



Ray, N7TEI, operates at 2007 Field Day.  
Field Day 2008 is coming on June 28 and 29.



Volume 51, Issue 2, February 2008

Periodicals Postage

The  
**Microvolt**

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UARC

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1933 Woodside Drive

Holladay, UT 84124-1632

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The Microvolt (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$17.00 per year or \$1.50 per issue by the Utah Amateur Radio Club, 3666 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4848. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to The Microvolt, c/o Dick Keddington, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1632.

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's Warnock Engineering Building in room 1230, The "Duke Classroom."

Membership: Club membership is open to anyone interested in amateur radio; a current license is not required. Dues are \$17 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 \$17 may obtain a membership without a Microvolt subscription for \$9. Send dues to the Club Secretary: Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1632. 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 for Provo which are currently disabled due to abuse and for Salt Lake which is in need of reworking to be compatible with IRLP.

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: Tony Naef, 4585 Sunstone Rd. #327, Taylorsville, UT 84123. 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, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT, 84124-1632.

UARC 2008 Board

Table listing UARC 2008 Board members and their contact information, including President John Brewer, Executive VP Andrew Madsen, and various other roles.

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Table listing committee chairpersons and members, including "Book Lady" Fred Desmet, Historian Ron Speirs, and various engineering roles.

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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://www.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html

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# The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Volume 51, Issue 2, February 2008

## Field Day: June 28-29

Be sure to mark June 28 and 29 on your calendar! These are the dates of the annual ARRL contest called Field Day, and UARC will be entering with at least two stations from our traditional 8000-foot site near Payson Lakes.

Field Day is a contest where portable and mobile stations try to work as many stations as possible, all over the U.S. and Canada, in a 24-hour period. It's a chance to see HF setup and operation for those who have never experienced it. It's also a chance for a great family campout. By the end of June the valley is usually hot enough that some time among the mountain aspen and evergreens is a pleasant relief.

For full contest rules, see <http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/fd.html> on the ARRL web site.

Some of our members will be arriving on the site as early as Thursday, June 26, and having an extended camping trip. Equipment setup cannot begin until noon on Friday. Operating begins at noon on Saturday and runs continuously through noon on Sunday. Feel free to come for whatever period you can, even if it's from 1 to 4 A.M., and leave when you must.

We will try to work as many stations as possible using single-sideband and CW and possibly spend some time on digital modes. CW operators are treated particularly nicely because CW contacts count for twice as many points as phone contacts.

Saturday night usually features a potluck dinner. The club will provide a main dish and everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish or desert to share.

### Getting to the Site

Starting from the Salt Lake Valley, here's how to get to our Field Day site:

1. Go south on I-15 past Provo, Springville, and Spanish Fork.
2. Take the first Payson exit, believed to be exit 250.
3. At the end of the exit ramp, turn left (south — which may feel more like east) toward Payson.
4. Turn left on 100 North. By this time you may see brown signs for the “Mt. Nebo Scenic Loop.” These also indicate you're on the right track.
5. Turn right on 600 East, also known as Peteetneet Blvd. This intersection is at the top of a hill by a picturesque old school.
6. Follow this road into the mouth of Payson Canyon.
7. About 11.2 miles from the canyon mouth, look for the Payson Lakes Day-use Area on the right. Do not turn.
8. After another half-mile look for the Payson Lakes Campground entrance on the right. Do not turn.
9. After about another 6/10 of a mile, watch for a turnoff on the right for the Guard Station. Do not turn right, here, but instead, turn left onto an unsigned dirt road. Within a few hundred yards you

should come to a large clearing. You have arrived.

## Help Still Needed

Andrew Madsen, AC7CF, is acting as our Field Day Chairman this year. There are a number of jobs for which volunteers are still needed. If you can help with any of the following, get in touch with Andrew at <mailto:armadsen@gmail.com>.

- Bring operating tent(s).
- Come up on Friday morning to help with antenna setup.

- Tow Porta-Johns to the site.
- Tow club's small trailer to the site.
- Bring extension cords.
- Bring tables.
- Bring chairs.
- Bring lights.
- Bring a satellite station.
- Send news releases to the media.

## Member of the Month

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Arlene Johnson, KD7IZC. She is the wife of Chuck, WA7JOS, who is the treasurer for UARC. Chuck really wanted Arlene to get her license. But what really encouraged Arlene to get her license was two of her sons, Theron, KD7IDG, and Kevin, KD7MHA, who have their ham licenses. She wanted to be able to communicate with them. Arlene has been in amateur radio for 8 years. She obtained her Technician license in the year 2000. On February 5, 2003 Arlene received her general license.

Arlene has 7 children: three girls, four boys and eight grand children. Arlene enjoys hand stitching and cooking. Arlene volunteers at the schools and helps out with the election judging.

Arlene's favorite thing about amateur radio is teaching classes. In fact, she is currently involved

in teaching a special class for individuals who work for emergency agencies. She is a VE and helps out at the testing sessions. She is also a member of UARC.

Arlene had an experience that shows just how important ham radio really is. She was at the Cottonwood hospital in the elevator with another lady when the power went out. This lady was very frightened. She was concerned about her husband trying to take the stairs and getting hurt. Fortunately Arlene had her handheld ham radio with her. She got on the 146.62 repeater and started talking to some ham radio operators. Arlene told the ham radio operators what was happening. This immediately calmed the lady down. She was relieved to know that there were people out there who were aware of their situation and if needed the ham operators could call the hospital and get help for them. I was one of those ham radio operators. I was glad to be able to offer

assistance if needed. Arlene said she was able to talk to us until the elevator reached the basement.

But, they could still hear us talking. This was a great comfort to the lady. They were in the elevator for 10 minutes.

Arlene, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors and we wish you the best in teaching that special ham radio class.

## **Steak-Fry: July 12**

Be sure to mark Saturday, July 12, on your calendar. That is the date of the annual UARC Steak-Fry and swap-meet. We will get together in the cool of Big Cottonwood Canyon and have a good time swapping equipment and stories and finish it all off with a steak dinner along with all the usual side dishes.

Cost of the event is \$14. Be sure to get your check into the secretary ahead of time. Make it out to "Utah Amateur Radio Club" and send it to:

Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ  
1933 Woodside Drive  
Holladay, Utah 84124-1632

The location is "The Spruces" campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. (Big Cottonwood is the one that goes to Brighton. Get into it by following Fort Union Boulevard east.) The Spruces is about 10 miles up from the mouth of the Canyon on the right. We will be in Group Area 7. Tell the person at the entry station you're with the group in Area 7.

People usually start gathering about 2 P.M. and dinner gets underway at about 5. Be sure to bring your own plate and table service. There will be paper plates and plasticware available, but you may prefer more serious tools for a good steak.

## **Here And There**

### **Note From the Acting Editor**

In case you've been wondering why you haven't seen your *Microvolt* the last several months we can assure you that you haven't been alone. A combination of software problems, family obligations, and lack of submissions have conspired to keep the editor from getting out issues as fast as the deadlines have come due.

In an effort to catch up, some of the officers are taking turns putting together the missing issues. Your acting editor for this issue is Gordon, K7HFV. All complaints will be filed appropriately.

One thing that would help any editor is more input from the membership. If you've been involved in an interesting ham radio experience, participated in a useful exercise, learned a lot about a new piece of equipment, or discovered a new technique for use in your station, tell us about it. You don't have to be an expert writer; we can fix up the appositives and non-restrictive clauses. But first we have to have the raw information. So jot down a few notes or give the editor a phone call and share your experiences with the rest of the club. Sharing is a lot of what a club is about!

## **Bryce Hamfest: July 11-13**

A Utah Hamfest will take place at Ruby's Inn, near the entrance to Bryce Canyon National Park, on July 11 through 13. It will also be the Rocky Mountain Division Convention for 2008, attracting hams from Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. It will feature seminars, contests, swap tables, license exams, and the famous initiation into "The Order of the Wouff Hong." This can be a great chance to combine an amateur radio event with a family vacation.

Featured guest speaker this year is Katie Breen, W1KRB, Membership Manager for the American Radio Relay League. Registration will cost \$15 for adults and \$7 for youth.

Unfortunately, the dates of the hamfest conflict with the UARC Steak-Fry. This conflict came about because in order to get a canyon site for the Steak-Fry large enough for our group, we have to make a reservation almost immediately after the previous year's event. Thus our date for the 2008 Steak-Fry was set in summer of 2007 before the hamfest dates had been announced. When the hamfest dates became known, our president tried to find an alternate date for the steak-fry, but none was available. So if you're planning to go to the hamfest, bon voyage. We're sorry you can't do both. If you can't afford the gas or the whole weekend away, then we highly recommend the Steak-Fry as a stay-at-home substitute.

For full hamfest information, see:  
<http://www.utahhamfest.org/>

## **Snowbird Repeater Down**

The 147.18 MHz repeater at the Snowbird ski resort has been off the air most of the winter. The problem is a controller that was put out of commission by a lighting-caused power surge.

The Snowbird repeater is the center point for the "Intermountain Intertie" which connects at least four states routinely. Currently the southern leg of the Intertie can still be accessed through the 147.12 repeater.

Access to the Snowbird site is via the tram. Once the controller was repaired, the first problem that arose in efforts to make repairs was the period between the summer season and the winter season when the tram simply doesn't run. Once the winter season was underway, several attempts were made to reach the site but thwarted by high winds that caused the tram to be shut down or made it very probable that it would shut down. (It's not desirable to find yourself at 11,000 feet with a few hundred pounds of test gear and no way off the mountain but to post-hole down on foot.) Other attempts were aborted when promised help was no longer available.

There is a fair amount of weight in test equipment that needs to be taken to and from the site, and a trip generally requires taking a full day – either a weekend day or a day off work. If anyone would like to expedite Snowbird's return to the air and has a day available, he might consider volunteering to John Lloyd, K7JL, the owner and trustee of the repeater. John can be reached at 943-8830.

## **No Summer Thursday Meetings**

There will be no more Thursday night meetings until September 4, but with Field Day and the Steak-Fry there will be plenty of UARC activities over the summer. The July meeting will actually be the Steak-Fry on July 12. We take August off, although this year there is no WIMU hamfest in Jackson, Wyoming, as there has been in recent years. Have a great summer!

**Help is still needed for the UARC Information net, Sundays at 9 P.M. Contact Mike Youngs, KK7VZ, 573-3922, if you can help.**

## The Wonderful Reverse Button

Have you ever heard this situation: two people are talking on a repeater and wonder if they could work simplex? They arrange to move to a simplex frequency, perhaps '52, and try it out. They disappear for a few minutes and then one of them returns to the repeater and calls the other but gets no answer. Apparently the simplex path didn't work. Then he disappears and the other one returns to the repeater and calls with no answer. Finally, someone else starts using the frequency and the original two stations have to break in to figure out a way to rescue their QSO. Now it's taken five or ten minutes to answer a simple question: "Can we work simplex?" and entailed a fair amount of frustration along the way. Yet by just using a feature that most FM transceivers have, the question could have been answered in a few seconds with no need to change frequency at all. It all comes down to being familiar with the "reverse" button.

What does a reverse button do? First let's review how a repeater works. A repeater has an input frequency and an output frequency. For UARC's Farnsworth Peak repeater, the input frequency is 146.02 MHz and the output is 146.62. In the old days we would have called it the "02/62" repeater. In its simplest form, the repeater is just a receiver tuned to the input frequency with its audio output connected to a transmitter tuned to the output frequency. Anything heard on the input frequency is re-transmitted on the output frequency.

To use such a system, a user has to transmit and receive on different frequencies. He must transmit on the input frequency and receive on the output

frequency. The difference between the two is called the "offset." Most modern transceivers can set the offset automatically when they see which band segment the receiver has been tuned to. To use 02/62, you would set your transceiver to 146.62, the output. The input, 146.02 is 600 kHz away. So if the transceiver is programmed for a negative 600 kHz offset, the transceiver transmits on the input frequency, 146.02. Note that in this mode you are listening to the repeater's transmitter, not that of the station you are working. Trying to give him a signal report by looking at the signal strength bars on your transceiver won't work. They are just showing how strong the repeater's signal is to you.

If you were now to activate the *reverse* feature of your transceiver, the input and output frequencies would be interchanged. That is, you would now be listening on '02 and transmitting on '62. You probably should not transmit in this mode if the repeater is working. But you now have a chance to listen directly to the station you are working, not through the repeater. (Remember, all the repeater users are transmitting on '02 and that's where you're now listening.) If you hear him solidly, then you can say "Sure, let's go to '52." If you can't hear him at all, then you can save the frustration of moving and then having to move back. It just takes a few seconds in the reverse mode to tell the tale.

It's also fun to use the reverse mode briefly on each station during a net or roundtable to see which signals are weak and which are strong. Check your instruction manual for details.

## We Do That – With Amateur Radio

ARRL has announced a new public relations theme for 2008: “We do that – with Amateur Radio.” The theme, introduced at the Dayton Hamvention, is intended to emphasize the technical and creative side of the hobby. It follows 2006’s “Hello” campaign which emphasized fun and friendship, and the 2007 theme emphasizing emergency communications. Allen Pitts, W1AGP, ARRL Media and Public Relations Manager says,

“In 2008, we are capitalizing on this third prong, getting word out to the public that there is tons of stuff you can do with Amateur Radio.”

The new program is supported by the League with Public Service Announcements for radio stations, brochures, a web site: <http://wedothat-radio.org>, stickers, and components for a PowerPoint presentation.

It is hoped that those with the ARRL “Public Information Officer” (PIO) appointment will add local emphasis to the messages. Pitts also emphasized the importance of making people’s first encounter with a ham operator a positive one.

## License Exam Opportunities

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
06/24/08	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C. <sup>1</sup>	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871
06/28/08	(Sat.)	Cedar City <sup>1,3</sup>	Russ Chaffee, N7BO	(435) 586-7297
07/02/08	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	573-3922
07/12/08	(Sat.)	Ruby's Inn <sup>2</sup>	Bret Mills, WX7Y	BMills1@ecso.com
07/16/08	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
07/16/08	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
07/17/08	(Thu.)	Roosevelt <sup>1</sup>	R Chandler Fisher, W7BYU	(435) 722-5440
07/29/08	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C. <sup>1</sup>	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871
08/02/08	(Sat.)	Salt Lake C. <sup>1</sup>	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	582-2438
08/20/08	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	465-3983
08/20/08	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
08/26/08	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	541-1871

### Footnotes:

1. Preregistration required. Contact the contact person prior to the examination date.
2. Session at 2:30 P.M. as part of the Ruby’s Inn Hamfest.
3. Given 4 P.M. at Three Peaks Recreation Park as part of the Rainbow Canyons club’s Field Day operation.