



# The MICROVOLT

Volume XLVI Issue 4, April 2002

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West Jordan, UT 84084-3942

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 Street, 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.

## K7O - UARC's 2002 Winter Olympics Special Event Station



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Visitors to Mark Richardson's Special Event station: Daland KC7LNR, Richard KC7FIK, Damon KC7NEC, Brent KD7ICT and his daughter Xela and son Nephi, Steve K7SRB, Ted KC7PM, Mitch KD7ICU.



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Mark W7HPW operating



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Xela and Nephi House and things that glow in the dark.



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Richard KC7FIK admiring an old spark gap transmitter

**Prologue**

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 Infirmary 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 dueto the Club Secretary: Gregg Smith, K7APW, 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 the 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 available to UARC members into Salt Lake City only. 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 information, testing, meeting information, 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 listed under "Submission Schedule of Editorial Content for The *Microvolt*." Submissions by email are preferred (K7PMM@arrl.net), but other means including diskettes and typewritten submissions can be mailed directly to Associate Editor Ted Cowan, KC7PM, 1889 E Foxmoor Place, Sandy, UT 84092. 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.

**UARC 2002 Board**

President: Mark Richardson, K7HPW 465-7650  
 Exec VP: Brett Sutherland, KC7WRR 298-5399  
 Vice Pres: Gordon Smith, K7HFV 582-2438  
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 Asst. Microvolt Editor: Bruce Leonard, KJ7HZ 576-9162  
 Program Chair: Steve Baxter, K7SRB 265-9655  
 Program Chair: Lauri McCreary, K7LMM 571-5759  
 Imm. Past Pres.: Dick Abbott, K7MZ 943-0370

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Assoc. Microvolt Editor, Ted Cowan, KC7PM 576-9942  
 Book "Lady": Fred DeSmet, KI7KM 485-9245  
 Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS 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  
 □

**Exam Schedule**

04/06/02 (Sat.) Salt Lake City  
 Contact: Gordon Smith, K7HFV  
 Phone (H) 801-582-2438 (B) 801-534-8116

04/10/02 (Wed.) Mantua  
 Contact: Jim Jones, KJ7VO  
 Phone: 435-723-1947

04/17/02 (Wed.) Provo  
 Contact: Steve Whitehead, NV7W  
 Phone: 801-465-3983

03/26/02\* (Tues.) Salt Lake City  
 Contact: Eugene McWherter, N7OVT  
 Phone: 801-484-6355

\*Only Technician elements (1 and 2) given at this session.

For more detail either call the contact or checkout the information on our webpage  
<http://www.xmission.com/~uarc> □

**Submission Schedule of Editorial Content for *The Microvolt***

The *Microvolt* editorial team has made a commitment to providing the club membership with a quality publication that will be in your hands prior to the meeting of the publication month. This means you should be able to count on being reminded of upcoming meetings and events before they happen. In order for this to happen we must have two things: quality material submitted to the associate editor, Ted Cowan, KC7PM, and submitted prior to the deadlines listed below.

Meeting      Submission Deadline

Thu May 2                      Wed Apr 10  
 Thu Jun 6                      Tue May 14  
 No Meeting in July          Wed Jun 12

This schedule will be revised and published in subsequent issues of *The Microvolt*. We sincerely hope that this will help those who wish to make submissions make our deadlines.

*The Microvolt* Editorial Team -Bruce -KI7OM., Ted KC7PM, and Bruce, KJ7HZ □

**More on Editorial Content Submission Standards**

The *Microvolt* Editorial Team wishes to make submitting documents for potential publication as easy as possible. A contributor or writer should feel free to submit text, preferably via email, in any format, within reason, of popular wordprocessors they are comfortable using. Writers should keep in mind that the Editors in producing *The Microvolt* use a standard font and layout. All submitted material used will be stripped of formatting and converted to these standards. Please keep your formatting of submitted documents as simple as possible. Simple ASCII text is easiest to handle - the less stripping we have to do, the less time it takes to prepare.

Electronic files for graphics, photos, and spreadsheets will be accepted in most standard formats without problem, though to avoid potential problems please check first. □

**Net Schedule**

**VHF Nets**

Day	Time	Freq.	Name/Purpose
Sun.	2100	146.62 MHz	Utah Amateur Radio Club Information Net
Mon.	2100	147.18 MHz	High Valley Net (Ragchew)
Mon.	2100	144.25 MHz	Weekly 2-meter SSB net
Tues.	1900	146.98 MHz	West Desert Amateur Radio Club & 145.37 MHz
Tues.	1930	146.90 MHz	Ogden Amateur Radio Club
Tues.	2000	146.94 MHz	Utah VHF Society (business and swap)
Tues.	2100	147.34 MHz	Utah Valley Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Tues.	2100	146.72 MHz	Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club Net
Wed.	2000	146.88 MHz	SL County Amateur Radio Emergency Service
Wed.	2000	145.43 MHz	Utah Box Elder -Thiokol Net & 145.20 MHz & 448.43 MHz
Wed.	2100	146.74 MHz	Mercury Amateur Radio Association, SL area
Wed.	2100	145.49 MHz	Mercury Amateur Radio Association, Ogden area
Wed.	2100	145.37 MHz	Mercury Amateur Radio Association, Provo area
Wed.	2100	50.125 MHz	Weekly six-meter net
Thu.	1900	147.42 MHz	Davis County Amateur Radio Club & 449.925 Mhz

**HF Nets**

Day	Time	Freq.	Name/Purpose
Daily	1230L	7272 kHz	Beehive Utah Net (formal traffic handling)
Daily	0200Z	3937 kHz	Farm Net (Same UTC summer and winter)
Daily	1930L	3708 kHz	Utah Code Net (formal traffic handling)
Sat.	1100L	7272 kHz	Quarter Century Wireless Association (QCWA)

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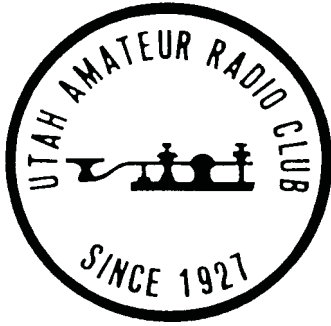
For net times and frequencies, testing details and late breaking news listen to the *UARC Information Net* Sundays at 21:00 on 146.62 or set your browser to: [www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html](http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html) □

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# The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah

Volume XLVI, Issue 4, April 2002



Photo: Ron Speirs, K7RLS

## QST From the Prez

As many of you know, one of my passions for Ham radio is chasing DX. The results of our special event station (K7O) reinforced the thrill of it all. Contacts were on every continent in over 70 countries and 45 states; great job.

It is great fun to dream, sometimes. I fell to dreaming in terms of DX the other night. I wondered how many of you realized the real DX that is going on about us every day and every night. We think we are accomplishing something wonderful when, with a little radio, we create an electromagnetic disturbance that sends out a wave that can be detected on the opposite side of the earth. This distance is one-half the earth's circumference or one-half of 25,000 miles, which is 12,500 miles. That is the maximum possible earthly separation that can be achieved. In other words, no two human beings can get farther away from each other than 12,500 miles.

Electromagnetic waves created by and electromagnetic disturbance travel at a velocity of approximately 186,386 miles per second. This is the velocity of light. Visible light is "radio" of enormous frequency.

If I am in Salt Lake City, Utah, and you are in southwestern Australia, we are at approximately opposite points on the earth's surface, or 12,500 miles apart. It takes my wave  $12,500/186386$  of a second to reach your antenna, or .067 of a second.

Now the Sun is so hot that it radiates electro-magnetic waves. We call them sunlight. When we walk into this sunlight we receive these radio waves from the sun. The sun is 93,000,000 miles away; therefore it takes  $(93,000,000/186386)$  or 500 seconds, which is eight minutes and 20 seconds for the wave to travel the distance between the sun and the earth.

The light from the nearest of the fixed stars, which we can see on a clear night, takes over 4 years to reach us, 186,386 miles every second of all that time! How far away must they be? The answer is: 365 days in a year means  $365 \times 24$  hours, or 8,760 hours. This multiplied by 60 equals 525,600 minutes. This multiplies by another 60 equals 31,536,000 seconds multiplied by 186,386 or 5,877,868,896,000 miles.

This means an unwieldy figure to handle, so we call that distance one light year. It's a long way for a radio wave to travel, sure enough, but it makes the distance just the same, and every time we fix our gaze on one of those stars that is a light years away, our eyes are detecting the "signals" that left that star years ago!

But that is not all. Our telescopes amplify these 'signals' and enable our eyes to detect faint radiations of light from spiral nebulae as far away as billions light years!

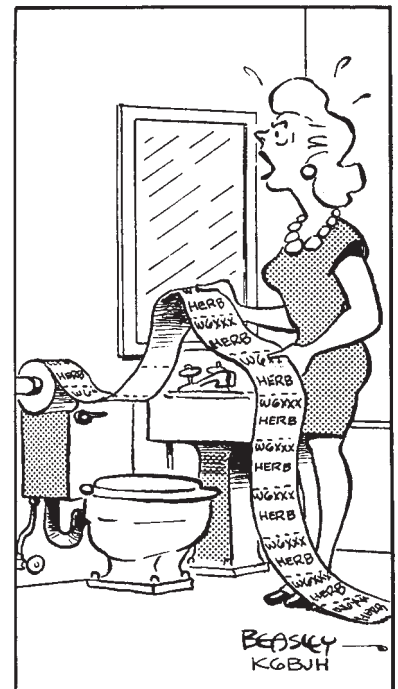
When we gaze at one of these spiral nebulae, our eyes are detecting 'signals' that left those remotely distant bodies millions of years ago. This is real DX and must inspire every radio ham to serious thought.

With radio we have the means of communicating across the incomprehensibly great distances of celestial space. There is no other means that we know of that can do this. And we have been receiving all kinds of radio frequencies across these profound spaces. At this time we have recorded almost the entire spectrum. And yet it is not odd that, notwithstanding all the multitude of different radio frequencies that we have detected, we have never had one single grain of evidence that any of them were originated by intelligence? And hence the question is ours the sole intelligence in all the cosmos? Will it be an amateur who first answers this great question?

Check out the coolest radio station in this world.

Some Aerial Views of the VLA, at [http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/intro/vlapix/vla\\_views.index.html](http://www.aoc.nrao.edu/intro/vlapix/vla_views.index.html)

73 - Mark - W7HPW



HERBERT!

## Featured Member: Lauri McCreary, K7LMM



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Lauri McCreary, K7LMM

This month we are featuring Lauri McCreary, K7LMM. Lauri received his Technician license in December 1999. Lauri's employer wanted him to take a class in Amateur Radio because of his concerns with Y2K. Lauri works for the Utah Department of Human Services as a manager. Brent Thomas, AC7H, who works for the State Emergency group, taught the class. Lauri was interested in Amateur Radio as a teenager, but it got put on the back burner.

Lauri was elected as a Programs chairperson for the Utah Amateur Radio Club for 2002. Lauri is open for suggestions on ideas for guest speakers; after all it is your club. That is why he is working so hard on getting everyone to fill out the survey. He wants to know what you like or dislike about the club and how we can improve UARC.

Lauri has several concerns about the future of Amateur Radio. First of all, we need to get more young people into the hobby so that when the older hams are no longer around there will be others to carry on. Lauri said he is really impressed with the program that ARRL president Jim Haynie, W5JBP has going to get young people in the hobby. They are taking ham radio into the schools. They are letting the school administrators know the importance of teaching amateur radio to the students. It sharpen their skills in geography, communications and electronics. Lauri would like to see us do something like this here in Utah. He says you have got to get their interests before

high school with so much competition out there such as computer games, the internet and cell phones [to say nothing of girls, jobs, and cars! --Editor]

Lauri is concerned about the loss of spectrum and amateurs taking so much for granted. Lauri would like to see Amateur Radio become more public service oriented instead of one just sitting in ones shack contesting and working DX. He would like to see UARC get the media involved in the activities that define Amateur Radio.

For example, during the UARC women's class it would have been great to have the media there writing stories on women in amateur radio. During Field Day we should have the media there telling the story about what Field Day is all about. That is why Lauri is working so hard on campaigning to get many different committees operating because it takes people to make these things happen.

Lauri would like to see more classes offered because there are requests coming in from people calling the UARC Ham Hotline. It would be nice to have more individuals teaching the classes. Instructors could be assisted by someone who is a expert on antennas or someone who is good with electronics so that the burden wouldn't rest on just one person.

Lauri and his wife Sandi have three daughters and one grandson. Lauri is a member of UARC and the ARRL.

Lauri we really appreciate all of the things you are trying to do for the future of Amateur Radio.

73 N7HVF Linda Reeder □

## QSL Field Checker

Darrell Hazelgren, AF7O, is the Utah section DXCC card checker and is available for field checking of QSL cards for your DXCC Award. If interested, please contact Darrell at [AF7O@arrl.net](mailto:AF7O@arrl.net) or by telephone at (801) 580-9636. □

## April Meeting: The ARRL



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Mel Parkes, AC7CP, The Utah ARRL Section Manager

Mel Parkes, AC7CP (ex N5UVP), is the President of the Utah VF Society. Mel, first licensed in New Mexico in 1991, now holds an extra class license. He is also a life member of the ARRL and is the ARRL Section Manager and in this capacity he is one of our local contacts with the league. Mel has also served with the Air Force MARS State Director and net control for its Administrative net, was the president of the Davis County ARC in 1996 and 1998, and presently an ARRL VE (Volunteer Examiner) for the Davis County ARC.

In his capacity as the local Section Manager, Mel will be speaking on the mission of the ARRL. □

## NewUath Licenses for February 2002

As of 3/3/02, there are 812,124 US ham licenses, of which 9,928 are in Utah.

CALL	NAME	CITY	ACTION
AC7QU	GERALD L MATSON	MAGNA	TECH+ to EXTRA (WAS KD7BCO)
AC7QW	RANDALL C JOHNSON	PLEASANT GROVE	TECH to EXTRA (WAS KD7PME)
K1DJN	PHILIP E ANDREWS	LEHI	NOVICE to TECH+
KB4RHL	DAVID H BUCHANAN	WEST JORDAN	TECH+ to GEN
KB7RMU	RICHARD B PYNE	PROVO	GEN to EXTRA
KD7BIS	MICHAEL V WEBSTER	MOUNTAIN GREEN	TECH to GEN
KD7GHG	ROBERT A WOOD	WEST VALLEY CITY	TECH to GEN
KD7GVM	DAVID J BENNION	OREM	TECH to GEN
KD7LLE	GLEN D WESTBROEK	LINDON	TECH to GEN
KD7PTH	DAVID B MENDENHALL	TAYLORSVILLE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PTI	MONTE K ANDERSEN	LAYTON	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PTJ	KEVIN S GAGESTEIN	SALT LAKE CITY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PTK	RICHARD J GRANGE	WEST VALLEY CITY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PTL	CARL W JAMES	WEST VALLEY CITY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PTM	LINDA DOWDING	BOUNTIFUL	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUR	MARILYN P HUNSAKER	KANAB	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUT	RAMONA LAWSON	TOQUERVILLE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUV	TAYLOR C LINTON	KANAB	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUW	COLENE C BRINKERHOFF	GLENDALE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUX	ROY E LAWSON	TOQUERVILLE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUY	DONNA M DOANE	GENORA	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PUZ	CARRIE E HEIL	PROVO	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVA	CHRISTOPHER J HEUER	HIGHLAND	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVB	JEFFREY B HEUER	HIGHLAND	NEW GENERAL
KD7PVC	STEVEN J KANIEWSKI	AMERICAN FORK	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVD	SHANE MANWARING	PROVO	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVE	STEVEN J MEYER	PROVO	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVF	JESSICA A MILLER	OREM	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVG	MARCO A SANTA MARIA	PROVO	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PVH	GARY A TURPIN	SALT LAKE CITY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXN	MELISSA C MEIBOS	CLEARFIELD	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXO	JEFFREY D MEIBOS	CLEARFIELD	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXP	DARRELL L MEIBOS	LAYTON	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXQ	PATRICIA P KOHLER	LOGAN	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXR	STANLEY G JOHNSON	GRANTSVILLE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXS	WARREN M JACQUART	TAYLORSVILLE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXT	MATTHEW A HEUER	HIGHLAND	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXU	TERRY R HAAS	SANDY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXV	TOBIN L GARDNER	MIDVALE	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PXW	MONICA A FERDIG	SANDY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZF	RICHARD W ALLRED	SPRING CITY	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZG	KRISTINE A ANDERSON	CENTERFIELD	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZH	ROGER K ANDERSON	CENTERFIELD	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZI	BRUCE O BURNHAM	EPHRAIM	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZJ	ORSON L COOK	MORONI	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZK	COLEEN N EDWARDS	GUNNISON	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZL	LES F HASKINS	MORONI	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZM	GLEN A HOENICKE	FOUNTAIN GREEN	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZN	CHESTON MADSEN	FOUNTAIN GREEN	NEW TECHNICIAN
KD7PZW	LYNN E MC SLURG	PROVO	NEW TECHNICIAN
KK7KR	ROBERT A ST MARIE	FARMINGTON	ADV to EXTRA (WAS KB7MON)
KL0PC	HEATH D PETTY	OREM	TECH to GEN
N5MLY	ROGER K HOWELL	SPANISH FORK	TECH+ to GEN
N7GVT	GREGORY V TAYLOR	LAKE POWELL	TECH+ to GEN (WAS KC7VWK)
NT7K	KENNETH R CUDDEBACK	NORTH OGDEN	GEN to EXTRA (WAS K7KRC)
W7DMK	DENNIS M KOHLER	LOGAN	GEN to EXTRA (WAS KD7NTF)
WA7SNS	JOHN M PERRI	SALT LAKE CITY	GEN to EXTRA
WH6YT	MARVIN P COPE	TOOELE	GEN to EXTRA

"Please refer any errors or omissions to John Bingham AC7GV by email at [johnb@burgoyne.com](mailto:johnb@burgoyne.com)" □

## Volunteering at the Olympic Games

Jerry Wellman, W7SAR

As I write this month's column, is my pleasure to relate that the 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City have been both exciting and boring. Exciting from the perspective that all is going extremely well. Visitors to our fair city have given us a 97 percent positive rating. It's been fun to witness an extra 100,000 or so visitors downtown and to see all the team uniforms and hear the foreign languages spoken.

The "boring" part stems from Amateur Radio involvement. It's been quiet. There have been no serious emergencies. It's been great being a volunteer, and fun having nothing to do except be on standby. My assignment has been to assist on an evening shift at a site where skaters practice. It was fun to see various athletes practice and fine tune, their routine prior to the competition.

The Amateur Radio involvement in the games has been one of being ready to supplement regular communications in the event of an emergency or system failure. Radio operators have been working under the auspices of "UOPSC" (Utah Olympic Public Safety Command) and are assigned to various venues and public locations. When we report for duty, we are assigned to assist a venue or location commander. My 'commander' was a Salt Lake City Police officer who "plained why I was there. He said, 'you're my radio backup. If something happens, I want you ready to handle emergency communications.'" Then he said: 'It's been quiet, let's hope it stays that way.'

For the next several hours I monitored the local VHF Amateur Radio repeater being used for the Games and operated the location's 800 MHz radio as 'Command Post' and got to operate the closed circuit TV system, fleeing up my commander" to circulate around site. What a blast! Best of all, it was boring! (No emergencies!)

There were several fire department representatives on station as well as volunteer medical staff. It was fun to be part of that team and also to share with them and answer questions about Amateur Radio.

The big thanks goes to Ed Cole, KB7EC, who was basically our Amateur Radio boss along with John Mabey, W7CWK.

I'm sure there were others behind the scenes that helped, but Ed and John were the most visible. Ed was the contact to get assignments and details while John was most often heard (like every day, all day - did you get any sleep?) as net control.

Then there were the many (dare I say hundreds?), Amateur Radio operators who volunteered as well -all without pay, using their own gear, spending time enjoying their assignments -both inside and out in the elements. And, to the best of my knowledge, never uttering a discouraging word. Very little was printed about the Amateur Radio volunteers. Few, if any, visitors were aware of this great pool of backup talent. But they came each day, excited to be a part of the Olympic event.

Other operators were on duty to support communities as well, being on call in case of a -local event requiring additional communications assistance. For "ample, the Salt Lake County ARES group and their communications trailer was on standby for Salt Lake City. Others were ready to report for duty in the county and other cities impacted by the games.

What a great opportunity this has been for local groups to prove their worth by standing ready, being available, and enjoying being of service. Well done!

### Food for Thought

A reader wrote to ask if I had ever contemplated what to bring as food when you respond to an event. I admit that while it is critical to a response, I've never given it much thought -except to lament I either brought the wrong stuff, or went hungry because I had none.

So here goes -my thoughts on nourishment when you respond.

First, take items you like to eat. I used to carry military rations in my response kit and once even ate some of them. Yuck! What I had chosen to include was something I would have not fed my dog. I'm sure it was nourishing, but it tasted awful.

Now I take "meals, ready to eat" (MRES) that I can eat, and I've spent some time and money sampling various meals until I have found the ones that taste good to me. There is-a wide variety of MRE selections, and some are quite tasty. My advice is to try it before you HAVE to eat it.

I also include some items with carbohydrate content such as hard candy, dried fruit, corn flake bars, etc. These are my quick energy foods, and are picked because they don't melt, they don't leak, and if I squash them in the radio bag, they're still edible. I avoid candy bars that melt and not-so-dry items that may leak (even canned items) on my gear.

All of my food items are also double bagged in hefty CLEAR plastic bags. I hate it when crumbs get into my radio stuff. The MREs are carried in a separate food bag, the dry snacks are in the radio bag for easy access. I carry some water pouches and select the ones that are made for boating emergency kits as they seem to have tougher packaging.

I avoid canned-items that tend to go bad over time (often in a month or two) such as juice or tuna. I've had tuna go bad in a month after being stored in a vehicle during summer months. Here's my basic rule -I will forget to check on my food for months at a time, so whatever I have must remain edible in spite of my negligence.

Other items I must have include sunflower seeds, Lifesavers, and crackers. If the event is not time-critical, I will usually stop to top off my fuel tank and pick up some pop and possibly an apple or banana. I'd be interested in your thoughts and ideas as to what works for you. Let me know by e-mail about your trials and successes. I'm thinking that more attention should be placed on nourishment issues.

I'm still searching for an ideal earpiece and have ordered several different items based on your suggestions. I'll report back in the next month or two and let you know what I've found.

Several readers have asked me to expose myself in public. Actually they have asked for pictures of my shack and antenna array. Those photos will be included in a future column as as I clean up the shack so I can take suitable a photo.

Until next month, best wishes a very calm Salt Lake City!

-Jerry Wellman, W7SAR can be reached by sending snail mail to: P0 Box 11445, Salt Lake City, UT 84147; or by e-mail sent to -jw@de-snews.com.

*Reprinted from WorldRadio*

## Blast From the Past

I found this advertisement (on the left) interesting to see some of the Salt Lake radio stores of the past.

Alan - N7OI

## SLCBBS Back On the Air

W7SAR (SLCBBS) is back on the air. The packet bbs is operational on 145.01, 145.05, and 145.07. It's on a pentium surplus computer with an 8-port bbs adapter. All of the VHF radios are Azden PCS-4000 and the antennas are either j-poles or ringo rangers. Plans are to add another VHF port temporarily and then add the UHF backbone. Currently the ports are 1200 baud. Use is free to any Amateur Radio packet station. The location of the bbs is on the west side of SL county about 4800 south and 5600 west. The antennas have a great look to most of the county and north of SLC. Time to dust off those old packet TNCs and get back onto packet.

Jerry W - W7SAR

K7SVE William E Hayes RFD 1 Box 201 Kayville  
 W7SAR Henry J Watkins Jr 201 W Fourth South Logan  
 W7JGO Lynn L Nichols 400 N Eighth East-B Provo

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## Life is too short for QRP?



Photo: Ron Speits, K7RLS

Peri Cope, K7PER, founder of the newly formed Bonneville QRP Society, shared his thoughts on operating QRP at the March 2002 UARC meeting

### Definition

Peri defined QRP as operating at five watts PEP or less. Some also define QRP as 10 watts or less on SSB. QRPp has been defined as less than one watt PEP. If you hear someone say "QRP?" on CW, it means they are asking you to lower your power.

### Challenges

There are many challenges to operating QRP, such as breaking logjams and pileups. The best antenna system is not an absolute requirement, but determination, patience, and luck certainly are. QRP is like fishing, according to Peri. If you spend a lot of money on a big boat, equipment, and technical advice, you are guaranteed success. If however, you just throw a worm in the water and enjoy yourself, you just might catch a fish.

### Why QRP?

Practicality - big rigs and antennas can be very expensive.  
 Portability - QRP rigs tend to be smaller, battery operated, and designed for portability.  
 Safety - RF exposure is minimized at low power.  
 Efficiency - Success in QRP is measured in miles per watt.

### How to QRP

All modes are possible at QRP, but perhaps the best mode to operate QRP is CW or a digital mode such as PSK-31, because they requires less power and are easier to homebrew.

One example of a homebrew QRP rig is the Peanut Whistle, a simple transmitter easily built out of a handful of common parts. Peri built one and conducted a CW

QSO from California to Georgia at 50mW!

Is QRP limited to homebrew? Peri suggests that there are many ways to operate QRP, such as turning down your 100 watt transceiver, or perhaps attaching your coax to your metal bedframe. Most modern transceivers are easily adjusted down to five watts for QRP operation.

For more information about QRP, contact the Bonneville QRP Society at <http://bqs.netfirms.com>, or by sending email to Peri Cope at [wh6yt@arrl.net](mailto:wh6yt@arrl.net).

Ted, KC7PM

## Volunteers needed

The Iron Man Utah Triathlon will be held on June 8, 2002, in and around Utah County. Gary Hale, Communications Captain, and Matt Starley, Race Director, are calling for amateur radio volunteers to bring their portable radios and assist with communications during the inaugural event.

Over 2000 competitors will participate in a grueling 140.6 mile journey consisting of a 112 mile bicycle ride, a 2.4 mile swim in Utah Lake, and a 26.2 mile marathon.

## Utah Hamfest 2002

50-100 hams with handhelds are needed for the event, beginning at 7am and ending at midnight. Volunteers are needed throughout the day and will be assigned shifts depending on your availability. Depending on the length of your shift, you may wish to bring extra batteries.



Photo: Ron Speils, K7RLS

Gary Hale, Communications Captain, and Matt Starley, Race Director of The Iron Man Utah Triathlon

Volunteers are requested to sign up online at <http://www.ironmanutah.com> or call Gary Hale at (801) 296-1549.

Ted, KC7PM □

Dear Fellow Amateurs,

The Utah Hamfest 2002 Committee invites you to come to the 2002 Utah Hamfest and ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention at Ruby's Inn at Bryce Canyon, Utah, July 12-13-14, 2002.

This year's event will be our biggest yet, with activities Friday evening, and all day Saturday, along with the Sunday morning breakfast and keynote speaker. This will be a great time to gather with all the hams of the entire division and not only have fun, but enjoy learning about the many facets of amateur radio.

### What is there for you?

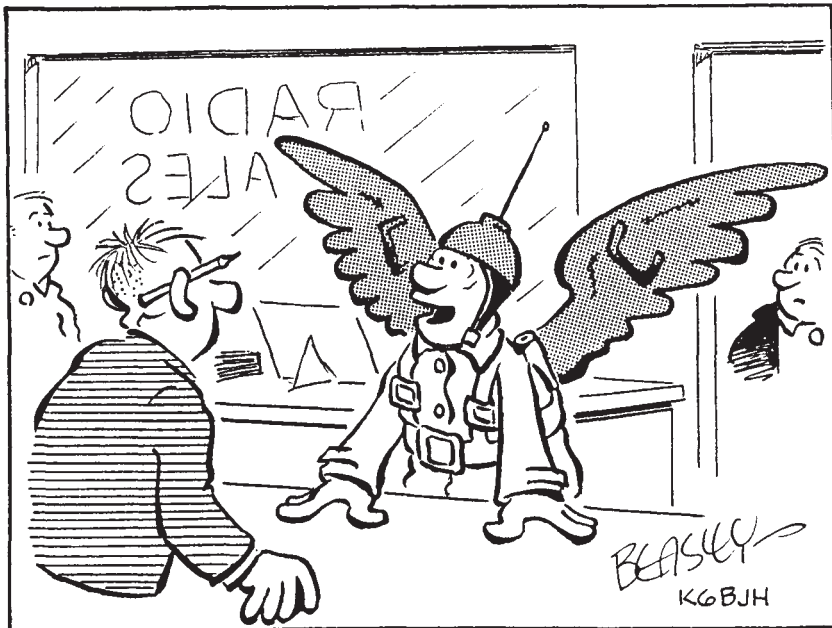
- Seminars Friday Evening and throughout Saturday.
- Eyeball QSO Cookout Friday Evening and Sunday Breakfast.
- Swap Meet.
- Dealers.
- Transmitter Hunts.
- Fun and games.
- Prizes!
- VE Exams
- ARRL Forum including special guest
- Women's Crafts and children's activities!
- Bryce Canyon National Park!

Check out our website for Registration and all the details!

[www.utahhamfest.org](http://www.utahhamfest.org)

**73, CU there!**

Utah Hamfest 2002 Committee



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