

The *Microvolt*

June, 2011



The Microvolt June 2011

Prologue

Publication: *The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 3666 S. State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4848. It is published monthly except August. Subscription is included with club membership at \$17 per year. Single copy price is \$1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. Postmaster: send address corrections to *The Microvolt*, c/o Dick Keddington, 1783 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT, 84124-1620.

Deadline for submissions is the 24th of each month prior to publication. Submissions by email are preferred (k7hfv@arrl.net), but other means including diskettes and typewritten submissions can be mailed directly to: Gordon Smith, 632 University St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. 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.

Club: 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, generally in room 1230 or 2230.

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, 1783 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1620.

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.

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Club Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	801 556-7565
ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438

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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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June Meeting: Field Day Plans

Amateur Radio's biggest contest (or "operating event") is the annual Field Day and is coming up on June 25 and 26. The June UARC meeting, to be held June 9, will be devoted to preparation for UARC's entry. There will be slides from previous events to give a feel of what the contest is all about, along with some discussion of contest operating techniques and a chance to volunteer skills and/or equipment.

The meeting will be held on Thursday, June 9, at 7:30 P.M., in room 1230 (the "Duke" classroom) in the Warnock Engineering building on the U of U campus.

Field Day is a chance to combine amateur radio with a family campout. For many it may be a first chance to sample what HF equipment setup and operating is like and to get a taste of contesting. We encourage anyone who can come for any portion of the event to join us. We will be in an open area about a half-mile south of the Payson Lakes Campground on the Mt. Nebo Scenic Loop. More information is elsewhere in this issue.

The June meeting will also be the last chance to buy steak-fry tickets at a regular UARC meeting. The annual steak-fry and swap meet will be Saturday afternoon, July 16, at The Spruces campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Tickets are \$10 for the full steak dinner.

UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. During spring and fall semesters, they will be in room 1230 of the Warnock Engineering Building at the University of Utah.

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. See http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/ablip_meetmap.html for information on finding the building.

Of course, the meeting will include the "standard" meeting features:

- Availability of ARRL books from Brett, 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 June get-together will be at "Crown Burger," 377 E. 200 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Saturday, May 14, was the national day for hidden transmitter hunting and John Hardy, K7ALA, held a hunt at West Valley City's Centennial Park. Our cover shows AB1IP's junior op, Kevin, aiming one of the demonstration direction-finding antennas at a "bunny" in a tree.

W7TGC, SK

We note with regret the passing of Richard ("Dick") Bell, W7TGC. Dick passed away on Friday, May 6, 2011, at age 87. Dick was first licensed in his early 20's and maintained his license until the very end. Some may remember his homebrew entries at UARC homebrew nights including a CW transmitter of completely original design. He was a UARC member for many years. Dick was practically legendary in mountain-climbing circles, having pioneered a new route, "The Merciful Traverse," on Lone Peak. He was an early member of the Wasatch Mountain Club and knew practically every Wasatch trail well.

Dick's obituary can be found at:
<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/saltlakatribune/obituary.aspx?n=richard-bell&pid=151004530&fhid=7529>.

Steak-Fry July 16

UARC will hold its annual Steak-Fry on Saturday, July 16, at The Spruces campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The June meeting will be the last chance to buy tickets at a club meeting. Cost of the full steak dinner is just \$10. One other

chance to get tickets in person will be at Field Day. Mark the date on your calendar.

"Shakeout" Update

In an earlier issue we listed information about a statewide emergency drill coming up. Here is the latest from Susan Smith.

Here is the official update about the emergency exercise for Utah. It took awhile for the website to be posted (<http://www.shakeout.org/utah/>), but it's full of good information. As you'll see, the decision was made to hold it earlier rather than later – 2012, not 2013.

"At 10:15 a.m. on April 17, 2012, thousands of Utahns will 'Drop, Cover, and Hold On' <http://www.shakeout.org/utah/dropcoverholdon/> in The Great Utah ShakeOut, the largest earthquake drill in Utah history!"

By the way, that is a Tuesday.

Susan Smith, Volunteer
Salt Lake City CERT
Southeast Division Supervisor

Utahn is Ham of the Year

Congratulations to Shirley Larsen, AD7HL, of Mendon, Utah (Cache County), on becoming the 2011 Rocky Mountain Division Ham of the Year. Shirley is said to be a mentor leading by example. She has been active getting more female hams on the air, and in public service. She enjoys mobile operations, APRS, digital modes, and satellite operation.

All About Field Day



Andrew, AC7CF, operates in the CW tent during UARC's 2010 Field Day.

Field Day has been an important part of UARC's annual schedule going back at least fifty years. It is a chance to combine amateur radio operating, contesting, a family campout, and a chance to socialize with other hams, all in one event.

Field Day is an annual contest for mobile and portable stations sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The object is to set up quickly a portable station somewhere other than usual operating locations, and work as many stations as possible in a 24-hour period. This encourages amateurs to improve their ability to

respond to emergencies by establishing long-haul communications on short notice.

Full rules can be found at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>. Officially, Field Day is not a contest but an "operating event." However, it feels and smells like a contest in many ways. Stations compete for point totals. Rules are set by the contest department at the League. Results are published on the web beside other contests. Many clubs devoted to contesting make this their primary event. If Field Day *were* a contest, it would be the largest contest in all of amateur radio.

The point of a portable and mobile event is to test groups' emergency preparedness and give operators a chance to see how they can perform in a situation with many similarities to an actual emergency. There is a premium placed on handling a large amount of traffic (i.e. working many stations) rapidly and accurately. As in an emergency, some of the operating may have to be done when one is cold, tired, and wondering when the relief operator will be showing up. Operation goes continuously through the night. (Being busy that weekend is no excuse. You surely have the 2-5 A.M. period available!)

Murphy's Law says "If anything can possibly go wrong, it will." This maxim seems particularly applicable to Field Day. Rigs fail, well-established antenna principles are no longer true, and the person entrusted with the most vital piece of equipment never shows up. But then making do is very much the spirit of Field Day.

UARC will be entering from our traditional location about a half-mile south of the Payson Lakes Campground on the Mt. Nebo Scenic Loop.

Getting there: Here is how to reach UARC's site:

1. Assuming you are starting from the Salt Lake Valley, go south on I-15 to the first Payson exit, exit 250. Take the exit.
2. Go left at the end of the exit ramp which should put you on Main Street (aka SR-115). (You are really going south at this point although it may seem like east.)
3. Turn left on 100 North, aka SR-198.
4. Turn right on 600 East, also called "Peetneet Boulevard." This turn is at the top of a hill at a picturesque old school.
5. Follow 600 East until it takes you to the mouth of Payson Canyon. At this point note your odometer reading or reset your trip odometer.
6. Watch for landmarks at these approximate mileages:

- a. 11.1: Payson Lakes Day-use area on the right.
- b. 11.7: Payson Lakes Campground. turnoff on the right.
- c. 12.3 Guard station turnoff on the right.

At the guard station turnoff on the right, don't take the right turn, but instead turn *left* onto a dirt road. Within a few hundred yards you will see the camp area.

Most of the operation is on the HF bands, either on single sideband or CW, because HF is where one can find a virtually inexhaustible supply of new stations to work. If you've never worked HF before, this might be a great opportunity to get your feet wet and see what it's like. We will be communicating with stations all over the country and likely some other parts of the world. You can help set up and operate two stations. If you're not licensed for HF yet, you can still participate. There will be enough operators there holding General Class or higher licenses that you can operate under the supervision of one of them during most time periods.

When: People from UARC will be camping at the site as early as the beginning of the week of June 20. A number of people will be in place by Thursday evening, the 23rd. Setup of the equipment starts at noon on Friday, the 24th. Actual contest operation starts on Saturday, the 25th at noon, and continues until noon on Sunday, the 26th. You are welcome to join the operation any time you can and leave when you must.

What to Bring: You will need food, water, and shelter for the period you will be at the site. The club will supply portable toilets, but, otherwise, there are no facilities, just an open field. Remember sunscreen for the daylight hours and a warm coat for the evenings. On Saturday night there will be a potluck dinner with the club supplying a main course. Bring a dish to share.

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone	Notes
06/09/11	(Thu.)	Logan	V. P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630	
06/15/11	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983	
06/15/11	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678	
06/28/11	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871	
07/06/11	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	(801) 573-3922	
07/20/11	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983	
07/20/11	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678	
07/26/11	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871	

¹Preregistration required. Check with the contact person before the test session.

Member of the Month:

Doug Nielson, KF7OZL

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Doug Nielsen, KF7OZL, a brand new amateur radio operator. Doug received his Technician license in March, 2011, and had joined UARC several months before.

Doug learned about UARC while attending an emergency communications forum. He started coming to the meetings. He bought the books, studied hard, and passed the test. Doug is now working on getting his General license.

Doug became interested in amateur radio when he was involved with the scouts a long time ago. Doug said that Morse Code was one of the things that kept him from getting into the hobby. Before going to college, Doug worked as a tower

technician. He built and repaired radio towers for A.M. and F.M. broadcast stations, satellite, cellular, microwave, and even amateur radio towers. This was when he was living in Washington State. Doug attended the University in Washington. Doug is working on his degree in medical physics.

Doug works for the University of Utah as a researcher for cardiac, genetics and pediatrics. He is also a research coordinator. Doug has worked for the University of Utah for five years. Doug's wife, Laura, is studying to be a nurse. Doug and his wife, Laura, have three children, a nine year old daughter, Emma, a six year old son, Logan, and a four year old daughter, Adela. Doug's nine



Doug Nielsen, KF7OZK

year old daughter is interested in getting her amateur license. Doug said he will work with her this summer while she is out of school for summer vacation.

The thing Doug likes about amateur radio is the camaraderie, talking with people who share his same interests. He has a Yaesu DXACR hand-held radio. Doug is interested in getting involved in emergency communications. He plans on joining ARES after he gets familiar with working

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on amateur radio. Other hobbies Doug enjoys are camping, fishing, and hunting.

Doug has offered to help coordinate Field Day for this year at Payson Lakes. Doug is inviting a company, Goal Zero, which is a solar power company, to come to our Field Day. They sell solar panels for recreation. They also work with third-world countries such as those in Africa. Doug also wants to invite some elected officials in Payson to attend our Field Day.

Doug, we really appreciate your help with Field Day this year and we wish you the best in all of your endeavors.

Help Save 70 cm

Our 420-450 MHz band continues to be in danger from H.R. 607, the “Broadband for First Responders Act of 2011.” This bill, pending in Congress, would put 2/3 of our 70-cm amateur band up for auction to commercial services. It would wipe out the satellite and weak-signal portions of the band as well as spectrum that is used for control and auxiliary links that are necessary to keep our repeaters and linked systems in operation.

You can help by writing to your representative in Congress and explaining that this portion of the bill will do considerable damage to amateur radio and

our ability to provide emergency communication.. As a starting point, you can use sample letters available from ARRL’s web site at:

<http://www.arrl.org/sample-letters> . More information about the bill itself can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/hr-607> .

Finally, do not mail your letter directly to your representative. The security procedures in place to protect members of Congress cause such mail to be delayed for periods up to several months. Instead, go to <http://www.arrl.org/contacting-chwat-and-co> and see how to use the League’s law firm to effect rapid personal delivery of your message. We need to act rapidly to save this important band.