

To the West Allis Radio Amateur Club,

My name is Skylar Dannhoff, KD9JPX, and I'm soon to start my junior year at Case Western Reserve University. I am the youngest of three from La Crosse, Wisconsin, which is luckily just big enough for a pretty alright high school hockey team. After graduating high school, though, I figured it was due time to venture out a bit, which is how I ended up at Case Western Reserve, in Cleveland, Ohio. Still, La Crosse is where I grew up calling drinking fountains bubblers and learned to enjoy fishing without intending to catch anything - not a day goes by that I don't think of home.

It took some trial and error, but I've found a real nice niche studying engineering physics which as the name suggests is a whole lot of physics plus a healthy dose of electrical engineering. This wasn't the natural or obvious path in the beginning, though. I started school mostly content that I'd never get around to knowing how to convert from decimal to binary, let alone solder or program microchips or build AM transceivers. Lucky for freshman me, though, I chanced upon the Case Amateur Radio Club (W8EDU) at just the right time (Thursday, 8:00pm, mid-October) and just the right place (the roof of the eight-story engineering building). Until then, the club only existed in my peripheral and largely in the same category as decimal-binary conversions, but suddenly I was in a world of antennas and transceivers and wires and troubleshooting and all the good stuff of practical physics. I went back again later that week, and have been hanging around ever since.

In large part I've been hanging around because of the people - what an amazing, singular group. It's often the case that I run low on confidence or simply don't know what I'm doing, but someone is always willing to re-explain the concept or idea, and as someone starting from square one, the absolute genuine good-naturedness of everyone has made all the difference. That first year I was nudged gently into a

contesting-captain role, but this last year I served as treasurer and started getting involved in greater long-term projects. For instance, we've been monitoring Station WWV and measuring doppler shifts in the received signal to track traveling ionospheric disturbances. I was even lucky enough to help present some of our measurements at the second annual Ham Radio Science Citizen Investigation (HamSCI) meeting and later travel to California for a CubeSat developer's workshop to investigate the possibility of launching small satellite radio beacons into orbit as a means of measuring ionospheric disturbances. Looking forward, I'll be serving as club secretary this year, continue monitoring (and maybe even visit) WWV, and hopefully upgrade my license to General or even Amateur Extra among other contesting and tinkering activities.

For as amazing of an adventure as this has been so far, however, I certainly appreciate how fragile of a situation it can be in the way of financials. It's a tumultuous time that justifies having 25 contingency plans for every letter of the alphabet after 'a', but luckily, and in large part thanks to your help and support, I haven't even had to yet shift to plan b. It's brought a new level of ease to my experience, and affirms that for as dedicated as I am to my education and growth, so too are clubs and organizations such as yourselves, which is a level of confidence and reassurance that continually inspires and motivates me. From what I have read, David Knous was a remarkable Ham, generous in both his time for the amateur radio community and his dedication to this scholarship fund. I don't take that lightly, and I hope to lead my life and pursue my education in a way that honors Mr. Knous' memory and the West Allis Radio Amateur Club's cause. Thank you truly once more for extending this generosity to me.

73,

KD9JPK, Skylar Danft