

Each month we are highlighting one of our Net Control Operators. This month I would like you to meet Mike, K7BLT. He operates on alternate Friday evenings providing a wide range of topics. Please check into one of his nets. 73, Ray W0IVB.



Hello! My name is Mike, K7BLT, I'm 49 years old, originally from St. Charles, Illinois, which is about 45 minutes from both Rockford and Chicago. After graduating high school in 1994, I enrolled at the Universal Technical Institute. Recognizing it was time to leave my mom's basement, I took advantage of the convenient campuses in both Illinois and Arizona, where I had family support. I graduated in early 1997 and began working at Van Chevrolet.

After about five years, I sought a change due to the uncomfortable conditions of the open-air shop. I transitioned into telecommunications and enjoyed a 19+ year career at Verizon Wireless.

Recently, I faced some health challenges, including the removal of a brain tumor (which I sometimes wonder might be linked to my early heavy cell phone usage) and seizures. Fortunately, my medical treatment has significantly improved my quality of life and lowered my stress levels. I enjoy volunteering with the Boy Scouts, where I teach merit badges in radio, cooking, automotive, and camping.

My family consists of my wife, our 15-and-a-half-year-old daughter (who just got her driver's permit), and our 12-year-old son. We've been happily married for 19 years.

Given my love for the outdoors and frequent camping trips to areas without cell service, I decided to delve into radio communications. I remember having a CB radio in high school, and the COVID-19 pandemic provided the perfect opportunity to explore amateur radio. My goal is to establish reliable emergency communications when cell services fail while also enjoying the social aspects of this engaging hobby.

Ed's Note: Most of you know Mike as Santa, he looks more like Santa than any other Santa I've seen. Thanks, Mike, for all you do for the club, the net and the world!