

Spotlight – Ray Smith KK7LAT

Ray became interested in radio when he was 13 years old, after purchasing a Hallicrafters shortwave at an army surplus store. Upon arriving home, he located a piece of wire to use for an antenna, and excitedly listened to stations from all over the world. While friends were attending football games, Ray was home listening to shortwave radio. He listened to stations transmitting voice, but he also heard CW transmissions and became fascinated with it. After some patient study and a lot of listening, Ray was finally able to decode the messages that the CW stations were sending.

Later, Ray got involved with CB radio, and after serving a two-year mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, started a family while installing and repairing equipment for a restaurant supply company.

In 2022, Ray's cousin Ben Booth N7RXL got Ray interested in getting his amateur radio license. After studying hard, Ray passed the Technician Class exam in March 2023, then got his General Class ticket the following

September. After purchasing a Baofeng UV-5R, Ray met other hams in UARC on the radio. He contacted Carl Pockrus in American Fork, and purchased a J-pole from him. Later, James Bennett KK7AVS came to Ray's home and installed a flag pole antenna, which Ray uses for VHF and UHF. James also obtained a CB antenna modified for 10 meters and installed it in Ray's office. With that antenna, Ray has made over a hundred contacts around the world, including stations in Argentina, Mexico, Hawaii, Japan, Alaska, and several provinces of Canada.

One day, Ray was talking to Craig Bledsoe KL7H of Las Vegas over the Intermountain Intertie. Craig ended up giving Ray a Yaesu FT-757GX HF rig and accompanying power supply that were badly in need of repair. Michael Chambers KN6KRB came over to Ray's house and helped him disassemble the radio. They found that some of the parts had burned out. Fortunately, Standard Supply Electronics had all the parts they needed. They put the radio back together, turned it on, and it worked like a charm.

Ray loves to hunt, fish, and play sports, and was once a competitive swimmer, until 2019, when a leg amputation due to a blood clot brought those activities to a halt. Ray is a member of UARC, and plans to become a member of [Handiham](#) because of his disability.

Ray, thank you for allowing me the privilege of interviewing you. We wish you the best in all your ham radio adventures.

73, Linda Reeder N7HVF

