

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 181 JULY 2013



KEY CLICKS

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- ◆ Well, here it is – the first NAQCC newsletter that I have edited. Hopefully it’s all OK! I want to thank John, K3WWP, for holding my hand and guiding me through the process. You will see that I have lifted a lot of the content directly from him. After all, why try to reinvent the wheel when it’s already doing a great job! Of course the biggest change is the move from an html publication to a pdf one. Free pdf readers are available for just about every computing platform so hopefully this will not be a problem for anyone.

Let me emphasize one new feature – this “*Key Clicks*” section. Each month in “*Key Clicks*” you will find the hottest and most important club news and information. Hopefully it will be one of the first things that you look at in each issue.

Finally, let me say that I will certainly make mistakes and I apologize in advance for all of them. If you see something that needs to be fixed, or you have a suggestion for an improvement, or you just have a general comment, please let me know. My email address can be found on the last page. Thanks and 73, Paul – N8XMS

- ◆ Let me make a few comments about the leadership transition that our club founders Tom, WY3H, and John, K3WWP, told you about in the June issue. I was very honored to be asked to help them phase into their well deserved retirements by picking up some of their club responsibilities. But I am also a little frightened – they have some very big shoes to fill! The picture that comes to mind is that of my three year old granddaughter trying to walk in her daddy’s shoes. Frankly, I’m not up to the task and I need a lot of help. Fortunately the NAQCC has a wonderful corps of volunteers who are already doing so much to make this such a great club. My sincerest appreciation and thanks to these unsung workers! They are the true backbone of the club. I am also very thankful that Tom and John will be slowly phasing me in. They should be able to keep me from messing up too badly for at least the next 14 months! We have come up with “NAQCC Club Manager” as my official title and that will eventually morph into President at the appropriate time. The NAQCC is one of the best ham radio clubs around and I am looking forward to having the opportunity to contribute in some small way to its continued success. Paul – N8XMS

- ◆ Fifty new members joined the NAQCC during the month of June. We extend a warm welcome to all of them and hope that they will enjoy participating in our many activities and programs.

- ◆ Bruce, ZP5BAB, #6738, has issued a challenge to all NAQCC members. From 0000 Z to 0400 Z on July 19, 20, and 21 (that’s Thursday, Friday, and Saturday evenings in the western hemisphere) Bruce will have an attended CW beacon on the air from Asuncion, Paraguay (GG14hc) running at 10 wpm with 2 W on 14.065+/- MHz into an inverted V antenna. The format of the repeated message will be “V V V DE ZP5BAB/B NAQCC *secret word*”. The first NAQCC member in each of three categories to send him a reception report, including the secret confirmation word, will receive a special certificate and 2000 Guarani in prize money. (Google [Guarani Exchange Rate](#) to calculate this vast amount of wealth!) The three categories are 1) South American member. 2) Non-South American member using simple wire antenna. 3) Non-South American member using gain antenna. (See <http://naqcc.info/faqsinfo.html> for the NAQCC antenna definitions.) Send your reception report to Bruce at zp5babnaqcc@gmail.com . Good luck!

- ◆ The NAQCC is operated on an extremely modest cash-only “shoe-string” budget. Some recent postage expenses for mailing out prizes has significantly cut into our club treasury. The current balance is under \$60. Any and all contributions would be greatly appreciated. Currently we can only accept cash, check, or money order contributions and checks should be made out to Paul Huff. If you would like to make a donation please send it to Paul Huff, 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. A confirmation email will be sent for any contribution that is received and a cc copy is also sent to another club officer as a “check-and-balance.” Thank you.

- ◆ We still need volunteer operators for our N#A special event callsigns during our 9th anniversary celebration October 6 through 12. The more the merrier and you can commit to as much or as little time as will fit your personal schedule. No special skills, speed, or equipment are needed. Anyone who has operated an N#A callsign in the past will certainly tell you that it was a blast of fun! The current list of volunteers is shown below. Operators in red have volunteered to operate N#A during the sprint that week. Additional information can be found at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

N1A	W1OH
N2A	N2DVD
N3A	K3WWP, WY3H, KC2EGL, WA3HIC
N4A	KI4EBD, KU4GW, AI4SV
N5A	
N6A	K6MGO
N7A	
N8A	N8XMS , N8IUP, AD7TN
N9A	K9EYT
N0A	KC0PMH, W0EJ

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- ◆ As part of simplifying the work involved with the NAQCC as it transitions to new leadership, the following change has been made on the web site: In the Pictures section on the Featured page, instead of creating a whole new page for those members who have been in the Member Spotlight section of the newsletters, the link to that member's info now points to that particular newsletter where you can scroll down and see the info. The older Featured Member pages will remain the same as separate pages.
- ◆ The NAQCC periodically gives away a number of nice prizes through random drawings of members who meet certain criteria such as sprint participation. All that you need to do to win one of these prizes is to participate, and to have a little bit of luck - so go for it! Here are our latest prize winners:

Harold, VE3BCS, won a set of callsign-engraved paddle handles handcrafted by Gregg, WB8LZG, in the three-month sprint participation drawing for Apr-May-Jun.

Frank, KB3AAG, won a Sprat DVD in the Friendship Club drawing.
- ◆ COMING SOON: Recently NAQCC members Jack, WA0QZK, and Roy, AC9DN, acquired a vintage publication called *The Northwest Telegraph and Telephone Review*, published in October 1916. A series of three articles are being planned that will feature some of the very interesting content from this magazine. So, as they say, "stay tuned!"



NAQCC SPRINTS

JULY SPRINT: The July sprint will be 0030 - 0230, July 18 UTC. (Of course that's the evening of July 17th in the western hemisphere.) Even if you are not a big contester, or you only have a few minutes available, please get on the air and make a few Qs. By doing so you are supporting CW, QRP, and providing some fun to the NAQCC members who are able to work you. Like the old Alka-Seltzer add said, "try it, you'll like it!"

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. There will be a prize at the end of the year for the most GOLDEN/SILVER logs. In case of a tie, the one having the most QSOs will be the winner. We currently have an eight-way tie for first place with 6 golden/silver logs submitted so far by AA7CU, K4ORD, KB8FE, KB9ILT, KU4A, N8XMS, NQ2W, WA2JSG.

Complete sprint rules and information on log submission can be found at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>.

JUNE SPRINT RESULTS: This was our 104th sprint. No records were set but we had good participation with 125 logs submitted from 195 total participants. 81.6% (102) of those logs were perfectly formatted "Silver Logs." Good conditions were reported by many, and everyone had a lot of fun. Before the sprint I took a look at the solar numbers and was not really expecting very much out of the evening but I was pleasantly surprised with almost "wall-to-wall" signals on 40-meters here in Michigan. So you just never know how things will go and that's what makes each month's sprint fresh and exciting.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time loggers: K1QO, W8IYD, NA9N, N3COB, NS3C, KR4OE, KB3SLA, K2RFP, ZP5BAB, K5SGE, W8IQ (non-member), and N1IX. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

Certificate winners are shown on the next page along with a few statistics. Complete results are available at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201306.html>. Congratulations to the winners and a big "THANK YOU" to all of the participants who submitted a log. Every time that you do so you are casting your vote for CW and QRP!

MW SPRINT RESULTS: We also had very good participation in the mW sprint on June 20th with 74 submitted logs. That's a tie for 3rd place for one of our mW sprints. Let me partially quote K1QO's soapbox comment: *"Very exciting to run 900 mW!! This to me, is as exciting as radio gets!!! A little wire in the sky and under one watt..wow!!!! Great participation!! Very cool contest!!! I didn't expect to hear so many stations...conditions seemed really good..lots of very strong signals."* Certificate winners are shown on the next page and complete results can be found at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201306mw.html>.

JUNE 12 SPRINT CERTIFICATES			
SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N1IMW	WU1V	
W2	NW2K	K2YGM	
W3	K3WWP	KG3W	
W4	N3LL	KG4UPO	WX4RM
W5	N5NK		
W6	WK6L		
W7	WY7N		
W8	W3NP	N8XMS	
W9	KB9ILT	AB9YC	
W0	N0TA	K10I	
VE	VE3FUJ		
DX			
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	NW2K		
Bug (x1.5)	W5ODS		
Keyer (x1)	N1IX		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	K4BAI		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	NA9N		
Prize Drawing	NT8P		

MW SPRINT CERTIFICATES	
W1	K1YAN
W2	K2YGM
W3	K3WWP
W4	K4ORD
W5	W5IQS
W6	WK6L
W7	K9JWV
W8	W3NP
W9	KB9ILT
W0	N0TA
VE	VE3KI
DX	
GAIN	K4BAI

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	125	97	194	2/13
Participants	195	151	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2322	1,679	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1123	896	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	1199	783	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	1032	735	1056	8/12
40m QSOs	1222	880	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	68	64	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	18.6	17.3	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

JULY CHALLENGE: Our July challenge was suggested by Gary, K1YAN, #2365. It's one of our classic alphabet challenges where the words are all related to "the oldest name in ham radio" - Vibroplex. The list of words is available at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201307.html>. So show your appreciation for this fine old company and for CW in general by participating in this challenge.

Complete information about our challenges including a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge is available at <http://naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

JUNE CHALLENGE: There were actually two different challenges last month. The first challenge was the month-long WARC band challenge where members were asked to make 20 QRP CW contacts on any combination of 12, 17, 30, and 60 meters. Nine participants submitted logs with six of them earning certificates by completing the 20 QSOs. Soapbox comments generally indicated rather poor conditions and low activity on these bands during the month. Complete results can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201306.html>.

Our second challenge this month was the annual Field Day challenge where members were asked to personally work at least 20 states using CW QRP in a FD setting, either under the members own call or as part of a multi-op club operation. I'm sure that many of our members were involved with FD activities through their local clubs but only six members submitted logs with four of them qualifying for a certificate. Complete results can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201306fd.html>.

As an editorial comment, let me say that I am always surprised at the small number of members who participate in our monthly challenges. They are not necessarily easy - that's why they are called "challenges". But they are always a lot of fun! Why not join in on the fun? It's certainly not too late to start working on the Vibroplex challenge for this month.



NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>. Here are the certificates and endorsements earned this past month:

Friendship Club 1400 Point Endorsement

0008 - NW2K

1000 MPW

0257 - VE3DTI	1,127	43' vertical wire
0258 - WU1V	1,044	dipole@30'
0259 - W4DUK	1,540	End-fed Zepp@20'
0260 - WU1V	1,147	dipole@30'
0261 - WU1V	1,078	dipole@30'
0262 - WU1V	1,342	dipole@30'
0263 - WU1V	1,148	dipole@30'

2x QRP Award 100 Points

0018 - AB9YC 10/20/40 fan dipole @25'



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, N8XMS, at phuff@mi.rr.com.

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.

RON PARK, AK4JL, #6628



I have been a ham for about two years and live in the town of Irmo, SC with Pamela, my wife of twenty years. We spend part of the year in Franklin, NC where I am a member of the Franklin ham club. My shack consists of an Elecraft K3, P3 and KPA 500 amplifier. My primary interest is QRP where my main radio is a KX3 or KX1 and small-gauge homemade wire antennas.

I have had a longtime interest in Morse code. Learning CW and operating proficiently has been a trial but well worth the effort. My most memorable QRP experience has to be also my first CW contact, with Bob, AJ4SM.

Additional interests include traditional archery and canoeing. My background is career military and law enforcement. I look forward to many contacts with the members.

Ron



HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, NAQCC #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very talented cartoon artist. Dick's cartoons appear monthly in the K9YA Telegraph, a free ham radio eZine published by the [Robert F. Heytower Memorial Club](#). We are very pleased and honored to be allowed to reprint his cartoons here.

Dick has also authored the book "HI HI — A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" which is available on [his website](#).



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

We currently have four chapters—European, Texas, Western Pennsylvania, and Florida—but we would be very happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members in a geographical area and subject to a list of guidelines from the NAQCC. They provide opportunities to have fun and to promote our parallel passions of QRP and CW. If you would be interested in starting a chapter in your area email naqcc33@windstream.net and information will be sent to you.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted, send an email with the subject “NAQCC portable operation”, and with the exact wording of the announcement to naqcc33@windstream.net. Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to kd2mx@arrl.net for posting to this section of the newsletter.

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from EU Chapter President Matt, MW3YMY unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to matt@mattireland.co.uk. The EU Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly sprints. All are welcome to participate, not just EU members, and we regularly receive log reports of trans-Atlantic QSOs. Here are the upcoming dates for our sprints:

- Monday, 9-August-2013
- Wednesday, 11-September-2013
- Monday, 21-October-2013
- Wednesday, 13-November-2013
- Monday, 16-December-2013

Sprints:

The July sprint will be held this coming Wednesday. Please join us on the bands to help boost QRP/CW activity in Europe, whilst having fun at the same time!

The full schedule for sprints in 2013 is available on the website: http://naqcc-eu.org/sprints/rules/2013_sprint_schedule.pdf

Challenges:

The European challenges are becoming ever more intriguing. The July challenge requires participants to construct, from the callsigns of stations that you work, the names of the first three winners of the Tour de France and the years 1903-1905. The August challenge will require participants to construct the names and heights in metres of the three tallest European buildings.

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As with the sprints, we welcome entries from all members, whether currently situated in Europe or otherwise.

More information about all chapter activities can be found on the website: <http://naqcc-eu.org>

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from John, K3WWP, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to naqcc33@windstream.net.

History of a sort was made in Armstrong County Pennsylvania during the ARRL 2013 Field Day event. For the past several decades Field Day had been the sole domain of the Fort Armstrong Wireless Association, however, this year the North American QRP CW Club made its Field Day debut with a second site.

The NAQCC site was on the property of club president, Tom, WY3H, in Manor Township, between Kittanning and Ford City, Pa. Our headquarters was a 10'X13' screen pavilion that was erected about three days earlier by Tom and son Ethan, W3IRS, and Ariel, KC3AHO.



We had a 3-A set-up with four operators; John, K3WWP; Mike, KC2EGL; Don, K3RLL; and myself, WY3H. Three things made our site unique: one, we operated strictly from battery power, two, operation was strictly QRP, and three, operation was strictly CW.

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Before the event got underway, Mike set up his antenna – a multi-band homebrew design of K3RLL as shown here in this picture:



John and Mike kicked the event off at 1800 hours UTC with John on 40-meters and Mike working 20. (Other bands were worked as well but 40 and 20 were the main bands for the first part of the event). Later in the afternoon we were joined by Don who gave Mike a break. I pulled the “graveyard shift” starting around 0130 UTC on 80-meters and operated until around 0830 UTC.

Here’s a picture of John’s operating position:



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And Mike at his operating position.



I might add that my 80-meter shift was plagued by battery problems. My ICOM IC 718 just drained all life out of the little 7-amp hour gel cell after about two or three QSOs. I made a mad dash to the shop and grabbed a small motorcycle battery which enabled me to make a few more. When the motorcycle battery gave out (and the gel cell was charging) I remembered an old car battery that had been ear-marked for recycling. It gave me a few more QSOs. (From now on, thanks to a FREE, 75-pound gel cell monster, with 220 amp hours, my battery problems will be history – I hope). As it was, despite my battery juggling act, I managed to eke out 35 QSOs on 80. Not great, but considering circumstances, not all that bad either. I might mention that John and Mike were using Elecraft KX3s which had minimal battery drain.

In all John reported that we garnered 352 QSOs, which along with various bonuses yielded 3,520 points. I believe one reason for our “success” was the main antenna, an MFJ 1777, All Band Doublet rigged as an Inverted Vee at 36-feet. Mike’s multi-band dipole and a random wire were also used. (Getting up the fiberglass military surplus mast for the “Vee” is another story for another time).

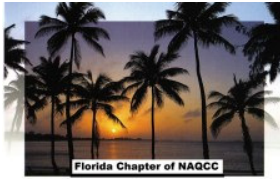


We don't know yet what other QRP clubs did, but we suspect that when the results are finalized the NAQCC will place well. Hope those of you who also participated in Field Day had an equally successful and enjoyable event.

Our 352 QSOs came from 56 ARRL sections, 38 states, 3 provinces and Puerto Rico which Don worked in his stint on 20 meters. We received bonus points for Emergency power (300 pts), Media Publicity (100 pts), Visit by an agency official (100 pts), 50 points for submitting our report on-line. With a 5X QRP power multiplier, and 2 points per QSO for CW, we wound up with the total of 3,520 points.

We would like to thank Tom, his wife, and sons for being gracious hosts.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to naqccfl@yahoo.com.

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its June field event at Reed Canal Park in South Daytona, FL., a great radio friendly location about two miles south of the Daytona Beach city Limits.

Although we received the usual and generous helpful publicity through NAQCC, of our four “radioactive” members present, only Steve WB4OMM (five QSOs with his 3W HB1B) and Art WB4MNK (three QSOs with his KX-1 at 5W) were able to make contacts which included NAQCC members KB0ETU, KK4BOB, KG4W, and WB3T. The bands were horrible, with few and very weak signals with deep QSB most of the morning. We worked stations in Cuba, VA, PA, NC, AL, FL, and NC. All agreed the band conditions were bad.

Steve, W1SGC fully exercised his shiny, brand new KX-3, but the Elecraft gods were “out of order”. Wally, KG4LAL staunchly assaulted the airwaves with his old, dependable FT-817, but Yaesu wasn’t listening either! Antennas included Buddipoles, inverted Vee dipoles and ground mounted verticals. Although we attempted heavy use, no layers of the ionosphere were damaged in this event – because we don’t think there were any out there!!!

We started at 9AM and quit at 11:30AM to enjoy lunch at a nearby Italian restaurant. While we didn’t make “gobs of contacts”, we all enjoyed a beautiful Florida summer day (yeah, it was 89F at 11:30 am!) and each other’s excellent company. We all felt that was the success of the outing!



From L-R: KG4LAL #6278, WB4MNK #5274, WB4OMM #5913, W1SGC #4325, and KJACIA #6122 with our host lake in the background.

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AB4GU (our ever present “helper”), took the photo for us). We also provided a unique QSL card for this portable operation to all that we contacted.

Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC event.

NAQCC TEXAS CHAPTER:

Items in this section are from TX Chapter Director Allen, KA5TJS, unless otherwise credited.

Questions or comments should go to allen.mathews@att.net. The TX Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcctx.com/>.

No report available.



NAQCC QRS NETS



Information in this section is from QRS Net Manager Craig, N4PLK unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to n4plk@verizon.net.

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net	Sunday 8 PM Eastern	Monday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Craig, N4PLK (in VA)
East Texas	Monday 7 PM Central	Tuesday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tuesday 3 PM Mountain	Tuesday 2100 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Thursday 3 PM Mountain	Thursday 2100 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
East Coast	Thursday 8 PM Eastern	Friday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Robert, KG4KGL (in SC)
Pacific Northwest	Thursday 7 PM Pacific	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Pacific Northwest	Thursday 7 PM Pacific	Friday 0200 Z	7121 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

Neither summer storms nor marginal band conditions discourage our intrepid Net Participants. Thanks for everyone's participation. Let's keep up the good work. If anyone has an interest in being a Thursday evening NCS, please e-mail me.

73, Craig N4PLK
 NAQCC # 5775
 QRS Nets Manager
n4plk@verizon.net

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz
 6-2-13 N4PLK (NCS) -11- N4PLK AA2ID W3UEC K3NLT N4JD N9RLO K9EYT N6TLU
 AB3RU N8IUP KD8RUQ
 6-16-13 N4PLK (NCS) -11- N4PLK AB3RU W3UEC WM4X KE3HL W4HH K3NLT N1QLL
 N2YHQ AB3AP 8P6BE
 6-22-13 N4PLK (NCS) -10- N4PLK K4LXY K3NLT N3FLL KM3D N9RLO AB3RU K9ECT
 KS7D K9KEA

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6-30-13 N4PLK (NCS) -11- N4PLK W4HH K9VON K3NLT AB3AP AB3RU NG9Y AD4CJ
N9RLO K9EYT KB3IYM

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM Central Time, 7.060 Mhz

6-3-13 KA5TJS (NCS) -6- KA5TJS KE5YGA N9RLO N5DRG N5BRY N7NET

6-10-13 KA5TJS (NCS) -6- KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N5DRG K5OAI KG0YR

6-24-13 KA5TJS (NCS) -8- KA5TJS N7NET KE5YUM N5DRG K5SEE KG0YR K5BRY

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS Net (PNW) - Thursday, 7:00 PM, Pacific Time, 3.574 Mhz and
7.121 Mhz

5-30-13 KE7LKW (NCS-80m) -8- KE7LKW N5DJY N7QR WB4SPB AD7BP KR5RR N6KIX
K7ZNP

5-30-13 KR5RR (NCS-40m) -4- KR5RR W7MWF KJ6YFD VE7FLY

6-6-13 KE7LKW (NCS-80m) -7- KE7LKW K7GYN VE7FLY AD7BP W7MWF K7ZNP/P
WB4SPB

6-6-13 W7MWF (NCS-40m) -6- W7MWF KE7WPK KR5RR/P W7MWF K7JGS KA6AIL

6-13-13 KE7LKW (NCS-80m) -4- KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB W7MWF

6-13-13 W7MWF (NCS-40m) -3- W7MWF KE7WPK VE7FLY

6-20-13 KE7LKW (NCS-80m) -5- KE7LKW AD7BP AF9W N6KIX K7ZNP

6-20-13 W7MWF (NCS-40m) -5- W7MWF KE7WPK K6DMT K7JGS VE7FLY

6-27-13 KE7LKW (NCS-80m) -5- KE7LKW K7EK AD7BP WB4SPB K7GYN

6-27-13 KR5RR (NCS-40m) -3- KR5RR AE7TG K6DMT

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Tuesday, 3:00 PM Mountain Time,
14.0625 Mhz

6-4-13 WC7S (NCS) -5- WC7S KE6OIO AA7CU N9RLO K0DTJ

6-11-13 WC7S (NCS) -5- WC7S KE6OIO K0DTJ AA7CU NW0M

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Thursday, 3:00 PM Mountain Time,
14.0625 Mhz

None

NAQCC East Coast QRS Net (ECN) - Thursday, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz

None



NAQCC CW ASSISTANCE PROJECT



Items in this section are from CW Assistance Project Coordinator Brion, VE3FUJ, unless otherwise credited. If you are interested in helping out or need some help yourself please contact VE3FUJ at ve3fuj@wrightman.ca. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://naqcc.info/cw.html>.

Last month I touched on the poor "Op" syndrome. This month will be about redundant punctuation in CW QSO's.

First let me say Hello, Welcome, and Thank you to Steve, W1SFR, for joining us as a Code Buddy. By this time he should be listed on the Code Buddy page.

A little more about myself, I'm a retired Boat-builder (1998). I enjoyed building all sorts of boats and yachts and even some model boats for tank-testing purposes. Tank testing models are used in determining performance before building; it's used as a design tool. I've worked on fiber-glass yachts from about 24' to 67', wooden yachts to 45', and wooden models from mere inches to upwards of 20' for tank testing or to hang on the wall or ceiling, or as pulling boats. I never liked fiber-glass even though it put bread and butter on the table for some 25 + years. It smells unpleasant at best, is very messy, and creates a lot of not so nice dust. My favorite soft-wood is Alaskan Yellow Cedar. It's easy to work with, easy to glue and has a pleasant color and a smell which I like. The smell was actually referred to by one visitor as "Tom-Cat-Juice." How he arrived at that I'll never know. I know what Tom Cat Juice smells like - I have a large one (16 pounds), and my job is keeping his litter-box clean ----- T-C-J in no way resembles the smell of Yellow Cedar!

If you listen around you'll find a lot of Ops using punctuation marks like periods and commas. In any normal run-of-the-mill QSO they are not really needed and only add to the time it takes to get the message across. Instead of sending a period use the double-hyphen, commonly known as the equal-sign - dah-di-di-di-dah. This can also be used as an "AHEM" sign when you are desperately trying to think of what to send next, or as a subject changer. Commas can generally be replaced by a normal or just slightly longer than normal space. A lot of Ops use it between QTH and State, but it's not necessary, a space will do. The double-hyphen is easier to send with a Straight Key and bug than a period. However a period is easier using a paddle and keyer. Some bug and paddle Ops slip in an extra dot, thus making it a hyphen rather than a double-hyphen, which I suppose is neither here nor there. (Unless you actually need an equal-sign.)

I find that the most often used sign in a QSO is the "?" question-mark - di-di-dah-dah-di-dit. It's mostly used when you are repeating your QTH or some other info that you want to make sure gets across, thereby alerting the other Op that you are about to repeat the last information. It is also used when you want the other Op to repeat some info like QTH? or Name? Another sign used on a fairly regular basis is the "/" fraction-bar, or more commonly known as "slash" - dah-di-di-dah-dit. It's usually used as a modifier to your callsign as in VE3FUJ/4 /m /mm /p etc. Other often used

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signs are the "+" plus-sign, or better known as "AR" or "end of message" - di-dah-di-dah-dit, and the "end of work" or "SK" - di-di-di-dah-di-dah.

One special punctuation mark warrants a mention. If you listen to A. R. R. L. Bulletins, you'll hear something like 6r7 or 105r7. The "r" in this case is used as a period. 6r7 is easier to send than 6.7 and it's easily understood once you get used to it.

Hardly ever used signs are the apostrophe, colon, semicolon, left and right parentheses, and quotation marks. ERROR signs are a special case. There must be as many different error signs as there are Ops. Yes, I'm also guilty of that, I use a series of dots at least 4 but more often 6 or even 8, usually at half speed evenly spaced, while I re-boot my brain-hand coordination and get back on track.

I may have left out a few signs. The above examples are from my own observations over the course of many years.

So the bottom line is DON'T use punctuation marks and signs (except the double-hyphen and the common ones listed in paragraph 5) unless absolutely necessary. It is however recommended that you know them just in case someone else uses one. That way you won't be rattled or thrown off in your copy.

72 Brion VE3FUJ. 3011 -30-



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit an article dealing with some aspect of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our news editor 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.

- ◆ **From John K3WWP #0002:** During June, I did something I hadn't done before in ham radio although being a ham for over 50 years now. I operated Field Day as a portable station in an effort of the NAQCC WPA Chapter as described above in more detail in the WPA Chapter news. I was assigned the best band - 40 meters which provided our chapter effort with 231 QSOs. I also had 15 meters with 24 QSOs and 6 meters with 2 QSOs. It was a real blast with the KX3 and the 35 foot high inverted vee set up on Tom's (WY3H) property. In fact it performed so well, I had to check to see if Tom had snuck a 100 watt amplifier in the antenna system somewhere. He hadn't, and of course all our chapter QSOs were QRP/CW. We easily beat out (although FD is not really about competition) the local radio club's effort with high power, a better location and phone operation. Here's a picture of my FD setup with the KX3, key, gel cell, laptop with GenLog, etc.



Otherwise my DX streak continued all month to reach 122 consecutive days with some DX QSOs in my log, and now is 124 days as I write this on July 2. I had fun as usual with our NAQCC challenges in June. The WARC band challenge was pretty easy although overall conditions weren't all that great, and I never did get any 12 meters QSOs, just 30 and 17. The EU Chapter challenge was a bit more difficult as I had trouble finding a couple of the letters/numbers, especially the '8' which took several more days after all the other letters/numbers

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were gathered.

One other interesting happening took place in June. I was given a boat anchor by an ex-ham who had used it back in the 50's and 60's. It's a Hammarlund HQ110 which ironically was my first really good receiver after a SW-500 and R-100 back in my early ham days in the 1960s. It was a little dirty and dusty after many idle years, but cleaned up nicely and it worked when I gave it the initial smoke test, and then hooked it up to hear CW signals on 40 and 20. I haven't had much time to play with it yet though. Mike KC2EGL and I had been looking for a receiver to accompany the Tuna Tin Two rigs we built a couple months ago and I kidded him and my web site (<http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/>) diary readers that now I had the ideal back-packing receiver for the TTT rig. HI. That's why this picture shows the TTT on top of the HQ110. Oh, and although not shown here, the speaker also came with the rig.



With over 80,000 QSOs over my 50+ years of hamming, I am eligible for many different awards, but I don't really take the time to apply for them except in special cases like this one received via email today (7/4). It's the Bulgarian Saints Award. I especially wanted it because I'm a religious person who is also interested in history. Also unlike many expensive awards, this one is free of any charge and also free of any complicated application. I got it for working the following Bulgarian Saints stations:

DATE (M/D/Y)	FREQ	TIME	CALL	BASE	RST	RST
2/26/2013	14014.00	1955	LZ969SCP	599	599	
3/8/2013	7009.00	0024	LZ1323SKZ	599	599	
4/8/2013	14013.00	0059	LZ833MBB	599	599	
5/9/2013	14013.00	2220	LZ1876SMB	599	599	
6/14/2013	14013.00	2359	LZ1534GWS	599	599	
7/3/2013	14014.00	0001	LZ1722SN	599	599	

You can see a picture of the beautiful certificate on my web site diary. Go to <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/> and click on the "Diary – Updated Daily" link in the left column.

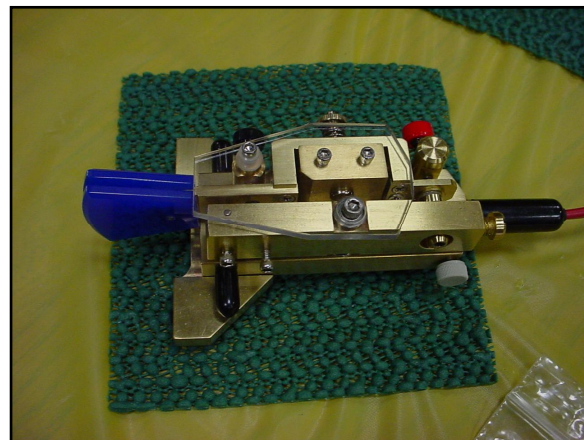
- ◆ **From Gregg WB8LZG #1444:** Dayton Hamvention and Four Days In May 2013 -- The friendly folks at the QRP/ARCI get together every year at what they affectionately call FDIM (Four days in May). The Low Power fans take over the Holiday Inn. Each year guarantees new excitement and a variety of new ideas and projects from around the world. Over the years I've had the good fortune to make friends with many of these fellow builders and craftsmen from all walks of life.



This year I was treated to a “first look” at some of Richard Meiss, WB9LPU’s fine work. He builds beautiful brass keys and bugs from scratch. Every year he wows the group with a new and original design. This year Rich made several miniature bugs that are fully adjustable from speeds of 10 to 50 WPM. All are smaller than a pack of cigarettes or cell phone. Very FB work on these miniature Morse marvels indeed!



With Brass Top



With Clear Top

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Some of the other offerings included a 20-meter SSB transceiver with all the bells and whistles, 40-meter transmitters, analyzers, and several station accessories, many built ala “Manhattan” style. Of course the best part is the opportunity to eyeball with fellow QRPers and old friends to compare ideas and notes. Invariably, I come home with many new plans for projects.

Let’s not forget vendor night. You can buy many kits and QRP related goodies for low cost with a bargain at every table!

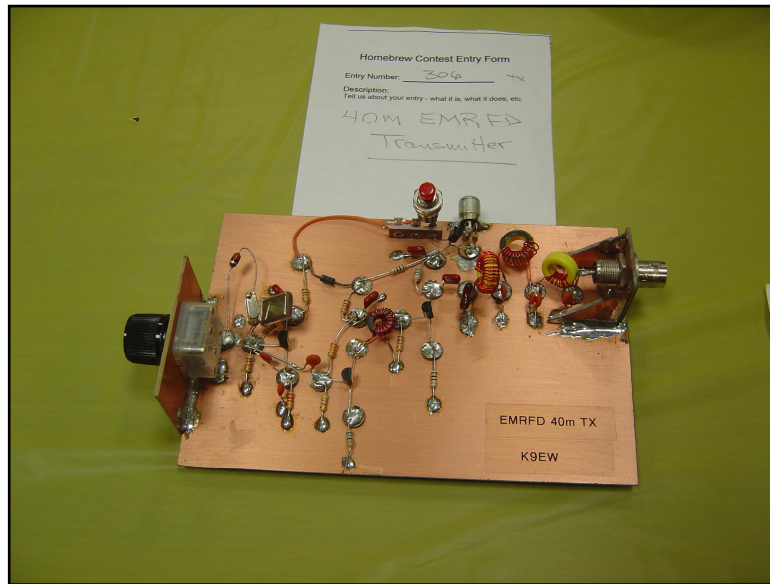


20-Meter Transceiver

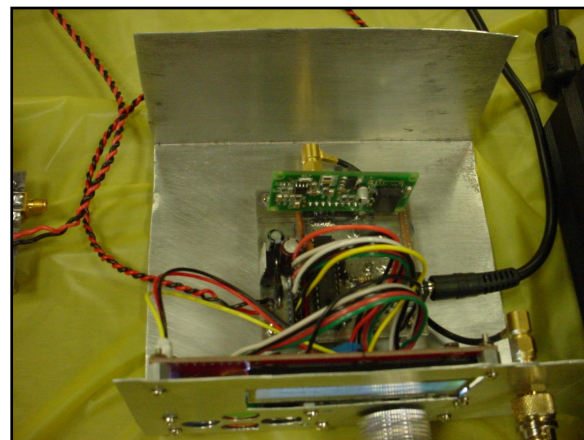


80 To 10-Meter Transceiver

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40-Meter Transmitter



Homebrew Transceiver

Then after the seminars and vendor night it is Hamvention!

If you can't find it at Hamvention, they don't make it. Somehow four days just isn't enough time to see everything. I guess that's why I keep coming back, next year will be even better! I hope everyone enjoys the photos.

- ◆ **From Jerry VE6CPP #5697:** I recently exchanged emails with Steve VE7SL inviting him to join NAQCC. I also mentioned his article on a "Tuna Tin II" QRP transmitter which is posted on his website. It is very interesting. Steve has given permission to post a link to the article in hopes of encouraging interest, particularly in homebrewing. So check out his article at: <http://members.shaw.ca/ve7sl/tuna.html> and thanks to Steve VE7SL.





Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and extensive contact list is available on our website at

<http://naqcc.info/index.html>.

Questions can also be sent to Vice President John Shannon
478 E. High Street
Kittanning, PA 16201

naqcc33@windstream.net

CLUB INFORMATION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

by Founding President Tom Mitchell, WY3H

We realize that QRP and CW operation do not appeal to everyone. We have no "axe to grind" with the QRO (high power) fraternity. We recognize that there are times when QRO operation is invaluable. During disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or terrorist attacks, radio amateurs provide vital, life-saving communications for which QRO operation is often necessary. QRO operators also provide an invaluable public service in health and welfare traffic and routine traffic handling.

Amateur radio has something for everyone, including SSB, other forms of digital communication and AM and FM operation. However, for a small but dedicated group, QRP (and QRpp) CW operation provides the greatest challenge and thrill amateur radio has to offer.

Each month the club will host a different challenge such as the GAW (Get Acquainted Week) or the Turkey challenge (making words relating to Thanksgiving from letters in callsigns of stations worked). Also we will have a 2 hour sprint each month alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with a bonus multiplier for using a straight key.

In addition to QRP CW operation, the club encourages (but does not limit operators to) the use of simple wire antennas. The club offers free membership to any licensed radio amateur (or shortwave listener) anywhere in the world who is willing to use and promote QRP (or QRpp) CW for at least part of their operating time.

We don't have all the answers, but we are willing to answer questions concerning QRP and CW operation from newcomers to the hobby and veteran amateurs alike. Let's put the thrill back into amateur radio and work together to encourage everyone to just give it a try.

We welcome all who share our view to join us and become part of an elite amateur radio fraternity.



The NAQCC Newsletter is edited by Paul Huff, N8XMS. You may contact him at

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