

# Biography: Bart Jahnke, W9JJ

## – ARRL Contest Branch Manager (April 2017)

Bart Jahnke, W9JJ, became licensed in 1978 – as KA9DLH. The oldest of 5 children, being raised on a Wausau Wisconsin Dairy Farm, Bart found that the Midwest hilltops afforded more than just magnificent Sunrises and Sunsets to enjoy while doing farming chores, it also offered extraordinary VHF+ flatlander propagation. Becoming active on 6 m through 70 cm, Bart also earned an ASEE at North Central Technical College and quickly upgraded to Extra class (keeping his Advanced call KB9NM until the Vanity pools opened up in 1996).

After several years on the farm of enjoying weak signal Meteor Scatter, Aurora, Tropo, E-skip and even 2 meter EME (with 2 Yagis and no Az/El), Bart was bitten by the avocation bug to pursue his Ham Radio interests away from the farm – landing a position at ARRL as the Repeater Directory Editor in the Fall of 1985.

At ARRL, from late 1985 through early 1989, Bart's duties included interactions with the many Repeater Frequency Coordinators - as well as ARRL Regulatory Desk support - and several stints as Awards Desk team lead. Bart also met his wife Debra at ARRL (now K1DAJ) who has also been with ARRL for many years in several Circulation, Publication Sales and Ad Sales capacities – and is currently ARRL's Business Services Manager. Bart and Debra have two daughters.

By 1989, Bart was tapped to take on the role of ARRL's Volunteer Examiner Coordinator (VEC) Program Manager, and he served in that capacity for 16 years (until 2005 when he and his family returned to Wisconsin to help care for aging relatives). Returning from the Midwest, Bart's experiences included EMS Billing/Collections including becoming a First Responder, Customer Service, and IT Helpdesk and Support.

With early interests in VHF/UHF and above weak signal, and 30 years of collecting for that ultimate station, building is underway at Bart's FN31un QTH Southeast of Hartford with 3 towers: HF which is complete; a 6-band 50-1296 MHz EME Az/El mount {the base is in}; and a 50-2304 MHz terrestrial tower which is under construction {that tower is at 50' so far, headed to 100' - to get above the trees} – all targeted for late Spring/early Summer 2017 completion).

Over the years, aside from his own stations, Bart has operated with various HF and VHF groups including W9SM, W9NN, W0AIH, K9IMM, and W1XX/portable from 1986-1987 (including trips to several Eastern Hilltops and to 4U1UN at the United Nations). More recently Bart has operated at W1AW, W2SZ and W1E (NC1I and company portable EME-peditions). Bart looks forward to the day when W9JJ is QRV on all 3 towers – terrestrially and off the moon!