

The *Microvolt*

December, 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.

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Imm. Past Pres: Roy Eichelberger, W7ROY	571-2447

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Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	968-4614
Field Day Chair:	
Club Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	298-5399
Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	556-7565
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

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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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December Meeting: Elections and The Latest from ARRL

It's election time at UARC. At the December meeting we will be electing officers for the 2009 calendar year. At the November meeting the nominating committee presented its nominees:

- President John Hardy, K7ALA
- Executive Vice-President Andrew Madsen, AC7CF
- Vice-President Brett Sutherland, AD7KG
- Secretary Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ
- Treasurer Chuck Johnson, WA7JOF
- Program Chairperson Bryan Mogensen, W7CBM
- Program Chairperson Jed Petrovich, AD7KG
- Microvolt* Editor Gordon Smith, K7HFV
- Assistant Editor Rick Asper, AC7RA

No additional nominations were offered from the floor. At the December meeting, as per the bylaws, nominations will again be opened to the floor, and then the vote (if necessary) will take place.

In addition to elections we are fortunate to have Mel. Parkes, NM7P, coming to the meeting to tell us what's happening in the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). Mel has bravely consented to give the program despite a recent broken collar bone. He is our elected Section Manager (SM) for the Utah Section and, as such, makes various Section appointments such as Section Emergency Coordinator, Section Traffic Manager, and Official Observer.

ARRL is the national organization of amateur radio operators and publisher of *QST*, the premier magazine about amateur radio. It is active in regulatory matters, petitioning the FCC for rules favorable to our service. It also sponsors many of the most popular operating awards such as Worked All States (WAS) and DX Century Club (DXCC).

What does ARRL do for us? What are its successes in spectrum issues? How is the BPL fight coming? How can I become an Official Emergency Station? These are typical of questions your might want to ask Mel or that he might be covering. Many amateurs believe it is likely that without ARRL we would not have an amateur radio service and that all amateurs should be aware of the organization and all the services it provides.

The meeting is Thursday evening, December 4, at 7:30 P.M. Location is room 1230, the "Duke" classroom in the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. See

<http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/meeting.html> for more details on the meeting location.

Of course, the meeting will include the “standard” meeting features:

- Availability of ARRL books from Fred, the “book lady”
- An opportunity to join UARC or renew your membership
- An opportunity to join ARRL or renew your membership
- The chance to meet face-to-face the people you talk to on the air
- The “Meeting after the meeting”: A chance to enjoy pizza or other gastronomic delights with other hams. It happens at Litza's Pizza, 716 E. 400 South.
- The “Meeting *before* the meeting”: A similar get-together for those who can leave work early enough to get there by 5:15 P.M. The December get-together will be at “Greek Souvlaki,” 404 E. 300 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover photo this month shows the audience at the October “Homebrew Night” meeting. Bryan Scott, K7BLK, caught this shot of a near-capacity crowd despite serious parking difficulties due to the football game going on the same evening between the Utes and Oregon State. We are hoping for a similar good turnout for the December elections.

Room Change

Just when we had come to really like our room 1230 for the club meetings, we found that we’re going to have to change. When we went to schedule the room for spring semester at the University, we discovered that all four large classrooms in that part of the building were already scheduled for the evenings on the first Thursday of the month. So starting in January, we will be meeting again in our old room, now known as WEB 101.

The room can be reached as we did in the past by parking near the west end of the Merrill Engineering Building lot and walking south around the west end of MEB. Another option is to go in the front door of the Warnock Building as most of us have been doing recently, and finding the stairway or the elevator in the southwest corner of the building. Going down to Level “L1” will bring one to the proper floor.

Note that the December meeting will still be in WEB 1230.

Night Change?

UARC has been meeting on the first Thursday of the month since sometime back in the 1970’s, but it might be advantageous to change to the second Thursday. This would solve the chronic parking problem in October when a football game is scheduled on the same night, and solve the

problem of needing to move the May meeting to the second Thursday to avoid finals week.

We would like to hear members' opinions on such a change. Would it make it more or less difficult for you to attend the meetings? Contact one of the officers if you would like to express an opinion.

If a change is made it would likely not take effect until Fall of 2009.

W7YPC, SK

It is with deep regret that we note the passing of Dee Christensen, W7YPC, on the evening of November 12. Dee had been a ham operator for over 50 years and was one of the officers of UARC at the time of its incorporation in 1957.

Dee held code practice sessions at his home and was responsible for helping many new amateurs get started in the hobby. He was active on HF on both phone and CW until a few months before his death. His teaching and his operating were remarkable because he was without sight, having been born blind. In the later years his hearing was also severely limited. These problems were caused

by the same neurological disease that ultimately caused his death. In the days of vacuum tubes, he was able to tune his transmitter and adjust his antenna tuner using a device that measured RF voltage and converted it to an audio pitch. His code copying skills were good enough that he was able, easily, to pass the 20 WPM code test., a feat that many sighted hams have never mastered.

He married his wife, Alice, in 1949. She was his sight and his transportation for many years until her death in 1997. Since that time, he had lived in the Highland Cove assisted living center. He was able to operate from that location thanks to equipment generously lent by Marv Zitting, W7MR, and was a frequent check-in to the Beehive Utah Net and the Farm Net. His most recent HF antenna was a rain gutter on his building, an arrangement also set up by Marv.

Dee is survived by his two children, Leland (N7AOH) in Texas, and Betty Durrant in California. (Obituary at: www.legacy.com/saltlakatribune/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=120158591.)

Nominees' Statements

Our bylaws state: "The nominees are encouraged to present a short autobiographical sketch or campaign letter to *The Microvolt* for publication in the December issue." With the December election approaching, we have attempted some encouragement by e-mail and have received the following statements from our nominees.

John Hardy, N7ALA, for President

In 2007 I became an Amateur Radio operator. I had never considered becoming a ham prior to that probably because I've never known any hams. But when I heard about amateur radio I was very pleased to learn that I didn't need to know Morse Code, and that's probably why I started working towards my Technician Class license at that time. Otherwise it would have been put off for some

future date. I enjoy a lot of things related to technology. I like to learn and I've had a long desire to do things for myself, so it seemed rather natural to pursue amateur radio. Combined with what I already knew, passing the Technician Class seemed pretty easy to achieve.

In 2008 I passed my General Class, and I was very pleased. It seemed the amount of effort to pass this level was a lot harder compared to the Technician Class. I read and studied and looked

up words I didn't know. I studied some more, bought audio CD's and took the practice tests. It took me many months to prepare and feel ready. So actually passing the General Class was a real treat. And it meant I could finally get on HF — which was a goal of mine.

I am concerned that I don't have enough experience in Ham Radio, or in the Utah Amateur Radio Club, to be a good President. When the nominating committee asked me to run for President, I realized it would be difficult for me to fill the shoes of John Brewer “N7MFQ”, who has been a very good President, and the only President of UARC I've known during my short ham experience. But because it has been my privilege to “rub shoulders” with so many smart and intelligent people, from all walks of life, willing to share their experiences and knowledge, I am willing to do my part and give back to the Club. I hope that if elected, I will be able to live up to what the club wants and needs as President.

Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ, for Secretary

Thanks for the opportunity of serving as UARC Secretary since 2004. I appreciate your confidence in me and I'm willing to continue in this position if you as a club elect me.

The club secretary is charged with maintaining the membership database including registering new members, collecting dues and other monies, preparing the *Microvolt* mailing lists, and other duties.

I've been a Ham since 2002, and upgraded to General in 2005. I've had a lot of fun with the hobby, and I appreciate the friendships it has generated, both on the air and in person.

A graduate of the University of Utah, I served as an Air Force officer, both on active duty and in the reserves for 28 years. My civilian experience is in retail sales.

In addition to amateur radio, I am interested in emergency preparedness, and currently serve as Chairman of the Board of AVERT (Association of Volunteer Emergency Response Teams).

Thanks again for your friendship, and I offer my support regardless of how the election goes.

Jed Petrovich, AD7KG, for Program Chairperson

I was first licensed in October 2005 as a Technician. Passed Element 1 (Morse Code) and Element 3 (General) in early October 2006. Passed Element 4 (Extra) on Halloween night 2006.

Currently, I am a member of several ham radio organizations: Utah Amateur Radio Club (UARC), Utah DX Assn (UDXA), FISTS (CW Club), Utah CW Club and the 3905 Century Club. In 2008, served as UARC Program Chair, UDXA Field Day Vice Chair and a Utah Lieutenant for the 7th Area QSO Party.

I enjoy learning about all aspects of ham radio. Currently, my main interests are operating HF, chasing DX, and participating in HF contesting. Of late, another focus has been to improve my CW skills. Although not required, I plan on pursuing my ARRL CW Qualifying designations. I have also been known to build a few antennas and other projects.

No matter who is elected to the Program Chair positions, I would hope all club members would help out by submitting suggestions for meeting topics and presenters. Let's have a great 2009!

Gordon Smith, K7HFV, for Editor

I'd like to thank UARC for its wonderful tolerance in allowing me to be on the board almost continuously since sometime in the 60's.

I got my first license as a teenager in 1959 and had fun ragchewing, handling traffic, and doing some homebrew. I also took on the job of *Microvolt* Editor and was editor or assistant for a bit short of 20 years. By then I was getting a bit burned out and, having moved out of the teenage years, had lost the advantage of knowing more than everyone else in the world. The club figured that Vice-President was a position where I could do relatively little damage. I contented myself with keeping some repeaters running, being the liaison for exam sessions and helping with the club web site.

Fast forward to this year when our elected editor, due to a variety of reasons, found that he was not able to get out all the issues, and I had a chance to return to my old job. It has been interesting trying to get out about two issues a month so we could catch up, but things are a lot different now than they were in the 80's. There are more people doing the other jobs involved with the newsletter and there is software that dramatically reduces the effort required. So I think it's probably taken less effort to work "double-time" now than it did to just get out one issue per month back then.

If elected, I'll probably be tempted to foist some opinion pieces on you, but I hope I won't be the only author. The club has many members doing

interesting things and I hope more will share their experiences, projects, and ideas via *The Microvolt*.

Rick Asper, AC7RA, for Assistant Editor

I think UARC is a great organization. The past leadership has done a great job in running its operations. First of all I would like to thank you for doing such a wonderful job. It is people like you that makes this club great.

I love Amateur Radio and spend several hours a day on the radio having fun. Much to the chagrin of my YL. Hi Hi. I feel the need to support the club and its operations because of the many benefits I have received from being a member.

I would love to help out in keeping the club running. So I would like to throw my hat in the ring for any of the open positions in the upcoming elections. If there are still any openings. Let me know if I can help out.

Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS, for Treasurer

I am pleased to run (again) for UARC Treasurer. This is the best job in UARC. I get to spend lots of money, and don't have to earn any of it! The club is in good financial shape, but our membership numbers continue to dwindle. Please talk to your ham friends and newcomers to the hobby, and encourage them to become members of UARC. There is strength in numbers.

Member of the Month

Rick Asper, AC7RA

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Ricky Asper AC7RA. Ricky has been in amateur radio since 1993. His previous call sign was N7XNK. When he got his

first license his application was lost in the mail. Back then you had to wait six to eight weeks for your license to arrive and you couldn't get on the

air until it came. It wasn't like it is today that when your call sign shows up on the computer database you are good to go. It only takes 3 to 4 days for this to happen. Since he couldn't get on the air yet, Ricky studied really hard and by the time his Technician Class license came in the mail he had his Extra.

Ricky said even though he passed the code tests he really didn't use CW much. Ricky says he regrets that and he is working hard on learning the Morse Code so he can use it on the air.

When I asked Ricky what is his favorite thing about amateur radio he said getting to know new people — getting on the air and talking around the world.

Ricky is a member of the Utah DX association. He is very active on the HF bands. Ricky has received his Worked All States award on 20, 40 and 80 meters. Ricky is active on the OMISS net and the 3.905 Century Club Net. Ricky is also active on PSK-31 and RTTY.

It was N7TEK, John Blackham, who first got Ricky interested in amateur radio. They were in an electronic class together at the University of Utah. Ricky has a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from The University of Utah with a chemistry minor.

Ricky loves photography, especially pinhole photography. It is so neat that Ricky can work in a profession that he loves so much. Ricky works for Borge Andersen Photo in the digital imaging department. Ricky works for his uncle. He has worked there for 33 years. Ricky is a big Disney fan and visits Disney World each year. He loves working and playing with garden railroads. Rick and his wife Cheryl have two boys, Johnathan and Levi.

Ricky is a member of UARC and the Utah VHF Society. Ricky is currently the only nominee for 2009 *Microvolt* Assistant Editor.

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

License Examination Schedule

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone
12/06/08 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438 ¹
12/12/08 (Fri.)	Tremonton	Robert A. Anderson, AA7TR	(435) 452-2952
12/13/08 (Sat.)	Logan	Roberta M. Lofthouse, KJ7LQ	(435) 245-6632
12/17/08 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
01/15/09 (Thu.)	Roosevelt	R. Chandler Fisher, W7BYU	(435) 722-5440 ¹
01/21/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
01/21/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
01/27/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871 ¹
02/07/09 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438 ¹

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