

The *Microvolt*

April, 2019



Prologue

Publication: *The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 699 E. South Temple Ste 100, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1282. It is published monthly except August. Subscription is included with club membership at \$20 per year. Single copy price is \$1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. Postmaster: send address corrections to *The Microvolt*, c/o Tom Kamlowsky, 4137 Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT, 84124-2711.

Deadline for submissions is the 24th of each month prior to publication. Submissions by email are preferred (k7hfv@arrl.net), but other means including diskettes and typewritten submissions can be mailed directly to: Gordon Smith, 632 University St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. Reprints are allowed with proper credits to *The Microvolt*, UARC, and authors. Changes in mailing address should be communicated to the Club Secretary: Tom Kamlowsky, 4137 Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT, 84124-2711.

Club: The Utah Amateur Radio Club was organized under its present name in 1927, although its beginnings may date back as early as 1909. In 1928, it became affiliated with the American Radio Relay League (club #1602) and is a non-profit organization under the laws of Utah. It holds a club station license with the call W7SP, a memorial call for Leonard (Zim) Zimmerman, an amateur radio pioneer in the Salt Lake City area.

Meetings: The club meets each month except July and August. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the University of Utah's Warnock Engineering Building, generally in room 1230 or 2230, sometimes in 2250 or 105.

Membership: Club membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; a current license is not required. Dues are \$20 per year, including a *Microvolt* subscription. *The Microvolt* and membership cannot be separated. Those living at the same address as a member who has paid \$20 may obtain a membership without a *Microvolt* subscription for \$12. Send dues to the Club Secretary: Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG, 4137 Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84124-2711. Let the Secretary know if you prefer the electronic edition of *The Microvolt* instead of the printed version.

Contributions: Monetary contributions are gladly accepted. Send directly to the Club Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, 1612 W. 4915 S. Taylorsville, UT 84123-4244. For in-kind contributions, please contact any board member to make appropriate arrangements.

Repeaters: UARC maintains the 146.62- and 146.76- repeaters. The repeaters are administered by the UARC Repeater Committee. Comments and questions may be directed to any Committee member. The Lake Mountain repeater (146.76-) is IRLP node 3352. Instructions for IRLP use are on the club website.

Ham Hot-Line: The Utah Amateur Radio Club (UARC) has a Ham Hotline, 583-3002. Information regarding Amateur Radio can be obtained, including club, testing, meeting, and membership information. If no one answers leave your name, telephone number and a short message on the answering machine, and your call will be returned.

UARC 2018 Board

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Bookseller: Rick Gregory, JKG7GOW	801 582-7783
Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	801 904-3587
Field Day Chair: (To be determined)	
License Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Repeater Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	801 556-7565
ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438

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IRLP Information

For information on using the club's IRLP node on the 146.76 repeater, check <http://www.utaharc.org/irlp>.

For late breaking news listen to the UARC Information Net Sundays at 21:00 on 146.62 or set your browser to: <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html>

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



For account information go to:

<http://www.xmission.com/>

Or call 801 539-0852



The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah
Volume 62, Issue 4, April 2018

April Meeting: FM Operating Procedures

Operating on FM ought to be pretty easy, right? With good repeaters, signals are strong, there's not much QRM, and one only needs to know a few common practices. However, it seems that some of the newcomers are missing some of the basic points, and maybe we can all work together to help them.

What's wrong with some folks' IDing procedures that keeps them from satisfying the rules? Why should one never say "Back to the group"? And why are the reports that "You're overmodulating" wrong almost 100% of the time? These are some of the topics we will be exploring. Gordon Smith, K7HFV, will give us his take on these matters.

The meeting will also feature a status report about our sources of electronic parts by Robert Gunnell, KI7FUJ. Robert is the owner of the old Rayelco store and is now associated with Standard Supply Company. He will tell us about how things sit currently as well as plans for the future.

The meeting will take place Thursday, April 11, at 7:30 P.M. Location is the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus, room 1230.

UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month in the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. The room number varies with availability. During our meetings in January through April, 2019, we will be in room 1230.

See <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html> for a map and information on finding the building. The room number varies depending on availability.

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

- Availability of ARRL books from Rick, the book seller
- An opportunity to join UARC or renew your membership
- An opportunity to join ARRL or renew your membership
- The chance to meet face-to-face the people you talk to on the air
- The "Meeting after the meeting": A chance to enjoy pizza or other gastronomic delights with other hams. It happens at Litza's Pizza, 716 E. 400 South.
- The "Meeting *before* the meeting": A similar get-together for those who can leave work early enough to get there by 5:15 P.M. It is held at "The Village Inn," 910 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover this month comes from one of the slides that Ryan Etherington, K7ODX, showed us in his March presentation about the Summits On the Air (SOTA) awards program. The program awards points to those who “activate” (i.e. operate from) mountain tops and to “chasers” who work as many activated summits as possible. The inset is of Ryan himself. (Thanks to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photo.)

Division Convention News

The 2019 Rocky Mountain Division Convention, to be held August 8-10 in Ogden, now has its own web site and is accepting registrations. Go to: <https://rmdc2019.org/>.

Two major figures in ham radio have been announced as luncheon speakers at the convention. The Friday lunch speaker will be the recently appointed CEO of ARRL, Howard E. Michel, WB2 ITX. The Saturday lunch speaker will be the famed Bob Heil, K9EID, known for his extensive experience in sound and microphones, and manufacturer of high-end microphones for amateur radio use.

ARRL’s Rocky Mountain Division consists of the states Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, and Utah. The chance to host the convention rotates among the four states, so this year’s event in Utah is a once in four years opportunity for hams in Utah. The convention will include forums on many ham radio topics, swap tables, awards, and contests. An extra-cost option will be “DX University” which will be held all day on Thursday, August 8. Space for some events is limited so it would be wise to sign up early.

Location for this year’s event will be the Shepard Union Building on the Weber State University

campus in Ogden. A lodging option is “Wildcat Village” on campus. Cost is \$25 per bed, two beds per room.

W7JAR, SK

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Gerald (Garry) Genemetes, W7JAR/KE7VFP. Garry was a devoted father and family man and is survived by his wife, Michelle, his two sons, a sister, a brother, and grandchildren.

He has also been a devoted ham operator for many years and always was good for a new innovation on so many levels. He encouraged me in getting licensed and continuing in the ham hobby. He was continually making plans for his next adventure in his motorhome, which he had outfitted as a mobile communications station.

Garry's last expressed wishes were to do the “Summits on the Air” and the “National Parks on the Air” events! His most recent ham radio accomplishment was completing setting up his home station to work the digital mode PSK-31 with the help of Dan, AA3YT, and myself. Dan, AA3YT, had literally finished helping Garry fine-tune his station setup for PSK31 Friday night before Garry's trip to the hospital on Sunday Mar. 17th 2019. Amazingly enough, Dan received a QSL card on Monday, likely a result of his last act as a ham operator.

Garry will be greatly missed by his family and friends and ham buddies. Anybody that knew Garry knows how willing he was to help out with almost anything. Aside from his skills as a radio operator, Garry was a master mechanic. He is well known in the valley by his friends and professional clients as well as the ham community. He is greatly missed already!

Per Garry's instructions there will not be a funeral. The family will be holding a Wake in his memory as soon as everyone can make the trip to Utah.

Garry was 54 years old.

—Harold (Hal) Ruttinger KZ9HMR

Ramblings from Rick

New Benefit for Club Members

The UARC Board, at their last meeting, approved the creation of a lending library for books and equipment. There are undoubtedly details to be worked out, but here are some basics:

- 1) Members will complete a form indicating what item/s they are borrowing.
- 2) Items will typically be due in 30 days or at the next general club meeting.
- 3) A list of available items will be posted on line in the near future.

Anyone having items they would like to donate to the library, please contact me, preferably via email at: <mailto:rickg916@gmail.com>. This could be copies of the ARRL *Handbook*, test equipment that you rarely use, etc.

UARC Archives

I have received the first batch of Club material for donation to the Special Collections section of Marriott Library at the University of Utah. The majority of the items are *Microvolt* from 1998 through 2002. Some issues are missing. If you have copies of the following, please consider donating them to complete the collection:

Missing *Microvolt*: Aug/Sep 1998 (issue #8); May, Sep, Oct, & Nov 2000; Jan - Dec 2001; Jun, Jul, & Oct 2002.

Hats for Sale

As you, we hope, are aware, the Club has caps for sale with the club logo at the bargain price of \$10. I say bargain because the March 2000 *Microvolt* noted that caps were for sale for \$10.65. In inflation-adjusted dollars, that would be \$15.63 in 2019. Caps are available in white and blue at the monthly meetings.

—Rick Gregory, KG7GOW
UARC Bookseller

Bouvet Island DXpedition “Postponed”

A DXpedition to Bouvet Island, a rare DX entity in the Antarctic, is off for the time being. The skipper of the MV *Atlantic Tuna* determined it was not safe to continue after some damage from severe storm conditions. However, the 3Y0I group insists the expedition is “*not* cancelled — we don't give up that easily.”

“The fierce oceanic forces swept past the upper deck, taking one of the radars, including VSAT, VHF, and HF marine antennas, off the mast and throwing them all overboard,” Stan Strzyzewski, SP8S, recounted. He stressed that all members of the DXpedition team are “fine, feeling OK, and safe.”

“With lack of the most important navigational tools, the captain declared it's not safe to navigate and they need to go back to Cape Town to secure all participants on board, their equipment, and the vessel's gear,” Strzyzewski continued. “In addition, all forecasts for coming hours are not positive.”

There may be a future attempt this spring, or the retry may have to wait until next year.

(—Thanks to the *ARRL Letter*)

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
04/06/19	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City ^{1,4}	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438
04/13/19	(Sat.)	Hurricane ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
04/17/19	(Wed.)	Provo ⁵	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
04/17/19	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
04/29/19	(Mon.)	Taylorsville ^{3,5}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936
05/15/19	(Wed.)	Provo ⁵	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
05/15/19	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	N/A
05/20/19	(Mon.)	Taylorsville ^{3,5}	Garth Wiscombe, W7PS	(801) 558-5936

¹Preregistration required. Check with the contact person before the test session.

²More information at <http://www.dixieham.org/meetings.html>

³New location is the Taylorsville City Hall, 2600 Taylorsville Blvd, Room 110

⁴More information at <http://www.utaharc.org/Exams/>

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

⁶Technician Exams only given at this session.

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

Two New Petitions for Entry-Level Licensing

The FCC has recently opened a comment period for two different petitions affecting those starting out in amateur radio. One was filed in 2017 by Gary Hampton, AD0WU, of Longmont, Colorado; the other by ARRL in 2018. The two have virtually no overlap. ARRL wants to emphasize that the two are *not* competing petitions.

The Gary Hampton petition, RM-11829, would create a new entry-level class of license called the “Tyro” license. It would require a minimal on-line examination and mentoring by an amateur holding at least a Technician class license. To be eligible for the Tyro license, a candidate would have to be at least 11 years old. Privileges would be limited to 99 channels in a segment of the 70-cm band, to be known as the “TyroSubBand.”

The ARRL petition, RM-11828, would give expanded HF privileges to Technician licensees. In particular, Technicians could operate phone on three HF segments: 3900-4000 kHz, 7225-7300 kHz, and 21,350-21,459 kHz. In addition it would add RTTY and Digital privileges to the sub-bands where Technicians and Novices already have CW privileges.

ARRL emphasizes that everyone interested should study both petitions and, perhaps, file comments on one or both.

The comment period is only 30 days long, so those who would like to file comments for or against either petition will need to do so very soon.

From the Clipboard of the Editor

(The rumor is the editor has a desk; he just can't find it.)

I just heard a newly licensed ham announce to someone he worked that it was his "first time broadcasting." I suspect he wasn't aware of Paragraph 97.113 (b) of our rules which states:

"An amateur station shall not engage in any form of broadcasting, nor may an amateur station transmit one-way communications except as specifically provided in these rules;"

Yes, the word "broadcasting" has a special meaning to the FCC and those that want to do it are required to get a station license in the broadcast service, something very different from the amateur radio service.

Now I doubt that most anyone listening, including FCC monitors, would mistake this faux pas for genuine intent to be transmitting program material for the general public, but it's never a good idea to announce on the air that we're doing something contrary to the rules. More importantly, though, the incident points out a possible hole in what we teach the newcomers.

Our rules are pretty liberal when it comes to what we can talk about on the air in two-way conversation. Most anything goes if it's not specifically prohibited. But when it comes to one-way transmissions, it's the other way around: we can only make one-way transmissions of a kind *specifically allowed*.

One of the most important kinds of allowed one-way transmissions is "Brief transmissions necessary to establishing two-way communications with other stations." This includes calling CQ (including directional CQs like "CQ Alaska"), and calling another station. Others kinds include code practice, bulletins of interest to amateurs, beacon operation, and short tests to read the SWR bridge or see if the final transistor is really within its allowed dissipation range.

We should be very careful of the phrase "for anyone listening" because addressing the general public is exactly what, in most situations, we're not allowed to do, and I'm hearing that phrase too often. It's a nice sentiment to hope that everyone listening has a happy holiday, but it's best to leave that for the actual broadcasters. We are not they.

What about reporting a traffic tie-up to no one in particular? Well, that's on shaky regulatory ground too, but there's an easy solution. Just say something like "Is there anyone on frequency interested in a traffic problem on southbound I-15 at 33rd South?" If someone comes back then you can report the situation in a perfectly legal two-way QSO. If no one does, there's no point in going on anyway.

The better we are at sticking to the rules, the more chance we will have to hold onto our frequencies.

Member of the Month

Jeffry Meacham, KG7USR

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Jeffry Meacham, KG7USR. Jeffry works with the Utah National Guard Armory and has been with them for several years. Jeffry is in network management He repairs

equipment such as radios and computers. He is also a single soldier.

This is where Jeffrey learned about amateur radio. One of his coworkers is a ham radio operator, KG7PXH. He had a 160-meter antenna and made a contact with Mexico. Jeffrey was so impressed that he started studying immediately. He used flash cards and crammed for a week. He took practice tests on line. Then he got on the computer and found where the next test session would be. Jeffrey went to Logan because the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club (BARC) was having a test session the very next day. He passed the Technician exam with flying colors. They offered him the General exam but he said he would try later. He is planning on getting his General and Extra classes licenses in the future.

Jeffrey purchased a Bao-Feng handheld radio. One day he was talking on the Antelope island repeater and someone offered to sell him a Bao-Feng mobile radio. He was so excited. He got a Yagi antenna and hooked it up in his car. He enjoys operating while driving. Jeffrey says he has talked to half of UARC. He is a UARC member. Jeffrey and his wife, Hiley, have two children: one boy and one girl. Hiley likes to listen to Jeffrey talk on the radio. Maybe someday she will get her ham radio license.

In 2017 Jeffrey started learning the Morse Code. About ten years ago Jeffrey met a gentleman who was sending Morse Code on a QRP radio and he made a contact with Hawaii. Jeffrey says the radio waves have always fascinated him. He has built a keyer and transmitter and hooked it to a speaker so he could copy code. Jeffrey says that the code is so important because some times that is the only way you can get through when other modes are not usable.

Recently, the Utah Army National Guard sent Jeffrey to the middle east to repair operational equipment. He went to Saudi Arabia and Siberia. He has been gone for almost a year. That is why

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he hasn't been heard on the air lately.

Jeffrey says he would like to go back to school and study to be an electrical engineer. He would also like to be a computer programmer. Jeffrey wants to get more evolved with amateur radio traveling to meet more people and getting more involved with the community. Jeffrey hopes to go to Field Day with UARC. Other hobbies Jeffrey enjoys are fishing and camping with family.

Jeffrey, welcome to the hobby



Jeffrey Mecham, KG7USR