

# The *Microvolt*

February, 2009



Volume 52, Number 2, February, 2009 Periodicals Postage

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UARC  
c/o Dick Keddington  
1933 Woodside Drive  
Holladay, UT 84124-1632

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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 101.

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.

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-) is IRLP node 3352. Instructions for IRLP use are on the club website.

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 17th 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: Gordon Smith, 632 University St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. 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: President: John Hardy, K7ALA; Executive VP: Andrew Madsen, AC7CF; Vice Pres: Brett Sutherland, N7KG; Secretary: Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ; Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS; Microvolt Editor: Gordon Smith, K7HFV; Asst. Microvolt Editor: Rick Asper, AC7RA; Program Chair: Jed W. Petrovich, AD7KG; Imm. Past Pres: John Brewer, N7MFQ.

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Table listing Committee Chairpersons and Members: "Book Lady": Fred Desmet, KI7KM; Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS; Field Day Chair; Club Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG; Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL; ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI; Board Liaison & Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV; Provo Autopatch Host & ATV Engineer: Dale Jarvis, WB7FID.

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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: http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html

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For account information go to: http://www.xmission.com/ Or call 801 539-0852



## The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Volume 52, Issue 2, February 2009

### February Meeting: Software-Defined Radio

One of the biggest potential changes in the design of transmitters and receivers is the switch to “Software-Defined Radio.” Most of our receivers and transmitters rely on long-known analog principles, but that may be changing. It is now possible to convert a received signal to digital form (a bit stream) and do filtering and demodulation entirely with software. This could mean we will see a receiver that is lower cost, higher performance, and one that can easily be upgraded to work with new modes just by downloading new firmware.

There are some receivers and transceivers now on the amateur market that allow a ham to try out this new technology.

John Long, KW7A, has been an early adopter of one of the SDR devices now available. At the February 5 UARC meeting, John will be showing us how to use an SDR module and demonstrating the results.

Again, the meeting will take place on Thursday, February 5, 2009, at 7:30 P.M.

Our meetings this winter and spring will be in the Warnock Engineering Building, room 101. This portion of the building was previously known as the Engineering and Mines Classroom Building. For maps and instructions for reaching it, see <http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html>.

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 February event will be at Greek Souvlaki, 404 E. 300 South, in Salt Lake City.

### We Would Like Your Input

We would like to publish more about what’s going on in the hamming exploits of our members, but to do that, we need to have you tell us what they are! Have you made DXCC lately? Made a new microwave record? Found a clever circuit design that solves a common problem? Discovered some features you like or dislike about your latest transceiver? If you don’t like to write, just give us the bare facts by email or a phone call and we can pretty up the text. But do *tell* us. (See the inside front cover for ways to submit.)

## Latest News

### Our Cover

Our cover this month is a photo of Bruce Robinson, KE7EJQ, the subject of our "Member of the Month" feature. Along with Bruce in the photo is the radio that got him "hooked" on a radio hobby. He writes:

"It was my grandparents' Philco, made in 1939, that first introduced me to shortwave. As an 8-year old boy, I would be found in their basement whenever we went to visit, 'listening to the world'!"

### 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 at the University of Utah. Finally, it would eliminate the need to hold a meeting on the New Years Day holiday.

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? We will take a vote at one or more of the coming meetings. If you won't be likely to attend, contact one of the officers and express your opinion. We will also be adding an option where you can vote on-line at the club's web site. Check the "Current News" section for details. We will try to tally the results from all methods of response.

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

### VHF Society Announces Swap Meet

The Utah VHF Society has announced that its annual business meeting and swapmeet will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2009. This event is typically the largest ham radio swapmeet in Utah. Despite some earlier efforts to find a lower-cost location, this year's event will be held at the Zion Building at the Utah State Fairpark, as has been the case for a number of years. Enter the Fairpark on 1000 West at the first entrance north of North Temple Street. The address is approximately 201 N. 1000 West, Salt Lake City, Utah. The building is a short distance south and west of the parking lot. For additional details see:

<http://utahvhfs.org/fairpark.html>. The event begins at 8 A.M.

The price list for the affair is as follows:

Admission for VHF Society Members:	<b>Free!</b>
One-year membership (including admission):	\$12.00
Admission for non-member adults:	\$5.00
Admission for those 12 and under:	\$2.00
An 8-foot table for display of equipment:	\$5.00
Space for an attendee-supplied table:	\$3.00

The Utah VHF Society exists principally to make it possible for VHF and UHF repeaters to exist throughout the state. It makes it possible for income from the more populous parts of the state to support repeaters in the less-populated parts where small local clubs might otherwise struggle to find funding. Because of its statewide nature, it keeps in-person meetings to a minimum, typically

being just the annual swapmeet held on a Saturday morning.

Current and prospective members are encouraged to get their dues in well prior to the event so that they may be listed in the annual directory and repeater list. Annual dues are \$12 and are due at the first of each year. They should be sent to:

Utah VHF Society  
P.O. Box 482  
Bountiful, UT 84011-0482

Having your dues paid in advance will also speed you through the typically long lines at the 8 A.M. opening time. For more information about the Utah VHF Society, see <http://www.utahvhfs.org/>.

## Six-Meter SSB Net

Billy, W7DMV, tells us that he has resurrected the weekly six-meter SSB net. The net meets every Wednesday at 2100 Mountain Time, on 50.125 MHz. This might be a good excuse to blow the dust out of the six-meter rig during this time of low sunspot activity.

## Member of the Month: Bruce Robinson, KE7EJQ

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Bruce Robinson KE7EJQ. Bruce is fairly new to the hobby. Bruce says he has been a radio nut ever since he was a child. He remembers when he was about 7 or 8 years old going to his grandparents' house and listening to the ham bands on a 1939 Philco short wave radio. He was a shortwave listener long before he ever got into amateur radio.

Amateur radio was something he really wanted to do for years, but he said it was the Morse Code that scared him and kept him away. He even got involved with CB radio but wasn't impressed with it.

Years later when Bruce was married, working, and raising a family, he became friends with an amateur radio operator named Calvin Mills, N7QXD. Calvin is a hangglider pilot and Bruce drives for him. Calvin would let Bruce use his ham rig so he could tell Bruce where he was so Bruce could come and pick him up. Of course Bruce could only listen since he didn't have his license yet. Calvin flies cross-country. He would

contact Bruce 40 to 60 miles away. This is when Bruce knew it was time to get his ham license.

Bruce would take tests on QRZ. The Technician test was really easy for him since he has been in electronics all of his life. When Bruce took the Technician test they asked him if he we like to try the General as well. He missed getting the General by only two questions. Bruce said the General test is a little bit more of a challenge. Bruce received his Technician license In June, 2005. Bruce says he is working on getting his General license. When Bruce obtained his Technician license he joined UARC and the VHF Society, because he wanted to help support the repeaters.

Bruce's favorite thing about amateur radio is listening. He loves to listen to people talk. He listens all the time on different repeaters. Bruce and his wife Lynn have eight children: four girls and four boys. Bruce said one of his sons is starting to show interest in amateur radio. Bruce loves to bring his ham radio with him when the



Bruce Robinson, KE7EJQ, with "the cutest granddaughter in the world"

family goes camping. While his family was camping at Bear Lake Bruce was talking to West Yellowstone, Montana, and then a gentleman talked to him from Heber City. One of Bruce's sons was impressed that he could talk so far away on his little handheld radio, which is a Kenwood THG-71. Bruce also has a Kenwood TM-71 mobile radio. Another one of Bruce's hobbies is

bird watching.

Bruce works as a quality control manager for a plastic molding plant. He has worked there for 35 years.

Bruce, we wish you the best, especially in upgrading to General.

# UARC's 2008 Income and Expense Report

Supplied by Treasurer, Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS

Income	Amount
ARRL Dues	\$720.00
Book Sales	6,391.30
Dues	3,597.00
Future Dues	51.00
Interest Income	259.10
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>11,018.40</b>

Expenses	Amount
ARRL Memberships	625.00
Books	5,389.94
Field Day	1,033.02
Ham Hotline	40.00
Insurance	374.00
Microvolt Postage	608.52
Microvolt Printing	825.25
PayPal Fees	16.13
Repeater	110.11
Sales Tax	409.74
Steak-Fry	319.49
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>9,751.20</b>

**Income – Expenses = \$1267.20**

## Mobile Operation to be Outlawed?

Similar to what's happening in other states, a couple of members of the Utah Legislature are proposing bills to outlaw or restrict cellular phone use while operating a motor vehicle, and the bills have the possibility of affecting amateur radio mobile operation.

The first is HB-0095 submitted by Phil Riesen, D-Salt Lake County (District 36). It outlaws use of any "wireless communications device" while operating a motor vehicle. "Two-way radio" is specifically included. Exceptions are made for an emergency, reporting a safety hazard, and reporting criminal activity.

The second is HB-0248 submitted by Carol Spackman Moss, D-Salt Lake County (District 37). It does not prohibit use of a wireless

communications device, but requires that it be used in a hands-free manner. It does not specifically mention two-way radio, but does not exclude it. It contains the same three exclusions as HB-95 (emergencies, etc.)

The UtahAmateurRadioClub group on Yahoo has been abuzz about these bills, particularly HB-0095. We have room for a few excerpts. Dan, KE7OVX says,

"I just read the page that the hyperlink took us to and it does say 'two-way radios'.

"Not only (in my opinion) would that affect us, it would affect a lot of businesses also who use radios as there primary source of contact with the

office to its field staff, also, it looks like cell phones with PTT enabled would be affected.”

Jamie, K7RVN writes:

“I sent a message to my local rep and he sent back the following response...

‘James,

‘I wouldn't worry to [sic] much about this bill. It's very poorly written and will never make it out of the rules committee.’”

Mike Porter, KW2USA, writes:

“What I found most interesting about this is that it also *does not exclude* police and fire agencies, except in the case of emergencies. Those of us who listen to dispatch will know that a lot of the communication on those channels is of a routine, rather than emergency, nature.”

Jim Harvey, W7YV, suggests that rather than opposing the bill in its entirety, we should support an additional exclusion:

“..when the operator is licensed or authorized to use licensed two-way radio equipment.”

Jim suggests that clubs and other radio organizations should support such an amendment enmasse.

Brian, N5ZGT, our ARRL Director, says the legal department at ARRL Headquarters is working on amendment language that amateurs in various states could recommend.

There is much more information on line. To join the UARC mailing list, and see the full list of comments so far posted, go to:

[groups.yahoo.com/group/UtahAmateurRadioClub](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/UtahAmateurRadioClub).

You may have to sign up for a Yahoo ID and password if you have not already done so. (It's free.)

To see the text and status of the bills, see :

[le.utah.gov/~2009/htm/doc/hbillhtm/hb0248.htm](http://le.utah.gov/~2009/htm/doc/hbillhtm/hb0248.htm)

and

[le.utah.gov/~2009/htm/doc/hbillhtm/hb0095.htm](http://le.utah.gov/~2009/htm/doc/hbillhtm/hb0095.htm)

To find your representative or senator, see:

[le.utah.gov/Documents/find.htm](http://le.utah.gov/Documents/find.htm)

## License Examination Schedule

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone
02/04/09 (Sat.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306
02/07/09 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 <sup>1</sup>
02/18/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
02/18/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
02/24/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
03/04/09 (Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	(801) 573-3922
03/18/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
03/18/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
03/31/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>

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