

# 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.

## ART HEJDUK, WB8ENE, #2878



I was always interested in electronics as far back as I can remember. My brother-in-law, Eric (WA8HEB at the time) was a ham, so that was my first exposure to amateur radio. Since I liked to build things, I decided to assemble a Heathkit GR-64 short wave receiver. I really didn't get interested in obtaining an amateur radio license until I was around 14 and in junior high school. I played baritone horn, and I needed a piano accompanist for the solo and ensemble contest. I went to my accompanist's house to rehearse, and it turned out he was a ham. I remember he had a Collins 75A-1 receiver and a 40-meter dipole strung up between his parents' house and garage. I was hooked. I got my Novice ticket in 1969, and was licensed as WN8ENE.

My next construction project was a Heathkit DX-60B transmitter. My GR-64 didn't work too well for amateur use, so I ended up purchasing a used Hammarlund HQ-145X receiver. My first novice contact was with a station in North East, PA on 80 meters. He was only about 120 miles from me, but what a thrill that was. I had my Novice license for only six months before upgrading to Technician class. My brother-in-law warned me about getting stuck as a Technician, and he was right. It was six years before I finally got my code speed up to 13 WPM and got my General license. Six months later, I got my Advanced, and kept that license for twelve years. The most exciting contact I made after I got my Advanced class license was to Australia on 10 meters, using a cut down CB beam and a Yaesu FT-101E on SSB.

In 1988, I got motivated again when my boss was taking all the amateur radio tests, working his way up from Novice to Extra class after he let his license lapse. I never thought I could do it, but I got my code speed up to 20 WPM. The written tests always came pretty easy for me. It was the code that took most of the effort.

There were several years when I wasn't very active, but in 2007, I saw an advertisement in QST for an Elecraft K1 QRP CW transceiver. This got me interested in ham radio again. I decided it was time to build another kit. Since then, I have also assembled an Elecraft W1 wattmeter, an Elecraft K3, an Elecraft T1 QRP antenna tuner, two rock-mites, a Peaberry V2 QRP software defined radio, a Hardrock-50 amplifier, an AAZ-0914A antenna analyzer, and a SoftRock Lite II for use as a panadapter with my K3.

On April 3, 2008, I made a QRP CW contact with John K3WWP on 80 meters, and he told me about the NAQCC. Since becoming a member, I have participated in 68 NAQCC sprints, and I'm hoping to achieve the 75 sprint milestone before the end of this year.

I am also a member of the Straight Key Century Club. On October 12, 2014, during the SKCC weekend sprintathon, I made a contact with Bert F6HKA using one watt. That is over 3,500 miles per watt! By the way, it took me 40 years, but I finally got my ARRL Worked All States award in 2010 after making many contacts in the NAQCC and SKCC CW sprints.

I enjoy participating in CW sprints. I also enjoy operating HF mobile since I commute to and from work a total of two hours every day. The mobile rig is a Yaesu FT-857D, and I have a quick disconnect antenna mount on the trunk of the car on which I use hamstick antennas for 40, 20, 10, and 6 meters. I also manage to work some fixed mobile CW while I'm waiting for the XYL at the antique malls.

I have been married to my beautiful and understanding wife Della (N8PPD) for over 33 years. I have two sons, one grandson, and two (soon to be three) granddaughters. I currently work as a test engineer, but I'm looking forward to retirement so I can spend more time on amateur radio activities and having fun with my grandchildren. I hope to get at least one of them interested in amateur radio.

My other hobbies include woodworking, target shooting, listening to music, and playing valve trombone in the Hiram Community Band every fourth of July.

