

The *Microvolt*

January 2021



Irving Vermila

▶ 11-year-old



Iris and Lloyd Colvin

- ▶ "If you don't have it, it's rare"
- ▶ Could do cw at 40 wpm, but used 25 wpm to help those that were new or slower
- ▶ Stories from their travels

Prologue

Publication: *The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 632 S. University Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. It is published monthly except August. Subscription is included with club membership at \$20 per year. Single copy price is \$1.50. Periodicals postage paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. Postmaster: send address corrections to *The Microvolt*, c/o Tom Kamlowsky, 4137 Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT, 84124-2711.

Deadline for submissions is the 24th of each month prior to publication. 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 2021 Board

President: Morris Farmer, AD7SR	801 278-4966
Executive VP: Lonnie Oaks, K7LO	801 255-1225
Vice Pres: Bruce Fereday, KF7OZK	801 883-9428
Secretary: Tom Kamlowsky, WA7ZRG	801 505-9134
Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS	801 268-0153
<i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438
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Imm. Past President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Bookseller: Rick Gregory, KG7GOW	801 582-7783
Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	801 904-3587
Field Day Chair: (To be determined)	
License Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Repeater 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>

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The Microvolt

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Latest News

January (on-line) Meeting: *HF Made Easy: Using UARC Remote in a Contest*

For those who have been following the development of UARC's remotely-controlled HF station near Leamington, Utah, it is clear that the station works wonderfully for having rag-chews on single sideband. Even those who cannot erect HF antennas because of landlord, zoning, or HOA rules, it is possible to get on the air using nothing more than Internet access. (The station is available to any UARC members who hold a General class or higher license. See:

<http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/HFRemote.html> for details.)

But what about CW? Can you really operate it successfully by remote control? At the January 14 UARC meeting Max George, NG7M, will show us that the answer is a resounding *yes*. Max has already had good success working a contest on CW via the Leamington station and will show us exactly what it was like. He has video made during the contest and will answer questions on what it takes to do this kind of operation. He probably would also be happy to answer questions about what how to get started learning the code and becoming a CW operator.

UARC members may remember a few years ago when Max joined our Field Day operation and helped us get what was likely our best score of all time. Max, first licensed in 1994, particularly enjoys contesting using QRQ (high-speed) CW. Max also hosts and runs the NC7J DX Cluster at his home QTH in Syracuse, Utah, along with a 24x7 multi-band CW, RTTY, and FT-mode skimmer server

which feeds these spots into the Reverse Beacon Network. These tools make it possible to find out rapidly where all the activity is on the HF bands at a given time.

Those interested in learning more about CW operation may want to check <https://cwops.org/>. The CW-Ops group is proudly “Celebrating 10 Years of Fostering CW.”

Except for July and August, UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M.

Our Cover

Our cover this month shows a few images from the December meeting program given by Ron Wilcox, KF7ZN. Ron took us through several of the noteworthy DXers and their accomplishments going back as far as 1901.

President’s Message

Finally! 2021 is here! Let’s hope that this year will mark the end of the Covid-19 pandemic and sometime this year we will once again be able to go about without our masks on and *not* have to be concerned about maintaining “social distancing.” Hopefully we will be able to get our ham work that requires more than one person done too. I know that I have had to postpone a couple of antenna projects and I'm looking forward to being able to work on them this summer or next fall.

Congratulations to all for having made it safely through 2020 and let's all look forward to a much more enjoyable 2021.

January License Classes

UARC President, Morris Farmer, AD7SR, has announced that, starting on Monday, January 18th, he and Bill Rouleau, AE7UI, will be offering online introductory Technician license classes.

For those interested in upgrading to the General class amateur operators' license, online classes will be on Wednesdays starting January 20th.

Both license courses will run for nine consecutive weeks, be taught online via ZOOM, and will begin promptly at 7:00 P.M. Mountain time. You will be able to join the class session about 15 minutes before class starts. There is no charge for either course.

Pre-registration is required to take either course. Anyone interested should contact Morris at ad7sr@arrl.net. Please include your name, which course you're interested in, your call sign if you have one, and your phone number.

Election Results

UARC's officers were a bit worried about how to conduct the annual election, required at the December meeting by the club Bylaws. It seemed difficult to have a secret ballot on a meeting conducted entirely on line. But it turned out to be easier than it might have been. No additional nominations were made over the slate presented at the November meeting by the Nominating Committee. There being no objections, the Secretary cast a single vote for the group that had been nominated. That made the officers and Board of Directors identical to those of 2020.

As usual, we have a listing of the officers and volunteers with titles on the inside front cover of this publication along with information on how to contact them.

UARC Member of The Year

What follows is excerpts from the letters of nomination for Gordon, K7HFV, as the initial *UARC Member of the year*.

"There are lots of people who could receive the award but I feel that Gordon Smith should receive it. He provides thousands of hours on-the-air talking with and coaching new hams in good operating practices, answering questions on the Sunday night net, as well as assisting in repeater repair and a dozen other things. In a few words, he is "Everybody's Elmer."

"For the first award, he gets my vote."

—Dave Christensen - KD7UM

"It is my honor to nominate Gordon R. Smith, K7HFV, for the UARC Ham of the Year. Gordon has been influential to an untold number of hams spanning multiple generations as a first contact, an Elmer, and a friend. He has been an active ham from Jr. High to the present.

"Gordon's ham participation and accomplishments are too vast to list in their entirety. That said, Gordon joined the UARC Board in 1963 and has more than 50 years in numerous positions on the Board. He currently serves as Editor of *The Microvolt* and has done so multiple times. He also printed *The Microvolt*, served as Vice President as well as President of UARC. Gordon has also been President of the Utah VHF Society.

"He is a long-time member of the repeater committee making untold trips to the repeater sites helping to maintain and advance the radio art with one of the finest, broadest coverage repeaters in the United States. Gordon has supported the Friendship Cruise, the Wasatch

100, and many other worthy events where the amateur service has provided an essential public voluntary non-commercial communication service.

“He is a Field Day fixture who operates well into the night on CW. He has been an advocate for the art of communication by encouraging UARC to be an education-oriented club providing meetings and publications which raise the standard of both amateur radio communications and technology. Additionally, as a VE he has facilitated the testing, documentation, and submission of more new and advancing hams than can possibly be counted.

“While there are many worthy hams, one could hardly find a more dedicated and iconic operator than the Hairy Fat Villan. For these reasons I believe that Gordon R Smith, K7HFV deserves to be the UARC 2020 Ham of the Year.”

—M. Brett Sutherland, N7KG

“As President of UARC I created this award, at least in part, with the idea of recognizing the contributions that Gordon has made, not just to the club, but to the ham community as a whole. Gordon is always one of two people you are directed to when you have either a technical question or a protocol question. Gordon never lets you think that your question is stupid, he always makes you feel comfortable as he manages to answer questions at the level of the person asking the question, a skill I wish I could learn.

“My sincere hope is, now that we’ve selected Gordon as the best of the best for this first award, that our members will nominate other best of the best members that we have in our club.

“I am indeed pleased to acknowledge Gordon as our first UARC Member of The Year award recipient.”

—Morris Farmer AD7SR
President UARC



UVHFS Swap-Meet Canceled

(Many UARC members are also members of the Utah VHF Society, and many more are frequent attendees at the annual Swap-Meet. We think the following will be of interest to many. —Ed)

First, the officers of the Utah VHF Society would like to wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy holiday Season. We do want to express our appreciation to all our members: *Thank You* for your support! We have been in the process of updating all our membership records for the upcoming year. We have been using HamClub Online to track society membership and you can verify your membership data there. If you have never registered with HamClub Online we encourage you to do so as you can verify your membership info there:

<https://www.hamclubonline.com/>. We also have updated and posted a new member expiration list on our Utah VHF Society Web site page: http://utahvhfs.org/UVHFS_Memb_expiry_list_20212.html

If you have any concerns about your membership info please contact Dan Fullerton, KC7RUF, kc7ruf@gmail.com or Mel Parkes, nm7p@msn.com.

The Society Officers have had a number of discussions about how to handle the upcoming Swap Meet for 2021. As much as we would like to hold the swap meet as we normally do we feel it is in everyone's best interest to cancel the event until a later date in 2021 or not have it at all. We know this will be a disappointment to all our members and as best as we can determine, it is the first time since 1969 that we have had to cancel this event. We do not want to completely abandon this event so here is what we would like to do for our members:

1. We will have a drawing for a wonderful collection of door prizes, the drawing will be open

to all members who have paid their dues for 2021 by February 1, 2021. The drawing will be accomplished using a random number generator.

2. We plan to conduct a business meeting open to all members via a conference call where we will conduct our business and announce the prize winners. We will send out notifications concerning this call sometime during January or February, 2021.

3. We will publish our annual booklet and mail it to all members. If you want your name in the booklet we must have your dues payment by 31 January 2021.

Orem Classes for Amateur Radio Licensing

The 2021 Schedule for the Orem Ham Radio Courses follows. Each course is free-of-charge, and will be held only on Zoom. If circumstances eventually allow for an in-person format, we'll update all registered attendees of this and other changes. We'll make the saved presentation available online the morning after each class.

To register, email Noji Ratzlaff at mailto:nojiratz@hotmail.com, and please include your name, your cell number, your town of residence, and your email address (if you're emailing in behalf of another). Our limited account will allow us to handle up to 60 attendees per course, which should accommodate most who want to participate. *No pre-requisites required to attend any course*; in other words, you can register for the Extra course, even if you have no license at all, but need a good sleeping aid, for example.

Technician : Four Tuesdays: Jan 19, Jan 26, Feb 2, Feb 9 : 6:30 to 8:30 PM MST

General : Four Tuesdays: Mar 23, Mar 30, Apr 6, Apr 13 : 6:30 to 8:30 PM MDT

Technician : Four Tuesdays: May 18, May 25, Jun 1, Jun 8 : 6:30 to 8:30 PM MDT

Extra : Five Tuesdays: Jul 13, Jul 20, Jul 27, Aug 3, Aug 10 : 6:30 to 9:30 PM MDT

Technician : Four Tuesdays: Sep 21, Sep 28, Oct 5, Oct 12 : 6:30 to 8:30 PM MDT

These are homework courses; you'll be expected to complete an assignment (and email me the results) by the start of every class period, even the first one. Then again, these courses will be casual and fun for those who remain awake.

Please contact Noji with any questions (registration, course materials, missed classes, what-ifs, etc.) about the courses.

FCC Applications to Require E-Mail Addresses

—From ARRL Bulletin 38, December 2, 2020

Amateur radio licensees and candidates will have to provide the FCC with an email address on applications, effective sometime in mid-2021.

If no email address is included, the FCC may dismiss the application as defective.

The FCC is fully transitioning to electronic correspondence and will no longer print or provide wireless licensees with hard-copy authorizations or registrations by mail.

A Report and Order (R&O) on “Completing the Transition to Electronic Filing, Licenses and Authorizations, and Correspondence in the

Wireless Radio Services” in WT Docket 19-212 was adopted on September 16. The new rules will go into effect six months after publication in the Federal Register, which hasn't happened yet, but the FCC is already strongly encouraging applicants to provide an email address.

When an email address is provided, licensees will receive an official electronic copy of their licenses when the application is granted.

The Report and Order can be found in PDF format online at:

<https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-electronic-licensing-report-and-order>.

Under Section 97.21 of the new rules, a person holding a valid amateur station license “must apply to the FCC for a modification of the license grant as necessary to show the correct mailing and email address, licensee name, club name, license trustee name, or license custodian name.” For a club or military recreation station license, the application must be presented in document form to a club station call sign administrator who must submit the information to the FCC in an electronic batch file.

Under new Section 97.23, each license will have to show the grantee’s correct name, mailing address, and email address. “The email address must be an address where the grantee can receive electronic correspondence,” the amended rule will state. “Revocation of the station license or suspension of the operator license may result when correspondence from the FCC is returned as undeliverable because the grantee failed to provide the correct email address.”

Member of the Month

Brent Ovard, KJ7FNR

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Brent Ovard, KJ7FNR. Brent has been in amateur radio for 35 years. He got interested in amateur radio when he started working

for L-3 Communications where one of his co-workers influenced him to get his amateur radio

license. Brent went ahead and passed the Technician test, receiving his license in the early 70's.

Last summer a church coordinator contacted Brent and said:

"I heard you have your ham radio license and we need your help in emergency communications."

Brent said he would be glad to help. Unfortunately, Brent had let his license expire and had to retake the Technician test. This wasn't a problem; after all, Brent is an electrical engineer. Brent passed both the Technician and General class license exams in the same day. He now participates in an emergency communications net every Sunday night on 145.61 MHz simplex in south Salt Lake. They learn how to prepare for emergencies.

On March 18 2020 they had a real emergency: the earthquake with the epicenter center near Magna. This helped them work on their emergency communications skills.

He now participates in an emergency communications net every Sunday night on 145.61 MHz simplex in south Salt Lake. They learn how to prepare for emergencies.

Brent has an Icom 5100A for the two-meter and 70-centimeter bands using an 8-ft dipole antenna at his home. He uses the same radio for mobile use in his truck. He also has an Icom 7300 using an inverted V antenna for HF and 50-MHz operation.

Brent was a microwave and RF engineer for L-3 Communications. UARC Secretary, Tom Kamlowky, WA7ZRG, also worked for L-3 Communications. Brent didn't meet Tom until 10 years after he started work as they were in separate divisions. Tom worked in digital communications and Brent was in the RF group. When they finally did meet they became close friends.

After 25 years, Brent was switched from Engineering to Program Management. Brent worked his final 12 years as a Program Manager. Brent and Tom were able to work together on various programs.

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L-3 Communications is the primary provider for military data links for platforms such as the U2 spy planes, Air Force fighter aircraft, and various drone platforms such as the Predator.

Brent retired three years ago. Brent and his wife, Wendy, have two children: a girl and a boy. They are all grown now. Their son is a geologist and their daughter is a paralegal.

The thing Brent likes best about amateur radio is the technology. There are so many different things you can do with amateur radio. Brent wants to learn about operation of the DSTAR in his ICOM radios.

Brent is a member of UARC and says he likes to go to the meetings. He says he hopes we can meet again in person soon. Brent would also like to attend Field Day at Payson Lakes. He wanted to go last year but something came up. He wants to know how it all works.

Brent we wish you the best in all of your endeavors.

