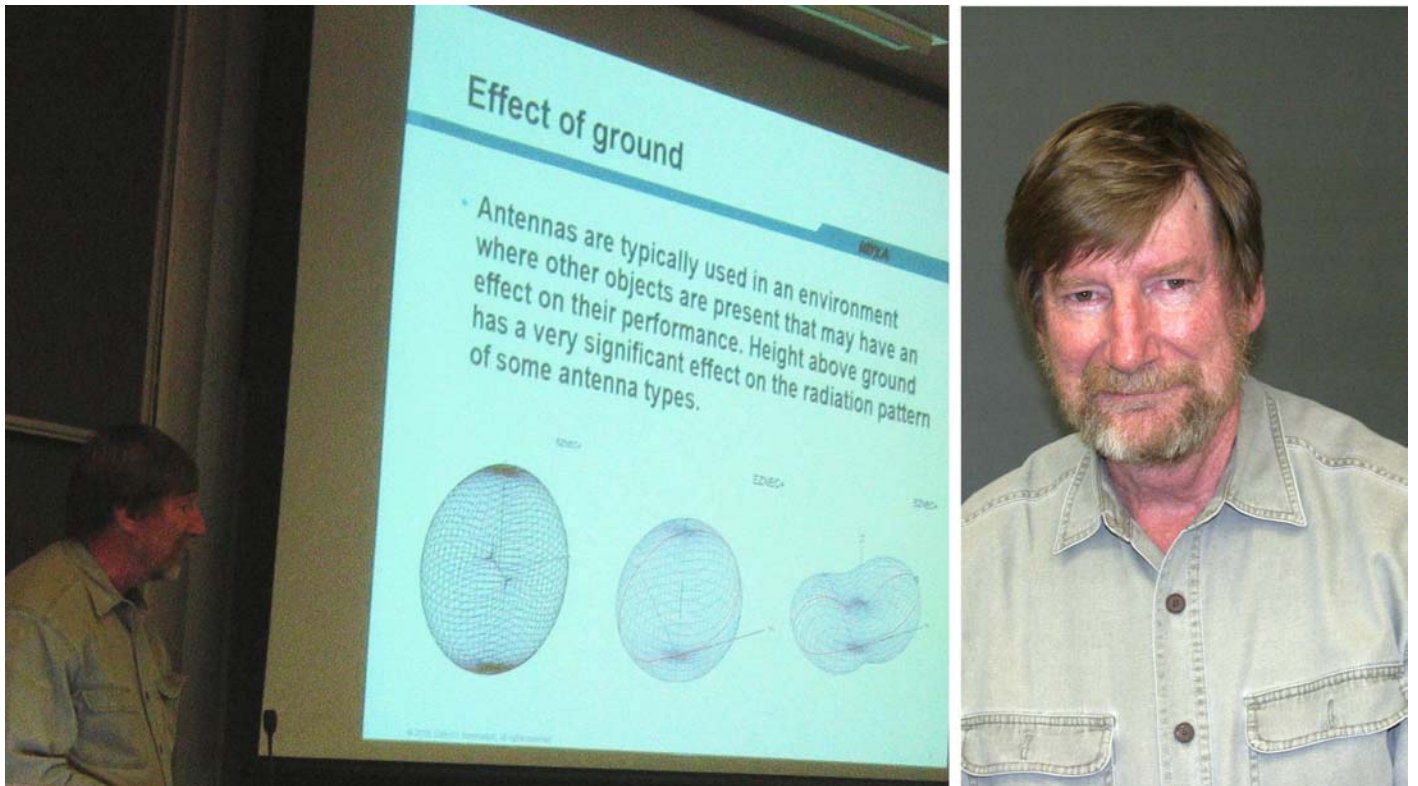


The *Microvolt*

June, 2015



Field Day June 27-28

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 2015 Board

President: Clint Turner, KA7OEI	801 566-4497
Executive VP: Rick Asper, AC7RA	801 865-1693
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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Imm. Past Pres: Linda Reeder, N7HVF	801 364-7006

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://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://user.xmission.com/~uarc/announce.html>

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June Meeting: Field Day

Field Day is coming at the end of June! The annual nation-wide Field Day contest (or “operating event”) is the most popular such event in all of amateur radio. It is an event for portable and mobile stations and one which tests our skill in setting up a station quickly and establishing communication with other parts of the country. UARC will be entering as a club, and our meeting on June 11 will be providing information about our plans and about Field Day in General.

We will have photos, maps, and schedules along with some operating tips. If you've been to Field Day before, come enjoy some slides of past successes and failures. Perhaps this will remind you of why Field Day is fun (or of why you prefer to stay home). If you *haven't* been before, this will be a chance to learn what it's like, what to bring, and how to make contacts quickly. It might also be a chance to see how to put up some kinds of HF antennas that could be new to you.

The meeting will be on Thursday, June 11, at 7:30 P.M. in room 1230 (the “Duke” classroom) 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 spring, 2015, meetings will be in room 1230, “the Duke classroom” on the ground floor. See the map at <http://user.xmission.com/~uarc/meetmap.html> for information on finding the building. The room number varies depending on availability.

Park in one of the two lots just east of the Warnock building. The University has decided not to charge for special event parking, so cars in those two lots will not be ticketed during our meeting night.

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. This event is now standardizing on “The Village Inn,” 910 E. 400 South in Salt Lake City.

Latest News

Our Cover

Our cover this month is from our May meeting program presented by Mark Richardson, W7HPW, on HF antennas. Mark is an avid DXer and has an enviable antenna farm in western Payson. (Thanks to K7RLS for the photo of Mark.)

Also, this is our Field Day issue. See page 5 for more information.

Mel Parkes Re-elected as SM

On Tuesday, May 19, ballots were counted for the office of ARRL Utah Section Manager. The results were as follows:

Mel Parkes, NM7P 342 (55%)

Pat Malan, N7PAT 280 (45%)

Mel has held the Section Manager position since 1999. One of the Section Manager's primary responsibilities is to make ARRL appointments for those in charge of Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) units and National Traffic System (NTS) nets, as well as various other appointments such as Official Bulletin Station, Public Relations Officer, and Official Observer. Mel also serves as President of the [Utah VHF Society](#).

Vanity Call Sign Fees to End

The Federal Communications Commission has announced that it plans to eliminate the fee assessed to holders of "vanity" call signs. Currently, anyone who applies for a call of his own choosing must pay a fee of \$21.40 when the application is filed, and again at each renewal.

The change will not go into effect until required notification to Congress is completed. The

effective date will be at least 90 days in the future..

The reason for the change is that the cost of processing and refunding fees was actually exceeding the revenue the fees brought in. The action addressed several other fees in services besides amateur radio. In the case of the amateur vanity fee, one problem seems to have been that when a desirable call was about to become eligible for reassignment, several tens of amateurs would file applications for it on the first day it was available. Each would pay the fee but only one would actually receive the call. So if 20 operators filed for the call, one would get it and 19 would likely request a refund. There was a cost in personnel and computer time to accept the payments and again to process the refunds.

Refunds will not be granted for vanity calls issued or renewed before the effective date of the change.

Steak-Fry

Rather than a regular meeting in the Warnock building, our July UARC event will be the annual Steak-Fry in Big Cottonwood Canyon on Saturday, July 11. Cost will be \$12. So that we know how much food to buy, it is necessary for anyone wanting to attend to sign up in advance. The first (and last) opportunity to do so at a regular club meeting will be at the June meeting. Another chance will be at Field Day. If you miss both of those, get a check to the Secretary (see page 2) before July 4.

Dues Increase?

The UARC board has had a discussion of our financial situation. While the club is solvent, for the past several years, our expenses have been very close to our income. Some years our balance

was slightly on the plus side, while other years we were in deficit.

Last year, we had some extraordinary expenses building a new generator trailer and refurbishing the antennas at Lake Mountain. These expenses were paid from our reserve funds, and that's ok – that's what they're for. But over the past 10 years, we have not added anything to the reserves. We also haven't raised dues in over 10 years.

Therefore, the UARC board recommends that dues be raised to \$20.00 per year. This would also enable us to restore our reserve fund for any unforeseen future repairs and to take on some new projects to benefit the club.

Eventually we will give formal notice and vote on this proposal at a regular club meeting. Meanwhile, you can send any comments to uarc@xmission.com and we will make sure they get to all the board members.

Beginner Tip of the Month

We frequently hear folks giving S-meter readings on signals heard through repeaters. Put simply, this doesn't work. Remember that when you are working a station through a repeater, you are tuned to the repeater's transmitter, not that of the station you are working. Your S-meter or bar graph is telling you how strong the *repeater's* transmitter is, not that of the station with which you are communicating. The repeater always

transmits with the same power through the same antenna no matter who is transmitting on its input.

If your transceiver has a “reverse” function and you are within simplex range of the other station, you can get a meaningful reading by momentarily switching to the reverse mode and taking a reading on the repeater's input frequency. (If the signal is strong, you might want to QSY to a simplex frequency. Apparently you don't need the repeater.)

So while strength readings taken on a repeater might be interesting to the repeater owner, they are probably not useful at all to the operator you're working through the repeater! The only way to judge the strength of the other station is by the amount of white noise on his signal. More noise means a weaker signal. No noise (the station is “full quieting”) means that no further improvement is possible by having the station increase power.

Division Convention in Utah this August

Rooms and campsites are going quickly for the ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention to be held this year on the first weekend in August near Bryce Canyon.

For more information visit:
<http://utahhamfest.com/>.

Field Day 2015

Are you coming to Field Day? It's the most popular operating activity in all of amateur radio. It can be a great time to combine radio activity with a family campout, and maybe use some better HF antennas than you can put up at home.

What: Field Day is a contest-like operating event specifically for portable and mobile stations. Stations try to work as many other stations as

possible in 24 hours, exchanging entry class and ARRL section. As a portable and mobile event, it tests our ability to set up stations wherever there may be a need. This is a particularly helpful skill in an emergency.

Individuals can set up portable or mobile stations or even operate from home, but the principal

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competition is among clubs who set up one or more multi-operator portable stations.

For more information, see:
<http://www.arrl.org/field-day>.

UARC will likely be setting up three HF stations, and will need all the operators and loggers we can get. If you are only a Technician, you can still operate provided there is a control operator in the tent with a higher class license.

When: The official Field Day operating period runs from noon on Saturday to noon on Sunday, Mountain Daylight Time. However, noon Saturday is when we need to be ready to start operating, so some setup activity is required beforehand.

There will be UARC members on site at least by the evening of Thursday, June 25. We need to spend no more than 24 hours setting up, but it can be spread over Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. So come for whatever period you can and leave when you must.

Where: Our traditional Field Day site is about an hour and a half drive from the Salt Lake Valley. It is about a half-mile beyond the Payson Lakes turnoff on the Mount Nebo Scenic Loop, which starts in Payson Canyon.

Here are instructions for finding it:

1. Assuming you are starting from the Salt Lake Valley, go south on I-15 to the first Payson exit, exit 250. Take the exit.
2. Go left at the end of the exit ramp which should put you on Main Street (aka SR-115). (You are really going south at this point although it may seem like east.)
3. Turn left on 100 North, aka SR-198.
4. Turn right on 600 East, also called "Peteetneet Boulevard." This turn is at the top of a hill at a picturesque old school.

5. Follow 600 East until it takes you to the mouth of Payson Canyon. At this point note your odometer reading or reset your trip odometer.
6. Watch for landmarks at these approximate mileages from the canyon mouth:
 - a. 11.1: Payson Lakes Day-use area on the right.
 - b. 11.7: Payson Lakes Campground. turnoff on the right.
 - c. 12.3 Guard station turnoff on the right.

At the guard station turnoff on the right, don't take the right turn, but instead turn left onto a dirt road. Within a few hundred yards you will see the camp area.

According to Google Earth, the coordinates are 39° 55' 31.11" N., 111° 37' 53.06" W.

We will have a map of the last segment on the UARC web site on the "Latest News" page.

To bring: Depending on how long you plan to be at the site, there are a number of things you might want to pack.

- Shelter, Food, and water for the time you will be on the site. Our site is just an open field with no improvements.
- Sunscreen. The sun can get you roasted rapidly at high elevation.
- A warm jacket. Even though the valley may be in the high 90's, the mountains still have cold nights.
- Tools — things that might help in radio repair and erecting towers.
- A chair. (Recommended highly by KB7FXB).
- An item to share at the Saturday night potluck dinner.

Preparation: To log our Field Day contacts the club will be using a computer program called TRLog. If you would like to help operate or log, you might want to download a copy of the program and practice with it. Go to <http://www.trlog.com/> and download the free trial version of the program.

Why? Why would you want to give up a perfectly good weekend to play with radio in the mountains? Well, first, it's fun. Second, it's great training for emergency communications. In an emergency, a ham radio channel may have to carry as much as it can of what would normally be carried on hundreds of telephone lines. That means you will need to

handle a lot of traffic rapidly and accurately, and keep doing it for long periods. That's exactly what you do when you take a turn operating a Field Day station.

Other options: Of course, UARC won't be the only Utah group on the air and looking for operators. If you can't come to UARC's entry, you still might want to operate Field Day *somewhere*. Some groups will likely operate close to home and /or for only a portion of the Field Day period. That misses the real feel of Field Day and probably doesn't produce a competitive score, but it's better than missing Field Day entirely.

Member of the Month

Ken King, N7KMK

By Linda Reeder, N7HVF

This month we are featuring Ken King, N7KMK. Ken is new to amateur radio. He received his Technician license in October of 2014. It is interesting how Ken became interested in amateur radio. Ken and his wife, Pam, have six children: four boys and two girls. Now that their children are all grown and living in different places, Ken and Pam decided they needed to have an emergency plan. Ken started learning all about emergency preparedness. Ken found these Baofeng Chinese radios and really liked them. They were cheap and they would be great for communications, but, you had to have an amateur radio license to use them.

Ken took a radio class at Utah Valley University (UVU) in Orem. Two of his sons and a son-in-law are working on getting their licenses. Ken is now taking a General class and hopes to have his General class license soon. This class is being taught by Noji, KN0JI. The classes are held three Wednesdays in a row with testing on the third Wednesday.

Ken works for the Universal Technical Institute as an admission representative. He does recruiting. They operate colleges all over the United States, but

not in Utah. Their main headquarters is in Phoenix, Arizona. These colleges teach how to fix cars, trucks, motorcycles and boats. This job requires lots of traveling and Ken is on the road every day.

Ken has a mobile Yaesu FT857D. He has two mobile antennas, a VHF/UHF and a Yaesu ATAS-120 multi-band screwdriver antenna. Ken lives in Manti, but his office is in Salt Lake and he commutes every day. Ken has studied all of the repeaters along the Wasatch Front and has learned their frequencies and PL tones. Ken enjoys talking on the repeaters during his travels.

Ken is a 76er. He talks on the 146.76 repeater frequently. He also checks into the 76er net every Wednesday night at 7 P.M. It was Carl, WE7OMG, who suggested that Ken should join UARC because one of Ken's favorite things about amateur radio is learning all that he can about technical aspects of the hobby. The first UARC meeting Ken attended was the March meeting where the topic was solar power. Ken really enjoys the UARC meetings.

The other thing that Ken likes about amateur radio is the willingness of amateur radio operators to

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teach amateur radio to others. A ham radio event that is coming up this weekend is the endurance horse race which is an annual event sponsored by the Skyline Amateur Radio club in Sanpete County.

Ken is interested in building repeaters. He says you can make really small repeaters with those Chinese radios. He hopes to build his own repeater someday.

One of Ken's favorite hobbies is riding motorcycles. Ken and his wife, Pam, love to go on long motorcycle rides. Ken enjoys shooting guns and being with his grandchildren.

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Ken, we wish you all of the best in your endeavors, especially upgrading to General.



Ken King, N7KMK, with his mobile installation
(Thanks to K7RLS for photo.)