

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, N8XMS, at [phuff@mi.rr.com](mailto:phuff@mi.rr.com).

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

### DON DRZEWOSZEWSKI JR., KB3SLA, #4544



Even though I've only been a ham since 2009 and I'm only 25 years of age, ham radio has been a big part of my life. My dad Don (WB2WEO) has been an active ham for a very long time and since the day I was born he dreamed about sharing the hobby with me. Unfortunately throughout my childhood and teenage years I really had no interest in radio at all. He was sad, but always respected the fact that I may not like the same things he did.

I had a change of heart in late 2008 and decided to try to get my Technician license. The next couple months I studied during the short periods of time I wasn't working on school work. On a cold March night while home for spring break, I passed the test with flying colors. From that moment on the hook was set and I was addicted to ham radio.

In a few short months I upgrade to a general class license. My dad had upgraded his mobile setup and gave me his IC-706mkiiig and his mobile antenna so I would have something to operate while at college. The next semester I made dozens of SSB contacts from the parking lot of my dorm building, but soon the winter

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weather set in and I found it too much of a chore to go outside and warm up the truck so I could play on the radio.

One night I stumbled upon a website that had information on QRP and building simple gear to use on CW. Before I knew it, I spent a whole night reading up on QRP and CW. It seemed like the only way I could stay active while living in the dorm was to homebrew a QRP station that could be set up at my desk, and to learn morse code. I learned the basic morse code characters rather quickly, but building the station was a bigger challenge. In fact, before I could build my QRP station for my dorm room...I graduated. I suppose graduating wasn't a bad thing, but the homebrew station never happened.

Since then I upgraded my license again to Extra class and spent most of my time on SSB, PSK31, and JT-65. CW is still a bit of a challenge for me. I didn't start becoming active with CW until recently after purchasing a Yaesu FT-817nd. I've enjoyed CW so much with that rig that I unplugged the microphone and threw it in the drawer. I have two keys that I use on air. I have an old J-38 straight key, but the key I enjoy using the most is a straight key I made in college. It's built out of a fork, a cutting board, and a drawer knob. It's simple yet very effective.

My base station consists of an Icom IC-720a connected to either a long wire antenna, or a ground mounted 31' vertical. When I'm mobile I still run the Icom IC-706mkiig into a hustler antenna system. My absolute favorite setup however is my FT-817nd running into a portable dipole that I built out of speaker wire. It's another simple yet effective way to get on the air.

Outside of amateur radio I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication. In my free time I like to listen to music, go hiking and fishing, and work on the landscaping in the yard. I try to be outdoors whenever I can.

