

The Microvolt

January, 2011

W7KOP 1911-2010



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 2011 Board

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Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	801 904-3587
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Club Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	801 556-7565
ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438

Contents

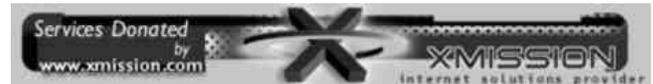
Prologue..... 2
 January Meeting: All About CW 3
 Latest News..... 4
 W7KOP, SK..... 5
 License Examination Schedule..... 6
 The Junior Op 7
 Member of the Month: 7

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:
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 Or call 801 539-0852



The Microvolt

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January Meeting: All About CW

Is CW (radiotelegraphy by on-off keying of a carrier) still important in amateur radio? What is it used for? How hard is it to learn the code and what is the best method?

These are some of the questions that will be addressed at our next UARC meeting, to be held Thursday, January 13, at 7:30 P.M. Our Executive Vice-President, Andrew Madsen, AC7CF, one of the best CW operators in UARC, is going to be telling us why CW is useful and fun, and what it takes to get up to speed (both figuratively and literally). Most people who have attended a recent UARC Field Day have been impressed with how fluent Andrew is with the code and how easy it is to make contacts quickly on CW.

In addition, we would like to have a display of code sending apparatus. Everyone is invited to bring any keys, keyers, bugs, paddles, CW keyboards, etc. they may have to put on display that evening.

Meetings are held on the *second* Thursday of each month, so the coming meeting will be Thursday, January 13, 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/ablip_meetmap.html for information on finding the building.

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

- Availability of ARRL books from Brett, 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 January get-together will be at “Su Casa,” 516 E. 300 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Propagation Links

We have had some requests for the web links that were listed during the December 9 UARC meeting about propagation. Here they are:

One-Stop Index Shopping: The NOAA Space Weather Prediction Center is the mother lode of solar and geomagnetic data. One of their pages that has virtually all of the current indices used in propagation prediction is at: http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/alerts/solar_indices.html.

The first useful area shows A- and K-Indices. Choose the most recent planetary K index unless the Boulder index is more recent.

Scrolling down, you will find the “Daily Solar Indices” section. Choose the most recent Pentiction 10.7-cm solar flux.

The sunspot number is just below the flux tabulation labeled “SWO Sunspot Number.” Again, choose the most recent value.

Further along the same line, find “X-Ray Events C/M/X.” There are three numbers showing the number of C-class, M-class, and X-class X-Ray bursts. A non-zero number for the X-class events might mean serious degradation or even an HF-blackout. You may want to check “X-Ray Data” below.

Near the bottom of the page is a series of links to historical data of various kinds.

X-Ray Data: A site plotting recent X-Ray activity is: <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/today.html#xray>. Activity in or above the M or X levels could mean propagation trouble.

Boulder Magnetometer: This is the only site we are aware of that shows current geomagnetic activity. Most other sites that quote a published K-index are using the one for the previous three-hour period (since the definition of a K-index requires a three-hour observation). This site shows actual magnetic field vs. time plots and a preliminary K-index for the current three-hour period. Near the bottom, a link called “The K-index” leads to a page showing the tables that are used in K-index and A-index calculation.

http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/rt_plots/bou_12h.html.

Radio User's Page: For those that want to explore further, check the “Radio Users' Page”: <http://www.swpc.noaa.gov/radio/>.

ARRL Propagation Articles: There are a number of helpful articles about propagation available from ARRL's web site starting with: <http://www.arrl.org/propagation-of-rf-signals>.

VHF Society Announces Swap Meet

The Utah VHF Society, an organization that supplies financial help to repeaters across the state, will hold its annual business meeting and swap meeting on Saturday, February 26, 2011. The swap meet is typically the largest in the state.

The swap meet will be held in the same place as in the last several years, the Zion Building at the Utah State Fairpark. Admission is free to VHF Society members.

Membership in the VHF Society runs for a calendar year, so all members who have not joined for multiple years have their dues coming due at the beginning of 2011. Dues should be sent to:

Utah VHF Society
P.O. Box 482
Bountiful, UT 84011-0482

Technician Class

Ron Speirs tells us that during January there will be a four-session class in the Holladay area for those interested in obtaining a Technician Class license. It will be on January 14, 15, 21, and 22. For more information, contact Ron at his e-mail address: <mailto:k7rls@comcast.net>.

Election Results

December was election time for UARC and the most amazing thing happened: all the 2010 officers were re-elected for 2011. Apparently, the Board of Directors had done such an outstanding job that no one even dared make a nomination.

W7KOP, SK

We regret to report the passing of Leonard A. (“Woody”) Woodward, W7KOP, on Christmas day, 2010, at age 99. Our cover shows a photo taken by Ron Speirs of Woody at his station in Provo in 2001. Woody was almost certainly the only remaining operator in Utah who had been licensed at the time that the dominant transmission mode was spark. He was born on October 11, 1911, and got his first license in 1919

Some of the following information is taken from an interview that Linda Reeder did with Woody in 2001.

Woody, living on a farm in Kansas, received his first license in 1919 on the 8th of May from the Department of Commerce. (The FCC would not come into existence until the 1930s.) His call was 9LW.

He had first encountered amateur radio from a school friend, Kenneth Kimball, who had a spark

This is a common situation for the Utah VHF Society, but the first time in the editor’s memory it has happened in UARC. Treasurer Chuck Johnson made a comment about Union Pacific, but we’re sure he just meant that the club was being run with railroad-like efficiency.

Division Award Nominations Sought

Nominations are being sought for those who have made outstanding contributions to the hobby in the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division. Specifically, the available awards include Ham of the Year, Young Ham of the Year, and Technical Achievement Award. Consider who you know that might be appropriate to nominate. For full details see: <http://www.rockymountaindivision.org/>.

transmitter and a homebrew receiver. Woody then managed to get to the library in Coffeyville where he checked out the only book they had about radio: *Radio for Everybody*. Next, Woody got help from an older ham, Bob McCoulah, to prepare for and, ultimately, take the license test.

Woody lived through the period when the government threatened to abolish amateur radio as documented in *200 Meters and Down*. He dropped out of amateur radio in the 20’s before the transition from spark to CW.

He worked at one time as an engineer at an oil refinery in Rawlins Wyoming. When hydrocarbon poisoning threatened his health, he took a position on the BYU faculty in chemistry and moved to Provo.

Woody got back into amateur radio after World War II and has been active ever since, operating HF, building equipment, and keeping his own

IRLP node on the air. He built a number of linear and class C amplifiers and had an enviable collection of equipment and parts.

We were fortunate enough to have Woody speak to us at two UARC meetings, telling about his experiences in radio. On one, he shared the stage with the late Alvno Rey, W6UK, who had had first-hand contact with Lee DeForest, inventor of the triode tube.

When asked about “the stupidist thing” Woody had ever done, he told of an incident during the sunspot peak in 1959. He got a report of a ratty signal and thought it was likely a problem with the transmitter power supply. He put the supply on the bench and started to look at it, forgetting it had no bleeder resistor. His face touched the filter capacitor lead. He woke up later in a corner and said he was so mad he just gave up and went to bed.

Woody was also very active in scouting. During a celebration in Orem of the 100th anniversary of Boy Scouts of America, Woody was honored as the nation’s oldest boy scout. According to the Provo *Herald*, Woody’s grandson, Devon Halvorson, said,

“He’s like a pillar. He tells us to always have fun in whatever you do in Scouts. He loves to tell stories, and talk about his pranks. Most of them I wouldn’t dare do — especially the ones with snakes and wet sleeping bags.”

Having outlived two wives, Woody married a third time in 2008. His new wife, Doreen BATTERY, was a native Canadian. Shortly after the wedding they traveled to Lethbridge so she could sell her home and take care of other affairs. Unfortunately, when they tried to return to the U.S., she discovered that due to her changed situation as the wife of a U.S. citizen, she needed a different kind of visa to re-enter. The couple was separated for another nine months while the bureaucracy completed the necessary paperwork.

A great account of Woody’s life from the *Provo Herald*, including information from KR7D on his radio activities, can be found at:

http://www.heraldextra.com/news/local/article_8c237451-4a5b-5ed8-820e-e6f5c4ee7712.html .

(Note that’s an underscore between “article” and “8c.”)

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone	Notes
01/19/11	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678	
01/19/11	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983	
01/25/11	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871	1
02/05/11	(Sat.)	Salt Lake C.	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438	1
02/16/11	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983	
02/16/11	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678	
02/22/11	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871	1

¹Preregistration required. Check with the contact person before the test session.

The Junior Op



Club Historian and photographer Ron Speirs, K7RLS, captured this shot at our last UARC meeting. Program Chairperson Gary Wong's son Kevin, age 3, is busy at the computer. We assume he is taking notes about propagation. Gary has been doing a great job raising Kevin: Kevin already knows the Morse Code.

Member of the Month:

Ken Imber, KI7SLC

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Ken Imber, KI7SLC. Ken became interested in amateur radio when he was taking an electronics class in high school. He studied really hard and learned all about the ham equipment, what made it work and how to fix it. Even though Ken was interested in the hobby, he never obtained his amateur radio license until years later.

After Ken graduated from high school he attended the police academy and became a police officer. Ken worked for the police department for 14 years. One

night when Ken was driving home from an investigation class at the police academy, he was struck by a drunk woman. Three cars were involved in this accident. Because of an injury from the accident Ken could no longer work as a police officer. His left arm just doesn't have the strength that is needed for this type of job.

Ken's interest in amateur radio led him to the career he now has. Ken works for the Salt Lake City department

The Microvolt January 2011

of airports which is combined with the with the police and fire departments. Ken repairs radios and transmitters. He also works with microwave equipment. Ken's company has an extensive trunked radio system. It involves three sites and 20-channel radios on the 800-MHz band. They also have a great emergency setup. They even have ham radio equipment at the dispatch center, in an emergency command van, and 70 centimeters, 2 meters and HF equipment at the shop. Ken works with two ham radio operators at his office, Robin Jones, WB7VLJ, and Scott Saunders WA7UFA. They are trying to get the dispatchers to get their ham licenses.

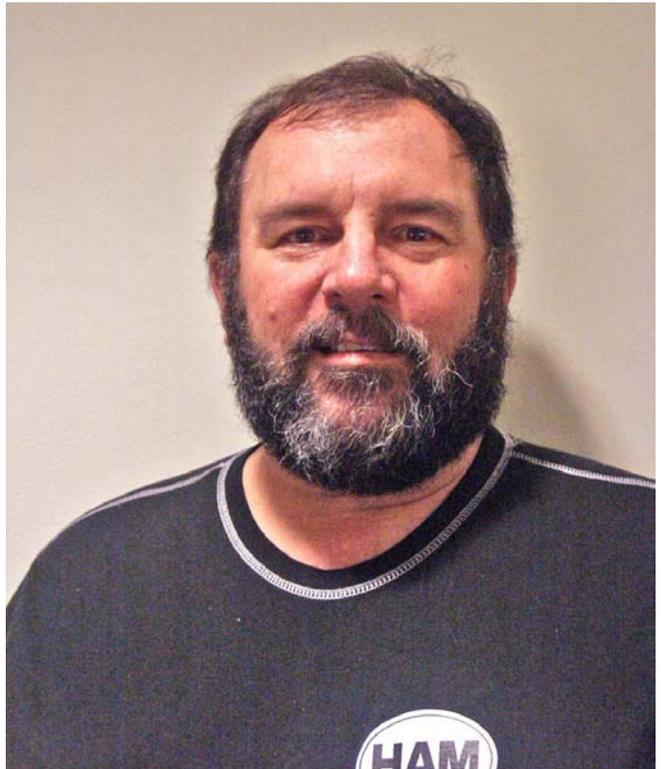
Ken's favorite thing about amateur radio is emergency operations. It was Brent Thomas, AC7H who influenced Ken to get his ham license. Brent worked for the Utah State Emergency EOC.

Ken was really impressed with the emergency operations Brent had set up. Brent was teaching a class and Ken took the class. He now has his General license. Ken's previous call sign was KC7VOF. He has now been in the hobby for 25 years. Another thing that Ken likes about amateur radio is being able to talk all around the world and he enjoys meeting people. Ken enjoys Field Day. unfortunately he hasn't been able to attend Field Day for the last two years because of his job. Ken also enjoys riding his motorcycle. He even has a ham station set up on his motorcycle.

Ken and his wife, Michelle, have two grown sons. Michael is in the Marine Corps and will be going to Iraq. Nicholas has his Technician license and has the call KD7ZSY.

Ken is a member of UARC and the VHF Society. He has some professional VHF test equipment at his office. He used to bring this equipment to the ham radio club meetings when we met on 3900 S. Since we have moved, Ken said it is too hard to lug that equipment to the meeting but if anyone

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Ken Imber, K17SLC
(Tnx to K7RLS for photo.)

would like to have their radios tested, they can give him a call 801-580-9526 and make an appointment. Then they can bring their radios to his office where he can test and align them.

Ken we appreciate your contributions to amateur radio.