

The *Microvolt*

January, 2019



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 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 Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84124-2711. Let the Secretary know if you prefer the electronic edition of *The Microvolt* instead of the printed version.

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 2018 Board

President: Morris Farmer, AD7SR	801 278-4966
Executive VP: Lonnie Oaks, K7LO	801 255-1225
Vice Pres: Bruce Fereday, KF7OZK	801 883-9428
Secretary: Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG	801 505-9134
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
Program Chairperson: Robert Jelf, KG7OHV	385 252-7900
Program Chairperson: Laird Severinsen, WB7TGP	801 255-0834
Imm. Past President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Bookseller: Rick Gregory, JKG7GOW	801 582-7783
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

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah
Volume 62, Issue 1, January 2018

January Meeting: All About the Utah VHF Society

The January 10, 2019 UARC meeting will feature Mel Parkes, NM7P (featured on our cover), and John Lloyd, K7JL, presenting information about the Utah VHF Society (UVHFS). The Society funds upkeep for many of the state's repeaters, manages frequency coordination for Utah, and is the organization behind the Intermountain Intertie. Mel and John will tell of the Society's history and purpose, and details of the Intertie.

Part of the basis for the organization of the VHF Society was inspired by a Connecticut group described to us by ARRL Headquarters staffer, the late Lew McCoy, W1ICP, during a visit to Salt Lake City. The idea was that many small towns that would like to build and maintain a repeater, but had difficulty because of low population and, therefore, low funding. Such repeaters are valuable to everyone in the state as they travel, so there should be a way to spread the cost over a larger part of the state population. UVHFS copied the idea and wrote the notion of "alignment" into its bylaws. It allows a statewide organization to help fund maintenance of many repeaters.

Mel and John both hold Extra Class licenses. Mel has been in ham radio over 25 years and is currently serving as President of the Utah VHF Society and as our ARRL Section Manager for Utah. John is the Utah Frequency Coordinator who makes sure repeaters don't clobber each other. They are both good resources for questions related to Utah Repeaters.

Because the December meeting had to be canceled, elections for 2019 officers and Board members will take place at the January meeting. There will be an opportunity for any final nominations.

We do not yet know what room we will have. It will be announced on the UARC web site as soon as it is available. Check <http://www.utaharc.org/meeting>.

See <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html> for a map and information on finding the building. The room number varies depending on availability.

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

- Availability of ARRL books from Rick, the book seller
- 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. It is held at "The Village Inn," 910 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Elections

At our November meeting the following nominations for 2019 officers were presented to the UARC membership:

For President:

Morris Farmer, AD7SR

For Executive Vice-President:

Lonnie Oaks, K7LO

For Vice-President:

Bruce Fereday, KF7OZK

For Secretary:

Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG

For Treasurer:

Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS

For Program Chair Persons

Robert Jelf, KG7OHV

Laird D. Severinsen, WB7TGP

For *Microvolt* Editor:

Gordon Smith, K7HFV

For Assistant Editor

Ricky Asper, AC7RA

At the January meeting there will be an opportunity for further nominations, and, if necessary, ballots will be cast.

January License Classes

Starting in January, UARC President, Morris Farmer, AD7SR, along with Bill Rouleau, AE7UI, and Ron Speirs, K7RLS, will conduct classes for those seeking a new or upgraded amateur license. Classes will meet weekly, from 7 to 9 P.M. at Morris' house. The only cost is for the text that will be used: the ARRL *License Manual* for the appropriate class of license.

The schedule is as follows:

License Class	Day of Week	Starting Date
Technician	Mondays	1-14-19
General	Tuesdays	1-15-19
Extra	Wednesdays	1-16-19

Space is limited, so anyone interested should contact Morris at: ad7sr@comcast.net as soon as possible.

Classes in Utah County

Noji Ratzlaff, KN0JI, tells us that courses for those wishing to obtain amateur licenses of all classes will be held over the next several months. Location is the Orem Public Safety Traffic Training Room., 95 E. Center St. in Orem. Fee for each course is \$10. Noji will be the instructor. All courses are held on Tuesday evenings.

License Class	Dates	Times (P.M.)
Technician	1-22, 1-29, 2-5, 2-12	6:30-8:30
General	3-19, 3-26, 4-2, 4-9	6:30-8:30
Technician	5-21, 5-28, 6-4, 6-11	6:30-8:30
Extra	7-16, 7-23, 7-30, 8-6, 8-13	6:30-9:30
Technician	9-17, 9-24, 10-1, 10-8	6:30-8:30

Attendees should bring a smart phone or laptop to each class. Noji says: "Nothing else needed at class time, but your brain would be helpful."

There are no prerequisites for any course. Those already holding the target license are welcome to

come for a refresher course, but are not exempt from the fee.

Sign up by going to <http://psclass.orem.org/> If you have questions, contact Noji by phone or text at (801) 368-1865, or email at <mailto:kn0ji@arrl.net>.

UVHFS Swap Meet

The Utah VHF Society has announced its annual membership meeting and swap meet to be held on Saturday, February 23, at the Davis County Fairgrounds in Farmington. This is typically the largest swap meet for the year in Utah. Starting time is 9 A.M. Those that need time to set up displays may come as early as 8 A.M. Admission is free to members. Details of non-member rates and rates for a display table will be forthcoming. Watch <http://www.utahvhfs.org> for more information.

The VHF Society does repeater frequency coordination for Utah and gives financial support for many repeaters in Utah and Idaho. Because its membership is spread out over the state, the

Society limits its in-person business meetings to this single-event each year.

Digital Conference in February

The third annual Utah Digital Communications Conference will be held on Saturday, February 2, 2019, at the Salt Lake Community College, Miller Campus, at 9750 South 300 West in Sandy, Utah.

The conference will feature a number of presentations on both digital voice and digital text modes. Featured in particular this year will be digital modes for emergency communication, and homebrew possibilities in the digital world. Admission cost is \$15. To register go to Event Bright at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/utah-digital-communications-conference-2019-tickets-52509019892?invite=&err=29&referrer=&discount=&affiliate=&eventpassword=>

You may also contact John Jacobs, W7DBO, at: <mailto:johnwjacobs@gmail.com>.

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
01/16/19	(Wed.)	Provo ⁵	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
01/16/19	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
01/28/19	(Mon.)	Talorsville ^{3,5}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936
02/02/19	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City ^{1,4}	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438
02/09/19	(Sat.)	Hurricane ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
02/20/19	(Wed.)	Provo ⁵	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
02/25/19	(Mon.)	Talorsville ^{3,5}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936
03/06/19	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Joe Girauda, N7JEH	(775) 777-4798

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/>

⁵Preregister by going to <http://www.hamstudy.org/sessions/> and finding the session date.

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

An Impromptu Transmitter Hunt

Your editor got an early morning call on Friday, December 7, that the '76 repeater was off the air. "Oh great!" I thought. "We had a whole spring and summer with no problems whatever, but now that there is snow on the ground and we might not even be able to drive to the site, something has to crash and burn."

There was always the chance that someone had timed out the repeater. If the fail-safe provision on the control link was not being heard, the repeater might have gone into emergency shutdown mode. In that case a trip might not be necessary. I tried some control maneuvers but got no response.

The next thought was that maybe someone had had a PTT button stick and a carrier was still on the repeater input keeping the timeout from resetting. I went to reverse mode but could hear nothing on the input. I was just about to give up but thought I'd give a final check in SSB mode on the input. Aha! I could hear the tone from a faint carrier.

About that time Gary Crum, KK7DV, appeared on the frequency and had another idea: try IRLP. He sent the appropriate tones from Cache County via his remote station in the Salt Lake Valley. The repeater immediately came up with the correct response. Ahhh, the transmitter was OK. Apparently the repeater was healthy and the problem was the carrier on the input frequency.

I went over to the '62 repeater and started looking for folks in Utah County that might be able to get more information about the carrier. The first operators I talked to, however, were able to hear the carrier only faintly or not at all. Maybe the signal was coming from some other valley altogether, shielded from us by mountains.

I seemed to have a hard time convincing folks that the repeater wasn't broken; it was being held off by the carrier on the input frequency. An hour or

two into the search, email was still circulating saying "*Possible carrier on '76.*"

"No, you fools," I thought, "it's more than possible; it's very real!" But more was going on than I realized. Following is the account by Chad Bowcut, KD7BKO, of Pleasant Grove:

"Here goes the story. I had taken a trip down to Provo earlier, and had listened to the reverse on my mobile rig during this trip. I had noted that the signal was strongest between Orem Center Street and the University exit. I then returned home and dug a Baofeng out of a drawer (with a signal stick on top) and headed back. This time, I drove down State Street and noticed only about three S-units the entire drive down State Street. So I figured it had to be west of the freeway. I then turned off of State and headed down to Geneva, and turned south. I then started hearing the signal on the HT sitting on the seat. Once I got to the UTA bus barn, I was able to pick up the signal with my HT sitting on the seat full quieting with NO antenna.

"So assuming it had to be the apartment complex across the street, I then drove around the apartment complex with Noji for a bit, but never got a perfect signal. At this point I decided to try the UTA bus barn. I initially didn't think the bus barn, of all places, would be the culprit, but I ended up finding a ham's truck in the parking lot. I knew I had the right vehicle because I was listening to the 146.780, and when I pulled up, it overloaded the receiver on my radio. After my speaking with the front desk guy and Curtis calling security, they got the suspected culprit to come out.

"He was nice about it, and hopefully will get a mic hanger (it was sitting in the console). I have to be honest: long ago, I had done that very thing, and it's very possible it was on the '76.

“In all, it was a good practice with direction finding, using more skill than equipment. Let this be a lesson to those of us who don’t hang up the mic. ☺

“When I was an early teen, I would go to the University Mall with my friends, and play marco polo on C.B. radios. Since there are no call signs required, you could make your transmissions short, and with it being AM, and with all the noise in the mall, it hardly made it half way through the mall. But it sure made it fun and a bit of a challenge.”

From Noji, KN0JI:

“Yep, Chad, KD7BKO, won the fox hunt. It was funny that I drove in an ever-decreasing radius,

and eventually wound up in the Wolverine Crossing parking lot, where I saw Chad. Eventually Rick, KI7JUC; Joe, WH6VQ; and wife, Michelle, KI7HBP; showed up to help. Chad notified the culprit, who works at UTA on the weekdays. He went out to his vehicle and turned off his radio bringing '76 back to normal. I used a combo between my mobile in my car and a Baofeng in my car with the antenna removed. I believe Chad did the same, only better.”

Thanks to all who came to the rescue! For those who would like to get more serious about direction-finding, a great place to start is the web site: <http://www.homingin.com/>. It is maintained by Joe Moell, K0OV, perhaps the foremost author and promoter of direction-finding activities.

More News

Errata

Last month we glibly announced that the Field Day results in *QST* magazine had appeared this year in the December issue instead of the customary November. We heard, via a friendly email, from none other than the ARRL Contest Branch Manager, Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, that December had been customary for quite a number of years now. A quick check showed that he was correct. Thanks to Bart and we hope no one was led severely astray by our mistake.

W7DML, SK

We announce with regret the passing of Dick Leining, W7DML. Dick passed away of natural causes on Monday, December 17, at the age of 82. Dick was active in traffic handling and frequently checked into the six-meter “Sixpack Net.” He had been a UARC member since at least 2007. Some may remember a presentation he gave on traffic handling a few years ago at a winter UARC meeting.

Dick’s obituary may be found at <https://www.larkinmortuary.com/obituary/richard-b-leining/>.

FCC Still Operating — For Awhile

As we go to press the U.S. government is in a partial shutdown which may affect the operation of the Federal Communications Commission. The Commission has issued a statement. From the *ARRL Letter*:

“If a potential lapse in appropriations is imminent, the FCC will determine whether and for how long prior-year funds are available to continue agency operations during a lapse,” the FCC said in its plan. According to the plan, if prior-year funds are available, the FCC will remain open beyond a lapse. If prior-year funds are unavailable or exhausted during the lapse in appropriations, the FCC will commence a shutdown.

ARRL VEC Manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said in such situations, the FCC [website](#) goes offline, which includes the Universal Licensing System (ULS) and the registration system (CORES). “This means *all* electronic license transactions would stop,” Somma said. “FRN registrations would be unavailable, and even the search engines would be unavailable.”

According to the plan, during such a shutdown, all FCC activities will cease “other than those immediately necessary for the protection of life or property, performing other excepted activities,

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or those funded through a source other than lapsed appropriations.”

Member of the Month

Richard Kuter, WB9GQF

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Richard Kuter, WB9GQF. Richard grew up in Dixon, Illinois, and became interested in radio when he was in grade school. When he was ten years old his dad gave him a Knightkit. (Knight, a tradename of Allied Radio, was a competitor of Heathkit.) Richard built the walkie talkies for CB radio.

While Richard was in grade school he read a series of books about amateur radio including stories about how individuals were using their hobby. Some of the stories were fiction.

Richard received his Novice license in 1970 when he was a sophomore in high school. In 1971, when he was a junior in high school, he obtained his General and Advanced licenses. Richard had to go to an FCC office to take his tests. That is how testing was done at that time.

After graduating from high school, Richard joined the Navy where he served for 11 years. He was stationed in Idaho Falls Idaho. While he was in Idaho He decided that he would like to live in Utah or somewhere near the area.

For 22 years Richard worked in Saudi Arabia for an oil company. He lived in the city of Shronchregan. He was an officer of the amateur radio club there. The call sign of their radio station is HZ1AB. It was the only ham station active in that city.

Richard retired and moved to Evanston, Wyoming. He wanted to find a radio club to join. He was reading through some ham radio ads and decided to join UARC, which he did just one month ago. He said it is not too far away. (Evanston, Wyoming, is on the Utah border line.) He said he is planning to come to the January meeting.

Richard's favorite radio pursuit is DX. Richard and his wife, Emelyn, have two children: one boy and one girl. They are all grown now. He enjoys hiking, snow shoeing, and astronomy.

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