

# KCRA'S

## “HAM-OF-THE-MONTH”

Keweenaw County Repeater Association, Inc.



WD8KQF Don Smith Iron River, MI

I was a Signalman and used Morse code in the Navy. At that time we used a flashing light to signal with and the maximum speed you could send was about 8 wpm. I was self

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taught (no mentor) and I've been in ham radio for about 30 years now.

When starting "ham" radio, yes, Morse code was a requirement to get a ham license and the speed was 5 wpm. As to what method did I use to learn the Morse code? Well, I had remembered most of it from the service, but I used a long-playing record to practice with and improve my speed.

Favorite mode(s) of operation? CW mostly (about 90%)....and voice, about 10%.  
I like CW the best, followed by SSB and Echo Link.

I have never worked any Public Service events.

I spend about 5 to 6 hours per week on the air, or listening. Other hobbies: Wood carving, horseshoes, chess and darts.

Radios I've built? In high school I built a crystal set

Yes, I have operated in the HF bands, and the most power I ever used was 50 watts.

At the present time I hold a General Class license.

I have never been a Volunteer Examiner, but I would like to receive some information on how to become one.

Yes, I do use a cell phone to augment my ham operating.

Yes, I do hold a commercial license (Class not specified)

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Donald R. Smith, WD8KQF