

## Spotlight – Noji Ratzlaff KNØJI

As a young lad, Noji Ratzlaff has always had a fascination with electronics, space, and science in general. His grandfather took him aside many times to tutor him in basic electricity and other sciences, especially astronomy. By age 13, Noji's grandfather helped him get his amateur radio Novice license. After a couple of years, however, his grandfather passed away and other interests arose, so amateur radio took a back seat.

Fast-forward many years, and after marriage, college, and kids, a fellow ward member challenged Noji and his wife to become licensed amateurs to help out with communications in an upcoming stake trek (re-enactment of the Mormon pioneer migration). After some study, Noji eventually became KNØJI and wife Lisa became KR5LYS.



Since those days, Noji has taught all three levels of amateur radio classes for years (including full courses at the UofU, UVU, BYU, and the MTC), promoted amateur radio on many platforms, and has held many seminars and presentations in LDS wards and stakes, plus at city centers, apartment complexes, preparedness fairs, hospitals, and the National Guard.

Asked what kinds of changes he's seen in ham radio through the years, Noji replied, *I believe the three largest milestones that have positively transformed amateur radio in the last twenty years have been the removal of the Morse code requirement, the introduction of the Baofeng HT (handheld transceiver), and the public posting of the amateur radio exam pools coupled with the completely renovated VE program. There have been other positive improvements, but these top the charts, in my opinion.* When asked for his thoughts on why he feels the way he does about the Baofeng radio, he said, *It's not the most technically superior transceiver on the market, but the price point and simple dual-band features of this little marvel have placed ham radio within the reach of many who previously could not have had the opportunity to participate.*

Above all, Noji loves his family, and his wife comes first in all things. He also enjoys meeting people, especially new hams, and sitting and talking with them about any aspect of amateur radio. He loves teaching courses, building projects, consulting, mentoring, contesting, but most of all, installing antennas. He has [a website](#) that posts many amateur radio topics, including [equipment links](#), a [training page](#), a [new ham page](#), and the [ultimate ham radio glossary](#).

His ham radio gear includes

|                 |                  |                   |                  |
|-----------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Icom IC-7300    | Hustler 5-BTV    | Yaesu FT-8800R    | Yaesu FT-4XR     |
| Kenwood TS-450S | Diamond X510H    | Yaesu FT-2900R    | Yaesu FT-60R     |
| Yaesu FT-857D   | Diamond F23H     | Kenwood TM-D700A  | Yaesu FT-65R     |
| Yaesu FT-100D   | Diamond NR770H   | TYT TH-7800       | Yaesu VX-7R      |
| Yaesu FT-840    | Hustler SF-2     | TYT TH-8600       | Yaesu VX-8R      |
| Icom IC-735     | Comet SBB-25     | BTech UV-2501     | RigExpert AA-170 |
| Icom IC-728     | Pockrus J-pole   | Icom IC-2720H     | NanoVNA H4       |
| Yaesu FT-757GX  | Signal Stick     | Baofeng UV-17 Pro | Kenwood SM-230   |
| Icom IC-718     | Smiley Half-wave | Baofeng UV-21R    | Quansheng UV-K6  |

Noji and Lisa have four kids, three of whom are licensed amateurs, and over a dozen grandkids. He received a BSEE / BSMATH (double-major) from BYU and MSEE from University of Arizona, and currently works as an engineer in the aerospace industry developing military drones for Lockheed Martin / Skunk Works. Today he is the UARC *Microvolt* Editor and the UVARC (Utah Valley Amateur Radio Club) President. He's also an ARRL Life-time Member, amateur radio instructor, CERT instructor, VE (Volunteer Examiner), [karate instructor](#), and the author of many [amateur radio-related articles](#). Noji was even featured once in the [May 2021 issue of QST](#).

– 73 and thanks for all you do, Noji!