

Amateur Radio Station

K9STH

The call sign, K9STH, came into being on 15 May 1959 when the Federal Communications Commission issued a Novice Class license to Glen E. Zook as KN9STH, then residing in LaPorte, Indiana (about 60 miles east of Chicago). Then 6 months later, the "N" was dropped when the license class was upgraded to General in November of 1959.

Although the first license was issued on 15 May 1959, the actual test was taken on my 15th birthday, 13 February 1959 (administered by Dave Osborn, K9BPV). At that time all of the licensing procedures were undertaken by hand at the FCC headquarters in Washington, DC. From the end of January 1959 until mid May 1959, no licenses were issued in the 9th call area (probably in all of the other call areas as well). K9RMJ had received his Technician Class license at the end of January and, to my knowledge, no other amateurs received any licenses until mid May. In mid May, not only was KN9STH received, but KN9TZS and another KN9U (I don't remember the rest of his call sign) were received at the same time.

My Novice station consisted of a Hallicrafters S-107 receiver (bought new at Allied Radio in Chicago, Illinois) and a WRL Globe Chief 90A transmitter (that I bought used from K9LHC). The original antenna was a 40 meter dipole strung between my parent's house and a tree in the yard. A few weeks later, K9BPV gave me a 30 foot "T" pole made from 2 X 4 boards which my father and I erected in the middle of the side yard (my parent's lot was 160 feet by 220 feet - very large!). K9BPV also gave me a 24 foot long "telephone pole" that we erected in the back yard. Various wire antennas were run between these two poles over the next 3 years (until I went off to college).

When I received my upgraded license in November 1959, I obtained a WRL 755 VFO and WRL SM-90 screen modulator from K9LHC that enabled me to run AM as well as CW. About a year later, I obtained first a used Hallicrafters S-85 receiver from K9EXE and soon thereafter a used Heath DX-100 from an estate sale in Illinois. About a year after that (my senior year in high school) I built a 22 tube receiver which included converters for 6 and 2 meters. During the same time, I acquired a Heath DX-20 transmitter from K9BPV and modified it for 6 meter operation (a one-wire modification!) and built a modulator using a pair of 6L6 tubes for it. I then built a home brew 2 meter transmitter that had a 2E26 final amplifier and modulated it with a home brew Heising modulator that used a single 6L6.

In September of 1962, after graduating from high school, I went off to Georgia Tech (officially the Georgia Institute of Technology) in Atlanta, Georgia. My freshman year at Georgia Tech I obtained an additional call sign of WA4MLI that I operated from the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity house. The equipment there was a Johnson Adventurer transmitter and a National NC-300 receiver that had been left behind by previous fraternity brothers. The antenna was a long wire.

In June of 1965 I married Carolyn McBrayer and we moved to an "upstairs - downstairs" duplex on Rogers Avenue in Atlanta. After that, I started bringing down equipment from LaPorte. In the spring of 1966 we moved to Forest Park, Georgia, a suburb on the south side of Atlanta. The house next door was on the highest point in the county, and my house was about 6 inches below it! I had gone to work for the Motorola Service Center in Atlanta just before we got married (it was on the edge of the Georgia Tech campus which made it easy to go to class and to work). Then, in 1966 I was hired directly by Motorola to run the first portable and paging service facility anywhere away from the factory in Chicago. At that time, I became interested in VHF FM.

After graduating from college in April 1967, we came to Richardson, Texas, where I was employed at the "new" national headquarters of the Collins Radio Company. At that time I obtained another

additional call sign, this time WA5STI (I never "forgave" the FCC for missing STH by one letter!). I operated from a "rent house" for 6 months before we bought our first house in Richardson. We moved into "our" house in November 1967, just a couple of weeks before our first daughter was born.

After working for Collins for 2 years, I accepted a position at another company that specialized in hybrid microcircuits. Then, after 1 year with that company I was given the opportunity of again being affiliated with Motorola, this time owning the reconditioned equipment center for the south-central US. In 1971, I became the first FM Editor of CQ Magazine, a position that I held until the fall of 1973. In 1972, we moved from our first owned house in Richardson to our present house in the Canyon Creek, Collin County portion of Richardson. We have lived there for over 30 years this past April (2002). Over the years, I had obtained all sorts of equipment. At our first "owned" house I had first a Collins 75A1 receiver that had been given to me as a "basket case" in Atlanta, and then "graduated to a Heath SB-301 receiver and SB-401 transmitter.

The next equipment was a Collins S-Line, and then another S-Line, and all sorts of other equipment. During this time the FCC did away with additional station licenses and also required you to get a license from the area in which you were living. Thus, I had to give up K9STH and received W5UOJ. Then, in 1996, I was able to regain my original call.

I have basically re-created all of my original primary stations and a lot of the secondary equipment that I have had over the years. There are photos of a lot of this equipment as well as of a portion of my antique / vintage radio collection elsewhere on this web site. In the 43 years that I have been licensed, I have owned all sorts of equipment. Some of it I will never miss having traded it off, but there are certain items that I sure wish I had back!

I presently have equipment for 160 meters through the 432 MHz bands including SSB, AM, CW, and FM. Over the years I have operated fast scan TV, RTTY, and even some NBFM. For some reason, I have never been interested in slow scan TV or using various digital (computer) modes over amateur radio.

At the present time I am on disability due to rheumatoid arthritis which prevents me from holding any full time job. I do alignment and repairs on "boat anchor" amateur radio equipment as well as manufacturing replacement parts and assemblies for the older amateur radio equipment.

I have been certified as a Registered Communications Distribution Designer (RCDD) for over 8 years and do some telecommunications consulting work from time-to-time.

Please look around this web site. There are photos, articles, and other information that is of interest to the active amateur radio operator.