

The *Microvolt*

May, 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.

UARC 2009 Board

Table listing UARC 2009 Board members and their contact information, including President John Hardy, Executive VP Andrew Madsen, and various committee chairs.

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Table listing committee chairpersons and members, including Book Lady Fred Desmet, Historian Ron Speirs, and various engineering and liaison roles.

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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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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 5, May 2009

May Meeting: Propagation

For anyone who operates the HF bands, propagation conditions can be an ever-changing puzzle. Which bands are open at night and which in the daytime? If skip is too long for a desired contact, should you move up or down in frequency? What bands actually improve during the sunspot minimum? How can I find the best time and frequency to work South Africa? These are some of the questions that will be dealt with at the coming meeting of the Utah Amateur Radio Club to be held Thursday, May 7, at 7:30 P.M. Jed Petrovich, AD7KG, one of our program chairpersons, will be giving us a presentation on the principles of propagation, what factors affect it, and what software and web resources are available to tell us where to go (uh, in frequency, that is).

The meeting will be held in the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. Due to finals week at the University our May meeting will be held in room 1230, the room we were in last spring. It is two floors up from our usual 101. That puts it at the level on which you enter from the east door. Again, the meeting will take place on Thursday, May 7, 2009, at 7:30 P.M.

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 May get-together will be at “Charlie Chow's Dragon Grill,” 255 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Merry-Go-Rooms

Our room scheduling at the Warnock Engineering Building is a bit unpredictable as we have to schedule each semester separately and work around other uses of the rooms. We have likely seen the last of room 101 for 2009. The plan for the next several meetings is as follows:

May	1230
June	105
Fall (2 nd Thursday).....	1230

The 3-digit numbers are on level “L1” and the 4-digit ones on level “1” which is the one on which one enters from the east entrance of the building. Room 105 is just around the corner from 101.

Our Cover

Our cover this month shows the folks who presented our April meeting program on APRS. On the left is Greg Lundell, K7UHP, and on the right is Don Lloyd, KD7BA, who made the arrangements. Thanks to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photo.

Field Day is Coming

One of the favorite UARC events each year is our entry in the national Field Day contest at the end of June. Andy Johnson, KE7UQO, is our Field Day chairman this year. He writes:

Field day is approaching! We encourage all hams to participate in the festivities this year. Field day will be on June 27-28 about a half-mile south of the Payson Lakes Campground (Map at <http://tinyurl.com/uarcfieldday>) We will need help towing a porta-potty and the small communications trailer up to the site.

Field Day is a great opportunity to take the family out for a great campout as well as a chance to practice amateur radio. It is a good time to test your field equipment in the event of an emergency, and a chance to share some camaraderie with fellow hams. Who knows, you may get the XYL and kids interested in ham radio if they are not already licensed!

UARC will be providing the main course for dinner on Saturday night. Participants should plan the other meals. RSVP to 3leftturns@gmail.com so we can get an approximate head-count. If you are able to tow a porta-potty or the small communications trailer, please contact Andy Johnson at: <mailto:3leftturns@gmail.com>. We encourage everyone to participate, especially new hams. Thank you for your participation in this year's event!

Andy Johnson
KE7UQO
Field Day Chairman

We will have somewhere between one and three HF stations set up, depending on how many operators we have. This is a good opportunity to see how to set up and operate an HF station. We will start with an empty field and set up stations that will likely let us work over 1000 stations across the country in a 24-hour period.

The Field Day rules can be found online at: <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/fd.html> . In 2008 we entered in the 2A category (Club or group portable with two simultaneous transmitters.)

Get Your Steak-Fry Tickets

The coming meeting will be one of only two opportunities left to get your steak-fry tickets in person. The annual UARC Steak-Fry will be held Saturday, July 16, at The Spruces Campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. This is a great chance to avoid the summer heat for an afternoon by enjoying the company of other hams. Cost this year is \$15.

We are hoping for a bigger turnout this year than last. If the event continues to be small (but sincere) it may be necessary to scale it down in some way or even drop it in future years.

Ham Frequencies Not For Sale

Landon Beales, K7OIO, was surprised to read in the *Cottonwood/Holladay Journal* that "In order to improve emergency communications in the city, Cottonwood Heights has purchased the exclusive rights to two amateur radio frequencies for the next 10 years... Because the city owns the frequencies, no one else is allowed to use them."

It goes on to say that the two frequencies were purchased for less than \$1000.

Really? We really hadn't known that amateur frequencies were assigned that way! Is someone out there collecting money for frequencies that aren't for sale? Is this the radio equivalent of the Brooklyn Bridge?

(You can find the article online by going to <http://cottonwoodholladayjournal.com> and searching for "amateur radio.")

John Lloyd, K7JL, the Utah Frequency Coordinator, contacted Roger Kehr, the

Emergency Communications Coordinator for Cottonwood Heights, whom the article credited with the purchase. It turns out that Mr. Kehr is N3AOQ and is well aware of how amateur frequencies are used and shared. The frequencies involved were actually public safety frequencies but amateurs are also involved in the emergency communications plan for the city. Somehow the author of the article didn't quite get the concepts sorted out properly.

In any case, don't worry. Your favorite frequency is probably not up for sale.

Member of The Month: Bob Yeates, WA7RFE

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF



This month we are featuring Bob Yeates, WA7RFE. Bob has been in amateur radio since 1968. It was Jack Yeaman W7JSS, now a silent key, a rehab counselor at the Division of Services for the Blind, who convinced Bob to get into amateur radio. Jim Dixon W7EM, now a silent key, was teaching amateur radio classes from Novice to Extra at the Center for the Blind. Bob took all of the classes. In 1968 Bob obtained his Novice license, in 1971 his General, in 1977 his Advanced and finally, in January 2009, Bob received his Extra Class license. Bob said that Extra exam is a tough cookie.

Bob's favorite thing about amateur radio is talking to people from all around the world. When Bob first got into amateur radio, two meters was barely getting off the ground. Bob didn't even get into two meters until 1994. In Bob's first three years of amateur radio he had his Novice license, so his time was spent on the low bands using the Morse Code. Bob said he still enjoys the Morse Code. Bob also enjoys talking on the phone bands. Bob said sometimes he does more listening than talking.

Another thing that Bob likes about amateur radio is being of service to others in the community by way of communications. Bob's LDS stake, Westbrook West Jordan Stake, has quite an emergency communications setup. They have practice drills for emergencies such as fire, floods, and earthquakes. They work hard on sharpening their communication skills in emergency situations. They have a meeting every six months during the LDS General Conference weekend.

Bob's wife, Connie, is in amateur radio and she is featured in April's *Microvolt*. They have one 14-year old daughter, Shelby, and she is getting into amateur radio. Bob worked for UTA for 30 years and is now retired. He gave bus information in

English and in Spanish. Bob attended BYU where he obtained his bachelor's degree in social work with a minor in Spanish and a minor in family relations.

Bob is a member of UARC. Other hobbies Bob is interested in include music and model railroading. Many years ago Bob was in a band. He plays the drums. His band performed at different events and got paid for it. Bob is now taking piano lessons.

Bob, congratulations on getting that Extra Class license. We wish you the best in all of your endeavors

License Examination Schedule

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone
05/20/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
05/20/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
05/21/09 (Thu.)	Roosevelt	R. Chandler Fisher, W7BYU	(435) 722-5440
05/26/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 ¹
06/03/09 (Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306
06/06/09 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 ¹
06/13/09 (Sat.)	Logan	V. P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630
06/17/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
06/17/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
06/30/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 ¹

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

HamCom Colorado 2009

After 18 months of planning and preparation, HamCon Colorado 2009, the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention is almost upon us! The big event will happen May 29-31, 2009 in gorgeous Estes Park, CO.

ARRL speakers include Harold Cramer, W1JB, QST publisher, Mike Gruber, W1MG, EMC Engineer, and Rick Roderick, K5UR, Vice-President. Also present will be Gordon Hardman, W0RUN of the 2009 Desecho Island Dxpediton.

See <http://www.hamconcolorado.org/> for more information.

Thanks For the Food Contributions

UARC President John Hardy, K7ALA, would like to thank all who generously responded to the call for a food donation at the April meeting. A substantial amount of food was contributed and was delivered to Volunteers of America. The club received the following letter of thanks:



www.voaut.org

April 9, 2009

Utah Amateur Radio Club
1933 Woodside Dr.
Holladay, UT 84124

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your recent in-kind contribution to Volunteers of America, Utah. Volunteers of America is a spiritually-based nonprofit agency offering homeless outreach, homeless youth services, substance abuse detoxification and treatment services, housing case management, substance abuse prevention, domestic violence counseling, and senior volunteer services. Over the course of a year more than 10,000 individuals feel the helping hand of Volunteers of America, Utah.

Your in-kind contributions help us meet the basic needs of the impoverished, troubled, the homeless and the forgotten. With your continued support, Volunteers of America, Utah will continue to serve those in greatest need.

Please contact me at 801-363-9414 ext. 6 if you have any questions or would like to further your involvement with Volunteers of America, Utah. You can also visit our website at www.voaut.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sam Stephens".

Sam Stephens
Vice President of External Relations

“Change one. Change many.”

ARRL Club News

By Norm Fusaro, W3IZ

Teacher or Student?

It has been said that if you stand in the rain you are going to get wet, which simply stated means that if you just show up you are going to learn something.

Every day we play two important roles in life, the teacher and more importantly that of the student. We can identify these roles through Amateur Radio and our radio club activities.

Often we think of the instructor and student roles in a traditional classroom setting or a training session but when you think about it there are many subtle ways in which we impart knowledge to others or broaden our own understanding of a topic. A lot of what we do in life has been learned from watching others and then trying it ourselves. Think about this when you are on the air. Anyone who has ever tuned a radio receiver is well aware that more people are listening to a conversation on the radio waves than the two stations directly in QSO. Each time we key the transmitter we are teaching by example and hopefully these are all good lessons. Observation and listening on the air is a great way to learn the ropes but eventually we have to experience something to become proficient. Sure, we may stumble in the beginning but experience is a great teacher and provides us with lessons that can never be learned in a classroom. Eventually the student will become the teacher and the cycle continues.

Know Code

This cute play on words is used by many Morse aficionados who want to world to think that in order to be a “real ham” one must be proficient at telegraphy. Nothing could be further from the truth.

In the early part of the twentieth century many ships at sea used Morse Code to communicate and knowledge of the code was required so as to not cause interference to seafaring communications.

In the USA and many other countries Morse proficiency is no longer a requirement for any Amateur Radio license but it is still a favorite operating mode for many. However, if we are to be effective communicators in the twenty-first century then we will need to know a lot more than Morse Code. Basic computer skills such as saving and sending files, configuring software programs and interfacing transceivers with computers have become characteristic with Amateur Radio today. A working knowledge of wireless networking and digital communication can prove to be invaluable during an emergency.

With so many facets no single activity can define Amateur Radio. Ham radio has always been a journey of discovery and a quest to learn and experience new things. From spark to vacuum tube to solid state to digital, ham radio has always been on the move. It takes a lot more than Morse code to be an effective radio amateur.

Don't Overlook the Basics

A symphony is played one note at a time demonstrating that complex functions can be reduced to a series of simple procedures. Mastering some basic skills will make anyone appear like an expert so demonstrating some basics can have a huge impact on proficiency. Some “Basic 101” topics may include soldering, computer file management, making a QSO or whatever you group asks for.