

THE OHM TOWN NEWS

Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club

October 2009

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HAM PROFILE

Darrell and Lynne Robison by Brent Carruth AD7VF

Darrell, KD7BWV, and Lynne, KE7LZN, Robison are staunch supporters of LOTOJA, the 206 mile bicycle race from Logan to Jackson in September of each year. They experienced first hand the difference a neutral support volunteer can make in the lives of the bicyclists. In 2005 freezing temperatures and snow came as the cyclists raced through Emigration Canyon. One cyclist they helped was so cold that she could not change a flat tire. "My hands are so cold," she exclaimed. After warming up in their vehicle for twenty minutes, while Darrell repaired the flat tire, she began feeling a little better and went on to finish the race. Many cyclists experienced hypothermia and had to drop out of the race. Ambulances were dispatched from Soda Springs. Some cyclists were shuttled in one sheriff's vehicle and some in neutral support vehicles to the Caribou county line where the ambulances were waiting and which made eleven



runs that morning. Race officials chartered a bus so cyclists could keep their bicycles with them as they rode from the neutral feed zone to Soda Springs where their sup-

port crews were waiting. This was Lynne's second year helping her husband with LOTOJA and it inspired her to earn her amateur radio license, too.

Darrell and Lynne are two of fourteen in their extended family, which includes several husband and wife pairs, who are amateur radio operators. They know and appreciate the tremendous benefit that amateur radio offers. Darrell was driving through

(Continued on page 3)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Amateur Radio Operators volunteer their time and equipment to help support a wide variety of events, and play a vital role in the health and safety of event participants and overall event success. Our club helps support thirteen public service events in the area during the year. This past September there were three events; LOTOJA, Top of Utah, and the BEAR 100. Each of these events

provides a variety of positions that the ham radio volunteers can help with to gain experience in operating their radio and communication skill. In doing these events, it also provides training to put our stations on the air at remote sites quickly, creating makeshift facilities when needed. It gives us experience in programming frequencies and PL



tones on the fly. Yes, a computer makes it easy to program a radio, but can you program your radio manually?

Each time I participate in these events, I am always learning something. The Top of Utah event was on the same day as the monthly RACES HF Net. Could I check into the RACES HF net while I was in Blacksmith Fork Canyon? Well, I was going to give it a try. I made a list of items that I would need to take. Leaving a little earlier on race day, I got to the assigned location and started my setup. It was still dark, but twenty minutes later I was set up with the vertical HF antenna in place and connected. The wheelchairs started at 6:58 AM and the runners started at 7:03 AM. The first wheelchair, male and female runners at my location were called into TOU net control on the Mt Logan repeater. I was then was able to monitor the RACES HF net on 3920 KHz and later check in. With a little preplanning and a list of items to take, a different radio setup can be successful at a remote station.

73,

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UPCOMING ACTIVITIES 2009

Swaptober Fest — 10 October, 8am to 3 pm In Pavilion at Cache Count Fairgrounds

RACES VHF Net — 15 October, 8:00 PM

Jamboree On The Air — 17 October

BARC Club Meeting — 14 November Election of Club Officers for 2010

RACES HF Net — 21 November, 8:00 AM

BARC Christmas Party/Club Meeting— 3 December 6:30 PM At The Bluebird Restaurant at 19 N. Main in Logan

RACES VHF Net — 17 December, 8:00 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 Club Christmas dinner is going to be at 6:30 P.M. on December 3rd at the Bluebird Restaurant. It will be on the third floor where it has been in the past. The dinner will include Prime Rib and another meat entrée, the usual potatoes and veggies and other good things. The cost will be approximately \$17 per ticket. Plan on coming and having a great time with the prizes and ending the year with a great time with your friends. Tickets will need to be purchased ahead of time. They will be available from Tammy Stevens or other club officers. More information will be in the next newsletter.

One of the BARC Board members has proposed changing some of the wording of the BARC Club Bylaws, Article 12 Section 6. The proposed changes will be voted on in the November club meeting. The proposed changes are as follows: (Items in *Red* to be replaced by items in Blue)

Article XII -VOTING

Section 6: Notification to members of the subject matter of any vote to be taken shall be by publication in the OHM TOWN NEWS the issue prior to the meeting in which the voting is to be done. The notification shall include the time, date and place of the meeting in which the vote will be taken. The notification shall be *mailed* sent no later than *Ten* Seven (10)(7) days prior to the scheduled meeting date.

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

(Ham Profile Continued from page 1)

Wellsville Canyon once when his engine quit. He called for help using the autopatch capability of the Mount Logan repeater. On another occasion, he wished to extend a camping event in the mountains by one more day and could alert his wife via radio of this change so she wouldn't worry about him because he is diabetic. Also, when they travel with friends in multiple vehicles they can stay in contact with each other so much more easily by amateur radio.

Once he was in Logan canyon camping and overheard a radio operator with some scouts whose whereabouts were unknown to another group due to a miscommunication. This other group had already sent out a search team. When Darrell heard this he located the lost group coming from above Logan cave at nighttime and put them in touch with the searching party -- much to the relief of all involved. This is the benefit of amateur radio. At any time "there are probably one hundred people monitoring the Mount Logan repeater and ready to help" in a moment of need, he said.

Darrell was first introduced to ham radio by his friend Shawn Starks, KC7LWK, who gave him one of his own Radio Shack 2-meter HTX-202 FM handheld transceivers. It was like a brick in size and weight. He found it fascinating that he could listen to the shuttle astronauts with this radio. Shawn really wanted to help him get his license and his brother-in-law, Chuck



Johnson, WA7JOS, inspired him with his array of equipment and proficiency with Morse Code, and his good friend, John Waldron, KB7WET, too. He earned his license in 1998 and received his call sign KD7BWV. If you listen for his call, you will notice his friendly, enthusiastic, unique annunciation; a reflection of his friendliness and enthusiasm for amateur radio. Another

similarly sounding local call sign, with a similarly friendly annunciation, is KD7DWV, which belongs to Amy Simmons, of Hyrum, Utah, daughter of well-known amateur radio operators Jim, K7OA, and Beanie, KJ7LQ, Lofthouse of Paradise, Utah.

Darrell is a strong believer in the importance of having good antennas and in making antennas himself. The enclosed photograph shows his tower with just a few of his antennas including a dual-band yagi and some vertical dipoles along with a solar panel which charges a battery. He bought an expensive antenna analyzer which he has used to make thirty twin-lead J-pole antennas. He wishes to make a two-meter helical antenna someday for long distance point-to-point communications. For LOTOJA 2009 he mounted a beam antenna on a telescoping mast attached to his Jeep's hitch, to ensure that he would have a strong communication link in the Snake River canyon.

Lynne, KE7LZN, and her sister-in-law, Kathy Robison, KE7LZO, and father-in-law, Acea Robison, KE7LZP, all earned their licenses together in March 2007. She learned much from the class taught by Kevin Kessler, KE7AAF, and Kevin Reeve, N7RXE, for the 4-H organization, with assistance from Bob Wood, WA7MXZ, and others. She lived in Sandy and West Jordan and attended Utah State University in Logan. Lynne and Darrell met each other through a mutual friend, Samuel Peery, who is a volunteer with the Cache County Sheriff's Search and Rescue unit. Lynne is a full-time homemaker and offers friendly, nurturing child care services for a few children. Darrell works at Schrieber Foods. They enjoy the out-of-doors immensely. This writer's regrettably blurred photograph of a nearly two-year-old photograph shows Lynne and Darrell with their sons, Alek and Kasey and daughter Jessica who are 14, 11 and 2 as of October 2009.

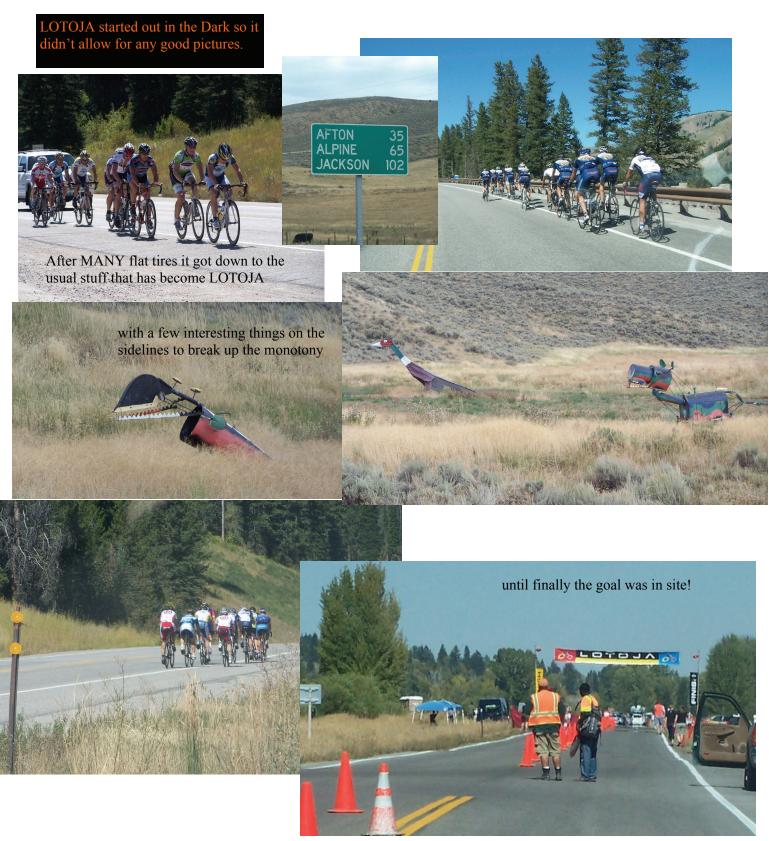
ARRL Rocky Mountain Division update -- September 2009 This month's tech tip by Brian N5ZGT...

Repeater owners, beacon owners, and weak signal operators active on the VHF, UHF (and higher) bands may be interested in plotting their signal strength over terrain to visualize their coverage for a given location, power output, antenna pattern, etc. Repeater clubs also like to plot their repeaters' coverage for posting on their website. A free tool is available to accomplish this.

RadioMobile is a free Windows program that imports digital elevation model data, accepts conditions sets by the user (for example, the lat/long of a repeater site, power output, antenna height above ground, antenna gain, assumed antenna gain of a receiving station, etc), and plots the signal strength over a chosen area of land using the Irregular Terrain Model (ITM, Longley-Rice) so you can visualize how RF propagates as a result of nearby terrain. The plots can be overlaid and imported into Google Earth, too.

RadioMobile can be downloaded from http://www.cplus.org/rmw/english1.html. There's also a neat tutorial website available at http://radiomobile.pe1mew.nl/.

Some more of the summer activities



For the Top Of Utah Marathon it did not start in the dark but it was cold



The ARES E-Letter for September 16, 2009 COM-L Training

The Office of Emergency Communications (OEC) is offering the "All-Hazards Type III Communications Unit Leader (COML) Training and Implementation" course. The OEC supports the ability of emergency responders and government officials to communicate in the event of disasters, acts of terrorism, or other man-made disasters. It works to ensure interoperable and operable emergency communications nationwide.

COML is a position under the Logistics Section of the Incident Command System (ICS). The course trains emergency responders to be communications unit leaders during all-hazards emergency operations, significantly improving communications across the multiple disciplines and jurisdictions responding to an incident. COML responsibilities include developing plans for the effective use of incident communications equipment and facilities, managing the distribution of communications equipment to incident personnel, and coordinating the installation and testing of communications equipment. For information regarding the COML course or course dates and locations, visit the SAFECOM program Web site.

EmComm West 2010, Reno, Nevada: April 30-May 2, 2010

The 2010 edition of EMCOMMWEST will be held the first weekend in May 2010, starting on Friday, April 30, and running through Sunday, May 2, in Reno, Nevada. EMCOMMWEST 2010 news can be found here. If you are interested in presenting at this upcoming event, please go to the Web site and send a note to info@emcommwest.org.

Arizona SEC on Event Comms (EvComms)

For the southern part of Arizona, the event season is spooling up as the heat ships out. Public Service events give operators an opportunity to hone skills used in actual emergencies. Yes, they are scheduled. Yes, you can prepare in advance. Yes, Event Coordinators get to make assignments in advance, but five minutes after the event starts, it's a whole new ball game.

It's not about the radio; it's about knowing capabilities, coverage areas, developing people and technical skills to manage any disaster. In Florida, the landscape is redefined by high winds every four or five years and everyone from Emergency Management to the ham population use every opportunity to review, train and respond to emergencies. In Arizona, flooding is our biggest concern, and the floods are largely short lived. That is not to say they can't be devastating but it's not like rebuilding entire cities like they periodically do in the Gulf states. To be prepared, we have to use any opportunity to prepare, and public service events are a great way to discover what ham radio can do for the community. -- Rick Aldom, W7STS, Arizona Section Emergency Coordinator

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The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 37 September 18, 2009

South African Amateur Radio Payload Reaches Orbit:

After several delays, South Africa's SumbandilaSat satel-http://www.amsatsa.org.za/SZASAT.htm blasted to orbit aboard a Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Kazakhstan on September 16 http:// www.russianspaceweb.com/baikonur.html>. The main payload is a multi-spectral imager, but the satellite also carries an Amateur Radio component consisting of a 2 meter/70 cm FM repeater. After SumbandilaSat is fully commissioned, the repeater will be activated with an uplink at 145.880 MHz and a downlink at 435.350 MHz; there will also be a voice beacon at 435.300 MHz. The transponder mode will be controlled by a CTCSS tone on the uplink frequency. The CTCSS tone frequencies have yet to be announced. SumbandilaSat was sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology and was built at SunSpace < http://www.sunspace.co.za/> in cooperation with the Stellenbosch University http://www.sun.ac.za/ >. In addition to the SA-AMSAT amateur module, the satellite carries Stellenbosch University's radiation experiment and software defined radio (SDR) project, an experiment from Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and a VLF radio module from the University of KwaZulu-Natal.

The ARRL Letter Vol. 28, No. 38 September 24, 2009 ==> ARRL: A PROUD HISTORY OF DEFENDING AMATEURS' RIGHTS

The fall operating season is just around the corner. Whether it's because radio conditions improve or just because attention returns to indoor pursuits as the days get shorter, onthe-air activity always picks up at this time of the year.

Do you operate on 40 meters? "If you haven't been on the band lately, you're in for a real treat!" said ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ. "Years of patient effort by the ARRL and by our sister members of the International Amateur Radio Union (IARU) have paid off. The band is more useful now than it's been in more than 70 years. When you think of 40 meters, you probably think of interference from foreign broadcasters. Here in the Americas, amateurs always have had access to 7,000-7,300 kHz - but we had to tolerate broadcasters in the rest of the world in the upper two-thirds of the band."

Sumner said he can recall the "futility" he felt as a 13-year-old Novice, "trying to make myself heard through the racket with just two crystal-controlled transmitting frequencies to choose from. I remember taking the crystal holders apart and putting pencil lead on the crystals in a vain attempt to slip in between the broadcasting behemoths." At the 2003 World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC-03) -- 40 years later -- he had the privilege of being present in Geneva when it was agreed that amateurs had made the case for a wider worldwide amateur band, free of broadcasting interference." For the first time in the history of radio communication, an HF broadcasting allocation would be shifted in order to accommodate the needs of another radio service -- the Amateur Radio Service!

Sumner called the WRC-03 decision "very gratifying," but said an important question remained: Would the broad-

casters really move? "The International Telecommunication Union has no enforcement authority," he explained, "and operation in contravention of the international Radio Regulations is not exactly unknown. In fact, the transition turned out to be quite dramatic. On the last weekend of March, on Friday evening 7,100-7,200 kHz was full of broadcasters as usual -- but as the new seasonal broadcasting schedule took effect on Saturday night the band cleared of all but a few. For the very first time our overseas friends could hear us on 40 meter phone without having to breach the wall of broadcasters! Over the past six months the situation has continued to improve as more broadcasters have complied with the WRC-03 decision. Nighttime operation above 7,200 kHz remains a challenge, but it's not an exaggeration to say that 40 meters is like a whole new band."

Sumner explained that moving hundreds of broadcast transmitters in dozens of countries out of a band didn't just happen: "It took years of patient effort by a global team of volunteers and ARRL professionals, working through the IARU, to overcome objections and marshal the necessary support. It was an expensive undertaking, and it never could have been accomplished without the voluntary contributions - above and beyond their basic dues - of thousands of ARRL members."

Even as we celebrate our reborn 40 meter band, Sumner said that we, as amateurs, must remember that it takes hard work just to hang onto what we have. "As much as we like to pursue new and improved ham bands, most of our effort must go toward frequency defense," he said. "Every day, new uses of the radio spectrum are being conceived. Each one competes for spectrum access with incumbent radio services, including ours. Not only must we defend our allocations against well-heeled backers of licensed services, we must also try to prevent the pollution of the radio spectrum by unlicensed devices. The fight goes on in Washington, Geneva and around the globe -- and there's no end in sight."

Decisions for WRC-12 are being made now that will determine how many administrations -- including the United States - will support a new secondary allocation to the Amateur Service at 500 kHz, and whether proposals for allocations to oceanographic radars will threaten some of our existing HF bands. "We are hard at work meeting these challenges, but we need your help," Sumner said, in asking for support for the ARRL Spectrum Defense Fund. "Members' past response helped us to keep commercial satellites out of the 144 and 420 MHz bands, to gain access to frequencies around 5 MHz, and to win our court challenge of the FCC's flawed Broadband over Power Lines (BPL) rules. New challenges keep cropping up. Currently we are working to ensure that new short-range medical devices do not impact our ability to use our UHF and microwave bands."

To help in the ARRL's ongoing mission to protect our valuable spectrum, please visit the Spectrum Defense area on the ARRL Web site https://www.arrl.org/forms/fdefense/. You can also reach ARRL Chief Development Officer Mary Hobart, K1MMH, at 860-594-0397 or via e-mail https://www.arrl.org. Special gifts are being offered for contributions, including a mug and pin. More details on thank

you gifts can be found on the donation form for the Spectrum Defense Fund.

More CubeSats in Orbit:

Early Thursday morning (UTC), an Indian PSLV-C14 rocket carried the Oceansat-2 satellite http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oceansat-2 to orbit, along with four CubeSats and two RubinSats. The RubinSats are 8 kg research modules that will remain attached to the PSLV-C14 booster. CubeSats are very small satellites, typically only a few inches on each side. As they are a relatively inexpensive research spacecraft, they've become increasingly popular with university science programs. A number of CubeSats use Amateur Radio frequencies to downlink telemetry, as is the case with this latest group. Early reports indicate that all of the CubeSats are active. You can check out the frequencies and modes of the four satellites on the ARRL Web site http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2009/09/23/11090/?nc=1.

The ARRL Letter for October 1, 2009

On Friday, September 25, the ARRL Board of Directors adopted guidelines on the appropriate use of Amateur Radio on behalf of commercial, non-profit and government entities, as well as recommendations for additional steps to be taken by the ARRL to educate radio amateurs and others on how to prepare and train for public service and emergency communications while complying with the current FCC Rules.

At its meeting in July 2009, the ARRL Board created an ad-hoc committee to study the issue and prepare suggested guidelines. The committee submitted its report to the ARRL Executive Committee, which reviewed and revised the document. After additional discussion among Board members by electronic mail and teleconference, the Executive Committee submitted the document to the Board for formal adoption.

Entitled <u>The Commercialization of Amateur Radio: The</u> Rules, The Risks, The Issues, the document offers guidelines to assist radio amateurs and anyone wishing to utilize the capabilities of Amateur Radio in understanding the FCC Rules that prohibit communications in which the amateur has a pecuniary interest, including communications on behalf of an employer. While the FCC Rules in this regard have not changed in many years, there has been increasing discussion of the issue as growing numbers of employers and nonamateur organizations recognize the value of Amateur Radio as an emergency communications resource and encourage their employees to obtain amateur licenses. Also included are guidelines for evaluating the appropriateness of Amateur Radio volunteers providing communications services to commercial enterprises and other entities for which other communications systems are available.

"The guidelines are not intended to be the last word on the subject, and surely will not be," observed ARRL First Vice President Kay Craigie, N3KN, and chair of the ad-hoc committee. "The report includes several recommendations for additional steps that the ARRL needs to take to help amateurs and the organizations we serve to better understand the Rules and to ensure that what we do to prepare to be of service in emergencies is consistent with the current Rules."

Questions for Technician Class License

- 1. (T1A02) What is one of the basic purposes of the Amateur Radio Service as defined in Part 97?
- A. To support teaching of amateur radio classes in schools
- B. To provide a voluntary noncommercial communications service to the public, particularly in times of emergency
- C. To provide free message service to the public
- D. To allow the public to communicate with other radio services
- 2. (T2B10) What is the correct way to identify when visiting a station if you hold a higher class license than that of the station licensee and you are using a frequency not authorized to his class of license?
- A. Send your call sign first, followed by his call sign
- B. Send his call sign first, followed by your call sign
- C. Send your call sign only, his is not required
- D. Send his call sign followed by "/KT"
- 3. (T3D01) What should you do if you receive a report that your transmissions are causing splatter or interference on nearby frequencies?
- A. Increase transmit power
- B. Change mode of transmission
- C. Report the interference to the equipment manufacturer
- D. Check transmitter for off frequency operation or spurious emissions

- 4. (T4E11) How many watts does a hand-held transceiver put out if the output power is 500 milliwatts?
- A. 0.02 watts
- B. 0.5 watts
- C. 5 watts
- D. 50 watts
- 5. (T6B05) What method is used to transfer data by IRLP?
- A. VHF Packet radio
- B. PSK31
- C. Voice over Internet protocol
- D. None of these answers are correct
- 6. (T8C06) What is of primary importance for a net control station?
- A. A dual-band transceiver
- B. A network card
- C. A strong and clear signal
- D. The ability to speak several languages
- 7. (T0B03) What should you do before you climb a tower?
- A. Arrange for a helper or observer
- B. Inspect the tower for damage or loose hardware
- C. Make sure there are no electrical storms nearby
- D. All of these answers are correct

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October, 2009

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