

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.

AGE DE JONG, PA0XAW, #7074



I was born October 1943 and am married to my lovely wife Wil. We have two children, both boys, and six grandchildren.

I got interested in radio at the age of about twelve when I started listening to shortwave stations on my parents' BC radio. All those sounds from far away really intrigued me. Later, in high school, I started building and playing around with receivers, small amplifiers and AM medium wave transmitters. After school I joined the Royal Netherlands Navy as an electronic engineer. Here I discovered ham radio but because of my time at sea and other places, there was not much opportunity to study for the exam.

In 1969, the navy sent me (together with my XYL) to the Island of Curacao in the Netherland Antilles for three years. Here I learned the morse code with the help of PJ2PS (now CT7AGR), and took the exam for my license. I got my license in 1970 and was from then on PJ2AW.

I ordered my first transceiver from Heathkit, the HW-101. After building the kit, I made a quarter-wave vertical for 20-meters from a piece of water pipe and out went my first CQ. That resulted in my first QSO with Al, WB4KZB. I still have the QSL card together with a photo of WB4KZB on the wall in my shack. I went back to Holland in 1972 and I became PA0XAW.

During my first years as a ham, I spent a lot of time chasing DX in SSB mode. After moving the QTH to where we live now, I met Jo, PA0VLA who is a real CW man. He inspired me to pick up my CW again and since then my QSOs are mostly in the good old CW mode.

I like to participate in small contests, enjoy rag chewing and do some homebrewing of antennas, small transmitters or transceivers, ATU's, etc. I also like to take part in the NAQCC challenges so I don't have to sit in the solder smoke all the time when I am in the shack.

In the shack I restore and use Heathkit equipment. At the time the WARC bands were assigned, I modified a HW-101 for these bands. The main Heathkit in use is the SB-102 but the other Heaths are also fired up now and then as well. I have two HW-101s and one HW-100 waiting for restoration and alignment, so I have a lot of time to spend in the shack before all the rigs are in good working order.

All my QSOs for the NAQCC challenges are made with the HW-8 and my homebrew single-band rigs for 80, 40 and 20 meters. The HW-9 is the one Heathkit that I would like to acquire. Antennas in use at the moment are a design from G7FEK and an end-fed wire about 20 meters long. When caravanning there is always my HW-8 on board together with a 2x10 meter dipole for the odd QSO during a rainy day.

To produce the Morse code, there is the Heathkit electronic keyer to help me; when in the mood I use a straight key, hand made by a friend of mine. My other rigs in use are a "modern" IC-706MKII and an older TS-530SP, both from Kenwood.

When there is some spare time left I like to read about offshore radio and the history of radio in all its facets, do some long distance walking, and when the weather is right, go out for a field day or SOTA and play radio.

The pictures show you my line-up of Heathkit equipment in the shack and me operating the HW-8 during a camping holiday during the summer of 2015.

