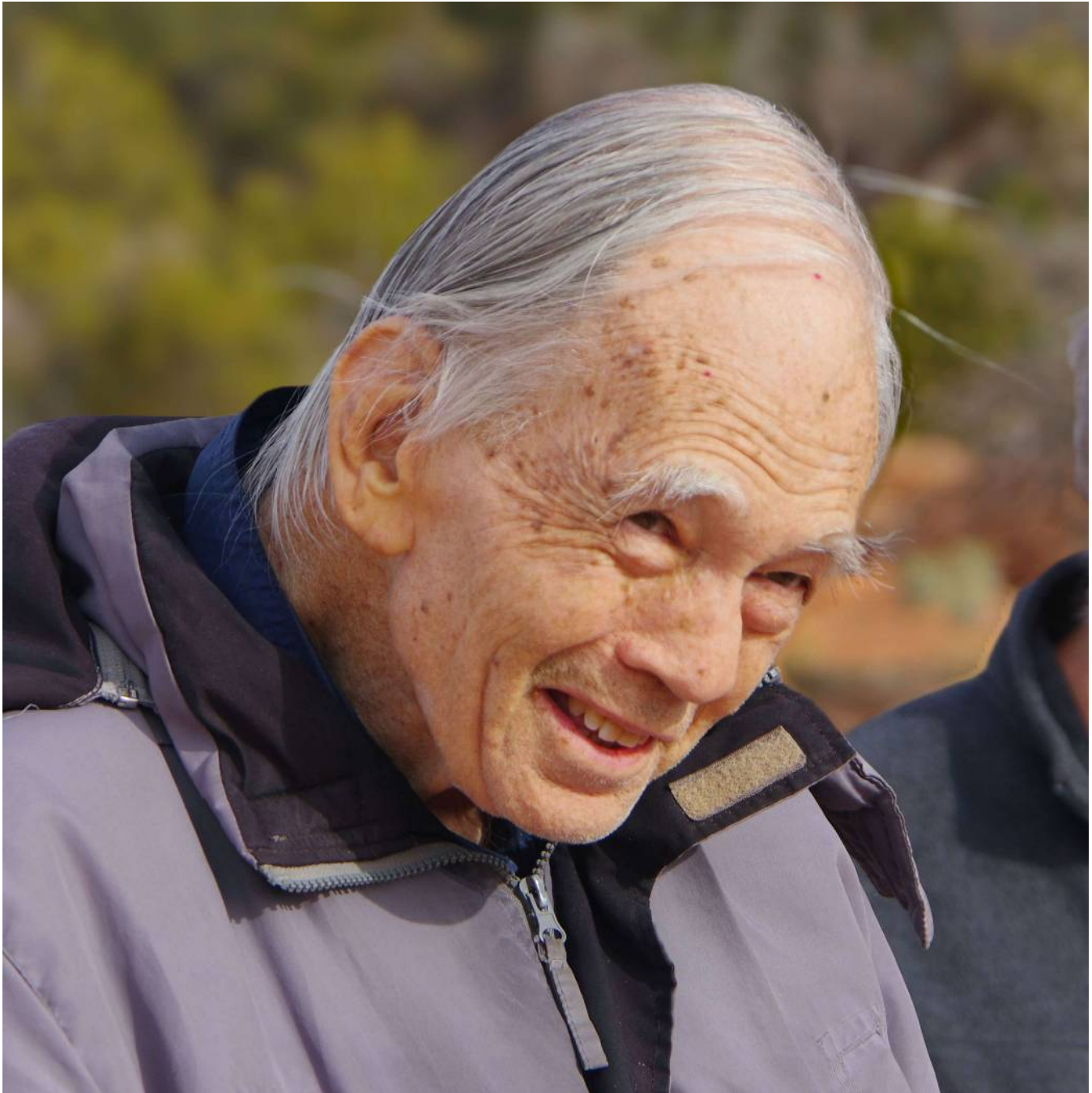


# **The *Microvolt***

**June 2022**



***Gordon Smith, K7HFV - 1944-2022 (SK)***

## 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. 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 2022 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: <b>Position open</b>	
Asst. <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Rick Asper, AC7RA	801 865-1693
Program Chairperson: Rian McKee, KF7QGY	801 548-1084
Program Chairperson: Mike McAinsh, KI7MTI	385 246-3981
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
License Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Repeater Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497

### Contents

In-person meetings to resume .....	3
License classes – in person and online .....	3
“Does you rite gud” – Calling for a new editor ....	4
Occasional noise issues on the ‘62 repeater.....	5
Gordon Smith memorial .....	6

### 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

## Latest News

### Live (in-person) UARC meetings Resuming in September - *we hope!*

**September's Topic:** Advocating for Amateur Radio with Jeri Brummet, WJ3RI with the "Elmer's Corner" topic being "What's a NanoVNA, and what's it used for? As usual, the meeting's start time will be 7:30 PM.

After a bit more than two years of plague and pestilence, we are pleased to announce that we are resuming "In-Person" meetings as of September

As before, these meetings will be held in the "Warnock Engineering Building" on the campus of the University of Utah, which is the same place that we held meetings before "it" happened, and we went to online meetings. Just like before, we probably won't know in which room, exactly, we will be meeting for a little while yet as that is something assigned to us by the powers that be at the U.

While we encourage everyone who *can* come to the live meeting to do so and re-acquaint themselves to their fellow club members, we understand that there will be some who, for whatever reason, may not wish to do so and for that reason we'll do our best to do a "live" stream via YouTube as we have been doing since early 2020. Because this live streaming from that venue will be new to us, we're not sure how it's going to go as there will be many "moving pieces" to this venture – and a lot that could go wrong, which explains the "*we'll do our best*" part, above. No matter the outcome, we'll do what we can to make available an edited version of the meeting a few days after the fact on YouTube, as we have also been doing for the past couple of years.

You can find the club material on YouTube by going to:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/UtahAmateurRadioClub>.

From there, look for the feature that is marked "live." The meeting – whether it is live or online -

should commence at 7:30. There should be some chatter on the YouTube channel by about 7 P.M. and you can connect in that period to make sure everything is working properly.

UARC meetings are typically held on the second Thursday of each month except for July (*annual steak-fry*) and August (*vacation*): Occasionally, schedule conflicts (*e.g. final exams at the U*) require a change in date, but we'll let you know if that happens.

### The 2022 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

The 2022 Rocky Mountain Division convention will be held in Cheyenne, WY October 7-9. At the convention there will be forums, swap tables, vendors, games, prizes, the opportunity to put faces with callsigns *and more!*

For more information go to: <http://wyhamcom.org>

### Our Cover

Although we mentioned his passing in the May issue of the *Microvolt*, we decided to cover the life of Gordon Smith, K7HFV, more in-depth in this issue on pages 6-8.

This photo was taken in mid-March, 2022 near Canyonlands, just a month before his passing.

---

### License Classes in the offing:

#### Utah County:

In-person license classes will be offered at the City of Orem during 2022. Each course will cost \$10. Register at: <http://psclass.orem.org/>.

These classes will occur on September 20, and 27, and October 4 and 22 from 6:30 through 8:30 PM,

in Orem – See the above web site for specific details on location, cost, and registration.

These are “homework” courses; You'll be expected to complete an assignment (and email me the results) by the start of every class period, even the first one. No course textbooks are required. Then again, these courses will be casual, hands-on, and fun for those who remain awake.

## Classes via Zoom (online):

### From UARC:

UARC's Bill Rouleay (AE7UI) and Morris Farmer (AD7SR) will be starting Zoom-only sessions for the Technician and General classes running from 7-9 PM MT on their respective days:

**Technician:** September 12<sup>th</sup>, 9 weeks duration  
**General:** September 21<sup>st</sup>, 9 weeks duration.

To sign up, email Morris at: [ad7sr@arrl.net](mailto:ad7sr@arrl.net)

### Other Zoom classes:

Another session of classes – also via Zoom – will run on Thursdays, September 8<sup>th</sup> through October 20<sup>th</sup> starting at 8:30 PM Mountain Time. This session is sponsored by the National Electronics Museum and those interested should email to: [roland.anders@comcast.net](mailto:roland.anders@comcast.net)

For general information about classes and test sessions – both in-person and online – go to the “<http://utahsag.org>” and click on the “Training & Classes” tab at the top of the page.

## “Does you rite gud?”

With the passing of our friend Gordon Smith, K7HFV, we have also lost our *Microvolt* editor: Gordon left very big shoes to fill – and it has taken a very long time to even find those shoes, which at least partly explains the delay in the production of new issues of the *Microvolt* – and why the “June” issue is coming out closer to September.

We are, therefore, seeking a new editor for *this* publication.

### What is required:

As you might expect, the editor is responsible for putting together the content of the *Microvolt* – but it isn't just that: This person gathers the information for articles to be put in the *Microvolt*, works with those that submit articles – both regular features and those submitted for consideration – and may even be responsible for penning a few articles of their own if the column-space seems to look a bit empty when everything else is done.

Of course, knowing your way around word processing software is an absolute must (*we have switched to the free and open-source LibreOffice – available for PC, Mac and Linux*) and having a reasonable handle on the English language and its grammar is a definite plus! It also helps to have at least a slight flair when it comes to the aesthetics of putting everything together in a sensible, consistent fashion on the page and screen

### Who can apply:

Of course, the *Microvolt* editor – which is an elected board position – must be a member of UARC, but other than that – and due consideration of the aforementioned qualifications – we will be happy to entertain anyone who is willing put themselves forth for consideration by the club membership.

If you are willing to do this task, please contact the UARC club president, Morris Farmer ([ad7sr@arrl.net](mailto:ad7sr@arrl.net)), via email – or, for that matter, *any* of the club officers.

## Occasional noise issues on the '62 repeater

If you'd been listening to the '62 repeater in late May and into June, you might have heard what sounded like a "hummy" signal drifting through the receiver which resembled a weak signal from a transmitter with a bad power supply. If you had listened *very* carefully, you might have noticed something else: There was often music buried in the noise and hum. Clearly, this errant signal was on the *input* of the repeater as one could hear the familiar "ker-chunk" as it started to drift off frequency – and furthermore, it was *not* getting into the Scotts Hill receiver as there wasn't a "Scotts Beep" when the signal dropped out.

Most of the time this "interference" was short-lived, happening only for a few minutes – sometimes for too-short a time to do any sort of analysis - but on at least one occasion it seemed "hang out" for a particularly long time which allowed closer scrutiny. Hearing barely-recognizable music and speech in among the noise, a quick scan of the FM broadcast band was done to see if there was a match.

It took a few minutes to do so, but a match *was* found in the programming found on a station on 99.5 MHz. Armed with this information, a call was made to a friend of the club on the mountaintop where '62 is located and he pointed out something interesting: 99.5 wasn't even *on* Farnsworth Peak, but rather at a site a few miles farther south in the Oquirrh.

This was actually *good* news – at least for us: It meant that this transmitter was likely radiating a rather strong, spurious signal, capable of traveling several miles – one that could well be easy to spot. If the errant signal was from a transmitter that was on Farnsworth Peak, it could have been very weak and difficult to find as it would need only travel several hundred feet, but in this case it was likely to be easily discerned through inspection.

Fortunately, our friend on the mountain knew the engineer for the (*possibly*) errant station and

offered to make a phone call. Perhaps due to this action, this particularly interference source no longer showed up after a few days and the next week, our friend called again: He'd talked to the engineer in charge of the station and wanted to know if the problem had disappeared.

To be sure, when you have several mountain tops bristling with high-power transmitters near a population center with millions of people you are apt to hear strange noises now and again, but it would seem that *that* particular source has gone away!

If you happen to hear something "strange" on one of UARC's repeaters – or *any other* repeater, for that matter, **note the date and time that it is occurring** and feel free to contact UARC's "Repeater Engineer"

Contact information for all club officers is found on both the first (*inside*) page of the *Microvolt*, and on the "Club Officers" page of the Utah Amateur Radio Club's web page: <http://utaharc.org>

---

### Consider a UARC board position!

In addition to an editor, UARC is also looking for "new blood" for 2023 – and the future. If you are willing, please consider running for a club office:

We are especially looking for to fill the two "Program Chair" positions. In this capacity, ideas for club meeting topics and speakers would be presented and arranged.

If you are interested, let yourself be known to any UARC club officer!

## In remembrance of Gordon Smith, K7HFV

While we would normally feature a UARC member in this spot, this month we will do something a bit different: Remembering our long-term friend and Elmer, Gordon Smith, K7HFV, whom we lost on April 21, 2022.

Gordon had long been a fixture of the Utah amateur radio scene, having gotten involved with ARES in the early sixties – a time at which he was also the editor of the *Microvolt*. He continued in this position in the club for decades, even acquiring and using a full-sized printing press and doing the work in his basement. At times he took a break from being an editor (*he was UARC president at least once*) but *Microvolt* editor was a position that he held for the past decade or so.



*Gordon as a young child*

On the air, he could often be found in the morning, participating in the drive-time conversation, but he was also a patient voice of reason, able and willing to answer questions – technical and otherwise –

about amateur radio. For many new hams that got on 2 meters, he was likely one of the first voices they would hear, and he was happy to take the time to “Elmer” newcomers – and also old-timers – alike.

Having lost his mother at the age of two, he was raised by his grandmother, and also his father who worked for the Denver and Rio Grande railroad – and was also an excellent amateur woodworker and carpenter in his own right. Both encouraged his various pursuits.



*Gordon, at the organ at Mt. Tabor. Gordon himself donated much of the cost to purchase this organ – a combination of pipes and electronics - in 1980.*

As a young child, Gordon was also fascinated by music and became an excellent pianist. At age eleven, he was introduced to the classical organ and within a few years, was organist for a number

of the local churches. In particular, he had a special love for the music of Beethoven (*reportedly his favorite composer*) and Bach, being endlessly fascinated by the interplay of notes, themes and rhythms. Over the years, his skills improved and in 1971, he became the organist for the Mount Tabor Lutheran Church (*the round building on 2<sup>nd</sup> south and 7<sup>th</sup> east*) – a position that he held for the rest of his life.

Curiosity seems to be a common trait among radio amateurs – and Gordon was no exception: He was endlessly fascinated by things electronic, which, in his youth, was primarily radio. Having a cast-off chassis from a multi-band console radio in his room, he improvised an antenna and spent hours listening to stations from far and wide – but he couldn't help but notice signals that were *not* from broadcast stations. In these days, the use of SSB (*Single Sideband*) was still quite rare, so hams using voice used AM – the same as broadcasters – and Gordon listened with fascination to people that seemed to be talking to each *other*.

It would seem that his father had at least a passing familiarity with amateur radio so Gordon knew that these were “hams”, but it wasn't until, at around the age of 13 that he was listening to a rather strong signal and heard Dee Christensen, W7YPC, mention an address and phone number. Almost immediately, Gordon contacted Dee, who, among others, “Elmered” him into the hobby and Gordon got his license at the age of 14.

It was at this age that Gordon befell another tragedy: His father died of a rare brain cancer, leaving him with his grandmother and an elderly aunt. It would seem that at around this time, Gordon threw himself into the amateur radio community.

Gordon, who never quite finished his degree in Electrical Engineering, soon found work in the broadcasting field as one of the engineers at KSL, and also “moonlighting” for KWHO, then an AM/FM classical music station and there, he

honed his hands-on technical abilities, being “Elmered” by the likes of Marv, W7MR. While at KSL he was challenged with designing and building a system to automatically play programs and commercials and in that capacity, he taught himself to program computers – mostly using assembly language. He parlayed this skill throughout his career: While he never “changed” jobs, the nature of his work – and the company itself - changed and he eventually found himself as a lead programmer for a company that delivered information for the stock and commodities markets – a position from which he retired in the early 2000s.



*Gordon in his element - Camping in the remote red-rock country of southeastern Utah.*

Another love of Gordon's was that of hiking. Having been introduced to “Red Rock Country” in the early 70s, he had this “addiction” for the rest of his life. A self-admitted maladroitness, Gordon developed what seemed to some to be an unlikely affection for hiking and backpacking and it is estimated that over his lifetime, Gordon spent the better part of nine months in the red-rock canyon country of (*mostly*) southeastern Utah, exploring with his friends – and always, bringing along amateur radio.

Closer to home, Gordon also loved to hike the Wasatch Mountains – particularly on the “Wednesday Night Hikes”, a gathering of (*mostly*) hams, after work, where the evening’s destination would be democratically determined just minutes before heading up the appropriate canyon. A conservative estimate shows that Gordon likely hiked over 2200 miles in Millcreek, Big and Little Cottonwood canyons alone on these hikes from the mid 80s, when these hikes started, until September 2020, when Gordon went on his last Wednesday Night Hike.



*Gordon, volunteering at the “Swallow Rocks” station during the 2012 Wasatch 100 endurance run.*

It wasn’t until early 2019 that Gordon’s cancer diagnosis was conclusive. Over the last several years of his life he underwent many surgeries, most of them to swat the tumors that kept popping up - with one of them being an open-heart procedure to replace a heart valve - but he remained active and on the air.

In his last years, Gordon did less hiking, but managed to do a bit of traveling, making trips to Yellowstone, and the national parks of Southwest Colorado and Northwest New Mexico.

*The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$20.00 per year or \$1.50 per issue by the Utah Amateur Radio Club, 632 S. University St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Microvolt*, c/o Tom Kamlowksy, 4137 S Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84124-2711

To his delight, took a fall train ride along the old Denver and Rio-Grande - a route on which he worked in the early 60’s during a scholarship - to visit museums in Denver to see the beautiful Ruby Canyon and stunning fall colors.

In February and March 2022, Gordon went on a couple of day-long trips to his beloved red-rock country – Capitol Reef and Canyonlands, respectively. While he was mostly confined to the car for these trips due to his weakening condition, he was occasionally able to venture out, away from the vehicle, surrounded by nature. He commented that he although found the latter trip to be uncomfortable, he wouldn’t have missed it for the world!

A week before his passing, Gordon was the recipient of the “Gordon R. Smith, K7HFV Lifetime Achievement Award” by the Utah Section of the ARRL in a gathering attended by friends. This is a new award that is expected to be awarded to worthy individuals going forward.

Gordon passed away during the early hours of April 21, in his home, in the presence of friends.

73 Gordon, you will be missed.