

# The *Microvolt*

September, 2010



Prologue

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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

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Volume 53, Issue 8, September 2010

### September Meeting: HF Antennas

It is now easier than ever to get a license that will let one operate the HF or shortwave bands and work stations all over the world. And while getting licensed may not be insurmountable, that's not the only hurdle. One of the biggest decisions is what antenna(s) to use. The 19-inch whip that does well enough getting into two-meter repeaters just won't cut it for working DX on HF. However, there are plenty of HF antennas available. In fact, the array of available choices is so wide it can seem overwhelming to the newcomer.

Mark Richardson, W7HPW, will be presenting our program for the September UARC meeting, to be held Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 P.M., and will address the issue of how to select an HF antenna. Mark has had many years of experience with a wide array of antennas and has worked many countries using a variety of bands and modes. He has one of the most elaborate antenna installations in our area.

There are a number of questions to be answered in choosing antennas. Should one go for a vertical, a beam, or one of the wide variety of wire antennas? Does one need to buy a commercial antenna, or can one be built that will perform well? Will one antenna do for all bands, or must one have several antennas to do all the bands justice? Mark will help us make sense of the choices. One has to start by looking at each individual's situation: his goals, his space, his pocketbook, and possibly restrictions imposed by the government or a landlord. Mark will help us understand the tradeoffs and thus give us a headstart toward picking antennas that will work for us.

Meetings are held on the *second* Thursday of each month, so the coming meeting will be Thursday, September 9, at 7:30 P.M. in room 1230 (the "Duke" classroom) of the Warnock Engineering Building at the University of Utah. Some of our traditional parking on the east side of the building is blocked off for construction, so if you find it full, another recommended parking area 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. See [http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/ab1ip\\_meetmap.html](http://www.xmission.com/~uarc/ab1ip_meetmap.html) for information on finding the building.

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 September 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 shows our July Steak-Fry with master chef John Hardy, K7ALA, tending to the steaks and Vice President, Brett Sutherland, N7KG, assisting, while Dan Eggli, KC7HOS, looks on.

Thanks to John for attending to most of the cooking and to everyone else who helped make the event a success. Attendance was a bit over 60.

### Homebrew Night in October

Our October meeting will be the annual Homebrew Night, a chance for everyone to show off their latest home-built amateur radio creations. It may still seem like summer, but October is coming all too soon. So if you still have some construction to do, take this as a reminder that you have an October 14 deadline.

### SET Coming November 6

The annual Simulated Emergency Test or SET for Utah is scheduled for Saturday, November 6. Chairman Roger Kehr, N3AOQ, would like to hear from all amateurs and groups who are active in emergency communications by Monday, September 6. All amateurs who would like to participate must register by that date to be included. Contact Roger at:

<mailto:cottonwoodheightsradio@gmail.com>.

Include your name, callsign, emergency communications group, the group manager, and his contact information (email address and phone number).

### Swap Meet September 18

No one wants to miss a swap meet and the next one is coming up on Saturday, September 18, in

Bountiful. This annual event is organized by the Davis County Amateur Radio Club (DCARC) and cosponsored by the Ogden Amateur Radio Club (OARC) and UARC. It starts at 8 A.M. and there is no entrance fee. Location is the Bountiful City Park at approximately 100 West on 400 North in Bountiful. Take the 400 North exit from I-15 and watch for the park on the left. Bring all the gear you'd like to sell.

### ARES/RACES Conference

Emergency communicators will want to attend the annual ARES/RACES conference sponsored by the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) and the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) organizations. It will be held Saturday, November 13, from 8 A.M. to 4 P.M. at the Red Lion Hotel, 161 W. 600 South, in Salt Lake City. It will include valuable training and information for would-be emergency communicators.

Those wishing to attend must pre-register using the state's "U-Train" system on the web. Go to <https://www.utah.train.org>. If you already have an account, log in. If not, follow the "Create Account" link. Next, find the ARES/RACES conference by searching on "ARES" or "RACES" or by entering the course number, 1011069, in the appropriate slot on the right-hand side of the page. When the proper course is on the screen, follow its link and choose the "Registration" tab to register.

### License Classes

Some of our members are planning to conduct licensing classes starting in the near future. These may be helpful to anyone planning to get a first license or upgrade.

**Technician Class:** Morris Farmer, AD7SR will be teaching a class for prospective Technician Class operators starting sometime in October. He writes:

“My classes tend to last longer than many of the other Technician classes, usually about 7 weeks, so if you're looking for a “quick and dirty” class (which you may want if you are already fairly proficient), then you should sign up for another class.”

Contact Morris at <mailto:f.morris1@comcast.net> .

**General Class:** Ron Speirs, K7RLS, UARC Historian, is planning to start a class for those aspiring to the General license starting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010. The place will depend on the number of participants that sign up. It will either be at Ron's home, 1031 E. Sagehill Drive (4270 South), or at a nearby church.

Class sessions will be on Tuesdays at 7 P.M. and run for six weeks with a target of the exam session on October 26. There is no fee for the class, but purchasing the ARRL General Class License Manual is strongly recommended. (It is available through UARC for \$25.)

Contact Ron at <mailto:k7rls@comcast.net> or (801) 904-3587 to sign up or to get more information.

## **Mentoring Program**

UARC Treasurer, Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS, came back from the Dayton Hamvention with a new idea for a program to help prospective new hams get started. The idea is that a candidate would be paired up with a “mentor,” a ham who lives nearby and would be willing to help the newcomer. He would provide help to understand the licensing material, practical considerations for setting up a station, and operating practices. He would stay with the new ham right through making his first contact.

Should we start such a program in UARC? There are a number of questions to be answered in how the details could be worked out, but the first question is simply “could we find enough

mentors?” Without that, it is silly to pursue the program further.

Let us know if you would like to volunteer for such duty in your area. Just contact one of the officers. (See inside front cover.)

## **The Sunday Net**

Some of our members may not be aware of the weekly net that UARC sponsors. The “UARC Information Net” is held each Sunday evening at 9 P.M. on the club's 146.62 repeater. The first half-hour is usually taken up with *Newsline*, a program produced in California giving general news about amateur radio. After that there are announcements about coming exam sessions, ARRL bulletins, and chances for other clubs to make announcements. Finally, there is the roundtable, a chance for folks to make comments or ask questions related to amateur radio and get input from other amateurs.

## **The Synchronous ‘62**

Last fall UARC's 30-year old repeater on 146.62 was upgraded to a synchronous system of two repeaters on the same frequency, one on Farnsworth Peak in the Oquirrh range, and one at Scott's Hill near Brighton. Both transmitters take their audio from whichever receiver has the best signal on the input frequency. This may be the only system of its type in the country.

The Scott's site extends coverage into Park City, Kamas, and at least some distance up the Mirror Lake highway. There are at least a few hot spots in Heber and Evanston. A few intermittent bugs remain, particularly with regard to the westbound link between the sites. Clint, KA7OEI, believes he has a solution, so it is expected that things will be reasonably reliable before the snow flies. The repeater committee would appreciate hearing about any new coverage you might discover.

# **Our Opportunity and Responsibility as Hams**

**By Pete Robbins, WZ7ZZ**

Meeting the responsibility we have as stewards of the airwaves comes in many forms.

Last winter we, as amateur radio operators in Utah, had the opportunity to assist in the emergency communication of several automobile accidents to the medical and enforcement agencies necessary to give lifesaving support. These were areas along busy highways where most people would expect to have access thru cell service. None was available for some distance both ways from the accident sites and that could have cost the victims their lives if service from a passing amateur radio operator had not been given.

Cell companies establish service where usage will pay for the investment they put up to install a cell site. This is typically along busy, larger highways and around cities or larger towns. Many of you have heard a news article about someone lost or injured out in the forest or on a mountain calling in the search and rescue from their cell phone. Then how can they get service? Most of them are in areas close to cities like the two rescues on Mt. Olympus, the rescue on Mt Timpanogus last month, or the back country skier rescued last winter behind the ski areas of the Cottonwood canyons. These all have line-of-sight cell towers available.

When no cell tower is in sight you will not get service and the cell companies have no interest in building a multimillion dollar tower if they are not going to get a good return on that investment. A good return requires a high usage rate.

Some of you will have an opportunity to be where cell service is not available when you go out deer hunting, fishing, or boating. These are times when you may be the only one who can communicate with the outside world and agencies of emergency response.

You will find you are not typically in range of your “usual” or “normal” repeater when these emergency situations arise. If you are prepared with a list of repeaters in the areas you are traveling and have a working knowledge of your radio gear, you can offer the necessary service to relay urgent information, thus saving lives and/or protecting many. If not, then you may feel you “could have been” but were not prepared. Not a good feeling.

A repeater directory, a list of repeaters with necessary PL tones on your path, or a preprogrammed radio with a list of where the repeaters are can make you a valuable resource. This is what amateur radio is supposed to be and what gives us the right to expect our government to allow us to continue using valuable radio spectrum for our “hobby” uses. You should always have available a pen or pencil, paper and a list of pertinent questions so you will be able to refer to it in times of pressure so you can get all the information you need to forward, a good antenna on you vehicle that is properly tuned and maintained, a charger cord or battery adapter, and batteries should also be handy.

It wouldn't hurt even to check into a few nets you don't usually check into to get a feel for how other nets work and become familiar with other groups. Maybe even call CQ in areas you don't normally frequent to get a feel for what kind of activity there is in that area. After all you have that gear to talk to other hams and expand your horizons.

If we as hams are prepared whenever a need arises, we will feel rewarded in our efforts and satisfied to have done all that we could have done when the emergency is past.

Good luck and good hamming.  
([wz7zz@arrl.net](mailto:wz7zz@arrl.net))

## Examination Schedule

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
9/15/10	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
9/15/10	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
9/28/10	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>
10/02/10	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 <sup>1</sup>
10/06/10	(Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306
10/20/10	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
10/20/10	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
10/26/10	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871 <sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Preregistration required. Contact the indicated person.

## Member of the Month: Marvin Cowdell, KB7ZLG

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Marvin Cowdell, KB7ZLG. Marv has been in amateur radio for 20 years and holds a Technician license. Marv has been interested in amateur radio all of his life, but the Morse Code requirement kept him away. Finally, when individuals didn't need the code unless they wanted to be Tech-Pluses or get their General licenses, Marv got into amateur radio. Marv was taking a class in emergency preparedness in his ward. He started taking a Technician class at Welfare Square and was very excited when he got his Technician license.

Marv has been involved in emergency work and currently is over emergency communications in his stake. He is working very hard trying to get people involved in amateur radio.

Marv's favorite thing about amateur radio is getting to meet people. It is a lot of fun. Marv also enjoys Field Day. Marv is a member of UARC and has attended all of our Field Days for about 20 years now. When he first received his

Technician license he joined UARC and started attending our Field Days.

Marv is always there to set up the antennas and he is there to take them down when Field Day is over. For Marv, this is a family event. They go to Payson Lakes a week before Field Day starts and they don't leave until Field Day is over.

Marv and his wife, Janice, have five children: three boys and two girls. One of their children is adopted and has a disability. Marv and Janice have had foster children in their home throughout the years. Two of their boys have their Technician licenses. Perry's callsign is KE7TLB and Leonard's callsign is KE7DRV. So now Field Day is a family party for them every year. Both of Marv's sons, Perry and Leonard, help with setting up antennas and taking them down. They have also participated in talking on the radio and racking up the points. Marv said he is willing to help with whatever is needed such as setting up equipment and taking down equipment. Marv said

he is even willing to help with meals. He just doesn't want to be Field Day Chairperson.

Marv worked for Kennecott Copper for 30 years hauling explosives.

Other hobbies Marv enjoys are wood turning and making poles, along with fishing and camping.

Marv, we really appreciate your help at Field Day. Thank You.

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Marvin Cowdell, KB7ZLG, operating his mobile rig.  
(Thanks to K7RLS for Photo.)