

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 192 JUNE 2014



KEY CLICKS

- ◆ **N#A OPERATORS STILL NEEDED.** We are still looking for volunteers to operate using our special N#A callsigns during our 10th anniversary celebration October 13-19. We have operators for all 10 US districts but there is plenty of room for more, and several districts do not yet have anyone who has volunteered to use the call during the sprint that week. Your actual operating time and frequencies are completely up to you and the only stipulation is that everything is done with CW and QRP. If you would like to be an N#A operator please send me an email with you name, callsign, and US call district. If you are interested in using the special event call during the sprint indicate that as well (first come, first served). Additional instructions will be given when we get closer to the time. You can find my email address on the last page of this newsletter. An up-to-date list of operators and additional information is available at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html .

 - ◆ **CANADIAN SPECIAL EVENT OPERATORS NEEDED.** In addition to the special N#A stations that will be operating throughout the USA, we are looking into the possibility of including some Canadian special event callsigns as part of our anniversary celebration in October. If you are a Canadian member and are interested in helping out with this effort please contact Jerry, VE6CPP, at jer.sieg@shaw.ca .

 - ◆ **SEPTEMBER IS HONORING NANCY MONTH.** As has been previously announced we are honoring the memory of CW advocate and CQ Hall of Fame inductee Nancy Kott, WZ8C, with two different events in the month of September. Our first event is a special joint sprint with FISTS, the organization that Nancy headed in North America. The sprint will be on September 3, 0000Z - 0300Z UTC (Sept. 2, 8 PM - 11 PM EDT). This sprint is in addition to our regular one that month. Complete details on the exchange, log submission, etc., can be found at <http://naqcc.info/nancy.html> .
- Our second memorial event during the month will be our regular alphabet challenge which will involve words and numbers that are all associated with Nancy. This is also being offered as a joint activity with FISTS and the list of words, along with other details can be found at the same link given above.
- ◆ **NAQCC QRS NETS ARE HERE TO HELP.** Some of you may not know that the NAQCC has several slow-speed (QRS) nets that are specifically designed to help beginning CW operators develop both their speed and on-air skills. These are the only club activities that are not strictly limited to QRP power levels - if you need to crank-up your power to check-in and get the practice please do so. Our Net Control Stations (NCS's) are very patient people so there is no need to feel intimidated if your CW speed is a little slow. A complete net schedule can be found elsewhere in this newsletter and a helpful tutorial on how to operate in a net is available at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html . If you have any questions about the QRS nets please contact Net Manager Chuck, AB1VL. His email address is listed at the top of the *QRS Nets*

IN THIS ISSUE:

<i>Key Clicks</i>	1
<i>Mission Impossible</i>	3
<i>NAQCC Sprints</i>	7
<i>NAQCC Challenges</i>	9
<i>NAQCC Awards</i>	10
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	11
<i>Ham Quips</i>	12
<i>Chapter News</i>	
<i>QRS Nets</i>	
<i>Help For Beginners</i>	
<i>Member Submissions</i>	
<i>Club Information</i>	

(Continued on page 2)

page of this newsletter.

If you are a more experienced CW operator and would be interested in helping out as an NCS (primary or perhaps backup) please take a look at the *QRS Nets* page in this issue and contact Chuck.

- ◆ **CHALLENGE AND SPRINT REQUIREMENTS FOR OUR ANNIVERSARY PRIZE DRAWING.** As of this writing, we have a record-setting 29 log submissions for the May challenge. That's great! And in part this might be due to the fact that there is a minimal sprint and challenge participation requirement for members to be eligible for some great prizes that will be given in a drawing as part of our anniversary celebration in October. So here is another reminder of this requirement. To be eligible for a prize a member must participate in and submit a log in ...

- 1) The October anniversary sprint.
- 2) At least 4 of our regular monthly sprints.
- 3) At least 3 of our monthly challenges.

Complete details can be found in the February issue of the newsletter. (http://naqcc.info/newsletter_188.pdf)

- ◆ **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big "THANK YOU" goes out to everyone who has made recent donations to the NAQCC treasury. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use PayPal to electronically send your contribution to Paul142857@gmail.com . To avoid any additional fees be sure to check the box that says "*I'm sending money to family or friends.*" Also please add a note indicating that this is an NAQCC donation. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to Paul Huff (*not NAQCC!*) at 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a "check and balance."



MISSION IMPOSSIBLE, BY JOHN SHANNON - K3WWP

“Good morning Mr. Huff. As you know, in late 2013 Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP both came into possession of the KX3, the greatest ham radio transceiver on the planet. Now it turns out that our NAQCC leader Tom WY3H plans to retire in October of this year. In discussions with Tom, he sounded sad when he said that he would probably never be able to afford this fabulous KX3. Your mission Paul, should you decide to accept it, is to come up with the funds from our NAQCC members to purchase a KX3 for Tom as a retirement gift. Take whatever measures necessary to keep this a secret from Tom right up to the moment of the presentation. The date of that presentation will be decided upon later. This message will self-destruct in five seconds. Good luck Paul.”

So began the quest to obtain a KX3 for Tom while keeping it a secret from him. It was first thought that it might not be possible to obtain enough money in the way of donations to purchase a KX3 and we might have to go with an alternate gift. I was determined to have the gift be a KX3, so I offered to make up the difference in funds if we came within a certain amount.

Work on the plan started with Paul sending out a request for donations on the NAQCC mail list. He cleverly blocked the request from reaching Tom and his two sons Ethan and Ariel so Tom would have no clue as to what was going on.

Actually knowing the quality of our NAQCC members and their devotion to the club, we should have had no fear about not obtaining enough money. After just one or two more email reminders, we got to the point where it was clear we were going to obtain the KX3.

Now we had to decide whether to purchase the KX3 in kit or assembled form. We also had to decide on any accessories for the rig. We ultimately decided on getting it in assembled form since we had enough funds to cover the extra cost of having the folks at Elecraft build the rig. Mike and I both found that the antenna tuner and roofing filters were two almost “must have” accessories, and Paul agreed.

We were just a bit short on funds when including the accessories, so Paul contacted Elecraft, explained the situation, and Elecraft graciously decided to donate the roofing filters. Yes, Elecraft is a top notch organization in every way from the quality of the equipment they provide, to the support for that equipment, to the quality of people they employ.

Now it was up to us to decide on a date and place for the presentation. There is a hamfest scheduled for Butler, PA on June 1st. Butler is close to the homes of Tom, John, and Mike and all three had planned to set up a NAQCC table at the hamfest anyway. So that seemed to be an ideal place and time for the presentation. Paul and his wife Sue even planned to travel from Michigan to the hamfest to be there for the presentation.

So things continued to fall into place, and the KX3 was ordered and received. Two more items were donated, one by Ken, WB2ART – a personalized bezel for the KX3 engraved with Tom’s call and NAQCC number. Also Mike and I added to the personalization by changing the opening scrolling banner on the KX3 to Tom’s name and call. In case Tom wanted to go the computer route with a panadapter, I donated an I/Q cable to complete the ‘prize package’.

So far, so good, right? Well, nothing ever goes according to plan or as I often say, “Nothing is ever simple.” It turned out that in a phone conversation early in May Tom told me that he and wife JoAnne were going to sell their home and move out of the area to Tennessee. To make matters worse, they hoped to make the move before the hamfest date. Also he would be going to Tennessee and back a couple times during the

(Continued on page 4)

month to settle some details. I didn't say a word at that time about the prize or anything else about the plan to Tom. But the next day I hastily got together with Paul and Mike and told them of the situation. However Tom told me not to say anything about his move to anyone so I had to just tell Paul and Mike that he very likely wouldn't be at the hamfest.

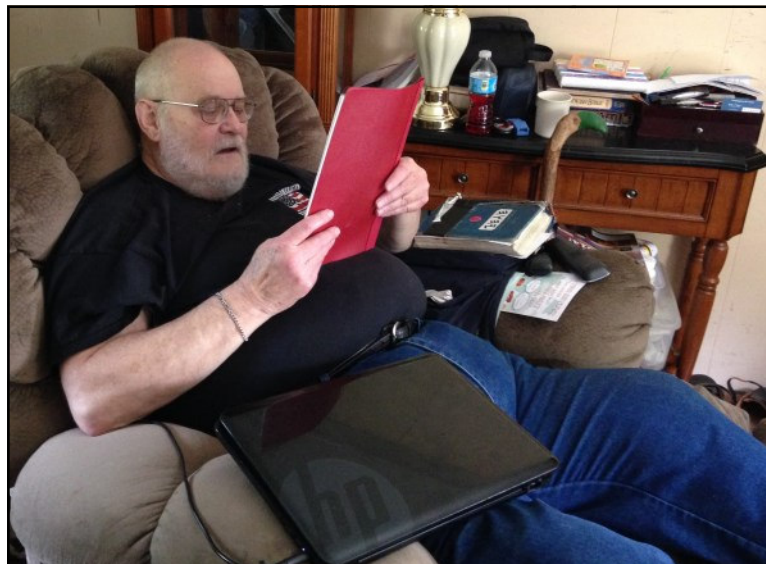
We knew we would have to come up with an alternate plan. In the phone conversation, Tom mentioned that the local ham radio club was having a wiener roast on May 18th and he invited me to come even though I'm not a member of the local club for various reasons not necessary to talk about here. Since Mike would also be at the gathering, we thought that would be a place at which we could make the presentation. May 18 is also Tom's birthday so that made it even better. However after more discussion we thought maybe since the local club has nothing to do with the NAQCC, it might be better to just go to Tom's home and give him the gift there.

Now the cat was partly out of the bag, since I had to make sure that would be acceptable to Tom. So I told him that the NAQCC had purchased a little (well the KX3 is little so I wasn't lying) gift for his retirement which we had planned to give to him at the hamfest. Since that didn't seem feasible because of his moving, I asked if we could come over on the afternoon of the 18th and give him his little gift then. He said that would work out. I still gave him no clue what the gift was. He also lifted the embargo on talking about his move for Paul and Mike, so I was free to explain to them the full story now.

Unfortunately that date was not good for Paul to attend the "ceremony", so it was up to Mike and I to make the presentation. Before that, Paul had always thought it would be nice to have Tom make his first QSO with the rig at the hamfest, and now also from his home after the presentation. So he sent out a couple of emails to that effect (again blocking them from Tom and his sons) asking members to try to work Tom at a certain time and frequency on that date.

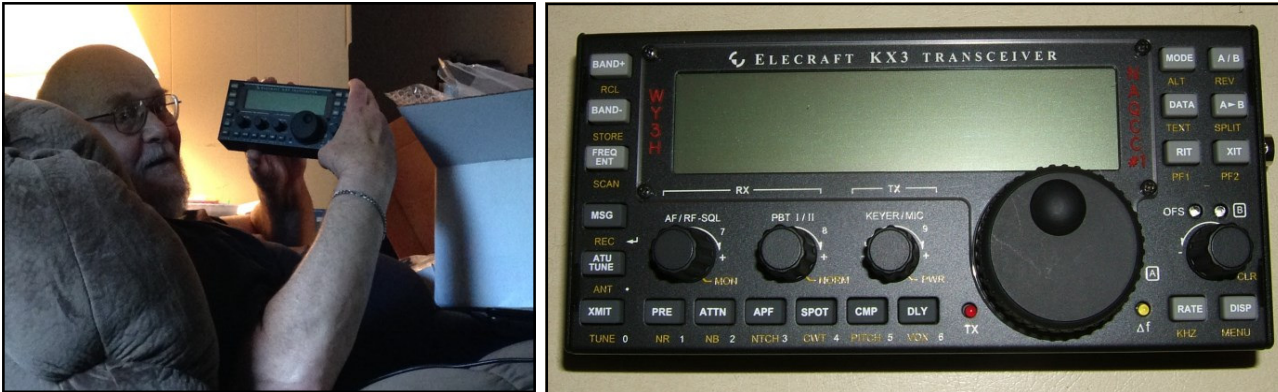
Mike came down to my home Saturday evening, and we worked out final details for the presentation. He had to get together with another local club member on Sunday to do some work on the local repeater, so we decided we'd go right to Tom's when that was finished which would make it around 3 PM for the presentation. After that, the three of us plus Tom's wife and sons would go to the local club wiener roast.

From that point on, all went well with one exception. First, while leaving the KX3 in Mike's car, we gave Tom a "book" containing well-wishes from members along with a list of those who donated money and/or items for his gift. There was no mention of the KX3 specifically in the book. Tom read the book, and then Mike went out and brought in the gift. We had reversed the KX3 box and repacked it so it looked like just a plain white box. As Mike gave him the box to open, I kidded we had to put it in a plain white box to get it past the authorities.



(Continued on page 5)

Now came some very moving moments. Mike and I watched as Tom cut open the box, and opened it. When he saw what the gift was, he came close to breaking out in tears. Of course, being the kidders we are, we told Tom that it was only loaned to him till next Tuesday, and also if he was going to cry, we'd have to take it back anyway. Then Mike told him about the members waiting to work him on the new rig and we'd have to get set up for that. However that was the one glitch. Because of the move, Tom's shack was in great disarray and it wouldn't be possible to have the rig set up before we had to go to the wiener roast. So we just talked about the KX3 and its features along with other matters like his move and so on until it was time to go to the wiener roast. Tom had been keeping his move confidential to only a few folks, and he made it public at the roast.



The next day, Tom managed to get the shack in good enough shape to hook up the KX3, and he called me for a QSO. We worked on 40 meters, and in a follow-up phone call, he said he was going to try it on 30 meters around 10118. While we were talking an email came in from Paul, so I figured he was checking his email and I shot off a quick reply to him telling him of Tom's plan, and he became the second QSO for Tom.

Tom is planning on getting back on the air as soon as possible from his new QTH in TN. He is looking forward to enjoying many a QSO with his fellow NAQCC members using his new KX3 so please be listening for WY3H on the air. He especially likes to hang out on 30 and 40 meters near the usual QRP frequencies.

Videos of the gift presentation to Tom can be seen at http://naqcc.info/Tom_Book.wmv and http://naqcc.info/Tom_KX3.wmv.

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE - PART 2, BY PAUL HUFF, N8XMS

Every good spy movie includes a surprise twist hidden in the plot and our "Mission Impossible" story is no exception. Unknown to John during the months of work that went into Tom's gift, and even unknown to him when he wrote the account above, was the fact that he too was the target of some top secret activity.

From the very first I was concerned about what I should say to members when they asked me about a retirement gift for John as well as Tom. I believed that such a gift would be totally appropriate and that it would be very natural for members to raise the issue with me. I frankly shared that concern with John and he suggested that we should tell members that since he was not fully retiring at this time, our focus would

(Continued on page 6)

simply be to get a gift for Tom. So that's exactly what I did - describing John's situation as a semi-retirement. (I really don't think that we are ever going to allow John to completely retire!)

Even with that we still had members asking if they could contribute money for a gift for John as well as Tom. And then Mike, KC2EGL, basically said to me, "hey, why not a semi-retirement gift for John?" Well, why not! Mike even made the suggestion to give John an ARRL Centennial key. These Centennial keys are a limited edition paddle made by Vibroplex to commemorate this 100th anniversary year of the ARRL, and are engraved with the callsign of the owner. John already has several nice keys (he also already owns a KX3) but can a CW guy ever have too many keys?

So we then went to work on our top secret project inside of our top secret project. Additional emails were sent to the membership asking for support for this gift. Of course both Tom and John's email addresses, along with Tom's sons, were blocked from all of this. That took some special doing because John actually has three different email addresses that are set to receive membership postings. It all got a little bit complicated! Sometimes I would send out an email about both gifts with all of the targets blocked, and a few minutes later a censored 2nd version would go out that John was allowed to receive, just to throw him off the scent.



Within a very short amount of time we had the necessary funds and an order was placed for the paddle. Also WB2ART, made a custom engraved bezel, just like the one that he did for Tom, to add to John's KX3. All throughout the ever changing plans for the gift presentation to Tom that has already been described by John, Mike and I were constantly in communication, plotting behind everyone's back for a double gift presentation.

A few days after Tom was given his KX3 I clued him in on the surprise for John. Some family issues forced me to cancel my trip to PA so Mike was left to "complete the mission." On June 1st, at the Butler hamfest, Mike presented our gift to John. John then admitted that he had a suspicion that something was up so maybe he has a 4th email address and fake ID buried somewhere in our mailing list!

I would like to close by thanking all of the NAQCC members who so generously contributed to the gifts for both Tom and John. You have very clearly expressed your appreciation for what these two fine gentleman have done for our club. A special thank you to Ken, WB2ART, (<http://www.arkayengravers.com/elecraft>) for the KX3 engraved bezel donations and to Elecraft for the donation of the roofing filters for Tom's KX3.

A video of the gift presentation to John can be seen at http://naqcc.info/John_Key.wmv.

Both Tom and John sent out emails to all of the membership to thank them for their gifts. Those emails are shown on the next page as well.

Geetings fellow NAQCC members. There are times when merely saying "Thank you" is not enough. Such is the case with a presentation made to me May 18 (which also happened to be my 70th birthday).

NAQCC Prize manager, Mike Brennan, KC2EGL, and club vice president John Shannon, K3WWP, stopped at our home and first gave me a red folder containing well wishes from a number of NAQCC members. Then came the shocker – Mike went out for a minute and came back with a small box. Inside the box was an Elecraft KX3. They said it was a retirement gift from the NAQCC membership.

Needless to say I was in total shock. Tears came to my eyes. I was speechless.

I had occasion to use the KX3 in our May sprint and came in second in the W3 category. At the Butler, Pa. Hamfest, John, K3WWP was presented with his "retirement" gift, a 100th ARRL Anniversary key.

When I speak of "retirement" that does not mean that John and I are by any means out of the NAQCC; after 10 years we're simply stepping down from our offices. We fully intend to have active participation in NAQCC events.

As most of you know, it will be 10 years in October that John and I decided to form the NAQCC. John though that we might attract 50 or so members. I was a bit more optimistic, I thought we could sign up 100. We were both wrong. Today we're encroaching the 8,000 mark. Not to boast, but I think it's fair to say that John and I are rightfully proud of what the NAQCC has become, and, of the quality of our membership, but the latter part is thanks to you, our members.

So again, I offer a heartfelt thanks to all of you who made this gift possible.

As you may know, my XYL JoAnne and I are selling our property in western Pa. And planning to move near the Chattanooga, TN area. We have both had serious heart problems and can no longer manage our 22 acres here, we have to downsize. After last winter we both need a more mild climate. So in a few weeks we will be looking at property in the Hamilton County TN area or in the very northwest corner of Georgia. Once we have settled in, please listen for signals from my KX3 on the HF and 6-meter bands.

*Thank you all again.
Tom, WY3H.*

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Hello to our wonderful NAQCC members,

Yes, as the email subject says, thanks very much for the ARRL Centennial Key and the KX3 etched bezel. I am moved by your generosity and very appreciative.

You can see a picture of the key and the KX3 with the bezel in my diary on my web site at <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/>.

Now if that was the main course of a meal, I'd like some desert now, and it won't cost a single cent.

It would make my smile a lot broader than it already is if more of you would participate in our club events - sprints, challenges, and awards program. That would be a fantastic follow up gift as it would help promote CW and QRP which is pretty much what I dedicate my ham life to. Just check the info on the NAQCC web site and join in the fun. I'm sure you won't regret it.

Meanwhile, thanks go to you who already regularly participate in our sprints to make them possibly the most popular 2 hour sprints in ham radio.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: June offers us two different sprints to enjoy. The first one is June 11, 0030 - 0230 Z (Tuesday evening on the 10th in North America). Then on June 19, 0030-0230 Z (Wednesday evening on the 18th in North America) we have one of our two annual Milliwatt sprint where power gets turned down to under 1 watt. Complete information on these sprints can be found at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201406.html> and <http://naqcc.info/sprint201406mw.html> .

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted “SILVER LOG” submission. It really helps our log processing. Everything that you need to know about how to have a Silver Log can be found at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt> . There will be a prize at the end of the year for the most SILVER logs.

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

LAST MONTH SPRINT RESULTS: Well, it was a squeaker but our 115th sprint once again cracked the 100-log level with 101 submitted logs. The biggest story in this sprint was the good conditions that people all over the country experienced on 20-meters. And this was in contrast to the very high noise levels on 40 and 80 meters.

83 of the 101 submitted logs were Silver and in the battle for perfect logs for the year 18 members are tied with all logs so far this year (5) being perfect.

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! We are sometimes asked why some districts only have a 1st place winner and others have a 2nd or even 3rd place listed. That is simply based on the number of logs received. If 10 or more logs are received from a district a 2nd place winner will be announced, and if 20 or more logs are received a 3rd place winner is also given.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time loggers: W4NML, KG4GVL, W5GZT. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

Complete results for all of our past sprints are available at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html> . Result summaries are shown in the tables on the following page.

SPRINT HONOR ROLL: We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our sprints. Exact counts can be seen at http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html .

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	KC2EGL KQ1P N8QY K1IEE WA2JSG WB8ENE AA9L VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN NU7T
75+	N8XMS WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC W2JEK
100+	KA2KGP K3WWP
125+	

CERTIFICATES			
SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H		
W2	K2YGM	W2SH	
W3	K3WWP	WY3H	
W4	AA2VG	WG8Y	
W5	N5GW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	KF7WNS	K9JWV	
W8	N8XMS	NF8M	
W9	KB9ILT		
W0	N0TA	K0ALN	
VE	VE5BCS		
DX	XE1GXG		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	K4BAI		
Bug (x1.5)	K5GQ		
Keyer (x1)	NN9K		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	K4BAI		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	W4NML		
Prize Drawing	W1SFR		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	101	119	194	2/13
Participants	147	162	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1416	2118	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	863	1137	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	553	981	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	1040	854	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	364	1122	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	12	142	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	14.0	17.8	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: We have some really great NAQCC challenges for you to work on in June. First out of the box is a traditional alphabet challenge working with words that all relate to the June 6, 1944 D-Day invasion of Europe during WW2. You can find the list of words and complete challenge rules at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201406.html> .

Of course in North America the big ham radio event in June is the ARRL Field Day and we have a traditional NAQCC Challenge to go along with that. To complete this challenge simply work at least 20 different states during Field Day (June 28-29) either from the field or from your home QTH. Details on this challenge can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201406fd.html> .

Finally, there is the European Chapter challenge for June. It's an alphabet/number challenge working with the names of some of the smallest European countries like San Marino and Monaco. Details can be seen at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/june-2014-challenge> .

NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE: The challenge for North America in July is to make at least 20 QRP/CW QSOs on the WARC bands of 60, 30, 17, and 12 meters. Details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201407.html> .

In Europe the challenge is an alphabet challenge involving the names of the countries that the famous Tour de France race travels through. You can find complete details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/july-2014-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> .

LAST MONTH CHALLENGE: Last month our challenge was to make at least 10 QRP/CW QSOs using a piece of homebrew gear. As of this writing there is still time for log submission but so far 29 logs have been submitted with 27 of them completing the challenge. This is an all-time participation record, breaking the previous record of 25 submissions set back in October of 2007!

Complete results along with “soapbox” comments from participants can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201405.html> .



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:

Awards issued during the month of May...

1000 MPW AWARD

0418 - KC4LMD	LU1YT	-	1,148	05/29/14	OCFD
0417 - F5MNK	ZL4PW	-	2,403	05/18/14	vertical
0416 - K0FNR	ZF2AH	-	19,000	05/13/14	2-radial ground plane
0415 - WA8SDL	K3Y/7 (NE7D)	-	1,038	05/09/14	random wire
0414 - F5MNK	JA4FKX	-	1,247	05/02/14	vertical
0413 - K0FNR	KE1F	-	15,000	05/02/14	vertical dipole

WAS AWARD CATEGORY A (50 USA states QRP)

0025 - K0FNR 05/20/14



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.

Brion Jorgensen, VE3FUJ, #3011



Back in the early to mid 50's I was exposed to someone afflicted with a severe case of "Ham-itis" also known as "Radio-itis" (OZ4xxx don't remember the suffix). It did not however develop into a full-fledged affliction for another 10 or so years. Meanwhile I had immigrated to Canada. Then in the Fall of 63 after an Incubation Period of about 10 years, it flared up again and I found myself having to go to night school learning code and theory thereby trying to alleviate the Symptoms. Nothing doing! It just got worse, got the first ticket in 64 but found I had to keep going and try for the higher grade License, nothing helped. I got the Advanced Ticket in 66 proceeded with SSB, THAT did it!!! And by the mid 70's I was almost cured. I had found a new Calling, Family. I enjoyed a period of relative calm, until 06 when the "Ham-itis" suddenly flared up again like never before. Rushing off orders for this and that Radio Equipment. Being frugal (cheap) I went for minimal stuff like a 1 1/2 W rockbound TX and a ATU. I finally hit the Air-waves in August 06 and after 7 or so years with a bit of Equipment updating I still have severe Symptom's but have learned to live with it. Every now and again I get the URGE to milli-watt or even micro-watt. So far the Symptom's are still with me. ----- LUCKILY. All aside I do enjoy the great Hobby of Ham-Radio and hope to do so for many more Years to come.

Brion VE3FUJ



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

We currently have four chapters—Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, 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 Paul142857@gmail.com 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 kd2mx@arrl.net. Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to Paul142857@gmail.com for posting to this section of the newsletter.

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER:



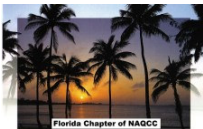
Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to matt@naqcc-eu.org. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just EU members, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web page for dates and details.

Matt reports that he has been very busy with his research work but will be moving to a new position in September. He has some time off coming up and hopes to have everything updated on the chapter website by the end of this month.

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NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



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

Report not available.

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NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:

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

WPA Chapter members John K3WWP and Mike KC2EGL got together on the evening of Saturday May 17 in preparation for giving Tom WY3H his retirement gift the next day. That is written up elsewhere in the newsletter and we won't repeat it here.

Mike and I did have a pizza Saturday evening and worked some DX before retiring for the night.

Before the presentation on Sunday we went up to the local club repeater site located in Widnoon in northern Armstrong County to do some minor work on the repeater.

After the presentation on Sunday we went to my shack and worked W1AW from SD plus DX from Poland, Norway, and the Balearic Is.

We had another brief get together on May 28 when we again had a pizza (surprised?), then went to my shack and worked W1AW in MO plus a YV station. DX wasn't all that good that evening so we finished out by playing some computer games.

Sunday June 1 started out getting lost on the way to the Butler hamfest. Amazing what one wrong turn will do to your sense of direction. Once we arrived we quickly set up our table which included a station for N3AQC. During the course of the day we operated radio working Kaliningrad, France, and the Canary Islands along with several club members using the KX3 and the antenna pictured here:



(Continued on page 16)

We signed up a few new members (AA3XP, NJ3T, KD8RML, KD8RUQ, W8XL), had our table visited by existing members (W3BBO, KA2KGP, WB3FAE, KG3W, WB8WTU, KD3EM, N2COD, KE3V, W3DMB, WY3H, W3IRS, KC3AHO and others who didn't sign the visitors list).

Here are mug shots of the 'table manners' (KC2EGL L, K3WWP R):



We want to especially thank Tom WB3FAE (with K3WWP L below) and Scotty KG3W (with K3WWP R below) for not only visiting but providing a lot of assistance in manning the table.



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NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from John, N8ZYA, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John at jspiker58@gmail.com. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>.

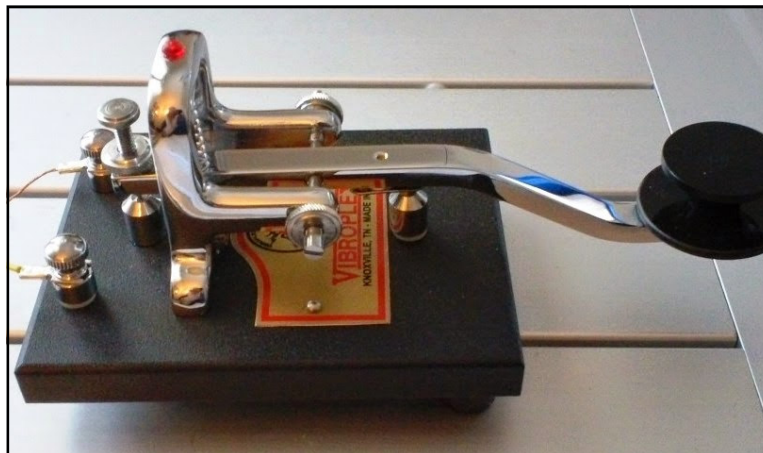


As difficult as it might seem, this year was my "first" trip to the Dayton Hamvention. No excuses....just sayin; but during my working life at the paint store, I seldom had a weekend "off", and it's a six hour (minimum) round tip from Charleston.

Our club member Eric (AC8LJ) needed to make the trip on Friday (up and back) due to work obligations, and asked me to ride along with him. It was a long day, but a very rewarding one.



What caught my eyes while there? ---Being a "Morse Code" buff, the popular attractions for me were, of course, QRP radios and "keys". My mission at the event was to see "first hand" everything to do with this part of the hobby. Needless to say, the vendors I liked were Elecraft, TenTec, and Hendricks. On the "key" side, were Vibroplex, Begali, and Kent.



Before the return trip to Charleston, I had a new "Vibroplex Straight Key" in my knapsack.

My focus in radio is very narrow, but personally, I found the QRP and CW vendors to be the busiest people at the hamvention and, Morse Code keys are cherished items for us. There's nothing like the opportunity to actually get the "feel" of a great "quality" key "in your hand".



(Continued on page 19)



Although I didn't get the opportunity to chat with a few of the legends in the Ham Radio hobby, it was wonderful to see them at this event. In this day of the internet, I enjoy watching (and listening) to several ham radio shows on the web.



Ted Randall (WB8PUM) with "QSO Radio" was broadcasting "live" from the Hamvention, as well as Bob Heil (K9EID) from "Ham Nation". Gordon West (WB6NOA) was also there with all of the great material he's known for all over the world.

The ARRL was out in full force here with an assortment of information, testing, and forums. I particularly enjoyed talking to the "Boy Scout" group. West Virginia is home of the upcoming "World Jamboree". Although I couldn't work them, (after returning home) their "Special Event Station" was a popular attraction.

The Hamvention trip was a success for me. I saw what was interesting to me, although only a small segment of the hobby. A QRP CW operator can never have "too many keys". My new Vibroplex Straight Key is my "fourth" from this company. One can never have too many keys.....



NAQCC QRS NETS

Additional information about our slow-speed CW nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html .
Send any questions to Net Manager Chuck, AB1VL at cfytech24x7@gmail.com

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net (NQN)	Sunday 7:30 EDT	Sunday 2330 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
East Texas (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7063 KHz +/-	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net (MWN)	SUSPENDED			
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental (RMRC)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MDT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
East Coast	SUSPENDED			
Pacific Northwest 80 (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Pacific Northwest 40 (PNW40)	Monday 8 PM PDT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7122 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

Field day is coming up at the end of June so if you're thinking you might be a little rusty why not check into our QRS nets for some fun practice?

NCS Steve Sellmeyer WB0QQT has informed us that due to increasing personal commitments he is no longer able to continue as MWN NCS. Steve also notes that there has been little activity on the net lately so the MWN has been discontinued. If you would like to volunteer as NCS please contact me about reinstating the net. We are flexible with times and day(s) you would like to operate.

Last month we announced the ECN QRS net was suspended until further notice. If you are interested in becoming NCS for this QRS net please contact me about reinstating the net. We are flexible with times and day(s) you would like to operate.

RMRC NCS Dale Putnam has wrapped up several days operating as W1AW/7 as of June 3rd, with over 3500 cw QSOs logged as of that date. Special thanks to Dale and any other club members who responded to the ARRL call for W1AW/? CW operators nationwide.

NCS Ron, WB1HGA has moved up the start time for NQN to 07:30 EDT and this seems to be attracting more check-ins.

I will be operating CW for field day at a decommissioned USAF radar site here in Maine. Our team will be all QRP, all battery powered with special call sign K1B. Look for that call in QRZ about 2 weeks before Field Day. In the meantime, you can visit [//k1aom.us](http://k1aom.us) (Radio Adventurers of Maine) for more information including some interesting pictures of the old antenna arrays. We'll be CW on all of the open bands. Since

(Continued on page 21)

it's not a contest, the contacts will count against the monthly challenge, too!

72, Chuck AB1VL
cfytech24x7@gmail.com

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NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 7:30 PM EDT, 7.060Mhz

05-04-2014 (0) No QNI
05-11-2014 (4) NCS WB1HGA W3UEC WM4X K3VIG
05-18-2014 (0) No QNI
05-25-2014 (0) No QNI

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CDT, 7.063MHz +/-

05-05-2014 (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA K5BRY
05-12-2014 (0) No net, thunderstorms
05-19-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS N5DRG K5BRY KE5YUM KE5YGA KG0YR
05-26-2014 (0) No net, thunderstorms

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) - Tues/Thur 5:00 PM MDT 14.062.5 MHz

05-01-2014 (5) NCS WC7S AA7CU KF7WNS K4QQ KC9W
05-06-2014 (4) NCS WC7S WA0ITP KF7WNS KE6OIO
05-08-2014 (3) NCS WC7S KF7WNS KE6OIO
05-15-2014 (0) Lightning, no net
05-20-2014 (0) Lightning, no net
05-22-2014 (8) NCS WC7S NE5DL W2SH W3HZZ N4RAY KE6OIO KF7WNS K7INU
05-27-2014 (3) NCS WC7S AA7CU KE6OIO
05-29-2014 (4) NCS WC7S KF7WNS KD5TXD NE5DL

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) - Thursday, 7:00 PM, PDT 3.574 MHz

05-01-2014 (3) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP K7ZNP
05-08-2014 (8) NCS KE7LKW KF7HYO WB4SPB N6KIX AD7BP K7ZNP K7GYN/7
VE7DWG
05-15-2014 (5) NCS KE7LKW WB4SPB AD7BP N7QR K7GYN/7
05-22-2014 (6) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB AD7BP K7ZNP K7GYN/7
05-29-2014 (8) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB AD7BP K7ZNP K7GYN W7ANM K7HZ

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 7:30 PM, PDT, 7.122 MHz

05-05-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW N7HRK KF7HYO KR5RR
05-12-2014 (2) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP
05-19-2014 (5) NCS KE7LKW KF7YHB KF7HYO N7HRK KR5RR
05-26-2014 (6) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX W7MWF KF7HYO N7HRK AD7BP
05-26-2014 (3) NCS N6KIX KF7HYO KR5RR (30 meter trial net)



HELP FOR BEGINNERS



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>.

Codes other than Q-Code.

Abbreviations are a Major part of CW. Many stations use a lot of them because they save time and effort, both in getting the message across quickly and with the least Fuzz. It is by no means necessary to use any abbreviations but the people you work will undoubtedly use them so it's a good idea to be familiar with them.

There are many abbreviations to use in a general QSO. There are really too many to mention here so I'll just give a few of the common ones.

Some abbreviations are self-explanatory. For example... "R U" = "aRe yoU" (as in are you using a straight key?), "AGN" = "again", "ABT" = "about", "NR" = "number", "TNX" = "thanks", "RPT" = "report" or "repeat" according to context, etc.

There are others perhaps not as obvious like "GM" = "good morning", "GA" = "good afternoon", "GE" = "good evening", "GN" = "good night", "CUL" = "see you later", "TTUL" = "talk to you later", "BCNU" = "be seeing you", "OP" = "operator", and again others.

Some abbreviations are sent as single Morse Code characters. "AR" (sent as .-. .) = "over or end of message", "SK" (...-.) = "clear", "KN" (-.-.) = "go ahead only specific station" (in other words a privacy request meaning no other stations are welcome), "AS" (-...) = "wait" (a short wait while you quickly check something or answer a question from your spouse).

Three more commonly heard abbreviations are "BK" = "break" or "back" according to context, "BTU" = "back to you" (usually used in short exchanges instead of callsigns), and "CL" = "closing station." These are usually sent as separate characters but sometimes you hear people running them together.

A typical QSO then -----

--- VE3FUJ DE N8XMS UR 599 GE = QTH LIVONIA, MI (sometimes repeated) = OP PAUL (sometimes repeated) = more conversation = VE3FUJ DE N8XMS KN

--- N8XMS DE VE3FUJ GE PAUL TNX RPT = UR 599 = QTH ON = OP BRION = more conversation = BK

--- R ("all received ok") BRION = more conversation = (since at this point nearly 10 minutes have gone by since last ID) VE3FUJ DE N8XMS KN

--- N8XMS DE VE3FUJ FB ("fine business") PAUL = TNX QSO TTUL (or BCNU or CUL) 73 AR N8XMS DE VE3FUJ SK GN CL (closing after N8XMS's final and will take no further calls)

--- VE3FUJ DE N8XMS OK TNX BRION 72 CUL AR VE3FUJ DE N8XMS SK GN CL

(Continued on page 23)

(The equal signs shown in this QSO are commonly used in place of punctuation. They are sent as -...-)

To make things easier for yourself put up sticky labels that are easy to see in front of you. Add or subtract periodically from the abbreviations you consider essential. The more you use them the more familiar they become.

This is but a small sample of CW abbreviations. A list of abbreviations can be found on the NAQCC web site at http://naqcc.info/cw_abbr.html .

More may follow.

73 Brion -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.

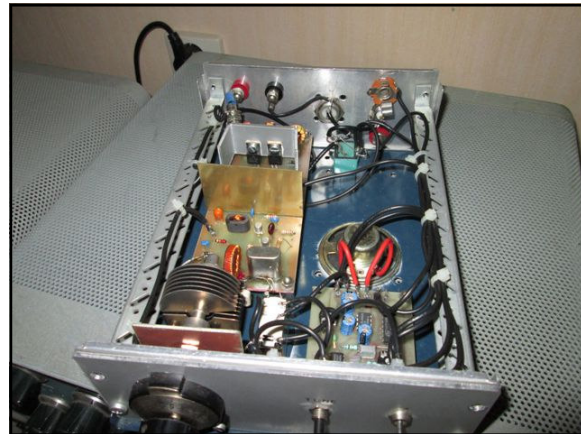
DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

From Age, PA0XAW, #7073 --

Enclosed my home brew rigs which I used in the May challenge.



Top: 40 meter transceiver.
 Middle: VXO CW transmitter for 20 meter.
 Bottom: Heath keyer; on the right a handmade straight key (by PA2JS, as a gift for teaching him the morse code)

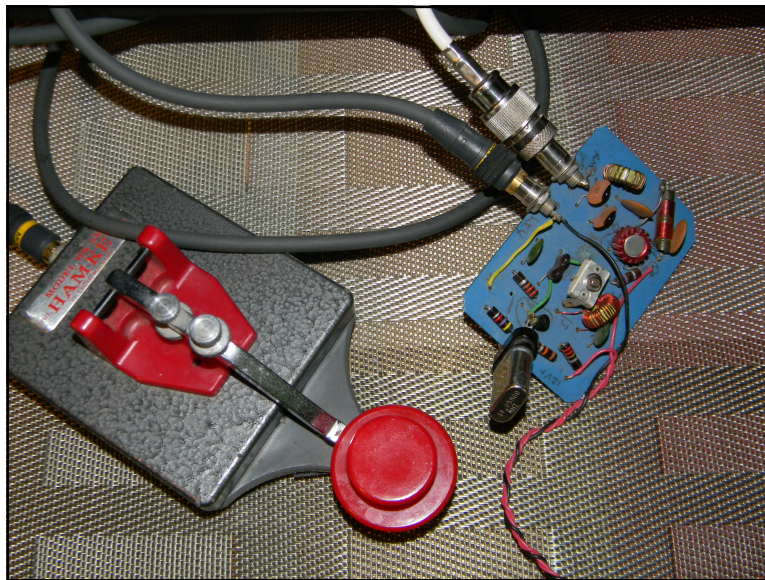


(Continued on page 25)

From Bob, KT1K, #7093 --

Bob used a Heathkit HW-9 that he built in 1985 to complete the homebrew challenge in May. Then he reported the following...

The old Hot Water 9 met the May challenge with little difficultybut you rekindled my old homebrew interest. I found an old transmitter my son (KA1OVM - he was 10 yrs) and I built in 1987. It was based on the Tuna Tin 2 but we experimented with 20 mtrs. Thus the "Tuna 20" was born. I really don't remember the mods or the transistors but it still has a 14.058 xtal in it. Other than the xtal it has 18 components and puts out less than a half watt. It was designed to be put in a "mint can" but we never got around to finishing the mints. HIHI



I'm happy to report a 2 way QRP (W0PQ at 5 watts) contact with this Xmitter and the Hy-Gain Vert.

20M W0PQ Nebraska CW Tuna "20" 19-May-2014 01:12

Thanks for a real fun "old ham radio" experience, 72

From John, K3WWP, #0002 --

May was another fun month. Aren't all months with ham radio fun? As the month nears its end (May 30 as I write), my quest for W1AW WAS also nears its end with 40 worked and 10 to go. The only tricky one left might be KL7 depending on conditions. However I usually work KL7 easily in the big contests so it may not be all that big a problem. Hope I haven't jinxed myself now with those statements.

The May challenges were both easy ones. I finished our homebrew challenge on May 1 at 2121Z using my homebrew antenna switch. The European challenge took a bit longer, but I finished at 2054Z on May 7. LOVE the alphabet challenges, and looking forward to two of them in June.

I really enjoyed the CQ WPX contest. I always treat that like strictly a DX contest for the most part and don't bother working W/VE stations, although I could, unless I need a new W/VE prefix. So 192 of my 195

(Continued on page 26)

QSOs were DX to put me over the 19,000 DX QSOs mark with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas. Also my DX streak continued all month (at least through May 30 - May 31 hasn't arrived yet as I type). That's 456 consecutive days with some DX worked. I hope you'll read my DXing article that will be published next month in the newsletter to find out how you too can easily work DX with your QRP.

A couple other highlights of the month which are written about elsewhere in the newsletter and I won't repeat here were giving Tom WY3H his retirement present and a couple visits from Mike KC2EGL.

I especially enjoyed our sprint this month because I could work stations easily on 20 meters when I usually have trouble on that band. This month I made 28 20 meter QSOs, a personal record by far.

Things to look forward to in June include the Butler hamfest on June 1st and Field Day. Since Tom WY3H will be in TN by that time, Mike and I are looking for a good replacement FD site to see if we can match what we did last year at Tom's.

Also from John, K3WWP, #0002 --

On May 30, 2014, NAQCC members John K3WWP and Bill WA4FAT had a QSO on 7.041 MHz at 0011Z. OK, so what? Well on May 30, 1964, K3WWP and WA4FAT had a QSO on 7.04 MHz at 0011Z also. If you do the math, that's precisely 50 years apart and on virtually the same frequency. The two are wondering just how unusual or rare an occurrence like that is.

It came about when the two had an earlier QSO in April and upon checking QSL cards, saw that the fiftieth anniversary of their first QSO would be coming up on May 30. They discussed it and decided to try to work each other at the precise 50 year date, time, and frequency. As time drew near, conditions didn't appear all that good with a lot of thunderstorm activity and the associated high QRN levels.

In an email exchange on the day, it was decided that WA4FAT would call K3WWP at the appointed time. K3WWP tuned into 7.041 a couple minutes early and heard someone briefly tuning up. Then in the 0010Z minute K3WWP heard Bill calling him. As the clock turned over to 0011Z, K3WWP responded and the QSO was made. Copy was almost solid in both directions for several minutes and both K3WWP and WA4FAT were elated by what they were accomplishing. Of course special 50th anniversary QSL cards are being prepared on both ends. Perhaps some pictures in the July newsletter.

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 --

I am having a lot of fun chasing the W1AW/# special stations around the country. Right now K3WWP is at 40/40 and I'm chasing him at 38/40. I missed two states when I was vacationing in Arizona so I won't be able to complete the WAS until those states are repeated later in the fall. (Ironically one of the states that I missed was my home state of Michigan!) This Centennial QSO Party has really taken off in popularity in the ham community. During the first two weeks of the year the 4 states that were featured averaged about 15,000 QSOs. Compare that with the last two weeks of April (most logs for May have not yet been uploaded) where the states averaged more than 40,000 QSOs each! The pile-ups have been getting really crazy - you'd think that it's some rare DX!

From Steve, K2DEP, #6205 --

Steve used this great homebrew rig to complete the May challenge and he sent in this report...

Here are a couple of photos on my transmitter, a modified version of the old AMECO AC1. I made the decals using tattoo decal paper. I added a slide switch behind the coil to switch from 40 to 80 meters. The crystal must be manually changed from 40 to 80 meters. Also in the front panel to the left is a variable air cap and switch that controls a crude VXO giving me about 500 Hz up in frequency from the crystal primary frequency. My transformer puts out about 340V of B+ @ 100V for the 6V6. If I want to put a 6L6 in its place, 125V input gives me about 460V on the plate and close to 10 watts. I use a variac to control the voltage input. I am going to build a couple smaller rigs using 6CL6, 6AK6, 6BE6 and a couple other small tubes to see how they compare. I will be using a single power supply and then building a couple transmitters in old PC power supply boxes. The two hand keys are a SCHURR MMK and a SCHURR Mahogany base hand key. If you can get your hands on one, I would say they are worth the money. I am working on a schematic drawing of this transmitter. Visio has a little bit of a learning curve. I have done measurements on the circuit that shows voltages and resistances on the screen grid, plate, etc., in a table form. I would be glad to answer any questions. Email is st3v3nd007 at yahoo.com.





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 call signs 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 Paul142857@gmail.com

