

The *Microvolt*

October, 2012

How large of an antenna?



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.

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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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The Microvolt

The Official Publication of the Utah Amateur Radio Club, Salt Lake City, Utah
Volume 55, Issue 9, October 2012

October Meeting: Homebrew Night

This is it: UARC's annual Homebrew Night, coming up on Thursday, October 11! This is the night when hams bring in their home-built equipment to show off to the audience. If you've been working on a homebrew project, you're welcome to bring it in and show it off to the whole group. It doesn't matter if it's a complete multi-band sideband transceiver or a way to mount your telegraph key so it's convenient to operate, if it can be used in amateur radio, it's welcome on Homebrew Night. Ron Jones, K7RJ, an avid homebrewer himself, will be the moderator for this year's event and may even have some tips those who want to get started building their own equipment.

If your project is too big or heavy or too permanently installed to bring in, document it with photos and/or drawings. We can project what you have if you can bring it in, either on a laptop with VGA output, or a file that can be read on a Windows computer. If you're not into homebrew, you will still want to see what other people have been doing. We are frequently amazed at the variety of projects the people construct and by some of the really clever innovation that turns up on Homebrew Night. That's Thursday evening, October 11, at 7:30 P.M.

UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M. The fall meetings will be in room 1230 (the "Duke" classroom) of the Warnock Engineering Building at the University of Utah. See http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/ablip_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 October get-together will be at "Greek Souvlaki," 404 E. 300 South " in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover this month is from the September meeting featuring the presentation by Randy Kohlwey, WI7P, about communication via moonbounce. Randy is shown with one of his slides asking how large an antenna one needs, along with an image of the somewhat adequate antenna of OK1TEH in the Czech Republic. The presentation went on to explain that some useful results can be obtained by slightly smaller antennas.

Technician License Class

For those interested in preparing to test for a first amateur license, there will be a four-session Technician class starting on Friday, October 12. The Friday evening session will be followed by a daytime session on Saturday, October 13, an evening session on Friday, October 19, and a daytime session on Saturday, October 20. For more information send e-mail to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, at <mailto:k7rls@comcast.net>.

December Meeting Date Change

UARC's December meeting will take place this year on the *first* Thursday of the month, December 6, rather than the customary second Thursday. The second Thursday falls on a date in University finals week and our room will not be available. Help us spread the word to those who do not receive (or do not read) *The Microvolt*.

Elections Coming

It is the time of year when we need to think about who officers will be for the Utah Amateur Radio

Club in 2013. The election cycle starts with a nominating committee which will meet during October to produce a list of candidates willing to run for office. These nominations will be presented at our November meeting followed by an opportunity for nominations from the floor. Elections will then take place in December.

If you would like to participate on the Nominating Committee, volunteer for an officer yourself, or suggest one or more candidates that you know would make good officers, get in touch with any of the current officers.

There is a tendency for the current officers to ask people they know to fill any vacancies, but they are likely to miss good candidates with whom they don't happen to be acquainted. So help us get more people involved. Think about who you would choose to run the club.

Bob Heil in November (maybe)

The omens are still looking good for the famous Bob Heil, K9EID, to be the speaker (via Internet) for our November meeting. Bob is the founder of Heil Sound, a company involved from the very start of electronic rock and roll sound. Heil Sound has worked with many famous rock groups starting with "The Grateful Dead."

At least twice in the past we have announced a meeting featuring Bob only to have Bob cancel out due to other obligations. Our Program Chairpersons have been keeping in touch with Bob and they tell us that Bob still has the date reserved on his calendar. Stay tuned.

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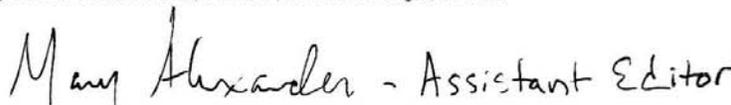
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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
10/06/12	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City ^{1,3}	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438
10/11/12	(Thu.)	Logan	V.P. Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630
10/17/12	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
10/17/12	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
10/30/12	(Tues.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871
11/07/12	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	(801) 573-3922
11/17/12	(Sat.)	North Salt Lake	Gary L. Davis, KE7MQF	(801) 298-3127
11/21/12	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
11/21/12	(Wed.)	St. George ²	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
11/27/12	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871
12/01/12	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City ^{1,3}	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438

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

Donald Ballou, N4TRS

(Photo by K7RLS on page 8)

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Donald Ballou, N4TRS. Don has been interested in amateur radio for many years. He was a radio operator in the Army Air Force (MOS 756). Back then, the Army and Air Force were one. He served as a radio operator in the Aleutians off Alaska near Russia. He served on active duty in the Air Force for over four years. He attended radio school at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey.

After getting out of the service, Don was busy attending college and starting a family. He and his wife, Elisabeth, have three grown girls. His daughter, Cathy, got her Technician license in New England. Her callsign is KA1SQW. Don

lived in New England until 1978 when his job transferred him to Florida. He worked for Pratt & Whitney Aircraft for 33 years, retiring in Florida in 1987.

Don took a ham radio class and received his Novice license in 1986. He obtained his Technician and General licenses in 1988. In 1990 Don and his wife, Elisabeth, went to England and served an LDS family history mission.

In August 1992, he participated in an amateur radio emergency. He was probably the only LDS amateur radio operator on the air in South Florida during Hurricane Andrew. The LDS Church sent

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two trucks from Atlanta, Georgia, with all kinds of equipment to assist South Florida in this emergency. The drivers were amateur radio operators with radios, one HF and one VHF. Don was able to contact them, directly when they were close, and by relay when they weren't. After the storm passed, he directed them to the Kendal Stake Center in south Miami where they set up operations.

Later that year, Don and his wife, Elisabeth, came to Salt Lake City as missionaries. They liked it here so much that they have never left. Don is very active in emergency communications. He is a member of the LDS Church's Emergency Response Communications group, ERC, and serves as the Emergency Communication Specialist, ECS, for the Salt Lake Stake. He is also a member of UARC and ARRL. He participated in the old time radio show at the UARC meeting in May, 2011, where hams brought their old time radio equipment and showed it off. Don brought in an ancient (but functioning) speaker with a two-foot horn. It is approximately 90 years old. We tried connecting it to my H-T but it didn't work. He said that the ARRL has a horn like it on display in their headquarters building but without the speaker.

When I asked Don what he liked best about amateur radio he said, "It is available when the power fails." Another hobby he enjoys is genealogy.



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Don, we appreciate your contributions to amateur radio.



Don, N4TRS, showing his 90-year-old speaker (Thanks to Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for photo)