

Joel Harrison, W5ZN

Joel was first licensed as WN5IGF in 1972. His first contest was the 1973 ARRL Novice Roundup followed by the old ARRL CD Party in 1973 as a General Class licensee. His interests later turned to VHF contesting, finally breaking into the top 10 in the ARRL June VHF contest in 1993. In June 1996 he won first place in the single op category setting a new world record under the callsign WB5IGF. In 1998 he returned to the June contest as W5ZN, once again winning first place and breaking his previous 1996 record. In 2001 he won first place single op in the ARRL UHF Contest and in 2011 the W5ZN team won first place in the Limited Multiop category of the ARRL June VHF Contest. W5ZN was a team member of the record setting WA8WZG contest team in 1999 and 2000 and the K1WHS team that finished first in the multiop category of the 2010 ARRL September VHF contest outing multi-year winner W2SZ.

W5ZN is also very active in HF DX contesting, especially on the low bands. In the 2006 ARRL DX Contest he set a new 80-meter CW record for the W5 call area that held until 2009. In 2011 he reclaimed that record that still holds today. He is a member of the N2CEI Multi-op team for the ARRL 160 Meter Contest and in 2016 was a team member of the W2GD CQWW 160 CW Contest Team finishing with the top claimed NA score.

In 2015 he challenged a group of “Rookies” in his local club to learn CW and the prize was to operate the W5ZN station in the 2015 ARRL Rookie Roundup – CW as a Multi-op team that finished with the most Q’s.

Joel holds 11 band DXCC, 11 band VUCC, and is an A-1 Operator. In December 2021 he completed his 12th Worked All States band, becoming the 11th recipient of a 222 MHz WAS.

He served as ARRL President from 2006 until 2010 when he retired from ARRL elected volunteer service after 27 years. In 2014 he was awarded the ARRL Medal of Honor for outstanding service to amateur radio. In 2021 he was elected to serve as Secretary of the International Amateur Radio Union and is active in the IARU HF World Championship contest providing the coveted “AC” multiplier!

Professionally Joel is a Research Analyst in the Applied Physics group of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory’s Nuclear Engineering & Analysis Division.