

Amateur Radio Station

K9STH

The call sign, K9STH, came into being on 15 May 1959 when the Federal Communications Commission issued a Novice Class operator's 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 Class in late October 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 some 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 in the 9th call area until mid May. In mid May not only was KN9STH received, but KN9TZS and another KN9U (I don't remember the rest of the call sign) were received at the same time.

My Novice station consisted of a Hallicrafters S-107 ("re-boxed" S-53A that was 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 for 2X4 lumber which My father and I erected in the middle of the side yard (the lot was 160 feet by 220 feet – pretty large for the area). K9BPV also gave me a 24 foot long telephone pole that my father and I 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 early November 1959, I obtained a WRL 755 VFO and a WRL SM-90 screen modulator from K9LHC that enabled me to run AM as well as CW. About a year later, I obtained a used Hallicrafters S-85 receiver from K9EXE and soon thereafter a used Heath DX-100 from an estate sale in Illinois. Next, late in my junior year in high school, I built a 17-tube receiver that included 6-meter and 2-meter converters. During the same period of 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. Then, I used the VFO section of a surplus BC-459 transmitter as a VFO. Next, I built a home-brew 2-meter transmitter that used a 2E26 in the final amplifier and modulated it with a home brew Heising modulator that used a single 6L6.

After graduating from high school (June 1962), In September 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 of WA4MLI that I operated from the Phi Kappa Sigma fraternity house. The equipment there was Johnson Adventurer transmitter and a National NC-300 receiver that had been left behind by previous fraternity brothers. The antenna was an end fed 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 Clayton County and my house was about 6-inches below it! I had gone to work for the Motorola Service Center in Atlanta 3-months before we got married (the MSS 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 establish and manage the first portable and paging equipment repair facility away from the Motorola plant in Schamburg, Illinois. At that time, I became interested in VHF FM operation.

After graduating from Georgia Tech 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 acquired another additional station license of WA5STI (I never forgave the FCC for missing "STH" by one letter). In

Richardson I operated from a "rent house" for 6-months before we bought our first house in Richardson. We moved into "out" 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. Next, 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 United States. Then, in January 1971, I became the first FM Editor of CQ Magazine, a position that I held until September 1973. In April 1972, we moved from our first owned house in Richardson to our present house in the Canyon Creek, Collin County, portion of Richardson. We will have lived here 40 years in April of 2012. At our first owned house had first a Collins 75A-1 receiver that I had obtained as a "basket case" in Atlanta and a Heath SB-401 transmitter. Then I basically replaced the 75A-1 with a Heath SB-301 receiver.

The next equipment included a Collins 75S-3A receiver and a Collins 32S-3 transmitter and then another Collins S-Line (75S-1 and 32S-1). During this time, the FCC eliminated all additional station licenses and required you to have a call from within the call area from the area in which you were living. Therefore, I was "awarded" W5UOJ. In 1996, through the "vanity" program, I was again able to regain K9STH.

I have 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 a portion of my antique / vintage radio collection elsewhere on this website. In the over 52 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 70 cm (1800 kHz through 450 MHz including the 222 MHz band) including AM, SSB, 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.

After acquiring rheumatoid arthritis in 2002 I was considered disabled. Then in 2010 my official status was changed to "retired"! Presently, I do alignment and repair on "boat anchor" equipment as well as manufacturing replacement parts and assemblies for older amateur radio equipment. Also, I do some consulting on telecommunications projects from time to time.

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