

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.



TOM GORRILL, W1PQO, #9388

Like many hams, my interest in the hobby began when I was around 10 years old. My Dad and I built a shortwave receiver as well as a VOM meter. My dad owned a business and taught engineering at the University of Maine, so the time he spent with me on these projects was precious, creating fond memories. But, as talented as he was, my Dad could not master Morse code. This motivated me to learn it!

After much practice, I obtained my Novice ticket as WN1PQO in 1970. The ticket lapsed as I became busy with other interests, but after I earned a Civil Engineering degree and started my first job, my interest in the hobby revived and I passed my General Exam at the FCC in Boston (13 wpm!) and was licensed as N1DCH. I was active for awhile, but again my activity waned as family and career demands increased. Before I retired, I became nostalgic for my former call sign, so I applied for and was assigned, my old call sign without the N—W1PQO.

In 2015 I sold my interest in my Civil Engineering firm, retired, and moved to St. George, Maine. I was determined to get back into ham radio. The first thing I did was to upgrade to Extra and get back on the air, trying get the the fist back in shape. My primary mode of interest has always been CW, as well as QRP, and I was delighted to find the NAQCC is now devoted to both!

I am an active hiker, particularly with the Maine Appalachian Trail Club (MATC) and a friend of mine, AE5KA, introduced me late in 2017 to SOTA, which is ideal for me as it combines two of my favorite

hobbies. My SOTA contacts are all CW, all using the KX-2, but I hope to try the QCX I built this coming year as well. One of my favorite CW QRP QSOs was with a station in Italy who was running 800 watts with an antenna farm. After we exchanged our signal reports, I told him I was QRP. He responded that the propagation must be really good for the 5 watts to work, but I was grinning, thinking of David vs Goliath, not to mention how much less costly my station is! My son and daughter are also hams, N1ZAS and KB1WAJ respectively, but both are busy with their careers and friends, so are not currently active.

