

## Spotlight – Fui Taotua K7FUI

Hello, my name is Fui Taotua. My family and I have lived in Utah County / Orem for over 20 years now. I don't have a background in radio, but my experience in Information Systems has made me comfortable with technology and picking up new skills. My journey into ham radio started when our Provo Utah Wasatch Tongan Stake began emphasizing emergency preparedness. As part of this effort, we looked into ham radio for emergency communications. My wife got her license, and I followed, earning my license as K7FUI.



When I passed my exam, I received a welcome letter from KNØJI inviting me to join the UVARC club. I attended a meeting and was fortunate to meet Noji, who gave me a quick tutorial on setting up my first radio, a Yaesu FT-60R. He also introduced me to his ham radio guide on his website, which was incredibly helpful as I was getting started. My wife and I each got a Yaesu FT-60R, and like many beginners, I was hesitant to press the PTT button at first.

To ease into it, I brought my radio to my son's football games and started checking in with the New Ham Net, run by Jim W7KLA. Those early experiences were invaluable in building my confidence and skills. I also discovered the J-Pole antennas from WE7OMG, which I've used successfully at ward camps and other activities. Using the radios regularly has really fueled my passion for ham radio. A radio has now become part of my everyday carry (EDC).

I passed my General exam at the end of last year, and while I haven't ventured into HF yet, it's my goal for 2025. I'm considering the Icom IC-7300 or the Yaesu FT-710 for my first HF radio. For now, I'm set up with two Icom IC-2730s - one as a base rig and one in my truck. My base station runs off a Powerwerx SS-30DV 30-amp desktop DC power supply with Anderson Powerpole connectors and connects to a Diamond X510-HDM dual-band antenna. I also have a Diamond X50NA dual-band antenna running side-by-side for versatility.

In addition to those setups, I've accumulated several Baofeng radios (you can never have too many radios, right?) and have recently become a fan of the TidRadio H3 and H8. I mostly check into nets using the TidRadio H3 with NicFirmware software.



This year, my son earned his ham radio license (KO7RAD) before leaving on his mission, officially making us a "HamFam"! During one of his trips in Papua New Guinea, where he was picking up Church leaders from the airport, a security officer handed him a ham radio (a Baofeng UV-5R) as their form of communication from the car. Recognizing it, he said, *Oh, this is a ham radio, and I'm familiar with this.*

I'm also helping our stake (now the Orem Utah 2nd Stake) with communications by sharing what I've learned and supporting other members in earning their licenses. Our stake has been blessed with a slot for a Stake Net on the 146.780 repeater. However, participation has been low so far, with just our family and a few other members regularly joining. One of my goals this year is to increase participation and strengthen our communications network.

Ham radio has not only become a rewarding hobby but also a valuable tool for strengthening community connections and preparedness.

– 73, Fui K7FUI