

Spotlight – Tom Partridge KC7DKR

Tom Partridge grew up in Richfield, Utah, and has always been intrigued by ham radio. He actually started out in CB radio, but was rather disappointed by the lack of distance coverage and the constant stream of foul language. When his neighbor Glen Taylor AA7ZD learned that Tom was active on CB, he told Tom about amateur radio, and why he needed to upgrade, especially if he wanted to take his conversations farther away.

Glen started helping Tom study for the Technician license by inviting him to discussions at work while Tom was a Junior in High School. Meanwhile, Tom's dad bought him a 2-meter handheld radio by RadioShack, which he has to this day. In 1994 Tom passed the exam as KC7DKR and received his no-code Technician license. He enjoyed talking on the [Skyline repeater system](#), on which he could contact many operators around Utah. Eventually, Tom became Net Control for the Richfield nets, and even helped out in public events, such as the Youth Enduro Series at Pahvant Trails in Richfield.



After returning home from an LDS mission to South Carolina, Tom started attending [ITT Technical Institute](#) in Murray, Utah. Today he's been working for the Department of Transportation in utilities for the past five years and lives in West Valley City. In 2024, Tom decided it was time, and upgraded to General Class. With



that, friend Ray Smith KK7LAT loaned him a Yaesu HF rig to start him on to the world-wide airwaves. Tom recently purchased an old [Kenwood TS-440S](#), which he's been trying to revive.

Asked what he enjoys most about ham radio, Tom said the ability to talk to people far away by repeaters. He's a member of UARC and [MARC](#) (Murray Amateur Radio Club), and enjoys checking in to the [Salt Lake Crossroads Roundtable](#). Tom has attended Field Day in Sandy for the past two years, and hopes to attend with UARC in 2026.

Besides ham radio, Tom's hobbies include hiking, swimming, and traveling. He has a Hot Wheels collection, which he's proud of. Tom has a younger sister Malissa KD7LIA, who lives in North Ogden.

Tom, we wish you the best in your adventures, and hope you get your "new" rig up and running!

– 73, Linda Reeder N7HVF

