

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.

STEVE SMITH KC5F #10148

When I was twelve, a friend and I would bike around looking for ham antennas. We found one, and its owner showed us his shack and introduced us to the local club. We both became Novices and things took off! My neighbor was an inactive ham, and he gave me his WWII J-38 straight key that I still use every day. I loved CW, but was afraid of the General written exam and my WN9SRI call expired. But two years later with the “once-only” rule change, I got a new Novice call, and my Advanced a few months later.

GOOD RIGS AND BAD

I started with a Heath Apache and a Zenith shortwave receiver, but then got an HW-16 and was in heaven for a decade. (I wish I never sold it – a TS-120S is a lousy CW rig, and it is all I had for 30+ years...).

I became KC5F in 1979 while in Tulsa. In NC in 1986, I found a good club (W4YK) that liked having another CW op, especially for contests and special events. My kids both got licensed during that time, Tara as KE4PYL at 8 years old and Tyler as KG4NRV at 11. Neither stuck with it, but I’ve kept their licenses current “just in case.”

The day I retired in August 2019, I ordered an IC-7610. I’m now active in SKCC, and noticed people mentioning the “QRP Challenge.” In December 2019 I joined NAQCC and started participating in Challenges and Sprints (and N3A) with the 7610



dialed back to 5w/1w as appropriate, and I’m having a ball!

GETTING OUTDOORS WITH THE WIFE & POTA

My wife is an artist, and when Covid first hit, we talked about safely getting outside. I mentioned POTA and that there were inexpensive rigs like

the G90. She said, "Why don't you buy one?" I love my wife! We've now done 40 POTA activations in 35 parks. She paints while I radio, and we hardly ever see anyone else while we're out. I don't always run QRP, at 20w, but nobody's perfect. But I promise that in a NAQCC QSO I'm QRP!

My wife and I do share one hobby: traditional music on mountain and hammered dulcimers. We've played only one concert in the past year, and even that was recorded (in front of an audience of

goats at the Carl Sandburg Home) and put online. No in-person club meetings (wncdc.org), either, but we're hoping that changes this summer.

(Oh, and yes, that's a ribbon on the antenna in my picture. Jean bought me a WRC TIA antenna for my birthday, and we celebrated with a POTA outing. As I said, I love my wife!)

73, Steve KC5F
(More info on QRZ)

