

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.

JIM MAYERCAK WX8J #9501

Hello! I'm Jim Mayercak, WX8J. I am a retired music/band teacher of 30 years. My wife and I moved to Zanesville, Ohio in 1983 from PA where I was originally licensed as WN3BAK in 1975.

Although I enjoy Astrophotography, R/C planes and oil painting, ham radio has always been my favorite hobby. As a youth I was greatly influenced by Elmers who were involved in contesting and building. Operating the Novice Station in Field Day 1976 birthed a love for operating outdoors as well as the thrill of contesting. Encouragement to build (from scratch) the Tuna Tin 2 and Herring Aid 5 in 1976 resulted in the love of QRP as well as construction.

Over the last several years I have operated ARRL FD as 1E/solar-battery power and have been able to climb into the top 10 group. During the warm months I take my KX3 on the deck, patch into my Butternut vertical and enjoy some rag chewing on 40 and 30 meters. The NAQCC QRP sprints have been a enjoyable way for quick contesting, skill sharpening, testing propagation and to meet other members.

My shack is equipped with a few HF rigs as well as an amplifier and has provided many memorable QSOs. The most exciting was between myself on my built K2 and a fellow ham in Bulgaria who also was using a K2. We started our 20-meter QSO out at 5 watts and then throttled down to



one watt. We finished our solid CW QSO going at just 100 mW!

Being part of the team at contest station WZ8P has netted many ARRL Sweepstakes Phone wins in the Great Lakes division as well as a few 1st place wins overall.

However, the wins I am most proud of are the many first and second place wins our team at KD8NOM has won in the School Club Round-up. They are known as the Dresden Elementary Amateur Radio Station club or D.E.A.R.S. for short. The group is composed of 5th and 6th grade students plus several returning members from previous years. Two of our kids gave presentations at

past Hamventions in Carole Perry's (WB2MGP) Youth Forum. You can learn more about us on Facebook and Twitter but also in the October

2019 issue of QST magazine.

-73, Jim WX8J #9501



K4BAI (N3A/4) - Amazed at good DX stations answering my QRP CQs on 20M. Amazed at lack of answer to CQs by US stations. Last half hour session netted NO QSOs on 40M late Friday afternoon.

KC3MIO (N3A/3) - I was happy with the overall results, even though band conditions were unfavorable at times. On several occasions, I pounded away for 15-30 minutes with no luck. I was very pleased to make one DX contact in Slovenia although I heard stations from Argentina, Germany and the Netherlands but could not make a contact. Thanks to all for picking me up and thanks to Paul and the NAQCC for a great anniversary and a great club.

After the week, I found myself involuntarily sending N3A/3 and had to relearn my call!
K8NGW (N3A/8) - Poor conditions with lots of QRN each night. I had a Reverse Beacon Network window open while working. It verified

my signal was covering the eastern half of the US. The most interesting QSO was with KN4RRZ who was using a 1920's Hartley two tube transmitter.

W0EJ (N3A/0) - I waited until later in the week to operate. In retrospect, that seems to have been a poor choice. Tnx for all the contacts es 72 Bill W0EJ

K9DRP (N3A/9) - My first sprint using a (memory) keyer. Thought it better to send perfect code with the special number. I'll be back using the bug in the regular sprints.

N7CQE (N3A/7) - Fun time especially Tuesday. I didn't see any other N3A/7 operations, but I got on as much as possible. The sprint on Tuesday was definitely the 'money band/time'. Having the 40M wire beam was a real game changer. It would be nice to get more west coast participation.

