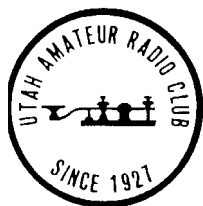


# The *Microvolt*

April, 2008



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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's Warnock Engineering Building in room 1230, The "Duke Classroom."

Membership: Club membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; a current license is not required. Dues are \$17 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 \$17 may obtain a membership without a Microvolt subscription for \$9. Send dues to the Club Secretary: Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1632. 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 for Provo which are currently disabled due to abuse and for Salt Lake which is in need of reworking to be compatible with IRLP.

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: Tony Naef, 4585 Sunstone Rd. #327, Taylorsville, UT 84123. 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: Dick Keddington, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT, 84124-1632.

UARC 2008 Board

Table listing UARC 2008 Board members and their contact information, including President John Brewer, Executive VP Andrew Madsen, and various committee chairs.

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Table listing committee chairpersons and members, such as 'Book Lady' Fred Desmet, Historian Ron Speirs, and various engineering roles.

Contents

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IRLP Information

For information on using the club's IRLP node on the 146.76 repeater, check http://www.utaharc.org/irlp.

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

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# The Microvolt

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Volume 52, Issue 4, April 2008

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## Latest News

### No Meeting in August

The steak-fry substituted for the July meeting and we don't meet in August, so the next Thursday night meeting will be on September 4. We don't know the program topic yet, but it will be announced on the web site and a future issue of *The Microvolt* (we hope) as soon as available. (Yes, we know they've been a bit infrequent lately. We're working on that.)

### Revised Code Practice Schedule

Lou Berry, AD7HD, is sending code practice two nights each week on 146.58 MHz. He is willing to adjust speeds and texts according to the needs of those using the practice. The schedule is now Mondays and Thursdays at 7:30 P.M. If you're learning the code for the first time or just brushing up, give a listen.

### Steak-Fry a Success

UARC's steak-fry on July 12 was a success, despite a smaller turnout than has been typical in recent years. The turnout was at least partially attributable to a conflict with the Utah Hamfest and Rocky Mountain Division Convention taking place the same weekend.

A small but sincere group had its advantages. There was plenty of table space and not the slightest problem with parking. None of the drinks

ran out and there was enough ice cream for seconds.

President John Brewer, N7MFQ, deserves a special thanks for putting the event together almost singlehandedly in the two days beforehand. Help that had been promised earlier turned out to be unavailable due to family responsibilities. Temperatures were comfortable, there was no problem finding seating in the shade, and the corn that Chuck, WA7JOS, found at a roadside stand was superb. Thanks to all who helped and those who attended.

### Division Director Lauds Hamfest Organizers

In a recent e-mail ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Director Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT, calls the recent Rocky Mountain Division Convention, held near Bryce Canyon National Park, "a great success." He goes on to say,

"A great, big 'thank you' goes out to Ray Riding, AC7RR, convention chairman, and his team of enthusiastic volunteers for a job well done. Thanks also to the members of the Utah Section, led by Section Manager Mel Parkes NM7P, for hosting this year's Division convention. And thank you to all who traveled to enjoy this year's convention."

Our next issue of *The Microvolt* will feature a full report on the convention by Program Chairman Jed Petrovich, AD7KG.

## **Dayton Hamvention 2008**

**(My return after 32 years absence)**

by Wesley Wilkinson, W7WES

The decision to go back to the Dayton Hamvention has always been an easy decision. For the past 32 years my decision has always been "let's go!" However, for the past 32 years something has always gotten in the way such as work, children, finances, or work. I mentioned work twice because, being self employed, about 90% of the time, it was work that prevented me from going. So in early April my wife and I sat down to discuss the possibilities of my going back this year. If nothing interfered I could go!

The weeks went by slowly without any conflicts to prevent me from going. I purchased my plane tickets and waited for my world to crash, making it impossible to go. However this year was different: nothing happened, no one needed me at the last minute for work, the family was OK, everything seemed perfect. Then I checked the weather forecast for the week I would be there: thunderstorms or showers expected on every day during the Hamvention. I went anyway, equipped with an umbrella and a lot of faith.



A U.S. Tower and SteplR outside the arena

Friday morning I arrived at Hara Arena at 7:30 A.M., hoping to beat the crowd. Was I ever wrong! There were hams everywhere waiting in lines to purchase tickets or to enter the Flea market. The first thing I saw was a U.S. Tower with a stepper antenna on the top. (See above picture). Was I truly here at the Hamvention after 32 years of absence? Just to let you know, I grew up about fifteen miles south of Hara Arena, in the town of Monroe. It was there I caught the bug and discovered the fascination of 2-way radio (first CB and then Amateur Radio).

I made my way to the ticket line and as I was standing waiting for my turn, I reminisced back to the mid 60's to the mid 70's when my friends and I had a booth in the flea market every year. It was a tradition for us to gather together all the stuff we could part with and haul a carload to Dayton. When we were assigned our spot, we went right to work setting up tables, displaying our stuff so all could see, and then we priced the wonderful treasures that we had brought. (We learned the first year that you need to price it a dollar or two higher than what you want, because hams are great at dickering to get your price down – it makes the final purchase seem like you got a real bargain!)

Now with four of us in the booth, it was a little crowded, so we would split up. Two stayed to watch the booth and two went out looking for this year's bargains. We did this in one-hour shifts.

Before I knew it I was standing at the ticket window and the lady was wanting my money. I paid my entrance fee and went over to stand in the line to get into the flea market area. There was about twenty minutes until it opened. Once again I



started to reminiscence about my friends and our booths over the years. My thoughts went to all the gear and parts I sold during those years, SWR bridges, antennas, military switches, aviation lights for a tower, a war surplus SCR-274N Command set, and a couple hundred other things I don't remember. However, the only thing I have ever regretted selling was a Drake 2-B and its speaker/Q-multiplier, the 2BQ. It was in pristine condition, a museum piece. To this day, I do not remember what I wanted more that caused me to let the Drake go.



The "Mother of all HT's"

As my mind came back to the present, I realized that the gates to the flea market were opening and the hams were going in like being poured into a funnel. What goodies laid beyond the gates for me? There were approximately 2000 booths and I knew it would take hours to see every one of them. I saw booths loaded with quality used gear, and on the flip side, I saw booths with stuff that if they gave it to me I would have to refuse it. (My wife would say it would be a miracle if that happened.) One booth had "The Mother of All HT's" (see picture). What an antenna!! There was a booth that even had a kitchen sink. I went back the next day to take a picture of it but the sink was

gone. That just proves you can buy anything at Dayton – even the kitchen sink!

During the three days of the Hamvention I saw literally tens of thousands of items, except what I was looking for: a Kenwood MC-50 Microphone and a Kenwood HS-5 headphones. I need these to complete a backup station that I wanted clear back in the 60's but I couldn't afford. Oh, yes – I am still looking for them. After an hour in the flea market, the main doors opened to Hara Arena, where the major manufacturers and dealers had their booths. How hundreds of hams got into the building before me is still a mystery, but they were there and moving around was slower than rush hour traffic on a Friday night during a holiday weekend.

While I was on my way to see every booth, several hams came up to me and introduced themselves. A couple of them check into a net where I am a net controller. Several others recognized my call sign and a fellow ham recognized me as the QSL manager of the special event that the Utah DX Association puts on in September. I met other hams that I have QSO'd with, even JA9AA, "Kii," from Japan.



A Row in the flea market

After an hour or so inside I went back outside to the flea market to escape the crowd. I could visit the outside booths quicker and if I wanted to ask questions or handle something, I didn't have to

wait. Another good thing was that more vendors were arriving and setting up their booths, so I got to see many booths before the good stuff was gone.

As luck would have it I came across a booth with vintage Hallicrafters gear in good condition. (I am fond of Hallicrafters radios, because my grandfather gave me my first shortwave radio when I was twelve years old. It was an S53-A, which I still have.) I talked to the vendor about his radios for a short time and proceeded on down the row. I then came across a booth selling emergency lights and sirens for volunteer firemen. The equipment has improved greatly since I was a volunteer fireman. I had a red light, which was called a bubble gum machine, and I put together a Heathkit electronic siren. It was great! My siren was louder than the fire trucks. Sorry, I am reminiscing again.

Wandering down another row of flea market booths I came across a booth full of vintage Drake radios. Remember that I grew up just south of Dayton, and between Dayton and my home was the R.L. Drake factory. My high school amateur radio club would get a personal tour of the factory every year by Mr. Drake himself. After we graduated, two of my friends went to work for R.L. Drake.

My phone just went off and brought me back to 2008. It was KC7PM, Ted Cowan, from Sandy, Utah. He had just arrived at Hara Arena and we would meet in a few hours. Ted wanted to check out the QRP booths.

Lunchtime had arrived and you should see the long lines. The food was better than average, and you didn't have to walk to your car and go looking for your lunch. After lunch I went back inside, met up with Ted, and talked about what each of us had so far seen.



Food lines at lunch time

During the next two days, I got to talk to Bob Heil from Heil Sound. We talked about a QSO we had and he showed me his new PR-781 microphone. I met Martin June of MFJ, talked to the editors of *CQ*, Richard Moseson, W2VU, and Nancy Kott, WZ8C, of WorldRadio. I spent some time talking to Tom Schiller, N6BT, who just sold his company, Force 12, to Mark Hooper. Mark was also at the Hamvention and told me that the new building was complete and ready to move everything into. Mark promises to improve customer service.

My favorite vendor to talk to was Budd, W3FF, from Buddipole. We kept each other entertained for almost a half hour.

New products introduced at Dayton Hamvention 2008 included, from Alpha Radio Products, a manual tune amplifier, priced at \$5,395. (If you want their auto-tune amp, it sells for \$9,650.)

Hilberling had their PT-8000 radio on display. It was very impressive, including the burgundy face.

There was a company whose name escapes me, who had linears with 5000 watts PEP. However they could not sell to anyone in the U.S.A. (I wonder why?)

Icom, Yaesu, Elecraft, and several others unveiled new products, which you can research in *QST*.

Oh, that reminds me, the ARRL booth is four to five times bigger than it was in the 60's. They had an area for the young hams and young hams staffed it.



Inside the arena

As a summary, the Dayton Hamvention was a blast to attend. Seeing the vendors, making eyeball contacts, seeing the new products, my visit with Ted, KC7PM, and of course the vintage equipment which brought back memories, made 2008 an enjoyable time. (It also didn't hurt to see my mother, sisters, aunts and uncles and to go to a few of my favorite restaurants, that I miss.)

Now the BIG question... will I go back next year? YES....Let's Go!! See you soon at UARC and the Dayton Hamvention. 73, Wesley Wilkinson – W7WES

In case you are wondering .....it sprinkled for ten minutes on Friday morning. It was wonderful the rest of the time!

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## **Member of the Month: Jerry Wellman, W7SAR**

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Jerry Wellman, W7SAR. Jerry has been in amateur radio since 1978. Jerry has his Advanced license. Jerry says he doesn't want to upgrade because he wants to be one of the last individuals to have an Advanced license since it no longer exists.

What got Jerry interested in amateur radio is search and rescue. Jerry has been active in search and rescue since 1970. He has served as a search coordinator, incident commander, SAR trainer, communications officer, dispatcher, and trainer. He was licensed in 1972 as an EMT in Wyoming. He has worked as a police dispatcher, highway patrol dispatcher, reporter, editor, writer, and is currently assigned to special projects for *The*

*Deseret Morning News* in Salt Lake City, UT. Jerry has been working for *The Deseret Morning News* since 1976. Jerry has been the search and rescue communications columnist for *Worldradio* magazine since 1990.

He is a Lt. Colonel in the Civil Air Patrol and has served as a squadron commander, net control station, emergency services officer, region inspector, region communications officer, search coordinator, and many other roles during 35 years as a CAP member. He has earned the "save" and "find" ribbons for locating downed aircraft and crash survivors. He has also earned the Gill Robb Wilson (Level V) training award, visited the Philippines with the International Air Cadet



Exchange, attended the National Staff College, and received a significant number of awards and decorations.

He has attended the USAF Air Command and Staff College, the USAF Squadron Officer School, the USCG Search and Rescue School, has an A.S. Degree in journalism, a B.S. Degree in mass communications, and an M.A. Degree in organizational management.

Jerry has been featured as a speaker at a number of EMCOMM gatherings including those in Utah, Wyoming, Idaho, Reno, NV, and Seattle, WA. He has completed the ARRL's ARECC Level III. Jerry is a lifetime member of the ARRL. He is a volunteer chaplain with the Salt Lake County Sheriff's office. Jerry is active in scouting. As of January 20, 2005, he was appointed as the Section Emergency Coordinator for the Utah ARRL

Section. Jerry is the Magna Bishop's storehouse communications specialist. Jerry has served as Bishop for the LDS Church. Jerry is a member of UARC, VHF Society and ARES.

Jerry and his wife Janet have three children: two boys, Zach and Adam, and one girl, Nancy. They are all grown and married now. Jerry and Janet have seven grandchildren. Quite a few of Jerry's family have their amateur radio licenses including his wife Janet, K7UTE, his sons, Zach, K7GKE, and Adam, KC7WFX. When Jerry first got his ham license his parents were so impressed that they decided to get their ham licenses. Jerry's dad's call sign is KA7MVY and his father's name is Jerry. Jerry's mother Pat's callsign is KA7MBX.

Jerry, we really appreciate your contribution to amateur radio.

**Homebrew Night**  
Don't forget UARC's annual Homebrew Night, coming up this year on Thursday, October 2. This is the night when members show off their home-built equipment and antennas. If you're contemplating a project, there's still time to get it ready!

**License Exam Schedule**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Contact Person</b>	<b>Phone</b>
08/20/08 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
08/20/08 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
08/26/08 (Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
09/04/08 (Thu.)	Logan	Kevin L. Reeve, N7RXE	(435) 753-1645
09/17/08 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
09/17/08 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
09/18/08 (Thu.)	Roosevelt	R Chandler Fisher, W7BYU	(435) 722-5440 <sup>1</sup>
09/30/08 (Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
10/01/08 (Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	430-0306
10/04/08 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438 <sup>1</sup>
10/15/08 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
10/15/08 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678

Footnote 1: Preregistration is required. Check with the contact person prior to the exam.