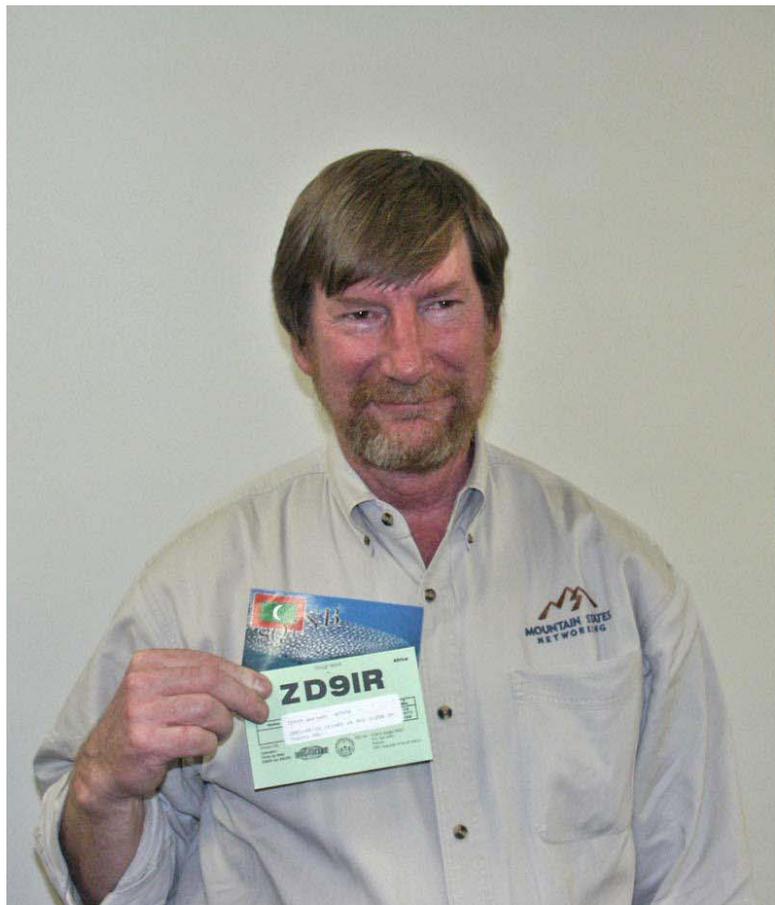


# The *Microvolt*

April, 2009



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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 101.

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.

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.

Publication: The Microvolt is the official publication of the club. Deadline for submissions to The Microvolt is the 17th 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: Gordon Smith, 632 University St., Salt Lake City, UT 84102-3213. 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 2009 Board

Table listing UARC 2009 Board members: President: John Hardy, K7ALA; Executive VP: Andrew Madsen, AC7CF; Vice Pres: Brett Sutherland, N7KG; Secretary: Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ; Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS; Microvolt Editor: Gordon Smith, K7HFV; Asst. Microvolt Editor: Rick Asper, AC7RA; Program Chair: Jed W. Petrovich, AD7KG; Imm. Past Pres: John Brewer, N7MFQ.

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Table listing Committee Chairpersons and Members: "Book Lady": Fred Desmet, KI7KM; Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS; Field Day Chair; Club Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG; Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL; ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI; Board Liaison & Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV; Provo Autopatch Host & ATV Engineer: Dale Jarvis, WB7FID.

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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: 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 52, Issue 4, April 2009

## April Meeting: APRS

Amateur radio has an amazingly wide array of possible modes and uses. An interesting mode that has been growing lately is APRS: The Automatic Position Reporting System. One reason for the growth is new transceivers by Kenwood and Yaesu that have some of the APRS essentials built-in. At the April 2 UARC meeting, Don Lloyd, KD7BA, along with Greg Lundell, K7UHP, and Joe Lachacz, K2NWS, will be telling us about APRS and its many uses.

APRS was developed by Bob Bruninga, WB4APR, as a way to report a station's location using packet radio and GPS. One can bring up a computer map and see immediately the location of a family member on vacation, a runner in a race, or a hiker that might need assistance.

But APRS comprises far more than vehicle tracking. To quote Bob Bruninga himself,

It is a two-way tactical real-time digital communications system between all assets in a network sharing information about everything going on in the local area.

The concept includes a way to distribute local information, weather, and even bearings to an interfering station. APRS can even be used to send an e-mail from a handheld radio to a distant city. (For more information see [www.aprs.org](http://www.aprs.org).)

Don and company will be telling us about the various uses of APRS, what you need to get on the mode, and how to set up your station correctly.

Again, the meeting will take place on Thursday, April 2, 2009, at 7:30 P.M.

Our meetings this winter and spring are being held in the Warnock Engineering Building, room 101. This portion of the building was previously known as the Engineering and Mines Classroom Building. For maps and instructions for reaching it, see the [meeting location page](#).

Of course, the meeting will include the “standard” meeting features:

- Availability of ARRL books from Fred, the “book lady”
- 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. The April get-together will be at “Su Casa,” 516 E. 300 South in Salt Lake City.

## Latest News

### Letter from the President

Dear fellow club members,

We all know that hams are a very generous group and I would like to call upon your willingness to share. I would like to ask everyone in the club to bring one can of food (any kind of canned food — beans, spaghettios, fruit) to our next club meeting on April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2009. This food will be donated to a local charity called the “Homeless Youth Resource Center” which is part of “Volunteers of America — Utah”.

It is my opinion that the teenage years are challenging enough even when you have a family and a place to live. These young people don't have these things for multiple reasons, and yet there are a few who even put themselves through college. So I would like to ask the club members to donate one can of food so that we can help out these young people. It is almost impossible to get a job when you don't have the schooling or an address to put on your application. This Resource Center tries to help them get jobs and places to live all while helping them get their daily needs met. I do not want anyone to feel that they must donate. Giving should be because you want to and because you can, not because it's required. We are asking that you bring one can, however you may bring more if you wish.

We will have boxes at the door where you can drop off your donation as you arrive. No one will be checking if you choose not to contribute or if this would cause your own family to suffer. Also, please don't bring food like milk or cheese, which will expire quickly, nor junk foods. We will provide reminders throughout the month via the club information net, and we would appreciate if you would pass this along to the other members

who may not be able to attend each meeting or who may not have heard about this.

The following day I will be delivering this food to the center on behalf of the members of the “Utah Amateur Radio Club.”

Thank you,  
John Hardy  
K7ALA

### Our Cover

Our cover this month is from the March UARC meeting. Mark Richardson, W7HPW, told us how important QSL cards are to the DXer along with the methods you can use to get the rare ones to answer your QSL. Mark is shown here with a number of the cards he has collected that he particularly values. Ron Speirs, K7RLS, our club historian, provided the photos.

### Steak-Fry Tickets Available

Saturday, July 16, is the date for UARC's 2009 steak-fry. This is a great chance to avoid the summer heat for an afternoon by enjoying the company of other hams in Big Cottonwood Canyon.

It may be difficult to think about July in the canyons when you may still have snow in your garden, but steak-fry time isn't that far away. The April UARC meeting will be one of only three chances to buy tickets at a club meeting.

The cost this year will be \$15 to cover the entire dinner. The location will again be our traditional “Area 7” in The Spruces campground. People usually start gathering around 2 P.M. for eyeball QSOs and the swap meet. Mark your calendar!

## **Field Day Help Still Needed**

It's time to get serious about planning our entry in the annual Field Day contest. Andy Johnson, KE7UQO, has agreed to be the Field Day Chairman this year, and he could use lots of help. If you would like to be a member of the Field Day Committee, get in touch with Andy at (801) 706-8369. We will be operating for a full 24 hours at a site near Payson Lakes.

Field Day is an annual nationwide contest for portable and mobile stations sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL) and held each year on the fourth full weekend in June. (This year's dates are June 27 and 28.) It's not only fun to see how many contacts you can make in a short time, but sending, receiving, and recording a lot of information in a short time is great training for the kind of operating required in an emergency. It's also a chance to combine amateur radio operating with a family campout.

The Field Day rules can be found online at:  
<http://www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2009/fd.html> .

In 2008 we entered in the 2A category (Club or group portable with two simultaneous transmitters.)

## **Legislative Session Results**

We need fear no longer. The Utah Legislature has concluded its 2009 session and, despite our worries, passed no legislation restricting amateur radio in any serious way.

Some bills introduced in this session to alleviate the hazards posed by drivers talking on cell phones threatened to prohibit mobile amateur radio operation. One of five bills on this general topic did pass after two rewrites. It was House Bill

290 sponsored by Rep. Stephen Clark of Provo. (Senate sponsor was Lyle Hillyard of Logan.) Although the bill makes no exception for amateur radio, it only addresses text messaging, not voice communication. It specifically mentions wireless telephones, personal digital assistants, pagers, and text messaging devices.

Text messaging while operating a moving motor vehicle on a highway in the state may be judged as anything from a Class C misdemeanor to Automobile Homicide depending on the severity of the results and past history of the driver.

So if you were planning to type out a packet message while going 70 mph down the freeway, you may want to consider pulling over first.

## **Still Time to Take A Survey**

Last month we announced a survey of the UARC membership to help us choose program topics of interest. If you haven't taken the survey yet, you still can, either on line or on paper at the next meeting.

What meeting programs would you like to see in the future? Are you more interested in antennas? VHF operating? HF operating? Homebrew techniques? Moonbounce? QLF CW? The survey is your chance to let us know. If you have Internet access, just go to: <http://utaharc.org/Survey> and check your preferences. (Be sure to observe the indicated capitalization of "Survey.") If you're computer-challenged (or not an Internet subscriber) you are still invited to take the survey. We will have the survey available on paper at the coming meeting Just fill it out and return it with your ideas. (The officers would appreciate it, though, if you submitted only *once!*)

## **Member of the Month: Connie Yeates, KE7YNQ**

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF



This month we are featuring Connie Yeates, KE7YNQ. Connie was a student in Ron Speirs' (K7RLS) class in the fall of 2008. Connie received her Technician license in November 2008. She was so excited she only missed one question on the test. Connie enjoys amateur radio so much that she is working on getting her General class license. In fact she is taking another class from Ron starting on March 17th. She is already studying the General class material. She really wants to get that license so she can get on the low bands.

Connie became interested in amateur radio through her Husband, Bob Yeates, WA7RFE, who has been in amateur radio since 1968. Connie and Bob have been married for 27 years. They have a 14 year old daughter named Shelby. Shelby is working on getting her Technician license. She is hoping to get it sometime this summer. Connie works for J.C. Penney's in the accounting center in the imaging department. They image all of the documents that come into their building. Connie has worked for J.C. Penney's for 27 years. She married Bob on August 3rd of 1981 and got her job on August 12th 1981. When Connie first married Bob, Bob was really active in amateur radio. Connie really enjoyed watching him making contacts all over the world. But his antenna was stolen and he was having equipment problems. They were both busy working and raising a family. It was last year, in 2008, that Bob became active again in amateur radio and Connie became interested in it.

Connie said her favorite thing about amateur radio is software-defined radio. Connie was fascinated with the presentation by John Long, KW7A, on software-defined radio at the February UARC meeting. She is anxious to get started in it. She would also like to get started with Echolink.

Connie, Bob, and their daughter, Shelby, are all members of UARC. Connie loves to attend the meetings. Connie's favorite meeting, of course, was the meeting on software-defined radios. Connie and her family are looking forward to attending Field Day up at Payson Lakes this year. She said they are going to rent an RV so that they can spend the weekend camping.

Connie, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors especially getting that General license.

## From The Clipboard of the Editor

*(A deskless editor speaks out without regard to differing opinions or common sense.)*

73. It started out as part of a list of common expressions given numbers to save time on wire telegraph circuits. It evolved over the years through several friendly greetings but finally came to rest meaning “Best Regards.”

As used today in amateur radio it seems simple enough. Any version of the *Radio Amateur's Handbook*, the *Operating Manual*, or the study guide for the first license will tell you it means “best regards,” a friendly way to conclude a QSO. But sometimes it seems to get abused in odd ways.

A few years back on the Sunday night net, a newcomer asked what 73 meant. Several people offered their interpretations. The odd thing was it was four or five people down the list before someone got it right. Maybe it's not as simple as it appears.

The most common perversion is that it gets an “s” added onto the end: “73's.” It was over 50 years ago when Keith Williams, W6DTY, wrote in his famous article, “Your Novice Accent”:

Note that it is not necessary to add an “S” to 73. By itself 73 means “best regards.” If you say 73's you are, in effect, saying “Best Regardses,” which is just plain silly.

The same advice has been given in numerous articles ever since, but is mostly ignored. For some reason people seem stuck on “Best Regardses.”

Other published advice holds that we should avoid it altogether on voice. The 73 signal is really a CW abbreviation, used to save time on telegraphy modes. But on any voice mode, it actually takes more time than just saying, “Best regards.” After all “Best regards” is only three syllables while “seventy-three” is four. I always had respect for

Carl (“Rudy”) Ruthstrom, W7GPN, who bucked the trend by following that advice. He always said, simply, “Best regards.” But this procedure is so rare that one really has to be brave to follow it.

Occasionally we hear a newcomer say he is going to “go 73.” I'm still interested in what one does to “go best regards.” Is it a nice place to arrive? Is it pleasurable or painful?

One of the more interesting uses of 73 is in “73 for now.” Let's try to figure out what it might mean. We know that 73 means “best regards.” You are expressing high regard for the other operator. In fact, the word “best” implies that your regard for him is among the highest of those with whom you associate. But adding “for now” seems to indicate that that regard is conditional or has a time limit. It must be something like,

“I'll say I regard you highly for now, but I don't really know you that well, so I'll reserve the right to reconsider at a later date and possibly downgrade my rating to just ‘fair regards’ or even ‘downright lousy regards.’”

Fortunately most operators to whom we might offer this sentiment don't catch on.

Maybe if we really mean “so long for now” or “see you later” we could just say as much. That's one of the nice features of voice communication: we can use any of the common phrases without worrying too much about excess time on the channel.

Thanks for listening. Best regardses for now and I have to go 73.

—K7HFV

## St. George Ham Makes the News

The story of an amateur radio operator giving help in an emergency situation was recently reported on KSL radio.

It was a sunny day, not a cloud in the sky, when Hal Whiting, KI2U, Todd Kluxdal, Kluxdal's father and Whiting's two sons decided to go out to the Poverty Mountain area in Arizona to search for airplane crash sites.

“It was a bit after lunch, about 73 miles into our trip,” Whiting told the ARRL, “when we were flagged down by a man wanting to know if we had a satellite phone, since he couldn't get coverage on his cell phone.”

Whiting didn't have a satellite phone, but he asked the man if this was an emergency. Whiting said that the man told him that one of his friends had been injured when her ATV rolled on top of her. “I told him I could call for help on my ham radio,” he said. The injured woman was knocked

unconscious by the fall, but had regained consciousness and was speaking coherently, but was in pain.

Hal was able to raise Mac Magee, N6LRG, on the 146.91 repeater in the St. George area. Mac doesn't normally monitor '91 but happened to have his receiver there that day. Mac was in Arizona and called the Mohave County Sheriff's office to relay the information.

Mac took his four-wheel-drive vehicle to the accident site to get the GPS coordinates and then returned to the road to get back in repeater range. A helicopter was dispatched and the injured woman taken to Las Vegas.

For more detail see the *ARRL Letter* at <http://www2.arrl.org/arrlletter/09/0320/>. The KSL story can be seen (and heard) at <http://www.ksl.com/?nid=148&sid=5900416>.

## License Examination Schedule

Date	Location	Contact Person	Phone
03/31/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
04/04/09 (Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 <sup>1</sup>
04/15/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
04/15/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
04/25/09 (Sat.)	South Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306 <sup>1,2</sup>
04/28/09 (Tue.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
05/06/09 (Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	(801) 573-3922
05/20/09 (Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
05/20/09 (Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678

Footnote 1: Preregistration is required. Check with the contact person prior to the exam.

Footnote 2: Part of Weber County Hamfest, Browning Armory, 615 E. 5300 So., South Ogden