

# 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.

## TONNIE RAEMAKERS, PA9CW, #7029



I will start at the beginning. I was born in 1963. When I was about 13 years old, the radio virus started. First I listened on the shortwave, then on the CB and then I studied electronics at school. During this training I did the license exam together with a friend. We both succeeded. Since 1985 I had the call PE1JVV. But in 1999 I started learning CW. And after I passed, I chose the call PA9CW. Since then I have been working almost everything in CW. Because I am also a member of the 30MDG, I made digital QSOs for a while at 30 meters. But that was not for so long. The CW mode is and remains the best mode for me. I also do not have a microphone at home :-)

My main radio is the K3 at home. It usually stands at 5 W. The antenna I use is a HyEndFed of 41 meters. For 30 meters I use a home-build rotary dipole of 15 meters long. If there is DX to work then the power usually goes up because I want to expand my DXCC score. At this moment my DXCC score is at 233 countries. So if there is new DX to work, then I obviously often do need more power. But I do make 99% of my QSO's with QRP.

My home-build projects are Pixie, Norcal, QCX, MTR3B, KX1, KX3 and Rockmite. My last kit is an uBitx. I still have to finish that one.

Over the past ten years, I have often participated in HF CW contests. Even then my power is almost always QRP. It is amazing that you can achieve a high score with 5 watts. In the PACC contest I have placed first twice in a row, in 2017 and 2018. That is and remains a nice contest. I make about 5000 connections per year in the HF CW contests. Sometimes a little more, sometimes less.

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I have also been a very active SOTA chaser over the past eight years. And for the past five years, I have been active as a SOTA activator. I now have 1000 points which gives me Mountain Goat status. For portable operation, I use either the MTR3B, the KX1 or the KX3. For my antenna I use a HyEndFed 40/20/10. The mast is a DXWire mast of 10 meters. This is only 60 cm and therefore easy to carry. For a power supply I use a NiMh battery of 12 V/4200 mAh. All in all, it is fairly lightweight and can easily fit in the backpack. SOTA is an ideal combination of walking and the radio hobby. The views on the top of the mountains are also magnificent. When you turn on the radio, you do not hear QRM at all! I would want that at home. That would be very nice.

I have been a member of the NAQCC since 2015. And every month I try to participate in the challenge. They are always very enjoyable, especially the QRPP and the self-building challenges.

Hopefully you now have a slightly better "picture" of PA9CW.

