

Frank (Zoro) Spicer Sr - KA2ZOR - Extra Class - Our gifted man was born in 1933, Bridgeton NJ the Tri County region and the family moved to Vineland when he was a youngster. He and wife Barbara have raised their family have been there in residence since then.

Frank Spicer had that familiar sweet C.W. voice over the years on the 40 Meter band out of Southern New Jersey. Recently our subject has not been heard and yours truly began to wonder. I learned Frank's close pal and regular sked John Bosse WA1PFC had expired. I am aware first hand how hard that hits, my pal W8GGX-W8KEG expired over a year ago in Columbus and it has been tough without those daily skeds on CW. That fix of CW truly is a pick-me-up.

Zoro is a special guy and deserves admiration having to cope with many things in his life, first at age 12 - He became blind, then at age 28 became deaf. That is one reason why Frank and John got along so well on the bands, you see, John was handicapped too, he was blind and could not hear either. I know of another ham WA1OPN YL Gayle that suffered with the same handicap. Her problem was so severe it ruined her balance. Though severe it may be, our friends didn't look at it as such. But rather they would treat it as a bump in life. Frank is truly my Z-Man Hero!

Would anyone deliberately QRM those radio folks enjoying a bit of CW fun? Human nature is truly deceitful at times, I've heard rude comments, remarks not suited for the hobby and worse. Yet they accepted it all with a grin. Z-Man has over 35,000 contacts to his credit!

Zoro told me the locals came in from Vineland in the late 70's and surrounding places and gave him the help that he had always needed to get going in ham radio. The long sessions of CW practice, the camaraderie and the exams. He went all the way up to Extra Class! When he got his call the "Zoro" thing stuck from the boys. The first station rig was a Ten-Tec Century style. Sentimental like myself, Zoro KA2ZOR kept the rig for posterity.

None of it stops here, you see Zoro has been a concert accordionist for over 50 years but had to curtail a lot of the activity and has enjoyed playing in the church atmosphere since then. He also proofreads Braille. Does Z-Man do "Lady of Spain?" I don't know but I bet the farm he does.

Now you know the story of the kind and talented Southern NJ gent, Zoro - He will give you a good QSO - He is a rag chewer and I've rarely seen folks that love ham radio more than Zoro, John WA1PFC or Gayle WA1OPN. John is gone and Gayle's ticket has expired, I was hoping she would continue on those quiet bands we have now. CW is still there and looking, awaits that individual no matter if sightless, deaf or otherwise. How is it done? A modified speaker or transducer is used and the sense of touch on the device determines what the operator is reading.

Today I had another Epiphany, I set up a sked with Barbara, she was to get the OM on the air, sending wrist cast and all. I was his first contact since the broken hand.. 1300 on 10 Oct 2007 - I got another QSO out of Zoro age 74, marvelous going, over 50 minutes. He hasn't lost a bit of talent. You see Barb can set the equipment since she knows radio. She hasn't taken to the idea of CW as of yet. Plus her dwindling eye sight, the laser treatments actually gave her worse vision than before. May the thought of these people inspire us to do good things for humanity. Great folks in the Garden State! Give KA2ZOR a call, he will enjoy the company. He can be found 7015-7040 kc, week days. QST Magazine had mention of Z-Man in their December 1987 Issue on page 13.