

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



Gary Beach KG7FXG

As a youth, my neighbor was a ham radio operator, and we could hear him on the air through our television set. I was always interested in radio, especially shortwave, and at one time had 12 or more tube radios. My father ran a grocery store so I often asked if they had any old radios they did not want, and got quite a few from them. Our neighbor introduced me to amateur radio but I was scared away because of the Morse code requirement.

Years later I got a degree in Electronics and taught electronics and radio technology for 9 years at a local trade school. It was here that I again got introduced to radio communication, which had never escaped my interest. 12 years ago a member of my ward wanted to install a packet radio system in our ward for emergency preparedness, and he encouraged me to get my license so that he could put a 1 watt Ubiquiti on my roof. I studied for the Technician exam and I passed the test in October of 2013. I really wanted to get on HF, so I studied for the General exam and passed that test the following February. During COVID I took a class on the Extra portion and studied the HamStudy.org program and was able to get my Extra passed off.

At present I have three different HF rigs, of which my main one is a Yaesu FT-991A, an all-band radio. I have two old ICOM IC-730 radios, which I use for my truck, as well as an Icom IC-718. My antenna is a [Sigma Euro-Comm SE HF-360](#) vertical antenna, which I have mounted behind my home on an 18-foot fence pole. I have a Pockrus J-pole mounted on the same pole.

I also have 3 or 4 Kenwood TM-241A radios, one of which I use as my Go-Box radio and with one of Carl's antennas for that system as well. I found a heavy duty tripod that works great to mount the antenna, along with a battery pack that supplies the power. Besides the Baofeng radios, I have a Yaesu FT-60R, which I enjoy. Permanently installed in my two vehicles are Yaesu FT-2900R 2-meter mobile radios, which I like because of their 75-watt output.



One of the main reasons I got my Extra license is so I could help with administering the ham exams as a VE, and so far I've helped Shawn Hatfield KJ7SNE and David Becar KI6OSS. I love seeing new blood get into the hobby. I enjoy meeting up with others in the amateur radio field, getting to know people, and seeing others get the ham radio bug.

Besides radio, some of the things I enjoy are Dutch Oven cooking, camping, dancing, singing, wood turning, pen making, and traveling with my wife. I love being a Grandpa to my 8 grandchildren. I am a member of UCARES and hope to become more active.

– 73, Gary