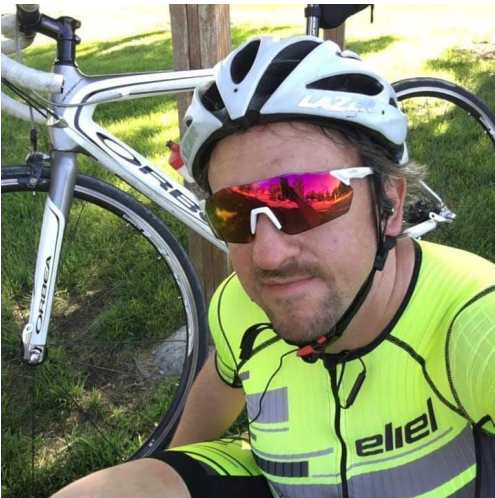


Spotlight – Daland Speirs KC7LNR

Many of us know the late Ron Speirs K7RLS, who had served for years on the UARC Board until he became SK (silent key) a little over a year ago. But very few of us know Ron's son Daland Speirs KC7LNR, whom Ron introduced to amateur radio while Daland was in his teens. The fact is, dad Ron never got his amateur radio license until after his son Daland did.

During high school, Daland got introduced to amateur astronomy, and in that group a friend helped Daland get his ham radio license by helping him pass the code test in 1995. Later that same year Daland received his Technician license barely before high school graduation. Daland said his best graduation gift was his father Ron obtaining his own amateur radio license just a couple of months later.

The following year Daland helped Ron during their first Field Day out at Payson Lakes, hauling and setting up equipment for the event with the late Cindy Peters KB7OUT, the Microvolt editor at the time. Daland recalls the excitement in staying up all night making voice contacts. Since that day, he's attended many Field Days and swap meets.



In 1997 Eugene McWherter N7OVT attempted to help Daland pass the General license, but the code requirement was just a little too much for him. Fast forward ten years, and in 2007 Daland passed the General license exam once the code requirement was dropped. The next year Daland helped construct a new structure for the Scott Hill repeater.

Daland eventually became involved with EmComm (emergency communication), and even joined his local Emergency Response Team. His team even got involved with message handling during the Utah Tornado of August 1999 in downtown Salt Lake City. In 2002 Daland helped his dad with a special event during the Olympics. He even helped Ron and the late Morris Farmer AD7SR teach some ham radio classes. Afterwards, Daland took a break from amateur radio to focus on his other interests.

Turns out that Daland loves trains, so much that he worked at the Heber Valley Railroad for five years as a conductor. Later found him working at UTA fixing track cars and ordering their components, something he's been doing to this day, so far for 19 years. He's also a long-time member of NMRA (National Model Railroad Association), Northern Utah Division, and has given many presentations to their club on various aspects of model railroad design and building.

Daland's hobbies also include amateur astronomy, motorcycle riding, skiing, and snowboarding. During a recent motorcycle event, Daland met Jeri Brummett WJ3RI, who was excited to learn that Daland was once a ham. Jeri talked Daland into returning to ham radio, and even asked him whether he would like to serve on the UARC leadership. Daland agreed, and he's now one of the two UARC Program Chairs.

Welcome back to amateur radio, Daland!

– 73, Linda Reeder N7HVF

