

## Spotlight – Doryl Lish KC7XP

*I was probably about 10 years old when I first read the words "ham radio" in a book called "Mad Scientist's Club". That piqued my interest, but it wasn't until I was in 8th grade that I started trying to find out about how to get a license. That year, our science teacher offered to take a group of us to a town about 50 miles away where a Lafayette store had all sorts of kits that could be used for science fair projects. I bought a small module that I only had to add a few resistors, a speaker, and a microphone, and could transmit on the AM band. That got me hooked. The next year, I built an FM transmitter from discrete components. I found a book on how to get my license, but the formulas were too intimidating for me, so I put away my ambition for a while.*



*When I was in high school, I found that my band director was licensed. He was the first person I had ever known that actually had an amateur license, and at a band camp I watched as he operated his mobile station and spoke with a relative that was 750 miles away. I was blown away. I started trying to study again, but still just couldn't settle down enough to really understand the material. Fast forward a few more years. I had taken an electrical engineering class or two in college, and found a copy of the ARRL license manual. I asked my band director's son, a good friend who also had his ham license by then (now K7ATO), to make a cassette tape of random CW characters. I studied the manual during my lunch breaks at my summer job and listened to the random characters whenever I was in my car, and signed up for the test with the FCC.*

*At that time, we had to wait for the FCC to come to town to administer the test once per year. The licenses were different then, with the Novice, Technician, General, Advanced, and Extra. The Novice and Technician required 5 wpm code, the General and Advanced 13 wpm, and Extra 20 wpm. The Technician and General licenses had the same written test. I didn't quite make the 13 wpm the first year, so had to settle for a Technician license, and my call sign was N7DBD. I didn't like that call sign because no one could hear it correctly over the air. The next year, I studied and practiced the code, and when the FCC came around I passed the Advanced license exam. That's when I got my call sign of KC7XP, which I have proudly now for more than 40 years. In 2012, I finally decided to get my Extra license and access to the few added sections of the bands, but mostly so I can hopefully start helping with exams.*

*My favorite aspect of ham radio is the fact that I can have a radio and a piece of wire, and be connected to just a battery, and talk to someone with nothing else in between. I have listened many times to amateur radio in action during emergencies that were far away. I listen WAY more than I talk.*

*My station is modest, with a VHF/UHF mobile in my vehicle, some handhelds, and an HF radio with two antennas: one 80 meter dipole that has a feed point only 20 feet high, and a 4-band Mosley vertical that someone gave me early in my experience as an operator. It had a broken base, and finally two years ago I contacted Mosley to see if they happened to have parts for the antenna that had ceased production in the mid-1960s. They gladly provided the part for me at a very reasonable cost.*

*Amateur radio has provided much enjoyment for me. It's the reason I took electrical engineering classes, although I ended up with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. I've been helped along the way by many hams, and I hope to be able to help others as I continue my journey. When mobile, my radio is always on scan, and if I hear somebody call on 146.520, I try to answer.*

– 73 from KC7XP