

Spotlight – Doug Bosen W7GPD

When Doug was a lad of about 7 or 8 years old, he became mesmerized by watching and listening to his uncle calling CQ on amateur radio. In the 70s, he got hold of a CB radio, and enjoyed the social network that technology provided. Once part of the US Coast Guard, he started operating a marine band radio for them, learning the protocol and the operating procedures, and was attracted to the way they organized things on the air.

It was in the Coast Guard that Doug met Morris Farmer AD7SR, who introduced him to amateur radio, but the code requirement scared Doug enough to shy him away from ham for awhile. When the FCC dropped the code requirement, Doug attended Morris's amateur radio course, and got his Technician license. After a couple of years, Doug attended the Extra class by Ron Speirs K7RLS and upgraded to Extra.

Since that class, Doug has spent quite a lot of time on the air, up to a couple of hours a day, making DX contacts. He's a regular on the daily Beehive Net. Doug has little interest in using ham radio to serve in parades, marathons, and other events that require aid stations, but he said he wouldn't mind getting involved in EmComm (emergency communication) some day. This interest in EmComm was sparked by an incident he heard on the Beehive Net during Field Day out at Black Hawk, in which various operators were organizing a search for a man near Green River. They eventually located the man, and this use of radio fascinated Doug.

One day, while mobile and preparing for his check-in on the Beehive Net, Doug's granddaughter Brielle said, *I want to check in for you, grandpa!* Once Doug was assured that the little girl could manage the protocol, he turned the mic over to her. With a confidence approaching that of a young adult, little Brielle said, *This is W7GPD. No traffic.* To which, the Net Control station replied, *Your voice is changed, Doug, but I got you checked in.* Then Brielle turned to Doug and asked, *Why do we say "No traffic" when there's lots of traffic around us?*



Doug's equipment includes

- G5RV-Jr HF antenna
- 5-BTV HF antenna
- Icom IC-7610 transceiver
- Ameritron ALS-1306 1.2 kW amplifier
- LDG AT-1000proII tuner
- Xiegu X5105 portable QRP rig
- Icom IC-7000 in the Jeep
- Icom IC-7100 in the truck

To this day, Doug mostly operates FT8, and has amassed well over a thousand QSL cards. Well done, Doug!