

The *Microvolt*

January, 2009



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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 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.

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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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January Meeting: Your Questions

The next UARC meeting will be a question-and-answer session. If you have any questions about amateur radio from “What's the difference between resistance and reactance?” to “Why doesn't my antenna work?” there's a good likelihood we can find answers from the collective knowledge of other members in attendance. (Please skip the questions about the meaning of life, though. It's not that we don't have members with opinions, but our time is limited...)

If you have a question about how to use your handheld radio, bring the radio along and *be sure to bring the instruction manual*. We may not have people that are familiar with every possible transceiver model, but we do have people who can read manuals.

This meeting is being arranged by Jed Petrovich, AD7KG, one of our program chairpersons. Jed asks that if you already know a question you would like to pose, you submit it to him in advance at n7kg@arrl.net.

This January UARC meeting will take place on the evening of New Year's Day, January 1, 2009. We don't anticipate the slightest problem finding parking.

Again, the meeting is Thursday, January 1, at 7:30 P.M. **This semester our meetings are in room 101** of the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. This is the same room where we met in years past, although at that time the building was called the “Engineering and Mines Classroom Building” (EMCB). The old access routes still work. They include using the door on the south side of the building, or parking near the west end of the Merrill Engineering Building, walking around the west end of MEB, and entering our building from the west end.

If you enter the new part of the building on the same level as room 1230 (as most of us have been doing recently), find the elevator or stairway in the southwest corner of the building and go to the lowest level (“L1”), then go west on that level to room 101. Note that we are not talking about the main elevators near the east entrance, but one hidden away in the southwest corner and accessed through a narrow hallway.

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.

(Note: There will not be a “Meeting-before-the-meeting” in January.)

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover this month features our newly elected Assistant *Microvolt* Editor, Rick Asper, KC7RA. Rick was featured in last month's "Member of the Month" article, but the deadline for publication came a bit too soon to get the matching photograph in. Now we have Rick in his ham shack as captured by our esteemed club photographer, Ron Speirs, K7RLS. We recommend that you hold this month's cover beside the December *Microvolt* while you re-read the article about Rick.

Election Results

The December meeting was UARC's annual election meeting and, surprisingly enough, the entire slate of officers recommended by the nominating committee was elected by acclamation. See the complete list on our inside front cover. We believe the candidates have now removed all the yard signs, posters, and radio commercials.

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 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.

W7IMD, SK

Lee Manwill, W7IMD, passed away in early December, 2008, at age 92. The obituary can be seen at:

<http://www.legacy.com/DeseretNews/Obituaries.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonID=120916287>.

Many hams who were active in the sixties and seventies will remember the Manwill Supply store as a principal source of amateur radio gear and parts. It was operated by two brothers, Lee Manwill, W7IMD, and Stewart Manwill, W7JJU. The Salt Lake store was on State Street near 27th South. Later it moved to Main Street and still later took on the Lafayette franchise. The store's final location is the building where Raelco now operates.

Co-owner, Stewart Manwill, W7JJU, died December 22, 2006.

Member of the Month: President John Hardy, K7ALA

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF



(Photo by K7RLS)

This Month we are featuring John Hardy, K7ALA. John is new to the hobby. Several years ago John was a pilot student and during that time he learned about radio communications. He didn't consider amateur radio because he didn't know anyone in the hobby. Years later, when John heard about amateur radio, he was pleased to learn that he didn't need to know the Morse Code. John immediately went to work to get his Technician license. The Technician license test was a piece of cake for him because he was already involved in electronics and computers. John received his Technician license in 2007. His first call sign was KE7PFC.

The first UARC meeting John attended was the October 2007 homebrew night. A year later John participated in homebrew night. John has built a

Morse Code trainer. Isn't it interesting that John is interested in learning the Morse Code which was one of the factors keeping him from the hobby in the first place? John said Morse Code is an interesting way to communicate, especially in DXing, something in which he is really involved right now. John also said it is good not to be pressured to learn the code to pass a test. John also built a double-A floating charger and an LED pop bottle cap mini flashlight. John said it was the meeting after the meeting at Litza's Pizza where he met so many wonderful, smart and intelligent friends from different walks of life willing to share their knowledge. John became good friends with John D. Hays, K7VE.

John is single and self employed. He programs web sites. John is a member of the VHF Society

and UARC. He has really been involved with UARC. John is a great asset to the club. He was a tremendous help on Field Day. He hauled all kinds of needed equipment to Payson Lakes. John helped to put up tents and take them down.

John obtained his General license in September 2008. John said this was more of a challenge than the Technician test. He really had to prepare for this test. He obtained the study materials from Gordon West, WB6NOA. If he didn't understand what a word meant he would look it up. John was really pleased to pass the General test. Now he can get on the HF bands, something that has been a goal of his for quite some time. John is involved

with the Utah DX Association. John operates an all-mode Yaesu FT-897 which he used Sunday to help out with the Radio Newslines since I wasn't able to be there. John also has a Yaesu VX-7R handheld. John studied and researched all of the amateur radios on the market. He made the choice based on features and price.

John enjoys camping. He is also interested in all kinds of energy saving devices such as solar panels.

John has been elected President of UARC for 2009. John, congratulations. We know you will do a great job

Please Use Caution but Don't Panic

By Jed Petrovich, AD7KG, UARC Program Co-chair

Recently, I was reading the January issue of *WorldRadio* magazine. (From what I understand, this will be the last print issue of this publication.) On page two, an article caught my attention. It was titled "Beware of Amateur Radio phishers."¹ A few days before, I saw this announcement on QRZ.com: "Georgia Spammer uses email addresses harvested from QRZ."² After reading these articles, I felt it might be worthwhile to write something similar for *The Microvolt*.

For better or for worse, we live in an age of computers and the Internet. It would be hard to imagine our lives without them. As with many technologies, along with the good, there are often negative side effects. My intent is to raise awareness, but not cause undue concern. However, space will not allow a detailed treatise of these topics.

In my previous job, I dealt with the Internet every day. The company provided online transaction (credit card) services for merchants. Our tools allowed businesses to offer customers the ability

to purchase goods or services via their web sites. While I don't consider myself an expert in every facet of online security, I have had some experience in this area.

Email Spammers

By expending a few electrons, purveyors of unsolicited email or spam can send thousands of emails. Since costs are so low, the quantity of messages is staggering. Recent estimates suggest that 80 to 90 percent of all email is spam.

Spammers use a variety of techniques to "harvest" email addresses. Many of these addresses come from web sites or lists from other spammers. Unknowingly, you may have helped them. Such email messages often provide a link to "opt out" of future emails. However, doing this may only increase the amount of spam because a reply indicates the message was received at a valid email address. Yes, legitimate businesses do provide ways to initially prevent or discontinue

email communications. Normally, these are sites where you initiated the first contact.

Responding in any way or purchasing based on such emails only encourages these operations to continue. If they didn't work, spam messages would cease. (Please keep in mind, I'm not discussing emails from businesses you have purchased from or used in the past.) In other words, I would not do business with entities who advertise using spam. For me, this would be especially true if someone sends me an offer using my email harvested from QRZ.com or my ARRL address.

Phishing Schemes

There is no doubt that there are persons that would love nothing more than to defraud you out of your hard-earned money. At the root, nearly all phishing (fishing) schemes begin as unsolicited emails. These messages look legitimate, even using company logos, to try to lure recipients into divulging personal information. Many purport to be from a financial institution or credit card company. Typically, the message states that your account has or will be suspended unless you take immediate action. Sometimes there are offers of "commissions" for assisting some off-shore entity with some sort of financial transaction. Salutations are nearly always of the "generic" variety.

Protecting Yourself

There are ways to reduce your exposure to such practices. Just as we must be cautious and defensive motor vehicle operators, we must take some basic precautions when dealing with emails and web sites.

Perhaps the first line of defense is to employ a state-of-the-art email filter. Most Internet service providers (ISPs) now have filters built into their email systems. However, the filters may not be active. If you feel you are getting a large number of unsolicited emails, check with your ISP. These

filters will oft times detect spam, along with many phishing emails, before they even get to your Inbox. However, these filters are not perfect. Some legitimate emails may be filtered. Conversely, some undesired messages may find their way to your Inbox. So, if a suspicious email lands in your Inbox, don't assume it's good. On the other hand, if your spam filter catches such emails, assume they are bad.

It is paramount to keep in mind that no legitimate organization will ask for personal information such as name, credit card number, birth date, Social Security number, etc. Ask yourself, "Why would my bank need information they already have on file?" Never, *never* use any of the links or phone numbers provided in such messages, no matter how convincing they appear. Either close your browser and reopen a new session using a legitimate web address or call the institution directly. It is not unusual to go to the actual site and find warnings regarding the exact or similar message you have received.

Be on the lookout for spelling, syntax or grammatical errors in messages. Again, many of these emails are designed to look authentic, but have some obvious flaws. However, the quality of these emails is getting better.

Please use one of the antivirus and firewall programs currently available. Many of these programs also provide features to further reduce your exposure to undesired emails and phishing schemes. It is critically important to keep these programs up to date. This is normally done automatically by the program. However, it is a good idea to check the status of your program from time to time just to make sure these updates are occurring.

Conclusion

By using some basic common sense and available defenses, using email and the Internet can be a positive experience. I doubt many of us would

consider abandoning driving automobiles just because we have or might get into an accident. So it is with computers and the Internet... using simple precautions we can stay safe online and continue to use these valuable tools.

Notes:

¹WorldRadio, January 2009, page 2.

²<http://www.qrz.com/>

CHU to Move from 7335 kHz

The Canadian time and frequency station, CHU, that has long been a nice calibration marker for our 40-meter rigs, will be moving its 7335 kHz transmission to 7850 kHz as of January 1, 2009, at 0000 UTC. The move is the result of an action by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) changing the 7300-7350 kHz allocation from the fixed service to the broadcasting service.

The ARRL Letter reports that there has been a lot of interference on the 7335 kHz frequency from many information broadcasters around the world. “CHU listeners in Canada and around the world who have for so long considered the 7335 kHz frequency exclusively for time signals, are very vocal about this interference,” said Raymond Pelletier, Technical Officer at the NRC-Institute for National Measurement Standards, who oversees the CHU facility. “We have heard from Amateur Radio operators, watchmakers, astronomers and navigators who use the tones and

voice signals. We also received comments from those who use the carrier as a calibration source at a distance for their equipment.”

The 3330 and 14670 kHz transmissions from CHU will continue without change.

Broadcasting 24 hours a day, CHU is a part of NRC's system for disseminating official time throughout Canada. Listeners hear tones to mark the seconds, a voice to announce the time in French and English, and digital data to set computers. The atomic clocks at CHU are part of the ensemble of clocks in the time and frequency research laboratories at the National Research Council Canada in Ottawa. The NRC clocks are used in conjunction with clocks in the time laboratories of other countries to construct the internationally accepted scale of time, UTC (Coordinated Universal Time).

License Examination Schedule

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone
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
02/18/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
02/18/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
02/24/08 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871 ¹

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