

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.

GARY EKKER, KF7WNS, 6631



I enjoy being a member of the NAQCC. I joined in April of 2013 and have really had fun working the monthly sprints. Last year I started working on the challenges too. Some of the word challenges have taken some work to complete.

I was first licensed in the mid-sixties as a Novice, WN7JAV and worked my way up to Advanced Class while still in high school. I let my license lapse while in the Marine Corps during the 70s. In the following years, I thought many times about getting licensed again. So, when a friend told me about classes being offered by the local radio club (which I had been a trustee for as a kid), I jumped at the opportunity.

I passed my Tech in July 2012 and General in August 2012. I found a couple of radios that I had always wanted as a novice, the Drake 2NT and R-4B. I still love the nostalgia of the old tube rigs and the R-4B has a great CW filter. I worked exclusively CW back in the early days running a DX-100B and HQ-110. As it turned out I still remembered morse code and it didn't take long to get back up to speed.

I'm not sure where my interest in low power came from, but I operate almost 100% QRP now. I have joined many of the QRP/CW clubs: NAQCC #6631, SKCC#9895T, QRP-ARCI #15193, 4SQRP #687, and FPQRP #3242. I work as many sprints as time allows. My interest in QRP led me to building some of my own gear. I started with a few kits from 4SQRP group and then stumbled on an old book, "W1FB's QRP Notebook."

I built some of the simple transmitters and have made many contacts with them. My favorite project though is a two tube transmitter (W1TS design) that I built inside an old computer case (see my QRZ page). It works great, lots of fun to use, and I get good reports with it. It puts out 3 watts and I've made contacts all around the country with it on 30 and 40 meters.

CW, QRP, home built rigs; that's ham radio for me.

