

The *Microvolt*

July 2021



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
Asst. <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Rick Asper, AC7RA	801 865-1693
Program Chairperson: Robert Jelf, KG7OHV	385 252-7900
Program Chairperson: Mary Jelf, KG7QNG	385 347-7900
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

Contents

Latest News.....	3
UARC Field Day 2021.....	5
Member of the Month.....	7

IRLP Information

For information on using the club's IRLP node on the 146.76 repeater, check <http://www.utaharc.org/irlp>. If you are a member, check with the Secretary for the prefix code. Please do not give this out to nonmembers of UARC.

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 64, Issue 6, June, 2021

Latest News

September Meeting: Skywarn

Our September meeting will be about Skywarn, a program in which the National Weather Service trains volunteers to provide up-to-date weather information, helping the agency to make better and finer predictions. Amateur radio operators are in a particularly good position to be able to transmit information in a timely manner regardless of remoteness or failure of telephone service.

Presenting the program will be Mickey Applebaum, KE7NZA. Mickey has been involved in a number of different public service activities and maintains the "Utah Sag" web site which provides a place where those interested can learn about events and pick ones for which they would like to volunteer.

The meeting will be on Thursday, September 13, at 7:30 P.M. At this writing we are not sure if the meeting will be in person or again on YouTube. It will depend on the recommendations at that time and the availability of a room at the University of Utah. Check the website:

<https://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meeting.html>,
nets, and the September issue of *The Microvolt*.

National Silent Key Archive

Dave Sanders, K7RGY, has recently brought our attention to a "National Silent Key Archive," a web site specifically dedicated to recording material honoring amateur radio operators that have passed away. It can be accessed at :

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

This site allows anyone to enter material about a deceased radio amateur, including descriptions of what the person meant to the amateur community and photos and other images.

The site provides a URL unique to each person. That URL can be passed on through email, publications, and other web sites.

Dave has added some folks from Utah that he knew, and they can serve as an example.

William Quist, KE7HEG, now has an entry at:
<http://www.silentkeyhq.com/main.php?p=bin/NSKALookup.php&dlnk=&call=KE7HEG&uid=0771626525896541>.

Others may wish to take advantage of this site. See: <http://www.silentkeyhq.com/>.

Our Cover

Our cover this month is divided into two pieces. The upper one shows Clint Turner, KA7OEI, the master of ceremonies for our last several on-line UARC meetings, in front of a photo of work going on at Leamington, Utah, the site of the UARC remotely controllable HF station. It shows the log-periodic beam antenna that will become available, in the not too distant future, to everyone operating the station. It will provide gain on the bands from 20 through 10 meters and will be rotatable by remote control.

In the lower portion of the cover is a scene from UARC Field Day in 2018.

New License Applicants Must Have FRN

FCC rules have changed so that before a prospective new ham can take a test for a license, he must have obtained an FCC Registration Number (FRN) and put it on his application form. In the past, an applicant was allowed to just enter his Social Security number on the application. As it was processed, an FRN would be automatically assigned.

In the process of getting an FRN, an applicant must supply a password. It is wise to keep the password in a safe place where it can be found in ten years when time for license renewal comes up. The password allows any licensee to apply on line for renewal, address change, or request for a “vanity” callsign. It can also be used to get a file that can be used to print an “official” copy of the amateur’s license.

Another recent change is a requirement that a license applicant must supply an email address. ARRL suggests that those who do not have an email account should supply an address of a friend or relative. The Commission plans to use email exclusively if the licensee needs to be contacted, for any reason, such as to resolve an interference complaint.

In response to a request from ARRL, the FCC has guaranteed that email addresses will not be made public. Postal mail addresses will continue to be available to the public.

Remote Station to Get Beam

UARC’s remotely-controlled HF station near the town of Leamington is expected soon to get a log-periodic rotatable antenna that can be used on the 10, 12, 15 17, and 20-meter bands. The station is available to any UARC members with at least a General class license. Check the “HF Remotes”

section of the web site for updates and instructions for use.

Message from Mel

Our retiring ARRL Section Manager, Mel Parkes, NM7P, sends to following message to ARRL members and Utah Hams in general

I want to express my gratitude and appreciation for the support and many fond memories I have enjoyed over the past 22 years serving as your ARRL Section Manager. I will miss the opportunity to meet and support your clubs and group activities, but I want you to know I plan to remain very active in amateur radio and will see many of you as I participate in many of my favorite events and activities.

This weekend [Field Day weekend] will be my last official activity and it is very fitting that I will get out and visit a few of your clubs at your Field Day sites. This Field Day will be special in many ways. It has been two years since we were able to enjoy the comradery of getting together to have an enjoyable time in the field with our fellow hams at one of the biggest ARRL events of the year. Enjoy the Field Day experience.

I want to encourage all of you to support Pat Malan, N7PAT, as your new Section Manager. He has desired to serve in in this position for many years and now he will have the opportunity to serve as your Section Manager. I wish him well in his endeavors and hope he will enjoy as much success as I have over the years.

Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about amateur radio in general, I am always happy to provide guidance and advice, but now I want all of you to remember Pat is your SM. Please invite him to your club meetings and activities and learn about the new ideas he will bring to the section. Don't hesitate to call him and seek his advice and guidance on any ARRL issues or concerns you may have.

UARC Field Day 2021

By Clint Turner, KA7OEI

With Chuck (club treasurer, WA7JOS) and a few others having staked a claim earlier in the week, Brett (N7KG) and I decided to head up early Thursday afternoon — but as usual, life conspired against us: Brett had a few errands to run before being able to point his vehicle south and at my house, it was raining — not an ideal situation when one is planning to carry a lot of the club's gear in an open trailer. It wasn't until around rush hour that the weather cleared and our tasks done that we were finally able to get away.

Despite slightly heavy traffic, the drive through Utah County was uneventful and, with me in the lead, I arrived in Payson nearly an hour before Brett, giving me time to do some food shopping for the days ahead. After meeting Brett and having a nice dinner at a local Mexican restaurant, we headed up-canyon, stopping partway up to get the COW — the club's large trailer with the 80-foot tower. Without incident, we were able to hitch it up and we started our way up the canyon, but since I was pulling a smaller trailer with a lot of the gear, I wasn't able to tow the club's *other* trailer — the one with the generator and the shorter tower known as the “Calf.”

As if on cue, the heavens opened up on us as we started up the canyon, nicely cooling the air, but we expected — and were greeted by — lots of mud on the site when we arrived. Throwing a tarp over the trailer, we positioned the COW close to its usual position, near a post, and turned our attention to setting up Brett's large, round tent, into which we proceeded to track half of the mud in the meadow.

The next morning was cool and clear and we turned our attention to fetching the Calf. Grabbing from it the now-dead battery, we wandered back down to Payson and picked one up at WalMart — along with new, modern "7 round"

plug for the COW's lights to replace the obsolete "6 round" that had been on there — and headed back up. Installing the battery, we were pleased that the generator — which was still full of fuel from the last time it had been used — started easily. Hitching the trailer to Brett's truck, we hauled it to the Field Day site, parked it in its usual location — directly south of the COW — and gradually started setting things up.

That evening we leisurely assembled the beam antennas, the Cushcraft A4 for the COW and the A3 for the calf, tested them while pointing straight up to make sure that they were more or less tuned properly, and proceeded to tilt them up — manually, in the case of the Calf, but with the mechanized system on the COW. Because of the still-threatening weather we decided to put off raising either antenna to full height until the next day.

I awoke around six the next morning and, taking advantage of the cool weather, set up the large “Eskimo” tent, borrowed from Lonnie, near the COW for the CW station and one of the Springbar clones near-ish the Calf for the “other” station, lugging tables, power cords, heaters, radio gear and computers to their respective locations. With the conditional relaxation of the COVID restrictions, we were wondering what the turn-out would be and had been talking about whether we should run a two-station (class 2A) or three-station (3A) Field Day — with a slight expectation of the former — but not planning to make a hard decision until the event actually started at local noon.

We proceeded with the set-up, soon realizing that while I had grabbed the rest of the club's numbered equipment boxes, that I had not grabbed the antenna tuners. Because our “normal” wire antennas are 102-foot dipoles fed with ladder line,

we had no means of getting on any of the bands other than those covered by the beams — namely 20, 15 and 10 meters. In response to this, Brett and Tom (?) folded back the ends of one of the 102-foot dipoles and attached a coax feed and after several attempts managed to get something to resonate “close enough” to 40 meters. Anticipating that we *would* be able to get the tuners on site by the evening, we hoisted aloft — on the same rope as the 40 meter dipole — one of the 102-foot dipoles for eventual use on 80 and/or 40 by the CW station.

Until about an hour before the start of Field Day, we were wondering where we would get our operators, but just before Field Day started, several cars — and potential operators — arrived. I'd talked to our crack CW operators — Max, NG7M, and Curt, K8AI, before things started about being “2A or 3A” but with the sudden increase in activity, I'd not been able to discuss this further — but it was clear, by noon, that we would be able to operate “3A.” Fortunately, Max, who had already racked up a bunch of contacts, was signing 3A — and 3A it was!

With the arrival of Rian, KF7QGY, who was ready to go, we set up the second Eskimo tent while he unpacked his very elaborate “go” box and we soon had him on the air on 40-meter phone.

Operation at all three stations continued with little interruption until around 6 PM when the dinner bell sounded and a crowd gathered around the pop-up shelter next to which Bruce, KF7OZK, had set up his grill from which burgers, brats, chips and macaroni and potato salad were served. Wishing to maintain momentum — and to keep the frequency — the CW station remained operational, with the food order and then dinner taken to the operators so that they could continue on a roll.

As darkness gathered, 20 meters remained usable on CW, but started to become a bit thin on SSB,

and the urgency to get the tuners on site increased. Fortunately, we were able to get in touch with Bruce Boyes, KJ7OXB, who kindly made a trip down to the Field Day site to deliver the tuners, allowing us to make full use of the wire antennas. Meanwhile, Rian had deployed a set of three portable masts to hold aloft a shortened 80-meter antenna and was attempting to work SSB and digital on that band when the CW station shifted to 40 meters.

As Saturday turned to Sunday, the other two stations went silent — 20 meters having finally gone dead and the operators of the other stations having turned in — and the CW stations switched to a somewhat noisy 80 meters. Through the crashes of summer static, stations were worked until, around 1:30 AM, Max decided to turn in for the night, at which point I QSYed to 80 meters and proceeded to work 99 stations before the band became devoid of Field Day stations, just as the sun was rising a bit after 6 AM, at which point I crawled into a sleeping bag and went QRT for a few hours.

Arising again at about 10 AM, I found all three stations were again active, and I'd learned that both of the 20-meter stations had been operating since a bit before 7 AM, both of them doing very well in the contact count. When the dust settled at noon — the end of the 24-hour Field Day period — the preliminary contact count was around 1700, with well over 1000 of these having been CW, the majority of the remainder being SSB with a smattering of digital.

As with the set-up, the tear-down was done in a leisurely manner, interrupted for a bit more than an hour with Bruce, KF7OZK, firing up his grill again for a lunch of (would you believe) burgers, brats, chips and salads. Methodically putting things away in their correct order, we zip-tied the two beams together, rolled up the large power cable, carefully coiled into the boot of the COW, the guy lines and extension cords, and loaded the many equipment boxes, tables, and chairs into

their respective vehicles and trailers. Gradually, the crowd thinned, leaving only a few of the stalwarts on site, planning to leave the next morning.

Bidding goodbye, Brett and I headed down-canyon, each towing a trailer. Not having been present when the COW was hauled down the canyon, I was only mildly surprised when I started smelling hot brakes during the steepest part of the descent, about halfway down the canyon. Pulling over briefly, we noticed that the brakes on both sides were very hot — with those on the passenger side smoking: This was not entirely unexpected as we figured that this was likely to happen on a trailer equipped with surge brakes, doing down a very steep hill. We made it back to the storage place for the COW without incident, but with the wheels on the front axle still hot enough that we refrained from installing the wheel covers.

What Did We Learn?

With the 2021 Field Day now behind us, there are a few things to remember for next time:

- It would be a very good idea to attach a checklist to the door at the storage shed with a line item for each box and piece of gear to be taken — along with a place for the person in charge of transporting that item to initial both the departure and return of it. This would, hopefully, prevent the accidental omission of gear during future Field Days.

- We should probably thin out the ropes. Many of these ropes are very old and as ropes do, they come in two sizes: Too short, or way too long. We should probably standardize on paracord — making sure, of course, that it won't be likely to jam the pulleys.
- The strap that goes across the top of the tower on the COW needs to be replaced as 20+ years in the sun and weather has not been kind to it.
- We need to replace the short length of pipe used as a mast that goes between the rotator and the A3 on the Calf. The flimsy piece of aluminum tubing that we have been using has certainly seen better days!

How Did We DO?

Altogether we made 1078 CW QSO's during the 24-hour period, 102 digital QSO's, and 522 phone. After applying the 2X multiplier to the CW and digital counts, we total 2882. Our power level gave us a 2X multiplier, so that boosted it to 5764 QSO points. Various bonus points added up to 1150 giving us a total claimed score of 6914 points.

At this writing there have been 29 entries from Utah received by ARRL, but only six class A (club or group portable). We will find out how we compared to others when the final tally comes out from ARRL Headquarters at about the time the December issue of QST is making its way around.

-Editor

Member of the Month

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring William Blycker, W7YMG. William's father was very active in amateur radio for many years. William's mother

died in January of 2004. She had a liver failure. Williams Father died in July 2005 from cancer.

William works for seismograph stations. William does data entry and his coworker, John, is the engineer. It was KBØLQJ, his coworker, John Rusho, who talked William into getting his amateur radio license. William received his Technician license in 2009. He obtained his General license in 2012 and is now working on getting his Extra class license. William also got his daughter's boy friend into amateur radio. William has his father's call sign, W7YMG. William's coworker, John, has his Extra class license and they both are involved in emergency communications.

John started something called the U-Ham group. They prepare for emergency communication using the University of Utah station.

William said his favorite thing about amateur radio is being able to reach out to people all over the world. William is a member of Free Masons and would like to get them into amateur radio. I told William that in 2007 Scot and Mindy and I were participating with a free mason group in amateur radio. They had quite a set up.

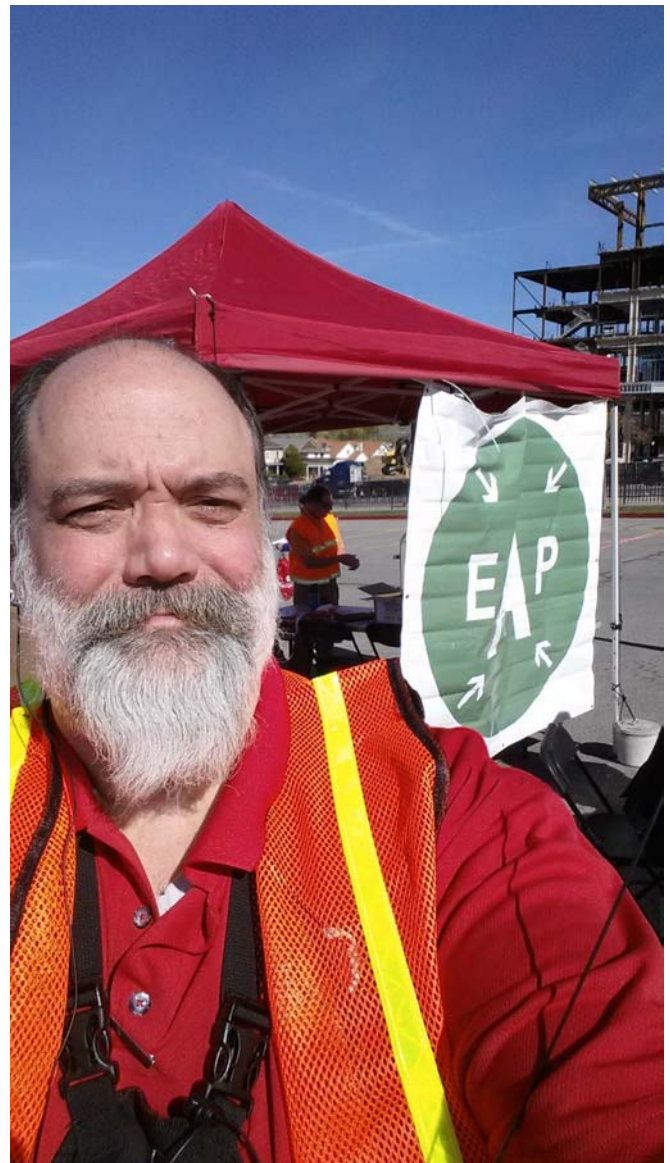
William is working on his antennas. He already has his VHF and UHF antennas up and running. William said he does more listening than talking. He listens to Gordon, K7HFV, every morning on his way to work. William decided to join UARC and says he hopes to go to Field Day. This year, however, William is busy working with the Free Mason youth.

William enjoys helping with the parades. He helped this year with the fourth of July parade and for three years has worked with the Salt Lake City Marathon.

William has lots of hobbies. He enjoys working with computers and wood working. He also likes camping, fishing, and listening to our club meetings on Youtube.

William, I wish you the best in all your endeavors.

The Microvolt (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$20.00 per year or \$1.50 per issue by the Utah Amateur Radio Club, 632 S. University St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The Microvolt*, c/o Tom Kamlowsky, 4137 S Clover Lane, Salt Lake City, UT 84124-2711



William Blyker, W7MG