

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.

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.

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It all started at a young age when my older cousin had obtained his license and I got to sit next to him and listen. I do not know what exactly, but something that I heard appealed to me. I had previously listened for distant broadcast stations on an old tube receiver.

At 14 years of age, I started a course in telegraphy. I also studied home electronics. I had to seek special permission to enter these courses.

Now I knew a little more about telegraphy. I worked for some years as a television technician and my specialty was antennas.

Then it was time to do military service. At the muster, I was able to pass the telegraphy test flawlessly. I ended up in education to the liaison manager. This training included telegraphy, the minimum acceptable requirement was 40wpm and I easily passed this course.

I became an outdoorsman and this brought up a new opportunity for certification. An organization that I am a member of held a first amateur radio course in telegraphy. This class was in Uppsala, where I now lived and I got my license.

I got my first rig. It was a HW-101 with nixie display. Then I bought a Drake TR4. I ran HF for few years, most of the time at my club because it was difficult with the antenna at home since a neighbor's stereo thumped in time with my cw. Hihi.

Then came a number of years when I hardly saw a radio. I worked at a hotel in town and at play I spent my time outdoors on nearby lakes and other flowing waters. Long distance cycling also occupied my time for a few years.

After sometime I met some old radio friends who thought I should start again. Said and done, I got a IC706MKIIg with AH4. It eventually got to stay in the car, as the RFI problem at home had not decreased. On the contrary it was even worse. Later I got a IC E90 and a Kenwood TM-D700 for the car.

Then QRP came into the picture. My interest in the outdoors was still there so why not combine the two?

I got a IC-703+, which I do not regret. It worked everywhere. I realized of course that the antenna was the important bit here. Thus began my endless experiments with antennas.

I wanted to also run 2m SSB and CW so I bought a FT817 ND when the seller had a special price on the rig. The result was that I started to build tuners for it, as it is not the FT 817. This now became my rucksack radio so the IC703 got to stay at home.



Now I wanted to build a little more so I bought a kit, the BCR Blue Cool Radio, which covers 80-17 meters CW. After a time, I got it running, and oh, how great it worked. I made plenty of contacts with it and the receiver was better than expected.

Now my equipment is distributed as follows: IC7200 in shack at home, TS2000 in chess club, IC 706 MKIIg home (reserve), IC703 in the backpack, FT817 now and then, here and there, and the same with my lightweight BCR.

My antennas at home include a 6-element log periodic, a vertical BHA250dx, and a shoddy G5RV. For portable antennas I have: Linked dipole for 80-10m, a trap dipole for 20-40, a vertical trap antenna with traps and ground planes for 20m, 30m and 40m, end multi-feeds, as well as two verticals with tunable coil. A vertical antenna with adjustable coil is described on my website: www.sm5mek.se

My awards and certificates have grown in number in recent years, and now include several 1000 miles/watt, WAC QRP, NAQCC all continents award, and DXCC QRP. Most are published on my website.

My most memorable QSO is not easy to pick out but several come to mind. One is when I worked a station at the South Pole with just 5W and a 3-element beam. A QSO with New Zealand is another good memory using the same equipment.

But one QSO that stands out a little was with a US station that I worked last year (2014) when I visited the small coastal town of Öregrund on the Åland Sea. I had my BCR and a vertical antenna that I had just built. Surrounded by a flock of geese, I sat in the park and hit CQ and heard a weak signal responding. Hurray an answer! It proved to be a station in Texas. I was running just 3W from the radio! We did not have strong signals but the contact was entirely feasible. This was celebrated with a cup of tea while the geese gave me a hungry gaze.

A few years ago I sold my car so now I always travel by bus and train. As I have season tickets to the local and regional buses, I can travel as much as I want. The trip to Öregrund takes about an hour. So I have gone there several times but never had as good a QSO as I just described. However, signal strengths often seem better at the seashore. Also, I like to sit and remember the many kayak tours I have experienced out there in the archipelago. Nowadays my health limits what physical activities I perform but easy forest walks are still enjoyable. And the radio helps keep me busy.

