

The *Microvolt*

July, 2010



Prologue

Publication: The Microvolt (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 3666 S. State Street. Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4848. It is published monthly except August. Subscription is included with club membership at \$17 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 Dick Keddington, 1783 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT, 84124-1620.

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: Dick Keddington, 1933 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT, 84124-1632.

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.

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, 1783 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1620.

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 2010 Board

Table listing UARC 2010 Board members and their contact numbers, including President Linda Reeder, Executive VP Andrew Madsen, and others.

Committee Chairpersons and Members

Table listing committee chairpersons and members, including 'Book Lady' Brett Sutherland, 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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For account information go to: http://www.xmission.com/ Or call 801 539-0852



The Microvolt

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Steak-Fry and Swap Meet: July 17

The big UARC event of the summer is coming up on Saturday, July 17. It's the annual steak-fry and swap meet and will take the place of a July meeting. It is a full steak dinner at a mountain site in the forest by a stream as well as a chance to look for buyers of any excess ham gear you might have.

When you receive this it will likely be past the deadline for reservations, but if you haven't signed up already, it may be worth a call to the club Secretary, Dick Keddington, to see if you can still be worked in. He can be reached at (801) 274-9638.

The site of the event is "The Spruces" campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. (Big Cottonwood is the canyon that contains the Solitude and Brighton ski resorts.) Watch for "The Spruces" sign on the right side of the canyon about ten miles up. There is an entrance station. Tell the person there you are with the radio group in "Area 7" and they will direct you to the right location.

Steak-cooking will start about 5 P.M., but you are welcome to come earlier to enjoy the mountains, check out the swap-meet offerings, have "eyeball QSOs," and enjoy the cool of the mountains. People often start arriving near 2 P.M.

You might want to bring your own table service. There will be paper plates and plastic utensils available, but you might find eating a steak more pleasant with a more substantial plate and a real steak knife.

Latest News

No August Meeting

UARC normally does not meet in August, so the next regular Thursday night meeting will be Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 P.M., in the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah Campus. During the Fall semester we will be meeting in room 1230, the "Duke" classroom.

New Address for Secretary

Our Club Secretary, Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ, has recently moved. In order to contact Dick by

mail for dues payment, address correction, steak-fry reservations, etc. use his new address:

Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ
1783 Woodside Drive
Holladay, UT 84124-1620

Our Cover

Our cover this month is a photo of Chuck Johnson's code class as our educational activity during Field Day. More in the Field Day article on page 4.

Field Day 2010 is Over

UARC went to the mountains June 26 and 27 for its annual Field Day entry and did not suffer from too many attacks by Murphy. It did, however, suffer from a lack of help setting up and operating.

A number of people put out an unusual amount of effort to make our Field Day come together and we would like to recognize them.

John Hardy, K7ALA, bought chairs for the event, procured our Special Use Permit from the Forest Service, towed the small trailer with the tower and beam for the SSB station, along with all the radios and tote boxes with cables, rotors, and other essentials. At the same time he gave a ride to Jeff Jones, K7JEF, who was without transportation. This was particularly notable because John's plans to operate Field Day were with another club. He had to make multiple trips going both up and down.

John Brewer, N7MFQ, made arrangements to borrow a truck capable of towing our "Communications on Wheels" (COW) trailer, towed it up to the site and back, got propane for the generator, and procured a new tire.

Brett Sutherland, N7KG, contributed all three operating tents and made a trip to the site to deliver them even though he could not attend the actual event due to scouting commitments.

Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS, coordinated most of the antenna setup in the absence of a Field Day Chairman. He was one of only four people available at the official start of setup, noon on Friday. Chuck, together with Ed Hansen, KC7KCU; Marv Cowdell, KB7ZLG; and club Secretary Dick Keddington, KC7KDZ; got the 70-foot tower on the COW up. The same four plus John Brewer spent much of Thursday re-mounting the generator further back on the COW trailer to reduce tongue weight. Chuck also took care of all

the necessary steps to get us bonus points in several categories including presenting the "Educational Activity."

Clint Turner, KA7OEI, figured out how to get one of the porta-John trailers hooked up to the editor's vehicle in the middle of the night. Ed Hansen towed the other one up and Carla Burningham, KC7HON, towed it back after the event.

Executive Vice-President Andrew Madsen, AC7CF, contributed the transceiver for the CW station, brought up the logging computers and keyboards, arranged and delivered the main course for the Saturday night dinner, as well as being (as usual) our star CW operator.

David Lyman, KF7GFU, and crew set up a satellite link that provided cell phone and internet service to the whole camp area.

Jeff Jones, K7JEF, was willing to camp alone on the site before many others arrived, and wait there until most others had left, just to guard our large array of Field Day equipment between the times John Hardy could drop it off and pick it to return to Salt Lake City.

How did we do? The CW station did a bit better than in 2009. The phone (SSB) station did considerably worse, mostly due to lack of operators and long inactive periods. Here is a comparison:

	2010	2009
CW QSOs	710	679
SSB QSOs	153	664
Total QSOs	863	1343
QSO Points (2 X CW + SSB)	1573	2022

With power multiplier and bonus points our final score should be about 3896 compared to last year's 5014.

The small number of operators plus the lack of anyone willing to be Field Day Chairperson has made the Board question whether a Field Day entry is really worth the effort and cost in future years. It would be a shame to end a 50-year tradition, but with only about ten operators and four people available for setup, yet 100 people for dinner, we have to ask whether this is really working. It may have just been a fluke due to a large number of the regulars who were unable to attend due to non-ham commitments. (Non-ham

activities? We were surprised too.) If you have an opinion or a suggestion about how we could get more operators, feel free to get in touch with a Board member.

A bright spot was the educational activity – a first lesson in International Morse Code. Attendance far exceeded expectations with 20 people showing up for the Saturday session and three more on Sunday morning. (See cover picture.) Thanks, Chuck.

Examination Schedule

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
7/21/10	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
7/21/10	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
7/27/10	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 ¹
8/07/10	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 ¹
8/18/10	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
8/18/10	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678

¹ Preregistration required. Contact the indicated person.

2010 7QP – Call of the Coyotes **by Jed Petrovich, AD7KG**

The 7QP (Seventh Call District QSO Party) is held each year on the first Saturday in May. This year, it fell on May 1st. For more information on the 7QP, please see my article in the July 2009 issue of *The Microvolt* or visit <http://7qp.org/>.

May is always an interesting month for weather in Utah, as we've seen in the past few weeks. As I'm writing this, fresh snow can be seen in the Wasatch and Oquirrh Mountains and we've had snow in the valley.

This was my fourth year operating in the 7QP. Last year, the location was on the Tooele/Juab county line, roughly west of Eureka, Utah. Since

those counties would be covered by another team, plans were made to operate on the Millard/Beaver line. (One of the objectives during the 7QP is to try to activate every county.) Earlier in the year, John Hardy, K7ALA, had scouted several county line crossings, but we found and selected a site not far off the pavement and near the confluence of I-15 and I-70 in central Utah. Unfortunately, John had some family activities that took priority, so he couldn't go. However, his help was very much appreciated.

Robert Wyatt, NE7Q, agreed to team up with me. This would be his first 7QP. Since the weather was very unpredictable, we decided to take

Robert's popup trailer and head south on Friday. We made good time and set up camp in the late afternoon. Then it was off for a delicious dinner at the Cove Fort Subway.

That evening, several other Utah 7QPers got on 75-meter phone at 21:00 for a roundtable discussion. We made contact with teams in Utah, Tooele, Piute/Sevier counties. After the check-in was over, we got ready to retire for the night.

I didn't have a very restful night and a few aches and pains were keeping me awake. I think I drifted off about 1:00 AM. At around 4:00 AM a pack of coyotes came to serenade us. They kept up barking and howling for about an hour. We got up around 6:00 AM, so neither of us had much sleep.

Because the weather had been changing from clear skies to storm clouds, we had taken our antennas down for the night. Right after getting Robert on the air, he made contact with VR2XMT (Hong

Kong) and 9M6BOB (East Malaysia) on 20 meters. I got my station on the air and started working 40 meters. I was able to make some contacts calling CQ (running), but I also tuned around the dial (search and pounce). Later on, Robert moved to 15m and I moved to 20m. This afforded me some stations in the Midwest and East. I even had one Polish station answer my CQ. Later on, I had other DX contacts as well.

We had enjoyed fairly good weather on Saturday. In the early evening, the sky was getting darker as the clouds increased. After a check of the weather radar, we decided to break camp and pack up before the storm hit. We were headed north about 8:00 PM local time.

All in all, we had a wonderful time and gained some valuable experience. As a bonus, the rain on the way home washed all of the mud from the tow vehicle and trailer. Best of all, we're looking forward to next the next 7QP.

Drill Becomes Emergency in Pennsylvania

From *The ARRL Letter*

Just two days before the start of ARRL Field Day, Amateur Radio operators in South Central Pennsylvania were preparing for a regularly scheduled bi-annual exercise involving the [Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station](#), located on the Susquehanna River. The drill is required as part of the licensing process for the power plant.

"Nuclear power plants have to do well in emergency planning as part of their licensing requirements," said ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Section ARES® District 5 Emergency Coordinator Daniel Sullivan, KO1D. "For hams to shine in that setting is more important than Field Day to the non-hams who are community or agency leaders within the public safety

community, and it shows what Amateur Radio can do."

Many of the Amateur Radio operators participating in the drill had been involved with previous drills, and according to ARRL Eastern Pennsylvania Assistant Section Manager Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, most of the hams thought they knew what to expect: "Right as they were preparing to begin the drill, the hams started experiencing harsh weather and the National Weather Service issued severe thunderstorm and tornado warnings. Within 15 minutes of the warnings being issued Lancaster County ARES® Emergency Coordinator Ron Small, WB2OOB, and Lancaster County RACES Officer Chris Bunting, K1CWB, reported that communications

went down just before the drill began and in some municipalities, remained out during the drill due to storm damage to the telecommunications infrastructure.”

Amateur Radio operators who were pre-positioned to support the drill integrated SKYWARN operations into the drill’s RACES net. In Drumore Township in Lancaster County, Small became the only reliable communications at the municipal Emergency Operations Center when commercial communications networks went down. He reported that fax and telephone services were intermittent and other communications systems were not operational due to the storms.

Bunting said he heard the weather alert on the local repeater: “When I heard a tornado warning being broadcast for Southern Lancaster County, I decided that we must start a ‘hybrid net’ and start SKYWARN operations while preparing for the Peach Bottom drill.” When the first operator arrived at Lancaster County EOC, he set up net control and began the SKYWARN net. Bunting announced that this would be a hybrid net, and that he was looking for weather reports from our operators in the field. He immediately received a report of golf ball-sized hail in the southern end of the county.

“Bunting passed this information on to Lancaster County Emergency Management Coordinator Randy Gockley, who in turn contacted the National Weather Service,” Josuweit told the ARRL. “Meteorologists at the NWS indicated that there was a strong chance of a tornado in the southern end of the county.”

With the extreme possibility of a tornado in the area, Gockley decided to activate the emergency warning sirens in the southern part of Lancaster County, warning residents of the possible tornado.

Net control immediately notified all stations of this, and in turn, the RACES personnel at each municipal EOC notified the staff. “For some EOCs, this was the only method of communication to let them know why the sirens were sounding, as there were power outages and telephony outages throughout the area,” Josuweit explained. “Our RACES operators continued to pass on vital storm information to net control until the storms had passed.”

The National Weather Service confirmed that an EF-0 tornado occurred near Hershey, home of Hershey chocolates and a large amusement park. Winds reached 80 miles per hour and damage in the area ranged from downed trees to roofs ripped off of several homes. As the storm continued toward Philadelphia, it left uprooted trees and knocked down power lines in its wake.

The Peach Bottom drill started after the threat of severe weather passed, but telecommunications and power outages were still affecting multiple EOCs. According to Josuweit, part of Lancaster County’s RACES pre-planning involves making sure all operators have battery power/generator, radios, power supplies and antennas with them, and to be prepared to operate independent from any infrastructure in place. Many locations were having problems sending or receiving faxes and phone calls. RACES maintained the constant contact needed to play out the drill.”

Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency ([PEMA](#)) officials thanked the hams for a job well done. “The professionalism and actions of all the volunteers involved clearly demonstrate the value they bring as a communications resource to the emergency management community,” said Acting Commonwealth Auxiliary Communications Systems Coordinator Chris Snyder.

Chief of PEMA's Bureau of Strategic and Operational Plans' Technological Hazards Division Henry C. Tamanini, agreed: "Your dedication to providing valuable emergency communications was certainly proven when 'Mother Nature' transitioned the majority of the exercise area/Emergency Planning Zone from the exercise mode of the Nuclear Power Plant to the 'real world' mode of a weather event with multiple hazards and property damage." -- *Thanks*

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to Bob Josuweit, WA3PZO, and Dan Sullivan, KO1D, for the information

Member of the Month

Roger Davies, N6DVZ

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Roger Davies, N6DVZ. Roger has been in amateur radio for 30 years. He received his Novice license when he was 16 years old and his Technician license at age 18. Roger now has his General license and is working on getting his Extra. When Roger got his General license he was grandfathered in after the requirement for code at 13 WPM was dropped.

It was Roger's Uncle Raphael, W9BUJ, who got Roger interested in amateur radio. Roger's uncle lives in Wisconsin. When Roger's uncle would come to California to visit their family, he would bring his two-meter radio and let Roger talk on it. Now, Roger and his uncle keep in touch with each other on the low bands. Every year Roger and his Uncle Ray attend the Dayton hamvention together. Even though they don't always buy things, it is fun to see what new equipment is available.

Roger lived in Southern California until 1996. In 1996 Roger and his wife, Carmen, along with their son, Brian, moved to Salt Lake City, Utah, because Carmen's job transferred her to Utah. She works for Mogg Aircraft Company as an engineer.

Roger works for Hunter Douglas where he is a material manager. They manufacture window coverings.

Roger loves Field Day. Even though Roger's son, Brian, isn't a ham radio operator, he loves to go to Field Day. They have attended many UARC Field Days at Payson Lakes and have helped setting up and taking down equipment. Unfortunately, they will not be there this year because Roger's company decided to have their inventory on Field Day weekend. Roger says he sure hopes it doesn't fall on Field Day weekend next year.

The thing that Roger likes best about amateur radio is building antennas. He also likes the new modes in amateur radio such as D-Star. Roger is a member of UARC and the Utah VHF Society.

Another hobby that Roger enjoys is making diesel fuel from vegetable oil.

Roger, we wish you all the best and hope you can come to Field Day next year.