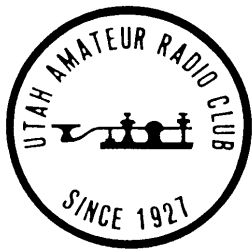Dennis Utley, AF7Y, gave us a very informative presentation on
DXing—Who, What, Where, Why and How.

Periodicals Postage

The

Microvolt

UTAH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB · SINCE 1927

Please Send Dues to:
UARC
c/o Dick Keddington
1992 El Dorado Drive
Holladay, UT 84124-1652

SEND TO

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 University of Utah Engineering and Mines Classroom (EMCB) building, Room 101.

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: Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ, 1992 El Dorado Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1652. 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 Santequin 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 (uarc@xmission.com), but other means including diskettes and typewritten submissions can be mailed directly to: Telvin Mills, 6864 Beargrass Rd., West Jordan, UT 84084. 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: Dick Keddington, 1992 El Dorado Drive, Holladay, UT, 84124-1652.

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: 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.

For account information go to:
http://www.xmission.com/
Or call 801 539-0852
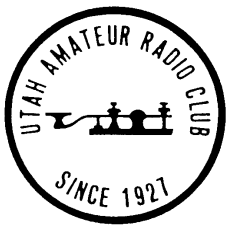
QST From the Prez

The topic for the month is the new feature that UARC has added to the 146.76 repeater. We have added the IRLP. This great feature will allow members to speak with people all over the world with their two meter radio. I have been active on the IRLP for several years and have contacted Antarctica (there is only one ham there this year), New Zealand, South Africa, England, Scotland, Wales and Finland. This is a lot of fun!

Let's review some definitions.

1) Node: a repeater that can be connected to another repeater.

2) Reflector: a computer that is a chat room location for several nodes.

   (repeaters to connect to and have multiple locations speak to each other).

The IRLP is a function that is _**private**_ for **members** _only_.

a) The access code is not given to non-members or to be spoken over the air.

b) Never just walk away from the radio if you have the IRLP up.

c) The main rule is to be courteous. Leave a few seconds between exchanges.

d) Please do not carry on a local conversation while IRLP is up.

The whole IRLP system is controlled by computers. The operator of the node (repeater) can bar any other node (repeater) from access to his node for any reason. We don't want to be banned from any other node, so please follow the rules.

Enjoy this new feature of ham radio. It's your hobby, club and IRLP connection---have fun with it!!!

73 de W7ROY

Member of the Month

This month we are featuring John D. Hays, K7VE. John has been in amateur radio since 1973. John comes from a very active ham radio family.

When he was growing up John had some cousins in Magna and Vernal who were very active in amateur radio. When he would visit them he would get to operate their stations. John was so fascinated with the equipment that he wanted to get involved. John's ham radio family has grown. His wife Beverly, KC7PAA, and their four sons have their amateur licenses. Jonathan, KC7GPT, and Jonathan's wife, Sarah, KE6MPP, currently live in Scotland and they will be coming back to Salt Lake this summer. James, KC7OSO, Donald, KD7PRM, and Robert, KD7PRN, have their licenses. John said they have a granddaughter on the way, but she doesn't have her license yet.

John was 18 years old and living in Idaho when he obtained his Novice license. He had two elmers and they were both women. How about that! Verda I. Siebent, K7UBC, and Joan Gallger, WA7BDC, who now is a silent key. They both lived in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. Joann was his Morse Code teacher. One day she was having him copy some code not letting on that this was a test. Then she asked for his copy and said "you passed." John now has his Extra class license. The very first call sign he had was WN7WHV, then WN7AJD, WB7VJC, KD7UW and finally, the call sign that he now has, K7VE.

John says he likes everything about amateur radio. He has participated in every facet of the hobby. He enjoys single sideband, packet radio and other data communications. John enjoys amateur television and VHF and UHF. John says his current favorite activities are: six meters, SSB, and VHF contesting. John operates as a rover in the VHF contest. He drives around the mountains making contacts. John really enjoys working on the club repeater at W7IHC. This is the Intermountain Health Care radio club. John works for the Intermountain Health care as the information architect for their web site. John is also active in SSTV.

John has been a member of UARC for many years. In 1977, John was the Executive Vice President for UARC. Over the years John has been a member of MARA. John is a member of the QCWA and for 5 years John was the Vice President of Amateur Radio Television of North America. John is also an ARRL VE.

John, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors.

73, Linda Reeder, N7HVF

2006 Event Calendar

March 11-12 — Idaho QSO Party

April 6 — UARC Meeting — How to Operate Legally Brett Sutherland, N7KG, Utah Official Observer Coordinator

May 12 — UARC Meeting — Note change in date

June 1 — UARC Meeeting — Field Day

June 23-25 Field Day

July 8th Steak Fry

September 7 — UARC Meeting — TBD

October 5 — UARC Meeting — Homebrew

November 2— UARC Meeting — TBD

December 7 — UARC Meeting — Elections

IRLP Node #3352 User's Guide
146.760, ~600 KHz offset, carrier squelch

Talking on the node:
by Clint Turner, KA7OEI

"Speak up - they can't hear you!"

If you have listened to the radio for very long, it has probably occurred to you that a number of people seem to be afraid of their microphones and hold them quite some distance from their mouths! This causes their transmitted audio to sound very quiet, making it extremely difficult for the station(s) on the other end to even hear them.

Remember: Microphones for mobile radios and HTs are **designed** to be held only an inch or two from the mouth. Why? If they were more sensitive, they'd pick up too much vehicle or room noise and be unusable!

Pauses are important:

Using an IRLP node is much like using a linked repeater system - and there are three things to remember:

PAUSE

PAUSE

PAUSE

As with any linked system, it takes a short amount of time for the system to come up and "turn around" between transmissions, so pausing a bit is absolutely necessary to prevent having your first several words cut off and/or preventing "doubling" amongst parties.

After keying up, wait at least *one second* before saying your first word. If you begin speaking immediately, your first second or so may be cut off. This can be especially annoying if the first thing you say is your callsign!

Before replying to someone, wait at least *two seconds*! Remember: There may be other stations that wish to get in, or the other station may have dropped out briefly.

Don't hog the channel!

Like on any linked system, there may be a lot of people listening - and a lot of people who would *like* to talk as well. Try to avoid long-winded transmissions and excessively long QSOs - *especially* on reflectors!

Don't carry on "local" QSOs when linked!

Be courteous to others when the system is linked (*especially when it is linked to a reflector*) and avoid "local" chatter: It is of no interest to the ham in Australia that you have just picked up groceries and the kids and are headed home!

If you need to make such an exchange, please move to another repeater (*or go to a **simplex** frequency*) or disconnect the node!

Soliciting contacts: Saying "Monitoring" doesn't mean that you want to talk...

Often one hears someone get on the air to report that they are "monitoring." This would seem to be pointless as one need not tell the world that he/she is "monitoring" - *you don't even need a license to "monitor" let alone make a transmission!*

If, what you really wish to do is make a contact, say so - and **"CQ"** is recommended. *It is perfectly appropriate to make a __short__ CQ to announce that you are looking for someone to talk to!* It is true that some repeater operators don't like CQ's, but IRLP etiquette permits a short call like **"This is W7XYZ calling CQ"** to let others know that you are looking for a QSO.

Listening to the repeater - the "Double-Dit" courtesy beep:

Any transmission that *comes from the internet* will end with a "**di-dit**" (the letter "I" in Morse Code) to let the user know this. Note that *ONLY* those listening to the 146.76 repeater will be able to hear this: No one on the internet can hear it or the repeater's Morse ID.

Be responsible for your connections:

If you bring up a node, you are responsible for taking it down again when you are done - or at least handing it off to another responsible party.

Using the node:

"Nodes" versus "Reflectors" - what's the difference?

A **Node** is another radio system to which you can connect. Connecting to another node is much like making a two-party telephone call in that the only ones connected are **you** and the distant node: Anyone on another node that tries to connect to **you** or to the node to which you are connected will get a polite message saying that the node is busy as a "Node-to-Node" connection involves those two nodes only.

A **Reflector** is *not* connected directly to a radio system but is more of a "party line." Multiple nodes can connect to a reflector and all nodes connected will hear everything that is going on with the other connected nodes. Please note that while many can listen, only **one** can talk at one time.

Sending commands:

It is **required** that all commands be preceded with an ID of the station and announce their intention. The following is recommended:

"This is <your callsign> for IRLP Control" followed by the DTMF sequence, including the control code. The exact words should reflect what it is that you are doing - such as connecting to or disconnecting from a node, etc.

The control operator may wait until he hears a legitimate ID before he presses the 'Authorize' button and lets the sequence go through. If the command did not go through, wait a few seconds and try your ID and the sequence again.

If this **still** doesn't work, it may be because of one or more of the following:
You didn't speak loudly enough and your ID wasn't heard. A lot of amateurs (especially newer ones) seem to be afraid to speak **into** the microphone and because of this, their audio sounds very low on the other end. **This is not a good thing!** Having very quiet audio makes it difficult for others to even hear you - including the control operator!

You entered the wrong control code. It is possible that you have mis-remembered the control code, or it is simply the wrong one, having been changed. If your UARC membership is current, you can obtain the current code from the secretary.

Your signal may be poor. If your signal into the repeater is noisy and/or dropping out, you may not be able to issue the command sequence. Remember that if your signal is too poor to send the control sequence, it's probably too poor to carry on a conversation, anyway.

Putting the repeater in IRLP Mode:

By default, the repeater is **always** in the "IRLP" mode - that is, it can, at any time, accept incoming connections or allow local user to **"dial out"** to other places in the IRLP network. Note that a few people (control operators, "official" UARC repeater monitors, etc.) have the code required to disable the node - but this should be the exception rather than the rule.

To check the current status of the IRLP node, look at the **Node 3352 Status Page** (http://status.irlp.net/IRLPnodedetail.php?nodeid=3352) and look at the line that says *"Current Node Status"* - if it says "Idle" then the node is awaiting a connection. If it says "Online" it is *already* connected to another node or reflector. It is <u>only</u> if it says *"Offline"* that the node is <u>not</u> available for IRLP connections.

Connecting to a Node or Reflector:

The sequence for connecting to a node or reflector is as follows:

You must say "**_This is_** *<Your Callsign>* **_connecting to node_** ####" followed by the **control prefix** followed by the **Node Number.**

Example:

If your callsign is "W7XYZ" and the control code were "123" and you wanted to connect to node "5678" you would do:

"This is W7XYZ connecting to node 5678" followed by the digits " **123 5678** "

If you are successful in sending the command, you'll hear a voice status return. This status could tell you that:

You have successfully connected to the node. Sometimes you'll also hear a short informational message about the node.

OR

The node is currently busy.

If you hear nothing at all, either the repeater is **_not_** in IRLP node or your command did not go through.

Disconnecting from a Node or Reflector - the "73" command:

The sequence for connecting to a node or reflector but staying in IRLP mode is as follows:

You must say "**_This is_** *<Your Callsign>* **_disconnecting from the node_**" followed by the **control prefix** followed by the " **73 ".**

Example:

If your callsign is "W7XYZ" and the control code were "123" you would do:

"This is W7XYZ disconnecting from the node" followed by the digits " **123 73** "

If you are successful in sending the command, you'll hear a voice status return telling you that you have disconnected.

If you hear nothing at all, either the repeater is **_not_** in IRLP node or your command did not go through.

 **Beware 3rd party agreement limitations...**

Although it may seem strange to some, there are many countries in the world that do **_not_** have an agreement with the U.S. that allows 3rd party traffic to be passed.

What does this mean?

In many cases, it is **_illegal_** for you to pass on **_any_** message to/from a non-ham as a result of the QSO - whether that person (or persons) is in your shack, via telephone, or even if you take a message and deliver it later. While something as simple as a _"Hello"_ probably won't get anyone into trouble, anything more than this may start to raise eyebrows.

Why is this? In many countries, the radio regulation authority is (or was, in the past) also the same one that is responsible for regulating telephone and the post office - and using amateur radio to pass traffic that could conceivably take business away from these other services is frowned upon. In other cases, some governments simply frown on citizens engaging in anything other than routine amateur-radio communications.

While these sorts of regulations are slowly being relaxed, many countries _(**MOST** European countries as well as England and most of its commonwealth countries like Australia and New Zealand)_ still prohibit such third-party communications - and while **_you_** may not get into trouble for doing it, the ham on the other end may!

**For more information on third-party communications, see the <u>ARRL International 3rd Party Traffic</u> page (http://www.arrl.org/FandES/field/regulations/io/3rdparty.html).**

March Meeting: Emergency Communications

Earthquakes, fires, and floods cut communications lines and amateur radio operators step in to fill the communications void. This kind of scenario is something we have all seen or read about, but are we ready to help out if the need arises? Is training really important? How do the various emergency organizations fit together in an overall plan? Which one should we join? What kind of preparations do we need to make in case an emergency should arise?

These are the kinds of questions that will be answered at UARC's upcoming meeting to be held Thursday, March 2, at 7:30 P.M. Richard Evans, N7PCE, is the ARRL Emergency Coordinator for Salt Lake County. As such, he is in charge of the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) for the county.

Richard has many years of experience providing emergency communications and organizing the groups that are ready to respond. Emergency communications is one of the primary functions of radio amateurs according to our "Basis and Purpose" laid out in the FCC rules. Many amateurs have obtained their licenses just to be ready to provide this important function. Come and hear how you can help!

Of course, the meeting will include the "standard" meeting features:

- Availability of ARRL books from Fred, the "book lady";

- An opportunity to join UARC or renew your membership

- An opportunity to join ARRL or renew your membership

- The chance to meet face-to-face the people you talk to on the air

- The "Meeting(s) after the meeting":

A chance to enjoy pizza or other gastronomic delights with other hams. One group goes to Litza's Pizza, 716 E. 400 South. Another group goes to a restaurant that varies from month to month, but will be announced at the meeting.

The "Meeting before the meeting": A similar get-together for those who can leave work early enough to get there by 5:15 P.M This time it will be at the "Sizzler," 371 East 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Exam Schedule

3/01/06 (Wed.) Farmington
Contact: Rena Skeen, AD7BX
Phone: (801) 773-7048

3/11/06 (Sat.) Logan
Contact: Heidi Bleazard, AC7ZC
Phone: (435) 753-7487

3/15/06 (Wed.) Provo
Contact: Steve Whitehead, NV7V
Phone: (801) 465-3983

3/15/06 (Wed.) St. George
Contact: Ron C. Sappington, WI7Z
Phone: (435) 673-4552

3/28/06[1] (Tues.) Salt Lake City
Contact: Eugene McWherter, N7OVT
Phone: (801) 541-1871

3/30/06 (Thu.) Roosevelt
Contact:R. Chandler Fisher, W7BYU
Phone: (435) 722-5440

4/01/06[1] (Sat.) Salt Lake City
Contact: Gordon Smith, K7HFV
Phone: (801) 582-2438

4/19/06 (Wed.) Provo
Contact: Steve Whitehead, NV7V
Phone: (801) 465-3983

4/19/06 (Wed.) St. George
Contact: Ron C. Sappington, WI7Z
Phone: (435) 673-4552

4/25/06[1] (Tues.) Salt Lake City
Contact: Eugene McWherter, N7OVT
Phone: (801) 541-1871

5/17/06 (Wed.) Provo
Contact: Steve Whitehead, NV7V
Phone: (801) 465-3983

5/17/06 (Wed.) St. George
Contact: Ron C. Sappington, WI7Z
Phone: (435) 673-4552

5/25/06 (Thu.) Roosevelt
Contact:R. Chandler Fisher, W7BYU
Phone: (435) 722-5440

5/30/06[1] (Tues.) Salt Lake City
Contact: Eugene McWherter, N7OVT
Phone: (801) 541-1871

6/03/06[1] (Sat.) Salt Lake City
Contact: Gordon Smith, K7HFV
Phone: (801) 582-2438

6/07/06 (Wed.) Ogden
Contact: Mary Hazard, W7UE
Phone: (801) 430-0306

6/10/06 (Sat.) Logan
Contact: Heidi Bleazard, AC7ZC
Phone: (435) 753-7487

6/21/06 (Wed.) Provo
Contact: Steve Whitehead, NV7V
Phone: (801) 465-3983

[1] Pre-registration required. Contact the contact person prior to the examination date.

For more detail either call the contact or checkout the information on our web-page:

http://www.xmission.com/~uarc