

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.

CHUCK STROUD, KA8HDE, #4696



I got my Novice ticket in 1979 while in high school (Orrville, OH). My friend's dad took me to a class at the Wayne Amateur Radio Club in Wooster, OH, taught by a ham named Goose (W8AV). Shortly after that I also took the Tech/General test including the 13-wpm code test, but just missed passing. The teenage life quickly took over - sports, girls, college - then marriage, kids, career, etc. and I never got on the air. However, the desire to be a ham never left. Since then I've found out that many hams have had similar experiences as well, so I am not alone in this.

Thankfully my Dad, AC8IB, helped me keep my Novice license and original call (KA8HDE) active for 25 years by reminding me to renew. Then shortly after moving to Minnesota I upgraded to Tech in 2004, but still no QSOs. Finally with the encouragement of my wife and a work friend (NØTYE), I bought an HT and got on the air in August 2009 - exactly 30 yrs to the date that my Novice ticket was issued. I also passed my General in 2009, but didn't try HF (SSB) until January 2010 at my friend's QTH. Three months later I bought my first HF rig.

My main rig has been a Yaesu FT-897D with a LDG Z-11 Pro II tuner and a G5RV over my house - nothing special, but I've had a blast. My keys are a J-37, Amoco K-4, and a Czech Army. I've also built

an Arizona ScQRPions Bigfoot paddle along with the K1EL USB Winkeyer and AA0ZZ's EZ-Keyer.

I quickly rediscovered that my original interests in amateur radio were in electronics and CW. In late 2009 I joined the MN QRP Society (now MN Amateur Radio Technical Society – MN-ARTS), and started to relearn CW and build kits. That group is awesome and has many well-know QRP enthusiasts. If you're ever in the Twin Cities make sure to check us out (www.MN-ARTS.org).

My first CW QSO happened in September 2010. I knew it was going to be rough day so I decided to just take the day off of work. That morning Russ, W8KI, in MI came back to my CQ – what a nerve-racking thrill. The following month I had my first QRP contact with N5A in TX during the NAQCC sprint. Since then I've worked many QRP contests and NAQCC sprints and enjoy the challenge of 2xQRP. In the process I've also earned WAS/QRP and DXCC/QRP. I'm also regularly active with SKCC.

Since I've always thought that being a ham meant that I needed to build something as well as relearn CW, I took every opportunity to build with MNQRP/MN-ARTS. My first build was AA0ZZ's EZ Keyer, who is also a member of MNQRP. Our club has built many other kits over the years as well. A couple of years ago I built an Elecraft K1 with the help of my friend Bob, K9OSC. Bob also helped me build a portable vertical antenna to take on the road.

Outside of the radio world, I work for a university in administration and teach part-time. I've been married for 30 years this summer to a wonderful wife who is OK with my rekindled interest in radio. I also have two daughters, one who has a license (KD0YZS), and a two-year-old granddaughter who I have big hopes for. She has been listening to the ABC song in CW since she was born. My son-in-law's grandfather was also a ham, so occasionally I try to get him interested too, but nothing yet. Other interests include most sports, particularly college football (The Ohio State Buckeyes!) which is my real passion.

Hope to catch all of you on the air soon and thanks for reading this.

72/73 de chuck ka8hde

