

Hello,

My name is Leo Patrick Quesinberry but go by Patrick. I was born in Newport News, VA on May 7, 1981. At the time my father was stationed at Langley AFB. After moving from there to Washington State and then South Dakota he finally retired after the Gulf War in 1991 when I was in the fourth grade. My mother is from East Tennessee so we moved to Johnson City, Tennessee to be close to family.

I always had an interest in fixing things and naturally I started figuring things out and how stuff worked. I had an interest in auto mechanics in high school and spent most of my time repairing cars and small engines for people. After I graduated high school from Science Hill I worked building tires at a tire plant in Unicoi, TN and quickly lost interest in doing the same old thing everyday. I lost about 80 pounds and joined the USMC in December 2000 and was planted in the 2nd Combat Engineer Battalion as a heavy equipment operator. After 911, I pretty much stayed gone a lot from Peace Keeping Missions in Kosovo to doing embassy evacuations in eastern Africa. I married my wife in 2002 before my first deployment.

Then in March 2003 while I was attached to 2nd Battalion 2nd Marines, I got my first taste of combat when we invaded Iraq. Finally got home, then turned right around and left for Afghanistan in November 2003 where I spent time doing foot patrols out of Asadabad and Jalabad on north eastern Afghanistan attached to 2nd Battalion 8th Marines. We didn't take any equipment for me to operate so lucky me, I started training with the combat engineers and kept busy. Then in the spring of 2005 I revived my 3rd combat action ribbon on another tour in Iraq. My wife was pregnant at the time with our first child. After returning home in late September 2005, I decided to get out and start a family. So I moved back home to East Tennessee.

I went back to work doing industrial electrical/mechanical work in the same tire plant and in a pipe factory Bristol Metals. I always

loved working on stuff so I switched jobs and began working on heavy equipment, overhead and mobile cranes which I still do today.

My interest as a ham radio operator was kind of by accident. I started watching YouTube videos about CB radios for my work truck and started seeing the ham radio videos mixed with them. Until that point I had no idea that there was such a thing as amateur radio. As my interest grew, I decided to get licensed in January 2016. Then my general the next month. I bought a Yaesu FT DX 1200 and started working the world. I love DXing and contesting. Missing out on a lot, I got my extra about a year and a half or so later.

I always loved the outdoors so I started doing SOTA because it gave me a reason to hike and that seems to be my favorite part of ham radio (working portable).

I spend most of my radio time on the HF bands in the evenings on CW and digital modes. I plan my weekend days off on which mountain I will be on making SOTA contacts. I love trying different modes and ways to operate. The biggest thing I have learned as a ham radio operator is to just try it and see if it works. It can get so discouraging and confusing to do it "the right way" when it is more fun to just have fun with it and experiment. I quickly figured out that no two Hams are alike and that is what is so unique about the hobby. Like I said in the beginning, I quit my first job out of high school because of boredom.

There is always something new or different or "another way" in amateur radio and that is why I love being a HAM BONE.

Patrick K4LPQ