

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 194 AUGUST 2014



KEY CLICKS

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- ◆ **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.

- ◆ **ANNIVERSARY SPRINT OPERATORS NEEDED.** To expand on the N#A item above we still need people to operate with the special N#A callsign during our anniversary sprint on October 14 in districts 2, 3, 4, and 7. If you would be interested in doing that please email me. You can find my address on the last page of this newsletter. - N8XMS

- ◆ **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 and will include a random drawing for some nice prizes for NAQCC members who participate. The second activity that runs for the entire month is a special alphabet challenge that works with words (and numbers) that are all associated with Nancy. (It should be mentioned that these special activities will not provide regular NAQCC participation points.) Complete details on both of these events can be found at <http://naqcc.info/nancy.html>.

- ◆ **TWO-TIER PRIZE FORMAT FOR ANNIVERSARY SPRINT.** Some very nice prizes have been planned for the random prize drawing that will be held for the member participants in our 10th anniversary sprint in October. The drawing for the top three prizes will be restricted to those members who have completed the challenge/sprint participation requirements that were previously announced. Participating members who were not able to complete those requirements will still be eligible for a second tier of very nice prizes that will also be given away. We are not going to reveal what all of these prizes specifically are but you can be assured that the winners will be very pleased.

(Continued on page 2)

- ◆ **WE WANT YOUR ARTICLES.** Have you noticed that K3WWP and N8XMS keep popping up as the feature article authors in our newsletter each month? We would love to expand that list and share the fame, fortune, and glory that comes from being a newsletter author! Perhaps you have a new piece of gear that you could review, or you've been doing some experiments with a portable antenna idea, or you were recently lost in the woods and were able to call for help with a trench radio that you made using a couple of gum wrappers, a razor blade, and the parts from an LED flashlight. Really just about anything connected to QRP and/or CW that would be of interest to our readers would be appreciated. Your spelling and grammar ain't got to be perfect and we will take care of all of the formatting so please consider helping us out with this. You can send your articles or ideas for articles to N8XMS at the email given on the last page of this newsletter. Andy Warhol's "15 minutes of fame" could be yours!
- ◆ **EMAIL SIGNATURE LINES.** VP John, K3WWP, has a good suggestion for some easy publicity for our club. He suggests that members should include information about the NAQCC in the email signature line that can be automatically added by your email software to the emails that you send. Specifically he says... *"I think a basic email signature should include first name, call, NAQCC number, and FC # if applicable as in: John K3WWP NAQCC #0002 FC #1. Then elaborate from there with their NAQCC title if they are an officer or helper, etc. Perhaps a link to the NAQCC web site."*
- ◆ **CHALLENGE PRIZE DRAWING.** Starting this month we are adding a random prize drawing to our challenges, similar to the ones that we have been doing for the sprints. Each month one lucky person will be chosen in a random drawing from the members who have participated in the challenge and have submitted their report. The winner will receive a set of paddle/bug finger pieces, or a straight key "poker chip" piece, or a K1/K2 knob insert made by master woodworker Gregg, WB8LZG. You can see pictures of Gregg's quality work at http://naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html
- ◆ **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 N8XMS using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. 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."



QRP DXING II, BY JOHN SHANNON - K3WWP

Here is a bit more about my article in the July newsletter about DXing in response to a question I have been asked about DXing and a very important statement about DXing.

First the statement which was submitted by Art K6XT that reads in part, "One key I find invaluable. Its very important to be totally convinced I will indeed work the DX. No matter my operating conditions."

Read that once more. It is very important. You have to believe in yourself and your ability to work DX. Without that belief you will not be a successful DXer. Too many folks try to work some DX station or several DX stations without any success, and give up. They don't realize that NOONE, whatever their situation, is going to work EVERY station they hear. Especially so on their first try at that station. It takes patience to know that sooner or later you WILL work that DX, sometimes easily, more often than not with a little difficulty especially with a minimal QRP setup similar to mine.

Secondly I have been asked how important it is to be an Extra class ham and have access to the Extra class segments of 80, 40, 20, and 15 meters. Well, it does help to have access to those segments, but it is not a necessity by any means. Let me back that up with an analysis of my DX QSOs on those bands. First the stats followed by an explanation.

80:
Total: 159
3500: 130
3501-3525: 16
>3525: 13
% - 50.9

40:
Total: 1,473
7000: 976
7001-7025: 325
>7025: 172
% - 55.2

20:
Total: 5,691
14000: 3,349
14001-14025: 1,369
>14025: 973
% - 52.4

15:
Total: 5,165
21000: 3,512
21001-21025: 829
>21025: 824
% - 50.0

Overall for the 4 bands:

Total: 12,488

Low edge: 7,967

Extra segment: 2,539

Above the Extra segment: 1,982

?: 52.5

Here is an explanation of what the labels and numbers mean:

- ◆ Total: Total DX QSOs on that band with my QRP/CW/simple wire antennas as of April 29, 2014.
- ◆ 3500, 7000, etc. - In most contests I only log the frequency in the form of 3500, 7000, etc. rather than an exact frequency. This lists the total QSOs logged as such - they actually could be anywhere in that band.
- ◆ 3501-3525, 7001-7025, etc. - The number of QSOs definitely in the Extra class segments.
- ◆ >3525, >7025, etc. - The number of QSOs definitely above the Extra class segments.
- ◆ % - Figuring that half the QSOs listed as 3500, 7000, etc. were in the Extra segment and half above, this is the percentage of the Total QSOs that were in the Extra class segments.

I think that shows that even without an Extra class license, there is plenty of DX to be had as my DX QSOs have been split almost in half between the Extra segment and the rest of the band. Then of course there are the other great DX bands that are not divided into segments and the whole band is accessible to all hams. So no matter the class and if the interest is there, go to your shack and work that DX.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: This month’s sprint will be on August 13, 0030-0230 UTC. Of course that’s the evening of the 12th in North America.

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>.

We also need to remind everyone of the special WZ8C Memorial sprint on September 3, 0000-0300 UTC. (The evening of the 2nd in North America.) This is a special joint activity between the NAQCC and FISTS. Complete details, including the special exchange that will be used, can be found at <http://naqcc.info/nancy.html> . There will be a prize drawing for NAQCC members who participate in this sprint and FISTS is considering a prize drawing for their members as well but we have not yet heard from them on the details of that. (Participating in this sprint will not result in additional points for our annual participation award nor for anniversary prize eligibility.)

LAST MONTH SPRINT RESULTS: For our 117th sprint on July 17th poor conditions were experienced throughout most of the country but that didn’t limit the enthusiasm and fun that everyone had. 115 logs were submitted with 87 of them perfectly formatted “Silver Logs.”

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 would especially like to welcome our first-time loggers: W4VAB N4ERM K5LN VE3DVC WB9CIF KD0UKC W9JFB KI4MZC (nm) N6EV. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

In our year-long tally of Silver Logs we are now down to a tie between 13 members who have submitted all seven sprint logs so far this year perfectly formatted.

Complete results, including soapbox comments, for the sprint can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201407.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	W2SH	WA2JSG	
W3	KA3IHS	KB3AAG	
W4	K4ORD	W4VAB	KR4OE
W5	W5TVW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	AA7VW		
W8	K8TJ	NT8P	
W9	KK0I		
W0	N0TA	KD0V	
VE	VE2TH		
DX	CO8CML		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	W2SH		
Bug (x1.5)	K1EDG		
Keyer (x1)	NN9K		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	NN9K		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	W4VAB		
Prize Drawing	KB1UOH		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	115	118	194	2/13
Participants	159	156	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1528	1610	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	751	928	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	777	682	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	550	1008	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	950	514	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	28	88	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	13.3	13.6	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: The North American challenge for August is to “Work All Continents” - well, in a way. Band conditions might not be all that hot for making DX contacts right now, and working Antarctica in the middle of their winter down there might not be very easy, but we have a different way for you to get your “WAC.” This is an alphabet challenge where the goal is to spell out the names of the continents, including Gondwana and Pangaea which were “recently deleted by the ARRL. (Just Google those two continents to jog your memory!) The complete list of continent names can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201408.html> .

As was announced last month, we are adding a random prize drawing to our North American challenges, similar to the ones that we have been doing for the sprints. Each month one lucky person will be chosen in a random drawing from the members who have participated in the challenge and have submitted their report. The winner will receive a set of paddle/bug finger pieces, or a straight key “poker chip” piece, or a K1/K2 knob insert made by master woodworker Gregg, WB8LZG. You can see pictures of Gregg’s quality work at http://naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html .

The European chapter challenge for August is an alphabet challenge involving locations associated with Grand Prix Formula One racing. Details are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/august-2014-challenge> .

NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE: We have two North American challenges running in September. The first one is a special challenge in memory of Nancy Kott, WZ8C. It’s an alphabet challenge with words (and numbers) that are all associated with her. You can find complete details at <http://naqcc.info/nancy.html> . (Please note that participation in this challenge will not result in additional points for our annual participation award nor for our anniversary prize eligibility.)

The regular NAQCC challenge for September is a “new one” for us and it looks like it’s going to be a lot of fun. It involves making QRPp (milliwatt) contacts and accumulating at least 5000 “milliwatt-miles” of total contacts. The details on how to calculate these milliwatt-miles can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201409.html> .

In Europe the September challenge will involve the names of famous European art museums. Details are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-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: With several days yet to go before the submission deadline for the July challenge we can only report that so far 10 members have completed the challenge by making at least 20 QRP QSOs on the WARC and VHF/UHF bands. Once everything is turned in the complete results along with “soapbox” comments from participants can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201407.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:

Here are the awards given out during the month of July:

1000 MPW AWARD

0425 - KA8HDE	KH7Y	-	3,960	07/23/14	40m G5RV at 30'
0424 - N4HFA	LZ2RS	-	11,350	07/22/14	80m Delta loop at 35'
0423 - K9EYT	K0ALN	-	1,001	07/07/14	43 Ft vertical

KMPW 100 AWARD

0011 - KA8HDE 07/22/14

ALPHABET PREFIX HONOR ROLL: WORLD

K3WWP 607 07/22/14



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.

Alan Mowry, KI6CFT, #6875



Being a pretty new member, I would like to say thank you for welcoming me into your club.

I first was licensed in 2006. We almost lost our home to the 2003 Paradise Mountain fire in San Diego County, as we were living right in the fire's path. Cell phones quit working, internet failed, and phone lines also went down. Some friends of mine were hams, and had an informal 2m net once a week, and so I got my license. The main reason at the time was emergency communications, and the hope that my friends and I could perhaps help each other out with similar trials in the future.

I started going to a local ham club in Escondido, CA. As I became more aware of the ham community in general, I realized it would be fun to learn how to use HF. I passed the 5 wpm exam just a few months before they discontinued it. For no one reason, I put off the written part. I finally committed to passing the exam in 2011, and passed in September.

From the beginning, CW intrigued me. My first CW contact was in March of 2012, and it was a complete

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train wreck. After a few months of practice and mediocre success, I ran into an SKCC member. I joined the club, and that really helped me gain confidence and motivation to keep going. It's a great club, especially for beginners. I went from 15 CW QSOs over an eight month period before joining, to over 500 a year later.

I built a Pixie II early in 2013, and really enjoyed the project. A few months later, I built a Rockmite 40, and have been more than a little impressed with it. I started doing SOTA, Summits on the Air, last Fall, and have been having a lot of fun with it (and have dropped 15 pounds). Hiking local peaks and doing CW QRP – what's not to love? I took the Rockmite up my first summit, and had QSOs in CA, OR, and MT. The picture is a local SOTA peak in Phoenix, with daughter Jess, and Bella, my SOTA mutt.

About half of my QSOs now are QRP CW, so when I was introduced to the NAQCC by AE5KA, I realized it was a great fit. I did my first club sprint in February, and I was a little surprised at how easy it was to make contacts with 5w from my home.

In my shack I have a TS-590 as my main rig, and a Yeasu FT-8800 for UHF and VHF. I use a variety of wire dipoles and an endfed 160m with a home-brew push-up pole. My HOA is a bit severe, so I only raise an antenna up when I'm on the air.

For SOTA, I use my RM40 and a KX3, a 24' telescoping pole from flagsimporter.com (absolutely love it- much better than the 4' army surplus poles I started with), a linked dipole (17, 20, 30, 40), a 2.9 AHR battery, and a 7.5 watt Coleman solar panel.

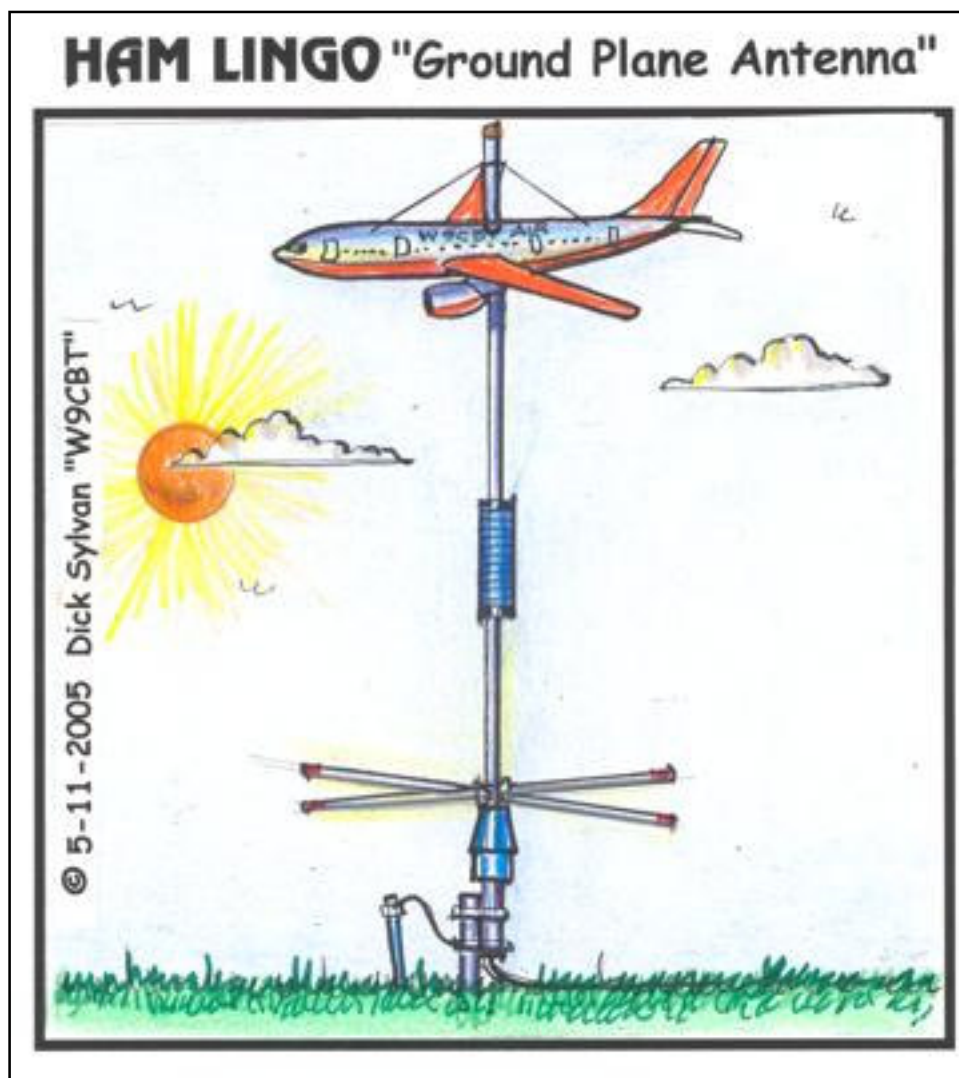
73 and I hope to QSO soon.



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. Heytow Memorial Radio Club (<http://www.k9ya.org/>). 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 at <http://www.k9ya.org/w9cbt/>.



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.

AUGUST ACTIVITY DAY

The chapter's August Activity Day is upcoming on Thursday 14th August. The activity days are an opportunity for members to meet each other on the air, based around a friendly competition. As with all chapter activities, the activity days are open to all NAQCC members, so stations outside of Europe are most welcome to participate and make contacts with those in Europe! Our last activity day (in December) saw six entries from five different countries, and 110,000km worked across each of the QSOs involved.

How do the activity days work? We propose a 24 hour period (0000Z-2359Z on 14th August), in which members can spend as much or as little time operating as is convenient and enjoyable. We award points for QSOs based on the distance between the two stations, and normalise scores based on how much time in that 24 hour period you have spent operating. The idea is to facilitate a convenient opportunity for member-member contacts whilst being flexible to allow for the many commitments that members have outside of the hobby.

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Please do help to boost QRP/CW activity in Europe by getting on the air on the 14th. More information is available at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/activity-days>

EUROPE 2014 CHALLENGE

The Europe 2014 challenge is now in full swing. We have already received our first entry from John, K3WWP, who has worked stations in 50 European countries so far in 2014.

The core aim of the challenge is to promote QRP/CW activity in Europe over a prolonged period (the entire year of 2014). To be eligible for the award, participants must work at least 42 entities in Europe in this time. A full list of candidate entities is available in the rules, via the website. Successful applicants are awarded with a unique certificate, featuring a map of all the entities that they have worked.

Full details are available at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/europe-2014>

MONTHLY CHALLENGES

June challenge results

The June challenge was an alphabet challenge based on names of four very small European countries and their areas in square kilometres.

We received 7 successful entries, from F5MNK, K3WWP, PA0XAW, PA7PYR, RW3AI, SM5MEK, and W2JEK. Congratulations to all!

July challenge

There are still a few days left to submit your entries for the July challenge (the deadline is 10th August). If you can construct the names of the countries through which the Tour de France passed this year and the approximate distances covered in kilometres:

FRANCE 2991, GREAT BRITAIN 548, BELGIUM 100, SPAIN 17

then please submit an entry: we'd be delighted to hear from you.

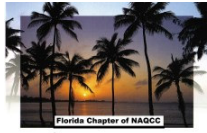
August challenge

The premise of the August challenge is to construct, from the letters and numbers in the call signs of stations that you work, the names of three circuits that hosted a Formula One Grand Prix, and the year of the first Grand Prix on the circuits. We are very grateful to John, K3WWP, for suggesting the premise of this month's challenge, at this exciting point in the current F1 season.

Details of all past, present and upcoming challenges are available on our website: <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges>

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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.

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its July field event on Friday, July 25th, starting at 9am, at Airport Park in Port Orange, Florida – on Airport Road, of course! This Municipal Park is “sandwiched” between a City Fire Station and Creekside Middle School, adjacent to a large residential-sub development – usually heavily populated. But our timing was perfect...no school and early enough that the park was pretty much all ours! There was a nice large pavilion with water fountain, restrooms, and Coke Machine! Roughing it!

Art WB4MNK #5274 used his KX-1 running 4W to an LDG-100 Plus Tuner, 9:1 UNUN, 31' vertical wire on a 31' push up pole. The radial was the shield of the 50' RG-58 coax. He made 7 QSOs in VA, GA, PA, NC, and TX..... 6 were NAQCC members.



Steve WB4OMM #5913 (KX-3 running 5W out) made 6 contacts – KS, PA, NJ, TX, and MD– all 6 were NAQCC members. Always trying a new “toy”, he purchased a “hamstick” 20M antenna while attending the ARRL Centennial Convention the week before. It was used with a mag mount on his car twice during the previous week – once in Albany, NY (/2) worked an IKØ in Italy and got a 579, then in Roanoke Rapids, NC (/4) worked a LI5 in Norway and got a 599! – Both with the KX-3 at 5W and the mag mounted antenna on the car roof.

First we tried the mag mount on an adjacent metal charcoal grill, but the SWR wouldn't go below 2.8 on 14.050....so.....it was moved to the grassed area, and mounted on the tripod with radials from his other recent purchase, (“SuperAntenna”). The SWR dropped immediately to 1.2 and worked FB! He was able to work Don K3RLL #1905 in PA (one of our NAQCC-FL team members); and Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ! All of the reports received were 559 or better. Another success!! This is the third time that antenna “parts” from different systems were “re-configured” in the field and used in a NAQCC event. MORAL - It pays to “try something new:”

Wally KG4LAL #6278 set up about 100' away from us in the “playground”; while he got his Yaesu FT-817 and antenna up, he wound up with a “small visitor” (about 6 years old) that was a fountain of questions. He dutifully showcased our wonderful hobby, to the detriment of making contacts (he had none). But who

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knows, maybe a future NAQCC member?

Darryl AB8GU #6913 spotted us on the internet and kept us “informed” on the other’s progress.

We quit at noon enjoyed lunch at a local chain restaurant....The weather was brutal – hot and humid – 91 degrees , 90% humidity, that made it feel like 100+ in the sun, but, the shaded pavilion made it tolerable. Poor Wally, out in the sun, was “soaked” by the time we got done, but survived the heat. The bands were, “blah” – the sunspot number was 65 and A index of 8..... and the QSB was moderate. But we made contacts, and had fun!

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

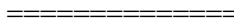
Our usual “group” photo is a bit different this month. Almost always, we can get a “passer-by” to snap our picture, but this time, the park was, “devoid of humans” (except for us). So after much discussion on how to get “everyone” in the photo, this is what we came up with...our hats!
So now we’re all in the photo! Hi hi hi.....



"Hats off to NAQCC-FL"

NOTE FOR NEXT MONTH: The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is scheduled for Friday, August 15, 2014 at 9:00am EDT. Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all!... NAQCCFL@yahoo.com



NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:

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

The WPA Chapter had a quiet July with little news. We did sadly lose a member as Tom WY3H left the WPA area for the better climes of NGA (Northern Georgia). Perhaps he'll form a GA or NGA chapter down there. He says there are some members on the membership list that live close to his new QTH. Anyway we all wish him the best from the move.

The only member get together in July was on the 1st when Mike dropped by for a visit. We did some shopping for the local radio club, then got in the Canada Day contest for a while. There wasn't a lot of activity, but we did get a dozen or so QSOs including some DX in the form of F5IN, PA0VAJ, and UA1CE.

In contrast, August should be a very busy month for the Chapter.

First up is a multi-op entry in the NJQRP Skeeter Hunt from the community park in Kittanning with KC2EGL and me. We'll try to match our very successful run from last year when we won PA and had the top multi-multi score overall. We tied for most QSOs overall at 69 with KX0R in CO. That will be on August 10th from 1700-2100Z. I notice in the rules they now have a NAQCC style alphabet challenge involved where you get a bonus for spelling SKEETER from the calls of stations you work. Interesting.

Next there is a USS Requin Subpedition planned for August 14 with KC2EGL, K3RLL, WB3FAE, and me in attendance. We'll have the final details in an email message to our NAQCC email list the day before the subpedition. We do know that only one band at a time will be available, so we'll probably switch between 20 and 40 as conditions permit. If the higher bands are in good shape, we might try 15 meters. We'll try to be on the air around 10AM (1400Z) and stay as long as conditions and activity are good. This will be the first time for K3RLL and WB3FAE, and we're sure they will enjoy it as much as Mike and I have in the past and will this time also.

Near the end of the month, we will be at the Skyview hamfest near New Kensington, PA where we will have the unique opportunity (at least for us) of operationg QRP power aided and abetted by a huge antenna farm. It will be interesting to contrast that with our normal little dinky antenna "victory gardens". We'll have a report on that in the September newsletter. That will be Sunday the 24th from ? to ?.

We all hope to work all you in one or more of the events above.

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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>.



The West Virginia information this month is very short. July has been a terribly busy month for me because of family obligations. My 94 year old father, who is fiercely independent, needed assistance with a house problem and I've also traveled to New York to see a new granddaughter. Sometimes, for radio, there aren't enough hours in the day. Hopefully, August will be more flexible.

Our club member Jeff Imel (K9ESE) has moved to another state. We will miss him, but wish him the very best of everything in the world. He will be missed, not only by the West Virginia Chapter, but to the science group he assisted with the "balloon" launch a few months ago. Thankfully with the electronic world (the internet) we will be able to still keep in touch with him. I'll also be listening for him on the standard QRP frequencies.

Jeff Woods (N8NH) is looking forward to more outdoor operating. He is planning to transmit from the West Virginia- Virginia state line near East River Mountain soon. He has a new antenna and a new key. East River Mountain is a nearby access point to the Appalachian Trail and the site of the East River Tunnel, which was the scene this month of a large fire on a semi truck full of cardboard. The truck burst into fire about mid-way inside the tunnel. The entire Interstate was closed for several days to repair the damage.

Our club member Steve (KC4URI) made a quick trip to the mountains near Elkins WV last week. He is looking for a future club event radio site. He camped near "Bickle Knob" where the elevation is around 4,000 ft. This is a very isolated area in West Virginia. Electrical noise is practically non-existent there. It is the site of an old US Forest Service fire observation tower.

On the home front here: I've been playing with an interesting "Morse Code" program which allows my computer keyboard "space bar" to function as a "straight key". Let me say right now, "there's nothing like an -on the air- radio contact" but this is a great idea for those that travel. I used it with my laptop when I was in New York visiting the new granddaughter.

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The program works flawlessly with the Google Chrome Browser and is written for a speed of about 15 wpm. In addition to making friends with a ham in Munich Germany, who I talk to in “real time” CW almost daily, I also chat with hams in Maine, New York, Oklahoma City, California, and recently a ham in Amsterdam, the Netherlands. The fellow in New York City rides the train daily and uses his laptop to pass the time while traveling to work.

I’ve made the West Virginia members aware of it with the hopes of using it for my daily CW fix.

You can find the site at WWW.morsecode.me.

IMHO it’s a good way to encourage non-hams to make the leap towards the use of Morse code. The Morse code characters, and an assortment of abbreviations, are listed on the right side of the page. As characters are entered with your “straight key” space bar, they’re visible and audibly displayed on your computer screen. I find it similar to “packet” but much more fun with the CW mode.

That’s the news for now. In last month’s edition of the newsletter, John Shannon (K3WWP) wrote about the ease of working, and achieving DXCC QRP with a simple wire antenna. I love working those 5,000 mile distant stations with three watts power and a 50 ft indoor random wire. I was pleasantly surprised to receive a card from A45XR in Oman a few days ago. As always, he sent back 599 (joke) and had NO idea I was QRP.

Happy Trails,
John Smithson NAQCC # 2279
WV Chapter



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) <i>SUSPENDED</i>	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)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MDT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
FarnsWord (FRN)	Monday 8 PM PDT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7122 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Great Lakes (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM EDT	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, KC8AAG (in MI)

NCS David Moss KC8AAG reports nice activity with his newly formed Great Lakes Net (GLN) which convenes Thursday nights 9:00 PM Eastern Time on 7.117 MHz. The GLN is seeing several check-ins on a regular basis and includes operators whose call signs I don't see regularly in other QRS net logs. This is David's first try at being an NCS and he is doing a great job with a growing list of regular check-ins. FB David!

If you have a hunch you might be in a location that could use a QRS net please contact me so we can get one started. Have a go at being an NCS: it's easier than you think and your morse proficiency will get a great boost. You don't need perfect technique. As Woody Allen once observed, 90% of success is just showing up.

NCS J. B. Still KR5RR, occasionally backed up by NCS Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, is having great success with the FarnsWord Net (FRN) formerly known as the PNW40 QRS Net. Departing from the usual QRS net format, it incorporates the Farnsworth strategy for leaning code, which starts out at 20 wpm (or better) character speed and spacing, with longer spaces between words. J.B explains the goals and changes of the revised format best so I'll quote him here:

GOALS:

- (1) Improve "Word" copy skill over "Letter copy"
- (2) improve "head" copy skills

OBJECTIVE:

Listen for and copy short words (<5 letters) rather than write letters

PROCESS:

- (A) Letter/Character speed, about 20 WPM

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(B) Short words, 5 characters or less, sent at speed; longer words, maybe a bit more space between letters and words

(C) Word spacing, 3 or 4 "dits" ("E"); more if asked to QRS

QRP or not?

NCS must be heard by everyone, so use whatever is necessary. (KR5RR usually runs 25-40 watts, FT817+HF Packer amp, or ~55 watts, old weak IC730. KE7LKW runs between 5 & 75, depending on conditions.) During Fall, Winter, and early Spring, QRP works well up/down Western US; seems like late spring and all summer, background noise and QSB requires a little more power to be heard above static crashes. Start out QRP, but if one gets readability RSTs of "R3" or "R4", increase power if you can - hard to practice if we can't hear you.

J.B. goes on to explain the difference between the FRN and other QRS Nets:

The PNW 80m net is a true QRS beginning CW skills net, with Stewart sending at whatever speed is needed. The FRN 40m net is an intermediate "word copy" skills building net, set at 20 WPM, so not really a QRS net.

Please note that everyone is invited to all of our NAQCC Nets. Please give the FRN a try if you can copy it.

72, Chuck AB1VL

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NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 7:30 PM EDT, 7.060Mhz Note: Net suspended until Fall.

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CDT, 7.065MHz +/-

07-07-2014 (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA KG0YR

07-14-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KA5TJS N5DRG KE5YGA N5NVP

07-21-2014 (0) No Net - thunderstorms.

07-28-2014 (5) NCS KE5YGA KE5YUM N5DRG KC4UMS KG0YR

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

07-03-2014 (7) NCS WC7S N6MY K0DTJ NK6A N0EVH KE6OIO K9FO

07-08-2014 (7) NCS WC7S AA7CU N6MY KE6OIO K6MGO KF7WNS WA0ITP

07-10-2014 (2) NCS WC7S AA7CU

07-15-2014 (?) No Net, thunderstorms.

07-17-2014 (4) NCS WC7S K6MGO W5HNS KA4RUR

07-22-2014 (7) NCS WC7S AA7CU W5HNS G3BUE in Sussex KE6OIO K0DTJ KA4RUR

07-24-2014 (6) NCS WC7S WA0ITP W5HNS K0DTJ NE5DL AA7CU

07-29-2014 (4) NCS WC7S SF7YT KE6OIO K0DT

07-31-2014 (6) NCS WC7S N6MY AA7CU KE6OIO NE5DL KK5IB

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

07-03-2014 (3) NCS KE7LKW WB4SPB AD7BP

07-10-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW/7 N6KIX WB4SPB W7SOM K7ZNP/7 VE7DWG AD7BP N7QR

07-17-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB K7ZNP

07-24-2014 (6) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB K7ZNP AD7BP KD7HXN

07-31-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB K7ZNP AD7BP K7EX/7 K7GYN

NAQCC FRN 40 Meter Net (formerly PNW40) - Monday, 8:00 PM, PDT, 7.122 MHz

07-07-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW KF7YHB N7HRK AE7US

07-14-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR N0OI N7HRK KE7LKW KW6G

07-21-2014 (3) NCS KE7LKW N7HRK KR5RR

07-28-2014 (6) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW K7GYN W7SOM N7HRK N6KIX

NAQCC Great Lakes Net 40 Meter Net (GLN) - Thursday, 9:00 PM Eastern Time 7.117 MHz

07-10-2014 (12) NCS KC8AAG K3NLT KA3BVJ KC8DBV KD8FKD KQ3Z VA3KOT

VE3AB VE3DDZ VE3DGN VE3FW W7BGO WB0QQT

07-17-2014 (2) NCS KC8AAG VA3KOT

07-24-2014 (8) NCS KC8AAG AC8JW K0KEX K1IEE K3RLL K9EYT VA3KOT W3KC

07-31-2014 (9) NCS KC8AAG AB3RU K1IEE K9EYT N2FK VA3KOT VE3AB

WA9PWP WD0K



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>.

I had a QSO with a station a while back and it stuck in my mind. The reason that I remember it so clearly was unfortunately poor keying - not so much the keying of individual letters, but rather his overall character spacing. This fellow knew his Morse code letters and keyed them fine for the most part. But as time went on the spacing between characters grew shorter and shorter. Eventually it got to the point that there was no distinction between letters at all - just one long character. (*This fellow probably thought that he was sending faster but he was really just sending nonsense. Speed should always be secondary to readability. - editor*) I've written in the past about how to keep it "sweet" so look up some of my past articles if you need help with this.

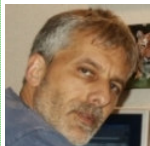
Any newcomer to CW, whether a brand new ham or an old-timer with little Morse code experience, should start by using a straight key. Other types of keying devices should not enter the picture until sufficient experience has been gained on a straight key. So start out by placing the key in such a way that you cannot rest your elbow on the table. Resting your elbow on the table could lead to keying with your wrist only. That can not only lead to sloppy sending but it can also cause premature fatigue and even physical damage. Likely the best thing is to place the key at the edge of the table which will force you to use your entire forearm to operate the key. Then adjust the spring so that after resting your fingers on the knob it will only require a little additional pressure to make the contacts meet. Now key with your entire arm and don't worry about the speed, just concentrate on readability. This may require a bit of getting used to like anything else worthwhile. With practice and experience you should be able to operate for long periods of time without "much" fatigue.

72 Brion -30-

Do you have any topics that you would like Brion to address in future articles? Please email your questions to him at the address shown above.



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 Jerry, VE6CPP, #5697 --

NAQCC member Rich Ferch, VE3KI, #3945, has been appointed to a position with the QCWA. Here is the official announcement from QCWA which includes a mention of the NAQCC:

The QCWA Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Richard (Rich) Ferch, VE3KI, to fill the position of the QCWA Activities Manager.

Ferch was born in Fort William, Ontario (now Thunder Bay) in 1947. His interests in electronics, kit building and SWLing began in high school, but he did not become a radio amateur until 1978 while working in Pinawa, Manitoba, thanks to his Elmer, Jim Barrie VE4FK (SK). His first call sign was VE4AEO, which he exchanged for VE3IAY upon moving to Ottawa in 1980. He got his present call sign, VE3KI, in 2006, and in 2009 was able to re-obtain his original VE4AEO call sign, which he uses while visiting with family in Manitoba.

Although he does not consider himself to be a serious DXer, Ferch has always had an interest in DXing. He has achieved DXCC on each of the eight HF bands and is working towards 160m DXCC. However, his main amateur radio activity is contesting. He is an active contester, mainly in CW and RTTY. He is also a member of the development and documentation team for the NIMM Logger contesting software.

He is a Life Member of QCWA and a current member of ARRL, RAC, the CW Operators Club, Contest Club Ontario and the North American QRP CW Club. He served as Radio Amateurs of Canada's Vice President, Regulatory Affairs during 2006-2011 and is the trustee for all of RAC's 19 club call signs. He joined QCWA as a Life Member in 2006 and has been on the executive of QCWA Chapter 70 since 2008, first as a Director, later Vice-President and now President of the Chapter.

Ferch has degrees in Applied Mathematics from the University of Waterloo and Cornell University. He has developed and used computational models to study problems in astrophysics, plasma physics and nuclear reactor safety. After working at the Cornell Laboratory for Plasma Physics and at Atomic Energy of Canada's Whiteshell Nuclear Research Establishment, he joined the Canadian nuclear regulatory agency (formerly the AECB, now the CNSC) in 1980, where he worked in a variety of capacities until his retirement in 2006. During that time, he served as a Canadian representative on a number of international committees and working groups in the area of nuclear waste safety, and he continues to do contract work on related topics. He is married with two adult children.

73,

Ken Oelke, VE6AFO
President, QCWA Inc.

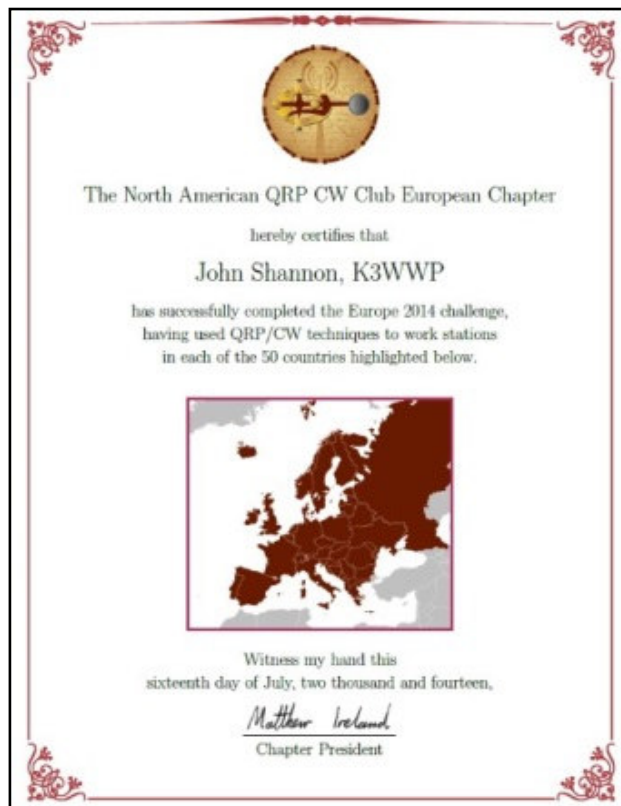
(Continued on page 24)

From John, K3WWP, #0002 --

As with the WPA Chapter, July was not a very eventful month for me personally with a couple exceptions.

My streak of making a DX QSO each day with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas reached 500 consecutive days on July 13 when I worked TM0HQ plus a dozen or so other DX stations in the IARU contest. I wasn't sure if I would stop then or continue. I decided on the second alternative and I'm now at 523 days as of August 5. The day before that on August 4, my main streak of at least one QRP/CW/simple wire antenna QSO a day reached a full 20 years or 7,305 consecutive days. Yes, QRP/CW even with simple wire antennas does indeed work day in and day out.

Another happening this month was being the first to master the NAQCC European Chapter 2014 challenge. The certificate is shown here.



One disappointment was the delay in shipping the Elecraft PX3 panadapters. Originally, mine was to have shipped sometime in mid-late July, but now it apparently will be sometime in mid-August or so. It will be nice to have a dedicated panadapter instead of having to use my laptop and the HSDR program as one.

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 --

John, K3WWP, and I frequently compare with each other the progress we are making on working the special W1AW stations across the country. John only needs ME to complete his W1AW WAS and he should be able to pick that up later this month. I missed a couple of states when I was on vacation in February so I still need ME, MI, and WA. I recently commented to John that assuming I can pick up those

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three states, this will be the first time that I have ever managed to complete a WAS in a single calendar year. The closest that I have ever come to that was in 2012 when I worked every state except AK. But then I thought that I have certainly been making more QSOs than just W1AW stations so I checked my log and sure enough, when I worked W1AW/1 in RI on July 23rd, I completed WAS for the year – actually just over half a year! Of course I'm still going to try to get those final three W1AWs but I'm also feeling really great about having already completed QRP WAS. I know that many people, including K3WWP, have managed to get WAS in a single contest weekend, but I'm not enough of a contester to set my eyes on that goal. Maybe I will try to trim a month or two off of my time next year!





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 Paul142857@gmail.com

