

Frank (Zoro) Spicer Sr - KA2ZOR - Extra Class - A concert accordionist born 1933, Bridgeton NJ the Tri County region and the family moved to Vineland when he was a youngster. He and wife Barbara have raised their family have been there in residence since. Some have an extra cross to bear. Frank was the first blind individual to graduate from public school in New Jersey and the draft board was waiting and drafted him. His father helped in the cause and the misunderstanding was corrected.

Frank Spicer became blind at the age of twelve, was a good high school student. He was athletic and enjoyed dancing. He played accordion in the school band. At only 5ft - 6 inches he has that familiar sweet C.W. voice over the years on the 40 Meter band out of Southern New Jersey. Recently our subject has not been heard and yours truly began to wonder. I learned Frank's close pal and regular sked John Bosse WA1PFC had expired. I am aware first hand how hard that hits, my pal W8GGX-W8KEG expired over a year ago in Columbus and it has been tough without those daily skeds on CW. That fix of CW truly is a pick-me-up.



Zoro is a special guy and deserves admiration having to cope with many things in his life, first at age 12 - he became blind, then at age 28 became deaf. That is one reason why Frank and John got along so well on the bands, you see, John was handicapped too, he was blind and could not hear either. I know of another ham WA1OPN YL Gayle that suffered with the same malady. Her problem was so severe it ruined her balance. Though severe it may be, our friends didn't look at it as such. But rather they would treat it as a bump in life. Frank is truly my Z-Man Hero!

Would anyone deliberately QRM those gifted handicapped folks enjoying a bit of CW fun? Human nature is truly deceitful at times, I've heard rude comments, remarks not suited for the hobby and worse. Yet our friends accepted it all with a grin. Z-Man has over 35,000 contacts to his credit! Zoro advised me the locals came in from Vineland in the late 70's and surrounding places and gave him the help that he had always needed to get going in ham radio. The long sessions of CW practice, the camaraderie and the exams. He went all the way up to Extra Class! The graphs and theory were not a challenge. When he got his call the "Zoro" thing stuck from the boys. Frank's first station rig was a Ten-Tec Century style. Sentimental like myself, Zoro KA2ZOR kept the rig for posterity. The station antenna, a G5RV choice.

None of it stops here, you see Zoro has been a concert accordionist for over 50 years but had to curtail a lot of the activity and has enjoyed playing in the seniors circuit & church atmosphere since then. He also proofreads Braille, for the National Library Service. Does Z-Man do "Lady of Spain?" For sure!

Now you know a small amount of the story of the kind and talented Southern NJ gent, Zoro - He will give you a good QSO - He is a rag chewer and I've rarely seen folks that love ham radio more than Zoro, John WA1PFC or Gayle WA1OPN. John is gone and Gayle's ticket has expired, I was hoping she would continue on those quiet bands we have now. CW is still there and always patiently, awaits that individual no matter if sightless, deaf or otherwise. How is it done? A modified speaker or transducer can be used and the sense of touch on the device determines what the operator is reading. I recently read of skin buzzers.

Zoro age 74, sending wrist cast and all. I was his first contact since a recent broken hand. He hasn't lost a bit of talent. You see XYL Barb can set the equipment since she knows radio. She hasn't taken to the idea of CW as of yet. Plus her dwindling eye sight, the laser treatments actually gave her worse vision than before. May the thought of these people inspire us to do good things for humanity. Give Zoro a call, he will enjoy the company, 7015-7040 kc, week days. (It is one of the most beautiful compensations in life that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself - Ralph Waldo Emerson) W8SU 2007