

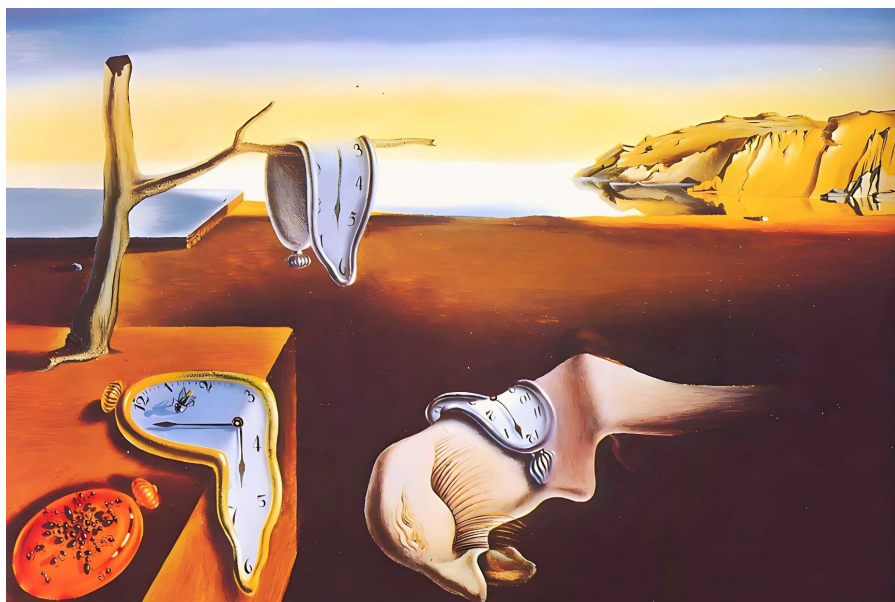
Microvolt

Monthly newsletter of the Utah Amateur Radio Club

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It's About Time



*Does anybody really know what time it is?
Does anybody really care?*

— Chicago

Time allows us to mark the occurrence of a particular event. We can also measure the *passage of time* between events. But what does time have to do with amateur radio? From the changing magnetic field to the UTC moment at the start of a net, it turns out that time is a quantity that permeates just about everything in ham radio, albeit often invisibly. In this issue, we take a look at time, what it means, how it affects us amateurs, and why we really care.

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Cover – About time

If you're a farmer, it might be important for you to know when to plant or harvest your crops. If you're a business leader, it might be important to know when your appointments take place. If you're a person with a full-time job, it might be important to know when you should awaken to get ready for the day. But as an amateur, how is keeping track of time important to you?

In fact, you might be one or all of the above, and yet the question regarding the relevance of keeping time to you as an amateur remains. Besides knowing when the next net should start or how many minutes it's been since you had last announced your call sign, there might be important time-keeping details that are working for you, possibly some without your knowledge.

So, why is time so important that we've spent enormous amounts of resources on tracking it, from sundials to atomic clocks? Time is a fact of our existence, regardless how we might feel about it. What's important is its management: in most cases we're free to waste it or use it to our advantage. We mortals have little control over the passage of time, so our only option is to figure out what to do with the time that's granted us.



In a cold and lonely bedroom, a person is curled up, having just heard the news that he or she has a few months remaining on this planet. That person will likely look upon life a little differently than the rest of us. After emerging from a bath of myriad emotions, time now becomes precious, and its waste is the new enemy. It's suddenly easier to overlook petty remarks and to start saying loving words to friends and family. This person is completely stripped of



pride and realizes a new sense of kindness, thoughtfulness, and love for all others that has never previously entered the heart. Is time truly that precious? Is this what it takes to make us appreciate the gift we're given?

Many retirees have been heard to say that they have so little time now, that they have no idea how they ever had time to work. Why is it that we seem to be so much busier than we have been? [Some researchers](#) and [other folks](#) who study this kind of thing point at that little device you're holding in your hand, your smartphone. There was a time when you can disconnect and turn off the world, but that day has long since been in the rear view mirror. Many possess the unrealistic fear that they'll miss something important if they turn off their computers.

Those of us who have yet to experience the blessing of retirement trade our time for money, as we work and slave our lives away for our families, putting bread on the table and a roof over our heads. It's good when we can save up enough time and money to vacate work and enjoy leisure time away from regular society.

Maybe today is the time to start looking at time a little differently, no matter what the doctor might have said. Surprise the socks off a loved one by calling him out of the blue and telling him that you love him. Take one or two new hams under your proverbial wing and share with them your knowledge, but more importantly, your time.

Finally, if you have a few minutes for a little "timely" entertainment, here's a video called [Time Lapse of the Future: Journey to the End of Time](#). We believe it's about time you enjoy it.

Microvolt editorial staff