

# The *Microvolt*

October, 2014



## 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, 5474 Hews Place, Taylorsville, UT, 84129-1416.

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, 5474 Hews Place, Taylorsville, UT, 84129-1416.

**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, sometimes in 2250 or 105.

**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, 5474 Hews Place, Taylorsville, UT 84129-1416.

**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 2014 Board

President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Executive VP: Rick Asper, AC7RA	801 865-1693
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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: (To be determined)	
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>

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  
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### October Meeting: Homebrew Night

October 9 will be the evening that is typically of one of our most popular meetings of the year: Homebrew Night. Homebrew Night is the time when hams can show off their creativity and possibly contributions to the radio art. This is the night when everyone is invited so show off things they have constructed for use in amateur radio.

If you have been working on a project, you are invited to present it at this meeting. If it is too large, too permanently installed, or too abstract to show physically, bring photos, diagrams, or whatever can be used to make it clear what you have done. We will have a digital projector available, so you can bring images on media or bring your own laptop with a VGA output. Anything that you have constructed and is useful in amateur radio is eligible to show. Good projects include linear amplifiers, microphone preamps, RF preamps, CW keyers, power supplies, and antennas. If possible, let one of the program chairpersons know in advance that you plan to present. Email [f.morris1@comcast.net](mailto:f.morris1@comcast.net) or [charlese28@msn.com](mailto:charlese28@msn.com).

The meeting will be on Thursday, October 9, at 7:30 P.M. in room 1250 (main floor, south side of the main corridor) of the Warnock Engineering Building.

UARC meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 P.M., in the Warnock Engineering Building on the University of Utah campus. The fall, 2014, meetings will be in room 1250 on the ground floor. See the [map](http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html) at <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html> for information on finding the building. The room number varies depending on availability.

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 “Charlie Chow's Dragon Grill,” 255 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

## **Latest News**

### **Our Cover**

Our cover this month is a photograph of Bob Craven, N7GTE, from the Utah Department of Public Safety. Bob presented the program at our September meeting about hams' role in emergency communication. He covered the importance of being involved ("badged") in an organization such as the Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) or the Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES). Also covered were topics such as why RACES is not normally activated unless it is the only option, and the importance of being willing to serve wherever we are needed, even if it is a job that is not particularly glamorous. Thanks to Club Historian Ron Speirs, K7RLS, for the photo.

### **Swap Meet October 11**

The next swap meet coming up will be the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club's "Swaptoberfest," to be held on Saturday morning, October 11, at the Cache County Fairgrounds Pavilion, 450 W. 500 South, in Logan.

Talk-in will be available on 146.72 (-) and 147.26 (+), both requiring a PL of 103.5 Hz.

### **General Class Upgrade Course**

Morris Farmer, AD7SR, and Bill Rouleau, AE7UI, will be teaching an upgrade course for those interested in obtaining the General class operator's license. The course will begin on October 15th and will end before Thanksgiving. It will be taught at Morris' home, starting at 7 P.M. each Wednesday for two hours. The only charge is \$25 for the text. If interested please send email to Morris at [f.morris1@comcast.net](mailto:f.morris1@comcast.net).

### **Field Day Planners Needed**

One of UARC's biggest events each year is our entry in the annual Field Day contest, when we set up a temporary HF station in the mountains and try to work as many stations as possible in 24 hours. Do you have suggestions for how we can improve the event? If so, maybe you would like to be on the Field Day Committee or even be next year's chairperson.

Some of the questions that have come up are:

- How can we make it attractive for more people to participate?
- How can we get more people to participate?
- How can we get more people to learn the ins and outs of erecting (and collapsing) the tower?
- What new topic for a class would be helpful? (Chuck, WA7JOS, thinks we have just about worn out soldering and Morse Code.)
- How could we get some of the bonus points we've been missing, such as those for a satellite contact?

If you have some ideas or would like to be on the committee for next year's event, get in touch with one of the officers.

### **Division Convention Comes to Utah**

At the September UARC meeting ARRL Section Manager for Utah, Mel Parkes, NM7P, announced that Utah would host the 2015 Rocky Mountain Division Convention. The Rocky Mountain Division includes the states of Utah, Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. The convention is scheduled for the first weekend in August.

## From the Clipboard of the Editor

(The rumor is that the editor actually has a desk; he just can't find it.)

In listening to roundtables on two-meter FM, how often do you hear this sequence?

“Well, guys, I gotta go — the XYL is getting more impatient by the minute. This is W7XYZ clear.”

[Silence]

[More silence]

[Three stations come on at once. None is intelligible through the heterodynes.]

Recently, I happened on the web site showing recommended operating practices for the Western Reflector (<http://www.narri.org/irlp.html>), that IRLP computer that is frequently connecting ten or more repeaters across the country. This web site had some sensible suggestions to alleviate this problem:

- When you sign clear, turn it over to someone by name or call (DON'T just sign clear because no one knows who should pick up).
- When in a QSO with more than two people involved, turn it over to someone by name (e.g. “go ahead Jim.”).

By golly, that would solve the whole problem, wouldn't it?. It's surprising how many operators that have been on for some time don't catch on to this simple notion: *If there are more than two stations in the QSO, when your transmission is finished, turn it to someone.* It would be nice if it was the station that least recently transmitted, but picking someone at random is better than just throwing it up in the air. The alternative is likely a long silence or a double transmission in which no one copies anything useful.

I don't know that you necessarily have to identify the station by name as they recommend. A call sign

works equally well, or a suffix, or even something like:

“Over to the 6 station that broke in last time around — I don't have the call down yet.”

Turning it loose for a free-for-all after your transmission has another bad effect besides wasting time on silence and double-transmissions. If it happens regularly, stations tend to get left out. This is particularly discouraging to the newcomer who is hoping to fit into the group. If he only gets one transmission after breaking into the QSO, he is likely to feel ignored and unwelcome in the group. He (or she) may conclude that ham operators just aren't all that friendly. If we want to encourage newcomers to stay in the hobby, this just isn't the way to do it!

Of course this all assumes that we have bothered to keep track of who we are talking to. One mark of a good operator is that he pays attention to what is going on in the QSO. He makes it clear that his receiver works as well as his transmitter.

The Western Reflector folks had a few useful suggestions on other topics as well:

- DON'T use 11-meter lingo when talking on the system. Speak normally.
- DON'T break in on an ongoing conversation unless you know who all is in it, and you have something meaningful to contribute.
- Use a mike hanger in your vehicle to avoid sitting on the microphone and inadvertently keying up the system with people all over listening to your conversation.

That all sounds pretty sensible to me.

## W1AW Portable Schedule

The year 2014 is the centennial year for the American Radio Relay League (ARRL). An on-air year-long celebration of the anniversary is in progress. As part this celebration, stations in various states will be signing the W1AW call and looking for contacts. The schedule for the next several weeks is as follows:

11-12	Rhode Island	Mississippi
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For those who have yet to get their “Worked All States” (WAS) certificate, this year presents an opportunity to find all fifty states on the air from easily-heard stations on the HF bands. The portable W1AW operations are part of the “Centennial QSO Party” where operators can accumulate points in various ways throughout 2014. For full details see:

<http://www.arrl.org/centennial-qso-party>.

Dates	State	State
10-8	Virginia	Missouri
10-15	Michigan	Alabama
10-22	Nevada	West Virginia
10-29	Wyoming	Massachusetts
11-5	Washington	Kansas

## License Examination Schedule

Opportunities to test for new or upgraded amateur licenses

Date	Day	City	Contact Person	Phone
10/01/14	(Wed.)	Ogden	Rick Morrison, W7RIK	(801) 791-9364
10/04/14	(Sat.)	Salt Lake City <sup>1,4</sup>	Gordon Smith, K7HFV	(801) 582-2438
10/09/14	(Thu.)	Logan <sup>1</sup>	V. Phillip Rasmussen, N7JFG	(435) 770-0630
10/11/14	(Sat.)	Hurricane <sup>2</sup>	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
10/15/14	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
10/15/14	(Wed.)	St. George <sup>2</sup>	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
10/28/14	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City <sup>3</sup>	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871
11/05/14	(Wed.)	Clearfield	Mike Youngs, KK7VZ	(801) 573-3922
11/19/14	(Wed.)	Provo	Steve Whitehead, NV7V	(801) 465-3983
11/19/14	(Wed.)	St. George <sup>2</sup>	Gary O. Zabriskie, N7ARE	(435) 674-2678
11/25/14	(Tue.)	Salt Lake City <sup>3</sup>	Eugene McWherter, N7OVT	(801) 541-1871

<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>

<sup>3</sup>New location: Senior Center at the Columbus Center, 2530 S. 500 East

<sup>4</sup>More information at <http://www.utaharc.org/Exams/>

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

## **USA Team Member Gets Silver in DFing**

A member of Amateur Radio Direction Finding ([ARDF](#)) Team USA medaled in the 17th ARDF World Championships during September in Kazakhstan. Vadim Afonkin, KB1RLI, of Boston, Massachusetts, took home a silver medal in the men's age 40-49 category in the 2-meter competition on September 8, the first day of competition. The Kazakhstan Federation of Radiosport and Radioamateur (KFRR) hosted the championships, which included formal competitions on 2 meters and 80 meters, plus sprints and [foxoring](#), an activity combining

direction-finding and map reading to find multiple weak 80-meter signals. Afonkin placed fourth in the 80 meter spring competition on September 11, with a time just 4 seconds greater than the bronze medalist from Lithuania. He also finished among the top seven in the sprint and foxoring competitions. This year's World Championships attracted 277 competitors from 25 nations, and it was the first time the competition was held in Kazakhstan.

*(Thanks to ARRL.)*

## **Member of the Month**

### **James Edwards, AB7XT**

**By Linda Reeder, N7HVF**

This month we are featuring James Edwards, AB7XT. James comes from a family active in amateur radio. James has three brothers and one sister. James' three brothers and his mother and father all have their amateur radio licenses. James said they are trying to get his little sister, Brynia, interested in the hobby and she is thinking about it. They hope she will join them in amateur radio soon.

James father, Shon, loves vanity calls, so all of the family members except James have them. James wanted to stay in 7-land so when he got his Extra he chose to accept the next sequential call. Sometimes when you want a certain vanity call it isn't available in the call area you live in so you have to branch out into another area to get that suffix. That is why when you make contacts in amateur radio you don't always know where the other stations are by their call signs.

James' father's Extra Class call sign is K6QT and his mother, Roya's Technician call sign is NORME. James' brother Jared's Technician call sign is N2JAE. His brother Seth's General call sign is NOSRE and his brother Isaac's Technician callsign is K1ICE.

James said it was his dad who got him interested in amateur radio. James' father, Shon, started a club called the Northern Utah Youth Amateur Radio Club. It is to help the youth get into amateur radio. They study together. They even study the Morse Code.

James wasted no time in getting his amateur radio license. In February of 2010 James passed his Technician test and the next month he received his General license. In August of the same year he obtained his Extra Class license.

Now James is busy getting other youth interested in amateur radio. He runs a net for the Northern

Utah Youth amateur radio club every Sunday night at 7 P.M. on the 147.04 repeater. James would like to start a radio club at the high school he attends, the Northern Utah Academy for Math, Engineering, and Science (Nuames) in Layton. He is in the tenth grade and his favorite subject is math. James said he is going to talk to the principal about starting an amateur radio club at the high school.

When I asked James what his favorite thing about amateur radio was he said it is getting to know people from all over the world. James is part of a Worldwide Friendship Net every Saturday morning at 8 A.M. on Echolink and the Western Reflector. James told me his favorite contact was his one and only Morse Code contact on the low bands. One evening he was sending CQ and Craig Weygandt, K7VM, from Bremerton, Washington, came back to him. He started asking James all kinds of questions. James said,

"I've got to go; I'm just starting to learn the code." James knew he needed to work hard on learning that Morse Code. He has that QSL card hanging up in his ham shack.

James' dad nominated him for the ARRL young ham of the year. The ARRL has the young radio amateur of the year award for each of the

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divisions. James was selected young ham of the year for the Rocky Mountain Division for 2014. The nominations are made in the fall and the decisions are made in the spring. That will keep James busy speaking at hamventions and attending banquets.

James is a member of UARC, the Davis County Amateur Radio Club and, of course, The Northern Utah Youth Amateur Radio Club. James has participated in Field Day with the Davis County club at Monte Cristo. James also enjoys fishing.

James, congratulations on being chosen for the 2014 Young Ham of the Year Award for the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division.



Meet Michael Smith, KM7TMS. Unfortunately, we were not able to obtain a photo of Michael, the July "Member of the Month," in time for publication in the July *Microvolt*. At left is Michael at his station.

You may remember that Michael is an archaeologist working with the LDS Church History Museum and got into ham radio as part of his interest in emergency service and emergency communications.

*(Thanks to K7RLS for the photo.)*