

## Net Controller Profile: Marc Marino, WA9YVL

Each month we highlight one of our net controllers. Please meet WA9YVL - Marc Marino, Sun City AZ.

I grew up in the Midwest in the all-American city of Park Forest IL. I attended the Illinois Braille and Sight Saving School in Jacksonville, IL. I learned to read code from my braille writer and passed the novice code test. Mr. Litwiller, my music and code teacher, taught me the novice theory. I got my first novice license on May 10th, 1968.

Around that same time, my dad bought me a rig but the antenna he bought from a fellow at work was old and rusty. Couldn't work a contact outside of my hometown.

Not being able to talk on ham radio led me into CB. A brick tied to coax accidentally sailing through the neighbor's plate glass window ended that before it began.

In the mid-seventies, Mr. Radkee, K9RPX, helped me put up a good dipole antenna but my free rig was shot. After studying a ham radio book from the Hadley School for the Blind in 1977, I passed my general test at the FCC office in Chicago.

Another milestone, in 1985 I heard of a group called Handi-hams with a radio camp in Malaboo and went to the camp but caught the flu while I was there and missed a lot of the classes. When I got home studied more and in April 1985 a VEC gave me the advanced exam and this time I passed.

Since I had no low band equipment for all these years I was glad to work a bunch of contacts on 10 meters on a friend's Kenwood TS-440 and a 40 foot vertical.

I met my wife Debra in 2007 at a training program in Columbia SC. We've been happily married for 17 years.

Today, I keep busy working 4 days a week at a call center here in Phoenix, attending church and being net control on Wednesday nights for our club. We are both active in small ways in our local chapter of the Arizona, American Council of the Blind.

Future goals in ham radio, I hope to explore a new digital mode soon, and eventually have an HF rig here with a real nice antenna.

In my spare time, lol, I operate three internet radio stations, they are, WDHF 95, which programs oldies, WNUT, 99.5 smooth jazz, and sky101.5 yes FM, which programs Christian music. Over the years, I've caught a few bad apples in the ham hobby but, I can safely say, most hams and clubs have been very generous and kind to me. And I can truly say our club here is top notch! The best ham club ever.

(Ed's note: I am so impressed with our legally blind Net Controllers can do!)