

My Shack

Highlighting the shack (ham equipment and room) of a member, to give others an idea of the possibilities that might work for them



Brent Gray KE7SAO

My Grandpa Romeo (KE7SAO) got me interested in amateur radio. He spent his whole life around radios, starting with the military. One time my grandfather became ill, and when I visited him in the hospital, he was reading the latest issue of the ARRL magazine QST. After I sat down next to his bed, he unexpectedly handed me all the many QST magazines that he had with him, and said that this is something I would be interested in. I remember asking him what made him think I would enjoy this. He smiled and just said, "trust me, you'll fall in love with it."

Well, fall in love with it I did! After telling my grandpa I read all of the magazines he gave me (not completely true) he handed me a Technician study guide and asked whether I was still interested; I told him I was all in and started studying.

On April 2016 I passed the Technician exam and was given the call sign KI7GYY.

My grandpa and I got on the radio together many times, and he even took me to his local radio club in Arizona, the [Sunlife Amateur Radio Club](#). After two years as a Technician, he said I was ready to move up, so I studied for my General, which I received in July 2018.

When my grandfather passed away 2 months later, I decided right then that I wanted people in the amateur radio community to know it was because of him that I became a ham. So I studied my heart out for two straight weeks, and once again passed the exam, and earned the Amateur Extra license in October of 2018. Following that wonderful experience, I applied for and received a vanity call sign; not just any vanity call sign, my grandfather's call sign, KE7SAO. So, now whenever you hear my call sign on the radio, you'll know that it was my grandpa that got me to where I am, and that I'm an OHHH so awesome person!

My equipment includes a TYT TH-9800 VHF/UHF mobile rig connected to a Tram 1185 mobile antenna mounted on a pizza tin, and three Baofeng UV-5R HTs with Nagoya NA-771 whip antennas.

I'm now trying to complete my levels of certification in [UCARES](#). My goal is to train people in emergency preparedness and to help the younger generation know and understand the value that ham radio communication still has in our very high-tech society.

Brent is the door prize master at our club meetings, often checks in to the 76ers Net, and is the self-proclaimed "Youngest Member of the 55-plus Community" where he lives.

73, Brent Gray KE7SAO

