



# THE OHM TOWN NEWS

*Voice of the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club*

## October 2009

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

### 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

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### 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,  
Cordell KE7IK





*(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



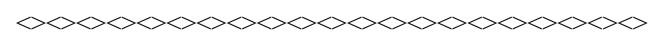
Johnson, WA7JOS, also inspired him with his array of equipment and proficiency with Morse Code, and his good friend, John Waldron, KB7WET, too. He earned his license in 1998 and received his call sign KD7BWV. If you listen for his call, you will notice his friendly, enthusiastic, unique annunciation;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

LOTOJA started out in the Dark so it didn't allow for any good pictures.



After MANY flat tires it got down to the usual stuff that has become LOTOJA



with a few interesting things on the sidelines to break up the monotony



until finally the goal was in site!



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



still it turned out to be a nice day for most.









### 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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