateurs for the 2009-2010 academic year

<<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/28/10787/?nc=1>>.

Santa Cruz area ARES members provided communications support after vandals disrupted communications infrastructure on April 9 <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/15/10771/?nc=1>>.

Amateurs in North Dakota and Minnesota provided communications support to various served agencies when the Red River overflowed in late March and early April <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/06/10752/?nc=1>>.

Hams in the Southeastern US, through the use of weather spotting networks, kept the National Weather Service apprised when deadly tornadoes struck that area on April 10 <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/14/10766/?nc=1>>.

The ARRL announced that it was in the process of developing a new Emergency Communications course <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/07/10756/?nc=1>>.

ARRL Emergency Preparedness and Response Manager Dennis Dura, K2DCD, attended the 2009 National Hurricane Conference, held April 6-10 in Austin, Texas. ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager Allen Pitts, W1AGP, represented the ARRL at the National Association of Broadcasters event in Las Vegas <<http://www.arrrl.org/news/stories/2009/04/22/10779/?nc=1>>.

Questions for Technician Class License

1. (T1A04) Who is a Volunteer Examiner?
 - A. A certified instructor who volunteers to examine amateur teaching manuals
 - B. An FCC employee who accredits volunteers to administer amateur license exams
 - C. An amateur accredited by one or more VECs who volunteers to administer amateur license exams
 - D. Any person who volunteers to examine amateur station equipment
2. (T2A09) When does the FCC allow an amateur radio station to be used as a method of communication for hire or material compensation?
 - A. Only when making test transmissions
 - B. Only when news is being broadcast in times of emergency
 - C. Only when in accordance with part 97 rules
 - D. Only when your employer is using amateur radio to broadcast advertising
3. (T3A11) Why should you use the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) phonetic alphabet when identifying your station?
 - A. The words are internationally recognized substitutes for letters
 - B. There is no advantage
 - C. The words have been chosen to represent amateur radio terms
 - D. It preserves traditions begun in the early days of amateur radio
4. (T4B03) What does 60 hertz (Hz) mean?
 - A. 6000 cycles per second
 - B. 60 cycles per second
 - C. 6000 meters per second
 - D. 60 meters per second
5. (T6B01) How is information transmitted between stations using Echolink?
 - A. APRS
 - B. PSK31
 - C. Internet
 - D. Atmospheric ducting
6. (T9C02) What reading on a SWR meter indicates a perfect impedance match between the antenna and the feed line?
 - A. 2 to 1
 - B. 1 to 3
 - C. 1 to 1
 - D. 10 to 1
7. (T0C01) What type of radiation are VHF and UHF radio signals?
 - A. Gamma radiation
 - B. Ionizing radiation
 - C. Alpha radiation
 - D. Non-ionizing radiation

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