



Martti Laine OH2BH - The Architect. The Book hasn't been written as yet about this fine gentleman. But for a page we write. I'm sure he would rather have the card of his deceased brother printed here rather than his own. Martti's brother Reijo was instrumental in OH2BH getting the radio bug and what a change in Martti's life and the lives surrounding him.

Mr. Laine has been described as a World Class Contester, DX Luminary, Number One Ambassador of Good Will. All true but I'd like to think of Martti first as a gentleman and then a wonderful architect, building bridges of understanding to The World for our historic wireless hobby.

It seems, Martti is always in my life, from the very beginning in the 60s from Aland Islands to all of the world then Montenegro and now Yellow Rocks (BV7H Scarborough Reef) April 2007.

I think of the Colvins, Gus, Eric Sjolund and many of the DX gang and I always revert back to OH2BH Martti Laine "The Architect." At one point Martti wanted to do what he perceived as the ultimate event in radio – activate a new country. Looking back he has added ten such entities to the DXCC program. At the same time, while he once aspired to be a contest champion, little did he know that he would dominate the CQWW for four solid decades.

For Martti, life just continues to get better with the biggest of changes being in 2000, after living abroad for seven years - most recently in Beijing, China. Martti and his family returned home to their native Finland. OH2BE Lenna has been with Martti through it all and behind every good man is a great wife! I'm sure he would want us to mention Lenna.

His approach to control the humongous pileups and the eagerness of today's operator, anxious for a new country, Martti is able to maintain a positive dialogue in his pileup that allows him to secure orderly operating and a happy audience, the end result - everybody gets to work the new one.

Mutual friend K8MFO Don has known Martti for over 45 years, says - "Martti is obviously very committed to ham radio, but more importantly he is concerned about leaving a positive legacy." A good example is the amount of time he has spent within Albania, developing ham radio there. As a result there are scores of individuals who have licenses and can represent their country on the bands. Martti is justifiably proud of this effort. It would have been possible and perhaps easier to arrange for a DXpedition to Albania and go home. Instead he has made a substantial contribution to the development and long term health of ham radio in that country.

OH2BH is very competitive and continues to be active in contests. Some of that may now be as part of a multi operator team, but nonetheless, the fires of combat still rage. Likewise with Dxpediting – as you know he was part of the recent BS7H effort. Martti does love to travel. Continued comments from K8MFO page two.

He told me once that he stops at home long enough to get some clean socks and underwear and is ready for more action. Don said “My dad and I were also the recipients of Martti’s special hospitality on 3 trips to Finland. I made it to his Aland Island location on all 3 occasions and in 1986 Martti and I were part of a group that went to Market Reef. That trip comprises a chapter in Martti’s book (Where Do We Go Next?)

As you know, encouraging young people to choose ham radio as a hobby is very difficult. Martti has had a number of young operators as guests at his super stations and is always quick to develop and encourage these guys as part of radio’s future. Martti is also very devoted to his family. They are supportive of him. What a great alliance.

I will resist the temptation to talk about some funny moments we have had together! After all, what you put on the web is available to all! (What happens in Helsinki stays in Helsinki, or is that Las Vegas?) K8MFO

Don has brought out the missionary DXpeditioning aspect Martti believes in. True to Martti’s nature, always doing something meaningful and long lasting. He opted to be an ambassador of amateur radio and his dedicated mission was to help these countries become equal partners in the global community of amateur radio. The OH2BH awards and commendations are far too lengthy to list here.

Martti wrote a very caring and sensitive short story about W9WNV Don Miller DX fame and the doctors tragedy. It is obvious that ones past is not a factor in Martti’s world. He has lasting respect for any and all.

The old DX’rs adage, Where’s Gus? - Is now said Where’s Martti? His rapid fire cw ability and common sense is known immediately when he is heard from that rare spot. Thanks to the “Architect!” We got a new one. Partially scripted bcdxc.org cadxa archives. Also kolumbus.fi/oh2bn - W8SU 2007

