

# The *Microvolt*

May, 2010



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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 second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the University of Utah’s Warnock Engineering Building in room 1230.

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 24th 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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Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL 801 556-7565
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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

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Volume 53, Issue 5, May 2010

### May Meeting: VHF and UHF Antennas

Have you found the ubiquitous “rubber duck” to be the ultimate VHF and UHF antenna? If not, perhaps you'd like to see some of the other choices that can be purchased or constructed. That is the program topic for the May UARC meeting to be held Thursday, May 13, 2010. We hope to be showing off several antenna designs and reporting their advantages and disadvantages.

The meeting will also include an auction for an unusual antique communications receiver recently donated to the club. More details about the receiver are on page 5.

Again, meetings are now on the *second* Thursday of each month, so the coming meeting will be Thursday, May 13, at 7:30 P.M.

Our meetings during the spring semester are being held in room 2230 of the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. Room 2230 is in the same position as 1230 where we have been meeting, but one floor up. Some of our traditional parking on the east side of the building is blocked off for construction, so if you find it full, another recommended parking area is near the southeast corner of the Merrill Engineering Building lot. Go south along the east side of Merrill, then go in the north door of Warnock. For a map and directions for finding the building, check the club web site at [http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/ablip\\_meetmap.html](http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/ablip_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
- An opportunity to buy tickets to the July Steak-Fry
- 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 “Greek Souvlaki,” 404 E. 300 South, in Salt Lake City.

## Latest News

### Our Cover

Our cover this month shows “all the perpetrators,” as photographer Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS, describes it, for the April program on FM operating. Brett Sutherland, N7KG; Clint Turner, KA7OEI; and someone else who wandered in off the street, talked about such topics as the difference between low audio and weak signal strength, and in which order to say the calls when you call another station.

### Steak-Fry and Swap Meet

UARC’s annual Steak-Fry and Swap Meet will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, July 17, in Big Cottonwood Canyon. We will again be in Area 7 of “The Spruces” campground. Steaks will likely start cooking about 5 P.M. If you have something to sell, plan to come earlier, perhaps around 2 P.M.

Reservations are necessary. Tickets this year are \$10.00 for the full steak dinner including potato, salad, corn, and dessert. Reservations can be made through the club Secretary at the May or June meetings, at Field Day, or by sending \$10 per person to the Secretary. (See inside front cover for address.)

### Field Day Help *Still* Needed

We are still in need of volunteers to help with Field Day planning. We need people who can help carry or tow equipment to the site, plan antennas, acquire tables and chairs, make sure the tower and generator are ready to go, and plan a general strategy for keeping Murphy at bay. If you would like to be on the committee, contact one of the

officers. (Contact information on the inside front cover.)

For those new to the notion of “Field Day,” it is a weekend when hams all over the country operate from the great outdoors and from other kinds of portable sites. It is an ARRL-sponsored “operating event” (with a striking resemblance to a contest) held on the fourth full weekend of June each year. UARC has traditionally entered from a location near Payson Lakes on the Mt. Nebo Scenic Loop.

If you like camping and operating HF, be sure to mark June 26 and 27 on your calendar.

### K7DXZ, SK

We note with regret the passing of Scott Thomson, K7DXZ on March 27. Scott was a past officer in UARC and net control operator for the UARC Information Net. Many found interesting his tales of experiences as an Air Force meteorologist.

Many of us knew Scott initially as KD7VFP, but in 2006 he restored his original call from many years back..

Scott was a Salt Lake City native and graduated from Brighton High School. He worked, most recently, for Qwest Communications. He was 49 years old.

### Division Convention May 28-30

The ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention will take place May 28-30, at the newly renovated Platte River Resort in Casper Wyoming.

Early bird registration (extended until April 16): ARRL members pay only \$20, non-members pay \$30. First year hams pay only \$20 regardless of

ARRL membership. Registration fee includes access to convention, one early bird prize drawing ticket, 10 convention prize drawing tickets, and a \$5 discount on the Saturday evening banquet ticket.

More details on the convention, including schedules and registration forms can be found at <http://wyomingsection.org/wiki/index.php/Convention>.

## UARC to Auction R-45/ARR-7 Receiver



UARC has recently received a donation of a somewhat rare World War II vintage communications receiver and will offer it for auction at the May club meeting.

The receiver is an R-45/ARR-7 made by Hallicrafters. It is similar electronically to the SX-28 or SX-32. It is general coverage and receives the broadcast band through 42 MHz in six bands.

The receiver is unusual in that it was made to be used in aircraft. The main tuning can be operated by a motor drive which was used to scan for enemy radar. Those familiar with the unit suggest that the motor drive be used sparingly as the dc motor has a finite lifetime. The receiver can also be tuned manually.

The receiver does not come with the original power supply. That supply probably would not

have been much use as it was intended for use on 115-volt, 400-Hz aircraft power. The unit does, however, come with a homebrew supply for 60 Hz. The supply needs a new rectifier tube and possibly new filter capacitors. The buyer may want to replace the tube with silicon diodes.

Listings for the R-45/ARR-7 on Internet seem to show prices in the neighborhood of \$200-300

depending on condition and whether the tuning motor is intact and working. (This one is.) UARC will be asking a minimum \$90 starting bid.

To see the receiver prior to the meeting, contact club Vice-President, Brett Sutherland, N7KG, at (801) 994-9944, Ext 158.

## FCC Seeks Comments on Proposed New Rules

In March, the FCC released a *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM)* (Docket #10-72) that proposed to amend the Part 97 rules — specifically 97.113(a)(3) — governing the Amateur Radio Service. The new rules would provide that, under certain limited conditions, Amateur Radio operators may transmit messages during emergency and disaster preparedness drills, regardless of whether the operators are employees of entities participating in the drill. On April 22, a summary of the *NPRM* was published in the *Federal Register* and the FCC is seeking comments on it.

Specifically, the proposed rule change would add the following exception to the prohibition on communications on behalf of an employer:

(i) A control station operator may participate on behalf of an employer in a government-sponsored emergency preparedness or disaster readiness test or drill, limited to the duration and scope of such test or drill, and operational testing immediately prior to such test or drill

On the positive side, amateur radio has played an important role in emergency communications in many instances, and this change would allow amateurs who work for a hospital or government agency to help include amateur radio in

emergency preparation drills.

On the negative side there is a worry that companies and agencies would encourage their employees to get amateur licenses strictly to use amateur frequencies for emergency preparation instead of relying primarily on frequencies in the Land Mobile or Public Safety services. This is contrary to the definition of amateur radio operators as “duly authorized persons interested in radio technique *solely* with a *personal* aim...” At the 2009 Dayton Hamvention, FCC warned amateurs not to be too generous with their frequencies lest they become “the BRAVO service,” that is, “Business Radio Alternate Voice Overflow.” Care is needed to find the right balance.

The complete text of the *NPRM* can be found on the web at:

[http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/FCC-10-45A1.pdf)

Comments must be filed on or before May 24, 2010 (30 days after publication in the *Federal Register*); reply comments must be filed on or before June 7, 2010 (45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*). Instructions on how to file comments are listed [beginning on page 5 of the NPRM](#).

## Examination Schedule

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
5/19/10	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
5/19/10	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
5/25/10	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
6/02/10	(Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306
6/05/10	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 <sup>1</sup>
6/12/10	(Thu.)	Logan	V.P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630
6/19/10	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983

<sup>1</sup> Preregistration required. Contact the indicated person.

## Member of the Month

### Morris Farmer, AD7SR

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Morris L. Farmer, AD7SR. Morris has been interested in radio communications in one form or another practically all of his life. His brother was an electrical engineer. Morris said he was a shortwave radio listener for quite some time. Morris's best friend in high school had his amateur radio General class license. Morris obtained his Novice license in 1962 when he was a senior in high school.

Morris is originally from Colorado but when he was in high school he was living in Massachusetts.

When Morris moved back to Colorado he changed to a Colorado call sign. Then Morris let his Novice license lapse. He joined the Air Force, so amateur radio was put on the back burner for a long time.

When Morris was in the Air Force he worked in radio maintenance. Morris was in the Air Force for five years. While in the Air Force, Morris was diagnosed with Guillian Barre which caused him to be in a wheelchair the rest of his life. This happened in 1967.

After Morris became disabled he attended Westminster College where he obtained a degree in physics and math. He was magna cum laude in his graduating class. Morris attended graduate school at the University of Utah where he obtained his Master's degree in physical chemistry.

Throughout the years, Morris has been active in military communications and he regularly gets on the military frequencies. Morris is also active in the Auxiliary Coast Guard. He is an Assistant Communication Officer for the Utah, Nevada and California Auxiliary Coast Guard and does a lot of traveling.

Morris says he has three passions: his family, the Auxiliary Coast Guard, and amateur radio. It is his goal to bring the Auxiliary Coast Guard and amateur radio together.

Morris finally got back into amateur radio in 2006 when he obtained his Technician license. Morris then started studying for his General. He was working on the Morse Code because back then it

was still a requirement to pass five words per minute code along with the theory.

In August, 2007, he passed the General test and in March of 2008 Morris received his Extra Class license. He decided at that point to seek an Extra Class callsign and became AD7SR. His previous call sign was KE7FSX.

Morris and his wife, Carol, have one son. He is 38 years old and his name is John. John has his Technician class license and his call sign is KF7CLN. Morris's wife, Carol, is now working on her Technician license.

Morris is now teaching amateur radio classes. He teaches the General class on Monday nights and the Technician on Saturday. Morris's wife, Carol, is taking this class. These classes last about six weeks or more, depending on what the students feel they need. Morris says he doesn't believe in

those quick classes. He wants his students to understand what amateur radio is all about. If anyone is interested in taking these classes they can get in touch with Morris. Morris also teaches Coast Guard classes. He use to tach auxiliary out on the water.

Morris worked for Evans and Sutherland for 24 years as a software supervisor and engineer. Morris is a member of UARC, the microwave group, and the VHF Society. Morris also worked with Randy Kohlwey, WI7P, and Steve Olsen, KE7AC, on the Midvalley Elementary school communication with the astronauts. Morris was their engineer. He made sure they were getting on the air. Morris has been close friends with Randy and the Olsens for many years.

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



Morris Farmer, AD7SR, at his station (Photo by Ron Speirs, K7RLS)