

The *Microvolt*

March 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

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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>. If you are a member, check with the club Secretary for the access code.

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



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March Meeting: Advocating for Amateur Radio Being Heard by our Government

Our March UARC meeting will feature Jay Brummett, W7WJB, the Governmental Liason for ARRL's Utah Section. Jay will tell us how we can influence our government branches to avoid or repeal laws and ordinances that adversely impact our hobby. Jay writes:

Amateur Radio operators are a diverse group individuals from many walks of life, holding different views on the issues of the day. On the air, we tend to avoid controversial subjects including politics; however, actions by our state and local governments pose significant risk to our hobby.

Hams are smart and technical, and they recognize that it is up to us as active Amateur Radio operators to advocate for the hobby and service we all enjoy; but, we can't seem to get our heads around how to effectively impact the political process. So, all too often, the ham radio community simply gripes about local zoning and HOA's interfering with our ability to install the antennas of our choice. We grumble and grouse about groups of political hacks, dimwits, and panderers that make decisions that adversely affect Amateur Radio.

With very little time and effort, you can give ham radio an active voice in government and the political power to prevent and oppose bad legislation and help promote the issues that make our hobby possible. Learn the simple things that you can do to have impact on state and local issues and gain the personal satisfaction of knowing that you are helping to preserve and protect your Amateur Radio the rights, privileges, and freedom to operate.

For an example of how important working with government can be see the story of House Bill 101 at <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html#hb101>.

The meeting will take place Thursday, March 12, at 7:30 P.M., in room 1230 of the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. 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 Jed Petrovich, AD7KG, who presented our program at the February UARC meeting. Jed talked about the basics of HF propagation and some of the on-line tools that can be used to see to where a particular band may be open at a given time, or combinations of band and time that would allow one to work a particular part of the world.

(Thanks to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photo.)

License Classes Start in March

Classes will be starting near the end of March for anyone interested in obtaining Technician or General class licenses. The schedule is as follows:

Start Date	Day	License Class
3-30-2020	Mon.	Technician
3-31-2020	Tue.	General

Both classes meet weekly for nine weeks at the home of our UARC President, Morris Farmer, AD7SR, in his ham shack. He has the capability there to do demonstrations and allow hands-on experience. The location is approximately 5000 South and 1500 East.

The only cost is for the study guide, currently \$33. To reserve a seat and get further instructions email Morris at:

<mailto:f.morris1@comcast.net>

President’s Brief

There are lots of things happening in the Club. We will be having some interesting speakers over the next several months. I horned my way into the list of speakers. March’s subject is legislative issues presented by Jay Brummett, W7WJB. April is a presentation on EMP by Dan Lundwall, N7XDL. May will be about getting onto the *very* low bands, 2200 M and 630 M, by our own Clint Turner KA7OEI. June will be presented by various UARC Officers and will be all about our Field Day plans (June 25-28). July 11th is our annual Steak Fry at The Spruces, We have no meeting in August. In September I will talk about what is needed to put together a proper HF station; October is our usual Home Brew night. I don’t believe our November or December programs have been finalized yet. If you have a topic you would like to be more informed on, please contact Robert or Mary Jelf at jelfmc@gmail.com and they’ll see what they can do.

Our HF remote station has proven to be handy, functional, and *very* reliable. We added a new antenna that performs very well on *all* bands from 160-10 meters. We are in the process of acquiring the necessary pieces and parts to add a 20-foot Rohn

55 tower on top of our current tower and a five-band beam on top. We will have acquired the few (but expensive) remaining parts and install them when the weather is warm enough that a crew can be comfortable working on top of the tower. This new beam will be controllable remotely from your home PC. If you haven't used the remote radio yet, get access by studying the info on the UARC web page and following the directions.

See you at the meeting on March 12th.

—*Morris Farmer AD7SR, President UARC*

May Hamfest in Utah Valley

While marking your calendar, don't forget Utah's one genuine hamfest of the year. It will take place May 8 and 9 (Friday and Saturday) in Utah Valley at Utah Valley University. It will include nationally-recognized speakers, classes, hidden transmitter hunt, vendors, and group construction projects. Admission is \$25.

For full information, see the web site at:

<https://utahvalleyhamfest.com/>.

VHF Society Swap Meet Report

The annual Utah VHF Society Swap Meet and Business Meeting was held on Saturday, February 22, and had a large turnout. UARC member Venus Cederstrom, KB7FXB, won the grand prize, an Icom IC-2730A dual-band transceiver. She tells us she is happy because Icom is her favorite brand.

Many attendees left with new treasures won or purchased, but perhaps not all realized the value of another item that most took home: the 2020 edition of the VHF Society booklet. This annual publication has a wealth of information. In addition to listings of all the coordinated repeaters in the state and contact information for all the members, it contains a financial statement, operating tips, and explanation of projects completed and planned. One interesting new project is a link between the VHF Society-maintained Intermountain Intertie and the Sinbad-

Skyline system. For anyone with a two-meter transceiver, the Intertie makes access possible along most of the I-15 (and US-20) corridor from Las Vegas to West Yellowstone. The combined Sinbad and Skyline systems cover much of the central and eastern part of Utah. If the two could be linked together on demand, it would make it possible for almost anyone in the state with a two-meter transceiver to contact any other part of the state.

The Utah VHF Society performs a valuable service for all those who use repeaters, and that is frequency coordination. For quite a number of years, John Lloyd, K7JL, has held the very important and often thankless job of frequency coordinator for the state. Having been to most of the reasonable mountain top communications sites in the state, John, in most cases, is able to tell at a glance whether a proposed new repeater will overlap coverage and interfere with one or more existing repeaters. The result is we have had very few interference problems. This contrasts with California which has had many fights over frequencies and over which group was in charge of a particular area. It is hoped that we all appreciate how much John and the VHF Society have done for us.

News On H.B.101

Last month we mentioned Utah House Bill 101 which, if enacted, would prohibit the use of handheld wireless devices while driving. The problem, from a ham radio point of view, was that it could be interpreted to outlaw mobile amateur radio operation in certain cases.

Thanks, at least in part, to the efforts of Jay Brummett, W7WJB (our presenter at the March meeting), a simple solution to the problem was found. The following amendment was added to the definition of "handheld wireless communications device":

(iii) "Handheld wireless communication device" does not include a two-way radio device described in 47 C.F.R. Parts 90, 95, or 97.

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This addition was recommended by ARRL. Of course, “C.F.R.” refers to the “Code of Federal Regulations” and Part 97 contains the rules governing amateur radio. Thus, the problem is solved for any amateur radio equipment. The originator of the bill, Rep. Carol Spackman Moss, agreed to add the amendment. At this writing the bill has passed the House or Representatives as amended and was sent on to the Senate.

On February 10, our ARRL Section Manager, Mel Parkes, NM7P, sent the following as part of an email to all Utah ARRL members:

The ARRL wants to thank and commend Representative Carol Spackman-Moss for her prompt attention to and accommodation of our concerns. We all need to actively encourage

this type of positive response on the part of all legislators.

Those that may have already contacted their legislator are encouraged to follow-up to thank their representative for their attention and support, and to let them know that we all can now support HB 101 as amended to exempt two-way radio.

The ARRL would also like to thank its members and affiliated clubs, UT VHF Society members, and the entire Utah ham radio and two-way radio community that have contacted legislators and otherwise helped out on this issue.

To check on the progress of the bill go to:
<https://le.utah.gov/~2020/bills/static/HB0101.html>.

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
3/04/20	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Joe Giraudo, N7JEH	(775) 777-4798
3/18/20	(Wed.)	Provo ⁵	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
3/18/20	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
3/30/20	(Mon.)	Taylorsville ^{3,5}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936
4/04/20	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City ^{1,4}	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438
4/11/20	(Sat.)	Hurricane ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
4/15/20	(Wed.)	Provo ⁵	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
4/15/20	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
4/27/20	(Mon.)	Taylorsville ^{3,5}	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/>

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

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

KX9X Offers Five Tips on Satellite Operating Etiquette

From *The ARRL Letter*

Former ARRL Contest Branch Manager and Media and Public Relations Manager, Sean Kutzko, KX9X, shared “Five Tips on Etiquette and Good Manners on the FM Ham Radio Satellites” on the DX Engineering

blog, *On All Bands*. Kutzko said the transient nature of satellite availability can lead to “a natural sense of urgency” among operators trying to operate through it.

“Satellite operating comes with several challenges, not the least of which is that it is one of the ultimate shared resources in the hobby,” Kutzko wrote. “While there are now several satellites to choose from, a given satellite is only above the horizon for a maximum of 15 minutes or so. Lots of people trying to access a satellite during a short window of opportunity can create problems, and that can bring out some undesirable behavior.”

In terms of operating etiquette for satellites, Kutzko advised that the “big one” is “Don’t transmit if you can’t hear the satellite first.” He notes that whistling or saying such things as “hello” and “check one-two” are bad form.

“If you don’t hear other activity, you’re probably not going to hear yourself, either,” Kutzko explained. “Blindly calling or whistling may cause unintentional interference to other stations that can properly hear the satellite.”

Next on the list is to wait your turn. “Given the rapid nature of satellite contacts, you shouldn’t have to wait very long for your chance during a pass,” Kutzko wrote.

Kutzko also advised always to use phonetics when operating on the FM satellites. “Phonetics help ensure your call [sign] is copied correctly the first time and

can save a lot of precious moments during a short pass,” he said.

Also, avoid making repeat contacts with a station you’ve worked previously and resist the temptation to greet an old friend. “[E]ach contact you make with a person you’ve already had several contacts with prevents another person from making a contact,” Kutzko pointed out.

Finally, he said, “It may be best to let the rare station have the pass and try to work as many stations as they can. In some cases, the rare station may only be audible for a portion of the pass you’re on, with the station moving out of the satellite’s footprint before it moves out of range for you,” Kutzko recommended.

“Satellite activity is at an all-time high, with new sats being launched on a regular basis and more operators discovering how much fun there is to be had,” he concluded. “By being mindful of others trying to make contacts and thinking of others on the pass, we can all contribute to a better satellite environment for everyone.”

Kutzko won the June 2018 *QST* Cover Plaque Award for his article, “Get on the Satellites for ARRL Field Day.” He steered satellite newcomers to his earlier [blog posts](#) to help them get started.

Member of the Month

Rian McKee, KF7QGY

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

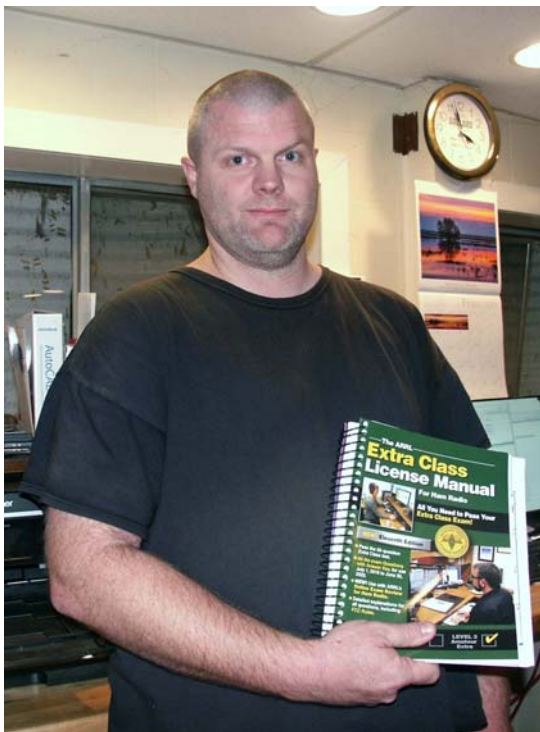
This month we are featuring Rian McKee, KF7QGY. It is interesting how Rian became interested in amateur radio. He was a truck driver and wanted to get his CB radio fixed. A gentleman at the shop where Rian went said that CB wasn’t any good. Rian said “Well, what alternative do I have?” The gentleman told Rian all about amateur radio and gave him a Technician License Manual. Rian proceeded to get his Technician class license in 2011. In 2018 he received his General license. He is now working very hard in getting his Extra Class license. He is taking two classes. On

Tuesdays he is taking Noji Ratzlaf’s (KN0JI) class, and on Wednesdays he is taking Morris Farmer’s (AD7SR) class.

Rian’s wife, Liz, is trying to get her amateur radio license. She is studying on line. Liz is a truck driver. It will be very neat when she gets her license and they will be able talk to one another when she is out on the road. Rian is now self-employed and does all kinds of jobs including roadside jobs. He drives for Huber.

Rian's favorite thing about amateur radio is public service events and emergency communications. He helps out with about a dozen events, such as bike races, bike rides, runs, parades, and radiothons. Rian is also involved with the weather service as a storm spotter.

Right now, Rian has mobile radios for all of the special event activities. He has an LMR-400 on his truck and car. Rian has chosen an HF rig, a Yaesu 991A, for the future. He said he will have to save his money for that one.



Rian McKee, KF7QGY at class for Extra Class license

Rian says ham radio is his one and only hobby. He is a member of Utahsag, a group that organizes public service events. Rian is also a part of the Salt Lake Crossroads Amateur Radio Club. The club's call sign is K7XRD. Rian is a member UARC and the Utah VHF Society. He went to last year's VHF Society swap meet and manned a table there with information about Utah Sag and The Salt Lake Crossroads Amateur Radio Club. Rian is also active in emergency communications.

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Rian, we appreciate your contributions to amateur radio and wish you the best in obtaining your Extra Class license.

Keeping Scotts' Hill Running

Maintaining a repeater on a 10,000-foot mountain in winter is not entirely trivial. Fortunately, we have had the help of Keith Stebbings, KE1THR, who is a ski instructor at Brighton which is in line of sight of the 146.62 repeater on Scotts' Hill. Keith has recently made several ski trips to the site to switch between our normal power amplifier and the spare (lovingly referred to as "The Klugimatic").

Recently we worried that a link antenna had blown off the tower or been pointed the wrong way. The problem turned out to be simply rime ice!



Thanks to KE1THR for the photo.