

Member Spotlight

Ma. Theresa Cruz Aniceto, DW3TRZ

Theresa Cruz Aniceto, DW3TRZ, is a DXer trying to connect with the world. From her station in the Philippines, she takes part in contests, strives for DX awards, and forms friendships. Those who have heard her on the air may know her as “Threeza,” and would probably recognize her signature signoff — “Mabuhay!” — a Filipino greeting, meaning “Live!” or sometimes “Long live!”

Return to Radio

Theresa and her siblings grew up in Malolos, Bulacan, not far from Old Clark Air Base in Pampanga. Their mother, Marietta de la Cruz, was a poet, and their father, Bayani “Ani” Aniceto, was a mechanic for the military. Theresa became aware of ham radio on the periphery, but her interest truly sparked when she saw friends using radio to assist during public service events and disasters, particularly typhoons.

Theresa and her sister, Maribay, initially passed their Technician-class license tests in 1994. Theresa enjoyed operating VHF on 2 meters. However, she didn’t own her own HF rig and quickly became busy with studying, sports, and work. Her license eventually expired, and she set ham radio aside until a friend lent her his HF radio and antenna in 2014. She dove back in and earned her new call sign — DW3TRZ. She said, “That time, I really had my first taste of DX, and it was fun!”

Theresa also discovered a love of contesting (especially DX contests), as it gives her small station a chance to reach more people. Her first DX contest was the Japanese Amateur Radio League’s September 2015 All Asian DX Contest, where she earned her first certificate. “Contests are my opportunity to be copied and heard,”



she said. “During contests, stations are all eager and patient to pick up each and every station available for points.” She’s worked 101 countries with 81 confirmed on Logbook of The World.

She was eager to return to the bands and explore these aspects of radio. “You don’t need to be a techie person, or have branded antennas, high-end rigs, and powerful amps to enjoy the hobby,” she explained. “You just need a little creativity, a little research, and a little experimentation — with lots of ham radio spirit.”

Embroidering New Connections

A few years after getting re-licensed, Theresa was added to the Young Ladies Radio League (YLRL) Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/www.ylrl.org>) by Niece Haynes, KA1ULN. This group helped her feel welcomed and engaged in the community. It was through this group that she was introduced to her mentor, Anne Dirkman, KC9YL. Theresa wanted to do something to show her appreciation to the new mentors and

friends she’d found. She decided to make cross-stitched designs of their call signs for them to display in their stations — sort of an embroidered QSL card.

“Having experienced the feeling of a stranger becoming a friend and being treated like part of a family through ham radio is such a wonderful thing,” she said. “As a token of my appreciation, I stitched their calls. I used a ‘Mabuhay’ theme, so they know it’s from the Philippines. It took a while to come up with the wave design for the borders, as a representation of radio signals or air waves.”

Cross-stitching also gives Theresa something to do while listening to nets or waiting for bands to open. “Cross-stitching call signs has become a hobby within a hobby,” she said. She’s currently working on reaching her 100th Mabuhay cross-stitch project.

Mabuhay!

As a member of over 10 amateur radio clubs and groups, Theresa seeks to stay involved in ham radio and to establish connections with other dynamic operators. She’s grateful for her many mentors, on-air friends, and YL inspirations around the world. She hopes to give something back through her cross-stitched QSLs, which she has sent to Japan, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Australia, the US, and more. Her projects take a lot of time and effort, but as she said, “Promoting friendship around the world through ham radio is worth the work.”

To see more of Theresa’s cross-stitch projects and radio achievements, visit her QRZ page (www.qrz.com/db/DW3TRZ) and her YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/DW3TRZsMabuhayDXstitchAmateurRadio>).