



One of the many things UARC members did this year.

The
Microvolt

December 2003

Please Send Dues to:

UARC

c/o Gregg Smith

7546 S. Uranium Drive

West Jordan, UT 84084-3942

Periodicals Postage Paid

SEND TO

The Microvolt (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$15.00 per year or \$1.50 per issue by the Utah Amateur Radio Club, 3666 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4848. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to *The Microvolt*, c/o Gregg Smith, 7546 S. Uranium Drive, West Jordan, UT 84084-3942.

Prologue

The Utah Amateur Radio Club was organized under its present name in 1927, although its beginnings may date back as early as 1909. In 1928, it became affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (club #1602) and is a non-profit organization under the laws of Utah. It holds a club station license with the call W7SP, a memorial call for Leonard (Zim) Zimmerman, an amateur radio pioneer in the Salt Lake City Area.

Meetings: The club meets each month except July and August. The meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the University of Utah Engineering and Mines Classroom (EMCB) building, Room 101.

Membership: Club membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; a current license is not required. Dues are \$15 per year, including a *Microvolt* subscription. The *Microvolt* and membership cannot be separated. Those living at the same address as a member who has paid \$15 may obtain a membership without a *Microvolt* subscription for \$9. Send dues to the Club Secretary: Gregg Smith, K7APW, 7546 S. Uranium Dr., West Jordan, UT 84084-3942. ARRL membership renewals should specify ARRL Club #1602.

Contributions: Monetary contributions are gladly accepted. Send directly to the Club Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, 1612 W. 4915 S. Taylorsville, UT 84123-4244. For in kind contributions, please contact any board member to make appropriate arrangements.

Repeaters: UARC maintains the 146.62- and 146.76- repeaters. The repeaters are administered by the UARC Repeater Committee. Comments and questions may be directed to any Committee member. The Lake Mountain repeater (146.76-) has autopatch facilities on both the Orem exchange (covering Santequin to Lehi) and the Salt Lake City exchange (covering Draper to Layton). The 449.10 repeater has autopatch facilities into Salt Lake City only available to UARC members. Due to the volume of traffic, only mobiles should use this autopatch. Autopatch use is open to all visitors to our area and to all club members. Non-members who wish to use the autopatch are encouraged to help with the cost of maintaining the equipment by joining the club.

Ham Hot-Line: The Utah Amateur Radio Club (UARC) has a Ham Hotline, 583-3002. Information regarding Amateur Radio can be obtained, including club, testing, meeting, and membership information. If no one answers leave your name, telephone number and a short message on the answering machine, and your call will be returned.

Publication: The *Microvolt* is the official publication of the club. Deadline for submissions to the *Microvolt* is the 10th of each month prior to publication. Submissions by email are preferred (uarc@xmission.com), but other means including diskettes and typewritten submissions can be mailed directly to: Tom Schaefer, 11678 Littler Rd., Sandy, UT 84092. All submissions are welcome but what is printed and how it is edited are the responsibility of the Editor and the UARC board. Reprints are allowed with proper credits to *The Microvolt*, UARC, and authors. Changes in mailing address should be communicated to the Club Secretary: Gregg Smith, 7546 S. Uranium Dr., West Jordan, UT, 84084-3942.

UARC 2003 Board

President: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	298-5399
Executive VP: Laurie "Mac" McCreary, K7LMM	571-5759
Vice Pres: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438
Secretary: Gregg Smith, K7APW	255-0344
Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS	268-0153
Microvolt Editor: Tom Schaefer, NY4I	501-0899
Asst. Microvolt Editor: Bryan Morgensen, KD7LEA	281-1752
Program Chair: Linda Reeder, N7HVF	364-7006
Program Chair: Rulon Holyoak, AC7GR	968-3698
Imm. Past Pres: Mark Richardson, W7HPW	465-7650

Committee Chairpersons and Members

"Book Lady": Fred Desmet, KI7KM	485-9245
Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	968-4614
Field Day Chair: Laurie "Mac" McCreary, K7LMM	571-5759
Club Trustee: Tom Schaefer, NY4I	501-0899
Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	277-7135
ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	566-4497
Board Liaison &	
Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438
Provo Autopatch Host &	
ATV Engineer: Dale Jarvis, WB7FID	224-3405
Repeater Monitor:	

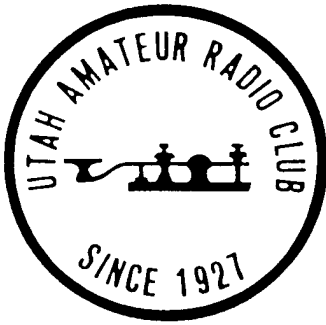
Contents

Prologue	2
UARC 2003 Board.....	2
QST from the Prez	3
Words from the Editor	4
Member of the Month	5
Confessions of an RF Junkie.....	5
2004 Utah VHF Society Swapmeet	7

For late breaking news listen to the UARC Information Net Sundays at 21:00 on 146.62 or set your browser to:
www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html

We are grateful to the management of XMission, our Internet Service Provider (ISP), for the donation of this Web-Page service.





QST from the Prez

Brett Sutherland, N7KG

I've been wondering for a few weeks what I could possibly write about that would be of interest to anyone. As I find myself unable to write an entire article on a single subject, I'll ramble.

Happy Holidays! It's a great time of year. It is especially a great time to buy yourself something new in radio. Go see Bob and pick up a little something for yourself! I really appreciated Bob bringing in Icom to do a presentation for us. If a new rig isn't in the works, then how about a kit? MFJ has great little kits in the less than \$50 range. Perhaps a little short-wave receiver kit would be nice. If you don't buy one for yourself, then get one for the kids or grandkids. It may be just the thing you, or they, need to help learn electronics. Oh, and if you can't think of anyone to give a kit to, let me know. I can think of someone who would enjoy an evening melting solder.

Now on to the main subject. I've been carrying on an active conversation, both on and off air, about the current nature of ham radio and the perceptions thereof. No one can reasonably deny that ham radio has changed since the licensing restructure. The new (in the last ten years) system allows people to get a license with a lesser effort. Perhaps part of it is in the published question pools. Certainly part is with "no-code" and "lesser-code". One really doesn't have to truly

know the material to get a license in today's system. Who is to blame for this? I think one could point a finger many directions. Just listen on air for the blame. Better yet, check qrz.net or eham.net. Read long enough and the postings will leave you indignant.

As I've thought about this issue, many things have crossed my mind. The first is that, in my opinion, one can't blame the new ham for getting a license the way the system dictated. I could argue that licensees didn't have to memorize question pools to pass the exam - that they should have learned the material the old fashioned way, by reading the book. Bottom line, the test was taken and passed. Voilà, a ham was born. Does it really matter how they got their ticket?

I'll digress for a moment. I'm of the opinion that everyone starts somewhere. Perhaps new hams are starting off with less knowledge than the hams of yesteryear. The starting point prior to no-code was more difficult. It required not only theory, but also a mandatory learned skill - CW. That alone was a barrier to entry. That said, barriers are not all bad. Eleven meters and FRS don't have any barriers to entry. I wouldn't want to spend my on air time in either of those bands. I'm glad there are barriers to getting a ticket. I'm one who would have done whatever it took to get mine.

Back to "Does it matter how one gets a ticket." The current system makes it comparatively easy for someone to get a ticket. The "filter" or "barrier" is a lot wider than it used to be. As a result, the embodiment of a ham has changed - and this is what the arguments are all about.

The hobby has changed. It's changed in the short time I've been at it. I find myself thinking how odd it is to hear some of the conversations that are on air. I've had this sort of Jekyll and Hyde thing going on in my head. I can see both sides of the argument. I can see the new ham saying, "I don't have any interest in code. Radio's are too cheap to bother with building and the surface mount parts are too small to see, let alone repair." I can see the old ham saying "Code works. When the duty is to make a contact, under the most adverse of conditions, code works. And by the way, who's going to maintain the repeaters when the OM's are gone. The new guys don't know how to fix anything." Both sides have some validity.

So back to the question, does it matter how one gets a ticket? I don't think so, with one caveat. Namely, and I recently wrote

about this, the caveat revolves around the basis and purpose of amateur radio. I'll refer you to my article of a couple of months ago. My argument goes like this; everyone has to have a starting point. While ideally everyone would know everything before they got a ticket and a radio, which is an unrealistic expectation. What is realistic though, is for all hams, both old and new, to continue learning throughout one's ham career. Does it matter how one gets a ticket? No - not as much, if you keep learning and improving. Yes - if the starting point wound up being an ending point as well. Virtually everyone is getting a ticket by online quizzing instead of learning the information. In that case, the starting point doesn't leave a new operator with the information necessary to get on air and stay out of trouble.

For the sake of our hobby, we all need to keep on learning. We also all need to keep on teaching. There are a fair number of new hams who don't give a rat's tail about tradition, or technology, or emergency service, or code, or...But there are those getting their tickets who do like these things. Listen for them. Many of them got into the hobby just because the technology fascinated them. I implore everyone reading this to continue to learn, and continue to share what you've learned on air. Join the ARRL and get QST. Buy books on the hobby. Learn something, and then elmer someone new.

Toward this end, you may start to hear a tech net on '62. If you are interested in participating, as an on air elmer or a listener let me know. The '62 is a great resource because of its wide coverage. You can also use the Topic Elmer List we created at the beginning of the year. Pick a subject to learn about and call one of the elmers. These folks would love to talk about their specialty.

Bottom line; don't let your starting point in the hobby be the ending point. Have a great Holiday Season. Special thanks to the whole board for a very fun couple of years. Thanks to all of you for your support in the club. I look forward to seeing you all at the club functions and chatting on air.

73 de N7KG Brett

Words from the Editor

Tom Schaefer NY4I

As this is my last issue as editor, it only seems fitting that it is late ☺. This has been a trying year and quite frankly if it

wasn't for APRS, I would not be on the air at all. But though it all, it is always nice to have the support and encouragement of the people in this club I have come to call friends. Rarely will you find a more caring or giving bunch than the people on the UARC board. I wanted to especially thank Brett for his leadership and the kind word he always seems to have. This is a large club and there were very few people doing the work to see it continue. I was quite pleased to see all the new people elected this year to the board. With new blood to the ranks of leadership, will come new opportunities and new ideas. Every member of UARC will benefit from this.

If I may abuse my pulpit for a moment, I hear many things and I hear about even more things. Yes, there are people that wouldn't know how to operate correctly if they had to take a test (oh, I guess they do have to take a test). There are people that have the social skills of potatoes. Yes, there are people that get into ham radio for incredibly selfish reasons. That being said, in my 23 years of being a ham, I can tell you those people are in the minority. I know it makes some people's blood boil when we hear some of the things we hear on the air. But, by and large, I have never met a more giving, caring group of people. Some may not be at your level or expertise in RF Design, but that is OK. Some may not be able to develop logging software like you can, but that is OK. They are people that share a common desire to talk to one another. They are people that share a desire to look over the hill and see what is on the other side. My best analogy of the ham radio community in general is like they are very much like fudge - very sweet with an occasional nut or two. The nuts give it character and turn what could be a very bland and homogenized conversation into something far more interesting. Maybe they are put in front of us to make us appreciate those that do have something to contribute. These things I do not know, however; I do know that my time in UARC has been enjoyable and I have met a lot of people that I consider friends. While I do not know exactly what comes next for me, I know that I am a better person for having known the people in this club. I hope in some small, I have been able to return the favor.

73,

Tom

Member of the Month

Linda Reeder N7HVF



This month we are featuring Raymond Bingham (KC7HOP). Raymond has been in the hobby for 9 years. He has his technician license. Raymond has passed the general theory and is working hard on the Morse code. Raymond has always been interested in electronic “toys”. In high school, he built a hi-fi console; he bought the cabinet and put all of the elements in it. It was years later when he got an offer from the local LDS Stake that got him going in amateur radio. Raymond really enjoys working with emergency communications. He is a member of UARC and ARES. Raymond is the welfare square multi regional emergency response communications coordinator. He received this assignment in December of last year. Raymond use to be very active in the scouts until he received this assignment. This organization covers Summit, Tooele and Salt Lake counties. The purpose of this organization is to direct LDS unit leaders on how they can help with communications in an emergency if there were a loss of phones and cell phones. It is

in no way a replacement of the other amateur radio emergency organizations.

Raymond coordinated the quick class session that was held on September 12th, 13th and 20th at Welfare Square. There were 28 people who took the class and 24 passed the test. There were 2 out of the 24 who passed the general theory and now they are working on the code. Raymond says they are planning on offering some more classes next year. They hope to have a technician class in the spring and another technician class in the summer. In addition they are having a general class in the fall. Raymond says in the general class they are going to start

out with the code and if they don't know it well enough to pass the test they are going to encourage them to go home and work on it and come back next time. They have a follow up class for the graduates. They teach them about the equipment that is available. They also tell them about all the different clubs and organizations that they could belong to. Raymond’s wife Nancy (KC7ZTE) has her technician license. Raymond and his wife Nancy have three children one boy and two girls. Both of the girls are married. Their son is 18 but he isn't interested in amateur radio. Raymond works for Clear Channel in the advertising and sales department. Raymond says “there are so many things in amateur radio that he would like to do, but just doesn't have the time”. Raymond says when he retires maybe he will have time to do all of those things. He would like to go on the friendship cruise if they start that up again. He did get to go to field day at Payson Lakes and enjoyed it very much.

Raymond we wish you the best in all of your endeavors

Confessions of an RF Junkie

Randall Shreve, KD7PCW

A chance encounter during a family vacation and the innocent pursuit of magical whiskers start a lifelong addiction to radio.



Before the days of GameBoys, portable DVD players and a host of other computerized high tech devices, a boy had to find things to do like reading or exploring to occupy his time. Difficult to imagine, but true. It was a different time and it was on one of my daily explorations during a family vacation along the Kings River in central California that I made my initial discovery in radio and fell under the spell of the magical ways of RF.

I was out hunting frogs (catch and release, of course!) when I first noticed the building. It was made of cinderblock and had a red and white painted thingie pointing upwards to the sky. I decided that this building had to be checked out. I could see that the door was open with a screen door in place to keep out the unwanted bugs. It appeared dark on the inside. With frog in hand, I approached the screen door and was immediately overcome by an odd odor. No, it was more like a strange,

heady perfume. This was great stuff and my little brain was cataloging it right up there with the wonderful aroma of grandma's homemade bread.

I was being drawn closer and peered through the screen door of what I later found out was a tiny UHF TV station. I knew this was going to be better than finding frogs. I stood there inhaling big lung-fulls of the stuff, breathing in the intoxicating aroma, a mixture of ozone and the smell of burnt dust on transmitter tubes. There was magic going on there, a magic that I didn't understand at the time, magic that I could smell, almost feel and wanted to be a part of. The magic of RF.

Due to the fact that I must have looked pretty funny with my nose pressed against the screen door of that tiny station, whiffing away, I was allowed entrance to the building, sans frog, by a gentleman in his fifties. The UHF TV station was a privately owned one-man operation. The station owner/operator was obviously a big-time RF junkie himself. He was airing some old 16-mm movie and I watched the



Good thing he's into radios, he sure can't write!

process for the first time. Wow! This was cool! I asked a lot of questions, testing the poor guy's patience. Periodically he would need to stop the Q&A session and study the lines on an oscilloscope, which reminded me of the radar operator on my favorite TV show at the time, "Voyage to the Bottom of the Sea." This added more mystique and magic, for indeed I was watching a wizard at work with the glow of the transmitter tubes just beyond.

The Not-So-Proverbial Cat's Whisker

My adventure continued when I returned home, as I now had to have my own piece of the magic. I had to have a radio, but not just any radio--it had to be a crystal set. My grandfather's youthful stories of his "cat's whisker" crystal radio set made me long for a family cat. Unfortunately, we only had a dog.

My little mind twisted and turned. In order for this radio to work, I rationalized that my parts list required a neighborhood feline for the necessary whiskers. So, being the successful frog hunter I was, I decided that a catch-and-release program for cats would be a cake walk. New dimensions in hunting were required, however, as after a few sessions of chasing cats I quickly discovered that the neighborhood cats were faster than I. Frogs could be hard to catch at times, but they didn't climb trees.

I decided to study the felines so as to figure out a harmless means of obtaining the magic whiskers. Observation was the key and I would lie in the long summer grass and watch the unsuspecting cats, following their movements just like Jim Fowler on *Mutual of Omaha's Wild Kingdom*.

I decided that the construction of a box trap was also required, as all I wanted were the whiskers, and my grandfather's garage was the right place with all the needed supplies. After the box trap was built and equipped with a long piece of kite string played out as a trip line, me, the little RF junkie, lay hiding in the grass, waiting for the first cat to take the bait.

It was just as I was settling in that my grandfather happened upon me. He asked what I was trying to accomplish. After a good chuckle he informed me that "cat's whisker" was just the nickname for the thin wire used on the detector of the radio. Days of planning ran down the rat hole. My dreams were dashed and I was crushed.

The Mighty Hunter Rewarded

However, all was not lost and there was a happy ending to this portion of an RF junkie's life. A few days later my grandfather rewarded my interest--and the humor that I supplied him with the cat catching scheme--with the present of my own crystal set. It was an Olsen diode detector radio that my grandfather built for me from a kit. Hot dog! I was one happy boy with my very own receiver, a magical device I used to listen to rock'n'roll!

Magic, being magic, has that unexplainable way of touching and amazing others. While most ham shacks are now solid-state--and lacking a certain RF perfume--the magic of radio is still there. As Amateur Radio operators each of us is a wizard, a holder of the ability to make licensed RF magic. With this we are all stakeholders in the future of the hobby with the ability to positively touch those around us with magic. So if sometime you find a nose pressed up against your screen door, perhaps it may be wise to first hide your cat and then invite the soon-to-be RF junkie into your shack and let the magic begin.

2004 Utah VHF Society Swapmeet

When is it?

Saturday, February 21, 2004, beginning at 8:00 AM.

Where will the swap meet be this year?

At the Utah State Fairpark. This is located along the north side of North Temple at about 10th West. The festivities will be in the Zion building - the same building as last year. The Zion building is located next to Gate B (see map) in building 34. If you have any doubt, just follow the crowd.

The Utah State Fairgrounds are big! Where to we go?

The entrance is through Gate 1 (shown in the picture at the top of the page.) This gate is about 500 feet north of North Temple on 10th west and is the main entrance to the fairgrounds. There is ample parking to the north after you go through the gate. Parking and access near the building itself is limited - so please leave that parking for those who need to unload/load their stuff, as well as those who need special access.

Which building will it be in?

The 2004 swapmeet will be in the Zion Building - the same building as last year. The Zion building is next to Gate B - building 34 (refer to map.) The main entrance to the Zion building is on the West side (See the picture below.)

What is this swapmeet about?

The swapmeet is an annual event held by the Utah VHF Society where the members of the amateur community gather together and meet, swap/sell/trade stories and lies, equipment, and junque. It is also at this meeting that the UVHFS officers are chosen and elected and important matters of policy discussed/voted upon.

What sort of junque will be there/should I bring?

As you would expect, the emphasis of the swapmeet is on Amateur Radio - so if all you bring are a bunch of Vacuum Cleaners and the warped head from a '73 Buick, you will look out of place! Generally, anything ham radio-related would be fine, as are electronic and computer-related items, generally.

What about admission?

Admission is FREE for current UVHFS members, \$2.00 for non-member adults, and \$1.00 for non-members 12 years old

and under. Your membership may have already expired - see below for info on how to renew!

Will there be tables/spaces for my stuff?

It is likely (but not guaranteed) that there will be several dozen 8-foot tables available. For a "swap space" with a table, the charge will be \$5.00. If you had planned to bring your own table (that is, you just want an 8 foot long floor space) the charge will be \$3.00. This charge is in addition to any admission fee.

Communication Products Amateur Radio Sales

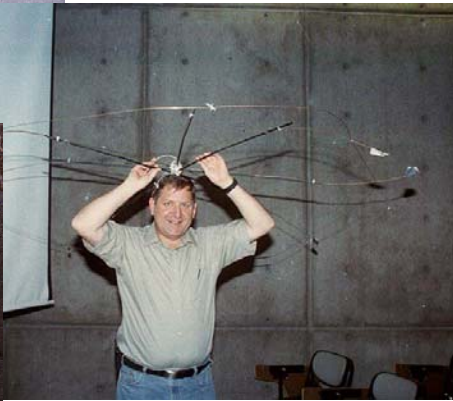
7946 S. State St., Midvale, UT
801-567-9944

Open Weekdays 10-7
Saturday 10-6

Come See the New ICOMs
Featuring Their
Amateur/Receiver
Lines Now On Display

<http://www.comproducts.net>

Bob Wood, W7OAD
UARC Member



**Have a
Great
2004!**