

Silent key – Ray Smith KK7LAT

Ray Smith KK7LAT, friend and a West Valley City amateur, passed away on Tuesday 02 June 2026 after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. Just last year we featured Ray in *Microvolt* for [his own spotlight](#), so this passing came sadly too soon afterwards.



In 2022, Ray's cousin Ben Booth N7RXL got Ray interested in getting his amateur radio license. After studying hard, Ray passed the Technician Class exam in March 2023, then got his General Class ticket the following September. After purchasing a Baofeng UV-5R, Ray met other hams in UARC on the radio. He contacted Carl Pockrus in American Fork, and purchased a J-pole from him. Later, James Bennett KK7AVS came to Ray's home and installed a flag pole antenna, which Ray uses for VHF and UHF. James also obtained a CB antenna modified for 10 meters and installed it in Ray's office. With that antenna, Ray



has made over a hundred contacts around the world, including stations in Argentina, Mexico, Hawaii, Japan, Alaska, and several Canadian provinces.

Thomas Partridge KC7DKR wrote,

I got to know Ray over the Ham radio. Ray even gave me my first HF radio to get on the world wide bands. I will always remember how kind he was and how helpful he was. RIP, Ray KK7LAT. Your friend, Thomas.



An excerpt from Ray's obituary:

Ray was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed many wonderful activities with his family and friends. Whether it was primitive hunting with muzzle loader or bow, archery, golf, diving in various locations around the world, horseback riding throughout Utah, fishing on the Strawberry, or cruising with family, he always found joy being out in nature and spending time with his wonderful family and dear friends. His loyal companion, Azar, known as his faithful co-pilot traveled everywhere with him; just one of the many loving pets that touched his life and gave him so much pleasure. The last couple of years he enjoyed making new friends around the world on his ham radios and re-learning morse code.



You can read [Ray's obituary here](#).