

The *Microvolt*

October, 2009



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UARC
c/o Dick Keddington
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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 second Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM in the University of Utah's Warnock Engineering Building in room 1230.

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 24th 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.

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Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS 801 968-4614
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Club Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG 801 298-5399
Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL 801 556-7565
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Board Liaison &
Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV 801 582-2438
Provo Autopatch Host &
ATV Engineer: Dale Jarvis, WB7FID 801 224-3405

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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

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October Meeting: Homebrew Night

It's time! Thursday, October 8, will be the night of UARC's annual Homebrew Night. Homebrew night is the chance to show off home-built amateur radio equipment and receive a small gift for your efforts.

If you have something you have built (or will have built by October 8), bring it along to show off to the group. Each entrant will have a few minutes to show off his item and detail its function, features, and original touches.

Anything that can be used in amateur radio and was built by the person showing it is fair game. Common types of entries are keyers, power supplies, linear amplifiers, and QRP transceivers. If your project is too large to bring in (for example a tower or 160-meter beer-can Yagi), bring documentation and photos in projectable form. We will have a video projector available.

Meetings are now on the *second* Thursday of each month, so the coming meeting will be Thursday, October 8, at 7:30 P.M. Our meetings during the Fall semester are being held in room 1230 of the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. Our traditional parking on the east side of the building is blocked off for construction, so recommended parking is near the southeast corner of the Merrill Engineering Building lot. Go south along the east side of Merrill, then go in the north door of Warnock.

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 October get-together will be at “Charlie Chow's Dragon Grill,” 255 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover this month is from the September “Get On the Air” meeting. Our Executive Vice-President, Andrew Madsen, AC7F, demonstrates

operation of one of the HF stations set up on the lawn east of the building where we meet. Thanks to our Historian, Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photo.

Logan Swapmeet: October 10

The Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club has announced the "Swaptoberfest 2009 Swap Meet." The event will be held on Saturday, October 10, at the Cache County Fairgrounds Pavillion, 450 South 500 West in Logan. Setup begins at 7 A.M. and actual transactions can begin at 8 A.M.

Admission is free. The fee for those planning to set up tables is \$8 if paid in advance via the web, or \$10 at the door.

The primary talk-in repeater will be the Mt. Logan 146.72 MHz machine which requires a PL tone of 103.5. Those on the Wasatch Front side of the mountains can access 147.26 in the Promontory Mountains. It is linked to '72 and also requires a CTCSS tone of 103.5.

For more information or to sign up for a table see: <http://www.barconline.org/>.

Nominations Needed

It's getting time to think about officers for the coming year. The club President will be choosing a nominating committee to meet during October and find at least one slate of potential officers for 2010. The current officers don't know all the likely candidates out there who might be willing to serve, so are requesting help from anyone willing to be on the nominating committee and/or to volunteer to run for a 2010 office.

Most of those who have served on the club's Board of Directors have found it a pleasant experience. It is a chance to get to know others in the club, exercise your creativity, and give something back to the hobby.

If you would like to help, get in touch with the President, or any of the other officers.

Wasatch-100 A Success

The annual Wasatch Front 100-mile Endurance Run took place this year on September 11 and 12. Amateurs again provided communication for the event including voice using the Intermountain Intertie and a packet system that allowed operators to enter runner times directly into a database kept at the race finish.

The Wasatch-100 is one of several 100-mile "Ultra-Marathons" in the country. It is a 100-mile foot race through the backcountry of the Wasatch Mountains. It is a sufficiently prominent event that runners come from all over the U.S. to participate each year. Anyone who completes the course in less than 36 hours is declared a finisher.

In case that sounds like too big a challenge, here are the answers to some common questions. Yes, that's 100 miles, all at once, *on foot*. No, it's not a relay. No, there are no bicycles or horses involved. Yes, runners run through the night. Yes, people do this because they want to.

This is possibly the year's biggest public service event for Utah hams. This year 245 runners started the race and 156 completed it. Operators at each of the 15 checkpoints recorded the in-time and out-time of each runner. Multiple temporary packet nodes were used, some of which had to be hiked into place by Kirk Boman, KD0J. Some of the checkpoints needed to be manned for over 24 hours.

The packet and database system was designed for the event by a committee of hams. The system functioned almost flawlessly, possibly the best ever. The recording of each runner's times through each checkpoint makes it possible to spot immediately a runner that is overdue and may be lost or injured.

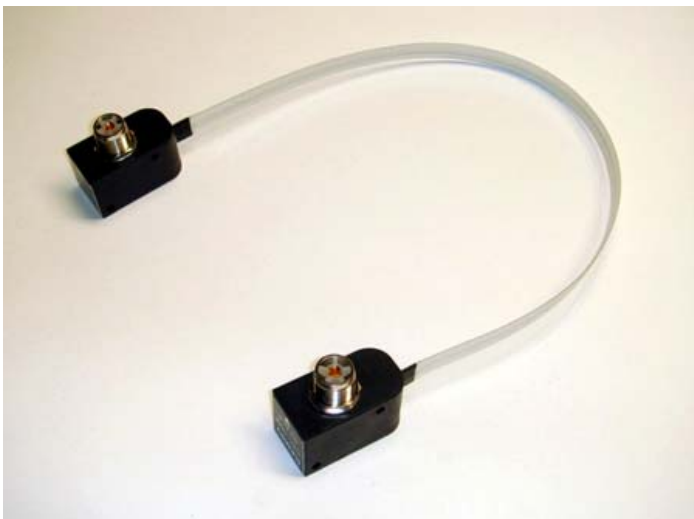
Claude Grant, WC7G, the person in charge of volunteers, has expressed his gratitude to all who helped.

Comet CTC-50M Review

By Telvin Mills, KB6BYU

For the past several months, my brother Brad, KD7WGC, and I have been discussing how to run some coax into his house to his 2-meter radio without having to drill any holes through the walls or putting a barrel connector through a piece of wood and placing the wood in the window opening, or running it through a fresh air intake for the furnace. All of these ideas would work, but he was a little hesitant about having a piece of wood stuck in the window or drilling a hole in the wall.

He went down to Communication Products and asked Bob what he recommended in bringing coax into the house. One of Bob's suggestions was to use a barrel connector through a piece a wood in the window. Brad really didn't want to have a piece of wood stuck in the window and try and make the window secure. Bob's then suggested a new product which just came on the market, the Comet CTC-50M. The CTC-50M Window/Door feed thru jumper allows you to get the antenna coax into the radio room without drilling holes in the wall or leaving a window/door open. At each end of a piece of flat wire coax which is 15.75" long are two SO-239 connectors. (Picture 1 below)



The center core of the flat wire coax is "copper-clad steel," chosen for its strength and resistance to metal fatigue. The film is made of ALPET (aluminum/PET plastic) also made to resist damage due to material fatigue. 25k gold plated connectors are supplied with screws to attach the connectors securely to the wall/window frame. You could also use double-sided tape to attach it the wall.

In picture 2 is a picture of one end of the CTC-50M attached the outside of the house.



Picture 2: Attachment to the house



Picture 3

Picture 3 is a closer look at the thin ribbon between the window frame and the screen.



Picture 5

Picture 5 shows the finished installation with the window in the closed position. Close the window and screen freely without damaging the coax!



Picture 4

Picture 4 shows the ribbon being bent to conform to the window frame and attached to the interior wall.

We didn't have a meter to test if the SWR changed on the line, but it seemed to work quite well. The device will handle 100 watts at HF, 60 watts at VHF and 40 watts at UHF and 10 watts at 900 MHz – 1.3 GHz.

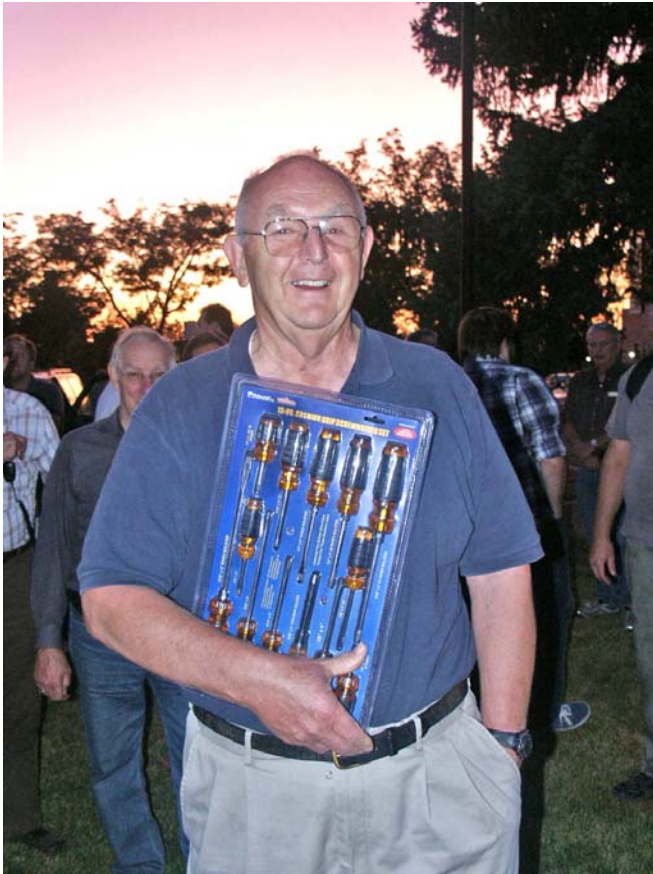
For someone who is unable/unwilling to drill holes for antenna entry this device is great, however the price seems pretty steep for what it is. Bob sells it for approximately \$54.95 at Communication Products. You can find it a little cheaper if you search the Internet.

The product documentation can be found at, www.cometantenna.com/pdfs/CTC-50M_new_prod_release.pdf.

73, Telvin

Member of the Month: William Quist, KE7HEG

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF



William Quist, KE7HEG, at GOTA night
(Photo thanks to K7RLS)

This month we are featuring William W. Quist, KE7HEG. William was introduced to amateur radio as a teenager when one of William's friends had a ham radio connected to the battery in his car. His friend was making contacts from all over the world which really impressed William. Then when William was attending Utah State University in Logan, Utah, one of William's classmates did a phone patch for him from Logan to Salt Lake City. William thought this was wonderful. But, working nights and working hard on his college degree kept him way too busy even to think about getting into amateur radio.

William worked as a civil engineer. He worked on constructing roads and buildings for 40 years. William said he drove 25,000 miles for his job in northern New Jersey. During this drive time in 1970 William started listening to Morse Code tapes.

He still didn't get his license. William said that CW was one of the obstacles that kept him from getting into amateur radio. He just didn't think it was necessary. After all, the railroads weren't using Morse Code anymore. William worked on construction of a nuclear plant in New Jersey.

William received a contract to go to Saudi Arabia to help work on the Gulf War. William and his family lived there from 1977 through 1978. William and his wife, Carol, have five boys all grown now but not interested in ham radio.

In 1980 William and his family moved to Salt Lake City, Utah. William and his wife Carol became very active in emergency preparedness. They are both CERT trained and CERT certified. This is where William met David Platt, KD7BEP, who is involved with the emergency response team. David convinced William to get into amateur radio. William and his wife, Carol, decided they would work on this together. They took a class that was being taught at Welfare Square. Finally, in March 2006, William obtained his Technician license. William's wife, Carol, also received her Technician license. Carol's call sign is KE7HDA. William said he is thinking about working on his General license. William also said it isn't the test that is so hard, it is programming your new handheld radio that is hard. He has an Icom 990. If there are any ham radio operators who have this rig maybe they could help him learn how to program it.

As soon as they passed their tests they joined UARC. They enjoy attending the meetings. William participated in Field Day. He helped haul equipment to Payson Lakes and back to Salt Lake. He has also participated in the Pony Express.

Another hobby that William enjoys is historical travel. He has written a tour guide for the

Mormon Trail. He loves to travel the back roads. William is also involved with the transcontinental railroad.

William, we wish you the best in all your endeavors, especially upgrading to General.

Division News

By Brian Milesosky, N5ZGT
Director, ARRL Rocky Mountain Division

Division Survey Coming

This fall/winter we intend to offer an online member survey to gather your thoughts on a variety of general and specific topics related to the Rocky Mountain Division and ARRL in general. We look forward to utilizing yet another avenue to solicit your feedback to help us represent you better.

The last member survey was offered in 2007 and was responded to by approximately 12% of the Division membership. If you'd like to review the results of the 2007 survey, please read the PDF document at:

http://www.rockymountaindivision.org/survey/survey_results.pdf

As for this year's survey, we'll keep you in the loop as to when it's been released and available for your input.

2010 Division Convention

After a fantastic event held this past summer in Estes Park, Colorado, the 2010 Rocky Mountain Division Convention will take place Memorial Day weekend (May 28-30, 2010) at the Platte River Resort in Casper, Wyoming.

Examination Schedule

10/01/09	(Thu.)	Logan	V. P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630 ¹
10/03/09	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 ¹
10/14/09	(Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306 ²
10/21/09	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
10/21/09	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
10/27/09	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 ¹
11/04/09	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	(801) 573-3922
11/18/09	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
11/18/09	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
11/24/09	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 ¹

¹ Preregistration required. Contact the indicated person.

² This is a one-time change from the first Wednesday of the month.