



The Amateur in You, Part 2

What have you been pondering?



The Utah VHF Society

Many new hams might not be aware we have a non-profit body that coordinates and governs the use of the Utah VHF and UHF frequency spectrum. This team of amateurs, the second-largest in the state of Utah, is known as the [Utah VHF Society](#), and is responsible for a wide variety of activities involving these frequencies in our state.

Although only VHF is specified in its name, the Utah VHF Society defines the use and bandwidth of modes within portions of amateur bands outside the VHF spectrum as well.

Frequency coordination

The [coordination](#) of VHF and UHF frequencies, include [simplex](#), repeater, packet, and other digital modes. The purpose of coordination is to maximize the use of the frequency spectrum while minimizing interference between stations using it. In other words, to make sure we all play nicely with each other on the amateur bands.

When a repeater is installed, its frequencies must be coordinated, so that its signal will not interfere with that of other repeaters, yet still serve effectively. This might include limiting its antenna height, power level, tone setting, and even location, a few of the things that the *Frequency Coordinator* must juggle.

Band plan

A direct result of frequency coordination, the Utah VHF Society is responsible for publishing the [Utah Band Plan](#), which includes spectrum in the 10-meter band, 6-meter band, 2-meter band, 1.25-meter band, 70-cm band, and more. The band plan describes which radio modes are permitted within which frequency ranges, and is specific to Utah, but can include some neighboring borders, especially Idaho, Arizona, and Wyoming.

Repeaters

There are many locations in rural Utah where amateur signals are sparse, and amateur groups and clubs who can pay for them are just as few. The Utah VHF Society has funded the installation and maintenance of many of these rural Utah repeaters to serve not only the few who live in the back country, but the numerous many who travel out there, benefiting all of us.

Furthermore, they've provided the manpower, tools, and skill required to perform these installations properly, often on their own dime.

Repeater systems

There are several major systems of repeaters in Utah, of which the [Intermountain Intertie](#), the [Sinbad Repeater System](#), and the Skyline System are three. A *system* is a collection of repeaters, most of which are connected full-time to each other by the internet or radio link, such that, if you're on one of the repeaters in the system, you're on all of them.

Repeater systems give an operator the appearance of being on the air in much of Utah, instead of within a single repeater coverage area. The Intermountain Intertie extends to several places in Idaho, Wyoming, Arizona, and Nevada, providing a nearly continuous signal connection by repeater for amateurs traveling along the I-15 corridor from Boise to Las Vegas. The Sinbad System does the same, but along a more rural coverage area.

Become a member

We encourage each Utah ham to become a member of the Utah VHF Society for \$15 annually by visiting the [Utah VHF Society Join page](#). Membership helps with regular maintenance and upkeep of many Utah repeaters.