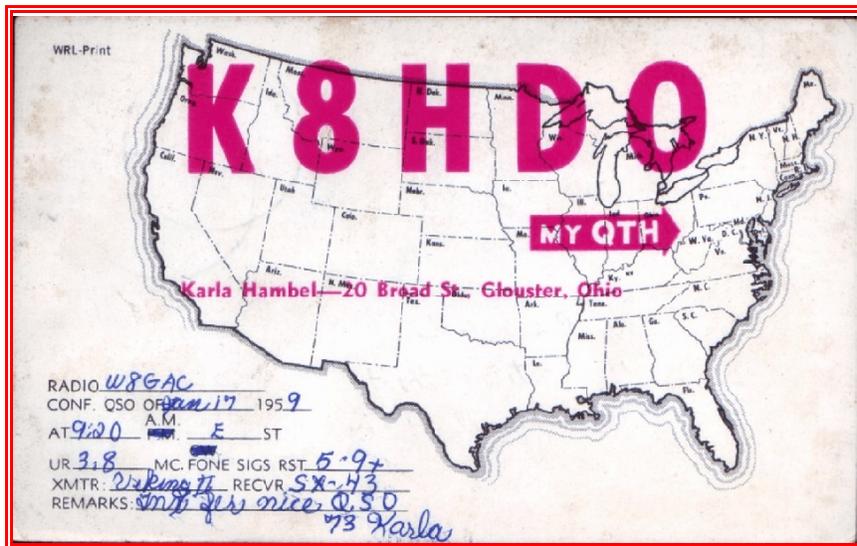


Karla Hambel Lortz **K8HDO**, belongs on our VIP list - A teen YL and 75 Meter AM Op in the 60's - It was about 1961. I had just gotten back from Alaska as a Coast Guard Radioman, my new duty station was NMD Primary C.G. Radio (Cleveland) We had a nice site, around 300 acres on the east side of Cleveland at a place called Gates Mills.



I was fortunate, we had a Chief Radioman that wanted to help out and have a recreation setup there at the base on the ham bands, (K4ULW Joe Pollock).

We prepared a garage station “K8TPK” with a pole for support at the garage and extended a wire out to the barracks crossing the road. It was a cozy installation with a

trusty Viking Ranger and a C.G. HRO receiver. Chief Joe Pollock and family reside in Louisville, Ky. We had kept communications over the years.

But try as I may, we were still using ancient modulation and on the bands ran into a sweet kid named Karla Hambel K8HDO in Glouster - SE of the Columbus Ohio area. Karla used a Viking II transmitter with great audio. I liked her style of laid back operating and short phrasing such as “After the QSO I think I’ll QSY and sit on the front porch for a while.” That reminded me of my grandmum, I was just a home sick nineteen year old service man and didn’t have a drivers license.

The rest of the story; Karla became Karla Lortz and held on to K8HDO all of these years. She was handicapped at birth and in 2002 “The Governor’s Council on Disability of Ohio” Announced the establishment of the Karla Lortz Educational Scholarship, for her 30 years of advocacy and service to improve the lives of people with disabilities.

Ms. Lortz was actively involved in the passage of Ohio’s Civil Rights Law during the 1970's and more recently has been active in the passage and implementation of the ADA at both the National and State level. Good going Karla, congrats! Thanks to W8JYZ for the QSL.

