

## **The E.D. Net – from a late 2012/early 2013 PCL Net**

**The N0KFQ BBS in Branson, Missouri, was online from 1980 to 2018, serving packet stations in Missouri, Arkansas, Oklahoma, and other areas, as a full featured packet BBS, with both RF and Telnet Access.**

**When the net originally began, K.O.'s late wife, Billie, KB0WSA (SK) was Net Control. After her passing in October, 2016...Bob, NS2B, took over as Net Control. K.O. became a Silent Key 2 years after Billie's death. But, at the time of this net, both Billie and K.O. were still with us, and it made for a great net every week. Everything was typed at the keyboard.**

**For information on how to get on the PCL Net, please send an email to [wx4qz@arrl.net](mailto:wx4qz@arrl.net) and request the file The PCL Net.PDF – you'll need the Adobe Acrobat Reader to view/print the file. You can download that file if I'm up on D-Rats.**

**Anyway, a little background information first...**

**The conversation that night started around my new callsign (at that time), WX1DER. I was originally licensed as N5VLZ in 1991 as a No-Code Technician. Then after my wife died in April, 2007, I used Ham Test Online ([www.hamradiolicenseexam.com](http://www.hamradiolicenseexam.com)) to go from Technician to General in 14 days, then from General to Amateur Extra 13 days later. It was the best money that I have ever spent in Amateur Radio – see their website for details.**

**Anyway, I changed the N5VLZ callsign to the vanity callsign of AE5WX in June, 2009...since severe weather communications via amateur radio was what got me interested in the hobby in 1991. Then, I changed to WX1DER in December, 2012...I got it just after a Christmas Day, 2012 storm, with nearly a foot of snow to much of Arkansas. WX1DER was the name of a series of weather features that I had done in college at the University Of Arkansas At Little Rock (UALR, where I'm now their ham radio club VE Team Liaison), where I majored in Radio/TV/Film (RTVF), attending there from 1978 to 1983.**

**At the time, The Weather Channel had just come on the air, and had a feature called “A Meteorological Minute”. So, I did something similar, called “A Weather Wonder”...because “We analyze data, forecasts, and text....but,**

wonder what weather will happen next”. Indeed, meteorology is such an inexact science, with nearly 2 dozen forecast models that have to be analyzed several times a day by forecasters.

I've since changed my callsign to WX4QZ. However, back to the PCL Net...

One ham, Ed, KI0HQ, wanted the vanity callsign of K0ED...but a ham in California had it already. He added that “I'm married, and E.D. is not an issue”.

As noted earlier, at the time, Net Control was Billie, KB0WSA, N0KFQ's XYL (wife). She moderated the net from their home in Branson (which I got to visit during an OzarkCon QRP Weekend in early April several years ago). It was a roundtable discussion, and it went around to each member.

Well, after I had made my comments, and Ed had made his, it was the turn of an older ham in Minnesota, Roger, KB0SON. He thought that E.D. stood for “Electronic Doofus”!! Now, I can relate to that, as electronics was NEVER my forte'...although you have to know some electronic theory with each ham radio license exam. I can tell you the colors on a resistor, thanks to Violet (hi hi), and know as little as an amp of electricity can kill you.

After Roger got done, it was over to K.O., N0KFQ – all he typed was “I'm curious to see how Ed is going to explain E.D. to Roger”. At this point, I'm laughing like crazy.

It got back to Billie, KB0WSA (Net Control), and she turned it over to Ed, KI0HQ. He typed “Billie?? Do you know Morse Code?”. She typed back “Yes, and I know a lot of other things as well”!!

I was about to wet my pants from laughter by now, as Ed typed in the Morse Code characters for “erectile dysfunction”...which like an enlarged prostate, is just part of a man growing old!! But, I'll bet Roger, KB0SON, was red with embarrassment!!

Several weeks after KB0WSA had become a Silent Key, I again brought up the great memory of “The E.D. Net”, and her widower, N0KFQ, noted “it was refreshing to hear of that again...and it was exactly the way that Daryl (at that time, WX1DER) told it”!! I've since changed my callsign to WX4QZ.