

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 196 OCTOBER 2014



KEY CLICKS

● **NAQCC 10TH ANNIVERSARY IS HERE!** It's hard to believe that in just 10 short years the NAQCC has grown from an idea in the heads of WY3H and K3WWP to a thriving club with more than 7000 members worldwide! This month we celebrate this milestone with some great anniversary activities taking place October 13 - 19. Special N#A stations will be operating (CW/QRP of course) from all 10 US call districts throughout the week and special QSLs and certificates will be available for working them. Operating schedules will be posted on our spotting page at http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php. The spots will be going up in "real time" so check the schedule frequently. Information about QSLs and certificates can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html. On October 14 (15 UTC) we will have our special anniversary sprint with a chance for members who participate to win some great prizes. Please see the *Sprints* page in this newsletter for details.

- **HELP WANTED - PRIZE MANAGER.** After many years of great service our Prize Manager, Mike, KC2EGL, is stepping down and we need someone to take over that job. The primary duties are to...
- Store and manage the inventory of items that are donated to the club for use as prizes.
 - Edit the prize page on the club web site. (This could be phased into.)
 - Participate in the random prize drawings. (Monthly for sprints and challenges and other times like anniversary drawings or other specials.)
 - Contact prize winners.
 - Mail out prizes to the winners. (Postage reimbursed from the club treasury.)

If you would be interested in filling this position please contact Paul, N8XMS. (Salary and benefits package are negotiable but will max-out at zero!)

- **HELP WANTED - PUBLICITY ASSISTANT.** We need assistance with publicizing our monthly activities - primarily the sprints. Each month, the weekend prior to our sprint, we post announcements to a number of different email lists (currently about 29). These announcements have generated both sprint participation as well as new memberships. To do this job you would need to join each of these lists so that, as a member, you can post messages. (I would suggest creating a special email address to just do this work.) There is actually a free program called "PIMEX" that runs on Windows systems that makes the posting to all of the email lists automatic with just a few mouse clicks. If you would be interested in filling this position please contact Paul, N8XMS. (The same salary and benefits package that is described above applies.)

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Key Clicks</i>	1
<i>Farewell - K3WWP</i>	3
<i>Sawdust 40 Review</i>	5
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	9
<i>Sprints</i>	11
<i>Challenges</i>	14
<i>Awards</i>	15
<i>QRS Nets</i>	16
<i>Ham Quips</i>	19
<i>Chapter News</i>	20
<i>Member Submissions</i>	31
<i>About The NAQCC</i>	35
<i>Contacts</i>	36

- **NEW NEWSLETTER SOFTWARE NOW BEING USED.** After dozens of hours of work with a new computer (iMac), new software (Pages), and even a new OS for me (Mavericks), the publication of this newsletter has finally been moved from my old Windows XP system, and this edition is the result. I still have some tweaking to do and an awful lot to learn but so far I'm very pleased with everything. If you spot any mistakes, or have some suggestions for how I can improve things please let me know. - Paul, N8XMS
- **MORE QRS NET OPPORTUNITIES.** After a summer break Ron, WB1HGA, is back on the air Sunday nights as the NCS for our Main QRS Net (NQN). We are also happy to announce that a new net is starting up on Tuesday evenings with Chuck, AB1VL, as the NCS. The new net is named Northern New England Net (NNN) and will have it's first meeting on the 21st. It's scheduled to meet before our regular sprint time so you can use it as a warm-up for the sprint. Complete schedule details for all of our QRS nets can be found in the QRS Nets section of this newsletter.
- **POLL PARTICIPATION GOOD.** Jerry, VE6CPP, has been in charge of our monthly poll for quite some time. The question for September was "Do you participate in other QRP activities?" And Jerry decided to open up the poll to additional free-response comments, not just the usual response selection list. He is happy to report that all of the comments left were both friendly and appropriate. Take a look at the results as well as past results at <http://www.naqcc.info/> and be sure to check back frequently to participate in future polls.
- **MINOR CHANGE MADE TO PRIZE DRAWINGS.** We have made some minor changes to the procedure that we follow for our sprint and challenge prize drawings each month. In the past we would send an email to the person drawn for the prize and wait for them to respond. If we did not hear from them after a significant amount of time (sometimes more than a month) we would redraw to select an alternate winner. Since some people have been very slow in responding to our notifications the record keeping for this became very unwieldy. From now on, we will send out an email notice to the drawing winner and wait two weeks. If we have not heard back from the winner within the two weeks the prize will simply be placed back into our prize inventory for a future drawing. No redrawing for an alternate winner will take place.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big "THANK YOU" goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. 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 Club Manager Paul, N8XMS, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please 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 a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. 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."



FAREWELL FROM K3WWP

Has it been over ten years now since a reporter for our local daily newspaper, the Leader Times, called me and asked me if he could write an article about me and my ham radio activities? The calendar doesn't lie - yes, it's been that long. The reporter, unbeknownst to me beforehand was also a ham radio operator. Of course I'm talking about our NAQCC President (who is also retiring as you know) Tom Mitchell KB3LFC (now WY3H). That article led to a great friendship, and also to the formation of the NAQCC. When Tom first approached me about forming a club, my initial reaction was that there are already too many QRP clubs. However after he explained it would be a club devoted strictly to CW, QRP, and for the most part simple wire antennas, I was hooked just like a fish on a line.

Originally it was to be just a local Western PA club, but apparently a lot of folks finding out about it liked the concept and we had members joining from all states and even around the world. A lot of that was due to writing about the club in my FISTS Keynote QRP column with permission and encouragement from the late Nancy WZ8C, FISTS NA leader. I think it is now the largest 'specialty' ham radio club in the world with that devotion to CW/QRP/simple wire antennas. Our members are special folks who enjoy the challenge of operating that way. Just about anyone can make contacts (and do) using high power, big beams on tall towers, and sloppy CW, but it takes a special breed to do it with just 5 watts, great fists, and simple wire antennas. I'm proud to be associated with such a bunch of folks here in the NAQCC. I liken us to the Marines - The Few, The Proud....The NAQCC Members.

The club quickly got a new name with its expanded sphere of influence and shortly after (or maybe it was even before) the club officially formed, it became not the WPA (or whatever) QRP Club, but the NORTH AMERICAN QRP/CW Club. The rest is history that has been written about elsewhere and I won't repeat it all here beyond just talking about the formation of the club.

What I want to talk about here is my involvement with the club. It has been a wonderful 10 years, but also a very time-consuming 10 years handling the everyday (and I do mean EVERY day) affairs of the club. As a result a lot of my other varied hobbies started taking a back seat to my NAQCC work. As the club approached its ninth anniversary in 2013, I had already begun thinking about retiring to free up time for my other interests such as walking, fishing, and astronomy (just to mention a few) before I became too old to enjoy them - I can't remember the last time I've taken my telescope out. I was 68 then and thought about retiring when I reached 70, or perhaps when the club reached 10. It turns out that Tom had been having similar thoughts except he wanted to retire pretty much right there and then, and let me become president. We talked it over and we compromised on both of us retiring simultaneously when the club reached 10 in October 2014.

So the search was on for a new leader for the club. I still don't know how he made the decision, but Tom chose Paul N8XMS as that person. Other than starting the club, that was Tom's greatest NAQCC decision, I believe. Paul is pretty much from the same mold as Tom and I as far as QRP and CW go. We are sure that he is going to continue the club exactly as it was conceived by us back in 2004.

My association with the club will not end, but will change as of October 20 when our 10th anniversary celebration is history. A lot of the work has been transferred over to Paul and our various club helpers. After that date I will do my best to see that everything (with two exceptions) will be transferred. My goal is to have it completed by the end of the year, but I will help as long as is needed to be sure that everything continues smoothly.

One of the two exceptions is continuing to do the log cross-checking for our sprints. With my love of stats and record keeping, I really enjoy that, especially the challenge of making it more and more efficient and faster each month. I will also continue being the leader (if we really do have a leader as such) of the NAQCC WPA Chapter. Other than those two things, everything else will be in someone else's hands.

Of course many tasks have been done by our helpers for a few years now, and I thank each and everyone of you for your help which did cut down considerably on my work load. You've all done a wonderful job. I won't list all of you by name for fear of omitting someone, but you and the club know who you are.

I'm very proud of how the club has progressed over the years. There have been many great accomplishments and but a couple failures in the 10 years. One failure that comes to mind is our WAS Bear Hunt, an idea designed to help members get their (2X) QRP Worked All States award by activating a different state each week. That just died a slow death due to lack of interest. But hey, maybe we were just ahead of our time. Look at what the ARRL is doing now with their W1AW WAS activity in 2014.

I'm most proud of our sprints. I don't have precise stats to back it up, but I'm fairly certain they are the most popular 2 hour weekday sprints in ham radio today with well over 100 logs being submitted for each sprint for the past 53 sprints (with 4 exceptions to be accurate) since April 2010. I think a lot of that is due to the thorough cross-checking of the complete logs we require to be submitted plus the ease of submitting them by using the wonderful GenLog logging program and our autologger.

I think our challenges and awards programs could be doing better, but for those who do participate, they are a great enjoyment and feature of the club. Our learning nets seem to go up and down with band conditions as do all ham radio activities, but overall are also doing well.

One of my greatest enjoyments with the club are our club chapters. I have derived immense pleasure from getting together with other (similarly crazy?) folks here in Western PA for various activities such as our parkpeditions, subpeditions, building gear, doing some 'tag team' contesting, eating (yes that must be included), and so forth. There is nothing better than sharing things personally with folks and our chapters are providing excellent opportunities for members to do just that.

I definitely will continue to be an active member of the club, maybe even more so now that all the administrative tasks are taken over by other folks, and I can concentrate more on just operating. I particularly love our sprints, challenges, and awards, as I'm sure you can tell by seeing my results on the web site.

Speaking of the web site. I'm very proud of it. It's someplace to go to get information and not to waste time on. After all, and this is the real bottom line, one can talk in chat rooms and all other so-called social media about preserving CW until they are blue in the face, but that does virtually nothing to help preserve CW. The way to do it is to get on the air and communicate using this wonderful mode. That is the only way it will be preserved for future generations. So put away the keyboard and the Internet, and fire up your Elecraft, Kenwood, Yaesu, etc. rig, set the power at 5 watts and the mode to CW and get on the bands.

Thanks to everyone for making the past 10 years very enjoyable ones. Farewell.



SAWDUST 40 REVIEW

BY BOB WOISH, WB3T

The Breadboard Radio *Sawdust* 40 Meter Super Regenerative Receiver

A Trick and a Treat for the October Issue!

Bob Woish, WB3T



In scrutinizing the Internet for new kit projects, I found breadboardradio.com who offers several kits that look worthwhile. Now I'm sure I've said this before either on my web site or in online user reviews, but I don't know if I remember having this much fun with a simple kit before. Meet the Sawdust Breadboard radio, an easy-to-build super-regen that can be assembled in an evening or weekend afternoon, and cost under \$25 including shipping and the kit arrived a few days after ordering. As a bonus, there is a key terminal available to use the Sawdust as a Code Practice Oscillator (CPO). This adds to the appeal of anyone just starting out and wanting to listen in on one of the most active Amateur Radio bands and learn Morse Code as well as anyone looking for a fun kit, or as a challenge in minimalist radio.

The circuit is based on an Armstrong oscillator and uses only one toroid which serves as antenna coupling, band select, and regenerative feedback. As regeneration is controlled, there is no squealing and squawking such as is typical for a regenerative receiver. As designed, the Sawdust will provide at least 75 kHz of tuning range, and the band segment of operation is your choice. If you like CW, you can set up your Sawdust in that portion of the 40 meter band; similarly you can easily adjust an onboard band set capacitor for the higher section of the band where we find SSB communications. My Sawdust produced 160 kHz of range, over twice the specified amount, so it was possible to set up my receiver for all of the CW band segment and the lower part of the phone band. However, tuning in a signal was quite touchy. Not impossible, but touchy. Once set however, retuning was not necessary as the receiver is very stable, much more so than your typical low-cost kit receiver.

on the installed transformer to make sure you've adequately stripped the insulation away from all leads. If your Sawdust does not work right off the bat, the toroid transformer would be a good place to check first for errors.

The rest of the assembly procedure is fairly straightforward – semiconductors first, then capacitors, resistors, switches, and jacks. Then after a bit of final mechanical assembly, you're ready to fire up.

Alignment is also simple and there are three methods outlined in the instructions. I took a shortcut and simply adjusted C9 until I heard CW signals, and that was that. No frequency counter, second receiver, or locally transmitted reference signal is needed for casual listening. I used Method 3 without a hitch.

The first evening with the Sawdust was quite a surprise. I had seen the Sawdust demo on youtube but it was tuned for only CW signals. After listening to a few CW QSOs, I gave the band set cap a little tweak and quickly scooted up to the phone band. I tuned in the loudest voice I could find and needed to cut back on the input attenuator to avoid overload. Yes, the Sawdust is quite a sensitive little guy! As an aside, I like the use of the term "Attenuator" as opposed to "RF Gain" as it is actually a way to reduce signal input, and incapable of amplification. Many kits use the latter and folks, in most cases it just ain't true. A passive element is not going to increase signal level, or gain – not now, not ever. Kudos for accuracy in the Sawdust! There is a "Gain" control, but in this case I'm referring to the PC-mount potentiometer at the input to the receiver – the attenuator.

Once set as I wanted it, I went about the task of reclaiming order in the shack after the build, and this took about half an hour. During this time, the stations in SSB QSO on the frequency remained in tune – amazing stability for the price! For the next few days I enjoyed leaving the cool looking little pumpkin-colored wonder on as I puttered around the house. Then the next weekend came, and I decided I should try using the Sawdust in an actual QSO. I was skeptical.

I went to my stash of *TechSonic Milliwatter* standalone QRP transmitters and grabbed the 40 meter version. The Milliwatter was a concoction of mine from the 90's that I used to kit and market through various ham radio publications. (If you still have an October 1994 73 Amateur Radio Today, you can see the review.) The .1 - 3 Watt transmitter has a diode-limited and capacitively coupled receiver port, so the separate transmitter and receiver can share an antenna. I spotted the Milliwatter's CW note on my HW-9. Then I fired up the Sawdust and adjusted the TUNE control until I heard the oscillator's beat note on the HW-9, indicating my TX and RX were on the same frequency. I sent CQ for about a half hour on Friday evening, and nothing. Operating with a battery pack at 12 Volts in and only 1.4 Watts out in the crowded evening 40 meter CW band, this is not a total surprise.

About this time I had had enough of the touchy tuning so I sliced through the ground pad to which the bottom of the tuning control was connected, and installed a series 47k resistor between the pot and ground. Now I had 25 kHz of tuning range, more suitable for on-the-air operation. Limited yes, but far easier to tune to the exact frequency and beat note desired. Now I could set the TUNE control for the middle of its range, tweak C9 to land the oscillator on my TX frequency, and feel confident that after I send CQ, a little rocking back and forth of the TUNE control with the knob's indicator close to straight up should turn up any response. The next morning I tried exactly this and after about 5 minutes of calling CQ I heard, "WB3T WB3T de K1PUG K1PUG K." YIKES!!! There was Hank up in Connecticut, who I had worked several weeks ago. He asked if I was using my K2 and I proudly responded with "Today rig is the Techsonic Milliwatter at 1.4 W es Breadboard Radio Sawdust rx." What a rush! This kit I had bought as a toy, a novelty, a way to pass an afternoon, was an actual working, usable HAM RADIO!

This is the true spirit of QRP. This is minimalist radio. This is a cool looking project and when I am finished writing this review, I'll head back to the shack to try it again. As the Sawdust is quite broad-banded and could use a little help, I have already ordered my next Breadboard Radio kit – the

companion audio filter/amp, the *Toothpick*. OK I confess, I was just looking for an excuse to build another kit. Guilty as charged! With some audio filtering, I'd stack the Sawdust up against any QRP-Class kit receiver for sensitivity and stability. The filter should make the Sawdust's selectivity also quite adequate. Again in the spirit of minimalist radio I'll be building a classic QRP transmitter as another companion for the Sawdust, either a Little Joe or Cubic Incher, from scratch and I'll most likely mount it on a block of wood. Try one with your choice of transmitters!

I'll also be leaving some hints around for Santa this year for the *Splinter II* trans-receiver kit as well. Thanks to cottage industry in a free enterprise system, and the never-ending list of new kit merchants in the QRP market, my addiction to solder smoke is well fueled. See you on the air, and Happy Building!

To see my Sawdust in action, see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ekN3Pw5vbFA>

Plusses:

Excellent introduction to kit building
 Excellent performance on the air
 Adjustable to any preferred band segment
 Traditional breadboard look
 Complete kit, nothing more to buy
 Decals provided for a finished look

Minuses:

None

The Sawdust is Available for \$24.95 Including Shipping from:
www.breadboardradio.com

Bob, WB3T

<http://radiowb3t.homestead.com/>

=====

A few weeks after Bob finished his article he followed it up with a picture that he emailed to me of his Sawdust 40 paired up with a scratch-built 2-watt transmitter that he made to go with it. VERY NICE! - N8XMS



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX.

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



MICHEL BOISSONNAULT, VE2TH, #0214

I've been licensed 50 years and was a SWL before. I am always active in my favorite hobby, HAM Radio. I am 100% QRP and QRPp (below one watt) into the milliwatts.

I am happily married to Georgette VE2RH (#6116). She is hamming for 42 years this year, and she is also a QRP/QRPp operator. So we are a good QRP YL/OM Team Hi!

We are also proud members of QRP ARCI #5885 & Georgette QRP ARCI #13450. I hold several of their QRP Achievement awards and I'm most proud of the 7-bands WAC Award #1 mixed modes, SSB/CW. The WAC award #16, all CW all 50 MHz, WAS & DXCC with 103 countries confirmed all on six meter (50 MHz).

As of December 2013, my standing is 267 countries worked, 264 countries confirmed, CW/SSB on HF/6 meters.

After all those years, I still and always get that thrill and challenge I had when I was a kid.

Our goals are DXCC, WAC, WAS Milliwatt, we are on our way, as we have lot of time.

Our equipment includes: Icom IC-703 Plus and the new Elecraft KX3. My XYL's favorite is the Yaesu FT-817ND.

Antennas are simple wire antennas of all kind, and Buddipole, Buddistick, Buddibeam, Buddiloop antennas.

So we hope to meet you on the air. If you hear VE2TH or VE2RH, give us a call, we can exchange a few words, or make a nice QSO.

You can also find me on the NAQCC Sprints almost every month.

Best 72/73/88 to all, and have fun everyday.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Well, it's finally here - our 10th anniversary celebration sprint!

Plan on spending a fun-filled two hours on October 15th from 0030 - 0230 UTC. (That's the evening of the 14th in North America.) Stations from all 10 US districts will be on the air with their special event N#A call signs. You don't get any extra bonus points for working them but you do have the chance to make a "clean sweep" of all 10 N#A stations and can then apply for a special certificate. And don't forget that all members who submit a log of their sprint QSOs will automatically be entered into our anniversary prize drawing where 10 great prizes will be given away. The drawing will be held after all of the sprint scores have been cross checked and scores finalized. The exact date for the drawing will be announced via our email list and you will be able to follow the exciting results in near-real time on our website. Sprint details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201410.html>. QSL and certificate information for N#A QSOs is at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.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>.

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

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: 124 logs were submitted for our 119th sprint in September and according to the numerous soapbox comments conditions were pretty good and the "fun factor" was sky high. 102 of the submitted logs were perfectly formatted "Silver Logs." K3WWP reports that cross checking this month resulted in quite a few score changes - 25 scores were increased and 29 were reduced. Complete results and soapbox comments can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201409.html>. High-score summaries are shown in the tables following this report.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log-submitters. We hope that you enjoyed yourselves and will return often. N9SE, W5RZ, WM3X, AD0IV, N8XEE, W6IRA, AL7JK, KJ0P, K8FAC, W5ASP

In our year-long race for Silver Logs we have a 10-way tie for first place with 9 perfectly formatted logs submitted during the year: AA7CU, K4KRW, KU4A, N2ESE, N8XMS, NQ2W, W2JEK, W4DUK, WA2JSG, WG8Y

In September we also had our special sprint honoring the memory of Nancy, WZ8C. As of this writing the deadline for log submissions has not yet passed but results should be finalized by the time you receive this newsletter so go to <http://www.naqcc.info/nancy.html> to see those results.

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+	KE5YUM KC2EGL KQ1P N8QY K1IEE WA2JSG WB8ENE AA9L VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A NU7T
75+	K4JPN N8XMS WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC
100+	W2JEK KA2KGP K3WWP
125+	

SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1IEE		
W2	K2YGM	W2SH	
W3	K2DEP		
W4	KB4QQJ	WH6LE	KG4UPO
W5	N5GW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	AA7VW		
W8	KD8RUQ	K8AG	
W9	WB9CIF		
W0	N0TA	K0ALN	
VE	VE5BCS		
DX	CO8CML		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	K4BAI		
Bug (x1.5)	K5GQ		
Keyer (x1)	KB3AAG		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	K4BAI		
First-Time Logger High Score	N9SE		
Prize Drawing	WB0PYF		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	124	112	194	2/13
Participants	176	181	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2143	1714	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1152	942	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	991	772	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	791	842	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1322	868	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	30	4	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	17.3	15.3	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: It's not too late to participate in our October challenges. For the North American challenge you will have a real "Halloween Howl" with an alphabet challenge working with words that are all associated with this "trick-o-treat" time of the year. Full details can be seen at www.naqcc.info/challenges201410.html.

The October European challenge works with the names and dates of construction of two beautiful European churches that date back to the early 1600's. Details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2014-challenge>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In November the North American challenge will be our traditional Thanksgiving alphabet challenge with words that will make your stomach growl in anticipation of your feast on the 27th. The list of words and complete details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201411.html>.

In Europe you can have the chance to be an "air traffic control operator" with an alphabet challenge involving travel statistics at some major European airports. Complete details are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/november-2014-challenge>.

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

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: As of this writing the deadlines have not yet passed for the three challenges that members could participate in last month. Once everything is all finalized you can see the results and soapbox comments at the following links:

North American "QRP Rigs Challenge": <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201409.html>

European "Art Museum Challenge": <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-2014-challenge>

Special WZ8C Memorial Challenge: <http://www.naqcc.info/nancy.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 awards and certificates that were issued during August and September:

1000 MPW AWARD

0437 - AB9YC	KH2L	-	1,469	09/10/14	Vertical
0436 - SM5MEK	K4DY	-	1,473	09/10/14	Vertical
0435 - K0FNR	K1CG	-	21,200	08/31/14	End Fed Vertical Dipole
0434 - KB5JO	K1TA	-	1,876	08/31/14	TBA
0433 - KB5JO	N1SZO	-	2,000	08/31/14	TBA
0432 - KB5JO	K6JPR	-	5,000	08/31/14	TBA
0431 - W7BGO	OH1VR	-	2,067	08/02/14	Norcal Doublet
0430 - W7BGO	OH1VR	-	2,067	08/02/14	Norcal Doublet
0429 - W7BGO	EA6UN	-	2,215	08/02/14	MFJ OFCD
0428 - W7BGO	DL1ARJ	-	2,147	08/02/14	MFJ OFCD
0427 - W7BGO	9A3Y	-	2,423	08/02/14	MFJ OFCD
0426 - W7BGO	F5IN	-	2,023	08/02/14	MFJ OFCD

30-30 AWARD

0029 - G3JFS Jul 2014 09/08/14

WAS AWARD (CATEGORY A)

0027 - AB9YC 09/10/14



NAQCC QRS NETS



We have a number of QRS (slow speed) nets designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html. Questions should be directed to Chuck, AB1VL.

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net (NQN)	Sunday 8:00 PM EDT	Monday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
Northern New England (NNN)	Tuesday 7PM EDT	Tuesday 2300 Z	7117 KHz	Chuck, AB1VL (in ME)
East Texas (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 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, WA8AXF (in MI)

Low band conditons are improving for the most part now that we are into the season of less sunlight to stir up the D layer. 40M was a great band for the September Sprint and our NCSes are reporting more activity on their nets.

Ron WB1HGA is resuming the Sunday night NQN net on 7060 +/- at 8:00 PM local. Net time is planned to stay at 8:00 PM Eastern time until the Spring of 2015.

Dale W7CS reports "I have my K2 almost repaired from the lightning strike now.. only a couple more issues yet to take care of.

So will be calling the net with QRO pwr when needed now."

Allen KA5TJS reports on 09-29-14: "The band was in great shape. All contacts were 599. Three stations from TX. and one from AR."

JB KR5RR reorts: "Thanks to all for your participation! Most evenings everyone had OK to good copy on all. The exception was 9/22 and that band crash was sudden, just 5 minutes after net started. "

David WA8AXF reports: "We enjoy having a core handful on the net most weeks. We invite others to join in and help us grow our group. 73 DE WA8AXF"

Yours truly will be starting a new QRS net, North New England NET (NNN) on October 21, Tuesday

nights, at 7:00PM Eastern time, on 7117 +/- . I'd like to try the Farnsworth approach, which the FRN net has pioneered with great success. This is based on a faster character speed (18-20 WPM rate) but longer spaces between characters and words to get effective speeds down to 12-15 WPM. I will of course slow down if requested and/or to match your sending speed. On check in, just send "pse qrs" and I'll take note. No pressure, just fun!

I'll also be operating as N1A for the Anniversary celebration. Look for me during the day on the club spots page, probably on 17M, 20M or 30M.

We have a time change coming up on November 2. Some nets may stay with the same UTC (Z) time and others may choose to stay with same local time. Be sure to check the QRS Nets schedule and the club spots page to avoid any confusion.

Please note that everyone, even non-club members, is invited to our NAQCC Nets.

Your questions and comments are invited; please contact me at the email below.

72, Chuck AB1VL
cfytech24x7@gmail.com

=====

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM EDT (2400Z) 7.060Mhz Net resumes 10-05-14.

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CDT, 7.065MHz +/-
 09-01-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N5DRG K5BRY KD5SFK
 09-08-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS K5BRY KE5YGA KB5FSK N5DRG
 09-15-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA KD5SFK K5BRY
 09-22-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM K5BRY KG0YR K9EYT WB0QQT
 09-29-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KD5SFK W5TS K5BRY

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) - Tues/Thur 5:00 PM MDT 14.062.5 MHz
 09-02-2014 (3) NCS WC7S NU7Y K0DTJ
 09-04-2014 (0) No Net
 09-09-2014 (6) NCS WC7S AA7CU N6MY K0DTJ KF7WNS KE6OIO
 09-11-2014 (2) NCS WC7S KA0ENU
 09-16-2014 (4) NCS W7CS K0DTJ AA7CU KE6YX
 09-18-2014 (3) NCS WC7S KE0IO KF7WNS
 09-23-2014 (6) NCS W7CS KH2TJ KR5RR KF7WNS KK5IB W6BUX
 09-25-2014 (4) NCS WC7S AA7CU 5UFY KF7WNS
 09-30-2014 (5) NCS W7CS KF7WNS KK5NA (1W) W5SOC KK5IB

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) - Thursday, 7:00 PM, PDT 3.574 MHz
 09-04-2014 (8) NCS KE7LKW KW6G KE7LKW W7SOM WU7F N7HRK N7REP
 09-11-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW/7 N6KIX WB4SPB VE7DWG
 09-18-2014 (2) NCS AD7BP N6KIX
 09-25-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB K7JUV N6KIX W7SOM W7ANM

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

09-01-2014 (7) NCS KR5RR KW6G KE7LKW W7SOM WU7F N7HRK N7REP
09-08-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR N7REP N7HRK W7SOM NG7IL
09-15-2014 (4) NCS N7REP W7SOM N7HRK AE7US
09-22-2014 (3) NCS KR5RR & AE7US N7HRK
09-29-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK AE7US W7SOM

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

09-04-2014 (5) NCS WA8AXF AC8JW K9EYT VA3KOT NI2F
09-11-2014 (5) NCS WA8AXF AC8JW K9EYT VA3KOT NI2F
09-18-2014 (4) NCS WA8AXF K9EYT VA3KOT KG0YR
09-25-2014 (6) NCS WA8AXF K1IEE K9EYT VA3KOT KU4GW NI2F



HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #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 *KY9A 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* available at <http://www.ky9a.org/w9cbt/>.



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has five local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, and Florida - but we would be more than 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 are interested in forming a local chapter please contact Club Manager Paul, N8XMS.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted on the club email list or in the newsletter, send an email with the subject "NAQCC Portable Operation" and with the exact wording of the announcement to Paul, KD2MX, about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

NAQCC chapters located in the United States are welcome to use the NAQCC Club call, N3AQC for their special operations. Please contact call sign trustee Paul, N8XMS, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. 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 members in EU, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web pages for dates and details.

Monthly challenges

The European chapter August challenge saw a record number of participants! F5MNK, G3JFS, I5SKK, K1IEE, K3WWP, PA0XAW, PA7PYR, RW3AI, SM5MEK and WU1V all completed the challenge by correctly constructing the required information about Formula One Grand Prix circuits.

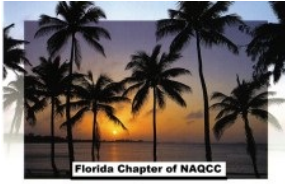
It looks like we have a chance of continuing the record-setting trend in the September challenge. The premise is to construct, from the letters and numbers in the callsigns of European stations that you have worked, the names of the most visited art museums in Europe, and their visitor count in thousands. So far, F5MNK, G3JFS, I5SKK, K1IEE, K3WWP, N9SE, SM5MEK, PA0XAW and WU1V have all successfully completed the challenge. There are still a few days left to submit your entries, so please take part to try and help us set another record for CW/QRP activity in Europe!

This month's challenge is another alphabet challenge, with the premise of constructing the names of two beautiful churches in Europe and the year in which they were completed. More details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2014-challenge>

Europe 2014 challenge

There were no new entries for the Europe 2014 challenge this month, so the entry count still stands at three. The challenge is centred around working stations from at least 42 European countries in 2014, with the goal of increasing QRP/CW activity over the entire year. A successful entry results in a beautiful certificate, highlighting the countries that you have worked on a map of Europe. More information, including how to submit your entry, can be found at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/europe-2014>

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM.

MEMBER NEWS: The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its September field event on Friday, September 19th, starting at 9am – in a “split-site” format....Art WB4MNK #5274 was located at Reed Canal Park in South Daytona, FL....and Steve WB4OMM #5913 was located at the Marriott Sawgrass Resort, in Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, some 90 miles North! Steve had to attend a banquet with his XYL on Thursday night, and since his wife had remaining conference activities from 9am to 12pm Friday....Steve opted to do a portable op at the resort! (and what a nice place it was to operate!)



Art made 8 QSOs in the following states: VA-2, FL, GA, PA, IL, WV, and SC. 5 of the Qs were with NAQCC members. The picture to the left is of REED CANAL PARK - left to right: Darryl AB8GU #6913, Art WB4MNK #5274, and Steve WB4FDY. Art’s Station was a KX-1 at 3 watts, Dirt Cheap Paddle, ZM-2 tuner and a 9:1 UNUN 53 foot wire sloper to 30 '.



Steve WB4OMM #5913 (KX-3 running 5W out) made 5 contacts – OH-2, OK, PA, and TX, 4 of the 5 were NAQCC members, including Don K3RLL #1905 a member of NAQCC-FL group “temporarily” up in PA.

Steve used an MFJ monoband “hamstick” for 20M, w/4 short radials. The antenna was placed on a metal table on the wood deck, over water for an excellent ground plane. As you can see, he had no comfort overlooked! Great view, no one around on the deck, overhead fans, and easy access. Folks, this is roughing it!!

Steve used an MFJ monoband “hamstick” for 20M, w/4 short radials. The antenna was placed on a metal table on the wood deck, over water for an excellent ground plane. As you can see, he had no comfort overlooked! Great view, no one around on the deck, overhead fans, and easy access. Folks, this is roughing it!!

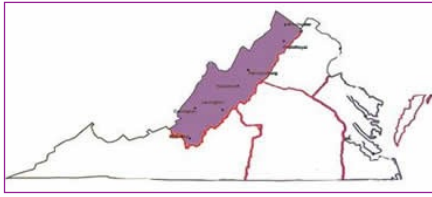
Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC-FL event!

NEXT MONTH: The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is scheduled for Friday, October 17th, 2014 at 9:00 am EDT. Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all! Steve WB4OMM, #5913 NAQCCFL@yahoo.com



NAQCC SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Shenandoah Valley Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Russ, K3NLT.

The Shenandoah Chapter of NAQCC has grown to SEVEN members and I know that four of us are also members of NAQCC with another one reporting having applied, but I do not have his number yet.

We had our first on air CW get together on September 15, with four check-ins. I served as NCS and under rather noisy conditions we had a good half hour of operation. Howard, K4LXY, was camping in a Virginia state park and was very good copy here. Another was using a temporary antenna and was just above a rather high noise floor. He is hoping to have a better antenna for the next time. We are planning to have this activity every other week and will eventually rotate the NCS duties so everyone gets some experience at that role. Our frequency is as close as the QRM lets us be to 7.061 MHz and we currently start at 8 PM EDST. Others who are in hearing range may join us or just monitor, (we may be more open to that after we have gotten over the early "jitters". Ha!)

Our "eyeball" get together has not been very successful, but some of us are members of the local ham club and expect to meet each other there.

Russell Mumaw, K3NLT, correspondent for the Shenandoah Valley QRP Club, Shenandoah Chapter of NAQCC

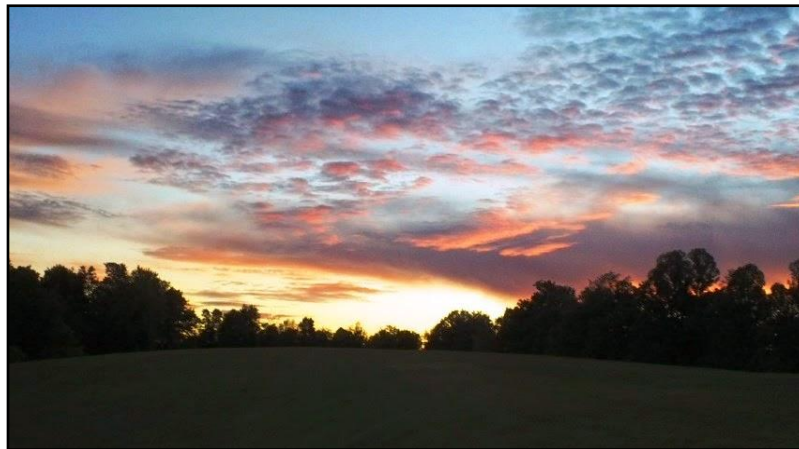
NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



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



On Sept. 24, 2014, our NAQCC WV Chapter club member Steve Ashcraft ([KC4URI](#)) and I met near Grantsville, WV for some quality radio and star gazing time. Steve knew this place because he's been here to star gaze with a local Amateur Astronomy Club. This site is known as the "darkest" place in West Virginia for good reasons. It's isolated and located nearly the "center" of the state. The Calhoun County Park was once a golf course. The grounds are still neatly trimmed. This particular spot, at the highest knoll in the area, was the perfect place to set up an Inverted Vee cut for 40-20- and 30 meters. Steve's 30 foot fiberglass pole worked nicely from here.



It's been many years since I've camped like this, and I was apprehensive about sleeping on the ground in a small tent. I'm happy to say I survived the night, with no fatal aches and pains, but I'm sure it was amusing as I crawled out of the tent the next morning. It would have made a good video with all the snap, pop, and crackling of bones in the lower back.



After the sun set over the horizon, we saw millions of stars. The Milky Way was visible from horizon to horizon. The sky was so dense that I could only recognize Scorpio and Sagittarius low on the horizon. The Big Dipper was there but the top part of the sky towards the North Star was a mass of galaxies. Looking at this dark sky is a humbling experience when one realizes we're on such a small planet in the midst of such a large universe.



Steve built this little Elecraft K1 and put an antenna tuner and extra filters in it. He also built the variable speed keyer. I was impressed with both those features; especially the filters. That's also a beautiful brass K4QU "March" lambic paddle. Steve also brought a solar panel and a large deep cycle battery. We could have literally run this rig for days under these circumstances.

While Steve cooked dinner with a little butane stove; this fellow was my first contact.



For those of us in the NAQCC Club, I'm sure you will recognize Paul Huff (**N8XMS**)- Paul had just set up on the patio of his daughter's home in Ann Arbor Michigan and transmitted his first CQ.

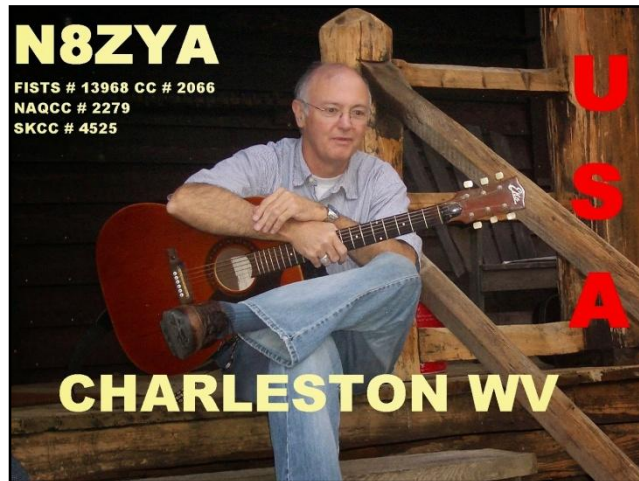
Making my first contact with Paul, on his first CQ, with another (first attempt) portable QRP station, and the leader of the NAQCC club was a special treat for me.

Paul said: "That was a lot of fun! 2XPortable, 2XQRP, 2XNAQCC, 2XFirst QSO" His daughter's home is in the country near Ann Arbor Michigan. His Elecraft KX1 was running about 3 watts. His antenna was a wire tossed up in a tree with a counterpoise on the ground.

As the skies got darker, I soon worked club member **W3ZMN** in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. We were getting contacts at distances around 300-400 miles at the time. The stars continued to mesmerize us. The call of a whip-poor-will was near and the sound of a hooting owl, exchanging greetings, echoed around the fields.



Steve took the key and soon worked club member **K8FAC** in Youngstown Ohio. The temperature was dropping by now and the air was becoming crisp and clean as I took the key once more.



The next QSO was eerie as I talked to **W8HOG** in Lynchburg, Ohio. Jerry and I have talked several times previously. He just happened to be looking at my bio on the QRZ site. My electronic QSL card pictures me sitting on the back porch of a cabin with my 1970 EKO acoustical guitar. His daughter wants to learn to play the guitar and I made suggestions about what to buy for the "first guitar".

I talk to **KG9HV** in Lafayette, Indiana on a fairly regular schedule, and I had told John earlier about our upcoming camping trip to the mountains. Our last QSO, a few days earlier, was on 30 meters. I made a promise to use that frequency when I went on this trip. Sure enough, when I sent my first call; he was there on the first attempt.



After a nice chat, he promised to shift back to 40 meters latter during the night. As the sky turned nearly pitch black, both Steve and myself had nice conversations with him for the second time.

Steve worked **W8KM** in Parma Indiana shortly afterwards and just before pulling the plug for the night, I worked **WB7PNC** in Metropolis, Illinois. Bill was astounded with a nearly 599 signal to him.

I like his card:



I'm also a Navy veteran, and a former destroyer sailor.

This was a great trip, and we plan to do another "radio camping excursion" soon. We're looking for another in mid October before the snow starts to fall. We're thinking about a campsite near Elkins WV which is above 3,000 feet. Its dark there too, so should be little electrical noise and a good radio transmission spot.

This was a fun trip, and I'm happy to say I once more have confidence in my camping skills. My old bones won't tolerate carrying anything of weight on my back, but the car can carry it for me. As many of those we spoke to on this trip sat inside a stuffy room, our CW transmissions, from the great outdoors, under the stars, with a small QRP radio was exhilarating. You can only do this kind of radio by using small portable gear. It's a hoot!



NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John, K3WWP.

Following the very busy month of August for the WPA Chapter, September was a very quiet one for various reasons. The only real get-together was when Mike KC2EGL, Tom WB3FAE, and I gathered at the Unionville hamfest/swap meet as described here.

It may sound like a broken record when I say this, but it's true every time Mike and I get together. We had a great day today from early beginning to sad ending.

Mike arrived just at 8AM, and as soon as I finished taking care of a couple of things on my computer, we headed to Ponderosa for their great Sunday breakfast/brunch. After stuffing ourselves as usual, we headed to the Unionville Fire Hall for the BCARA swap meet. We weren't really interested in swapping anything, but merely to fellowship with fellow NAQCC members as well as other hams. It's always a small friendly event, and it was no exception this year. Tom WB3FAE showed up and hung out with us as we roamed around. We never did run into one other club member whom we hoped to meet there. We did visit with members of the local FAWA club who are always there every year, as well as with Bob WC3O and other Skyview members. It's always special fun visiting with Bob as his enthusiasm for CW equals ours in every way. Here's a picture of four members that Bob took. It seems like he is always the picture taker. Next time we'll have to get him in one of our pictures.



That's L-R, BCARA and NAQCC member Bruce AA3LX, Tom WB3FAE, John K3WWP, and Mike KC2EGL all of whom are expressing just how much fun they were having.

After a couple hours of visiting, we decided to head home for a couple other projects.

Back home we took care of some NAQCC prize business which didn't take long because there wasn't much to do. Then we thought we'd try out one of the prizes for our October sprint drawing. I won't say what it was as the prizes for that drawing are being kept a secret until the drawing, but I will say it is good that we did try it out as it didn't seem to be working properly. That gave club manager Paul N8XMS time to find out about the problem and secure a replacement.

Way back in March we ordered two Lil Squall tuna tin type transceivers from QRPme. With a delay in shipping and then Mike's work overload, today was the first time we had a chance to build them. However, the first step in building is checking the parts as usual, and that put the brakes on building. There were several wrong/missing parts in the kits, so we put the parts away again, and contacted QRPme about the problem. So that's where that project stands now.

Next it was a little work on the computer, then off to Vocelli's for two meatball subs. We brought them home, ate them, then headed to my shack. We had checked the bands earlier and found them wanting, but now it was that good 2000-2200Z period I've been talking about, and they were indeed good now. I only worked a couple DX stations that had letters/numbers I needed for our NAQCC challenges, but Mike worked around a half dozen or so DX stations. After working the stations and exchanging our usual quips about it being a shame that QRP doesn't work, it was back to the computer.

As I think you know from my web site diary (<http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/>), Mike and I are both kind of hooked on the hidden object type of computer games, so Mike played one that I had previously finished. It was about a Time Machine. He made it all the way through it in a couple hours or so. After that we talked some football about the 98 point Texas A&M Commerce performance yesterday in which they ran up 986 yards of offense, and had three runners go over 100 yards and three receivers go over 100 yards. As things do, that led to talking about the Georgia Tech 222-0 game over Cumberland back in 1916 and other 100+ point games. We also reminisced about the Miami Dolphins undefeated season in 1972 and their narrow escape against not so good that year Buffalo Bills whom they beat only by 24-23 en route to the perfect season. Also the playoff game against Pittsburgh in which they needed a fake punt by Larry Seiple to keep the victory streak going. I think you get the gist of the football conversation without me giving more such examples. All too soon, 8PM came and Mike had to head home as he has to get up at 5AM for work.

We had hoped to do a couple parkpeditions in September, but Mike's heavy work load and the weather put a damper on that. If I were younger, I could throw my gear in a backpack and hike up to the park myself, but that very steep quarter mile or so stretch is just too much with the added backpack weight. I need to depend on Mike or Don to get up there.

Hopefully Don and I will have done a parkpedition by the time you read this.



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 a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send you items to our News Editor Paul, KD2MX.

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

FROM GEORGE, K4EOR, #3767 —

Recently K4EOR emailed me (N8XMS) this question and I thought that I would post it here to see if it generates any ideas...

“How can we get more involved in encouraging the folks at ARRL to add a CW page to QST? They do not need to abandon the mode that started ham radio!”

He then followed that up with the these thoughts...

There should, as a minimum, be a link to articles explaining the advantages of using Morse Code, how easy it is to learn, where to get help, and maybe a separate listing of scheduled CW activities. Someone should explain that learning Morse code just takes some planning and a little dedication, but the pleasure of being able to use code is immense.

We could also do a better job at hamfests by letting CW be heard! At hamfests, most CW/QRP groups stress building equipment and contests, but few are getting the attention of prospective operators by demonstrating or teaching CW anymore. Listen at the next hamfest you attend, and see how little CW you hear. We no longer try to get folks attention at hamfests or meetings by having little contests such as seeing who can send code with their foot or who can read code using a flashing light. We need these things more than ever today.

In addition, I believe that an untapped method for teaching Morse code is by the use of smartphones with oscillator capability . An app that would allow this would be great, but, alternately, separate oscillators at each end would allow duplex operation of voice and code without the need for a rig. Perhaps an oscillator/key kit could be provided at a reasonable charge to prospective Morse code operators. They could build the kit and then call an Elmer to help them learn by practicing over their smart phones. After all, most phone plans today allow nation wide calls. Once the code is learned, speed can be built up by operating over the air, but it must first be learned!

Yes, there are other ARRL publications which deal with code, but something special each month in QST would keep Morse code constantly in front of folks. Most everyone gets QST.

72/73, George K4EOR

FROM JOHN, K3WWP, #0002 —

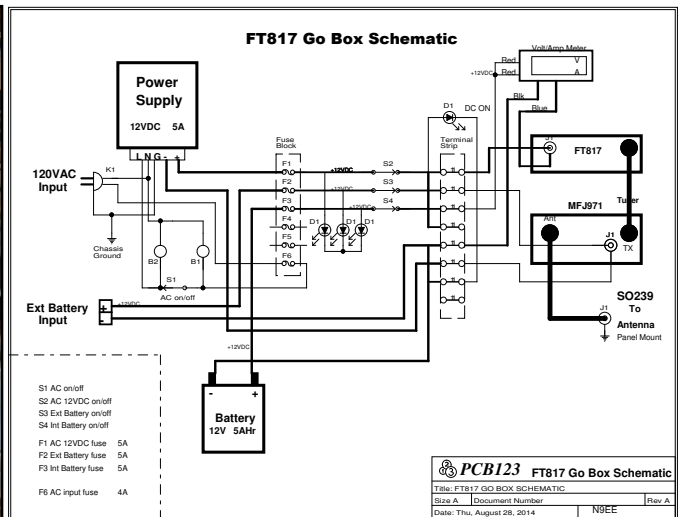
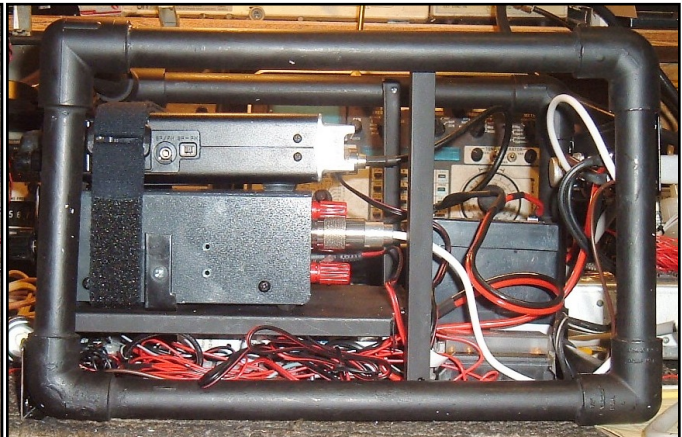
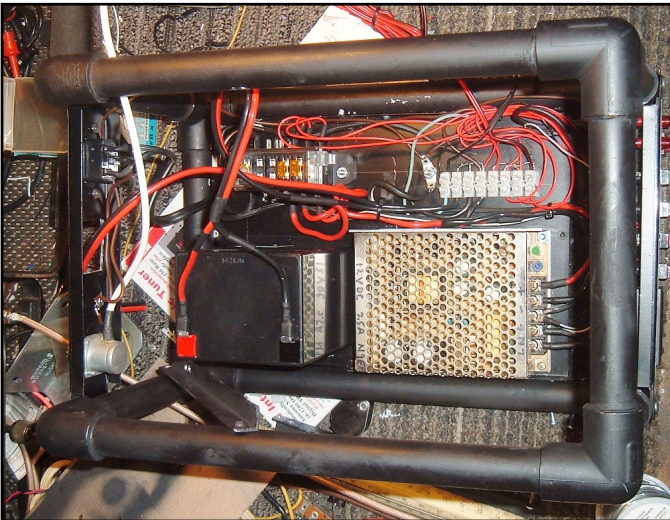
The Skyview Radio Society in New Kensington, PA posted a couple of pictures on their web site from the NAQCC Western Pennsylvania Chapter's visit to their club in August for some QRP operating using their large antenna farm. Click on the “Photographs” button at <http://www.skyviewradio.net/> view them.

FROM RON, N9EE, #6145 —

Here are some photos of my FT817 QRP Go Box I built up. Not the pretty items like the MFJ QRP rig or K3, but might be of interest for those working QRP. I know there are many NAQCC members that use the FT817.

Mine is configured for going out into the field (nice park) and setting up. I also use at home with my larger antennas.

It contains FT817, MFJ971 tuner, AC-to-12VDC 5A power supply, 12V 5 AHr battery and power control panel. All is made into PVC pipe frame enclosure. Again not as pretty as some, but is made for field work.



PCB123 FT817 Go Box Schematic
Title: FT817 GO BOX SCHEMATIC
Size: A Document Number
Date: Thu, August 28, 2014 N9EE Rev. A

FROM JOHN, KQ1P, #3113 —

This past August I was fortunate to spend a week on an island in the middle of the Saint Lawrence River in upstate New York, just about on the border with Ontario (FN14wg). A lovely place to visit and plenty of very tall oak trees to hold up an antenna or two. The plan was to spend time with the family, in and on the water, QRP activity was on a casual basis.

The whole station was packed into a plastic 5-gallon bucket with a waterproof lid. If it were to fall off a boat, the bucket floats. I used a You Kits R4020 CW transceiver, ear buds, keyer, z-match antenna tuner, a 20-meter folded dipole made from twinlead, and battery pack (6, AA batteries). I also carried extra coax, a 40-meter end-fed half wave, extra antenna wire, 8-pound test fishing line, pliers, and a VOM. Total weight of the bucket and contents is just a few pounds. I also pack one of my wife's discarded nylons. Put a handy fist-sized rock in the nylon, tie a knot in the open end, lash on the fishing line and I can set an antenna 50-feet up in short order (sometimes it does take a bit longer).

In the photo you can see that I found a nice wide windowsill inside to lay out the equipment and run the twin-lead out the window. The bucket became the operator's seat, firm, but I never spent more than an hour at a time on the air. My batteries were not fresh so my power slowly fell from 3 watts down to 1.5 watts. That caused no problem making contacts. I found that calling CQ was not very productive while responding to others was successful 75% of the time. I even worked W1AW/9 through a pile-up. This was a pleasant way to spend some relaxed time on vacation while adding to the log.



From left to right are the battery pack, R4020, key, ear buds, tuner, antenna feed.

FROM JOHN, K3WWP, #0002 —

Not a lot to report for September. As mentioned in the WPA Chapter news, we only had one activity all month which was disappointing but unavoidable.

The real highlight of the month was being able to honor the memory of the late Nancy WZ8C with our special NAQCC sprint and special NAQCC challenge. Although we never met in person, I considered Nancy a good friend because of the various communications we had over the years regarding my Keynote QRP column as well as the NAQCC. She was perhaps THE force in keeping CW the still popular mode it is today. She will be missed.

Along with that challenge and sprint, I also enjoyed our regular sprint which this month had better conditions than recent ones. I made my 20 QSOs in a shorter time than in the previous two sprints in which I limit myself to 20 QSOs, then QRT. As usual the regular alphabet challenge was a blast as was the European Chapter alphabet challenge. I just love those alphabet challenges.

My streaks continued through the month of September. The DX streak has been tricky a couple of days as we gradually back off of the latest sunspot maximum, but it has continued. I'm writing this on Sep 26 so I hope the previous two sentences prove to be correct. HI I am just about completely certain the regular streak will continue, and fairly certain about the DX streak.

I kind of miss the W1AW WAS hunt now that I have completed it when I worked ME at the end of August. I have been gathering some new prefixes throughout the month. I find that prefixes always seem to be available whereas it is hard finding overall new DX entities after 219 of them or even band-entities after almost 1,110 of them. New band-zones and band-states likewise. Perhaps I should think about starting over with everything in 2015 and seeing how far I could get.

As of today I'm still awaiting my Elecraft PX3 panadapter. Shipping of the kits has started now, so hopefully I'll have it by the early part of October.

Then of course, I'm looking forward to my retirement next month as described in my "Farewell Address" elsewhere in the newsletter. It's been a great 10 years, but time to move on now.

FROM JOHN, N8ZYA, #2279 —

As reported earlier in this newsletter, the WV Chapter of the NAQCC enjoyed a great portable operation last month. Afterwards they received some unsolicited publicity in KE9V's blog "Quintessence":

"One local chapter of the [North American QRP CW Club](#) (NAQCC) in West Virginia was also inspired and took advantage of the season by hitting the field for an overnight operation that John, N8ZYA [shared with us](#). Sky gazing and ham radio are like grilled salmon and Pinot Noir -- a perfect pairing. Which reminds me, I've always been impressed with the content, quality, and tenacity of that club's [newsletter](#)."

FROM CHARLIE, W2GN, #6819 —

Charlie would like to invite any NAQCC members to participate in the QRP category of the NY QSO Party on October 18th. Complete details can be found at http://nyqp.org/wordpress/nyqp/2014/NY_QSO_Party_Rules_2014.pdf.



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

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 North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has more than 7000 members throughout the world. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

Club Manager Paul Huff, N8XMS
9928 Eckles
Livonia, MI 48150
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC Club Manager Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	naqccfl@yahoo.com
Shenandoah Valley Chapter	Russ - K3NLT	k3nlt@comcast.net
West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
QRS Nets	Chuck - AB1VL	cfytech24x7@gmail.com