

# The *Microvolt*

January 2020



## Prologue

**Publication:** *The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 632 S. University Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. 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 2020 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
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<i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438
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Program Chairperson: Mary Jelf, KG7QNG	385 347-7900
Imm. Past President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497

### Committee Chairpersons and Members

Bookseller: Rick Gregory, KG7GOW	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: 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>

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For account information go to: <http://www.xmission.com/> Or call 801 539-0852



## The Microvolt

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### January Meeting: Public Service Events

One of the facets of amateur radio that keeps many operators active is providing communications for public service events. There are numerous charitable public events going on that can run more smoothly if radio communication is available. There are runs, walks, bicycle races, and scouting events that can benefit from amateur operators with their skills, repeaters, digital modes, and willingness to serve at no cost.

Our January UARC meeting, to be held Thursday, January 9, will feature Mickey Applebaum, KE7NZA, and Garth Wiscombe, W7PS, representing “Utah Sag,” an organization dedicated to supporting public service events. (Check <https://utahsag.org> for more information.) Who can participate? How do you get involved? What equipment and skills do you need? All these will be addressed along with how the amateur support can be valuable and fun at the same time.

The meeting will take place Thursday, January 9, at 7:30 P.M., in room 1230 of the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus.

We understand that one person got ticketed last month for parking in the wrong spot for the UARC meeting. Parking is available across the road to the east of the building. Do not park in the spaces immediately east of the building unless you have a handicapped pass.

Except for July and August, UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. See the <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html> for information on finding the building. The parking lots you may use are outlined in green. 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

## Our Cover

Our cover this month features the two speakers at our December meeting which featured emergency communications as the topic of the evening. The upper image is of Eldon Farnsworth, KF7YXL, the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Salt Lake County, in charge of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for that area. (Note that "Service" is singular.)

Below is Bob Craven, N7GTE, the man in charge of the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service for the entire state of Utah.

*(Thanks to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photos.)*

## January License Classes

With the holidays over, it might be a good time to work on upgrading your license or encouraging a friend or relative to get started in the amateur radio hobby.

UARC President, Morris Farmer, will be teaching classes for amateur licensing starting in mid-January. There will be a separate weekly series of class sessions for each class of license.

The classes will be taught in Morris' hamshack and workshop where he can do demonstrations of radio operation and electrical principles. Bill Rouleau, AE7UI, will join Morris for teaching of the Technician and General classes, while Ron Speirs, K7RLS, will assist for the Extra class.

Classes will meet weekly. The Technician and General classes will run from six to eight weeks, while the Extra class will continue for about twice that length.

The only cost for any of the classes is the ARRL study guide for that class of license. It can be obtained at the first class session.

The schedule is as follows:

License Class	Day of Week	Starting Date
Technician	Mondays	1-13-20
General	Tuesdays	1-14-20
Extra	Wednesdays	1-15-20

Space is limited. To sign up for any of the classes, contact Morris by e-mail at:

[f.morris1@comcast.net](mailto:f.morris1@comcast.net).

## Election Results

Our December meeting was also election night and there was only one pair of offices that was contested, the Program Chairpersons. The winners were the husband and wife team of Robert Jelf, KG7OHV, and Mary Jelf, KG7QNG. Congratulations to Robert and Mary and we greatly appreciate their willingness to take on the job.

## License Classes in Utah County

For those interested in attending an amateur radio exam preparation course in Orem, here is the schedule for 2020, all Tuesday nights:

- Technician (6:30 to 8:30 pm) : Jan 21, 28, Feb 4, 11
- Extra (6:30 to 9:30 pm) : Mar 10, 17, 24, 31, Apr 7
- General (6:30 to 8:30 pm) : Jul 21, 28, Aug 4, 11
- Technician (6:30 to 8:30 pm) : Sep 22, 29, Oct 6, 13

Each class will be held at the Orem Public Safety Traffic Training Room, 95 E Center St.

The courses are engaging, fun, and hands-on, but require homework that's due with each class.

If you're interested in attending, please visit [psclass.orem.org](http://psclass.orem.org) to sign up. Each course is \$10 per person. Please bring an internet-capable device (smartphone, laptop, tablet) to every class; nothing else is required. It would help to register for a free account on [HamStudy.org](http://HamStudy.org) prior to the first night, however. Already-licensed hams are also welcome to attend and learn more in-depth about what they were tested on.

For questions, please text or email Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI, 801-368-1865 or <mailto:kn0ji@arrl.net>.

See you in class!

## **Winter Field Day 2020**

The Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club (UVARC) invites you to participate in Winter Field Day 2020, held noon Saturday January 25 through noon Sunday January 26, held at the Lindon Marina, on the east side of Utah Lake, less than a mile west of the Orem-Lindon border. We'll essentially "own" the peninsula for the duration of WFD.

We're setting up on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning, and plan to get three stations (3A) going, including one digital and/or CW station, and will operate with the K7UVA call sign. In case you're afraid of the cold, for your information, it was warmer and drier during the January 2019 Winter Field Day than it was on the June 2019 Field Day event, during which it snowed.

Regardless of what club you're part of, where you're from, or what you like or don't like to do, we hereby invite you to participate with us! During WFD 2019 UVARC was listed number 8 in the nation for "indoor" operation (because we used travel trailers).

: <https://www.winterfieldday.com/wfd-2019-indoors>

If you have questions, please text or email Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI, 801-368-1865 or <mailto:kn0ji@arrl.net>.

See you at WFD 2020!

## **Quartzfest January 19-25**

For those that don't feel quite up to operating portable in Utah's winter cold, maybe Arizona's so-called winter cold would be more attractive.

The annual Quartzfest will be taking place from Sunday, January 19 through Saturday, January 25 near Quartzsite, Arizona. This is an unusual hamfest in that (1) it's held out in the desert, (2) it's a full week long, and (3) it's entirely free. It features a variety of seminars, tours, and contests of interest to amateurs and even some that should interest non-ham families.

Quartzfest is a campout affair. There is space available for RVs and tent camping, all at no cost. Temperatures are typically mild. You can stay for the entire week or any part of it.

For full information including list of activities, check the Quartzfest web site at: <https://quartzfest.org/>.

## **Straight Key Night**

The annual Straight Key Night event will take place on January 1, from 0000 to 2359 UTC (1700 Dec 31 to 1659 Jan 1 MST). It is "a day dedicated to celebrating our CW heritage." Straight Key Night is truly not a contest but rather a chance to have enjoyable QSO's with other hams on CW using, preferably, straight keys or "bugs."

Despite the non-contest nature of the event, participants can submit logs and scores will be published. Deadline for logs being received at ARRL Headquarters is January 31.

Full details of the event can be found at: <http://www.arrl.org/straight-key-night>.

# “Tornado” Award a Breeze for Hams in SLC

by Mike McAinsh, KI7MTI

“Everybody talks about the weather but nobody does anything about it.” You’ve probably heard this lament at least once in your life. Amateur radio operators may not be able to change the weather, but thousands of hams from across the nation stand ready to respond to weather emergencies and keep lines of communications open when normal communications are disrupted. SKYWARN Recognition Day honors the contributions that hams make to maintaining vital communications between the National Weather Service (NWS) and emergency management in times of crisis.

From 0000 until 2400 UTC on Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> (5:00 PM Friday until 5:00 PM Saturday, MST) amateur radio operators from around the Salt Lake metropolitan area gathered at the local NWS office by the airport to operate the local NWS station, WX7SLC. We had stations on HF, VHF, and UHF, utilizing FM, SSB, PSK-31, and EchoLink. The goal was to contact other amateur weather stations, or interested hams working out of their own shacks.

I picked up Denzii Melvin, KD3NZI, and Jeff Beckstrom, KJ7JAB, from their homes in the southwestern suburbs, and we made our way to the NWS office in thick fog and heavy traffic. Arriving a bit late for our shift, but no worse for the wear, we were greeted by Rian McKee, KF7QGY, who oriented us to the sign-in procedure and directed us to the conference room where the stations were set up. Mickey Applebaum, KE7NZA, who organized this event for Salt Lake City, was making last-minute adjustments to equipment. Dan Lundwall, N7XDL, and Troy Buchanan, N4HAM, were already making contacts, using PSK 31.

Since the use of repeaters is allowed during this event, I chose to make contacts over two-meter VHF, utilizing the intertie. The first station that I contacted was WX7PIH in Pocatello, Idaho. For the next four hours, I was either piggybacking on their contacts or they were piggybacking on mine!

Four hours passes quickly when you’re having fun, and when 9 o’clock rolled around, Jeff, Denzii, and I bade 73 to the others and headed for home. While driving south



Mickey Applebaum, KE7NZA, works PSK-31

to drop off Denzii and Jeff, I made a contact with WX7PIH just before they shut down their station for the night. After dropping off my two friends, I made a contact with WX7SLC, upping our total contact count by one.



WX7SLC earned the “EF5 Tornado” award thanks to the 36 hams who kept the station on the air for the full 24 hours of the event, and made 61 NWS contacts. Overall, WX7SLC made 242 contacts including contacts in Puerto Rico, Australia, Germany and the provinces of Quebec, Ontario, and British Columbia in Canada.

“It's great to have the participation for SKYWARN Recognition Day as this shows our commitment as ham radio operators for supporting our local NWS office and staff,” Mickey stated, adding that UtahSAG appreciates

donations to its “go fund me” page to help with equipment upgrades, and also to help clubs maintain their repeaters around the valley. That page can be found by clicking “more” at the top of UtahSAG’s web page. Also on the website, Mickey maintains a calendar of events of interest to hams throughout Utah and surrounding states.

The highest award for this event is the “Category 5 Hurricane” for making 80+ NWS contacts.

## **Member of the Month**

**Linda Reeder, N7HVF**

**(Part 3)**

**By Linda Reeder, N7HVF**

*Linda is telling her own story. Last month the story got to where Linda had passed her Extra Class exam and had announced it on the Kadiddlehopper net.*

In 1989 the UARC information net was born. Jerry Bennion, WR7N, started this net and it is still running strong. Larry Jacobs, WA7ZBO, used to air the Radio Newline (which used to be called Westlink). In the spring of 1990 he turned the Newline over to me. He said he had too many irons in the fire to continue. In those days you had to call Newline on the phone to record the program. It was ten minutes long because back then they used tape cartridges that were common in commercial radio stations, and ten minutes was the maximum they would hold. UARC would reimburse me for the long distance calls I had to make. I became acquainted with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, the one who started Newline. Whenever something went wrong, I would call him.

There was going to be an ARRL ham radio convention in Los Angeles, California. Sister Alverna wanted me and my friends to help man the Handiham booth. My friends Elmer and Carolyn lived in Southern California. Elmer was quite excited about helping man the Handiham booth. He really liked amateur radio but he never got his license. He helped with making the items for the Handiham booth. Wayne Keeney, N6CCU, also

helped us. He even had a friend help me around the convention. Anne Wright, N6BOP, and Bob Henry, N6HOJ, were managing Anne’s booth. She was selling her hats, mugs and shirts. It was nice to see them again.

I finally met Bill Pasternak. I went to his presentation on Newline and how it got started. Bill introduced me to the group. He said:

“This is Linda Reeder and she came all the way from Salt Lake City Utah to hear my presentation.”

We really enjoyed the convention. We stayed for the midnight induction into the Order of the Wouf Hong. It was interesting.

In 1993 Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, called me and asked if I would be willing to participate on a panel at the Dayton Hamvention in Ohio. He even wanted me to give a presentation on whatever I wanted, so I talked about Handihams. Jean and her husband, Eugene Ostler, and Bruce Johnston, NK6C, came with me as we drove to Dayton.

That is a trip I will always remember. The panel discussed whether we should be allowed to order pizza on the autopatch as long as you didn't work for the pizza place. You are not supposed to call your business and say you are going to be late. (Autopatches don't even exist any more.)

The banquet was great. We had an interesting speaker who would walk around the room as he was talking. He would jump on tables and would pick up people's cameras and take pictures. Cindy Peters, KB7OUT, from UARC, said he picked up her camera and took pictures. It took him forever to tell us how he caught a computer hacker. Even the vendors were getting nervous. On Sunday, Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, recorded Newsline live. We were the audience. It was cool.

Bruce Johnston, NK6C, and I taught a Novice class at California Handiham camp. A few years later we taught the Technician class. This continued for several years. I even taught some ham radio classes at the Center for the Blind in Salt Lake City. Gordon Smith, K7HFV, helped me with the electronics and antennas. Eldon Kearn, KB7OGM, also helped me teach those classes. He even brought his repeater to the class and let the students feel the repeater.

I have attended many Field Days. The first one I attended was with Gary Openshaw, KC7AWU, at Payson Lakes. The father of Ray Allen, N7TEI, was running one of the voice stations and he let me try it for an hour. Wow! what a pileup.

In 1997 Gary Openshaw, KC7AW. took me and some other friends to the WIMU (Wyoming-Idaho-Montana-Utah) Hamfest. That year it was in Park City. Gary wanted me to give a presentation on Handihams. I had three videos: "Courage in the North," "Courage on the Coast," and "Making Contacts and Making Friends." I played all three within the hour. That was the last time we had WIMU until 2017 when Larry Jacobs, WA7ZBO, started it up again. It was June 16 through June 18 at Bear Lake. Don Ballou, N4TRS, his daughter, Cathy Grandget, KA1SQW, and I went on Saturday, June

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17. It was a lot of fun.

Don passed away in March 2018 and Cathy moved to Arizona. I really miss them. We did a lot of fun things together such as going to Field Day, hamfests, and ham radio swapmeets.

In 2009 my friend, Patricia, went with me to Field Day. I introduced her to the UARC President who was John Hardy, K7ALA. I asked him if he was going to run for President next year and he said, "No, but *you* are." So when election time came up my name went up on the board. I was President of UARC in 2010 and 2011. I was Past President for five years. I have been chairperson two and three times.

I would like to thank everyone who helped me on my journey in amateur radio.



Linda Reeder, N7HVF, at Field Day