

The *Microvolt*

July, 2017



Prologue

Publication: *The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 699 E. South Temple Ste 100, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1282. It is published monthly except August. Subscription is included with club membership at \$20 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 Tom Kamlowsky, 4137 S Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT, 84124-2711.

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: Tom Kamlowsky, 4137 Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT, 84124-2711.

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, sometimes in 2250 or 105.

Membership: Club membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; a current license is not required. Dues are \$20 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 \$20 may obtain a membership without a *Microvolt* subscription for \$12. Send dues to the Club Secretary: Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG, 4137 S Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84124-2711.

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.

UARC 2017 Board

President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Executive VP: Lonnie Oaks, K7LO	801 255-1225
Vice Pres: Bruce Fereday, KF7OZK	801 883-9428
Secretary: Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG	801 272-3159
Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS	801 268-0153
<i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438
Asst. <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Rick Asper, AC7RA	801 865-1693
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Imm. Past Pres: Linda Reeder, N7HVF	801 364-7006

Committee Chairpersons and Members

"Book Lady": Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	801 904-3587
Field Day Chair: (To be determined)	
License Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Repeater 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://user.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html>

We are grateful to the management of XMission, our Internet Service Provider (ISP), for the donation of this Web-Page service.



For account information go to:
<http://www.xmission.com/>

Or call 801 539-0852



The Microvolt

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July Event: Steak-Fry and Swap Meet

Rather than a regular meeting at the University of Utah, our July event is UARC's annual Steak-Fry. The event will take place on the afternoon of Saturday, July 15, at The Spruces campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. Cost is \$15 and covers the entire steak dinner.

People typically start arriving about 2 P.M. to enjoy the cool of the canyon, eyeball QSOs with other hams, and some possible items for sale or trade. The steaks usually go on around 5.

Big Cottonwood Canyon is the canyon that goes to the Solitude and Brighton ski resorts. One way to get there is to take the 62nd South exit from the eastern leg of I-215. Turn east (toward the mountains) at the end of the exit ramp. You should find signs mentioning Solitude, Brighton, or state highway 190. They should guide you to where you must make a left turn into the canyon.

The Spruces is between mile markers 11 and 12. Look for a small sign on the right announcing it. If you reach the Solitude resort, you've gone too far. Tell the people at the entrance station that you are with the radio group in Area 7.

The parking available at the site is somewhat limited — about 30 spaces, so car-pooling is recommended where possible. If you arrive too late for one of the spaces, the choices are that you can pay for a parking place just inside the gate, or you can park out on the highway and walk in. If you don't mind a 5- to 10-minutes walk, you might consider parking on the highway and leaving a space for those who, for age or handicaps, might have a more difficult time.

The cost is \$15 per person. If you haven't already signed up, here are a couple of ways to get your reservation in:

— Send a check for the number of people you will be bringing to our new Secretary:

Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG
4137 Clover Lane
Salt Lake City, Utah 84124-2711

— If you are a PayPal member, send \$15 or a multiple of it to <mailto:uarc@xmission.com>.

You can also contact Tom by email at <mailto:wa7zrg@yahoo.com>. Get your reservation in as soon as possible so we can have enough food available for everyone.

It's not a bad idea to bring your own table service along. There will be paper plates and plastic utensils available, but a steak might be easier to handle with a real knife and a real plate.

Latest News

Our Cover

June 24 and 25 were the dates of the nationwide “Field Day” operating event and of UARC’s participation. We had good support from our members and from the general amateur community for our portable operation near Payson Lakes in Utah County.

Our cover shows a crew erecting the smaller of the club’s two towers with its A3 tri-band Yagi.

In many ways Field Day went well. The weather was good, band conditions were reasonable, and we had enough operators to increase the operating time of all three stations. We came away with about 1800 contacts, an improvement of 2016’s roughly 1500. About 700 of those were either CW or digital contacts and therefore count double.

We didn’t, however, escape Murphy’s law which states that if anything can go wrong, it will. Midnight troubleshooting of tuners took place along with questions about why wire antennas didn’t perform as expected. But didn’t we need some ways we can improve next year?

Our list of stations worked included 16 others in the Utah Section. Half were portables and the other half were home stations. Only three were entry class “A” meaning club portables. This may give us some idea of the general Utah participation.

We hope to have a full tally on the website sometime in mid-July. Check the “Current News” section.

No Meeting in August

UARC does not meet in August. We hope everyone has a chance for a nice summer vacation. Regular monthly meetings will resume in September with

Larry Jacobs, WA7ZBO, presenting on the topic “Off-Grid OPS.” on Thursday, September 14. We think it has to do with camping with amateur radio.

Welcome to Our New Secretary

A special election was held at the UARC meeting on June 8, and Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG, was elected as the new UARC Secretary. Tom will be taking over the job of collecting dues and keeping the membership list up to date.

We are currently in the process of transition and apologize for members who have recently joined or renewed and not yet appeared on the on-line listing and/or not received a *Microvolt*. We hope to have everything running smoothly again very soon. Let us know if you know of anyone that seems to have been missed.

We want to thank our retiring Secretary, Dick Keddington, KF7TDZ, for the great job he has done for over 13 years. Dick started in 2004 taking over for Gregg Smith, K7APW. We wish Dick the best in his current battle with health problems.

Beginners’ Tip of the Month

As polite as it seems, there is actually no need to make an announcement on a repeater when you make a call that goes unanswered. We have checked carefully and found that if you call a station or call CQ and get no answer, there is no rule that requires you to announce that you are finished not talking to anyone. Many announce that they are clear or that there was “no contact.” But as the very first Utah Frequency Coordinators wrote in one of the early VHF Society Directories, “It is clear to all that your call went unanswered.” This idea was also mentioned more than once in *QST* magazine back when it contained an “FM and Repeaters” column. It’s really OK to just walk away from the radio.

Who Was W7SP?

If you have copied the ID of one of the UARC repeaters or participated in UARC Field Day, you know that our club call is W7SP. If you have read the introduction on the club web site you know that W7SP was the call of a deceased and respected former UARC member named “Zim.” But beyond that, information about who that member really was, was rather scarce.

Recently Nancy Nielsen, WE7D, daughter of Marv, W7MR, did some research and was able to contact Zim’s granddaughter, Lorna Zimmerman, who had collected information from her Aunt (who was Zim’s daughter). Here is what she was able to turn up.

Leonard Francis (“Zim”) Zimmerman was born in 1904 in Oregon. He took an interest in radio early in life and built a crystal set. It is likely he listened to KGG, the first broadcast station in Oregon, which took to the air on March 15, 1922.

His interest extended to all things electrical. As a result of listening on his crystal set, he met a mentor who was both a radio amateur and a broadcaster and soon, Zim became a ham himself. He appreciated the help he received and acted as a mentor to many others throughout his life.

He always built his own transmitters and receivers, often using military surplus equipment and parts. Some of us were fortunate enough to visit him during the 1960s and witness a demonstration of how one could cut a raw quartz crystal and end up with a thin square of X-cut or Y-cut quartz necessary to build a crystal oscillator.

We often refer to our radio rooms as the “ham shack” and this expression dates back to the early days of ham radio when the ham station was often in a separate building, sometimes with antenna tuning components mounted right on the walls. Zim was able to follow this practice when, in about 1935, he



L to r: wife, Cecelia; daughter, Lorraine; son, John; and Leonard Zimmerman, himself

moved to Saltair, Utah, to take a job as an electrical engineer for the salt plant. He built a real “shack” on the end of his garage. It was here that he both constructed equipment and operated.

He was talking to ham radio operators in Hawaii at the time of the attack on Pearl Harbor and actually heard the bombs detonating. During the war the American Radio Relay League became a support to soldiers overseas by relaying messages to families.

Other national things in which he was involved included national Civil Air Defense, International



Zim in the 1960's

Geophysical Year, and tracking of Sputnik-1 and other satellites.

His antennas were amazing. He used a bow and arrow to string a wire from one high pole near his shack to another pole across the road. He worked stations all over the world on both AM phone and CW. His code speed was at 44 words per minute. He had the ability to copy code and simultaneously carry on a conversation with people in the shack.

QSL cards lined the walls of his shack behind the tall homebrew rigs. The rigs were always marked with his signature notation: "Zimmade." As far as we know he never used a piece of commercially manufactured equipment.

Zim passed away in 1973. During the 70's the FCC had maintained a program of allowing amateur radio clubs to apply for call signs that had been held by deceased club members. They dropped the program after noting that clubs seemed interested in honoring only past members who had held 1x2 calls.

Just about this time Erv Greene, W7EU, then a UARC officer, had realized that Zim would be a

perfect candidate for a memorial call. Erv applied for the W7SP call for UARC but was told he was too late; the program had been dropped. Somehow, Erv was able to convince someone at the Commission that the club's intentions were honorable and that Zim meant far more to us than a short callsign. Ultimately, the FCC took special action and the call W7SP was issued to the Utah Amateur Radio Club, replacing the old call, W7LRA. On Field Day operations, the old favorite phonetics of "Little Red Apples" were replaced by "South Pacific," the very phonetics that Zim had used.

In the 1990's, when Internet became popular, Zim's daughter began using his call letters in her email address as a way of "bringing him online." She believes he would have loved the internet.



Zim and his wife, Cecelia

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
07/19/17	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
07/19/17	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
07/24/17	(Mon.)	Taylorsville ^{1,3}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936
08/05/17	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City ^{1,4}	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438
08/12/17	(Sat.)	Hurricane ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
08/16/17	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
08/16/17	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
08/28/17	(Mon.)	Taylorsville ^{1,3}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936

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

²More information at <http://www.dixieham.org/meetings.html>

³New location is the Taylorsville City Hall, 2600 Taylorsville Blvd, Room 110

⁴More information at <http://www.utaharc.org/Exams/>

More details at <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/testinfo.html>.

Member of the Month

McKay Mortensen, KI7DNO

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring McKay Mortensen, KI7DNO. McKay was exposed to amateur radio at a very young age as McKay's older brother and his dad already had their amateur radio licenses. McKay would listen to them check into local nets and was really impressed. This is what McKay wanted to do and in 2016 he decided to go for it. He used a BYU web site where people can go and study for amateur radio licenses. McKay received his Technician license in April, 2016 when he was 13 years old and in the 7th grade at Herriman Middle School. In April of this year, 2017, McKay obtained his General license. McKay now is working on his Extra and hopes to have it completed at the end of this year. McKay is also working on learning the Morse Code with the CWA program and it is working really well.

McKay enjoys ragchewing on local repeaters and

making new friends through the greatest hobby on earth. He enjoys operating on his local club net and the Alaska morning net every couple of months.

The thing that McKay likes best about amateur radio is the ham radio community getting on the air, solving ham radio problems, helping others, and bringing new hams into the hobby. He helped Ethan, KI7MJN, get into the hobby. McKay wants to put together a youth club and get more people into the hobby.

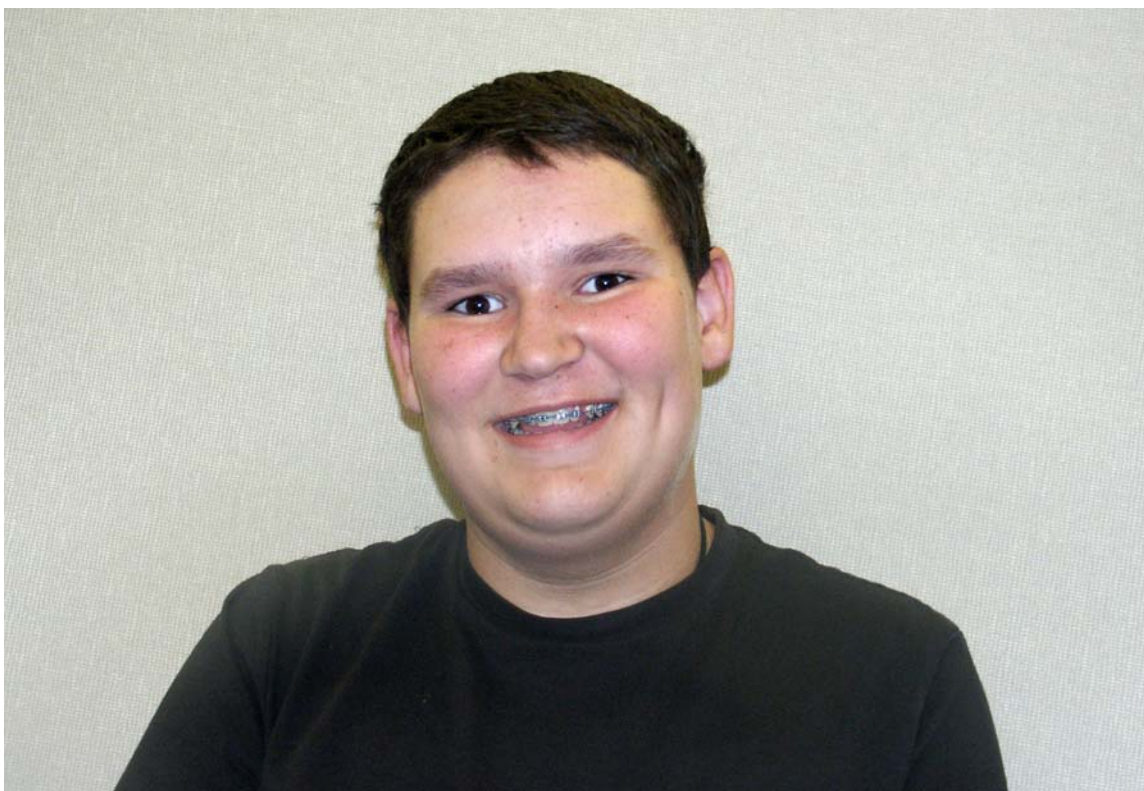
McKay is a member of the Herriman Amateur Radio Club, N7HRC. This year the club planned to have Field Day at the Herriman Park as part of the Herriman Park Days. In addition, McKay has recently joined the ARRL and is happy to be a member of such a great organization. McKay has also joined UARC.

McKay is hoping to get his HF equipment up and running this summer. He is working with two older Kenwood rigs and is hoping to get one of them up and running. He is building some antennas for them and is really getting excited about getting on the air on HF.

Next year McKay will be in the 9th grade at Herriman middle school. His favorite subjects are science and math. McKay has one brother and two sisters. Other hobbies he enjoys are electronics and scout activities including camping, backpacking, and hiking.

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McKay, welcome to the hobby. We wish you the best in your endeavors.



McKay Mortensen, KI7DNO

1930's style Field Day

This year the Karns City Amateur Radio Club, W8CDX, took Field day back to its roots by building and operating a transmitter and receiver described in *QST* in the 1930's. They made a total of

305 contacts on 80- and 40-meter CW. see: <http://www.arrl.org/arrlletter?issue=2017-06-29#-toc08> for details.