

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, KD2MX.

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.

JOHN KX2CWJ #10638 & BRENDA KX2CWB #10762

We are John (ex-KI5PGP) & Brenda (ex-KI5PGQ) Nejedlo from Texas. As retired, full-time RVers, we enjoy volunteering in the national park astronomy programs. This is our fourth summer as volunteers in the astronomy program at Theodore Roosevelt National Park in North Dakota.



HAM RADIO IN AN RV?

Our winters are spent in the warmth of southern Arizona. This is where we ran across another RVer who was into ham radios. It was around Thanksgiving and the pandemic was in full swing. As a retired science teacher, I was looking for my next hobby to start reading about, so I picked up a number of the basic ARRL e-books to examine if I wanted to get into ham radio.

Around Christmas, my wife asked me if we were going to buy any ham radio equipment. I told her that I had not really found anything in my reading that justified us adding weight to our RV. Between Thanksgiving and Christmas, I had read or skimmed nearly twenty of the ARRL e-books and made plans to take the technician and gen-



eral exams for fun. However, I had no intention of purchase equipment at that time. Full-time RVers have to be serious about what weight we are willing to take on.

It really was not until reading Bob (KØNR) Witte's e-book about QRP operations along with Carlo Consoli's e-book entitled, *Zen and The Art of Radiotelegraphy* that we jumped into the hobby. Those two books truly got us interested. If I find a book interesting, I will read to Brenda at night as she knits.

LEARNING MORSE

Brenda is a retired music teacher. She loved the idea of learning Morse Code and adding an ultralight QRP rig to our backpacks in order to extend our love of hiking. This was the start of a wonderful journey for us.

It is now the beginning of April. We have both just passed our technician exams in Las Vegas. We continue our daily Morse Code training sessions through Learning CW Online, which allows us the ability to download many of the different types of lessons for us to work with while we are off-grid enjoying other national parks on the way to North Dakota.

KX2 FOR POTA & SOTA

Our interests really are in participating in Summits On The Air (SOTA) and Parks On The Air (POTA) using a QRP CW rig. We have purchased an Elecraft KX2 along with two different SotaBeam antennas for our main rig. We also bought a Yaesu FT-3DR HT and two antennas for portable operating to include an ARROW II, three-element, split-beam backpacking antenna. Bob Witte impressed upon us the need to include FM activations whenever possible, so as to include folks with technician level interest in SOTA. That really sunk in because we do not even have our general tickets as of yet.



STUDYING AND PRACTICING

We have enjoyed our daily Morse Code practice sessions, weekly general exam practice sessions, nightly reading of various ARRL e-books, and hours of constant rabbit hole adventures in YouTube videos about ultralight portable SOTA or even POTA activations using different equipment.

We just requested vanity calls KX2CWB (Brenda) and KX2CWJ (John). I hope to keep you advised of our journeys and explorations into this hobby. We look forward to meeting other hams and hearing you through our KX2.

Follow our adventures:

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**73, John KX2CWJ #10638
& Brenda KX2CWB #10762**