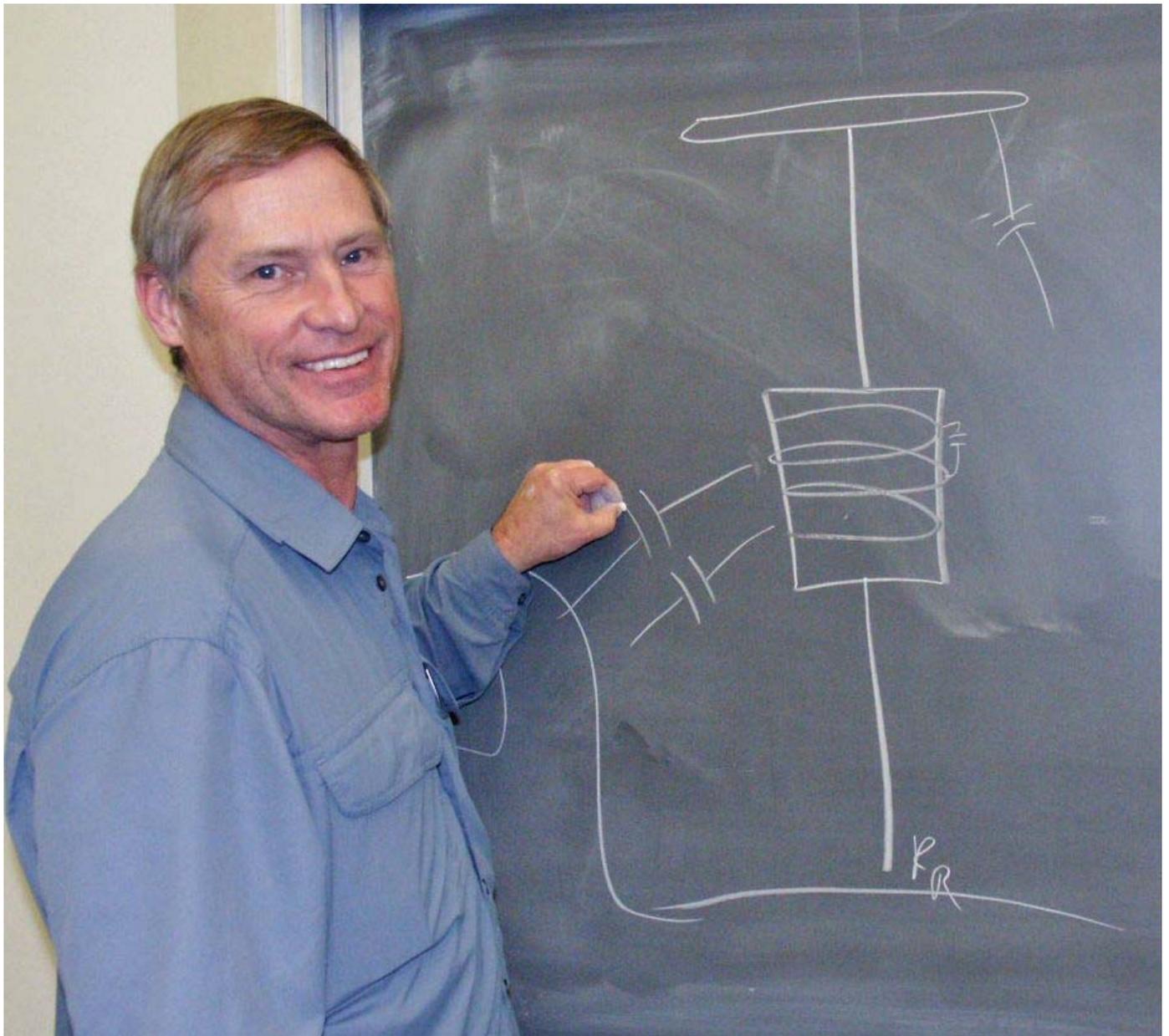


The *Microvolt*

May, 2011



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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Engineer: Randy Finch, K7SL	801 556-7565
ATV Engineer: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Autopatch Engineer: Gordon Smith, K7HFV	801 582-2438

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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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The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah
Volume 54, Issue 5, May 2011

May Meeting: Vintage Radio Night

Do the names Hallicrafters, Hammarlund, Collins, and National mean anything to you? Do you remember the days when you were doing well if you knew your frequency to the nearest ten kHz? (Well, actually, they were kilocycles back then.) Can you identify with having to keep your hand on the tuning knob of your receiver for the first hour after you turned it on? Did you have to turn the AGC off when you turned the BFO on? Then you might like to participate in “Vintage Radio Night” and tell the newcomers how much things have changed.

The next UARC meeting will be held on Thursday, May 12, in room 1230 (yes, we're back to the ground floor) of the Warnock Engineering building on the U of U campus. The program will be “Vintage Radio Night” where everyone is encouraged to bring in amateur equipment from the 70's or earlier for show and tell. If you've gotten too old to lift that much weight, a photograph or two in digital format that can be projected might be even better.

If you were *not* involved in amateur radio 40 years ago, you might be interested to see what those days were like. A lot has changed. In those days transmitters and receivers were often from different manufacturers. Building a system to switch from receive to transmit with a single switch was left as an exercise for the operator. Everyone knew how many tubes were in his receiver. A VFO was genuinely a variable frequency oscillator. Its frequency varied with the setting of a variable capacitor, and sometimes with the temperature, the line voltage, or the phase of the moon. Single-sideband was relatively new and some were sure it was just a passing fad. Come and hear the tales and see the equipment.

UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. During spring semester, they will be in room 1230 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 location for May is “The Sizzler,” 371 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover this month features Randy Finch, K7SL, who presented our April meeting on HF mobile antennas. Here, he is showing the impact of capacitance from coil turns to the rest of the world. (Thanks to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photo.)

Field Day Update

Doug Nielson, KF7OZL, has volunteered to help with the organization of our entry in Field Day, the nationwide contest to test amateurs’ ability to set up effective communications from portable locations. Doug is newly licensed, having taken his test at UARC’s December exam session, and is already getting thoroughly involved in the hobby.

Field Day is sponsored by the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). The object of the contest is for portable and mobile stations to make as many contacts as possible in 24 (or 27) hours. This year it will be held June 25 and 26. For more information on the contest, see the ARRL web site at <http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

Field Day is traditionally a chance to combine a family campout with some amateur radio contesting. It can also be a chance for newcomers to watch the setup of an HF station and its antennas and even get a taste of making long-distance contacts without any repeater help. We will be entering as a club from a traditional mountain site just south of Payson Lakes. Doug will be looking for lots of volunteers to help with various areas such as rigs, antennas, computers, power distribution, Saturday dinner, tables and

chairs, etc. Are there any volunteers? If you would like to help, get in touch with any of the club officers.

Net Help Needed

Gary Openshaw, KC7AWU, has been coordinating the “Other Club Information” portion of UARC’s weekly Sunday night net for quite a number of years, and has recently been reading the information on all but one of the Sundays each month. We would like to thank Gary for his years of dedicated consistent service. Unfortunately, a change in family affairs prevents Gary from continuing.

We need some new volunteers for the “Other Club Information” section of the net. There are no special qualifications necessary except for the ability to read well and understand a calendar well enough to figure out which items should be announced on which weeks. The net meets on UARC’s 146.62 repeater each Sunday evening at 9:00 P.M. Mountain Time. If you think you might like to help and would like more information, contact Mike Youngs, KK7VZ, (801) 573-3922, or by e-mail at <mailto:KK7VZ@arrl.net>. He would be happy to discuss it with you.

May Bunny-Hunt

John Hardy, K7ALA, has announced that in honor of *CQ* Magazine’s annual Foxhunting Weekend, he will be sponsoring a hidden transmitter hunt for beginners on foot on May 14 at 10 A.M.. It will be held at West Valley City Centennial Park on 5600 West and 3100 South, southeast corner, just south

of the WVC fitness center. John will be set up with a table near the southwest end of the park, not in a pavilion. About use of the park, John writes:

“At first they weren't very eager to allow us, but someone on the board is an amateur operator and explained what we are going to do, and so they've welcomed us with open arms. We'll have to figure out who that person is and thank him for the help and support.”

New Net Begins

A group of hams, mostly from Utah County, who have been getting together regularly on UARC's 146.76 repeater, have been calling themselves the “76ers” (no relation to the Philadelphia NBA team

of the same name). They have recently started having a net to help keep better track of each other. (Oddly, the other 76ers also talk about nets.) It meets on the ‘76 repeater each Thursday evening at 7 P.M. (It's OK to check in mobile while you're on the way to the UARC meeting.) Everyone is welcome.

Steak-Fry July 16

UARC will hold its annual Steak-Fry on Saturday, July 16, at The Spruces campground in Big Cottonwood Canyon. The May meeting will be the first chance to buy tickets in person. Cost of the full steak dinner is just \$10. Other chances to get tickets in person will be at the June meeting and at Field Day. Mark the date on your calendar.

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone	Notes
05/14/11	(Sat.)	Herriman	Joel R. Stewart, KE7TGI	(801) 971-2534	
05/14/11	(Sat.)	Smithfield	Gary T. Roberts, AG1T	(435) 881-9766	
05/18/11	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983	
05/18/11	(Wed.)	St. George	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678	
05/21/11	(Sat.)	North Salt Lake	Gary L. Davis, KE7MQF	(801) 865-0299	
05/24/11	(Tues.)	Salt Lake C.	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871	
06/01/11	(Wed.)	Ogden	Mary Hazard, W7UE	(801) 430-0306	
06/04/11	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City	Gordon R. Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438 ¹	
06/09/11	(Thu.)	Logan	V. P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630	

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

Amateurs Step In After Record Tornados

After the record tornados on April 28, amateur radio operators stepped in to help out with communications in several states.

In Alabama, where the storms claimed at least 58 lives, amateur operators manned the Pell City EOC after the storm had cost the building all its antennas. Amateurs were also active St. Clair County, and Tuscaloosa, where hams were able to

provide communication for the Emergency Management Agency and the police department despite the loss of three important repeaters.

In Jasper County, Mississippi, hams provided communications support for the Emergency Management Agency, the Sheriff's Office, and the Volunteer Fire Department.

In Arkansas, SKYWARN was activated and amateurs were very active in weather nets, spotting and reporting the paths of the twisters.

SKYWARN was also activated in North Carolina where hams spent many hours picking up reports from nets and relaying them to the National Weather Service.

Flood warnings in Indiana, Kentucky, and Missouri, resulted in the evacuation of hundreds of residents. Hams were on standby in case communications emergencies developed.

VEC Petitions FCC for Lifetime Test Credit

The Anchorage VEC (one of the fourteen Volunteer Examiner Coordinators in the country) has filed a petition with the FCC to grant lifetime element credit to amateurs who have passed license examination elements, even if the associated license has been allowed to expire.

All recently issued amateur licenses are good for a period of 10 years and can be renewed any time from 90 days before the expiration date to two years after expiration. During the two year period after expiration, an amateur cannot operate until a renewed license has been issued, but his callsign will not be available for reissue to another operator until after the two-year grace period.

If the grace period expires without a renewal application being filed, the amateur must re-test to become licensed again. (The one exception is that an amateur who can prove he held a Technician license prior to 1987, can claim credit for Element 3, the General class test. However, he must take Element 2, the Technician element, anew.)

Most amateurs approaching a renewal date are notified by the W5YI VEC in the hopes that those amateurs will pay a fee to have that VEC process their renewal applications. Applications for renewals in which no vanity callsigns are involved can be filed on line at no charge. Licenses that

contain a vanity callsign can be renewed similarly with the only charge being the periodic vanity fee (currently \$13.30).

In its petition, the Anchorage VEC stated:

“It does not matter that the person had at one time passed one or more examination elements. This fact is ignored. Does the passage of time somehow invalidate a person's knowledge? We think not. We believe that any applicant who can demonstrate that they have passed certain elements at some previous date or who have held a license grant for a particular class of license, again on or before various applicable dates, should not have to be re-examined on those elements before a new license can be granted. It seems unfair to allow some applicants to claim element credit for items previously passed and not others.

“...We believe that a person who can show proof of having held a license grant for a specific class of license has in fact demonstrated that they have earned credit for having passed the elements required for that class of license.”

In answer to a potential argument that elements passed long ago might not be relevant to current operation, the petitioner points out that those who have held a license continuously for decades are not

required to re-test upon renewal. Those that simply missed renewing on time should have the same privilege.

They propose one exception. They suggest that those who held only a Novice license should be required to take the current Element 2 exam, because Element 2 has changed substantially in difficulty from the days when a new Novice license was available.

The proposal does not include keeping the applicant's old callsign available beyond the current two-year period. The proposal would allow

someone wishing to become licensed after letting his license expire to apply through a VE team and receive a current sequentially issued callsign.

ARRL filed a similar petition in 1994 and the FCC responded by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in 1995. The NPRM differed in details from ARRL's proposal. Ultimately, the Commission abandoned its own proposal in 1997, citing "general opposition" in the comments filed.

The petition has not yet been assigned an RM number. When that occurs there will be a chance for any interested parties to file comments.

Member of the Month:

Mark Stufflebeam, W8MS

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Mark Stufflebeam, W8MS. Mark has been interested in amateur radio for 30 years, but Morse Code kept him away. Mark's son, Michael, and Michael's wife, Krista, were getting into amateur radio, because their stake (a unit of LDS church organization) was getting involved in emergency communications. Mark and his son, Michael, took a CERT class together. Michael and his wife, Krista, received their ham radio licenses before Mark did. Mark said because his job requires him to work on Saturdays he wasn't able to take the ham class that Michael and Krista were taking. Michael and Krista received their ham radio licenses in February of 2010. Mark received his ham license April 21, 2010. Mark studied on his own. He had the Gordon West books and he studied on line. Mark went to the test session put on by Steve Whitehead, NV7V, and took the Technician, General, and Extra exams and passed them all. Mark only missed four questions out of all three of those exams.

There is an interesting story about some of the call signs of this family. They wanted vanity call signs

with their initials. They had to get out of seven-land to accomplish this. The very day that Mark received his Extra Class license, the vanity call sign he wanted became available. The call sign assigned to him was KE7GI, but he never used it because W8MS was available. Mark's son, Michael, who also has his Extra Class license, has the call sign KV9G. Michael's wife, Kirsta, who has her General license, has the call sign, KF7HVG. Krista doesn't have a vanity call. Mark's son, Robbie, has his Technician license and Robbie's call sign is K3RWS. Robbie is now serving a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Later Day Saints in Argentina. Mark and his wife, Robin, have four children, one girl and three boys.

Mark was in the Marine Corps for six years. He worked as an aviation electric technician. Mark worked for General Electric for 22 years. Then Mark got a job offer at the Huntsman Cancer Center at the University of Utah working with molecular energy imaging and installing equipment.

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Mark's favorite thing about amateur radio is emergency communications. Mark runs an ARES net for Utah emergency communications. Mark also enjoys the low bands. He is anxiously waiting for the snow to clear so he can put up an antenna which is now in his attic. Mark would like to get it up higher so he can communicate longer distances.

Mark is a member of UARC. Mark said he uses the 146.62 repeater a lot so he thought he should join the club. Mark really enjoys coming to the meetings. He also enjoys the steak-fry.

Mark is a VE and works with Steve Whitehead's group. Mark is a private pilot and really enjoys

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flying. He is also interested in photography. Mark and his wife Robin used to have a photography business.

Mark, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors.



“Here is the picture I took the other day at work. I am holding my 5-watt HT in front of the final stage of the 15-kW RF generator I take care of at the University of Utah, Huntsman Cancer Institute.” —W8MS