

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, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

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.

Bernie Kapus, KQ3Z, #3702



I got my Novice license, WN3BPZ in the fall of 1964 when I was just entering high school. I was fortunate to have the support of Don McDaniels, K3ZCA (SK) and the original members of K3MJW, The Skyview Radio Society, to help me get my ham license and station on the air. I upgraded to General a year later as WA3EPX and then worked nothing but 20 meter SSB. But a few years later ran into Don and he kicked me in the direction to upgrade to Extra as KQ3Z. It was such an effort to get the 20 wpm code that I was hooked on CW and never went back to SSB. Work and other life events have kept me off of the air for about 20 years.

I recently was home recovering from surgery and decided get back on the air but this time gave QRP a try. I fired up a Rockmite 40 that I had in storage and heard a lot of stations but couldn't work any. I sold the Rockmite on eBay and then bought a Youkits HB1B. Then I threw a 35' long wire up in a tree with a bottle of water and worked a guy in NY and thought that I was hot stuff. A few nights later the band was open and I heard LY7M, AI in Lithuania. Gave him a call and worked Lithuania, 4,986 miles on 4 watts, 1000 MPW award #0408! Now I'm really hooked on QRP! Besides the HB1B I also have a mint Yaesu FT 102 that I bought in Tokyo in 1984 and hand carried home on my lap.

I enjoy working CW and am presently trying to get my speed back up above 20 wpm. I just built a Spudgun pneumatic antenna launcher that was featured in QST, March 2009. It works great and it was very easy and inexpensive to build. I'm going to use it to put up a loop antenna in the woods behind the house. So if you hear me on the air give me a call and ... PSE QRS HI HI.

73's Bernie Kapus, KQ3Z/QRP
NAQCC #3702

