

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.

DON RICHARDS, VE3IDS, #8531



I really enjoy operating QRP and especially QRPp. I haven't tried portable operation except for a few Field Days in years past. I just like to operate in the comfort of the shack.

I started out as a kid listening to shortwave BC and sending reception reports and being thrilled to get QSLs and other souvenirs from distant lands. In high school, I would spend my spare periods up in the electronics shop, rebuilding old antique radios that my friends would haul in from home. Looking back, this was probably the definition of "Nerd" but it was fun! I had heard about Ham Radio but didn't know anything about it.

When I started working after high school, a fellow there was big into SW listening as well, and he had always wanted to become a ham and introduced me to the idea. Sadly, I don't think Doug ever did go for his ticket. Within a year I had wrote and passed my ticket in 1976 and built a Heathkit HW-16 and HG-10B VFO. I had a great time on 15-meters cw and didn't bother with phone even after I wrote my Advanced ticket. I have always had the same call and expect that it will stay that way.

I built the Sardine Sender that was in QST in 1978 or 79 and had a blast. I built a VFO for it on a salmon can and built a DC receiver for 80 for a complete ½ watt station. I built a few other things like keyers and test equipment, but was QRT for a long period until we had an empty nest. My son, Brian VE3IBZ, passed his ticket a few years ago and got me interested again. I got back on the air about three years ago and have been having a great time.

I operate 99% QRPp now, mainly with my One Watter kits and my IC-718 turned down to one watt on the bands that I don't have homebuilt rigs for yet. I also have built a Weber Tri-Bander which is an excellent rig as well, but I reserve it for my high power operation (5 watts). My antenna of choice is a 130' doublet with homebrew 4" open wire. It works better than anything else I have ever used.

I enjoy ragchewing and chasing new countries when the bands are open and I really like the NAQCC monthly sprints. I find that cw qrpers are among the best people that you could meet. They always seem to be friendly.

My wife and I really enjoy hiking and we live in a prime area for that activity. There are many great trails in the region. I also dabble in woodworking and have made a lot of sawdust over the years.

Hope to see you on the air, maybe in a monthly sprint.

The black and white rig in the picture is my 17-meter One Watter, the clear case is the 30-meter version, and beside my wooden straight key is the Weber Tri-Bander.

