



# WATTS NEWS



**The Best of Amateur Radio**

*Welcome to the OARC e-Magazine*

[www.OgdenArc.org](http://www.OgdenArc.org)

**FEBRUARY 2011**

Next Club Meeting/Activity

**3rd Saturday 19 February 2011**

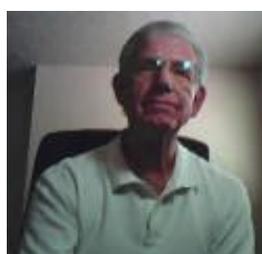
Topic: Mack Gilbert K7HEN >> "**Towers/Antennas, Grounding/Lighting**"



Kim Owen K07U  
President



James Clarke KD7SWL  
Vice President



Larry Griffin AD7GL  
Secretary



Jeff Anderson KD7PAW  
Treasurer



Justin Doxford KE7ROQ  
Program Director



Jamie Howell KF7LQY  
Activity Director



Val Campbell K7HCP  
Webmaster/NL Editor

# PREVIOUS CLUB MEETINGS

Saturday 15 January 2011

- Stan Sjol WOKP >> "The World Wide 'Whisper' Network"
- Tyler Clarke KF7GMG >> "Science Fair Project - 2 Meter Antennas"



# W<sub>ea</sub>k S<sub>ig</sub>nal P<sub>ro</sub>pagation R<sub>e</sub>porter

**Website: WSPRnet.org**

**WSPR Current version: 2.11 and FMT**

**Download free program directly from:**

**[www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT](http://www.physics.princeton.edu/pulsar/K1JT)**

**Table 1**

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**Conventional Frequencies for WSPR Activity**

<i>Band (meters)</i>	<i>Dial Frequency (MHz)</i>	<i>Actual Transmitting Frequency (MHz)</i>
160	1.836.600	1.838.000 – 1.838.200
80	3.592.600	3.594.000 – 3.594.200
40	7.038.600	7.040.000 – 7.040.200
30	10.138.700	10.140.100 – 10.140.300
20	14.095.600	14.097.000 – 14.097.200
17	18.104.600	18.106.000 – 18.106.200
15	21.094.600	21.096.000 – 21.926.200
12	24.924.600	24.926.000 – 24.926.200
10	28.124.600	28.126.000 – 28.126.200
6	50.293.000	50.294.400 – 50.294.600

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## NEXT CLUB MEETING

**When:** 3rd Saturday 19 February 2011  
**Time:** 09:00 AM  
**Topic:** Mack Gilbert K7HEN  
"Towers/Antennas, Grounding/Lighting"  
**Location:** Riverdale Fire Station

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### "SALE" or "WANTED" ITEMS NEEDED

OARC's *O-bay (On-Line Swap-Meet)* items needed for the web site...

Visit <http://www.ogdenarc.org/> then click on **Obay-Swap**.

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### Congratulations to the following new/upgrade Hams

- James C. Petersen      KE7WYD    General
- Jeffrey D. Page        KD7ICN    Tech
- Kurt Hadfield         KF7NWF    Tech
- Michael W. Moyes      KF7NWG    Tech
- Warren D. Broadbent    KF7NWH    Tech
- Janet L. Thomson      KF7NWL    Tech

## FROM KIM'S SHACK



From Kim's Shack



Kim Owen K07U - President

### CQ ALL Members and Friends of OARC

I am really looking forward to our club meeting this month. We have a longtime friend and benefactor to OARC and amateur radio operators everywhere that will be talking to us, Mack Gilbert/K7HEN.

You will hear Mack's call sign on many repeaters in the area which benefit all hams. Several years ago, the Little Mountain 146.900 repeater was damaged by a nearby lightning strike. Mack offered the use of his repeater which we used for couple years. He only accepted nominal compensation from the club for its use.

But let me tell you a story about the first time I met Mack.

As many of you know I work for Hill AFB. At that time, I was working at the Hill AFB Little Mountain Test Facility. The Air Force owns about 1000 acres of which include the 35 acre test compound. I was the senior AF official on site and besides of my other responsibilities, I was also responsible for the security of the facility.

Cell coverage out there was very poor at the time. If you had the right cell carrier and stood in the right place in the parking lot you could make a phone call if you didn't move. Otherwise you had to use a landline. There was a phone outside next to the guard shack with phone numbers, including mine.

There are lots of bugs. There are Black Widows, and Hobo spiders and Scorpions and lots of mosquitoes and worse of all are the "no-see-ums". Their bites take some of your hide. They get in your hairline and drive you nuts. What skin the no-see-ums leave will be raw for scratching the itch. Everyone avoids going outside during the hot months because of them.

Everyone has seen the flashing red lights at night of the four large commercial towers to the west of Ogden, they border the AF property. The 146.90 repeater

is about 100 feet from the three towers positioned close together on the right. It's a great location for the repeater.

Those of you that have had the opportunity to visit the Little Mountain repeater site know that there is a gate with a chain that has several pad-locks linked together which allows several different groups access to the site.

I suspect that I had a report that someone was on the mountain. I don't remember why I was checking the gate. It's possible that I was assuring the gate was actually closed. When I got to the gate I saw that they had bypassed my lock, locking me out. This was something that had happened before which fueled my frustration. I was furious. I hopped back into the AF truck and drove down to the Fire Department at the test facility to get some bolt cutters. I was going to cut their lock off and give them some face time.

Either the one of the firemen or my security guard gave me the combination of one of the other locks after I told them what I was going to do. Not as dramatic as I had planned.

I stormed up the mountain looking for the "wing-nuts" that had locked me out. I approached the leader of the group and told him that he had locked me out. He gave me a big apology which defused my tension and introduced himself as Mack Gilbert. I knew of Mack only by name, up to that point have never met him. We talked for several minutes. He was working on one of the national weather service antennas. I explained my position at the mountain and the importance that none of the locks are ever bypassed. We had a nice visit. It was late in the afternoon and my shift was over, I left feeling good about our visit. I secured the gate and left for home.

I remember that later night about 6:00 PM, I was getting gas in Layton when I got phone call on my cell phone. It was Mack. I couldn't believe what he said next. He said that I had bypassed his lock and they were stuck in their vehicles on top of the mountain. It's almost a mile walk to the phone at the guard shack. That is where Mack was calling. Did I mention the no-see-ums?

My mind was spinning think how I can get the gate open for them as quickly as possible. It would take me close to an hour to get out there myself to unlock my lock. These men wanted to go home!

I can't explain how bad I felt. I gave him the combination to my lock. That is how I met Mack.

Having recently raised my tower I'm anxious to hear his presentation. I know that he has some interesting experiences on towers that he will be sharing. You don't want to miss this one!

For now,  
73 de Kim/KO7U

# HOBBY NEWS

## 2011 Utah VHF Society Swapmeet 4th Saturday 26 February 2011 @ 08:00 AM

The 2011 Utah VHF Society Swapmeet will be Saturday, February 26th, 8:00 am, at the Utah State Fair Park, SLC, in the Zion's Building, as in the past.

For more information, go to the Utah VHF Society Website

[http://utahvhfs.org/fairpark\\_2011.html](http://utahvhfs.org/fairpark_2011.html)

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## MORE HOBBY NEWS

### New e-book versions of the No-Nonsense Technician Class License Study Guide

Amazon Kindle version

([http://www.amazon.com/No-Nonsense-Technician-Class-License-ebook/dp/B004G8QVD2/ref=tmm\\_kin\\_title\\_0?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2&qid=1295917361&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/No-Nonsense-Technician-Class-License-ebook/dp/B004G8QVD2/ref=tmm_kin_title_0?ie=UTF8&m=AG56TWVU5XWC2&qid=1295917361&sr=8-1))

Barnes & Noble Nook version

(<http://productsearch.barnesandnoble.com/search/results.aspx?WRD=kb6nu&page=index&prod=univ&choice=allproducts&query=kb6nu&flag=False&r=1&ugrp=1>) .

Both cost \$9.99.

A PDF version is still free on KB6NU website at <http://www.kb6nu.com>.

Thanks & 73!

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# MORE HOBBY NEWS

## New Amateur Radio Bill Introduced in Congress

QST de W1AW  
ARRL Bulletin 3 ARLB003  
From ARRL Headquarters  
Newington CT January 11, 2011

To all radio amateurs

The Amateur Radio Emergency Communications Enhancement Act, which died at the end of the 111th Congress, has been reintroduced in the 112th Congress as HR 81. The sponsor is Representative Sheila Jackson Lee (D-TX-18). The new bill -- which was introduced on January 5 -- has been referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Rep Jackson Lee first introduced the bill -- HR 2160 -- in the 111th Congress in April 2009. It gained an additional 41 co-sponsors but did not progress out of the committee of jurisdiction. A similar bill introduced in the Senate -- S 1755 -- made it all the way through that body in December 2009, but likewise was not taken up by the House.

The objective of the bill -- which is supported by the ARRL -- is for the Secretary of Homeland Security to study the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief and to identify and make recommendations regarding impediments to Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations.

"We are hopeful that this early start will lead to success in the new Congress," commented ARRL Chief Executive Officer David Sumner, K1ZZ.

HR 81 can be found on the web in PDF format at

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-112hr81ih/pdf/BILLS-112hr81ih.pdf>.



## ARRL NEWS

Fellow Hams --

At long last, we are pleased to announce the 2011 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention!

For the last several years each Section within our great Division has hosted the Convention on a rotating basis, and this year is New Mexico's turn. The 2011 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention will take place August 5-7 (Friday through Sunday) in gorgeous Taos, New Mexico at the Sagebrush Inn hotel and Convention center. The theme of this year's Convention is "(Re)Discovering the Thrill of Ham Radio."

Here is just a HINT of what is being planned:

New/used ham equipment sales, major manufacturers and vendors (details below), outdoor tailgating, technical and non-technical forums, banquet meals with notable speakers, homebrew challenges, W1AW/5 special event station, CW pileup contest, club/manufacturer sponsored hospitality suites, prizes galore, antenna shootout, transmitter hunts, Boy Scout radio merit badge class, midnight Wouff Hong ceremony, satellite QSO demonstrations, high speed CW copying contest, a possible high-altitude balloon launch with ham payload, and much more.

Activities around Taos will be organized especially for spouses and family members, making this Convention a perfect trip for the entire family in one of The Land of Enchantment's most alluring destinations.

Numerous manufacturers will be present, most of them having never been to a New Mexico hamfest until now. Yaesu, HRO (Denver), and Southwest Antennas and Accessories have already committed to being present. We are in close contact with Icom, Heil, Elecraft, Alinco, FlexRadio, Ten Tec, Byonics, DZKit, as well as Hendricks QRP Kits, and many others have expressed their interest to attend as well.

A Convention isn't complete without great guests and speakers. Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, retired FCC special counsel, will attend as will Chip Margelli K7JA, notable DXpeditioner, contester and co-star of the past but still popular "CW versus text messaging" segment that aired on Jay Leno's Tonight Show. Additional guests are being lined up, and we'll announce them later!

All the details you'll need about the 2011 ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention including registration and vendor information will appear at [www.2011Convention.org](http://www.2011Convention.org) (easy to remember, and easy to announce on the air and at club meetings). NOTE that the full website is still being developed with intentions to have it posted around Saturday, February 12. Event registration and hotel reservations at the special Convention rate will be opened shortly thereafter.

This event will be held in lieu of the Albuquerque Duke City Hamfest, which returns full-tilt in 2012.

Questions about the Division Convention should be directed to [info@2011convention.org](mailto:info@2011convention.org) and anyone wishing to volunteer their time and talent for this event should email [volunteer@2011convention.org](mailto:volunteer@2011convention.org).

Please bookmark [www.2011Convention.org](http://www.2011Convention.org) and please also mark your calendars for a spectacular Division Convention in beautiful Taos, New Mexico on August 5-7! We look forward to seeing you there.

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ARRL Rocky Mountain Division  
Director: Brian P Milesosky, N5ZGT  
[n5zgt@arrl.org](mailto:n5zgt@arrl.org)  
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# FEATURE ARTICLE

By Dan Romanchik, KB6NU

## Fractal Antennas: Hype or Hope?

QRZ.Com currently has a very interesting item on fractal antennas (<http://forums.qrz.com/showthread.php?t=277623>). While the idea of applying fractals to the design and construction of antennas has been around for quite some time, very few hams have actually built them, and there are currently no companies building commercial fractal antennas for the ham radio market. The question, of course, is why?

Those that are hyping fractal antennas—most notably W1YW, CEO of Fractal Antenna Systems—claim several advantages. These advantages purportedly include wider bandwidth and smaller size when compared to traditional antennas, such as verticals and dipoles. Those that are trying to debunk these claims contend that this is all just hogwash, and that there's no real scientific basis for these claims.

One thing that's confounding this debate is that there have been very few articles published on the topic. For commercial reasons, W1YW has made his articles unavailable. He says that he will be publishing something real soon now, but there is nothing definite at this point.

There is at least one article on the Internet that describes the construction of a fractal antenna for amateur radio use. "FYI:FYQ: Another look at the Fractal Quad Yagi" (<http://www.scribd.com/doc/18788401/FYIFQY>) was published in the October 1999 issue of 73 magazine. It describes the construction of a two-element, 10m antenna. Like most 73 articles, it's not incredibly technical, though, and doesn't really contribute to the technical debate, except to demonstrate that physically small antennas can be made using fractal design.

The PDF contains several photos of the antenna. It's a crazy contraption that looks relatively difficult to build. So difficult, in fact, that it makes me wonder if it's even worth it to try building one. After all, 10m antennas are not really all that big or all that difficult to build to begin with.

Even more interesting than the antennas are the personalities on both sides of the debate. The QRZ.Com discussion quickly devolved into a flame war, with neither side scoring a knockout.

Personally, I think the brouhaha is much ado about nothing. It seems to me that it's been demonstrated that you can build antennas using fractal design techniques. They are physically smaller than traditional antenna designs, but you really don't get something for nothing. Overall, they don't have as much gain as yagis or quads, and they're more complex to build.

My opinion on this is that if W1YW can build antennas that radiate a signal and can sell those antennas to someone, then more power to him. In the end, his company will live and die by how well, his antennas work and how much they cost when compared to antennas from other companies.

As for me, I think I'll stick with the more traditional HF antennas. If I need to make my antennas smaller, I'll use loading coils or designs such as the Moxon. I may not be on the bleeding edge of technology, but I'll certainly avoid a lot of headache trying to figure out who's right.

Dan, KB6NU, operates CW on the HF bands, writes and publishes license exam study guides, and teaches ham radio classes. You can find his ham radio blog at [www.kb6nu.com](http://www.kb6nu.com).

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Next Club Meeting:

**3rd Saturday 15 January 2011**

- The Ogden Amateur Radio Club meetings are usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month.

- **Time: 09:00 AM**
- **Location: Riverdale Fire Station**
- **Topic: Mack Gilbert K7HEN  
"Towers/Antennas,  
Grounding/Lighting"**
- **Talk-in: -146.90 (pl 123.0)**

Check OARC web site for details

[www.ogdenarc.org](http://www.ogdenarc.org)

- Please invite a friend to join you. You do not have to be a member of the club to participate in our club meetings or activities. We invite all to join us.
  - If anyone is interested in doing a presentation on something or just have something unique to show at the meetings. - Please get a hold of any of the officers and let us know.
- 
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## Next Weber Co VE Test Session:

**1st Wednesday 01 June 2011**

- Exam sessions are held in Ogden every few months, *usually* the first Wednesday in February, June, and October.

**Time: 05:00 PM** *Walk-ins allowed*

**Location:**

**Weber County Sheriff Office  
(Training room)  
721 W 12th Street Ogden UT**

**Contact: VE Liaison:**

**Mary Hazard** [w7ue@arrl.net](mailto:w7ue@arrl.net) (801-430-0306)

**Cost: \$ 14.00**

Two forms of **ID**, one of which must be a **picture ID**.

For "Upgrades" bring current **license** and a **copy** of current license, and any **CSCE's**

Most **calculators** allowed. Calculator memories must be cleared before use.

## Club Web Site

Be sure to visit our club web site.

- [www.OgdenARC.org](http://www.OgdenARC.org)

Club membership is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. You do not need an amateur license to join us. Dues are used to operate the club, field day activities, and repeater equipment maintenance.

You do not need to join the club to participate with us.

## Club Call Sign

Listen to the club repeaters for this very familiar CW ID. You do know Morse Code don't you?

- **W7SU**

ARRL Field Day is held on the last full weekend of June every year.

Location may vary each year so watch this notice for details as time draws near.

See you there.

OARC REPEATERS			
FREQ	CLUB	ZONE	LOCATION
146.820-	OARC	123.0	Mt Ogden
448.600-	OARC	123.0	Mt Ogden
146.900-	OARC "Talk-in"	123.0	Little Mtn (w/auto patch)
448.575-	OARC	100.0	Little Mtn (w/auto patch)

OTHER AREA REPEATERS			
FREQ	CLUB	ZONE	LOCATION
146.620-	UARC	none	Farnsworth Pk
147.120+	UARC	100.0	Farnsworth Pk
449.100-	UARC	146.2	Farnsworth Pk
449.500-	UARC	100.0	Farnsworth Pk
ATV	UARC	Ch-58	Farnsworth Pk
147.040+	DCARC	123.0	Antelope Isl
447.200-	DCARC	127.3	Antelope Isl
449.925-	DCARC	100.0	No Salt Lake
145.290-	UBET	123.0	Brigham City
145.430-	UBET	123.0	Thiokol
448.300-	UBET	123.0	Thiokol
146.640-	BARC	none	Logan
146.720-	BARC	103.5	Mt Logan
147.260+	BARC	103.5	Promontory Pt
449.625-	BARC	103.5	Mt Logan
145.250-	WSU	123.0	* coming soon
449.250-	WSU	123.0	* coming soon
145.490-	K7HEN	123.0	Promontory Pt
146.920-	N7TOP	123.0	Promontory Pt
449.775-	N7TOP	123.0	Promontory Pt
448.825-	IRLP/Echo	123.0	Clearfield City
449.950-	IRLP	123.0	Clearfield City
449.425-	IRLP	100.0	Nelson Peak
147.360+	Summit County	100.0	Lewis Peak

**AREA CLUB MEETINGS & WEB SITES**

CLUB	WEB SITE	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Ogden ARC	<a href="http://ogdenarc.org">ogdenarc.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday 09:00 am	Check OARC web site ...
WC ARES	<a href="http://ogdenarc.org/join.html#ares">ogdenarc.org/join.html#ares</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday 06:30 pm	Weber Co. Library Ogden Utah
WC Sheriff Comm-O		1 <sup>st</sup> Saturday 10:00 am	Weber Co. Sheriff Complex West 12 <sup>th</sup> Street Ogden Utah
Barc	<a href="http://barconline.org">barconline.org</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10:00 am	Cache Co. Sheriffs Complex 200 North 1400 West Logan Ut
CSERG	<a href="http://dcarc.net/ares.htm/">dcarc.net/ares.htm/</a>	Last Wednesday 8:30pm	Clearfield City Hall Clearfield Utah
Dcarc	<a href="http://dcarc.net">dcarc.net</a>	2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday 10:00 am	Davis Co. Sheriff Complex Farmington Utah
NU Ares	<a href="http://home.comcast.net/~noutares/">home.comcast.net/~noutares/</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday 7:00 pm	Cache Co. Sheriff Office Logan Utah
Uarc	<a href="http://xmission.com/~uarc/">xmission.com/~uarc/</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday 7:30 pm	UofU EMC Bldg Room 101 Salt Lake City Utah
Ubet	<a href="http://27meg.com/~k7ub/">27meg.com/~k7ub/</a>	4th Thursday 6:30 pm	BE-Thiokol: 24 East 100 South Brigham City Utah
Utah DX Association	<a href="http://udxa.org">udxa.org</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Wednesday check web page for details	check web page for details Salt Lake City area
UvhfS	<a href="http://ussc.com/~uvhfs/">ussc.com/~uvhfs/</a>	Each Tuesday 8:00 pm (refer to web site)	Weekly 2 meter net (no eye ball meetings)
WD Arc	<a href="http://westdesertarc.org/">westdesertarc.org/</a>	1 <sup>st</sup> Tuesday 7:00 pm	Tooele County Courthouse Tooele Utah
WsuArc	<a href="http://arcweber.edu">arcweber.edu</a>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday 5:30 pm	WSU Blding #4 Room ? Ogden Utah

## LOCAL AREA NETS

DATE	CLUB	FREQ
Daily @ 12:30 PM mt	Utah Beehive net HF	7.272 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>
Daily @ 07:30 PM mt	Utah Code net HF	3.570 Mhz <b>HF CW</b>
Daily @ 02:00 UTC	Utah Farm net HF	3.937 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>
Sunday @ 8:45 AM	Ogden Old Timers HF net	7.193 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>
Sunday @ 7:30 PM	UBET ARC	145.430 - 123.0 (training net)
Sunday @ 8:30 PM	SATERN Net	145.900 - 123.0
Sunday @ 9:00 PM	Morgan Co Net	147.060 = simplex
Sunday @ 9:00 PM	UARC Info net	146.620- no PL tone required
Monday @ 9:00 PM	2-meter SSB net	144.250 Mhz <b>2-meter USB</b>
<b>Tuesday @ 8:00 PM</b>	<b>Weber ARES</b>	<b>448.600 - 123.0</b>
Tuesday @ 8:00 PM	VHF Society Swap	147.120 + 100.0
Tuesday @ 9:00 PM	Bridgerland ARC	147.260 + 103.5
Wednesday @ 8:00 PM	UBET ARC	145.290-, 145.430-, 448.300- (all 123.0)
Wednesday @ 8:30 PM	CSERG	145.770 simplex
Wednesday @ 9:00 PM	No. Utah 10m HF net	28.313 Mhz <b>HF USB</b>
Wednesday @ 9:00 PM	6-meter SSB net	50.125 Mhz <b>6-meter USB</b>
Thursday @ 6:30 PM	Davis Co Elmers Net	147.040 + 123.0 <b>New Hams</b>
Thursday @ 8:00 PM	Weber State ARC	146.820 - 123.0 (coming soon)
Thursday @ 8:00PM	State RACES VHF/IRLP	145.490 - 123.0, 146.680 - 123.0 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday - even months only
Thursday @ 8:30 PM	Davis ARES	147.420 = simplex
Thursday @ 9:00PM	Wasatch Back Net	147.360 + 100.0
Saturday @ 8:00AM mst	RACES State HF	3.920 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b> 3 <sup>rd</sup> Saturday – odd months only
Saturday @ 11:00AM mst	QCWA net HF	7.272 Mhz <b>HF LSB</b>

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*OARC OFFICERS*

President: Kim Owen KO7U

Vice Pres: James Clarke KD7SWL

Secretary: Larry Griffin AD7GL

Treasurer: Jeff Anderson KD7PAW

Program Director:

Justin Doxford KE7ROQ

Activity Director:

Jamie Howell KF7LQY

*"WATTS NEWS" e-Magazine*

NL Editor: Val Campbell K7HCP

*OTHER CLUB APPOINTMENTS*

Webmaster: Val Campbell K7HCP

Historian: Kent Gardner WA7AHY

Advisor: Kent Gardner WA7AHY

Advisor: Stan Sjol WOKP

QSL Manager: John Shupe K7DJO

Equipment Manager: Val Campbell K7HCP

Repeater Engineer: Mike Fullmer KZ7O

VE Liaison: Mary Hazard W7UE

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**73 es cul de W7SU**

[www.OgdenArc.org](http://www.OgdenArc.org)