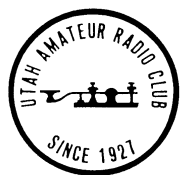




AN ENTERPRISING AMATEUR OPERATOR MAKES THE BEST OF HIS SITUATION

MEMBER-OF-THE-MONTH KERRY WHITTLE, KK7JO, WITH A TEMPORARY BAMBOO-AND-WIRE HF ANTENNA AT HIS NEW HOMESTEAD (AND NEIGHBORING YARD)

Volume XLIV Issue 4, April 2000



The MICROVOLT

Periodicals Postage Paid

PLEASE SEND DUES TO:

U.A.R.C.

c/o Gregg Smith

7546 S. Uranium Dr.

West Jordan, UT 84084-3942

SEND TO:

THE MICROVOLT (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$15.00 per year or \$1.50 per issue by the Utah Amateur Radio Club, 3666 South State St. Salt Lake City, UT., 84115-4848.. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City UT. POSTMASTER: Send address change to "The Microvolt", c/o Gregg Smith, 7546 Uranium Dr., West Jordan, UT 84084-3942.

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 first Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the Bonneville Medical Building located at 1255 East 3900 South in Holladay, across the street from St. Marks Hospital.

Membership: Club membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; a current license is not required. Dues are \$15 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 \$15 may obtain a membership without a *Microvolt* subscription for \$9. Send dues to the Club Secretary: Gregg Smith, KD7APW, 7546 S. Uranium Dr., West Jordan, UT 84084-3942. ARRL membership renewals should specify ARRL Club #1602.

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-) has autopatch facilities on both the Orem exchange (covering Santaquin to Lehi) and the Salt Lake City exchange (covering Draper to Layton). The 449.10 repeater has autopatch facilities into Salt Lake City only available to UARC members. Due to the volume of traffic, only mobiles should use this autopatch. Autopatch use is open to all visitors to our area and to all club members. Non-members who wish to use the autopatch are encouraged to help with the cost of maintaining the equipment by joining the club.

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.

Publication: The *Microvolt* is the official publication of the club. Deadline for submissions to the *Microvolt* is the 10th of each month prior to publication. Submissions by email are preferred (wmgooch@concentric.net), but other means including diskettes and typewritten submissions can be mailed directly to: Manford Gooch, 6344 S. Shenandoah Park Ave., Holladay, UT 84121. All submissions are welcome but what is printed and how it is edited are the responsibility of the Editor and the UARC board. Reprints are allowed with proper credits to The *Microvolt*, UARC, and authors. Changes in mailing address should be communicated to the Club Secretary: Gregg Smith, 7546 S. Uranium Dr., West Jordan, UT, 84084-3942. □

President: Maurine Strecktenfinger, K7HOZ	254-1536
Exec VP: Alan Seyboldt, N7OI	572-8112
Vice Pres: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438
Secretary: Gregg Smith, KD7APW	255-0344
Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS	268-0153
<i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Manford Gooch, AB7PM	272-7380
Asst. <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Bruce Leonard, KJ7HZ	576-9162
Program Chair: Dick Abbott, K7MZ	943-0370
Program Chair: Darryl Hazelgren, AF7O	942-3817
Imm. Past Pres: Gary Openshaw, KC7AWU	484-3407

Committee Chairpersons and Members

"Book Lady": Fred Desmet, KI7KM	485-9245
Historian: Ron Speirs, KC7MYS	968-4614
Field Day Chair: Open	

Repeater Committee

Trustee: Tom Schaefer, NY4I	501-0899
Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	277-7135
ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	566-4497
Board Liaison & Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438
Provo Autopatch Host & ATV Engineer: Dale Jarvis, WB7FID	224-3405
Repeater Monitor: Allen Wright, N7QFI	268-8482

Contents

Prologue	2
UARC 2000 Board & Committees	2
QST From the Prez	3
Notes From the Repeater Trustee	4
Are You Prepared to Help	4
Expo 2000	5
Tigger's Corner	5
UARC Apparel	5
Contesting Calendar for May 2000	6
Featured Member of the Month	7
May Meeting	8
First Experience	8
Certification and Continuing Education Program	9
Secretary Report	10
My First Radio	10
New Members	11
Utah Hamfest 2000	10

For late breaking news listen to the UARC Information Net Sundays at 21:00 on 146.62 or set your browser to:

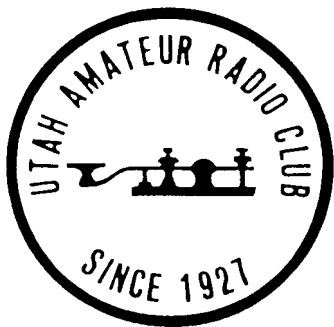
www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html □

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



Copyright © 1999 XMission L.L.C.

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 XLIV, Issue 5, May 2000



QST From the Prez

We've been talking about it for months now and it is finally here. The new rules have taken effect, and many of you have upgraded or are planning to shortly. One thing you might want to consider is applying to become a Volunteer Examiner. I have had the privilege of being a VE for the past three years, and it has been such fun.

I have always loved the feeling of the test sessions. There is real excitement in the air, but of course we know that because we've all experienced it. It is such fun to see a person pass his or her test and become a HAM, or to see someone finally pass a code test, or pass their extra class test. We all know how they feel, because we have been through it ourselves. It is a very rewarding experience and one way to have great fun while giving back a little of what you have received. Think about it.

Our next meeting will be concerning grounding. Have you WAN? (Worked all neighbors?) Learn how to make sure you don't; and don't forget that after each meeting we have an Elmer Hour. There will be experienced Hams to

help you with your questions.

I'll see you on the Radio -- and at our next meeting.

73', Maurine Strektenfinger

From the April Meeting



Guest Speaker Kenny Silverman, K2KW



Cindy Neal, KC7UW, and Friends
Promote Utah Hamfest 2000

A Few Notes from the Repeater Trustee

Greetings everyone, and on behalf of the entire repeater committee, we just want to say thanks for making such good use of the repeaters. As you know, the club owns two repeaters along the Wasatch Front; 146.62 and 146.76. These two repeaters are open to use by all, and 146.76 has an autopatch available to current members of the club only.

In discussing repeaters, I did want to clarify two points that have come up recently. While the 146.76 autopatch is available only to club members, we do allow hams visiting the area to use it if someone brings up the patch for them. In no case should a nonmember have the autopatch codes, and a nonmember should never initiate a patch. If a nonmember has initiated a patch, we do have to wonder where they got the codes. As you may or may not know, the repeater codes are considered **SECRET**, and as a member of UARC you are given the repeater codes in confidence. These codes should never be given to nonmembers and should never be given out over the air to anyone.

My second point deals with the 449.1 repeater. There is a common misconception that UARC owns this repeater. To be correct, UARC neither owns nor maintains the 449.1 repeater. The repeater is owned, controlled, and operated by Glen Worthington, WA7X. Fortunately for UARC members, in exchange for providing a phone line for Glen's repeater, UARC members are able to freely use both the repeater and the autopatch at any time. We do thank Glen for this and hope that UARC members will take advantage of this service. Unfortunately, since the repeater committee does not maintain this system, we cannot answer any questions about its usage or other issues. If there are any problems with this repeater, please refer to Glen and I am sure he can answer any of your questions..

Hopefully, this clears up a few items that I have heard recently. If you know of any other questions or issues that concern any operations of the repeaters, or any other club radio activity, please send email to w7sp@arrl.net.

73,
Tom, NY4I

Are you Prepared to Help?

Ham radio operators have been called to serve in many emergencies around the world such as, earthquakes, floods, tornados, hurricanes, volcanos and many others. Are you prepared to help if needed or asked to support your community in an emergency? That is what **Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES)** is about.

The primary requirement for ARES membership is simply your interest in being of value during an emergency or public service event. It is important that you attend our training meetings and exercises. When ARES responds in support of an event, we have a critical job to do and need operators that are trained and skilled. Knowing how to work with agencies and net control stations is critical to being a valuable resource.

There are many opportunities to serve ARES. Each week one person serves as net control for the training net, and another person provides training or conducts an exercise. These two opportunities sharpen our communication skills and let us "make mistakes" in a learning environment. In addition to these temporary assignments, ARES members attend emergency planning meetings sponsored by other agencies and act as a liaison between other agencies and ARES.

Emergency Operation Centers (EOC's) that ARES supports are: State of Utah Comprehensive Emergency Management, Salt Lake City, LDS Hospital, American Red Cross, Salt Lake County Emergency Services, Salt Lake Regional Hospital, University of Utah Hospital, V.A. Hospital, South Salt Lake City, St. Marks Hospital, Valley Emergency Communications center (911), Murray City, Cotton Wood Hospital, Alta View Hospital, Sandy City, West Jordan City, Pioneer Valley Hospital, West Valley City, Jordan Valley Hospital, Salt Lake International Airport, Office of the Medical Examiner, UTA and Utilities.

We take pleasure in our service by filling a need with what we do best: Communicate! Our service may be needed on a moment's notice, as in the case of an emergency, or scheduled in advance with such events as the Wasatch 100, West Valley City WestFest, Sandy City Parade, and the March of Dimes. We encourage our members to register with the State RACES program.

Our in-person meeting takes place the THIRD Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM. It is typically held at the Salt Lake County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at 440 South 300 East. Our training nets are held on the remaining Wednesday evenings of the month at 8:00 PM on 146.880- (88.5 pl), 449.900 (100.0 pl), and 146.700 -.

ARES monitors 146.880 at all hours of the day and night. We ask that you please use 146.880 as a calling frequency only.

If you have any questions concerning ARES or emergency operations, you can go to the web page at http://www.wcslc.edu/pers_pages/markow/radio/ares-0.htm, or QRZ at KD7BOD and link to ARES or 801-333-7400. An ARES representative usually attends the UARC meeting.

FYI: ARES has been asked to support Utah Olympic Public Safety Command (UOPSC) for the 2002 Winter Olympics. ARES is building a database of operators that would like to support UOPSC. If you are interested, you can communicate with ARES by email at ares@haaga.com or by mail at PO Box 26961, Salt Lake City, UT 84126. Please give your name, address, phone number, and email address, and please add \$ 1.00 for postage so as information becomes available we can contact you. This database will be shared with Brent Thomas at the State of Utah CEM office.

73, Joel Neal
Emergency Coordinator Salt Lake County ARES
Kc7ubp@haaga.com

UARC Jackets and Hats

Official Club apparel is now available through Joe Flurer, KD7EGY, owner of Custom Design Marketing.

Hats are available with the UARC logo for \$10.65. If you add your call sign to the back of the hat, the price is \$13.85. Jackets with the UARC logo on the back and your call sign on the front are \$48.92. If you add a small UARC logo to the front, the price is \$52.11. Golf shirts are also available with a small UARC logo on the front for \$28.71. All of the above prices include sales tax. You can order your

apparel at club meetings or by contacting Custom Design Marketing, 6049 S. Highland Drive, 278-5258. REMEMBER ... a portion of all sales goes back to the Club to support the repeaters. Wearing the apparel also helps promote the Club. □

Expo 2000

The Great Salt Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America has invited the Utah Amateur Radio Club to represent the Amateur Radio Service at the forthcoming scouting event which will be known as EXPO 2000. This is a combined scouting event. It will be taking place on June 5 - 9, 2000. The location will be at the Deseret Peaks Recreational Complex, which is north of Tooele, Utah. The council has obtained the special event call sign, K2BSA/7.

All stations will serve a dual purpose: (1) Educational and (2) Operational. If you are interested in helping man a station for this event, or would like more information, contact Eugene M. Christensen, KC7CSE, at 571-3576 or 572-0494 or email at emerton@inconnect.com

This can be a very rewarding experience, and we would like to encourage you to take part if possible.

The UARC Board

Tigger's Corner

Get ready, field day is right around the corner, approaching fast. If you've never attended a UARC field day, you don't know what fun you've been missing. This year field day will be held on the weekend of June 24-25.

In previous years the club station has been up at Payson Lakes, in a large meadow about a mile east of the forest service's improved campgrounds. While the determination of the site for this year's event will be up to the field day committee, I can tell you that based on many previous years' experiences with UARC field day, wherever it's held, it's gonna be a blast.

This is an excellent opportunity to make new friends, learn a little something about radio, learn how to cook in dutch ovens, and generally

have a really enjoyable weekend in the mountains.

There's always something going on at the site, and there's usually enough families with kids that they make new friends and end up having their own activities like the flashlight-kick-the-can game witnessed last year, or hiking, bike riding, fishing or whatever else they dream up.

The part I like best about field day really isn't the actual operation of the radios themselves; that's fun, but not why I really attend. I like the behind the scenes setup aspect to field day. I like coaxing an antenna to radiate. I enjoy tinkering with the generator when it puts out 135 volts at 48 Hz. I made some of my closest friends over the years doing these things at field day, sometimes under less-than-ideal conditions.

When you come to this "event", bear in mind it is supposed to be an emergency preparedness exercise to some extent, but when you see the array of deluxe camping equipment and accommodations everyone brings, you'll discover like I did that if there were really an emergency, you'd find out that the hams would really be comfortable, and well fed.

Who says satellite dishes, waffle irons, microwave ovens, computers, and hair dryers don't belong in the wilderness? Not the hams! Something that sets the hams apart is the way they bring all kinds of this neat techie stuff into the forest and civilize it, if only for a weekend. We hams really know how to camp comfy.

When the time comes to volunteer to do one of the many mundane jobs associated with field day please lend a hand. I'm always grateful to the unsung hero who tows up the "HISS" and "HERTZ" outhouses. (That return trip to salt lake once they're full can't be pleasant.) There will be lots of things needing your expertise, or just muscles if need be. Sometimes equipment needs to be borrowed -- that always helps too. Just show up and you'll be able to find something to help with. And don't forget to have fun!

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at field day, steak fry, and Ruby's Inn later this summer. We're gonna have a blast.

C'ya -- John, KA7TGR

Contesting Calendar for May 2000

AGCW QRP/QRP Pty-CW	1300Z, May 1
Nevada QSO Party-All	0000Z, May 6
US IPA Contest-CW/	0000Z, May 6
Indiana QSO Pty-VHF/UHF	1400Z, May 6
Massachusetts QSO Pty(1)-All	1800Z, May 6
Conn. QSO Pty(1)-CW/SSB/RTTY	2000Z, May 6
US IPA Contest-Phone	0000Z, May 7
Massachusetts QSO Pty(2)-All	1100Z, May 7
SL Contest-CW	1100Z, May 7
Conn. QSO Pty(2)-CW/SSB/RTTY	1200Z, May 7
Nevada QSO Pty-SSB/CW/RTTY	0000Z, May 13
Oregon QSO Pty-All	1400Z, May 13
FISTS Spring Sprint-CW	1700Z, May 13
Major Six Club Contest-6m	2300Z, May 19
Texas QSO Pty(1)-All	1400Z, May 20
EU Spring Sprint-CW	1500Z, May 20
CW Honor Sprint#3-CW	1500Z, May 20
Baltic Contest-CW/SSB	2100Z, May 20
Texas QSO Pty(2)-All	1400Z, May 21
CQ WW WPX Contest-CW	0000Z, May 27
Memorial Day Sprint-CW	2300Z, May 29

*For more comprehensive listings and rules see:
www.sk3bg.se/indexeng.htm and www.contesting.com/Links/calendars*

Communication Products Amateur Radio Sales

**7946 S. State St., Midvale, Ut.
801-567-9944**

**COME AND SEE
SALT LAKE'S "NEW"
HAM RADIO STORE**

**NEW OWNER, NEW HOURS
EXPANDED INVENTORY
FRIENDLY SERVICE**

KENWOOD, YAESU & ICOM

<http://www.comm-pute.com>

Bob Wood W7OAD, UARC Member

Featured Member of the Month

This month's featured member is Kerry Whittle, KK7JO. Kerry has been a ham since 1991. He became interested in amateur radio through the Mercury Amateur Radio Association (MARA). Having worked with MARA has made Kerry want to work with ham radio in emergency services. He recently helped out with a National Medical Disaster Exercise at the Red Cross. Kerry has also been very active with the scouts and On Target. As you can tell, Kerry likes public service!

Kerry is an Extra class licensee that likes to operate HF, especially CW. He moved to the Salt Lake area 3 years ago from Huntsville, Alabama (Kerry is a native of Alabama). Professionally, Kerry has worked with LASERs in the SDI program, avionics with the US Army and network administration for Sun Microsystems. Currently, He is the Principal Network Programmer for the

University of Utah Business Computing Services.

When asked about joining UARC, Kerry said that when he first got here to Utah, he was staying alone, as his wife and family were still in Alabama. This was just about the time of the Steak Fry. Kerry found that the people on the '62 repeater and the UARC members were some of the nicest people he had met (The same thing happened to your author!). Now, Kerry has built a house in West Jordan, and the whole family is there.

You can hear Kerry on the '62 commute group talking about his upcoming tower projects. If you hear him transmitting, say hello. As always, UARC is lucky to have such people as members of the club.

73,
Tom NY4I



Kerry, KK7JO in his shack with HF and VHF equipment
(to see the antenna system which supports HF, see this month's cover)

May Meeting

May's meeting will deal with grounding and lightning. With the recent interest in license upgrading, many of you will be wanting to use the new privileges on the HF bands. Grounding your HF station is a key component in putting out a clean signal and protecting your valuable radio equipment. Poorly grounded equipment can also lead to RFI which won't make you popular with your neighbors even if you did just make a contact with China.

We contacted the PolyPhaser Corporation to see if they would be willing to make a presentation to the club. PolyPhaser is one of the major suppliers of grounding equipment for governmental agencies, the military, commercial companies, and ham radio operators. You have probably seen their devices in the AES and HRO catalogs.

Unfortunately, it would have cost the club about \$2,000 to bring one of their technical people to Salt Lake to make the presentation. They were kind enough, however, to send us a videotape of a presentation on the topic of grounding and lightning protection. They have donated the tape to the club for its future use in the event someone is not able to attend the meeting. In addition, they provided the club with three copies of the book entitled "Lightning Protection and Grounding Solutions for Communication Sites". One of the books will remain with the club to be checked out by club members who wish to borrow it. The other two copies will be given away as door prizes at the May meeting. The book is a \$20 value.

We will also be giving away "Thunder Protectors" by PolyPhaser. You will have to come to the UARC meeting to find out what "Thunder Protectors" are.

After the video presentation we will have a panel of club members who will answer any questions related to grounding or lightning protection. We hope to have one of our members who experienced a lightning strike on his antenna system describe how it looked and how the lightning traveled through his system. As usual, we will have the "Elmer Hour" following the meeting, so bring your questions and projects that may be giving you problems.

73, K7MZ

First Experience

I'm new to ham radio and learning all the time from the contacts I make. I became interested in ham radio when my mother bought my father a new hand-held. This led to my father (WA7JOS) to getting a *Now You're Talking!* for my mother. She got me into the book, and I studied it for a couple of months before and after school. I studied hard for my test, and I really wanted to pass on Feb. 29. As a result, I passed, apparently very well for my age (11).

I also got some of my interest from going to Field Day with my family as long as I can remember. I didn't understand what they did this for, I thought it was a contest between a whole bunch of groups of hams and that was the only point. I now know that it is emergency communications testing to see how well and fast we can get up an antenna and transceiver and get into operating mode. I finally understand, and I hope to operate this year when I go there with my family.

After I passed my test I looked almost every day for my call sign on the Internet, and my father finally found it on March 8th. I woke up to find two signs on my door, and my dad trying to give me his old ham radio. The first was a page printed off the Internet with all the information on it, and the second was a sign with my call sign on it (and by the way, it is KD7IDG). I just wanted to finish my book at first when he was trying to give me his old radio, but I talked to him about visiting my nephew later that day.

In the beginning, it took me a while to get up the nerve to call someone on the radio. One time it took almost 45 minutes, but the first time I called I got someone I knew. Her name was Venus, KB7FXB, who I met at the March UARC meeting. She gave me the logbook I have been using to keep track of who I have talked to, and it also helps me see how long I have been on, so I know when to recharge my batteries.

I have been learning from all the hams about antenna location, power and location of repeaters. I used to transmit from various places in the house. I even tried standing outside on a chair holding my HT antenna close to the rain gutter. I was coming through bad one day, and the person I was talking to

(KC7FPU) said that I was transmitting better when I held my radio antenna close to the rain gutter. He was very helpful, and he probably gave me some good tips to enjoying the radio bands that I hope I will enjoy. He also told me to make sure I hold my antenna straight. My dad has since installed a ¼ wave whip on my window frame.

For most beginners that want to talk to someone and are shy, I would recommend trying to get up the nerve during another conversation on a repeater so that people were sure to be listening. The one I have found with the most probability of being answered is the 146.62 repeater. I have made almost every single contact on that repeater. Also, for beginners I would recommend talking to someone who knows you so they could tell you about abbreviations like HT for the hand-held radio. I learned this from KC7FPU too. Also, some days during the week, and times during the day have more listeners and more speakers than others do. I am not quite sure right now exactly how long, but I hope to know soon. I do know that you don't usually do well really early or late since no one really is listening; so if you try at those times you may get discouraged.

Another good tip is to use the scan mode(s) on your transceiver if you can. I have found it quite useful, and my father has also. He was the one who showed it to me, and I'm glad he did.

Some new hams may not know what to talk about when they finally get someone to talk to them on the ham bands. Some of the first things that are usually said are name and location. However, some things I have already talked about are antenna location, tips on static and good transmitting. You can talk about lots of things like previous meetings or activities. You can talk about the kind of radio you have, how you're doing, how long you've had your license, what license you have, and about tips to better transmitting and receiving. All the hams are extremely helpful to new ham radio operators.

Some new hams may also be really nervous like I was at first, but I am quickly overcoming that. All the hams I have met on the radio have been extremely nice, helpful, and encouraging. Sometimes people may talk about things that you don't understand, but they will probably try to explain what they're talking about in a way a new ham can understand if you ask them.

Sometimes it will also help to know your call sign in phonetics. If you're nervous you don't speak clearly enough, and the other person can't hear your call sign. I was talking to someone, and they couldn't hear my call sign.

It is also good if you know how long your battery will last before your rig starts blinking "low battery". You can start charging before the battery light starts flashing. It also helps to listen. Sometimes your radio may have static in it, and you can't hear what the other person is saying. If I had good batteries, I would have been able to tell what they were saying. Sometimes it also goes ch-ch-ch-ch-ch-cha. It sounds almost like a gun. These all point to low batteries as far as I can tell. Even if you do have a recharger, you may need to get new batteries, because they can only recharge so many times and then they're no good no matter how hard you try to recharge them.

These are all some pretty good tips that can help you enjoy the ham bands as a great hobby. Remember not to be scared. Most hams are helpful and encouraging.

Theron Johnson, KD7IDG

[For those in the ham community who are really upset about restructuring and/or the use of universally available question pools and answers for licensing exams, the program described below should be particularly welcome. It also may help to demonstrate the technical expertise which ultimately may save spectrum allocations. Ed.]

Certification and Continuing Education Program

Since Wednesday, 15 March ARRL members have had a chance to suggest the shape and scope of the new ARRL Certification Program. A Web-based forum was scheduled to go "live" that day to start collecting member input on how the program should be designed and what it should include. ARRL Educational and Technical Advisor L.B. Cebik, W4RNL, of Knoxville, Tennessee, has been tapped to serve as the interim forum moderator-facilitator.

"The first step in this process is to receive the maximum amount of member input possible to ensure that the program truly serves the needs and desires of the amateur community," said Cebik, a retired educator whose writings are familiar to readers of many of the League's publications.

The forum site is:
www.arrl.org/members-only/forums/index.php3.

The Web forum is being moderated to ensure that all member input is acknowledged and integrated as fully as possible into the emergent program. Members will be asked to suggest specific programs and areas of study or skills development they would like to see as part of the Certification Program. The League also plans to seek outside expert assistance in setting the optimal knowledge or performance threshold.

"You are invited to participate as much as you would like in helping us to formulate the program," Cebik said. "In fact, if you have some special skills or knowledge, we should also like to know that, since the eventual size of the program will make it mandatory that we deeply tap the talents and knowledge of our members."

Cebik's task will include organizing members' comments and suggestions into a form that the ARRL staff can use in further developing the program. He points out that nothing is cast in stone at this point. "For instance, the 'kernel' list of suggested topics at the forum site may well undergo considerable revision from time to time in response to member suggestions and ideas," he said.

The ARRL Board of Directors approved the development and implementation of the self-education program for radio amateurs at its January meeting. The Certification Program is aimed at inspiring amateurs to continue acquiring technical knowledge and operating expertise beyond that required to become licensed.

The League hopes to have its first certification examinations and related materials available before the end of the year. The program will continue to evolve over time, however.

ARRL Letter

Secretary Report

Name Badges: U.A.R.C. has made arrangements to offer the club members a chance to purchase name badges to wear to club meetings and other ham functions. The badges can be ordered at any club meeting. We are currently offering three choices of colors. They include the following: 1. Black lettering on a Gold background; 2. Black lettering on a White background; or 3. White lettering on a Black background. The badges have two lines: one line for a name and one line for a call sign. The cost of these badges is 3.00 each.

In addition to the normal pin connection, a special spring loaded clasp can be added for an additional 2.00. The special spring clasp is good for attaching your badge to just about any type of clothing including outer wear. Orders for badges will be taken at the club meetings. For orders please see Gregg Smith KD7APW at the Secretary's table. We thank Don Scarlet N7DIZ for his expertise and willingness to help us with the badges.

Steak Fry: Tickets are now available for the Steak Fry to be held July 15, 2000. The location is the Spruces Campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The cost for members is 3.00, Guests 10.00, and that for young guests under the age of twelve is 4.00. The picnic area for this year is smaller than our traditional site, so please buy your tickets soon! Tickets are available from Gregg Smith KD7APW

Call sign changes and license upgrades: We expect many changes to our database in the next few months. Please send changes to Gregg Smith KD7APW at 7546 Uranium Dr, West Jordan, UT 84084-3942 or by E-Mail to kd7apw@arrl.net Phone (801) 255-034

Gregg, KD7APW4

My First Radio

My first radio? Hmmm, well, to be technically correct, it was a Kenwood TM-241 mobile 2M radio. However, this article should be about my first HF rig. A very good friend of mine, Cleon Rose, WA7RCT, gave me my first HF radio.

It was a Kenwood SSB TS-5115. We were chatting one evening on the way home from work

and he had mentioned that he was thinking of donating it someplace and I said that he could donate it my way. I was just joking with him but he took me seriously so I said 'ok'.

A couple of weeks later, I went to his place on a Saturday morning, and he gave me the radio and the power supply. I then conned him into coming over one afternoon to get me acquainted with it.

Being brand new to HF radio, I had a lot to learn. After we hooked everything up and turned it on, it sure turned out to be quite different than 2M FM. I had to learn how to adjust just about everything just to tune it up on a particular band...but it was fun. Once Cleon showed me 'the ropes' of the radio, I was off and running.

My very first contact ever on HF was a gentleman named Steve Kelley, KC7EM, from Beavercreek, OR. It was just a very short contact considering that it was right in the middle of a CQ contest. How's that! Not only do I get to learn how to work an HF radio, I get to do it right in the middle of a contest. I tuned around the band on 40m and made several other contacts that day during the contest. Oh, did I forget to mention the antenna? The antenna was a 40m dipole *lying* on the floor of the hallway! I made contacts to Oregon, Arizona, Ohio, and Illinois as well as a few other states that day, all with the antenna on the hallway floor.

A few days later, I tried the CW side of the radio. I got everything tuned up and started sending out a few CQ's. My first contact ever on CW was WA6LRY. The contact was very short but it was a start. I then was able to get a few more contacts on CW and a couple of them asked me what kind of antenna I was using...needless to say, they were quite surprised when I told them the antenna was lying on the floor. Now that I think back on that...I don't remember *any* of the TV's in the house being on during the times I was transmitting like this.....it's probably just as well. Anyway, that was my very first HF radio, and I have enjoyed the hobby ever since.

Bruce Leonard, KJ7HZ

New Members Since March 11

Kristi Davis
125 W 860 N
American Fork UT 84003
(801) 763-9159

Tyler Davis
125 W 860 N
American Fork UT 84003
(801) 763-9159

Patrick Fitch N0YKE
10894 Savannah Dr
Sandy UT 84094
(801) 619-9610

R. Kevin Healy KD7ICA
6576 S Clematis Way
West Jordan UT 84084
(801) 966-2949

Dwayne Heirtzler
607 N 200 E
Nephi UT 84648
(435) 623-1960

Michael D. Herkimer KD7IBZ
229 Cranberry Hill Dr
Draper UT 84020
(801) 571-3209

Arlene Johnson KD7I??
1612 W 4915 S
Taylorsville UT 84123
(801) 268-0153

George Luke
4295 W Volta Ave
West Valley City UT 84120
(801) 969-0619

Lyle Odendahl KD7IBS
1769 Sunrise park Cir
Sandy UT 84093
(801) 571-7680

Tom Rhoton KC7QXY
400 E Eastridge Cir
Alpine UT 84004
(801) 763-0953

(Partial list -- Continued next month)

UTAH HAMFEST 2000

ARRL UTAH STATE CONVENTION

Ruby's Inn - Bryce , Utah

July 7, 8, 9, 2000 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

Ruby's Inn - Bryce , Utah (1 mile north of Bryce Canyon)

Visit the following Web sites for more details: WWW.utahhamfest.org, WWW.RubysInn.com

Mark your Calendars now; Publish this flyer in your Newsletters; Announce at Club meetings;
Copy for widest Distribution; Utah Hamfest needs your support; Success = More Utah Hamfests

Activities Include:

Dealer and Swap Meet Areas

Seminars and Forums

Women's and Children's Events

Contests:

Hi Speed CW, Low Speed CW, QLF

Mobile Installation

Transformer Toss (a new method)

Transmitter Hunts (a new challenge)

Prize Drawings

Wouff Hong

Radio/Antenna Testing and Evaluations

Amateur License Exams

Utah Hamfest

P.O. Box 382

Bountiful, Utah 84011-0382

Web Page: WWW.Utahhamfest.org

Swap spaces available with paid registration

Tail gate spaces \$5.00 with paid registration

Swap Tables \$5.00 with paid registration

Accommodations:

Ruby's Inn Special Rates prior to June 7

2 Queen Beds \$75, Lodge across street \$50

Contact: Keith in Group Sales

Ask For Special Utah Hamfest Room Rates

Call: 1-435-834-5341 Ext. 7222

RV/Campground: 435-834-5301 Fax 435-834-5481

Full Hookups Start @ \$22.50 + Tax

Electric & Water Start @ \$21.00 + Tax

Tent Spaces Start @ \$14.50 + Tax

Tipi Rental Start @ \$21.00 + Tax

Registration Information:

Adult (18 and over) \$7.00 Before June 7th

\$10.00 at the door (No mail-in after June 7, 2000)

Youth (17 & Under) \$3.00 before June 7th

\$5.00 at the door

(Youth registrations eligible for youth prizes only)

----- Please clip here and mail. Don't miss this hamfest! -----

Please Print

Name: _____ Callsign: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____ - _____ - _____ VE Exam Y/N _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4 _____ - _____

Number of Adults: _____ X \$ _____ = \$ _____

Number of Youth: _____ X \$ _____ = \$ _____ (17 & under)

Breakfast Buffet: _____ X \$ 8.00 = \$ _____

Swap Meet Table: _____ X \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

Swap Meet Tail Gate: _____ X \$ 5.00 = \$ _____

Total: = \$ _____

Names of Additional Attendees:

_____ Callsign: _____ VE Exam Y/N _____

_____ Callsign: _____ VE Exam Y/N _____

_____ Callsign: _____ VE Exam Y/N _____

_____ Callsign: _____ VE Exam Y/N _____

Mail-ins: Check or Money orders Payable to: **Utah Hamfest @ PO Box 382 Bountiful, UT 84011-0382**

Must have names and callsigns (if applicable) of all registered attendees.