

# The *Microvolt*

December, 2012



Carl, WE7OMG, uses an antenna-installation tool we all wish we had.

**December Meeting on *December 6* !**

## Prologue

**Publication:** *The Microvolt* (USPS 075-430) is the official publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Incorporated, 699 E. South Temple Ste 100, Salt Lake City, UT 84102-1282. 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 2012 Board

President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
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
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Asst. <i>Microvolt</i> Editor: Mary Alexander, KF7QVL	801 347-3220
Program Chairperson: Morris Farmer, AD7SR	801 278-4966
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## Committee Chairpersons and Members

"Book Lady": Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Historian: Ron Speirs, K7RLS	801 904-3587
Field Day Chair: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
License Trustee: Brett Sutherland, N7KG	801 298-5399
Repeater 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://user.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://user.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html>

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For account information go to:  
<http://www.xmission.com/>  
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## The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah  
Volume 55, Issue 11, December 2012

# December Meeting: Elections and Trivia Quiz Important: It's *December 6* !

We hope everyone has gotten the word by now, but here it is again: The December UARC meeting will be (for this one month only) on the *first* Thursday of the month, December 6. The reason is that our usual second Thursday date falls during University finals week when our room's availability cannot be guaranteed. Help us spread the word.

The December meeting will feature elections for 2013 officers and a ham radio trivia quiz, possibly similar to the one that was offered last year. Elections, of course, are important to be sure we still have a club next year.

Do you know more about amateur radio than your fellow club members? Here's a chance to find out. Questions may include ones that cover technical theory, operating practices, rules and regulations, and even ones about the local repeaters and organizations. Much of it you probably already know from having studied for your license test(s). (Uh, you *did* learn something when you studied for your license, didn't you?)

Don't worry, it's all for fun. You won't lose your license if your team doesn't do well. No results will be sent to the FCC. But you might learn some details you'll find interesting when all is revealed.

UARC meetings are (usually) held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. The fall meetings are held in room 1230 (the "Duke" classroom) of the Warnock Engineering Building at the University of Utah. See [http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/ab1ip\\_meetmap.html](http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/ab1ip_meetmap.html) for information on finding the building and the room.

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 December get-together will be at "Crown Burger," 377 E. 200 South in Salt Lake City.

## Latest News

### Elections Coming

The December meeting (remember, it's *December 6*) will conclude the cycle of choosing officers for the new year. The process is designed to allow members many opportunities to participate. In October members were invited to participate on a nominating committee. No one volunteered, so the Board appointed itself as the committee. A slate of nominees was presented at the November meeting and the floor opened for further nominations. Only one was received. The slate of nominees currently stands as follows:

President:	Clint Turner, KA7OEI
Executive Vice-Pres.:	Rick Asper, AC7RA
Vice-President:	Brett Sutherland, N7KG
Secretary:	Dick Keddington, KD7TDZ
Treasurer:	Chuck Johnson, W7JOS
Program Chairperson:	Morris Farmer, AD7SR
Program Chairperson:	Gary Wong, AB1IP
<i>Microvolt</i> Editor:	Gordon Smith, K7HFV
Assistant Editor:	Mary Alexander, KF7QVL

That doesn't end the chance for participation. Just in case you've looked at the slate and are saying "No, not *them!*" there will still be a chance to volunteer or to nominate another person. The floor will once again be open for nominations before actual voting takes place. So remember, if the 2013 Board doesn't do what you thought they should, it's your own darned fault!

### Our Cover

Our cover this month shows Carl Pockrus, WE7OMG, on his way to installing an antenna on the American Fork fire station. He didn't need to bring a ladder. See the story on page 4.

### VHF Society Swapmeet

The Utah VHF Society has announced plans for the 2013 Business Meeting and Swap Meet, usually the largest swap meet in the state. It will be held, as usual, on the last Saturday in February. In 2013 that will be February 23. The place, however, will be new. Due to rising prices at the state fairpark, the 2013 event will be at the Davis County Fairgrounds, 151 S 1100 West, in Farmington. Time is 9 A.M. Further details will be forthcoming.

The Utah VHF Society is a statewide organization that promotes the construction and maintenance of repeaters, particularly those in lightly populated areas of the state where the ham population may be small enough to need financial help to keep a repeater on the air.

### Will you expire soon?

Will you be expiring soon? Well, we hope not. It's actually the expiration of your UARC membership that we were wondering about. If you should ever wonder, just check the mailing label on your copy of *The Microvolt* and you should find the date there. If you renew without being asked, it makes your dues go further by saving the cost of a postage stamp. For instructions for renewing online, check <http://www.utaharc.org/join> .

## Carl and the J-Pole



The handy antenna installation tool at the American Fork fire station.

Carl Pockrus, WE7OMG, recently did some valuable public service work in American Fork by installing a dual-band J-pole antenna at the American Fork firestation. But let's back up a little.

Carl, a frequent user of UARC's 146.76 repeater and member of the "76ers," had been building J-poles for some time. He writes,

"I have built, by request, about 35-40 of these J-poles using a design from the internet by Arrow Antennas. They are all aluminum, very unobtrusive, unity gain, and work very well.

"There is also one on the University of Utah hospital on our BioMed disaster unit. There are

several with emergency management people at the U with very good reports. I have built some with couplers in the middle of the long element to break down easy for travel or backpacking. They weigh only 1.3 lbs with the coupler. I have even mounted one on my F150. They mobile well also.

"They don't require a ground plane to work and the designer says they have been tested to 1000W but thinks they would go 1500W, just sayin'.

"KF7RCZ got me to build a couple for him after he saw/heard WE7NDN use one out at the flood site last month. KC2CU uses one on his deck just sitting there because he doesn't want the HOA to complain. It works well. I am usually using mine at home with an Yaesu FT-60."



Jeremy Giovannoni, KF7TEH, also lives in American Fork and has a neighbor who works at the fire station. Jeremy learned that the fire station

folks had a two-meter antenna up, but were also interested in listening to the Saratoga Springs EOC traffic on 70 cm during the fires and flood. Carl with his dual-bander antennas seemed like the perfect solution. Carl and Jeremy visited the fire station to check out the situation and realized it was going to take more than one trip. But, they wouldn't need to bring a ladder. Carl writes,

“My guess was that the antenna location was about 40 feet up. When we asked about how to get up there they said ‘Well, after all, we *are* the fire department.’”

Sure enough, as shown on our cover, they had some helpful equipment. Carl continues,

“The first day I went up I had two revelations. One was that there was a clamp on the existing antenna that had been over-tightened, stripped, and would not come off. Second, the feedline had an N connector and I needed an adapter.

“Jeremy and I came back the next day with a battery-operated sawsall and a fresh blade. I went up again and hacked the clamp. It was stainless or something as hard, so there was nothing left of that blade, but I got it cut. I installed the dual-band J-pole, and went down and radio checked it on both 146.760 (of course) and the 448.400 with WE7BBQ. It worked just great.

“It was all worth it: Jeremy and I got AFFD tee shirts for our effort. That was a kid's dream to go up that extension ladder. Even for a big kid like me, you don't get that opportunity every day!”

**Pre-Election Statement**

Thanks for the opportunity of serving you as the Club Secretary. I enjoy serving you, and appreciate your confidence in me. I am willing to continue in this position if you as a club re-elect me.

The club secretary maintains the membership database, prepares *The Microvolt* mailing lists, and performs other duties.

I've been a Ham since 2002, and upgraded to General in 2005. I particularly enjoy UARC Field Day activities,

and have a specific interest in emergency radio communications.

A graduate of the University of Utah, I retired after serving for 28 years as a U. S Air Force officer, and a few years ago I retired from retail sales.

In addition I currently serve as Chairman of the Board of AVERT (Association of Volunteer Emergency Response Teams).

Thanks again for your friendship.  
— Richard Keddington, KD7TDZ, Secretary

## License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
12/08/12	(Sat.)	Logan	V. P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630
12/15/12	(Sat.)	Provo <sup>1</sup> (No test on 12/19)	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
01/16/13	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
01/16/13	(Wed.)	St. George <sup>2</sup>	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
01/29/13	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871
02/02/13	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City <sup>1</sup>	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438

<sup>1</sup>Preregistration required. Check with the contact person before the test session.

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

Check <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/testinfo.html> for further exam information.

## Member of the Month

### Andrew Johnson, KE7UQO

*(Photo on page 8)*

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Andrew Johnson, KE7UQO. Andrew was one of the presentors for homebrew night at last month's UARC meeting. He demonstrated an "Arduino" microprocessor board which can be used for a variety of interfacing functions. The current program sends CW. Andrew's wife, Melissa, types characters on the computer and it sends the equivalent code. Andrew says this is an excellent way to learn Morse Code.

Andrew became interested in amateur radio when he was 14 years old. Andrew was hiking with his friend Bruce Clark, KC7QIB (currently KJ7CB). Bruce demonstrated ham radio to Andrew who thought it was super cool that they could talk on the radio while hiking.

Andrew wanted to get into amateur radio but it didn't happen until years later. Andrew received his Technician license in 2008 after taking a

Technician class at his church. When he took the test, he passed with a 100 percent score. He is now studying for his General.

Andrew's favorite thing about amateur radio is being in the middle of nowhere and making contacts on the radio. One day Andrew and his friends were hiking on Silver Lake and Andrew tried to make contact on the 62 repeater. Clint Turner, KA7OEI, answered and said they were on Scotts Hill doing some work.

Hiking and backpacking are Andrew's favorite hobbies. He is a real outdoors person. It is when he is outdoors that Andrew has an opportunity to operate ham radio. When Andrew goes hiking he always takes his ham radio with him. Andrew also enjoys robotics and electronics.

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Andrew is involved in emergency preparedness. He has a Taylorsville net on the 146.94 repeater every Monday night at 8:30 P.M., which deals with emergency preparedness. Andrew is also involved in public service events.

Andrew is a member of UARC. He really enjoys IRLP because it lets him communicate all around the world. He also wants to get involved in packet radio.

Andrew and his wife Melissa have one son and two daughters. Andrew works for Monsen Engineering, which is a land surveyor company. Andrew is a technician/engineer for the company involved with GPS.

Andrew, we wish you the best in all of your endeavors, especially in getting that General class license.

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Andrew, KE7UQO, at his workbench