

The *Microvolt*

September 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

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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>. If you are a UARC member, the Secretary can give you the prefix code.

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

September (Online) Meeting: Skywarn

Our September meeting will be about Skywarn, a program in which the National Weather Service trains volunteer “spotters” to provide up-to-date weather information over a wide range of locations, 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. (See <https://utahsag.org/>.)

The meeting will be on Thursday, September 9, and will, again, be an on-line meeting. It can be accessed (along with several past meeting programs) by going to: <https://www.youtube.com/c/UtahAmateurRadioClub> and looking for the video marked “live.”

You can start watching soon after 7 P.M. to make sure you have found the right place. The meeting will start at 7:30.

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 the location of the club’s remote-controlled HF station. The photo gives an idea of just how remote the location is! It is in a lightly-traveled part of Juab county with the nearest town being Leamington (pronounced with a short “e”).

The club has obtained a log-periodic antenna and rotator that should enhance the effectiveness of the station on the bands from 20 through 10 meters. Given good weather and enough manpower on a weekend, it should be in service soon.

A recent addition to the Juab County site is a remotely readable weather station. This will help get an idea of common wind behavior at the site.

A remote station can be particularly useful for those hams who cannot put up good antennas because of rules set forth by landlords or HOA’s. It is open for use by any UARC members with an appropriate class of license. For more information go to:

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

Homebrew Night Coming Soon

It may seem hard to believe, but it is almost time for UARC’s annual Homebrew Night. The meeting on Thursday, October 14, will be devoted to hams who have been building items for their stations, and would like to show them to the group. Anything that was built by the presenter and is useful in amateur radio would be an appropriate item to show to the group. Typical

items include transmitters, receivers, QRP transceivers, power supplies, antenna tuners, test instruments, SWR bridges, microphone preamps, electronic keyers, and gear to get on frequencies that are above or below those for which there are commercial transceivers.

The Board of Directors has not yet decided if the October meeting will be on-line or in person on the University of Utah campus. If it turns out to be in person and the item you would like to show is too large or heavy to move or otherwise constrained to the hamshack; photos, schematics, and/or sound recordings can be used to give everyone an idea of what it is and how it works.

Help spread the word and get ready for October 14!

FCC Application Fee Delayed

(From ARRL Bulletin ARLB021)

The schedule of FCC amateur radio application fees likely will not go into effect before 2022. FCC staff confirmed during a recent virtual meeting with Volunteer Examiner Coordinators (VECs) that the agency is still working on the necessary changes to the Universal Licensing System (ULS) software and other processes and procedures that must be in place before it starts collecting fees from amateur applicants. Earlier this year, the FCC said it would not start collecting fees from amateur applicants before this Summer. The new estimate is that the fees won't go into effect until early next year.

Once it's effective, the \$35 application fee will apply to new, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application. Administrative update applications, such as those to change a licensee's name, mailing, or email address, will be exempt from fees. ARRL

VEC manager Maria Somma, AB1FM, said Volunteer Examiner (VE) teams will not face the burden of collecting the \$35 fee.

“Once the FCC application fee takes effect, new and upgrade applicants will pay the exam session fee to the VE team as usual, but they'll pay the \$35 application fee directly to the FCC using the FCC Pay Fees system,” she explained. When the FCC receives the examination information from the VEC, it will email a link with payment instructions to each successful candidate who then will have 10 days from the date of the email to pay.

The FCC Pay Fees system can be accessed at, https://apps2.fcc.gov/Batch_Filer/login.cfm.

After the fee is paid and the FCC has processed an application, examinees will receive a second email from the FCC with a link to their official license. The link will be good for 30 days. Licensees also will be able to view, download, and print official license copies by logging into their FCC ULS account. The FCC no longer provides printed licenses.

Licensees can log into the ULS with their 10-digit FRN (FCC Registration Number) and password at any time to view and manage their license and application, print their license, and update anything in their FCC license record, including adding an email address.

FEE SCHEDULE:

For Individuals:

\$35 Fee: New, modification (upgrade and sequential call sign change), renewal, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application.

No Fee: Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, or license cancellation.

Amateur Radio Clubs:

\$35 Fee: New, renewal, trustee change, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application.

No Fee: Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, or license cancellation.

Upcoming Licensing Tests

Opportunities to visit volunteer examiners and test for the various classes of amateur radio license

City	Date	Day of Week	Contact Person	Call	Phone	To Sign Up Go To:
Taylorsville	08-28-21	Sat	Garth Wiscombe	W7PS	(801) 558-5936	https://hamstudy.org/sessions/W7PS/all
Clearfield	09-01-21	Wed	Joe Giraudo	N7JEH	(775) 777-4798	https://hamstudy.org/sessions/N7JEH/all
Saint George	09-15-21	Wed	Gary Zabriskie	N7ARE		N7ARE@arrl.net
Provo	09-15-21	Wed	Steve Whitehead	NV7V	(801) 465-3983	nv7vham@gmail.com
Provo	09-18-21	Sat	Steve Whitehead	NV7V	(801) 465-3983	nv7vham@gmail.com

Contact the contact person before a test session to verify time and location of a session, and whether space is still available for new applicants.

President's Notes

By Morris Farmer, AD7SR, UARC President

What a year 2020 was and WOW, this year is showing signs of going from good to BAD. The Corona virus is unfortunately still with us and the only way our medical people know to defeat it is for all of us to get vaccinated. That said, those that have been fully vaccinated can almost go back to normal living although we're being asked to wear masks indoors until we can get the Delta variant under control. For everyone else, it's still masks and social distancing.

The good news is that, unless the University changes its mind in the next several weeks, we plan on starting to hold in-person meetings in October. That's just in time for the Homebrew Night, the most popular program every year. So, keep tuned by reading *The Microvolt*, checking the UARC web site, checking our Facebook page, and

listening to the UARC net on Sunday evenings at 9 PM for the latest news. Speaking of meeting topics, here is what's planned for the rest of the year:

September: Mickey Applebaum KE7NZA — *Skywarn:* What is required in terms of training, etc.

October: *Homebrew night* — bring what you've been working on, ham-related, to the meeting.

November: Larry Labayen — *Lightning Protection.* (Larry is a senior applications engineer for VFC Lyncole Lightning Protection.) Also soliciting candidates for club-elected officers for 2022.

December: Program TBD, Elections for club officers.

Also, in December we hope to be announcing our second annual *Member of the Year*. Last year Gordon Smith, K7HFV, was recognized for his many contributions to ham radio. To that end, please submit a nomination for a UARC member that you believe represents the best of ham radio. You don't have to be fancy or elaborate, just outline why you think your nominee deserves to be recognized and we'll take it from there.

Were you a ham during all or part of the years between 1954 and 1964? If so, I'd like to hear from you. Those years were the "best" solar cycle in recorded history (which goes back to 1749). I'm trying to put together a presentation based on the memories of those that were active hams during that time period. If you were a ham then, and would be willing to talk about it, please email me at ad7sr@arrl.net.

Let's wrap up the year by being safe and active hams.

73,

Morris

UARC Field Day Results

Tally of Points					
Source	Mode	Contacts	Pwr Mult	Mode Mult	Points
Contacts	CW	1078	X2	X2	4312
	Digital	102	X2	X2	408
	SSB	522	X2	X1	1044
(Contact Total = 1782)					—
Bonus Points	100% Emergency Power				300
	Public Information Table				100
	Formal Message to SM				100
	Copied W1AW Field Day message				100
	QSOs completed using natural power				100
	Site visit by served agency				100
	Educational activity				100
	Safety Officer appointed				100
	Announced on social media				100
Entry submitted via web				50	
Grand Total					6914

This year our ever reliable treasurer, Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS, took on the job of going through our logs from our June Field Day effort and coming up with with a nicely organized report to send to ARRL. The calculations are shown to the left. The result was that we had one of the best scores, this year, that the club has seen in a number of years. A couple of very good CW operators are responsible, in large part, for our good score for this year. The 1078 CW contacts provided the bulk of our 1782 contact total. Thanks very much to Max George, NG7M; and Curt Benjamin, K8AI.

The importance of CW is interesting. New digital modes let computers do a lot of the work for us and can, theoretically, execute QSOs quite rapidly with almost no errors, and do it with a lot weaker signals than we can hear. But CW was still the winning mode. Were there that many fewer stations on the air than CW stations? Is it harder to separate pileups without help from the human ear?

For whatever reason, it appears that CW is still a very useful mode.

Group Forming to Learn About Winlink

By Mike McAinsh, KI7MTI

Winlink, short for “Winlink Global Radio Email”®, defines a network of ham radio enthusiasts, who aspire to provide a radio email service wherever there is a need for reliable messaging during an emergency situation. It includes considerable flexibility in bands and modes.

In March of 2020, Rian McKee, KF7QGY, gave an informative introduction to Winlink at a meeting of the Salt Lake Crossroads Amateur Radio Club. There was a lot of information packed into the hour or so of Rian’s presentation, but the onslaught of the Covid-19 pandemic prevented follow-up workshops from being scheduled.

Now Salt Lake Crossroads will be holding workshops of six or seven people at a time, where we can sit around a large conference table, socially distanced, and get help with setting up our own radios, computers, sound cards, and TNCs in order to utilize this technology. The first meetings will be held at Make Salt Lake, but later meetings could be held wherever there is an interest. If you are interested, send email to ki7mti@arrl.net. I will confirm receipt of your email upon receipt of your email, and send information about the workshop[s] when they are scheduled.

More information about Winlink is available at: <https://www.winlink.org/>.

Member of the Month

Cindi Vega, KJ7ZLJ

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Cindi Vega, KJ7ZLJ. Cindi received her first amateur radio license when attending Weber State College. Cindi and her friends thought amateur radio would be a fun hobby to have and studied together. Bill Mulett, a gentleman from Brigham City, AB7MO, helped Cindi learn what she needed to know to pass the test for her Technician license. Bill was an asset to the entire blind community and Cindi appreciated him greatly. The whole group passed their tests. Having a license was exciting and they enjoyed talking on the repeaters. Cindi operated on the Ogden repeater, the 146.62 repeater in Salt Lake, and the 146.76 repeater. She enjoyed talking to her friend Tamie who lived in Provo.

Cindi had an old Yaesu radio and a flexible dipole antenna. She took off the window screen in her college dorm room and put the antenna out the

window. When done, she rolled it back and put the screen back in place.

Cindi loved the autopatch on the 146.76 repeater. When she would ride the bus to Salt Lake City to visit her mother, she would call her mother when she was almost there. Cindi took her ham radio to a funeral and got her uncle interested in the hobby. She hopes her uncle will get interested in the hobby.

At Weber State College Cindi worked on family studies with an emphasis on services for the visually impaired. When Cindi started working, amateur radio got put on the back burner. She even let her license lapse because she was so busy learning her new job. Cindi started working at the Center for the Visually Impaired in August of withaiig. She still works there. She teaches

visually impaired how to use screen readers and computers. She also works with special software.

Just recently Cindi became interested in amateur radio again. She shares a house with Missie, KC7FMW. Cindi enjoyed listening to Missie talking on the amateur bands and it brought back so many wonderful memories from when she was in amateur radio so many years earlier. Cindi obtained her Technician license in June of this year after taking her test at Eagle Mountain.

The Utah Valley Radio Club travels around Utah Valley to administer the amateur radio test. This gives individuals who want to get their amateur radio licenses an opportunity to take the test close to where they live. This group also helped Cindi get her amateur radio license. She really appreciated their help.

Cindi would like to thank Mike, KI7MTI, for helping her study. Cindi is a member of and Salt Lake Crossroads Amateur Radio Club. Right away Cindi became net control for a net on the K7XRD repeater on 448.525 MHz. Cindi and Missie take

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turns being net control on that net. Cindi also participated in a public service event. She announced on the K7XRD repeater what was going on at the parade. Cindy did such a wonderful job that they want her back next year.

Cindi has a Bao Feng bf-fhp amateur transceiver. Cindi also would like to help in emergency communications. She is a member of UARC and enjoys knitting, reading, and camping with family and friends.

Cindi, welcome back to amateur radio.



Cindi Vega, KJ7ZLJ