

# QST

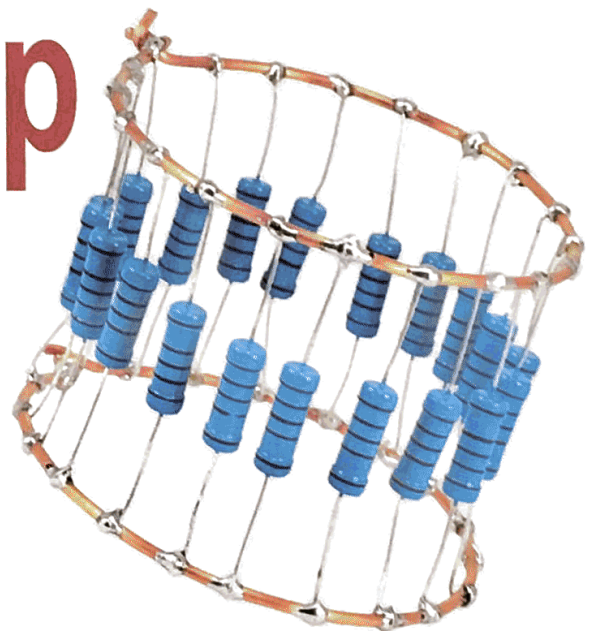


**ARRL** The national association for  
**AMATEUR RADIO®**

November 2018 [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO AMATEUR RADIO

## Build this Dummy Load/Wattmeter and see **Watts Up**



### QST Reviews

AnyTone AT-D868UV Dual-Band  
DMR/FM Handheld Transceiver

Palstar LA-1K 160-6 Meter Amplifier

MFJ-1836H Cobweb Antenna

Roundup: Clamp-On Ammeters/  
Multifunction Meters

RigExpert AA-35 ZOOM Antenna Analyzer

QRPme X-Checker Crystal Grinding Kit

Evans Engineering EE-3Y Triband  
Portable VHF/UHF Antenna

\$6.95 US \$8.95 Can.



Visit the  
**ARRL Website**  
at [www.arrl.org](http://www.arrl.org)

## Member Spotlight

# Jim Wilson, K5ND

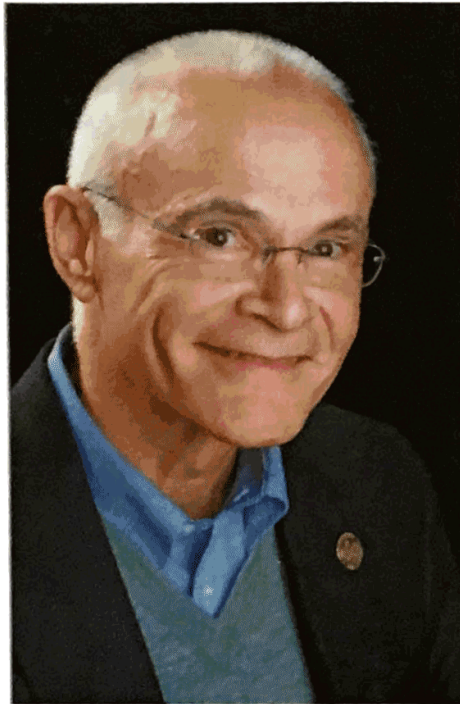
Jim Wilson, K5ND, became interested in radio in junior high, when his father brought home an old radio that had a shortwave band. Difficulty learning Morse code meant it would be several years before Jim got a ham license, but the seed had been planted.

Jim studied electronics in high school and in the Air Force, where he worked on F-111s as an avionics technician. During his time in the Air Force, he received his FCC First-Class Radiotelephone license, and continued his shortwave listening. Upon getting out of the Air Force in 1972, he realized a longtime dream of working in broadcasting, getting a job as a transmitter engineer at Nebraska Educational Television network. He earned a conditional ham radio license the following year, and continued to broaden his education, taking electronics and math courses.

### Career Change

After a few years in broadcasting, Jim decided to take steps to move his career to the next level. He got a job teaching an evening electronics program at a local community college. The next year, he was made supervisor of the program, and revised the curriculum, adding the study of microprocessors to it, so graduates would be knowledgeable about that emerging field.

On the ham radio front, Jim was writing articles for Wayne Green's, W2NSD (SK), *73 Magazine*, as well as a book on SSB, which *73* also published. "There [always] seemed to be some sort of urge to write and communicate, that was recognized when I started teaching adults electronics," Jim said. "It just sort of came together...and, interestingly enough,



Jim Wilson, K5ND.

the opportunities were there as well, which I'm very grateful for."

### Heathkit's Hemingway

An ad in *QST* brought the next opportunity. Heathkit advertised that they were looking for "a cross between Hemingway and Marconi." Jim couldn't help but be intrigued.

"They wanted an electronics instructor; somebody who could write," he recalled. He applied twice out of sheer eagerness — and received two rejection letters. Three months later, he got a phone call. Heathkit was growing fast, and wanted to hire him. He moved to Benton Harbor in 1977 to write home study courses, and became a supervising editor after 3 years, managing Heathkit's entire educational product line.

### A Mysterious Opportunity

After 11 years at Heathkit, he left the

company and moved to the Dallas area. A major opportunity knocked in 1992 — a blind ad in *The Wall Street Journal* called for someone to head up a publishing operation. Jim applied, and was called for an interview — all without the name of the hiring company being revealed. "I wondered if the CIA was involved," Jim laughed.

The mystery company turned out to be the Boy Scouts of America (BSA), where Jim remained employed for 21 years, retiring as their Director of Communication Services in 2013. During his time at BSA, Jim also began serving as National Jamboree on the Air (JOTA) Coordinator for the US, coordinating and promoting this annual October event that introduces Scouts to Amateur Radio. He continues this volunteer role, and other Radio Scouting roles, in his retirement. He received the ARRL Amateur Radio Service to Scouting Award for his years of work in this area.

### Advice for Mentors

As someone who has long bridged the worlds of Scouting and Amateur Radio, Jim has this advice for Amateur Radio operators who try to get kids interested in the hobby: "You're planting seeds. Some of these kids, they're going to go get a license. Others are going to go... whatever. A few of them are going to come back to the hobby, maybe in their 50s, when they've got some time and they've got some money. So be patient. Plant those seeds and don't be frustrated."

These days, Jim's own ham radio interests don't have roots — he's been into VHF roving for the past year and a half. Keep an ear out for him on CW!