

The *Microvolt*

June, 2008



Volume 51, Number 6, June, 2008

Periodicals Postage

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Please Send Dues to:

UARC

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1933 Woodside Drive

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The *Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$17.00 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 Dick Keddington, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1632.

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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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

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



For account information go to:
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The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah
Volume 51, Issue 6, June 2008

September Meeting: GOTA

For those of you not familiar with the acronym “GOTA”, it stands for “Get On The Air.” Our September meeting, to be held Thursday, September 4, at 7:30 P.M., will be devoted to helping members and/or other interested parties start making radio contacts.

This is an activity that was suggested at the Utah Hamfest this summer. It is a chance to help people understand their radios, see what HF operation is like, or just have a chance to try making a QSO and seeing how it is done.

In order to make this a successful event, we need participation from everyone. Please invite anyone you know who may have an interest in the amateur radio hobby. Feel free to bring your radios and be willing to help someone make a contact. If you need help with your own rig, bring it to the meeting (with the instruction manual). It's likely somebody can give you a hand.

If the conditions are favorable, we will have some HF stations in operation. This will be an opportunity to try making an HF contact. Not ready to make that leap? That's fine. Just come by and observe.

Hope to see you there!

For information on how to find the meeting place, see <http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html>. The meeting will include the usual features of a UARC meeting including a chance to look over and purchase ARRL books, pay UARC or ARRL dues, and possibly win a door prize.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover photo this month comes from the club Steak-Fry on July 12. Officers Bob Rollins, WB7DPA; Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS; and John Brewer, N7MFQ, guard the flames from taking over the forest behind. Clear weather and comfortable temperatures prevailed for the annual event.

Homebrew Night Coming

A reminder that October 2 will be UARC's annual “Homebrew Night.” Homebrew Night is the time when hams can show off equipment they have “homebrewed,” that is, constructed at home. If you're working on a new keyer, amplifier, power supply, QRP rig, or other device that can be used in amateur radio, there's still time to get it finished up.

Nominations Needed

It's time to begin thinking about nominations for officers for 2009. The club will be forming a nominating committee to find candidates for all the offices. If you would like to help with the process or volunteer for an office, let one of the officers know. Now is the time to be plotting our course for the new year. If you would like to see new or different activities, this is your opportunity to influence next year's plans.

In accordance with the bylaws, the nominating committee will present its choices at the November meeting. Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor. Then, at the December meeting, nominations will be accepted once again followed by voting.

Wasatch 100

September 6 and 7 will be the dates of the annual Wasatch Front 100-mile Endurance Run. This 100-mile foot race is one of the premier "ultra-marathon" events in the nation. It is also possibly Utah's biggest and most elaborate public service opportunity for radio amateurs.

The course follows mostly dirt trails through the heart of the Wasatch mountain range. It starts in Layton and ends at The Homestead Resort in Midway. In the process of getting from one end to the other, runners gain approximately 26,882 feet of elevation and lose 26,131.

The race goes for 36 hours, from 5:00 A.M. on Saturday through 5:00 P.M. on Sunday. There are fifteen checkpoints and aid stations along the way plus the finish line that all need amateur stations. Some checkpoints need to be active as much as 20 hours, requiring multiple shifts. The finish line needs to be on the air for the entire 36 hours.

Most of the traffic is passed on packet radio. Amateurs at each checkpoint enter the arrival and departure times of each of the approximately 240 runners. That amounts to about 7200 numbers that are entered directly into a database residing at the finish line. Amateurs at each checkpoint can make inquiries into the database and check the status of any runner. This ability helps crewmembers to find the status of their runners and, more importantly, makes it possible to spot a runner who is overdue at a checkpoint and may be lost or injured.

Most of the checkpoints are not near paved roads, so many require four-wheel-drive to access, and one, Desolation Lake, requires the checkpoint crew to hike in several miles at high elevation, carrying enough gear and batteries to last through the event.

Most of the voice traffic is carried on the Intermountain Intertie, primarily the 147.12 and 147.18 repeaters. Those who would like to listen in can select whichever of those repeaters they can hear best.

Most of the staffing for the 2008 race is already complete, but those interested in helping might contact Claude Grant, WC7G, for the latest information on any teams that might need additional help. "Sitting in" with a team may also be helpful to learn what the event is all about and be prepared to volunteer in a subsequent year.

FCC to Raise Vanity Call Sign Fees

On August 11, the FCC announced that the cost of an Amateur Radio vanity call sign will increase 60 cents, from \$11.70 to \$12.30. The fee will increase 30 days after notice of the increase is published in the Federal Register; no date has yet been set for publication. The Communications Act of 1934, as amended, authorizes the FCC to collect vanity call

sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program. The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new 10-year term.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 12 years of the current program — from a low of \$11.70 to a high of \$50. The FCC said it anticipates some 15,000 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" — or applications — during fiscal year 2009, collecting \$184,734 in fees from the program.

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal two years ago.

Those holding “personalized” call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, as Congress did not authorize the FCC to collect regulatory fees until 1993. Such “heritage” vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission. Applicants can obtain an FRN by going to the ULS and clicking on the “New Users Register” link:

<<http://wireless.fcc.gov/uls/>>. You must supply your Social Security Number to obtain an FRN.

The ARRL VEC will process license renewals for vanity call sign holders for a modest fee. The service is available to ARRL members and nonmembers, although League members pay less. Routine, non-vanity renewals continue to be free for ARRL members. Trustees of club stations with

vanity call signs may renew either via the ULS or through a Club Station Call Sign Administrator, such as ARRL VEC.

League members should visit the “ARRL Member Instructions for License Renewals or Changes” page

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/memberlicenseinstructions.html>, while the “Instructions for License Renewals or Changes” page covers general renewal procedures for nonmembers

<http://www.arrl.org/fcc/licenseinstructions.html>

There is additional information on the “ARRL VEC's FCC License Renewals and ARRL License Expiration Notices” page:

<http://www.arrl.org/arrlvec/renewals.html>.

License application and renewal information and links to the required forms are available on the “ARRL Amateur Application Filing FAQ” Web page.

ARISS Team Looking for Ground Stations

Do you want to be part of the international network of ground stations that help support Amateur Radio on the International Space Station (ARISS) operations? ARISS is looking to add numerous ground stations capable of relaying ISS Amateur Radio sessions with schools and also serve as back-up communications relays should they be needed. Locations all over the world will be considered, but the greatest need for stations is in Central America, South America, Falkland Islands, Western Australia, Canada and Alaska.

The following are guidelines for stations wanting to be considered:

Third Party agreement with United States or waiver from their telecom agency; ability to speak and understand English; minimal horizon obstructions; 24/7 access and availability of station; operator(s) willing to support scheduled contacts at various times; phone patch; AZ/EL

tracking satellite system, preferably an auto tracking system with the capability for manual override; multi-element Yagis for 2 meters and 70 cm (circular polarization preferred); pre-amps and transmit output greater than 70 W. If you can specify your station's EIRP and receive sensitivity (thereby taking into account cable losses, pre-amps and antenna gain), it would be greatly appreciated.

Stations that can support the following will be given special consideration, but these items are not required: Auto Doppler adjustment of frequencies;

ability to speak and understand languages other than English; 1.2 and 2.4 GHz satellite hardware; Packet; SSTV; Digital ATV; redundant power system, and high-speed Internet.

If you or your club would like to be considered for selection as one of the new ARISS ground stations, send an e-mail to ARISS with details about your station and contact information to ARISS-telebridge@amsat.org.

— Information provided by Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, ARISS International Chairman

Antenna Expert, L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, (SK)

By Jed Petrovich, AD7KG

It is always sad when we lose a member of the amateur radio community. However, when someone such as L.B. Cebik, W4RNL (SK), passes on, it is a real loss. His expertise on the subject of antennas is truly remarkable. Perhaps best of all, he freely shared his knowledge via his web site and by answering personal requests. Although I didn't know him personally or correspond with him directly, I was a frequent visitor to his web site. His site contains a treasure trove of information.

I first learned of his passing on April 22, 2008 via a subscription email list. His friend, Jack Stone, sent the following:

“It is with a heavy heart and infinite sadness I report the passing of L.B. Cebik, a friend to us all.

“I had called the local Sheriff in Knoxville, TN, to go check on him since I hadn't heard from him in over 5 days (either email or phone), which is highly unusual.

“The Sheriff called back to tell me this sad,

devastating news. He was like family to me and was loved and respected by so many. I remain in shock as I tell you this.

“I need to locate his next of kin as he did not have family in Knoxville.”

To view his obituary listing, please use this link: http://mynattfh.net/memorials/memorial.php?gb_id=977

Additional information can be found on the ARRL web site:

<http://www.arrl.org/news/stories/2008/04/22/10059/?nc=1>

Now that L.B. has passed on, we can say thankfully that his legacy will live on through his web site. The site can be found at <http://www.cebik.com>. His friend and associate, Jack Stone, will continue to host the site. Access to the site is still free. However, visitors must now register to view the contents. If you have questions about antennas, you will likely find the site very helpful.

Member of The Month: Allan Packer, WA7BKD

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF



This month we are featuring Allan Packer, WA7BKD. Allan got into amateur radio in the early 1960s and has his Extra Class license. Allan was living in Lindon, Utah, at the time. He was very active in the scouts and was working very hard on his First Class scout award. One of the requirements for this award was learning the Morse Code. Allan had a close friend, Tyler Rogers, who was very active in amateur radio. Not only did Tyler help Allan learn the Morse Code, he let him use his radios and make contacts all over the world. Allan was hooked. In fact, Allan's favorite facet of amateur radio is DXing. He loves making contacts all around the world using Morse Code and voice. Allan is a member of the Utah DX Association.

Allan enjoys building things. He does wood carving and woodworking. Allan also enjoys hiking and camping.

Allan is a member of UARC, The Utah VHF Society, Utah DX Association, and MARS. Allan is a member of the Air Force branch of MARS.

Because of Allan's interest in amateur radio, his wife Terri decided to get her license. She has her Technician license. Terri's call sign is KC7DHV. Allan and Terri have eight children: two girls and six boys. Three of their children have their ham licenses. Their daughter, Sara P. Bowers, KC7DHW, has her Technician license and now lives in Georgia. Allan and Terri's son, Michael, KC7DHX, has his Technician license and lives in Roy, Utah. Their son, Jonathan, KE7QOF, has his Technician license.

Allan worked with information systems for several different companies. One of the companies he worked for was the Boeing Company. In April of this year Allan was called to serve in the First Quorum of the Seventies for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Allan's father, Boyd Kenneth Packer, is the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles.

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

Become a Famous *Microvolt* Author!

Have you done something interesting in amateur radio lately? Did you learn something new from your latest homebrew project? Are you involved with a group doing something out of the ordinary? How about sharing our experience with the rest of the group through an article? Contact the acting editor, k7hfv@arrl.net, or 582-2438.

License Examination Schedule

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone
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 ¹
09/30/08 (Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871 ¹
10/01/08 (Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	430-0306
10/04/08 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438 ¹
10/15/08 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
10/15/08 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
10/28/08 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871 ¹

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

Bill Cross Addresses VECs

On July 25, representatives from 12 of the country's 14 Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) met by telephone and discussed exam-related matters. Bill Cross, W3TN, from the FCC, addressed the group and commented that the VEC system was working quite well. He said they had received very few complaints about test sessions or the availability of sessions.

Cross also notified the Conference that his office has received some complaints from hams who have let their licenses expire. These hams, Cross said, are upset that they have to take a new test after their two year grace period has expired.

Cross then spoke of items pending in Washington that may impact exam question pools. He mentioned a petition filed by the ARRL, asking the FCC to amend rules relating to the amount of RF power that stations may use when transmitting spread-spectrum emissions. Cross said this petition is being handled by the FCC's Office of

Engineering and Technology (OET); he said a decision on this petition has the possibility to affect a few questions in the pools. He also told of a petition dealing with the 5 MHz (60 meter) band; the ARRL is requesting that a channel substitution be made. If approved, this would also change a few questions. Cross said that the Commission would need to solicit comments on both petitions before a decision is reached, and a Report and Order would need to be released if the rules are changed. He said he felt that no question pool changes would need to be made before next summer at the earliest.

Cross mentioned some difficulties with hams requesting a change of club trustee, when the requestor had not been authorized by the club as the new trustee. He warned Club Station Callsign Administrators to be careful of such situations when allowing a change to trustee name or mailing address.