

Bill Fehring, W9KKN

Bill became a ham in 1999 at the age of 14 with encouragement from his grandfather, who at the time held the callsign W9KKN. Bill was inactive for several years but fell headfirst into contesting around 2016 after going to a local field day. Not too long afterwards, he started attending the Northern California Contest Club meetings where he met a few big guns who were kind enough to give him operating opportunities such as NW6P, N6RO, and W7RN (K5RC). He also eventually went through all of the levels of the CWops Academy to learn CW.

Today, Bill is part of the core engineering and operating teams at ZF1A and ND7K where he does most of his contesting these days. During the pandemic, Bill invested quite a bit of effort in the automation and networking behind remote operations at ZF1A and successfully used it to win CQWW RTTY Single Operator HP category twice. Bill works at a computer security company as a networking software architect working on VPN software and holds several patents specific to networking, encryption, and distributed systems. He is also the current maintainer of the Super Check Partial database used in contesting and works on several other amateur radio-related software projects in his spare time related to log checking and packet clusters. Bill is also a regular contributor to the W1DED "Contest Crew" podcasts.