

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, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

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.

Alan Mowry, KI6CFT, #6875



Being a pretty new member, I would like to say thank you for welcoming me into your club.

I first was licensed in 2006. We almost lost our home to the 2003 Paradise Mountain fire in San Diego County, as we were living right in the fire's path. Cell phones quit working, internet failed, and phone lines also went down. Some friends of mine were hams, and had an informal 2m net once a week, and so I got my license. The main reason at the time was emergency communications, and the hope that my friends and I could perhaps help each other out with similar trials in the future.

I started going to a local ham club in Escondido, CA. As I became more aware of the ham community in general, I realized it would be fun to learn how to use HF. I passed the 5 wpm exam just a few months before they discontinued it. For no one reason, I put off the written part. I finally committed to passing the exam in 2011, and passed in September.

From the beginning, CW intrigued me. My first CW contact was in March of 2012, and it was a complete

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train wreck. After a few months of practice and mediocre success, I ran into an SKCC member. I joined the club, and that really helped me gain confidence and motivation to keep going. It's a great club, especially for beginners. I went from 15 CW QSOs over an eight month period before joining, to over 500 a year later.

I built a Pixie II early in 2013, and really enjoyed the project. A few months later, I built a Rockmite 40, and have been more than a little impressed with it. I started doing SOTA, Summits on the Air, last Fall, and have been having a lot of fun with it (and have dropped 15 pounds). Hiking local peaks and doing CW QRP – what's not to love? I took the Rockmite up my first summit, and had QSOs in CA, OR, and MT. The picture is a local SOTA peak in Phoenix, with daughter Jess, and Bella, my SOTA mutt.

About half of my QSOs now are QRP CW, so when I was introduced to the NAQCC by AE5KA, I realized it was a great fit. I did my first club sprint in February, and I was a little surprised at how easy it was to make contacts with 5w from my home.

In my shack I have a TS-590 as my main rig, and a Yeasu FT-8800 for UHF and VHF. I use a variety of wire dipoles and an endfed 160m with a home-brew push-up pole. My HOA is a bit severe, so I only raise an antenna up when I'm on the air.

For SOTA, I use my RM40 and a KX3, a 24' telescoping pole from flagsimporter.com (absolutely love it- much better than the 4' army surplus poles I started with), a linked dipole (17, 20, 30, 40), a 2.9 AHR battery, and a 7.5 watt Coleman solar panel.

73 and I hope to QSO soon.

