

Tribute to a Special Silent Key

Larry Griffin AD7GL (sk)



July 12, 1940 - July 20, 2025

Larry was one of the finest and kindest persons I have ever met. There wasn't anything that he wouldn't do for you or our club, if asked, and many things without having to be asked.

Larry was first licensed as a Novice in 1956 as WN7YDZ, and later as General class, W7YDZ. Later re-licensed as KE7CAK and finally upgraded to Extra class AD7GL. He operated every aspect of the hobby, doing it all. Operating HF SSB, HF CW, QRP CW, QRP SSB, VHF/UHF FM, Digital HF (PSK), FT8. He loved it all, especially QRP at only 5 watts. He was an avid user of the ARRL LoTW and QRZ contact log.

Larry served faithfully and diligently in the Weber County Sheriff's Office ARES group for many years and was a member of the West Haven City Emergency Services Em Com team. He was also a member of Utah VHF Society, an ARRL member and a very special member of OARC.

Larry served the Ogden Amateur Radio Club in many roles over the years. Larry was the OARC secretary 2009-10 and 2010-11, Vice President 2011-12, President 2012-13 and 2013-14. Secretary again 2014-15. Yes, that was six years that Larry served as an elected OARC officer. He also served as Advisor on the Ogden Amateur Radio Club Board of Directors for many years following. Larry also served as the FCC call sign trustee for the Ogden Amateur Radio Club Repeater Call Sign (W7SU) until his death.

Larry was very active as a VE for all Ogden Amateur Radio Club VE Test Sessions. He never missed a VE test session where his many talents were needed and appreciated. He helped with 58 VE test sessions and helped test 801 applicants during OARC W5YI VE test sessions over the years. He also worked with Davis County VE test sessions. Previously he helped VE testing in Arizona when he lived there before moving to Utah.

Larry supported the OARC Equipment Loan Program by donating various pieces of equipment, including a rather expensive Yaesu FT-100D, 100 watt HF transceiver, and antennas for other members to borrow and use on a temporary basis.

Larry served as one of the first two Net Control Operators for the OARC Ham & Eggs Net and continued to perform this volunteer roll up until his health no longer would permit him to continue.

Larry participated in many of the annual OARC Golden Spike Special Events where he exercised his many talents operating and mentoring the overall radio communicating event.

There wasn't an ARRL Field Day event that went by without Larry showing up at the 9:00 AM antenna raising and setup work session and of course he was always back again at 12:00 noon the following day for the take-down and clean-up session.

The thing I remember most about Larry was his specially prepared Potato Salad that you could count on him bringing to both Field Day dinner and Steak Fry dinner.

Every year in July when OARC held our Fox "T" Hunt event Larry would be there utilizing his skill and expertise in an attempt to locate the hidden treasure. That is of course if he wasn't presiding as the hidden transmitter operator that year.

Let's not forget about Larry participating in the OARC WAS award program where he achieved several awards. He was the first in our club to receive the OARC 10 on 10 award. He went on to receive other awards such as WAS mixed band, WAS QRP, WAS 20 meters, and OARC 10 meter WAS award.

Larry always maintained two mobile amateur radio stations. One in his primary vehicle and another in his RV trailer. And of course, let's not forget about his mobile bicycle station.

Larry also maintained two ham radio operating positions within his home. The most serious location was located within a converted closet off the master bedroom. Later he created a more casual operating position in the spare bedroom.

Larry's outdoor antenna systems were modest in nature but efficient. He lived in an HOA where external ham radio antennas were potentially prohibited. So, his solutions to fix that problem was to volunteer to become an officer in his neighborhoods HOA. Problem solved!

Larry had an extensive and enviable collection of amateur radio equipment and antennas:

Rigs: Icom 746 Pro, Icom 703 plus, Yaesu FT 891, Icom IC 7300, Uniden President HR 2600, Yaesu FTM 400 DR, Yaesu FTM 7250, Yaesu FT7800, Yaesu FT817, Yaesu FT70DR, Icom W32a, Yaesu VX2.

Antennas: G5RV jr, 10 meter dipole, Arrow J-pole, 20&30 meter EH antennas. All attic mounted at 22', Hustler 4-BTV vertical, ground mounted in back yard and Palomar 71' end fed wire antenna at 12' in the back yard. For mountain portable ops: Miracle Whip Antenna, MP-1 Super Antenna and Ham Stick Dipole.

We are going to miss Larry. He was truly a wonderful HAM, club member and friend.

73 and 88 Larry.