

FOCUS of the Month – Andrew Bentley – KG5SKM



Andrew Bentley KG5SKM became a ham in March 2017 at the encouragement of a good friend and mentor of many years, Darrell Reed KF5DA, who is now a silent key. Andrew was dealing with some health issues and had to quit work at the radio station and needed a distraction and something to do. It turned out to be a lot of fun. He passed the test to get his license with flying colors and he has been learning and growing and helping others ever since. He likes getting to talk to people from all different walks of life and enjoys the camaraderie and socializing that being involved in that ham radio gives him.

Andrew has been very active in our club, including being the President in 2019. He is excited about the direction we are going and is glad we are continuing some of the things he wanted to do as President. He is always eager to help new people who join the club who come to him quite often to ask questions and get advice on how they should go about getting their equipment set up, what to get, and what not to get. It is a privilege he enjoys that people trust him to help them out and we benefit from the help he gives our new members.

Andrew's ham radio shack has a mix of vintage and new equipment and it is completely independent from the grid. The whole shack runs from two 116-watt amorphous solar panels running into a 30-amp MPPT controller and 100-amp hour lithium iron phosphate battery. For HF he has a Kenwood TS-130S for voice and an SDR HF QRP radio for CW, digital, and Winlink operations. He has a 40-meter dipole and a 20 and 10-meter fan dipole. For VHF/UHF he has a TYT-9800 for primarily UHF and an Icom-251 for mainly VHF and both are running off of a Slim Jim antenna based off of old ladder line cable. The shack also has the ability to monitor AM/FM and XM radio, CB, FRS, GMRS, MURS, TV (not pictured), and Marine frequencies. A landline phone is also available for calling out, if applicable.



Andrew's recent DX contacts include Austria, Canada, Costa Rica and France. Way to go, Andrew! He is making progress in CW and is in the club's CW class.

I can't forget to mention all the help Andrew has been getting the Ladies' Net up and running for GCARC. We are glad to have the use of his repeater and his expertise. We are happy to have Andrew in our club. He is quite an asset!