

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.

MARTY SQUICCIARINI, NR3Z, #8717



My interest in radio began back in the CB craze when I was a teenager. I somehow convinced my father to put up a 3-element vertical array and I talked to everyone up and down the Hudson Valley. Several of the CBers mentioned Ham Radio and my father was able to find a local ham. I would go over to his house once a week to learn about ham radio. I was in college before I passed my Novice exam in June of 1979. Two months later my father drove me to New York City so that I could take my General exam (back then exams were only given at FCC field offices) and I passed. My station was in a corner of my room and consisted of a Kenwood TS-520 and dipoles. I worked mostly CW for the rest of that summer. While in college I started to build Heath kits including keyers, tuners and the HW-8 (I wish I'd kept that one).

After college I started working and found the local radio club and repeaters. I still belong to the same club. This is also when the family was growing so my focus shifted from radio to children and their activities. My kids were involved in sports from pre-school all the way through college and now that my youngest has graduated, my focus has returned to my hobbies including hiking, wine making and ham radio. Even while the kids were in school, my middle daughter and I started to build the Rock-Mite 40. Ten years after starting that kit, my daughter and I finished that radio and put it on the air. Since the rig is rock bound it took a few days before I had my first QSO with K4AXF. There is always an extra thrill to work someone with a rig you have built.

I have always had a taste for homebrewing and the project in the March 2016 QST for a SDR radio based on the Forty-9er transceiver and controlled by an Arduino caught my attention. Building this “kit” gave me the opportunity to learn a great deal about both electronics and programming the Arduino. I also discovered several online user groups and podcasts that really helped with questions, suggestions and encouragement.

One of my other interests is traveling and seeing new places in our travel trailer. I needed a small rig to take camping so I build a KD1JV Tri-Bander for 40, 20 and 17-meters and use a 30-foot, fiberglass, push-up mast either as a vertical or as a support for dipoles or end-fed wires. My current projects include a QRP-Labs QCX CW rig for 30-meters and the NorCal 40a. While the QCX rig comes as a complete kit with excellent instructions, the NorCal 40a is really a learning project. Information about that project can be found on the QRP-Tech list group.

I work mostly CW so look for me near the QRP frequencies.

72,

Marty

NR3Z

