

Spotlight – Don Rawlinson K7DHR

Scientific things have always interested me, and so while serving my LDS mission at age 21 in Niue Island in the South Pacific near Samoa, I met a ham from New Zealand who had a station, and that sparked my interest. That was 1962. While living in Lindon some 10 years later, Larry Hall K7EYE, took me under his wing to help me get my Novice ticket, licensed as WN7VNQ. Another good mentor was Bryce Anderson K7UA (SK), (formerly K7SAI), who last lived in American Fork and was a very active DXer. That same year I took and passed the General, then later the Advanced Class exam in Salt Lake City, and got the call WA7VNQ. It wasn't until late in 1997, while living in Logan that I took and passed my Extra Class exam (the "old" way) through the VE system, where I also served as a VE. Eventually, in 2017 I changed my call sign to K7DHR.



It was my privilege to serve in the Bridgerland Amateur Radio Club as their President, and was on their Board of Directors for several years. There are so many great memories of my association with the Club. One of my special friends and mentors was Clayton Clark AC7O (SK), whose call sign now resides on the 146.720 repeater, located on Mount Logan in Cache Valley. He was a truly great mentor and friend.

My favorite mode right now is FT8 digital. Band conditions being what they are and with my limited power and moderate antennas, working SSB is really trying. I'm still active on the Beehive Utah Net, and handle traffic into Utah County when I can. And of course, I enjoy VHF as well, and have made many friends here on the repeaters.

I live in St. George now, but back at my QTH in Pleasant Grove, Utah, I ran a Kenwood TS2000 to a 7-band homebrew Windom at about 30 feet, in an inverted-V configuration. I have an end-fed 32-foot wire with a 9:1 (unun) coil and 31 feet of coax, which tunes well with the TS-2000.

An old Kenwood TS-50 serves as a backup radio, along with an MFJ mobile tuner. The TS-2000 also works as my shack 2 meter/70 cm rig, and I feed it to a dual-band Pockrus J-pole, also at 30 feet, allowing me to remain active on the local repeaters. The photo to the left shows my 80-10 Windom, the J-pole on top, and the end of a 60-foot end-fed. I purchased the J from Carl, but I built the rest.

– 73 from K7DHR

