

Spotlight – Don Rawlins N7YUQ

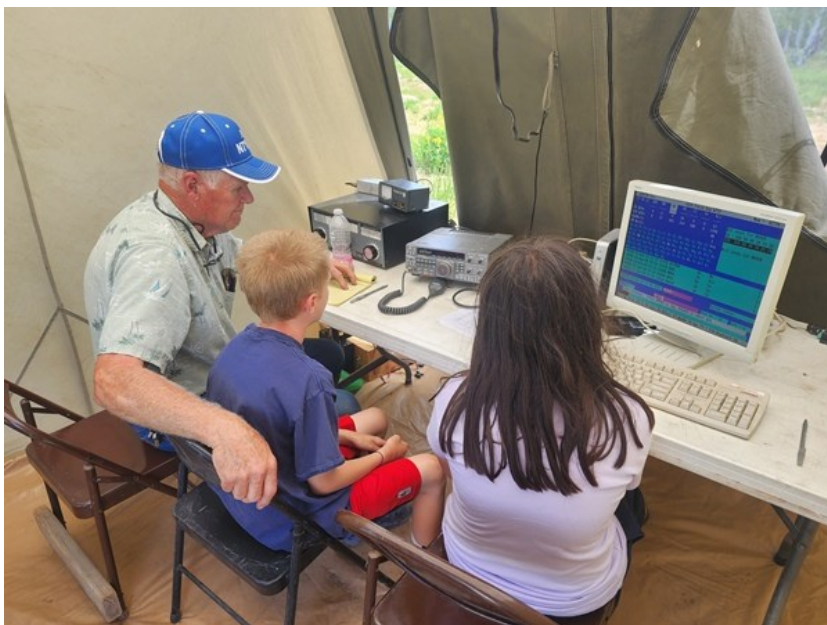
Don Rawlins N7YUQ has been in amateur radio for over 35 years. Randy Finch K7SL (SK), his neighbor who introduced and interested Don in ham radio, gave Don his first radio, a 2-meter crystal-controlled set. Eventually, Don obtained his no-code Technician license back when the FCC offered this alternative license to those who weren't especially interested in working CW on the low bands. This past May 2025, Don received his General license the same day Adam Stribling KK7NJJ received his, the two sitting next to each other during the exam session.



In 1998, club member Bruce Bergen KI7OM envisioned a repeater that could enhance the existing 146.620 repeater on Farnsworth Peak to reach operators east of the Wasatch range. After some amount of designing and back-and-forth discussions, he organized a work party to modify a repeater pair for that purpose. Don joined the work party alongside Bruce, Randy Finch, Chuck Johnson WA7JOS, John Clark N7SFN, and a few others on the Scott Hill repeater, helping with the wiring and the antennas. On another day, Don also helped Randy with the 146.760 repeater on Lake Mountain in Utah County.

A professional electrician, Don worked for GSL electronics for 18 years, and then for Crestwoods another 6 years before starting his own contracting business. He has worked on radio and TV stations, as well as a database center. One day Randy asked Don for help solving problems with KSL's AM broadcast radio station. Afterwards, engineers at KSL TV were so impressed with Don's work that they too asked for his expertise, and he eventually helped them set up the equipment for the 2002 Winter Olympics. In 2018, while working for Bonneville Satellite and AMZ Transmitter, Don went through ten states connecting new transmitters in ten days. Don says today he's retired, but that if they ever need him, he's ready to help.

In summer 2024 Don attended the UARC Field Day for the first time. He arrived Tuesday because he wanted to secure the club spot. Don's two grandsons attended with him, and one of the boys took pictures of the event for James Bennett KK7AVS. That Saturday night, Sylvia Bernert K7KQY logged while Don worked 20 meters from 10 pm until Sunday after 5 am. He was one of the last to leave on Sunday after helping to tear down



equipment and clean up the site. Don tells us he plans to return to Field Day again this year.

Don is married and has several children, whom he's trying to interest in the hobby. Besides amateur radio, Don enjoys fishing and playing with the grandkids. He is now working on building a ham shack in the basement of his house, so he can have all of his ham equipment in one place. Now that he has his General Class license, he's looking to get an HF rig.

Good luck with all you do, Don!

– 73 from Linda N7HVF