

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.

JEFF BRONE, WB2JNA, #6487



I was kind of a nerdy kid, so the science and technology of electronics and radio appealed to me. I got started in our hobby by listening to the crystal radio I built when I was 11 years old. I soon bought a Radio Shack portable shortwave set and began hearing stations from all over the world. I got up early one morning and caught some of Radio Australia's broadcast (at about 5 AM naturally) and thought that it was natural progression to talk to others and not just to listen. I decided to get my license.

My first Elmer was a very patient guy named Vic who worked at my local radio store. There were others: Al, Tim and Bill come to mind. And of course my parents who were very supportive and even shared in many ways my enthusiasm for the hobby although they weren't licensed themselves. At times I was less active on the air, at times more, but since 1993 I get on several times a week and sometimes every day. I have various rigs: an HW-8, a Ten Tec Corsair, a Kenwood TS-520 and an MFJ 9020 at this time. I buy them, use them, sometimes sell them, and sometimes keep them. I've learned from every rig I've owned. I share an apartment with my girlfriend Natalie, and she is very patient with all my apartment antenna experiments. It keeps me off the streets.

I enjoy the NAQCC awards programs and "contests" encouraging us all to challenge ourselves to achieve more with less power. I am proud to have earned their QRP WAC award during a six hour or so period when a CW contest was going full force this past February. I cranked the power down to less than a watt and worked Norway and Poland during that one. If I can do it, you can too! I still use a straight key for most QSOs although I own a few keyers and use them at a moderate speed at times. They're fun and make things easier when I'm looking for DX or just conversing with anyone I hear.

I work in customer service at my day job. I also like writing comedy, singing, playing the guitar and speaking Spanish. I often say that the only thing I've been doing longer than ham radio is eating and sleeping. That's pretty much the truth.

