

Member Profile: Jim Maxwell W6CF



It is a challenge to write a profile of Jim without taking up this entire issue of Short Skip. I was prepared for the spectacular view from Jim's QTH perched way above Summit Rd in the Santa Cruz Mountains, the impressive beam antennas, 5 Band DXCC and #1 Honor Roll awards—enviable to be sure but not exceptional. Jim's interest in Ham Radio qualified him first as a Radio Operator in the Merchant Marine and then in the army, this career path parallels that of many "Old Timers" from the 1950s. Jim's professional education led to degrees in mathematics and aeronautical engineering and a career principally with Lockheed in Sunnyvale, all would mirror many success stories in the Bay Area.

What I was not prepared for was Jim's passion for the history of wireless communications and of course Ham Radio in particular. Just as I departed Jim asked if I would like to see his library. What he showed me is beyond belief; shelves full of every imaginable publication from the early days to the present. With great pride Jim showed me his collection on the Maxim family which of course included Hiram Percy Maxim one of the founder of the ARRL. Jim showed me a copy of QST Volume 1, #1 December 1915 among his treasures.

Jim of course is our ARRL Pacific Division Director and congratulations are in order for his recent re-election. We talked at length about the value of ARRL membership. What is often overlooked is the fact that the League provides essential value in protecting the ham radio that many enjoy at a local level — ARRL efforts over CC&Rs is but one example. Jim receives very many communications from both members and non-members alike and is diligent in attending to all their issues. Jim made mention that an effort to maintain a strong membership now includes a financial award to clubs who bring in new members. What better way is there to raise funds for our club! Watch out for more news from Jim on this.

A turning point in Jim life came as a result of the '89 earthquake. It was wife Trudy who discovered local hams handling emergency traffic and led to her becoming as KC6NAX. For Jim it opened up a whole new area of interest in emergency services and the fine bunch of hams who do not chase DX or work contests. Throughout the interview one is struck by his personal achievements in the hobby but more so in his selfless work as a tireless ARRL Director to give something back. We have much to thank Jim for so tell him so next time you meet.

—From September 2001 Short Skip