

ADØA - Silent Key
Jerry L. VerDuft
June 9th, 1940 – March 17th, 2022



Lifetime honorary member and past OCARC President (1969) Gerald (Jerry) Lee VerDuft passed away in March of 2022; he was 81 years old. Belated news of his passing recently reached the club, and though few remain who knew him, he played an important role in promoting amateur radio during his life, and his passing should be recognized by our club.

Jerry was first licensed in 1956 in Des Moines, Iowa. At the age of 15, he received his novice license and the call KNØCLS. Within a year he passed his general class and the call became KØCLS.

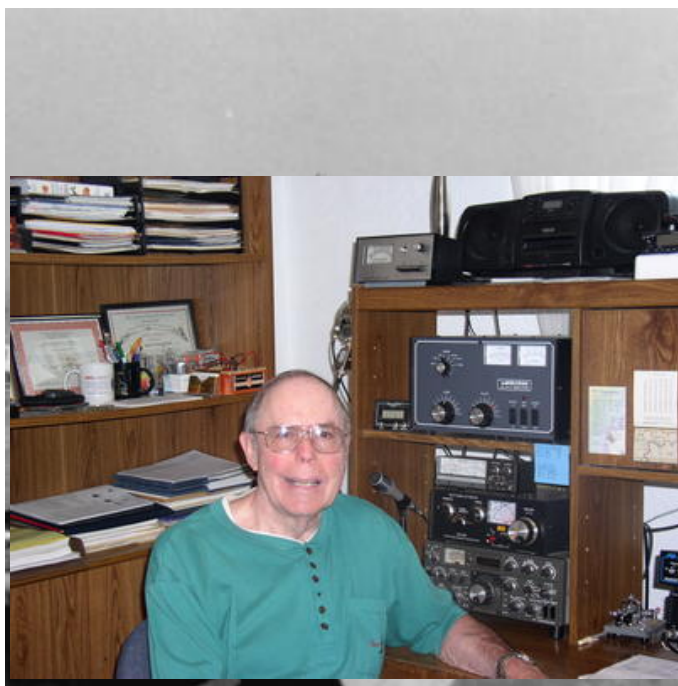
In 1960 Jerry and his parents moved to Bellflower, CA when his step dad got transferred by Aerojet General to their southern California facility. Jerry obtained a job at Autonetics in Downey as an inspector of missile hardware. In mid 1961 Jerry received the call WA6ROF, necessitated in those days by his move. Between 1963 and 1971 Jerry lived in Orange County

and joined OCARC around 1966. As club president in 1969, he worked with other nearby clubs and spearheaded the creation of the Orange County Council of Amateur Radio Organizations (OCCARO).

In 1967, at the request of the USAF, Jerry left Autonetics and began working for them in quality control, but remained in Orange County, and between 1970 and 1972 was the ARRL Section Communications Manager for the Orange section.

His job with the USAF kept him busy as he was promoted up the ladder; often with a change of venue. In 1971 he got his Extra class license and a new call, W6MNY. In 1972 he moved to Albuquerque, NM and his call changed to W5TLK. About four years later he returned to California near the USAF facility in El Segundo, changing his call again to W6SGZ. In 1978 he moved to Littleton, CO. At that time he was able to get ADØA for his call, which he's held since.

In 1983 Jerry returned to California and lived in Torrance, again to be near the USAF El Segundo facility. A couple of years later he moved to Riverside, CA, working at the USAF Ballistic



Recent photo of Jerry from his QRZ page.

Missile Office in San Bernardino. In 1997 he again moved to the El Segundo area after being promoted to Director of Acquisition Management. In January of 1999 Jerry retired and moved to Colorado Springs where he could settle down and grow some HF antennas in his yard. Jerry continued being active in radio, serving on the Radio Operator staff at the Colorado Springs Emergency Operations Center until 2017. His final move was to Kingman, AZ and its warm weather.

Over the years Jerry was very active in traffic handling in the ARRL's NTS. He was a lifetime member of the ARRL and active on their CW traffic nets. He was NCS (net control station) for the Western Area CW Net (WAN) He also founded HAMCON Colorado which sponsored many ARRL Conventions over the past two decades. Jerry will be missed by the hobby.



Jerry- then W6MNY (left at the KWM-2) with Bob Evans - WB6IXN (SK) at FD.in the early 70's.

***73 to Jerry VerDuft,
de W6ZE***



1971 OCARC board group photo. Jerry is in the upper left. Can you pick out W6HHC and AF6C? For details see RF for Dec. 2010 page 7.

*I treasure amateur radio as one of the
greatest hobbies/activities on earth.
Jerry VerDuft ADØA*