

Net Controller Profile: John O. Flynn WA7SO

Each month we highlight one of our net controllers, Please meet John – WA7SO.

I was born and raised in Chicago. I enjoyed the beach and sailing a great deal and enjoyed some exciting experiences on the lake. I graduated from Loyola Academy in Wilmette and moved on to Marquette University for two years. I went to work as a Field Engineer for IBM, got married and moved out to the suburbs. I joined the volunteer fire department which was then run by the Lemont Fire Protection District. I enjoyed fighting fires so much that when I was offered a full time position, I took it and left IBM.

I later got my Associate degree from Joliet Junior College in Fire Science and my Bachelors Degree From Lewis University in Emergency Government Management. During my days off I thought Fire Science at Joliet Junior College, Moraine Valley Community College and Illinois Valley Community College. I also taught fire fighting classes for the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute. I retired as the Deputy Chief of the Bolingbrook Fire Department in 1995. I was asked to join the Argonne National Laboratory Fire Department. When I left Argonne I spent three years Consulting with FEMA and the National Congress of American Indians.

My ham career started in 1960 while I was at Marquette University. My first license was WN9JSO (novice) and later became a technician and later General and now Extra. Later in my ham career I experienced angry neighbors. The old TVs didn't operate very clean. As a result I sold all my radio gear and took a sabbatical.

About two years ago I received the help of several Elmers and got back on the air. I now have a very nice Shack and some wonderful equipment. I also enjoy doing the net and encourage anyone else interested is welcome to step forward.

