First licensed in 1958 by the Federal Communications Commission while in Indiana, Jim Zientara was issued the amateur call sign of KN9MAN. Moving to Florida in 1972, the FCC changed the call sign to his current one of W4MAN. He has made contacts and then confirmed them via postcards with thousands of "hams" in over 100 countries worldwide and every continent.

In Manatee County, he volunteers his services with the County as a storm spotter and has emergency communications capability.