

Dixie Amateur Radio Club

Southwest Utah

www.dixieham.org

Aug 2025



Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	1
Updates	1
Important Dates	1
DARC 20 Aug 2025 Meeting	1
President's Message.....	1
Field Day.....	2
Field Day 2025: The Utah Section on the Air	2
ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention.....	3
Test Sessions	4
Elmers	4
Washington County ARES	4

17 Sep 2025	7 pm, CW Magic
11 Oct 2025	9:30 am, ARES Meeting
11 Oct 2025	2 pm, test session in Hurricane
15 Oct 2025	5:30 pm, Test Session
15 Oct 2025	7 pm, Digital modes
8 Nov 2025	9:30 am, ARES Meeting
19 Nov 2025	5:30 pm, Test Session
19 Nov 2025	7 pm, Satellites
Dec 2025	Holiday party
21 Jan 2026	5:30 pm, Test Session
21 Jan 2026	7 pm, VHF/UHF

Updates

We have moved around some of the monthly meeting topics. See the "Important Dates" section below.

Important Dates

7 Aug 2025	4 pm, Board Meeting
9 Aug 2025	9:30 am, ARES Meeting
9 Aug 2025	2 pm, test session in Hurricane
20 Aug 2025	5:30 PM, monthly test session
20 Aug 2025	HF Antennas, the good, the bad and the unknown.
13 Sep 2025	9:30 am, ARES Meeting
13 Sep 2025	2 pm, test session in Hurricane
17 Sep 2025	5:30 pm, Test Session

DARC 20 Aug 2025 Meeting

The next in person meeting of DARC is on Wednesday, 20 Aug 2025 at 7 pm in the St. George Community Building located behind the St. George Active Life 60+ Center at 245 N 200 W, St. George, Utah. PLEASE NOTE: The Community Building is not the Active Life 60+ Center. Drive to the back of the Active Life 60+ Center property and you will see a smaller building about the size of a doublewide manufactured home.

Topic HF Antennas – the good, the bad, and the unknown

HF antennas are a great mystery for all of us. How do you select them? What are the various types? How do the different antennas operate? Come to the meeting to find out.

President's Message

Live and learn. That was the lesson from Field Day. Our facility was great. Spacious and cool with a

kitchen and restrooms. Unfortunately the site was plagued with QRM. We had to contend with powerline noise mixed with mercury vapor and LED lighting. There were physical obstacles blocking a clear shot east and west. The triband antenna did work well up at 30Ft. We tried a 80 meter half wave loop but it was plagued with the noise. The magnetic loop worked well on 80,40, and 20 meters. While putting the mag loop up the crew improvised a ladder, thoughtfully brought by me, to leverage their strength. I still reminded me of the the monument where the soldiers were raising the flag on Iwo Jima.

Another thing we encountered is not knowing our radio equipment. We made a call to K8NG for a question on a ICOM 7300. Brett Pruitt loaned us a HF radio but because we didn't know how to set the radio, we were running 5 watts all night. This put a crimp in our points.

Thanks to all those who helped out during setup and takedown.

Moving forward, we need to scout out some sites where we have;

- 1-Cooler bearable temperatures in 80s and 90s. St. George is too hot unless we are inside.
- 2-Site away from powerlines.
- 3-Clear shots at all horizons.
- 4-Restroom and hygiene facilities.
- 5-Reasonable fees and charges for use.
- 6-Stay in Washington County if possible. It is the Dixie Amateur Radio Club, not the St. George Radio Club.
- 7-Willingness to rough it off-grid. Tents, trailers, cooking etc.
- 8-Make it fun for families.

There probably other thing to list. If we want to have the Club do field day, it should be worthwhile to spend the money. but more participation is needed.

I would like to see some committees set up to help the club. We also need some younger folks to step-up, us older folks are slowing down and in some cases becoming SKs. I believe in this organization, otherwise I would not have joined 11 years ago.

Subjects for future Club meetings is encouraged and welcomed. Let us know your interest and your expertise, you may be the expert!

Thanks All

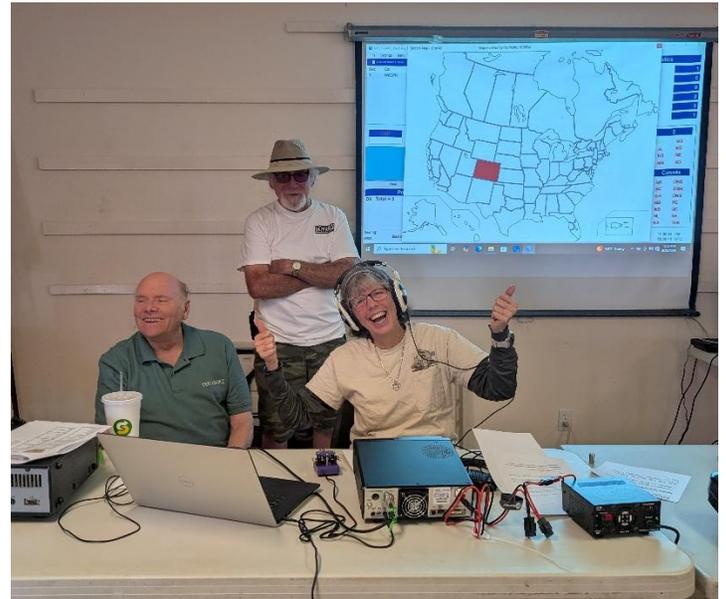
73

Don

Field Day

We had fun at our new location in Hurricane. It was not the best location for the antennas but it was a great location for the pot luck! We still got lots of contacts all over the US.

Nancy got the first contact using CW and then moved to voice because the CW stations were going too fast for her brain.



We are looking for someone to run the next field day. If you have any interest in being part of a group to manage field day, please contact us at darc@dixieham.org

Field Day 2025: The Utah Section on the Air

by: Brett Pruitt, K7BDP, ARRL Utah Section Manager

Since getting licensed, I've always looked forward to Field Day. But, now serving as your Section Manager, this year's event gave me a new perspective on just how varied – and vibrant – the amateur radio

community is here in Utah. Instead of parking myself at a single site, I spent the weekend traveling across the section, visiting stations large and small, urban and rural, mountaintop and backyard.

At each stop, I saw a different reflection of what makes Field Day special. One club had transformed a city park into a temporary command center, complete with towers, satellite gear, and a steady stream of curious visitors from the public. Another group operated from a remote canyon, making the most of low noise and a spectacular view while cooking dinner over an open fire. I even stumbled on a two-operator team running entirely off solar power – quiet, efficient, and making solid contacts as the bands shifted through the day.

What struck me most was how much learning and experimentation happens in such a short window. Operators swapped tips on digital modes, experimented with antenna configurations on the fly, and patiently walked newcomers through their first QSOs. It wasn't just about racking up points; it was about using the opportunity to test ideas, refine skills, and prepare for the kind of communications challenges that bring amateur radio to life during emergencies.

I also appreciated the hospitality. Whether it was a plate of spaghetti in one county or a cup of coffee in another, every group I visited took time to make sure a fellow operator felt welcome. In the process, I heard stories from people who'd been in the hobby for decades and from brand-new licensees who were still figuring out how to log a contact.

Driving home late Sunday night, I couldn't help but think about how many different styles of operation I'd seen – and how each one plays a role in keeping our section strong. Field Day isn't just a contest, and it's not just an open house for the public. It's a living demonstration of what we can accomplish together, under any conditions, with whatever resources we have at hand.

To every club, group, and individual who let me drop by, watch you work, and share a few minutes of conversation – thank you. You reminded me that our greatest resource in amateur radio isn't the gear or the bands we operate on. It's the people who keep showing up, year after year, to make it all happen.



~ Servire Per Æthera ~

73, Brett

ARRL Rocky Mountain Division Convention

The ARRL Rocky Mountain Division convention will be held in Grand Junction, Colorado October 24-26, 2025, hosted by HamCon Colorado. Less than a month remains to take advantage of the Early Bird registration price.

The convention is a great learning and networking event for hams in the Rocky Mountain Division. A DX University session will be held the day prior to the convention proper (Thursday, October 23, separate charge) presented by several world class DX'ers. Here's a wonderful opportunity to learn some great operating tips and techniques.

Riley Hollingsworth, K4ZDH will be a featured speaker as well as hosting a forum about some of his legendary stories from his years working for the Federal Communications Commission. Enjoy meals with keynote speakers throughout the weekend. See the website below for meal pricing.

The convention will include:

- W1AW/0 Special events station
- DXCC Card Checking
- Static Displays
- Communications vehicles
- Edge of Space Sciences Hospitality suite
- Complimentary tables for ARRL Affiliated Club
- Fox Hunt
- Many hours of forums

Please see the website:

<https://www.hamconcolorado.com> for info and to sign up for the event.

Test Sessions

Test sessions are held starting at 5:30 pm on the third Wednesday of every month before the monthly membership meeting. They are held at the St George Community Building, 245 N. 200 West, St George UT. The Community building is a one-story building on the west side of the south parking lot for the St George Senior Center (it is not in the Senior Center building).

Test sessions are also held on the second Saturday of even-numbered months at the Hurricane City Branch Library in the Community Room, starting at 2 pm.

See the [Test Session](#) page on the webs site for more information about the test sessions, including what to bring.

If you have any questions about the testing, please contact us at <mailto:testing@dixieham.org>

Ham Radio Is Not A Hobby - It's A Post-Apocalyptic Life Skill.

Elmers

DARC has many knowledgeable members (Elmers) that are willing to help members that have questions, need information, need advice or need any other HAM radio help. Please contact us at info@dixieham.org if you would like to hook up with an Elmer.

Washington County ARES

We are always looking for new Members for the group. A willingness to learn and have fun are the prerequisites.

The ARES group has a monthly training meeting on the second Saturday of each month at 9:30 am. We meet on the 4th floor of the Washington County building at 111 E. Tabernacle in St. George. We also hold a weekly Net on Thursday nights at 7:00 pm MST.

We hope to see you at the meeting.

For more information, see their web site:

<https://www.wcaresut.org/>