

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX.

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

MIKE BLAMA, WA8SAN, #0792



I got my novice ticket in 1966 with the call WN8SAN and nine months later went to the FCC Office in Pittsburgh, PA. to get my general class license. The call was now WA8SAN and I never had a reason to change it.

Like a lot of amateur radio operators of the '60s, Heathkit was my best way to get on the air. The DX60 did the trick with CW and AM phone. After a few years, SSB was taking over the bands, so it was back to Heathkit for the HW100 and many years of beams and chasing DX.

Life has a way of taking over when you're not looking and I'm no exception. With family and job I was in and out of amateur radio for many years until the VHF bug hit and I had to have the IC-02AT. It was a great rig for driving back and forth to work and you could even make a phone call with it!!!!!!!

Fast forward to 2001 and it was time for me to retire and find something to do with my time. Thanks to my wife and kids; they found the solution, Amateur Radio and a new Icom 746 Pro Radio for the old man to play with.

I tried phone for a few years but found myself going back down the band to see if I could still copy CW. I could still pick out letters but this was going to need some work, so I started small with a Rock Mite (so few would hear my poor CW with only 3 Watts).

That turned out to be a wake up call because half the world could hear that QRP signal and my poor

CW. I needed a lot more work and that's when I found the NAQCC on the internet. After a few sprints I found that most of the Ops would slow down and take the time to get you into their log. I want to thank those guys for that help and all those that I still work today. GREAT CLUB! 72, MIKE

