

The *Microvolt*

September, 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

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| President: Linda Reeder, N7HVF | 801 364-7006 |
| Executive VP: Andrew Madsen, AC7CF | 801 419-8378 |
| Vice Pres: Brett Sutherland, N7KG | 801 298-5399 |
| Secretary: Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ | 801 274-9638 |
| Treasurer: Chuck Johnson, WA7JOS | 801 268-0153 |
| <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Gordon Smith, K7HFV | 801 582-2438 |
| Asst. <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Rick Asper, AC7RA | |
| Program Chair: Gene Deal, KF7BSF | 801 548-5063 |
| Program Chair: Gary Wong, AB1IP | 801 582-0906 |
| Imm. Past Pres: John Hardy, K7ALA | |

Committee Chairpersons and Members

| | |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------|
| "Book Lady": Brett Sutherland, KI7KM | 801 298-5399 |
| Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS | 801 904-3587 |
| Field Day Chair: | |
| 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 |
| September Meeting: All About QRP | 3 |
| Latest News..... | 4 |
| Hams Help with Pioneer Day Marathon..... | 5 |
| ARRL Establishes Web Site for Hurricane Irene . | 6 |
| License Examination Schedule..... | 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>

We are grateful to the management of XMission, our Internet Service Provider (ISP), for the donation of this Web-Page service.



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 54, Issue 8, September 2011

September Meeting: All About QRP

Have you ever wanted to have communication with the world from a backpack camp that isn't near any cell sites or even a two-meter repeater? Then HF QRP might be just what you're looking for.

“QRP” is the Q-signal for “reduce power” and has come to identify the whole field of low-power operation. Thanks to solid-state electronics, it is possible to carry a transceiver weighing only a few ounces that is capable of making HF contacts all over the world.

We start the fall season of UARC meetings with a presentation by Dr. Bob Armstrong, N7XJ, a long-time QRP afficianado, on Thursday, September 8. Bob has had experience with quite a variety of QRP gear over the years and can tell us what is available and what its good and bad points are. Bob is active in the “Adventure Radio Society,” a group dedicated to operating QRP in exotic places. (See their web site at adventure-radio.org for topics such as “Backcountry Antennas.”)

The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 8, at 7:30 P.M., in room 1230 (the “Duke” classroom) in the Warnock Engineering building on the U of U campus.

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 (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 the map at 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 September get-together will be at “Su Casa,” 516 E. 300 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover photo this month is from UARC's annual steak-fry held July 16 in Big Cottonwood Canyon. John Hardy, K7ALA; and Jed Petrovich, AD7KG kindly agreed to chair the event. They can be seen in the photo standing just to the left of the grill.

Homebrew Coming

Just a month left until the annual Homebrew Night to be held at UARC's October meeting. This is the chance to display home-built equipment. If you're planning to build a 5-band SSB transceiver from scratch, it might be time to get started. Mark October 13 on your calendar.

Don't Pay the Wrong Bill

In the July issue's article on Field Day we mis-identified the UARC member who took charge of towing the trailer with our small tower up to the Field Day site. It was really Bill Quist, KE7HEG. In the hurry to get the issue out, we named the wrong "Bill." Our appologies to both Bills.

Field Day Follow-Up

Our Field Day operation last June demonstrated some problems with our Communication on Wheels (or "COW") trailer. It occurred to the Board of Directors that it might be easier to fix the problems now while the weather is good than, say, next March in a blizzard. Consequently, there is a work party planned for Saturday morning, September 24.

Some of the jobs that need doing are diagnosing why the tilt motor only runs one direction, and devising some kind of waterproof covering for the mechanism. Feel free to join us if you can contribute to this kind of work, or if you would just like to find out more about the COW and learn how to set it up and operate it.

At this writing we don't know the exact details of location and time, but it will likely be in Murray at about 10 A.M. So check the "current news" section of the web site as the date gets closer, or just get on the 146.62 repeater about 9:30 on the 26th for further instructions.

Swap Meet September 17

The annual Davis County Swap Meet will be held on Saturday morning, September 17, at 8 A.M. UARC is invited and the event is *free*. It will be held at the Bountiful City Park, near 400 West and 100 North in Bountiful. (Take the 400 North exit from I-15.)

There is no charge to buyers or sellers, but tables are available on a first-come, first-served basis. There will be a prize drawing at 9:30 A.M.

This annual event helps fill in the dry spell between the winter VHF Society swap meets.

Plano Balloon Festival

Those who like to work special event stations may be interested in trying for K5B between September 16 and 18, 2011. The station will be celebrating the 31st annual Plano (Texas) Balloon Festival. Members of the Plano Amateur Radio Klub (PARK) and area amateur radio operators will be QRV as K5B during the festival.

Frequencies plus or minus QRM: 7.255, 14.255, 21.355 and on the club repeater, WD5ERD on 147.180 + PL 107.2 and via Echolink at K5PRK. QSL with SASE to K5PRK .

Bear Lake Repeaters

Rick Sterling, AE7RS, reports that two repeaters serving the Bear Lake area are back on the air. They are the 147.02 at Laketown, Utah (100 Hz PL), and 147.12 at Montpelier, Idaho (123 Hz PL). They are linked to each other and the 147.02 is linked to the Intermountain Intertie.

Communications Products Store Closes

Communications Products, for many years the only store in Utah to carry amateur transceivers from the major manufacturers, has closed its brick and mortar store, but remains in operation as a mail-order outlet. Owner Bob Wood, W7OAD, reports that he can accept phone orders six days a week. For more information, including phone number, e-mail, and hours, see the web site at <http://www.commproducts.net/> .

Hams Help with Pioneer Day Marathon

By Russ Harmon, KC7WVQ



Net Control site for the July 25 Marathon

During the early morning hours on July 25, the Deseret Morning News Marathon, 10k, and 5K

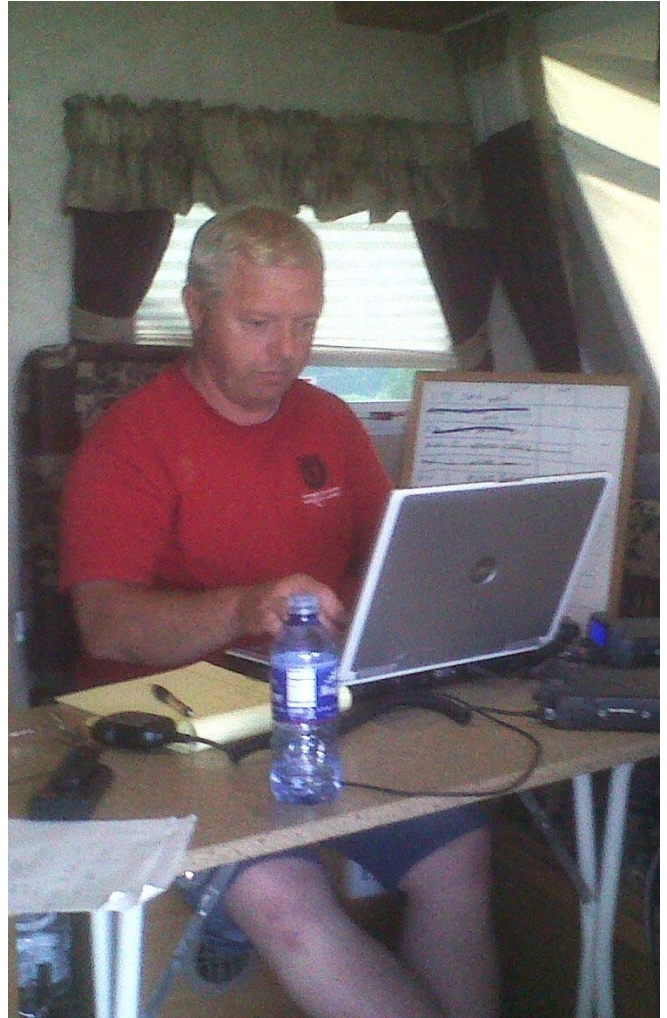
races were held again, following the same course as in previous years. Race organizer Bob Wood

reported about 2000 runners participated in this year's event with 700 or so running the entire 26.2-mile marathon course starting at the top of Big Mountain in East Canyon and finishing at Liberty Park. The fastest runners finished some two and half hours later. A race like this takes many volunteers and support from the community citizens along the course.

I served as communications coordinator and would like to thank all those ham radio operators that participated this year. Communications was provided among thirteen aid stations, runner transportation from Energy Solution Arena and Rice Eccles Stadium, marathon and 10k starting lines, finish line, and city SAG vehicle, as well as Emigration Canyon medical support. Participating radio amateurs came from several different organizations including Salt Lake County A.R.E.S. Inc., Utah Amateur Radio Club, and the LDS church's ERC groups. Some operators spent the night before the race at their respective assignments so that they could be ready and avoid any last minute problems setting up their equipment.

This was a truly excellent opportunity to test new gear, and simulate what we would need should we be called upon to deploy for larger scale event.

I would like to thank those hams that went the extra mile this year to cover multiple positions, used their own POV for SAG efforts, the new radio operators that stepped into a different role without much knowledge of what to expect, and of course, the operators from years past that gladly



The author operates from the NCS site.

stepped up and said "Sure, I'll help." I would also like to say thank you to the owners of the 146.700 repeater for its use, the various land owners for access to their property to set operating stations, and to each of your families willing to let you "go play" for a few hours on a Monday morning.

ARRL Establishes Web Site for Hurricane Irene

As we go to press, Hurricane Irene is expected to cause serious problems along the U.S. east coast. The ARRL Headquarters Emergency Response Team (HQERT) has established a website at <http://www.arrl.org/irene> to keep amateurs informed of latest developments. The web site will also provide links to the National Hurricane Center, W4NHC — the amateur radio station at NHC, The Hurricane Watch Net, and the Voice Over IP Net (VOIPWX).

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

| Date | Day | City | Contact Person | Phone |
|----------|---------|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 07/20/11 | (Wed.) | Provo | Steve Whitehead, NV7V | (801) 465-3983 |
| 07/20/11 | (Wed.) | St. George ² | Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE | (435) 674-2678 |
| 07/26/11 | (Tues.) | Salt Lake C. | Eugene McWherter, N7OVT | (801) 541-1871 |
| 08/06/11 | (Sat.) | Salt Lake C ³ . | Gordon Smith, K7HFV | (801) 582-2438 ¹ |
| 08/17/11 | (Wed.) | Provo | Steve Whitehead, NV7V | (801) 465-3983 |
| 08/17/11 | (Wed.) | St. George ² | Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE | (435) 674-2678 |
| 08/30/11 | (Tues.) | Salt Lake C. | Eugene McWherter, N7OVT | (801) 541-1871 |

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

²More information at <http://www.dixieham.org/meetings.html>

³More information at <http://utaharc.org/Exams>.

Member of the Month:

Rob Patterson, KF7MME

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Jacquilynn Patterson, KF7MLG. Jacquilynn is new to the hobby. She received her Technician license in November, 2010. Jacquilynn learned about amateur radio through her LDS stake, the Crescent North stake. She took a ham radio class with her dad, Rob Patterson, KF7MME, who I featured last month.

Jacquilynn participates in a stake net every Thursday night at 9 P.M. on the 145.45 repeater. This net covers the Sandy and Magna regions. The participants learn how to handle emergencies and engage in emergency exercises. Jacqi says this net gives her a peaceful feeling knowing they will know what to do when a real emergency happens. She says she loves to get together with her Technician group. This is her favorite thing about amateur radio.

Jacquilynn participates in public service events. This summer she participated in the Salt Lake City marathon with her dad, Rob Patterson, KF7MME.

She operated one of the aid stations for the runners. They give the runners water or help them get medical help if needed. She thoroughly enjoyed this event and is looking forward to future public service events.

Jacqi is a member of UARC and enjoys attending the meetings. Her favorite meeting was "Vintage Radio Night" where she really enjoyed hearing about those old radios. They are quite different from the radios that are out today.

Jacquilynn wants to upgrade to General, but it will have to wait until next summer when school is out. Jacqi is a junior at Jordan High School. Her favorite subject is math. She wants to go in to arachnology, which is the study of spiders. She owns five tarantulas and likes to watch them..

Another hobby Jacquilynn enjoys is playing the accordion.

The Microvolt September 2011

Jacqi, we wish you the best in your endeavors and good luck on getting that upgrade to General.



The Microvolt (USPS 075-430) is published monthly except August for \$17.00 per year or \$1.50 per issue by the Utah Amateur Radio Club, 3666 South State Street, Salt Lake City, UT 84115-4848. Periodicals Postage Paid at Salt Lake City, Utah. POSTMASTER: Send Address changes to *The Microvolt*, c/o Dick Keddington, 1783 Woodside Drive, Holladay, UT 84124-1620.

Rob Patterson, KF7MME (last month's Member of the Month) and his daughter, Jacqilynn, KF7MLG. (Photo by K7RLS)

-



On Saturday, August 20, an entire bevy (or is it a gaggle?) of hams assembled on Lake Mountain, site of UARC's 146.76 repeater, as a picnic of the "76ers" coincided with efforts by KA7OEI and K7HFV to replace the repeater's link receiver. Here, the group assembles under the tower. We leave it as an exercise for the viewer to identify the individual participants.

(Thanks to Bruce Fereday, KF7OZK, for the photo.)