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

Jessica Johnson, KJ7UVZ
Ryan Johnson, KG7RJ

Jess KJ7UVZ and Ryan KG7RJ Johnson's interest in amateur radio started in a side-by-side ride with a group including Larry Gray KJ7SNG. *He showed us these Baofeng radios that were so much better than your typical FRS walkie-talkie.* Ryan did some research and found out how to get a license, studied and got his Technician license. Jess thought it was ridiculous that she would need a license to talk on what appeared to be a fancy walkie-talkie and teased Ryan a lot.

After talking to Ryan about the test, and an insane competitiveness on Jess's part, and a promise to buy Jess her own radio when she passed, Jess studied and took both her Technician and General on the same day and passed; the General, just to one-up Ryan. Now that she had the capability to get on HF, and a fascination with being able to talk to people around the world, Gary Beach KG7FXG, sold them his Icom IC-718 and Sam Howlett KI7RFM, gave us his no-longer-used Hustler 5-BTV HF antenna. Not liking restrictions or having to be careful about where she was talking, Jess studied to become an Extra. Now that we had this toy, and not wanting to be upstaged by his wife any more, Ryan studied for his General and they passed those tests at the same time. After passing, Ryan took his Extra, having only minimally studied, just to keep Jess humble, and passed the same day.

Along with the HF rig, they have a sweet Pockrus J-pole in the attic, a Retevis RT3S DMR, and Jess rides with her TYT TH-9800 in her Suburban. And of course some Baofeng UV-5Rs kicking around.

The hobby has kept Jess amazed at the ability to talk to others far away, and it has expanded Ryan's obsession with photons, and how they can be used to see, cook food, and communicate, among other things, by just frequency changes.

We've enjoyed the friendships we've made through the club, and although we don't have as much time to dedicate to their new hobby because they're in the thick of raising six kids, we enjoy having a hobby that we can learn and do together. Two of their children have shown interest in the radio and their then twelve-year-old Zachary studied and passed his Technician license and became KK7KPG.

My Shack
continued

We have enjoyed getting involved in radio and community events. We've helped with the Days of '47 Parade twice, America's Freedom Festival, and also the fireworks at Oremfest.

Jess and Ryan is UVARC's sweetheart couple, and they've helped out tremendously at Field Day. They put on a wonderful presentation in our June 2023 club meeting, explaining and then actually demonstrating how to work Field Day, including the logging, using Curtis MacPherson N1JDI as their contact.

Many will remember the husband / wife team teaching us about Field Day, June 2023

– 73, Ryan and Jess