

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

DICK MAYRAND, K1IEE, #3966



My name is Dick Mayrand and my call is K1IEE. I got started in Ham radio in 1958 at the age of 15. My school friend and his Dad were Hams. Their station was a 6M Gonset Communicator III AM rig. I was invited over and would watch him talk to many Hams across the U.S.

Soon after, I learned CW by listening to W1AW code practice and passed the Novice test along with the mandatory 5 wpm cw send and receive. I'll always remember the day I received the envelope from FCC with my new license and call sign KN1IEE. My goal, now, was to get the General Class for full ham privileges. My friend had a General class and we would talk on 10M AM just about every night after school. AM was fun but CW was my favorite mode and has remained so for 55 years.

Now I am retired and many life experiences have happened between the teen years and the present. Thanks to Ham radio, all my working years were spent in electronics, mostly with aircraft communication and navigation systems. I have a degree in Avionics Systems and hold FCC General Telephone License with Radar Endorsement, FAA Airframe, Powerplant and Pilot Certificates.

My XYL, Marie (WA1OUS), and I have 4 sons: Jeff, Jason(KL7/KW1W), Justin(KB1TFH) and Jaime, along with 7 grandchildren, and 2 great grandsons. All but I son and grandson live in Alaska.

Currently, my radio gear consists of all Heathkit. The primary station that I use daily, is the HW-9 at 4 watts. I operate 100% QRP CW and the little HW-9 works very well for me. The Heath active audio filter HD-1418 helps a great deal for QRM and QRN.

(Continued on page 10)

During NAQCC MW sprints, I use a Heath HW-8. This rig is a challenge to use on a good day. With the direct conversion receiver, it's hard to separate signals that are close in frequency. Other radios include: HW-99 and HW-100 with all matching accessories. These rigs are all restored and operational. They are on the operating bench ready to go if I ever feel the urge. They remind me of the early years when Heathkit was in business and many of us built several kits. These are now my "comfort" radios.

My QTH works really well. Something about the ground I am on makes the antennas perform exceptionally well. I operate QRP at 4 watts just like any other station of higher power. Many times RST exchange is the same, yet the other station is 500watts. When power info is exchanged most stations are amazed what QRP can do. I use the search and pounce method about 90% of the time.

Several years ago, I had a QSO with John K3WWP and found NAQCC. The low power and wire antennas fit my operating preference, so I joined. NAQCC has provided a great deal of operating pleasure and when needed, a good reason to get on the air. Being retired allows me to get on the air every day. The Sprints and challenges are the greatest of fun for me. Chasing DX, rag chewing, contacting QRP CQ's and trying to contact weak signals.

So that is a little about me from the rural woods of Southern Maine. Hope to meet more NAQCC members. I may soon be calling you. 73's Dick K1IEE

