

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.

JOHN LEAHY KK4ITX #7249

Like so many of you I was fascinated with both AM and shortwave radio heard over my grandparents floor model set. My stepdad was a High Speed Operator during WWII in the Philippines and let me string wire to my hearts content when I was a kid.

WHY QRP FOR ME ?

QRP is not a one size fits all activity, pigeon holes don't work well here because of the overlaps of other facets of the ham radio "hobby" and the conditions under which you have to operate. The uniqueness of QRP is that you get to decide which parts YOU want to include in your operation and your success is dependent on your abilities to cope with the conditions.

What am I talking about? Radios, build or buy? Antennas build or buy? How about tuners, SWR meters, power supplies, solar panels, and the never ending add-ons, even CW keys, build or buy are always the options. The level that you find yourself at is usually determined by your own choices; finances, creativity and construction abilities... it all fits as long as it works!

ON THE WORKBENCH

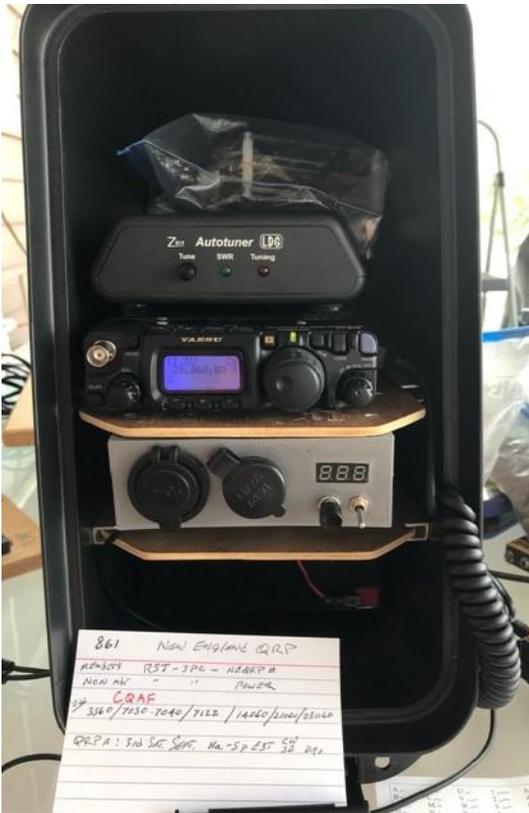
Myself, I just enjoy building something with minimal tools, fit and finish as good as needed and when "it" actually works I am ecstatic to say the least. During this Covid thing I worked mostly on kits such as the Murania AM radio, QRP-O-Meter, SOTABeams WSPRLite 40/80/160m filter, several EFHW and other EF matchboxes, along with a



Capacitor Meter, O-scope, plus several other projects to be remembered later and now I have slid into Arduino and Raspberry Pi projects also.

OPERATING OUTDOORS AND SPREADING THE WORD

I truly enjoy the outdoors and operating from wherever I can drive to. My favorite places are the beach parking lots along the Atlantic, particularly in Maine. I take with me some business cards and a two sided "Rack Card" that explains what I'm doing and what Amateur Radio is about today. Hardly ever do I not get two or three interested folks to talk to and promote this great hobby. Some operators don't want to be interrupted but I enjoy it.



VOLUNTEER SPIRIT

I also have been a volunteer all my life so when Steve (WB4OMM) was looking for a VP and a Club License Trustee I stepped up. I see that we need someone to take over for Joe (KW1K) who is retiring from the Swap and Shop listing... please step up too and keep this going.

Email me (Call@arrl.net) if you would like more detail on any facet in this article.

72/73, John

Our lifestyle offers me the opportunity to enjoy the winters in Florida (talk about beaches), trips to Minnesota to visit “most of the grand-kids,” and to Maine for some more beach and mountain time. I retired sixteen years ago for health reasons and actually have gotten better in most respects so life is good, at least today I can walk enough to get the job done.

CW has grown on me partly due to the respect I have for what my stepdad went through in WWII and because it IS a skill that not many have today. I have found that the QRP/CW community is incredibly helpful, and with the multitude of clubs to belong to one runs out of free time quickly. Note the 3x5 index card in the rig photo, I have over 15 of these, one for each of the clubs/events that I belong to because each one usually has a unique number and a different exchange, not to mention frequencies.

