

## ***On The Cover***

Hmmm... white hair, white beard, elfin smile ... Could it be? Well, if Jerry Keller, K3BZ, of Green Lane, Pennsylvania, has a second home at the North Pole, he wasn't saying. But he *did* say that his location high on a ridge about 40 miles northwest of Philadelphia gives his signals a good *take-off angle*. Maybe for reindeer, too? And he *did* serve in the Air Force back in the '60s. Hmmm... Just sayin'...

On the ham radio front, Jerry's main interest is DXing, in which he employs an ICOM IC-756 Pro III and PW-1 amplifier, feeding a four-element SteppIR Yagi with a 40-meter loop atop a 60-foot tower, along with wire antennas on 80 and 160 meters. Almost as important as his radio gear, says Jerry, is the DXLab software suite he uses for logging and much more. "It creates spots, has a map module, a digital module (and more) ... and it all works together to help you be successful at DXing." With his combination of hardware and software, Jerry has worked 320 countries and has just completed the requirements for 5-band DXCC. He also holds the scoring record for a non-Florida station in the Florida QSO Party.

Jerry has been licensed since 1959, at age 15, and previously held the calls KN1MER and K1MER. After serving as a radio intercept officer in the Air Force in the early 1960s, Jerry went to work for the Department of Defense as a civilian, retiring in 1997 as a contracting officer, responsible for negotiating high-value contracts for military hardware. He has built up his station since retirement, noting that this QTH is the first place he's ever lived where he could put up a decent antenna.

Jerry is a member of the Pottstown Amateur Radio Club and the ARRL, and says he's "addicted to CQ magazine. I just love it!" Thank you, Jerry, and Merry Christmas to you, too!

*(Cover photo by Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI)*