

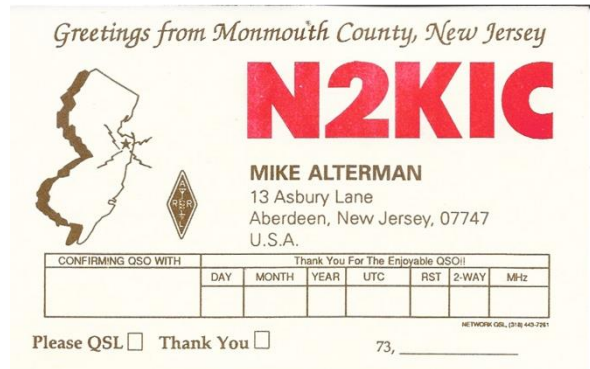
## K2XT N2KIC Mike Alterman (1937-2017)

Mike Alterman was born in 1937 in Brooklyn, New York where he spent his childhood. He graduated from Lafayette High School in Brooklyn in 1953 and enrolled at Brooklyn College where he studied pre-engineering.

At the end of his first semester in college, Mike thought ham radio might be an interesting hobby so he decided to attend a meeting of the Brooklyn College Amateur Radio club. It turned out that the purpose of the meeting was to elect officers for the next term. The first person nominated for president declined because he was not eligible as he had below a C average the previous year. The next 2 people nominated were also not eligible because they had below a C-average. So they asked who in the room had a C average or above. Mike had an A- average for the first term. Two people raise their hands, Mike and a girl, Barbara Sackett a senior. She was a ham and had been one for many years but she also declined the office of President because she was a graduating senior and she need to spend her time looking for jobs. The members of the club turned to Mike and asked him to be the President. Mike did not have a license or a radio but he did have above a C average so they convinced him to become the President. The members of the club offered to give him Code practice to help him pass the Morse Code test and get his license.

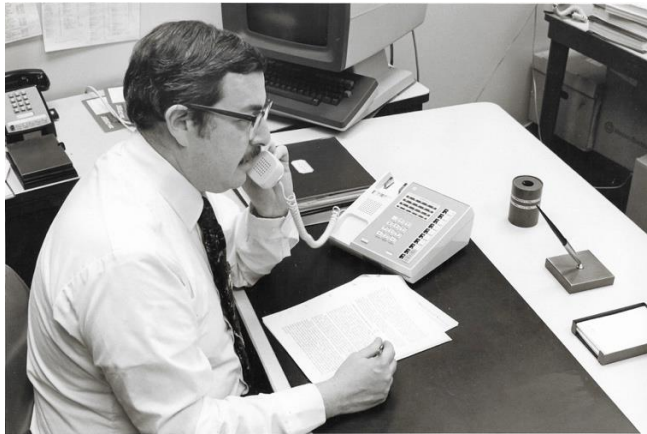
Mike embraced his new hobby with the same zeal he approached everything in life. His first license was K2XT and he also occasionally operated the radio station of the college ham club, W2APZ. Some of his fondest memories of that station were being able to help during emergencies. One of those emergencies was an explosion on an aircraft carrier in the Brooklyn Navy yard. After the explosion, many of the sailors that were unharmed wanted to get word to their families that they were ok. The ham radio operators from the ship got on air and called for help. Mike and his friends from the Amateur Radio Club heard and offered to help. The operator on the ship gave them their names and they would call the family on the radio to tell them that their son was ok.

Mike remained President of the Amateur Radio Club until he left Brooklyn College a year and a half later. Mike earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from City College of NY (CCNY) in 1957. He accepted a position at Bell Labs and moved to New Jersey. While working at Bell Labs, Mike earned 2 Masters Degrees: One in Electrical Engineering from NYU and another from Rutgers in Statistics.

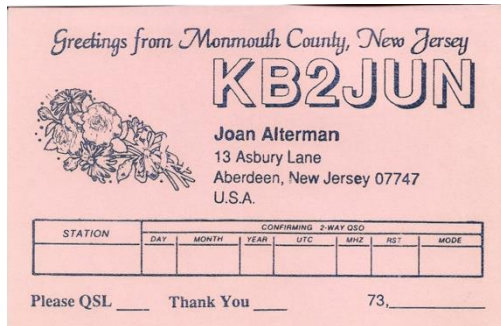




In 1959, Mike married Joan Myerson, a math teacher from the Bronx. They bought a house in Matawan, New Jersey and started a family. Mike continued to work at Bell Labs on cutting edge technologies including coin telephones, electronic switching systems (1ESS), PBX systems, and eventually cellular telephones. Mike led a department in Bell Labs that was involved with the deployment of the first cellular systems in the US. During his years at Bell Labs, Mike earned several patents. He retired from Bell Labs in 1995.



While Mike was working and raising a family, he didn't have time to spend on the radio or space for his equipment so he took a break from his hobby. In the mid-1980's when his daughters left for college, Mike got back to ham radio with the same zeal he had earlier in life. He got a new license N2KIC and convinced his wife Joan to get one as well. Joan diligently learned Morse code and got her license KB2JUN.



After retirement, Mike and Joan traveled extensively. They traveled North America in their Motor home and took occasional trips overseas. On these trips, they sometimes had the opportunity to meet ham radio friends in person, including as far away as New Zealand. As they traveled, they handed out these “business” cards with their call signs on the front and a picture of their motor home on the back.



Mike died on December 20, 2017 at the age of 80. His wife Joan, died November 10, 2019, also at the age of 80.