AMATEUR RADIO STATION
W4OP

I was first licensed in 1963 at the age of 13 as WV2YPY. In those days, the novice license was good for 1 year and non-renewable. The only phone allowed was on 2m. Those souls that decided to spend their time on 2m AM likely never advanced to general as their code speed did not increase.

In that first year I advanced to general and although I spent some time on AM phone, CW became a passion for me - one that has lasted all these years. The odd thing I remember from back then is that virtually everyone I knew (and 100% of my ham class) put in the time and copied the required 13 WPM. We never heard of CW learning disabilities, medical excuses or, “I just can’t do CW.” It was a requirement and we all did it.

Within a few years, I tired of DX and became interested in weak signal VHF/UHF. Although my station was modest back then, I could regularly work 500 miles or so on any given night with CW at 144.1 +/-.

Some time around 1990 I became interested in moonbounce (EME). A group of us put up 4 stacked yagis on 2m and had about 300W solid state at the antennas. Our first QSO was with W5UN's ‘mighty big array.’ I was hooked, but the power line noise, 2m birdies and faraday rotation (http://www.ifwtech.co.uk/g3sek/eme/pol4.htm) at 2m had me soon moving to 1296MHz where none of these issues exist.

My current EME station is an ICOM 7700 as a 10m if for a Downeast Microwave 1296→10m transverter. The feed is a VE4MA scalar feed which generates circular polarity (thus making faraday a non issue: http://www.ok1dfc.com/eme/technic/septum/septum_feed_with_ring.pdf).
a 0.18db noise figure LNA, and a 400w solid state amp at the base of my 15’ dish.

In addition to EME, i enjoy QRP CW with an Argonaut V, Elecraft K2, and a homebrew 20m trail radio.

A group of EME-ers meet nightly on 3846 SSB - here I use the IC-7700 and the SPE-1Kfa.

Antennas include:
160m: sloper aimed at Europe and a 4 square and beverage for receive
80m: half wave dipole whose height above the first reflection zone is almost 200’ 4 square and beverage for receive

40m: half wave dipole, rotatable flag for receive

20/15/10m: optibeam ob6-3m

6m: 5 elements on an 18’ boom- m squared

2m: 20’ vertical and 9 elements- m squared

I also do a lot of boatanchor restoration (page to be added later). My current BA station is the Kenwood R-599D and T-599D shown in the station photo. Gorgeous to look at and a delight to use.

I hope you enjoy the photos of my station.