

Silent key– Don Blanchard WA7GTU

On Saturday 04 September 2021, friend, elmer, and teacher Don Blanchard passed away at his home in Cedar City.

Don's many service achievements include

- Idaho National Guard
- EdD from Arizona State University
- Teacher of the Year at SUU
- Department Chair at SUU
- First SCUBA instructor at SUU
- Iron County Emergency Coordinator
- CERT certification
- Cedar City Radio Control Club president
- Cedar Valley Lions Club president
- Iron County Merit Commission
- LDS mission to Northern California
- LDS High Councilor
- LDS Temple Worker
- Volunteer Ski Patrol at Brianhead
- Silver Beaver in Scouting
- Second Miler Award in Scouting
- Woodbadge in Scouting

The following is an excerpt from his obituary:

Don's first love was amateur radio. He's been known by his call sign WA7GTU for over 50 years, and remained an active ham operator until days before his death. Don was instrumental in building, installing, and maintaining a network of repeaters now known as the Intermountain Intertie System, comprised of 23 continuously linked repeaters in five states. Don's was a friendly and familiar voice on the airwaves, especially on the Beehive Utah Net, where he often served as net control. He served as Vice President of the Utah VHF Society for 22 years and obtained non-profit status for the club.

Don is survived by his wife Linda, his children, and many grandchildren. He has always been a kind, helpful, and thoughtful elmer to many people.

73, Don.

