

CODE OF THE WEST

N7UW - University Amateur Radio Club, Laramie, WY

Jan/Feb, 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

February:

1st – Coffee Net – 8am

4th – Club Meeting

22nd – Club Event: Arctic
Foxhunt, Washington Park

March:

1st – Coffee Net – 8am

4th – Club Meeting

Club Event – Preparedness
game – city wide, TBD

Message from the President – KK7QHS, Blake

The Holiday Season is a busy time for most of us and with a new year, it's a good time to reflect on our club's accomplishments! In addition to the summer race activities, Field Day, and High Plains, we also added a few new activities to our annual calendar. We gained six new members, myself included, and held a fantastic class and VE session.

Looking forward to 2025, we're adding Winter Field Day, two club POTA events, the Arctic Fox Hunt, an e-prep radio game, and Ghost Towns on the Air. We will also be starting up another spring ham class with the goal of continuing to promote our community. We also have a new location that we aim to grow into as we increase our club engagement. I look forward to seeing our group continue to enjoy the hobby and find more ways to learn from each other!

Another exciting update for the club is that we reinstated our 501c3 status. This will allow us to fundraise without a tax burden, receipt charitable gifts, and apply for community grants. Over the next few meetings, I will be leading several discussions regarding the financial goals for UARC and start an actionable plan for getting there.

At the November meeting, I proposed a challenge to the club members in attendance. If every member throws their callsign out on the 146.610 repeater each day, we could greatly increase engagement. Sometimes a quick "Hello" is enough to build connectivity and it only takes a minute! This also shows new HAMs that there is significant activity in our little valley.

73!

Blake, KK7QHS



UARC Member Profile

By: Liam, KK7SUU



- **Name:** Everett McGee
- **Callsign:** KK7QHT
- **When did you first get your license?**
2024
- **Favorite thing about HAM radio?** *I like talking to my friends.*
- **What was your first transceiver?** *Woxun KG-UV8D (Plus)*
- **What is your favorite food?** *Pasta*
- **What is your most memorable experience as a HAM radio operator?**
When I finished the test we went out to dinner and got some tasty foods. I went with my friend Jack Maki (KK7QIC).

From the Nets

Sunday Numbers

Coming again soon!

News from the Coffee Net

With so much travel, we did not hold the coffee net the last two months. I look forward to starting it back up again in March. This net is more of an informal rag-chew with a theme. I invite everyone to join in!

52.540 FM

Bad Jokes -



UARC Annual Calendar

- **February:** Arctic Fox Hunts Club Event
- **March:** EmCom Club Event – Readiness Game
- **April:** POTA Club Event
- **May:** Field Day Test Run and equipment maintenance, School Outreach, 7QP Event
- **June:** Field Day, Horse Race
- **July:** Freedom has a Birthday, Bike Race
- **August:** Marathon, Back to School Bash
- **September:** High Plains Roundup, Summits on the Air Club Event
- **October:** Club Elections, Ghost Towns on the Air Club Event
- **November:** POTA Club Event
- **December:** Holiday Party Potluck, Winter Field Day Planning
- **January:** Winter Field Day

New Members, New Hams, License Updates

New Laramie Hams since the November issue 2024:

KK7WCG – Edward

KK7YEL - Scott

License Updates:

******Please submit when you change your license classification or callsign!

******* Code of the West is looking for more content! Please contact Blake if you would like to start a column or post an article.

UARC Officers

- President: Blake McGee, KK7QHS
- Co Vice President, Lou Sims, WY7LS
- Co Vice President, Mike Sullivan, KF7UZF
- Treasurer, Doris Hutchison, KD7NAE
- Secretary, John Harrison, KD7RQX

Please submit any items you would like included in the next newsletter to blake.mcgee@gmail.com

Club News

University Amateur Radio Club Takes on Winter Field Day: A Test of Skill and Endurance

By Christopher Price W7JR

Braving the cold and the challenges of off-grid communication, the University Amateur Radio Club recently participated in Winter Field Day, an annual event that puts radio operators to the test in harsh conditions. Designed to simulate emergency scenarios, Winter Field Day encourages amateur radio enthusiasts to hone their skills in setting up portable stations, operating in extreme weather, and maintaining reliable communication under less-than-ideal circumstances. For the club members of the university's radio club, this event was not just a technical challenge but also an opportunity to bond as a team, apply their knowledge in real-world settings, and engage with the broader ham radio community.

Winter Field Day was conducted in Washington Park under the designation "2O," signifying two simultaneous outdoor transmitters under the call of N7UW. All radios were housed in a canvas wall tent, generously provided by Chris Rice N7NAV, which served as our base of operations throughout the event. The club set up two operating positions, allowing radios to be brought in as needed or utilizing one of the two club HF radios on-site. These radios were connected to band-pass filters, ensuring that one radio could transmit without interfering with the receiving station. Primary power was supplied by a 400-amp-hour battery bank, supplemented by a generator to maintain reliable operation. This setup maximized our efficiency and ensured smooth communication despite the winter conditions.

With Winter Field Day taking place in the heart of winter, the event was not without its challenges. The primary issue was maintaining a heated operating location. Our original heating plans ran into mechanical issues, forcing us to quickly find an alternative solution to keep operators safe in the below-freezing temperatures. Thanks to the assistance of Ben, KF7UFF, we were able to secure a suitable heating system that ensured everyone's safety and comfort.

Another major challenge the club faced was one that many HF operators dread—man-made noise. As soon as the sun set, intermittent interference disrupted operations, making late-night contacts particularly difficult. The noise fluctuated in intensity throughout the night, requiring operators to adjust their strategy. To work around this, we maximized our operating time during quieter periods and took breaks when the interference returned, making the most of the available windows for clear communication.

Even with the elements working against us and the challenges we had to overcome, our team's hard work paid off with an impressive final score. We logged a total of 535 contacts, including 138 made using CW, with the remaining contacts completed via voice. Notably, three of our voice contacts were made through amateur radio satellites, thanks to the skilled operations of Douglas N6UA, earning us five valuable multipliers. In total, we secured 20 multipliers, bringing our final score to a respectable 13,460 points. It was a fantastic effort from everyone involved, and the experience provided valuable lessons and growth opportunities as we look ahead to our next Winter Field Day.

Arctic Fox Hunt

We will be hosting a community foxhunt on Saturday morning, February 22nd at Washington Park. We are going to invite the boy scouts and cub scouts to participate and learn more about amateur radio. Let's have a good showing of club members to mentor these kids!

Acknowledgementss

Thank you to Chris Price, Chris Rice, Ben Morgan, and Doug Tabor for helping plan and implement Winter Field Day! You all put in so much effort to make this event a success. Also, thank you John for helping to set up and tear down, and for the use of your heater.

Another big thank you to Ben Morgan, and Chris Rice for leading a session about CW at the January club meeting!

Thank you to the City of Laramie for working with us to make Winter Field Day possible in Washington Park. They helped me with the insurance waiver and reduced city the fees by half.

Finally, Thank you again Doris, KD7RQX, for stepping in to help to organize the 2024 Holiday Party!

UARC Treasurer's Report January 2025			
Operating			
Beginning Balance		\$3,326.24	
Income			
Interest	\$1.81		
Dues	\$80.00		
Donation			
Expenses			
IRS Fee	\$275.00		
Forest Service 82 lease	\$148.16		
New Balance		\$2,984.89	
High Plains		\$751.39	

UARC Treasurer's Report February 2025			
Operating			
Beginning Balance		\$2,984.89	
Income			
Interest			
Dues	\$120.00		
Donation	\$10.00		
Expenses			
New balance		\$3,114.89	
High Plains		\$751.39	