

Paul Newcombe, N1RJX/G6YZC:

I was originally licensed at the age of 13 as G6YZC, a UK VHF only call, back in 1983. In order to take the course necessary to sit the exam I had to have permission from my Headmaster as the course was a City and Guilds College course offered by our local Technical College. As I was only licensed for 2m and up weak signal VHF was what I cut my teeth on. I travelled for many years around Europe and had a 17 ele Tonna for 2m on a ski rack on the roof of my car for /p operating.

Whilst sat in the shack of the late 3A2LU in Monaco looking at the grids he needed it was decided that I would head down to ZB2 as not only did he need IM76 but also they had 4m privileges. A band that had been released to UK VHF operators. I ended up with a shack on the very top of the rock of Gibraltar with a 65 foot drop one side of the tower and a 1365 foot drop the other. Operating from ZB2 as ZB0W (or ZB0T off the moon) I had the opportunity that does not come often to most of us. The chance to make "Firsts" not just personal firsts but first ever. The most memorable ones being the first ever 2m QSO between Algeria and anywhere. The operator had just received the first 2m license to be issued in that country a few hours previously. Being able to call back in French sure beat the pile up of Italians calling him. Most of my operation from ZB2 was HSCW MS or EME.

In 1993 I came to America to bicycle across country. After my trip was over I returned to New England and have had a home here ever since. Having visited all of the continuous 48 I find it the nicest part of the country to live in.

I settled in the USA in 1993 and obtained N1RJX as my call. I still am only really interested in VHF. The last year has been taken up building a 3 band Larcan amps for 6/2/222 and getting the antennas together to make it all worthwhile. Currently I am concentrating on a 222 EME station.