

**SOUTHERN COUNTIES AMATEUR RADIO ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**K 2 B R**  
**Amateur of the Year 2022**

The Amateur of the Year Award was originated by John Struckell, Chief Engineer and General Manager of radio station WFPG. In his memory, Southern Counties Amateur Radio Association has continued the presentation of this award, now in its 61<sup>st</sup> year. The person selected is recognized as outstanding for their efforts and contributions resulting in the furtherance of Amateur Radio and anticipated continued activity. Each year's honoree is selected by a panel of past recipients based on their personal knowledge of the candidate's radio activities and recommendations from the amateur radio community.

This year's Amateur of the Year has shown a willingness to pitch in and assist with a multitude of club activities and projects including Field Day, Lighthouse Weekend events and Earth Day. Our honoree is a member of AuxCom, prepared to serve during times of emergency. He also volunteers to help as a radio communicator for public service events such as the annual City to Shore MS Bike-a-thon. In addition to amateur radio, he is very knowledgeable in many areas of science and technology. When new members or guests attend our meetings, he is one of the first to strike up a conversation with them and make them feel welcome.

Shortly after graduating from Penn State in 1969 with an Associate's Degree in science, he received his draft notice from Uncle Sam. He joined the U. S. Navy for a 6 year enlistment. His first assignment was at the Newport, RI naval base. It was there that he met the love of his life. They were married in 1973 and our honoree also earned his first amateur radio license that year. While deployed at the Keflavik NATO Naval Air Station in Iceland, our honoree and his wife celebrated the birth of their first son.

After completing his Navy enlistment, his career with the FAA began at JFK Airport working in technical support for the air traffic control system. He later worked at the Terminal Radar Approach Control (TRACON) facility in Westbury Long Island, NY. While working full time, he attended Hofstra University, earning a Bachelor's Degree in computer science in 1986.

The family moved to NJ in 1987 where our honoree continued his career at the FAA Tech Center in Egg Harbor Twp. He supported the Standard Terminal Automation Replacement System (STARS), which replaced the legacy TRACON system. Later he branched into management and other areas which required his experience and expertise. After retiring, he worked three more years for contractors who supported the FAA.

He grew up in central Pennsylvania, son of an amateur radio operator who inspired his interest in radio and electronics. As a Morse code operator in the Army Air Corps, his father copied and retransmitted encrypted messages while in the Solomon Islands during WWII. His Dad, Floyd, now a silent key, held the amateur radio call-sign W3TUF.

He has been licensed (the second time around) since 2015. He holds a General Class license and has served on the SCARA board of Directors for several years. He is active on HF and VHF/UHF amateur bands using analog and digital operation modes. Several times a week he serves as net control station for the SCARA Breakfast Club Net. As the multi-year SkyWarn manager, he sends timely notices of weather events, schedules SkyWarn nets regarding emergency weather, and serves as net controller for those nets. He is also net controller for the Monday night SkyWarn practice nets. Additionally, he is beginning his term as secretary for SCARA. He and his wife Mary Ellen reside in Egg Harbor Township.

**It is with great pleasure that SCARA presents the 61<sup>st</sup> Amateur of the Year Award to**

**Dennis C. Emerick KD2JFJ**