

A tribute to my brother Daniel Charles Baral [9/13/1961 – 8/24/2023]

Husband, Father, Father-in-Law, Grandfather, Son, Brother, Patriot  
Rabbi, USAF Chaplain, Nurse, Physician's Assistant, Talmud Instructor,  
faithful servant of G-D.

SHEMA' YISRA'EL, ADONAI 'ELOHENU, ADONAI 'ECHAD.





Daniel's ham radio website, age 16, c 1977, @  
[www.w3dcb.com](http://www.w3dcb.com)  
password for pictures, under guest – Sandy1





“Welcome to the [W3DCB Website](#).. A Short Biography...”



I was first introduced to Amateur Radio while in Junior High School by Doug Smith, K2KMX. When I first met Doug, he was a remedial math teacher for the 7th grade, although he was also the advisor for the Bay Shore Junior Hig School Amateur Radio Club and the in-school CCTV system through which students would "broadcast" to fellow students all sorts of programming including a morning news show and various athletic functions. I was immediately drawn to Doug and joined both school clubs he advised.

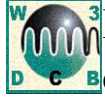


The school club call was WB2SRJ. I will always be in debt to Doug Smith, K2KMX, and his father, K2CY, whom I later met for introducing me to this hobby which has kept my sanity over the years during some tough times when an outlet and distraction from the realities and pressures of life was needed. The school clubs which Doug advised drew a group of mostly fatherless boys. Doug provided a much needed role-model and stability for which we boys were in great need. Doug and I are still close friends to this day.



I was first licensed at ~13 years old as WN2MJB in ~1974. Within several months, I obtained my Technician Class License and my call was changed to WB2MJB. Subsequently, I obtained my Advanced ticket while in the 8th grade. While in the 8th and 9th grades, I tried a couple of times for my Extra Class ticket at the FCC Field Office in NYC on Houston Street where I took the Technician and Advanced class license exams. I became too nervous to pass the code exam at 20 WPM. I failed to copy one full minute of error-free code out of five which was required at the time. The code test in those days was not multiple choice. Of course, as Murphy would have it, when at home, free of pressure and the milieu of the FCC exam room, I easily copied well over 20 wpm without difficulty.

Although my mind was younger and more agile in those days, I would become nervous in testing situations which affected my ability to copy morse code. I graduated high school several years early and some other interests took precedence for a while. I later attended Yeshiva [a Jewish Theological Seminary] after having completed a few college degrees and had some work experience under my belt. I became inactive from ham radio for a number of years.



I remained with the call, WB2MJB, until ~July, 2009, when I changed to W3DCB [my initials, Daniel Charles Baral]. The change was long over-due as I had been living in W3-land since ~1988 except for time PCS in the USAF in Europe and elsewhere. Although I was inactive from ham radio for a number of years while on active duty, I became quite active in the hobby since discharge from active duty. My dear wife, Cindy, passed away in May, 1991, leaving me with three young children which lead to my leaving active duty from the USAF in late-1992. I remained in the reserves until recently.



As a teen, I dreamed of having a really great [\*Ham Radio station\*](#). I remember as a boy pouring over the various ham radio catalogues including Collins, Heath-Kit, Harrison Radio, and others, as well as various ham radio magazines including *QST*, *CQ*, *73*, and *Ham Radio*. A.R.S. W3DCB is equipped with a Yaesu FTdx9000D; a Yaesu FTdx5000; two Icom IC-7800s; an Icom IC-R9500 receiver; a Kenwood TS-990S; and a Flex Signature Series 6700. SDR has recently become an interest. An LAN based Afredi SDR is used as a Panoramic Display for the Icom IC-R9500.

The station also includes a Yaesu FT-897D; two Array Solutions Power Master-I Digital Wattmeters; an SPE Expert 1K-FA linear amplifier; two Palstar AT-AUTO HF automatic transmatches; an Icom IC-910H with 1.2 GHz; two dual Cubic Milspec Receivers including a CDR-3030A and a CDR-3130A; a Racal RA-3791 MilSpec receiver; a Rohde & Schwarz ESH-3 EMI Test Receiver; a TenTec RX-340 MilSpec Receiver using an Elecraft P3 external Panoramic Display; and a Harris RF-590 MilSpec general coverage receiver.

Two recent acquisitions include a couple of vacuum tube general coverage receivers: (1) a Collins/EAC R-390A/URR 1967 era receiver, Serial No. 10053 (one of the last manufactured!); and a Collins 75A-4. After all, we have to have something available that would survive the next direct CME to the northern hemisphere or an EMP! All of the receivers are protected with the use of several [\*Array Solutions AS-RXFEP\*](#) front-end protectors.

Bench equipment includes two spectrum analyzers including a Rohde & Schwarz FSL Spectrum Analyzer covering up to 6 GHz, and a Rigol DSA-815 Spectrum Analyzer with coverage to 3 GHz; a Siglent 300 MHz dual channel Oscilloscope; a WaveTek Signal Generator; an HP Frequency Counter as well as various smaller bench pieces that no bench can be without such as a couple of vintage Simpson VOMs and a newer digital model. In the car, there is a Yaesu FT-857D feeding a motoized all-band HF antenna and a dual-band VHF/UHF glass-mount Larsen antenna for 2 meters and 440 MHz.

At work, on my desk is a Yaesu FT-2000 which acts as a remote controller of a home-based Yaesu FTdx5000 via the internet using a [\*MicroBit RemoteRig\*](#) Twin Yaesu system. There are several *RigExpert* remote modules mounted on a din-rail for remote VOIP audio data exchange. Antennas include an elevated SteppIR Vertical with an SDA-100 controller for 6 through 80 meters, although I never have been able to get it working on 80 meters very well as there is not much room on my small city lot for long elevated radials, although I have plans to try some folded radials;

an 80 meter dipole/inverted-V soon to be converted into a folded cage-dipole; a multi-band 10 through 40 meters fan-dipole mostly used for HF receive feeding two *Stridsberg* HF-couplers/pre-amplifiers; a multiband vertical for 6 meters, 2 meters, 220 MHz, and 440 MHz. 1.2 GHz is covered by another separate vertical. A broadband disccone is used for monitoring with the Icom IC-R9500 above 6 meters feeding a Stridsberg pre-amp/coupler system for VHF & UHF receive.



Above, on the right, is a picture of our little puppy-friend, Sandy, a golden lab, who kept us company in the shack until a few years ago. We lost her after ~14 years in December, 2009. We will always remember and miss this wonderful friend who loved and served her family with such loyalty. Her favorite place to lounge as in the shack on the floor. Our family was joined by a little black lab named Sam who made his way into our hearts also by way of the SPCA of Baltimore, Maryland. Sam is pictured here to the right. Sam likes to sleep in the shack also, but he prefers the bed. The shack is now in my bedroom.

[<http://www.qrz.com/db/W3DCB>]