



Andrew Madsen (AC7CF) works the CW station at UARC's Field Day effort. (Photo by KK7DV)

# The Microvolt

July 2003

Please Send Dues to:

UARC

c/o Gregg Smith

7546 S. Uranium Drive

West Jordan, UT 84084-3942

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## 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.

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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: Allen Wright, N7QFI	268-8482

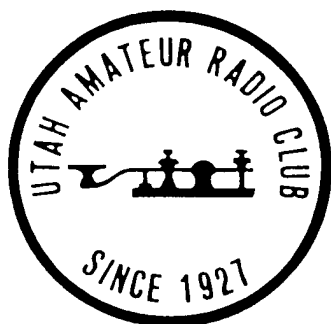
## Contents

Prologue.....	2
UARC 2003 Board.....	2
QST from the Prez .....	3
Field Day 2003.....	4
For Sale.....	5
Upcoming Testing Sessions.....	5
Guest Editorial .....	7
September Meeting .....	8
AVERT'S Annual CERT Drill.....	8

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](http://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**

### **Chill!**

It's been hot. Way too hot. I left Texas for the mountains because I didn't like the summer heat, and look what we have here. But this is the time for getting out with the family and that is what we have done. However... when one spends one's vacations on avocations, it begins to feel like a vocation. Especially when the avocation has so many rules surrounding it. Intermingle rules with regional operating habits, throw in a few copper traces, some FET's and the resistive component (the operator), and trouble can brew.

I'm not talking just any trouble. I'm talking the kind of trouble that can keep you away from the things you love. Now, lest you misunderstand, this isn't about marriage, it's about Ham Radio. If ever there was a hobby that engendered itself to trouble, this is it.

# **The Microvolt**

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Radio takes the sort of dedication that costs both time and money. Just add up the amount of time you've spent looking at catalogs with pictures of multi-colored LED rigs, studying for exams, looking at radios, improving your station setup, looking at radios... You get the idea. Then throw in the money factor. One day you buy one of those rigs, practice your station setup skills, read the manual and power it up. While in the throws of admiration over the buttons and knobs, and especially the LED's, you hear someone key up. And who does it end up being? The worlds' great LID, at least in your opinion. How dare they do that to your new rig! And you begin to see the problem. Couple money and time both spent, and you've created a tinderbox.

So, what is to be done about this avocation? Just chill. It's a hard task with this heat, but just chill. Relax and enjoy the hobby. The next time you hear your favorite LID, who no doubt has risen with the heat to an all-new level of Liddom, just give he/she/it the benefit of the doubt. Exercise your AF Gain, change frequency, or just plain turn off the rig and take a break. No sense tainting your favorite avocation with self-indulged bludgeoning. Get a cold drink and come back a little later. It's either that or let it bother you till someone in blue says, "Please step away from the mic". You'll thank yourself for the break and come back refreshed and invigorated.

Enjoy the hobby, and say hi if you hear me on. N7KG for LID

## Field Day 2003

**Gordon Smith K7HFV**

The contest is over. In many ways things are getting back to normal. Many of the operators report being able to get through a day with less than 16 hours sleep. They are returning to saying, "Please pass the salt" instead of "Gimme your section!" But memories of Field Day 03 will probably linger for some time.

June 28 and 29 were the dates of the weekend for the annual ARRL Field Day contest and UARC entered from its site near Payson Lakes. The site was already well populated with hams by Thursday night. Friday at noon the contest rules allowed setup to commence. Carla, KC7HON, did one of her famous tree-climbing performances to anchor one end of a Windom. UARC President Brett Sutherland, N7KG, made a clever bow-and-arrow shot on the other end of camp, just counteracting the wind, to land a line near the top of an evergreen atop a hill. This provided the anchor for a random wire.

As the day progressed, Lonnie, K7LO, arrived with a military "GP Medium" tent and Ron, K7RLS, arrived towing the club's 5 KW generator, including crank-up tower. Glen, WA7X, using his portable satellite uplink (and, no doubt, some infrastructure from US Satellite) had an Internet connection, a phone on a Murray exchange, and a live web-cam recording the events on the site. The day ended (or more accurately, the new day began) with a great star and constellation lecture by Carla, KC7HON.

Not too long after sunup on Saturday, people were busily engaged stringing antennas, raising towers, connecting feedlines, trying out digital interfaces, and getting the computer logging network set up. Tents were found to house the main phone and CW stations. Field Day chairman Lauri ("Mac") McCreary was on site.

It was pointed out that the computer running the software for digital modes had to run Windows and in the event of a power failure (something that happens about every three hours during Field Day) it would take a length of time to reboot roughly equivalent to that needed to create nearby Loafer Mountain. It was WA7X to the rescue. Glen had a UPS that operated on two 12-volt batteries and had more than enough capacity to run the entire Field Day operation long enough to do a refueling.

W7SP hit the air pretty much on time at noon. We had one phone station, one CW station, and one station dedicated to the digital modes, to put us in the three-transmitter class. The "Get on the Air" (GOTA) station operated under the call AC7GR, giving us a chance to help beginners learn the ropes without changing our entry classification.

Soon we started demonstrating the problems that can happen when several stations are set up physically close to one another. The digital station and the CW station could not operate on the same band. The CW station could tolerate the phone station on the same band so long as they kept a 20 dB attenuator in. The phone station could tolerate the CW station by asking for lots of repeats. It was suggested that some of the "modern" rigs don't have nearly the dynamic range of those from several decades back.

Murphy apparitions weren't limited to interference. Two of the logging computers seemed to hang occasionally for no apparent reason. The logging computer in the CW tent seemed to take an unreasonably long time to pass keyboard input along to the program. However, the networking between the computers that Jordan, KD7COO, had set up seemed to work quite reliably.

To quote a line from our slide show, "Not everyone operates all the time." Gary Crum, KK7DV, spent some of the afternoon setting up an 802.11b wireless Internet connection so that any Internet-starved campers could get their e-mail. He also led an effort to place a "geo-cache" in the neighborhood. (See [http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache\\_details.aspx?ID=77232](http://www.geocaching.com/seek/cache_details.aspx?ID=77232) for more details.)

CW operators were scarce this year. However, Andrew, AC7CF, and Tom, W7GT, kept a consistent string of contacts going, providing more contacts than all the other stations combined.

Jerry and Verna Bennion, WR7N and N7LNL, were in charge of the community dinner and it fully lived up to the great reputation the Bennions have achieved. The Bennions' delicacies were supplemented by various tasty contributions from the other Field Day participants.

The meal also recreated the famous Miracle of Saturday Dinner. If one counts the number of Field Day participants while one is carrying a clipboard and soliciting operators to run through the night, the number comes out in the single digits. However, if one makes the same count right after the announcement that dinner is served, the result exceeds the recorded population of Payson.

Soon after dinner everyone assembled in another part of camp for the traditional Saturday night activity: trying to get the generator to run. It seems that the dregs of one of the gas cans had run through the system and there seemed to be a serious fuel problem. There ensued several hours of work by Ron, K7RLS, and Clint, KA7OEI. Solvents and starting fluid were tried, the carburetor was disassembled and cleaned, and the engine finally agreed to run only if kept fully choked. While

this all was proceeding, Ken Imber, KI7SLC, lent his portable Honda generator to keep the stations on the air.

By midnight, all the digital and GOTA operators seemed to have disappeared and 20 meters seemed to be in its death throes for the night, so the CW station switched to 40. Then Brett, N7KG, found that 20 phone seemed to be doing just fine, so he made a pleasant and productive contact run without QRM from the other stations. Then, about 1:30, the generator (perhaps getting starved for attention) died once again. Brett found no operators about at any of the stations, so he shut down the UPS and went to bed.

When Sunday morning dawned, Ken's generator was again pressed into service and stations went back on the air. An hour or so later, Clint appeared and apparently knew the secret place to kick the club's generator. It was running again in about five minutes.

When attempts were made to start the digital station back up, the computer monitor died, so operation from that station was apparently over. All the CW operators had had to leave, so that station was also out of service. So when the contest ended at noon on Sunday, there was just one of our four stations left on the air. Well, there's always next year.

How did we do? All together we made 1074 contacts for a total claimed score of 4310 points. That's a bit lower than last year's 4716 points, but perhaps not so bad when one considers we were only in the three-transmitter class this year instead of four as last year. The score could be modified at ARRL Headquarters.

We would be interested in any images or stories that anyone would like to add to this account. Contact K7HFV@arrl.net We will post score information as soon as it is available.

KK7DV has more images available at <http://www.pbase.com/w7sp2003a/fieldday2003a>.

## For Sale

**ICOM 738 HF radio.** Great shape, 400 Hz CW filter, Homebrew Rig control interface, Homebrew PSK interface FM, memories, Speech Processor, Great PBT and Notch filtering. Great CW rig as it has a key jack and paddle jack. \$700

**ICOM IC271A 2m Base CW/SSB/FM (with the preamp).** Great condition. \$450

**Cushcraft R7 vertical.** No radial \_ wave HF antenna 40m – 10m. \$150

Contact Tom Schaefer, NY4I [ny4i@arrl.net](mailto:ny4i@arrl.net) or 801-736-2062

Kent 2-lever paddle needs new owner to love and care for it. Essentially in new condition, with cable connector, and original box. Already have two other paddles, and that's all I need. \$95.

Wanted: Used 2M or dual-bander mobile or base station transceiver (not HT) that runs on 12VDC. Looking for reasonably recent model with typical memory setup, PL tones, 25 or 50W, etc.



Call Tom, W7GT at 583-9625, or email at [w7gt@arrl.net](mailto:w7gt@arrl.net).

## Upcoming Testing Sessions

Date	Location	Contact
8/20/2003	Provo	Steve Whitehead 465-3983
8/20/2003	St. George	Ron Sappington 435-673-4552
8/26/2003	Salt Lake	Eugene McWherter 484-6355



## Member of the Month

**Linda Reeder, N7HVF**



**T**his month we are featuring Pamela Haag (KC7YLR). Pamela has been in amateur radio for 8 years and has her technician plus license. In 1996, Pamela's husband David (KC7PVD) decided to get back into the hobby. He had his technician license once before, but let it lapse. Pamela started asking her husband all kinds of questions about the hobby. David gave her a "Now You're Talking" book. When she looked at it she thought "this is too technical for me." David invited her to come with him to Jerry Bennion's (WR7N) class. Jerry was teaching about electrical principles and he made it sound so easy. Pamela decided to go for it.

That same year Pamela attended field day with David at Payson Lakes. She really enjoyed it. Also that same year she participated in the *Days of '47* celebration. Since she didn't have her license yet she kept the roll of all of the hams that were participating in this event. Shortly after that in that same year Pamela obtained her novice license. She said she would take the code test just for fun and she passed. Finally in 1998 she obtained her technician license. Pamela said she would love to upgrade so that she could help with the testing sessions.

Right after Pamela got her technician license she was called as a communications specialist in her church. She and Dave taught classes and helped others to get their ham licenses. During that time she was a member of ERS which is the emergency response team sponsored by the LDS Church. Pamela is now a member of ARES and UARC. She also helps

on the ARES net. She did the training and talked about the importance of women being involved in amateur radio. Pamela says she would really like to get a women's amateur radio organization going in Utah. If you are interested in starting a YLRL chapter here and would like to help, give her a call. The YLRL has women's amateur radio organization throughout the United States, but we don't have any in Utah.

Pamela's favorite facet of amateur radio is the social activities. Last September they helped out with the Wasatch 100 race. Just recently she helped out with the Boy Scout's food drive. Pamela has also been involved with a chemical emergency preparedness exercise CSEPP which stands for Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Plan. They attended field day with the West desert amateur radio club this year. The club has their own station at the shop.

Pamela and her husband Dave have 6 children 5 daughters and one son. They are all grown and married now.

Pamela, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors.

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**Bob Wood, W7OAD  
UARC Member**

## Guest Editorial

### The ARRL – Fundraising First, Radio second!

Tom Schaefer, NY4I

Recently, it has become hard to tell the difference between the ARRL and just another fund raising operation. The ARRL has launched several different “diamond” levels of membership to recognize different levels of contributing member. Additionally, the ARRL has decided to hold special receptions at large hamfests for its largest donors. The ARRL has for years offered the concept of life membership to its members. If you pay the equivalent of 20 years worth of dues, you are a lifetime member. I suspect it will not be very long before they start making the life members feel guilty about not contributing any more money to the league. Please do not get the impression that this is just another attack on the ARRL. Plenty of other people engage in that activity. I felt compelled to write this to share my feelings that the ARRL while it does some good work, is going about this in the wrong way.

There is no doubt that the ARRL needs money to fund the issues its executive board feels are important. This money apparently was not coming in from the general membership in large enough volume. The ARRL created the position of Chief Development Officer to find funds in the private and public sector to help the ARRL through grants, and the like. Once an organization secures a person to raise money, all areas are now up to re-evaluation. It seems to me that creating a cast system within the ranks of ARRL membership is not the way to secure the full long-term support of its members. Yes, if you can afford to contribute the right amount, I am sure it is fun to see your picture in QST shaking hands with president. However, while I totally agree that hams are incredibly cheap and getting the money for yearly membership to the ARRL is a challenge in itself, making a sub-class of member is not the way to go about it. I think that raising money from grants like the United Technologies campaign is wonderful. But, there are now several different levels of members in the ARRL based on your financial ability to pay. Is it only a matter of time before we each get a vote in section elections based on how much we gave to the ARRL? I fail to see how the multiple classes of membership can lead to anything except resentment at the league for selling out its principles for some short-term gain.

If one considers the ARRL along with other classic fund-raising operations like the Easter Seals, and the American Heart Association (both of which use the mail as their primary fund-raising apparatus), I think I get many more ARRL mailings than all the others combined. Now, I know there are people reading this that say there are many threats to the ARRL and our frequencies. As of right now, I believe there are 5 different causes stated in the league literature requesting

support. There is no doubt that these things need attending. If you want to donate to a specific fund, they are all great causes to consider. The point of this article is to say that asking for additionally contributions seems innocuous, but as supported by the evidence, it does not stop there. We now have the Diamond system of membership, which creates this sub-culture. As you may know, depending upon your membership level, you can even get QST mailed at a First-Class rate rather than through the periodicals rate. This basically means there are perks for different levels of membership. I understand the concept that “those that can pay more, should get more”, but I wonder where it stops. Will higher-level members, get their DXCC applications processed first. Will the ARRL-VEC give special processing to applications where the session has a super-duper member? What will become of ARRL Lab equipment auctions? Will they ultimately be opened to just super-duper members? I am afraid of the slippery slope the League has been thrust upon in their fervor to become the best fund-raising concern in the USA. At some point, the ARRL has to remember some of the roots it was founded upon. I understand that the role of the Chief Development Officer is to raise funds from organizations and the like. However, the CDO has somehow discovered that the ARRL membership is this untapped resource ripe for the picking. By joining the diamond club at the different levels, you are essentially becoming a “better” member because you “really” support the league. It will be interesting to see where this goes, but I hope the Chief Development Officer remembers that we are hams first, and generally ARRL members second. We got into this hobby for the love of it and choose to support the league because we like to read QST. Some of us also think the ARRL does some good in their other programs which is why the other half of our membership fee goes to the league for its programs. Simply treating the membership base as a pool of money that you have to figure out how to procure cheapens the ARRL. If I could say one thing to the league and the CDO, it would be to choose carefully the programs you start and consider their long-term impacts. If you alienate the majority of the members, then no one will be available to contribute to the special funds. I suspect it will be harder to fund the league on the backs of the Diamond club versus the general membership.

**Opinions are my own. I am not speaking for UARC or the UARC board. I felt compelled to write about this and since I have no other material to put in here, this is it. Again, you are not allowed to hold UARC or its board accountable for this diatribe.**

## September Meeting

**Gordon Smith K7HFV**

Have you ever wondered what the people you talk to actually look like? Have you wondered how they arrange their hamshacks? One way you can find out is by operating Amateur Television or ATV.

With ATV it's quite possible to send pictures across town, not only live shots of your shack, but also your vacation videos, the famous shot of what's-his-name falling off the tower at Field Day, and the drug bust at your neighbors' house.

Clint Turner (KA7OEI) is going to be presenting the program at our September UARC meeting which will be held Thursday, September 4. (Note that there is no August meeting but there will likely be a dinner get-together on the evening of August 7. Contact KC7CSE or K7HOZ for details.)

Clint has been active in ATV for many years and is one of the forces behind the ATV repeater currently under construction. He may also recruit other members of the ATV community to help with the presentation. They will tell and show us what kind of equipment is necessary to get started and what you can do with it. If you have a camcorder as part of your electronic toy set, then you may be well on the way to transmitting pictures.

As well as regular (fast-scan) ATV there are also some slow-scan modes. These resemble a slide show more than what we usually think of as television needing several seconds to transmit each frame. Their advantage is that they will fit in a normal voice channel and can be used on HF. Clint may give us an overview on these modes as well.

That's Thursday, September 4, at 7:30 P.M. in room 101 of EMCB on the University of Utah campus. For details on getting to the location, see page 2 or the UARC website.

Of course there will be the "standard" features of monthly meetings as well:

- Availability of ARRL books from Fred, the "book lady";
- A chance to sign up for badges, hats, and jackets;
- An opportunity to join UARC or renew your membership
- The chance to meet face-to-face the people you talk to on the air
- The "Elmer Hour," a chance, after the meeting, to get your questions answered by those who have been in the hobby a while; and
- The "Meeting(s) after the meeting": A chance to enjoy pizza or other gastronomic delights with other hams.

## AVERT'S Annual CERT Drill

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

At Jordan High School  
95 East Beetdigger Blvd. (9825 South State Street),  
Sandy

Drill Registration: 8:00-9:00 AM

"Victims" Registration: 8:00-10:00 AM

Drill Practices: 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 AM and Noon

Seminars: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

### COME JOIN THE FUN:

- Practice your CERT skills
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- Join your local CERT Association and meet other CERT members
- Place orders with vendors of CERT gear and other Preparedness items
- Be a volunteer "victim"

The public is invited to observe the process of disaster response as it progresses from neighborhood to federal levels, to attend the emergency preparedness fair, to be a volunteer "victim," and to learn why the CERT program is so important.

For more information go to AVERT's web site: [www.avertdisasters.org](http://www.avertdisasters.org)