

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, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

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.

GENE WARREN, N5GW, #5353



I was first licensed in 1960 as a novice in the small town of Columbia, MS, at age 16, thanks to an Elmer who helped four of us high school students get a ticket. Then I upgraded to general with the call K5FSQ, now owned by the Fort Smith QRP Club. In 1972 while living in Dallas, I was able to pass the extra class exam. When the vanity calls first came out in 1977, I was able to get the call sign N5GW, because the manager of Texas Towers beat me to K5GW! Since 1975 my home has been Vicksburg, MS.

Homebrewing is one of my favorite pastimes. The first xcvr was a 40M W1FB design running one watt. I call it the "Kilomilliwatt". Other QRP homebrew rigs include the "Smurf" for 20M; another 40M job, the "Bandblaster"; a 17M rig, the "Work of Art" (reduced to "W. Art" and finally "Wart"). Finally the latest 40M receiver, the "Mere Ear" matches a one watt transmitter, the "Peanut". The shack cabinet is full of keyers, audio filters, SWR meters and other homebrew gadgets. The latest creation, iambic keyer paddles, uses old yard rake tines as the levers/springs. They work great!

Also the QRP sprints and contests are lots of fun. My regular QRP activity rig has been the K1 up until I got a KX3 for birthday this year. The vacation rig is the IC-7000. Only antenna up is a 40 foot high CFZ hanging between two big oak trees.

I'll be listening for all you QRPer's, 160-6 meters.

