

Spotlight – Rick Allred KM7AIF

Rick Allred KM7AIF is fairly new to amateur radio. He's already shown great enthusiasm for the craft, especially as it relates to emergency service.

After Rick finished high school, he joined the US Army, taking additional training in engineering and installing heavy equipment. The Army training served Rick well afterwards in his civilian life, leading him to travel throughout the country, installing heavy equipment. Rick said that it was hard work, which kept him away from his family for long periods of time, but he earned a good paycheck by doing it.

When Rick retired at age 67, he was ready to find a hobby that would keep him active. He came across information about amateur radio on YouTube, and thought that would be a perfect one. After studying the Gordon West Technician Class preparation book, Rick went to a VE (volunteer examiner) testing session by Steve Whitehead NV7V at a fire station in Provo, which he found on HamStudy.org, and passed the test, missing only one question, and became a licensed ham in April of 2025.

Next, Rick purchased a Yaesu FT-65 handheld radio and bought a J-pole antenna from Carl Pockrus, WE7OMG. He placed the antenna on the roof of his house and tried to make contacts. However, when he called out, he never got an answer, even when using repeaters. Rick began to wonder if he'd chosen the wrong hobby, but then stumbled upon the Salt Lake Crossroads Amateur Radio Club's social net, which changed everything. They meet on-air Monday through Friday at 7 pm, and that was what he was looking for. He especially enjoyed talking with JoAnn Haines AE7AK, and joined her "un-social net" on Saturday nights.

Rick is also active in the Crossroads' Communications Net on Wednesday evenings. On the club's recent simplex net, held only when there's a 5th Wednesday in a calendar month, Rick won a tube receiver for guessing which city and park within that city club president James Bennett KK7AVS was transmitting from.



On 18 April 2026 Rick joined James and Mike KI7MTI at the Amateur Radio Day station that Crossroads set up at the Day-Riverside Library in Salt Lake City. James introduced Rick to communications over 20 meters at the event and demonstrated that he was able to make a contact with a station in San Francisco. That was enough to infect Rick with the HF bug, and so is now studying for his General license.

Rick is enthusiastic about preparing for emergencies. During the Crossroads' May meeting at the Glendale Library, Rick showed off his go-kit and talked about the various items included in his compact first-aid kit. As a new member of UARC Rick attended his first meeting in May and found Noji's presentation entertaining.

Rick and his wife Laurie have three children, one girl and two boys, who are all grown. In his spare time, he likes to read and hike. He also plans to start a garden this summer. Rick, on behalf of UARC, welcome to the club and to ham radio, and good luck on getting your General license!

– 73, Linda Reeder N7HVF