

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.



BERNIE LEBEL, VE9BEL, #7027

Hello from the Great White North,

First of all, I want to let you know that my first language is French, so pardon my English.

I live in Edmundston, New Brunswick. My QTH is located at the borders with the state of Maine and the province of Quebec. Near my location, you can actually stand exactly on the border between Maine, New Brunswick and Quebec. I plan on doing a BOTA there one of these days...BORDERS ON THE AIR...HI HI.

Since high school I had always wanted to be a ham operator, but never took the time to do it.

Nearly 40 years later, in 2010, a friend who is a member of the Club de Radio Amateur du Madawaska (C.R.A.M), VE9CRM, asked if I wanted to take a course to be a ham operator. I accepted and a few weeks later I passed my exam and got my basic plus proficiency certificate in amateur radio. That means I can operate in the VHF-UHF AND HF bands with limited power.

My first radio was a Kenwood 2M VHF handheld radio, which I still use.

I like a challenge, so from the beginning I decided to be a QRP Op. My first rig was a Yaesu FT-817nd and it is still my main radio. My main antenna is an End-Fed dipole 10-20-40M. I just hung it in some trees in my back yard. Depending on the weather, I operate outside on the deck or indoors. That's it! Nothing complicated. I now also have a BUDDISTICK vertical antenna that I enjoy very much when working portable.

I first started making QSO's in voice mode, then I got an old laptop and a SIGNALINK USB module to do digital modes. In 2013, I decided it was time to learn CW. My Elmer was my friend Marc Morel (VE1MAM). Marc has been a ham for many years and is a great CW op. I do a lot of my CW with a Speed-X straight key. The key was a gift from my Elmer, Marc. I also have a Pico single paddle, which also permits me to send CW as a Cootie or Straight Key.

With this simple setup, I have been able to make QSO's as far as Australia, the Yukon, Africa and Kuwait with only 5 watts or less.

I also like to work the birds. My satellite antenna is an Arrow UHF-VHF portable Yagi. I use it with my battery operated FT-817 to make my satellite QSO's from FN57 land.

When I have time I like to do contests and the monthly NAQCC challenges.

My next challenge is to learn how to work my new rig...an OLD Ten Tec Argosy. The filtering should help me a lot in the monthly challenges.

Well TTFN and hpe to meet u on the bands soon !

73
Bernard
VE9BEL
Qrp strong !

