

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.

JERRY PEREIRA, K4KBL, #8806



My ham radio career began while a boy scout, around 1958. I received my Novice license, KN1JIR. Beginning then, CW with a straight key, and a Johnson Viking Ranger with a Hallicrafters SX99, 15-meters would never be the same. My Dad, K1MBW and Mom, K1ODS bought the equipment along with a HyGain Tri-band antenna that sat on a 50' crankup tower. Back then I didn't truly know what an unbelievable station we had!

I soon earned my Technician ticket, followed by General a short time later. CW frankly took a back seat for awhile once I got a microphone in my hands. I maintained my General license for several years and eventually got the DX bug and knew that a greater band capability would be necessary to dig out the DX in the lower portions of the bands.

After a move to Virginia Beach, Virginia, I got my code speed back up and obtained my Advanced class ticket. I was now married after a 3-year tour in the Army which included Vietnam as an interrogator of prisoners of war. The equipment listed above remained with my parents in Milford, Massachusetts and I obtained a Kenwood TS-520 with a SB200 amplifier and a 3-band beam on a homebrew tower fashioned from a aluminum pole up about 45'. The FCC, at the time, issued a new call when you moved to a different call area. Thus, I became K4KBL.

A very memorable period of time while I was in Virginia Beach, was when our Embassy in Iran was taken over on November 4, 1979. All official communications with the American Government was cut and only unofficial amateur radio sources in the community were potentially available. I was able to relay messages from a ham in Miami (from messages from Iran) to the Pentagon. It was a very tense period of time to say the least. The Miami operator appeared on the morning talk shows for the next few days. Gladly, I was never asked to appear!

Another interesting radio activity was when I became the QSL manager for OE5CA/YK. This was a United Nation Force stationed in the Golan Heights of Syria. This was during the late 1970's with no internet, no LoTW, or email. Logs were mailed to me about every two to three weeks and by that time I would have hundreds of QSL's with SASE's that needed a QSL from YK land. This was an experience that I will never forget. Once I had a few hundred QSLs, I would mail them back for their review. This kept me busy for a couple of years. OE5CA/YK can still be found by doing a Google search.

I continued my serious DX quest until we moved from Virginia Beach to Lilburn, Georgia. Amateur radio then took a back seat to raising two children and work efforts. All of my equipment was sold before leaving Virginia, a big mistake, but that's water over the bridge.

After our two children got a little older, I began my QRP interest with the likes of a HW8, HW16 and TenTec Argonaut. I also purchased a Kenwood TS-520 from Ebay and with a dipole, once again continued my DX endeavors. At last count I have confirmed 347 entities, both phone and CW.

My interests soon turned to QRP and CW almost exclusively. I joined the NAQCC and the SKCC and became somewhat more interested in QRP after earning Sx3 with SKCC. I most like the NAQCC Sprints and monthly challenges while using my recently obtained Elecraft K1. I can't say enough about the K1, but most of you are more than likely aware of it's capability. I have obtained many NAQCC and SKCC awards but am most proud of my Miles per Watt award from NAQCC; I worked 3B8XF on 30 meters with 5 watts (K1), $9,914 / 5 = 1,982$ miles per watt! Another accomplishment is my 2-way, 2-watt QSO with GM3OXX with my HW8 many years ago.

Today I prefer my Nye Viking straight key but also have a Kent double paddle that my son and his family got me for Christmas 2017. I'm still trying to get use to the touch without making too many mistakes.

My other interests are going to our cabin in Murphy, NC as often as possible. I have a TS-570D at that location but most often carry my K1 for the trip. I also have a dipole there, but there are too many trees and the antenna is touching several of them. One good thing is the minimal noise level.

I also enjoy reading and learning as much as I can about the U.S. Civil War, a critical time in the history of our nation.

I should mention that I also got interested in U.S. Commemorative stamp collecting while in high school and have several stamps that are somewhat valuable at this time, but I haven't done much with the collection for many, many years.

Now 73 years old, I try and stay somewhat fit by riding my stationary bike for an hour every other day and use weights to maintain some upper body strength. Where has the time gone ? I have a grandchild starting college in the fall, with three others not far behind.

Look for me on 40, 30 or 20 meters these days, I would enjoy a QSO with NAQCC members aside from Sprints.

Best 73,
Jerry - K4KBL

