

Roger Kehr N3AOQ's Amateur Radio experience, written in his own words:

My father was an amateur radio operator (W3UZF) and was very involved with Field Day and the Philmont Radio Club in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He loved Amateur radio so much that he decided to name me Roger (as in Roger, Roger).

My interest in radio began when my wife and I moved onto a small sailboat and cruised the Caribbean in the early 1980s. Not only did our little Atlas 215-X make it possible for my wife to speak to her parents on a weekly maritime mobile schedule but it also assisted us in helping save a heart attack victim by finding a small airplane that would fly from the U.S. to the remote island airport to pick up the patient and return him to the U.S. for urgent care.

After returning to the U.S. my interest became Dx'ing and I went the usual route of the 60' tower with the Hy-Gain 5 element tribander. Using my fathers Collins 75A-4 and a Ten Tec linear I spent many a night working hundreds of countries on both CW and voice.

One of the more interesting and personally rewarding uses of Amateur radio was my involvement as co-base camp manager for the 2007 SuperSherpa Everest Expedition where my friends Apa Sherpa (World record holder at the time of 16 summits of Everest – presently at base camp again for his attempt for his 20<sup>th</sup> summit) and Lhakpa Gelu Sherpa (World's fastest ascent of Everest – 10 hours, 56 minutes, and 42 seconds). Our team successfully completed the first all Sherpa Everest ascent with a team of 6 all returning safely. Icom's Drave Kruzic was extremely generous in the loan of 7 ICOM HT's and one base station that came fully programmed with multiple battery back up packs. It is that kind of generosity that makes Amateur Radio such a pleasure to be part of. To hear Apa say "We are on the summit, we are on the summit" over a 2 meter HT at 29,029 feet was an indescribable experience.

In the last few years (since Katrina) Amateur radio has become the de facto method of reliable communications during disasters and with the advent of D-STAR it serves as the cornerstone of any serious communications network. We, in the city of Cottonwood Heights, have incorporated home triage (where every homeowner has four colored ribbons to indicate their health status) into our city Geographic Information System (GIS) so that the city Incident Commander has a real time visual map of where to allocate scarce first responder and serving agency resources. Our city is broken down into Block Captains, Precincts, and Districts all communicating the ribbon color and address up the chain of command. Our city's group of 40 active operators serve as the backbone for this system with great redundancy, portability, and survivability through any earthquake, storm, pandemic, or hazmat disaster. They have done a great job of designing, installing, and testing our 2 fixed EOCs and 3 mobile EOCs. We are utilizing generators, large battery arrays, and solar power to maintain our operational abilities. We have even backed up the State's 800Mhz first responder system so that if it fails we can still have our police force able to use their radios.

In the future we will be integrating D-STAR DD into a more seamless system for updating our GIS mapping capabilities so that mobile units will have access to real time data as well as our EOC.