Spotlight – Chad Buttars WE7CB



I got started in radio when I was in the Air Force, being responsible for data transmission and voice nets via HF, VHF/UHF, and satellite radio for many years. I loved the big old Harris radio we had, hooked up to a 1 kW amplifier running out to an all-band, 8-leg orthogonal antenna! That's also where I developed a love for digital transmission over radio. We would take a radar picture and send it to ground stations, and aircraft all at once! All at the incredible speed of 1200 baud.

When it came time to retire from the Air Force, I knew that one of the things that I would miss the most was playing with the radios, and I thought that I would never have that chance again. Then, my neighbor stepped in and introduced me to the world of Ham Radio. I would see him hanging up wire antennas, or building copper J-poles to put up on his roof, and I would run over and talk to him about it. It wasn't enough just to talk about it, so I got busy studying for the exam. I went right to General on my first test session, and about a year later, the Extra.

Today, I've gone back to my love of digital modes, and spend most of my time running FT8 or PSK, although I've recently started taking part in some of the local HF nets, which is a lot of fun. I always look forward to Field Day, where you'll find me at the digital station making contacts, and not going hoarse!

My main station is an Icom IC-7300, which I'm still trying to figure out, but enjoying it very much! My backup radio is a Kenwood TS-2000, a very good radio. I also have a Yaesu FT-897 that I keep in the go box, and use on Field Day.



My main antenna is a Carolina Windom 80 that I have setup across my yard. Fun fact: I had a telephone pole installed just so I could put that antenna up! I also have a 6-meter dipole built by Carl WE7OMG, along with several of his famous J-poles.

I've enjoyed my time in the leadership of the Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club, and even though my work schedule does not let me meet with the members often. When I do get to hang out with the gang, it's always the best of times.

— Chad Buttars WE7CB



Chad is a UARC member and has provided great leadership as the UVARC VP since their beginning. Anybody who has talked with Chad on the radio has met the friendliest voice on the air.