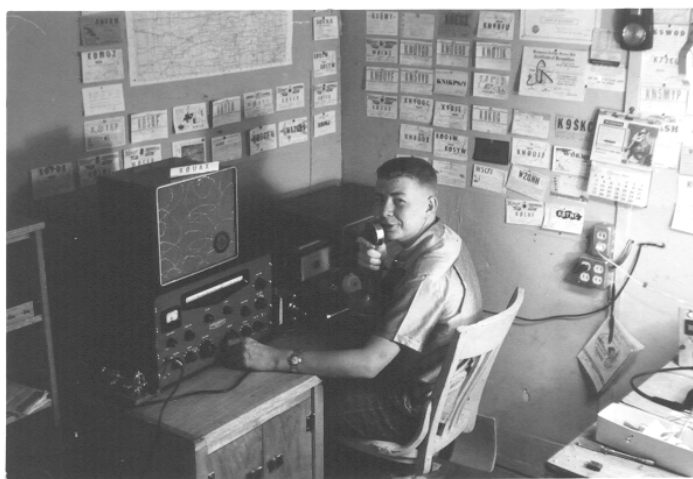


Chapter 212 News
W5UHQ – Receives Fifty Continuous Years
QCWA Certificate April 2009



Eldon grew up the son of telephone pioneer in the plains of Kansas. He spent many hours hooking up home made telephone lines from his basement workshop to his favorite tree house in the back yard using old junk parts his dad would bring home from the phone office. His fondest (although bittersweet) memory of those days was helping his dad literally destroy over 500 old wooden wall phones that Southwestern Bell said had to be burned when “dial” systems came in vogue. He wishes maybe at least one of them could have been saved as an antique but Ma Bell thought otherwise! His family had a big Philco Short Wave set in the parlor and he would sit there for hours monitoring ships at sea and police calls from Kansas City while the other kids were listening to the Shadow or Yukon King. He also tuned across curious signals his dad told him were ham operators. While in scouts, he got the ham radio bug and learned the code with an old paper tape machine the local ham club loaned out. His mentor was Jim Bosworth, KØGYA who helped him prepare for that novice test. In those days it was a real test! He received his first ticket in March of 1959 as KNØUAX. His dad helped him out again by finding a used Hallicrafters S-85 and sending off to Allied Radio for their new Knight T-50 three tube CW transmitter kit. Eldon erected his first antenna for 40 meters and burned holes on 7180 as a novice as soon as he got the bugs out of the transmitter solder joints they had put together. In less than a year he studied for his Conditional and added AM phone, SSB, and VHF AM to his operations. He built a lot of his own equipment in high school since his true calling was engineering and his goal was to become an electrical engineer. While in high school he got interested in aviation and joined the Civil Air Patrol where he would continue to serve for many years.

Eldon went on to engineering college in 1963 where he graduated from Kansas State University and was active in their ham club as well as aviation activities. While there he designed the first carrier current AM radio station for the KSU residence halls. He received a USAF commission upon graduation and spent twelve years at the Air Force Missile Development Center in New Mexico first as an Air Force Officer and then a DOD civilian. While in the Air Force, Eldon upgraded to an Advanced license in 1972 (his current call of W5UHQ was issued in New Mexico). He fondly recalls the sweaty palms as he walked to the third floor of the El Paso Post Office for that FCC given test. He also passed his first Commercial Radio Telephone license that same day.



KØUAX (Now W5UHQ) circa 1961

He designed and built one of the first Air Force MARS VHF repeater linking systems while in New Mexico complete with an autopatch. He also served the Air Force 16 years more by becoming a CAP Reserve Assistance Officer and establishing a network of VHF repeaters for the Civil Air Patrol where he reached the rank of Lt. Col. He was also very active in Air Force MARS where he served on HF traffic nets passing Viet Nam welfare messages and phone patches and as NM State MARS director for four years. He was an early digital enthusiast using a Model 15 Machine and a home brew terminal unit running RTTY long before it was a point and click PC mode (which he still enjoys).

Eldon moved to Newark Ohio in 1987 as contractor for the Air Force. He has been active in the central Ohio ham community as a member of QCQA Chapter 212, COOKEN, NARA, and ARES groups. He retired from his day job in 2007 and now has more time for church activities, ARES, DX'ing, fishing, and playing old time music with his lovely wife Carolyn. His goal is to participate in at least one DXpedition before his key becomes silent and to keep the amateur radio hobby alive and exciting for youth. After 50 years, he finally took the plunge and passed his Extra and signed up for VE service. He loves his nostalgic "original issue" call so doubt we will not hear a fancy vanity call from him soon as he hunts DX on those low band segments.

Congratulations Eldon, on Fifty Continuous years of ham radio service.

