

# CODE OF THE WEST

N7UW - University Amateur Radio Club, Laramie, WY

March 2025

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### March:

1<sup>st</sup> – Coffee Net – 8am

4<sup>th</sup> – Club Meeting

15<sup>th</sup> – Em-Com Radio Game

### April:

1<sup>st</sup> – Club Meeting

5<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Net

19<sup>th</sup> – Club Event: Parks on the Air

## Message from the President – KK7QHS, Blake

Fundraising is an important, but often avoided, activity that a club and non-profit can do. As a 501C3, we are able to accept gifts as tax-deductible donations. We can also apply for community grants and funds that were set up for emergency support agencies. These grants can range from \$1000 to \$10,000 depending on the project. While donations can be used for undesignated purposes, grants require specific reportable spending. This has led me to asking the club members what sorts of “Big Projects” they would like to see us explore.

I’ve received some great ideas! To list just a few:

- Upgrade the digital capacities of our repeaters
- Set up a club Echolink node
- Own our own communications trailer (not linked to the county)
- Have a coms mini-van (ok, this one’s mine!)
- Have our own permanent clubhouse

At this point, we should not be afraid to dream big, and some of these ideas are very big indeed. I would welcome everyone to continue to send me their ideas and I will start the work to pair these ideas with potential funders.

On a smaller scale, we could explore fundraisers like selling shirts with our logo (yet to be designed), hold rummage sales, and ask for donations from groups that we set up communications support for. Again, the more ideas the better! Fundraising is a group effort and is essential for our mission... and it can be fun!

73!

Blake, KK7QHS



## UARC Member Profile

By: Everett, KK7QHT

- **Name:** Chris Price
- **Call sign:** W7JR
- **When did you first get you license?** I was first licensed as a Technician-class operator in the spring of 2011. My first FCC call sign was KJ6VCG, which I operated under as a Technician for two years. I then earned my Extra-class license and held the call sign KD6CP for the next six years. After moving to Wyoming, I changed my call sign to my current one, W7JR.
- **What is your favorite thing about Ham radio?** If I had to choose what excites me most about amateur radio, it would have to be radio propagation—specifically, the ability to use radio to make contact with a station on the other side of the Earth using just some wire and 100 watts of power.
- **What was your first transceiver?** Wouxun 2m/70cm handheld. My first high-frequency radio was a Yaesu FT-991.
- **What is your favorite food?** I'm a sucker for a good cheeseburger, loaded with all the toppings.
- **What is your most memorable experience as a HAM radio operator?** One of my most memorable experiences in amateur radio occurred in the summer of 2014 while experimenting with random-length long-wire antennas in South Dakota. I had just set up a 100-foot-long wire at approximately 20 feet above the ground. After connecting it to an automatic antenna tuner, I tuned it to the 6m band and was amazed to find it picking up beacons from the West Coast. Curious, I switched to 50.125 MHz, the single sideband calling frequency, and called CQ. To my surprise, I received a response from an operator in Washington State. At the time, I was running just 5 watts from my FT-991, yet I still made the contact. That moment truly opened my eyes to the fascinating nature of radio propagation.

## From the Nets

### Sunday Net Numbers

2/2 20  
2/9 19  
2/16 19  
2/23 21

### News from the Coffee Net

We had a great coffee net this month. Due to various conditions, we had to rely on relays to get connect everyone. This was a fun challenge, and we were able to hold a good conversation. Thank to everyone that participated!

52.540 FM

### Bad Jokes -

1. **What do you call a radio operator that's good at gymnastics?** – A ham-nast!
2. **What's a ham's favorite type of coffee?** – A radiouccino!

## UARC Annual Calendar

- **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
- **February:** Arctic Fox Hunts Club Event

## New Members, New Hams, License Updates

### New Laramie Hams in 2025:

KK7WCG – Edward

KK7YEL – Scott

KK7ZBB – Brad W.

KK7ZEH - Lance

### 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](mailto:blake.mcgee@gmail.com)*

# Club News

## February Fox Hunt

On February 22<sup>nd</sup>, UARC hosted an “Arctic Fox Hunt” at Washington Park. We had 7 club members and several scouts participate. Ben Morgan hid two of his prototype foxes, one in Washington Park and one in La Prella. We all found the first one rather quickly, but the La Prella fox was a bit more evasive. We broke into three teams and team 1 finished well before the rest of us (go Liam and Everett!). Everyone gathered for hot chocolate afterwards and enjoyed the nice February day!



## Winter SOTA

Summits on the Air is an awesome way to combine the outdoors with radio. On Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Liam (KK7SUU), Chris P. (W7JR), and Blake (KK7QHS) climbed Sentinel Mountain in northern Colorado. We were banking on the recent warm weather in the region to thaw out the south side of the mountain and allow us to climb to the top. We arrived at the trailhead around 10am and the mud and ice was still pretty frozen most the way up. At about the half-way point, the snow and ice were much more extreme and made the hike much more difficult. We persevered and got to the summit by 11:30am. We set up a 15m and 20m station, but finding open frequencies was a challenge due to a SSB DX contest. In the end, we were able to make 18 contacts and collected those sweet sweet winter bonus points!



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to Ben Morgan for presenting at the February club meeting. His work in fox hunting gear engineering was fascinating!

Another big thank you to Ben Morgan and Troop 137 for making the first annual Arctic Fox Hunt a success!

| UARC Treasurer's Report March 2025 |          |            |
|------------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Operating                          |          |            |
| Beginning Balance                  |          | \$3,114.89 |
| Income                             |          |            |
| Interest                           | \$0.72   |            |
| Dues                               | \$20.00  |            |
| Donation                           | \$140.00 |            |
|                                    |          |            |
| Expenses                           |          |            |
| Blake McGee reimburse              |          |            |
| WFD Site Washington park           | \$135    |            |
|                                    |          |            |
| New Balance                        |          | \$3,275.61 |
|                                    |          |            |
|                                    |          |            |
| High Plains                        |          | \$751.39   |
|                                    |          |            |