

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.



GEORGE WAGNER, K3EMS, #5447

I was originally licensed as KB3VTB in 2011 and later applied for the call K3EMS to celebrate my career as a paramedic here in the Pittsburgh area. I finally retired in 2017. I was not only one of the old guys, I was older than the old guys.

Like many Hams, I got interested in radio as a child. My Dad and I built a crystal radio kit when I was around eight or so. I remember the coils; lots and lots of wire. Then I had one of those shirt-pocket size transistor radios and would stay up late listening to AM stations from all over the country. Later I got a big ol' National NC-183D shortwave receiver. That radio has provided hours and hours of enjoyment over the years. I still have it and plan to restore it someday soon.

Currently my station is pretty modest, just a Yaesu FT-818 and a TenTec 4020, but it's functional and I'm happy with it. For what it's worth, the 818 is pretty much useless for CW without the filter, so that and a Timewave DSP-9 were added. I'm about 90% CW and 75% QRP.

For that other 25%, I recently obtained a 50-watt amp for the 818 that works well. Of course I also have the obligatory collection of keys, paddles and keyers. Currently I'm using a Hi-Mound HK-708 straight key and the American Morse DCP mini paddles.

On the air I enjoy the various sprints and club events, especially the QRP events. I'll do the occasional contest and I don't mind a good ragchew now and again. Parks on the Air sounds interesting and as time allows I'd like to get involved in that. I signed up for CWOPs CW Academy starting in January so I'm hoping to improve my shaky CW skills.

Around the shack I like to build kits, and experiment with Mag Loops and wire antennas. Last year I put up a G7FEK nested Marconi, and although it worked well, it has morphed into a vertical-T, and finally an inverted-L 72-feet long.

Some of my other interests are family, hiking with my two dogs, photography and playing music. I play several instruments and have played guitar and bass guitar professionally.

So that's my story. I look forward to meeting you on the air.

About the photo-I'm on the deck with the 4020 and a Chinese Army straight key. One of my little buddies is sticking his head into the lower portion of the frame.

