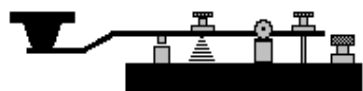


NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 209 NOVEMBER 2015



KEY CLICKS

- **17-SEPTEMBER-2015 IS A RED-LETTER DAY FOR THE NAQCC.** On that day NAQCC membership number 8000 was issued to K5MBA! And as of this writing an additional 66 QRP/CW fans have also joined. Of course not every one of our 8000+ members are active, but we do think that this shows that QRP/CW operating is very much alive and well on our ham bands.
- **NAQCC MEMBER INTERVIEWED FOR QSO TODAY PODCAST.** NAQCC member Larry Makoski, W2LJ, gave a nice interview to Eric Guth, 4Z1VG/WA6IGR, for his popular podcast called "QSO Today." Much of the conversation was about CW/QRP. The interview is about an hour long and can be heard at <http://www.qsotoday.com/> (Episode 62). QSO Today episodes are also available for free download from the Apple iTunes store.
- **SO WHY DON'T YOU SUBMIT A SPRINT LOG?** Every month a significant number of participants in our sprints end up not submitting a log for their QSOs. Please read the editorial found on page 14.
- **NAQCC MEMBER FACING SERIOUS MEDICAL SITUATION.** Long time NAQCC member Jerry, W5JH, #1973, is facing a serious medical situation. This is what he recently posted on the qrp-l newslst:

I found out in May of this year that I have Stage 4 Liver Failure. You may notice I have not posted during that time. The only "cure" for this disease is to replace the liver - one which matches your blood type and body size. Since finding out about the liver problem, I have done extensive testing at the Liver Institute, Methodist Hospital in Dallas. In order to receive a replacement liver, you have to be in good shape. I have passed all of those tests that the Liver Institute has required and I am now on the liver transplant list. I have been feeling much better than I was a few months ago. My transplant is probably out 6 months to a year. As long as I have a (MELD) score below approximately 30, I probably will not get a transplant. I have had a lot of people praying for me and it is working. If you are a person who prays, I ask you to pray for me.

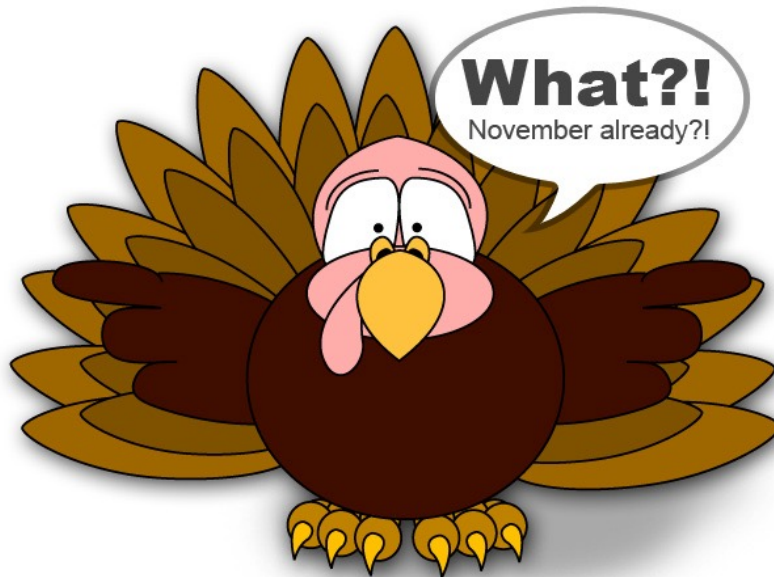
Thank You, Jerry W5JH

- **N#A QSL REQUEST DEADLINE APPROACHING.** John, KK1X, is planning on running a large batch of QSLs and certificates for our N#A operations soon and he is asking that if at all possible please get your requests to him by November 14. See http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html for QSL details.

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- **THIRD QUARTER 2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE PRIZE WINNER IS EI4GOB.** We want to encourage all of you to “talk up” the NAQCC and as an incentive we will be offering a prize each quarter of 2015 to the person responsible for the most new membership applications during that quarter. (The application form includes a field where the person can indicate how they heard about the NAQCC.) The prize is a gift certificate for 100 free QSL cards from <http://cheapqsls.com/naqcc.html>. The winner for the 3rd quarter is EI4GOB - congratulations to Fionnabarra!
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.
- **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 Vice President John, N8ZYA, 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 *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. 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.”



Happy Thanksgiving!



DX-PEDITION TO ND (PART 1) BY GREGG, WB8LZG

I've been hooked on "CW Sweeps" now for about 35 years. My good friend and contest mentor, W8EKR, referred to the ARRL CW Sweepstakes as "the granddaddy of all contests." Sweeps draws the best ops in North America. It offers challenging and fast paced fun from the git go! And it is a good way to get your code speed up in a hurry. It has the most information in the exchange of any contest. Some of it is really interesting too. Like the "year first Licensed," the Precedence (which is the power and station class), and of course all those sections. This thought occurred to me last Sweepstakes. How cool it would be to go to one of those "rare" sections to operate /P for Sweeps? You know the ones: PAC, AK, NWT, Yukon Territory, North Dakota.

North Dakota? Come on. How are they even on that list? "Not a lot of Hams up there in the prairie."

Well sometimes your wishes DO come true. A few years ago my son Jordon, KC8QYU, moved to Minot, ND and bought a home there. I ran the idea of doing CW Sweeps by him and he said "come on up". Much preparation needed. Wow, this was the real thing. Going several thousand miles away to operate a contest is a big undertaking. Lot's of planning. This was much more than just a FD or camping trip QRP style. No running back home for something I forgot.

The XYL and I were visiting Jordon in July, so I thought I'd try a "dry run" to see if we could get some dipoles up high in the trees. So here is what I did to ease into this. I sent an Icom 706mkII, and a Vibroplex key ahead UPS. Then I made two brand new dipoles; one for 20m, and one for 40m. I attached 75' RG58u coax to the feedpoint and raised them here at home to "prune" them to resonance. I wanted to be sure that I wouldn't have any troubles once in North Dakota. Then I packaged the dipoles and several rolls of very strong nylon line, smaller twine, some fishing line, and a few one ounce sinkers. What else to put in? Hmmmm I just know I'm forgetting something!

Oh yes, station accessories. A coax switch, several coax adaptors, a couple of 3' coax cables, logbook, spare power cable and key cable. Then I also sent this ahead via UPS. So all we had to do was to just get on the plane. Nothing to it!

The big day came and we boarded the plane in Lansing, with anticipation of a new adventure. Fortunately the flights were uneventful and went quickly. We were soon standing on the prairie!

After all the "hugs n kisses" we were finally at my son's new home. We had an enjoyable evening together, catching up on the "latest happenings".

The next day I dug into the radio equipment. Good thing I had double boxed the equipment. The outside box on the coax shipment was in very sad condition. I could "see" wire. As I opened it up, I hoped none of the coax was cut. It was intact. Good, all the gear arrived in one piece.

Now to survey the trees. I located some unsuspecting limbs, and exercised my fisherman's prowess by quickly looping a few lines in the trees. Then I hoisted up the center and tied off the ends inverted V style. Not bad, I got the centers of both up about 30'. Not as high as I wanted, but the trees weren't any taller!

Jordon passed me the feedlines through the window of the "temporary shack" and gently sealed the window again. I attached the cables to the back of the rig within a few seconds and turned on the power in anticipation. Wow, signals on 40 were pretty good. I quickly snagged a "local" station in Colorado. "The 40m works" I said to myself, and switched the feedlines to the 20m antenna. I heard and a JA1

right off! Hmmmm I thought, "It's a bit easier to hit Japan from here versus back home." Over the next few days, during the early hours of the morning, I filled up a couple of pages in the log, getting a feel for how the aerals were playing. All looked ready for SWEEPS !

I had applied for, and was granted a Special Callsign for my week stay in Minot. Now don't get me wrong, I like MY call. But in CW Sweepstakes, WB8LZG/0 just doesn't cut it. The six digit call is long enough, let alone adding a "stroke zero" on the end! So I figured, why not try for one of those special calls. Well I applied for, and received, N0T (for Minot). It should be lots of fun handing out North Dakota with that one!

Stay tuned for Part II

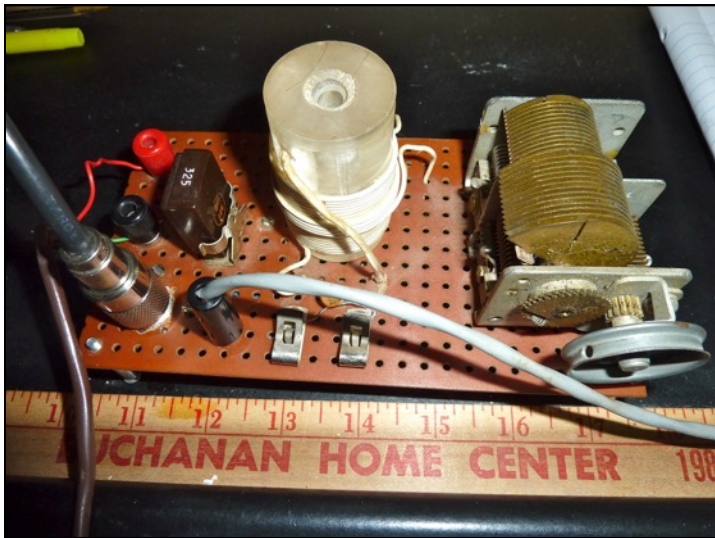


WHAT'S IN YOUR BASEMENT

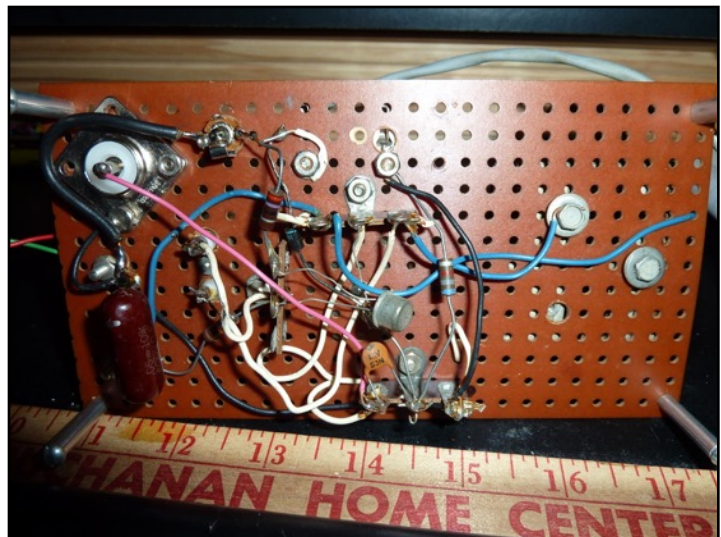
BY RICK, W2JAZ

Like many amateurs my age with commercial rigs that are state of the art, we may also have some equipment that dates back to before the middle of the last century. In short, some of us have acquired a lot of gear! I have acquired quite a bit since first licensed in 1965 despite the many moves we've made across the country. I was fortunate enough to retire recently which motivated me to think about downsizing. Notice I said think. My XYL and I even entertained moving to put us closer to our vacation house in the Pocono Mountains area of Pennsylvania, but before we could even think about that I had to commit to a "clean," a purging of unnecessary "stuff." Between eBay and QTH.com I was able to shed a number of items, acquiring enough cash to buy more amateur radio gear, rationalized only by the fact that newer gear is smaller and takes up less space! At least that was my story and I'm sticking to it.

In the process of my equipment purge I found a few items that, despite their age and dated technology, I just couldn't part with. One such item, a homebrewed QRP 80/40 meter CW transmitter, is pictured here.



Top View



Bottom View

When we packed to spend a month at the vacation house I threw this little rig in along with a newly purchased gel cell. I realized though, once I got around to unpacking and taking care of necessary chores, that over time I had pillaged parts from the little rig, cannibalizing the SO-259 and a few other items. I had no idea where the schematic could be found or even when I built this QRP gem. I suspect that it was in the late 1970s when we were living in Iowa and I went by the call sign WB0WAG. It took a few minutes to trace the circuit and determine where the voltage was applied and which tie points were for the key input and RF output, but eventually I was optimistic that I had sorted things out. What initially confused me were the Fahnestock clips until I finally remembered that they were intended to accommodate some sort of meter or light bulb to facilitate tuning. I didn't have either handy, but I did have a very old Radio Shack multi-meter that had been a kit. Remember those days?

I finally decided to apply 12 volts from the gel cell. After all what harm could it do, I had given it a stay of execution, a reprieve from the trash bin! I had also packed an old straight key with hopes that I could resuscitate the single transistor transmitter. I added a coax switch so I could quickly move the antenna from the homebrewed transmitter to my TS-2000 for receiving. Talk about a stark contrast in technologizes! The moment of truth came when I applied power and closed the contacts on the key. Low and behold I heard a good clean tone, no chirps and nearly pinning the S meter on my Kenwood! The old rig still had some life in it.

I then decided it was time for the real test - could I actually make a contact with the little tike? I had no idea what the output was, but suspected that with only one transistor it had to be in the milliwatt range. I also had packed several old FT-243 style crystals for 40 and 80 meters (yes.... something else I just couldn't bring myself to part with.... "they're small honey"). Since I had no way of measuring or peaking the output with the old salvaged 350mf variable capacitor (no doubt harvested from an old radio), I did my best to peak the transmitter by watching the S-meter on the TS-2000, before adding the old Radio Shack multi-meter across the Fahnestock clips. I assessed the crystal frequencies that I had and tried a few CQs on 7.025, identifying myself as W2JAZ/3 QRP. No luck so I changed crystals and moved to 7.050, closer to the QRP calling frequency. Much to my amazement AI2T responded to my CQ, initially with a 249 report, which he later increased to 459. Maybe he was just being generous when he learned what I was using, but I gladly changed the log report. He was located in Oswego, NY, about 200 miles north of my QTH in Lakeville, PA. Exciting! And I admit to feeling just a little giddy, much like the old days when I was a Novice in 1965 (WN3EIQ) using my Johnson Adventurer.

On June 22nd I thought it was time to try for another contact to see if I could out due myself. I sent out a CQ on the same frequency where I had previously struck gold. It's important to add that the SWR was probably not optimum since I did not have a tuner in the shack that would handle such low power, but I knew that my homebrewed OCF Windom antenna was at least in the ballpark to match a 50 ohm load with reasonable SWR on 40 meters. To my amazement VA3AJB answered my CQ!! I bested my first contact by quite a few miles. John in MISSISSAUGA, ON fought the noisy conditions as best he could and I appreciated his effort. According to Google Maps, this second QSO was nearly 400 miles away, twice the distance of my first QSO.

I haven't gone back to this wonderful little rig since then except to verify it's output using my Oak Hills WM-1 QRP wattmeter that showed 250 milliwatts! I know I'll eventually put it to use again at the home QTH so I'm very glad that I saved it from the trash bin. Maybe it's my age and the fear of full retirement with idle time on my hands, but I'm having fun reaching back to my early days in ham radio. I vowed then that my next project, if I could find all the parts, would be to rebuild the transmitter I built in the mid 1960s based on a article in *Electronics Illustrated*. It was appropriately called the "Scrounger," complete with a coil wound on a toilet paper roll. I hear that the paper companies are going green and that might make finding a sturdy toilet paper roll the most difficult part to scrounge. (This project was the subject of a previous article I contributed to the NAQCC newsletter)

Whether you are a new comer to the hobby or a seasoned “old timer” like me, (I can’t believe I just referred to myself that way), it’s never too late to experience what I still consider to be the essence of amateur radio. Despite all of the fabulous new technologies and modes of communication at our disposal that I enjoy regularly, there can be real excitement found in your father’s, or your own basement. Resist the temptation to throw it out, or build something from scratch using components you find! As simple as it might be, it’s likely to work! And that’s Amateur Radio.



ANNIVERSARY REPORT

BY PAUL, N8XMS

Our NAQCC 11th Anniversary Celebration was the week of October 12 -18 and as they say “a fine time was had by all.” Most of the credit for our successful operations goes to the 52 members who volunteered to put our special event callsigns on the air from all over the United States, and we certainly thank them for their efforts. A complete list of the volunteers can be found near the end of this article.

Our N#A operators combined to make 1222¹ QRP/CW QSOs. Although we had more operators this year than in 2014, this total is only a little bit higher than last year, and it probably reflects the less than optimal conditions that were reported by many of our volunteers during the week. We worked 48 states, missing only Alaska and Hawaii, and 6 VE provinces are found in the logs - AB, BC, MB, NS, ON, and QC. 16 DX entities were worked - CO, DL, EA8, EI, F, G, JA, KP4, LU, OK, PY, S5, UA, VP2, XE, and YN. 40-meters was our most popular band with 20-meters being a not so close second.

Band	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
QSOs	133	160	453	123	313	20	17	1	2

A few of our volunteers had circumstances come up (family issues, work schedule, etc.) that prevented them from operating, but the ones that did get on the air averaged 30.6 QSOs each. This number is definitely skewed a little bit by the amazing effort put forth by N3HEE. Joe made 344 contacts, including 133 on 160-meters where he used our special N3A call to play in the [Stew Perry Topband Distance Challenge](#). His 101 contest QSOs earned him 2nd place in the QRP category for that contest. Well done Joe! If you take Joe out of the count the average number of QSOs per operator was 22.5.

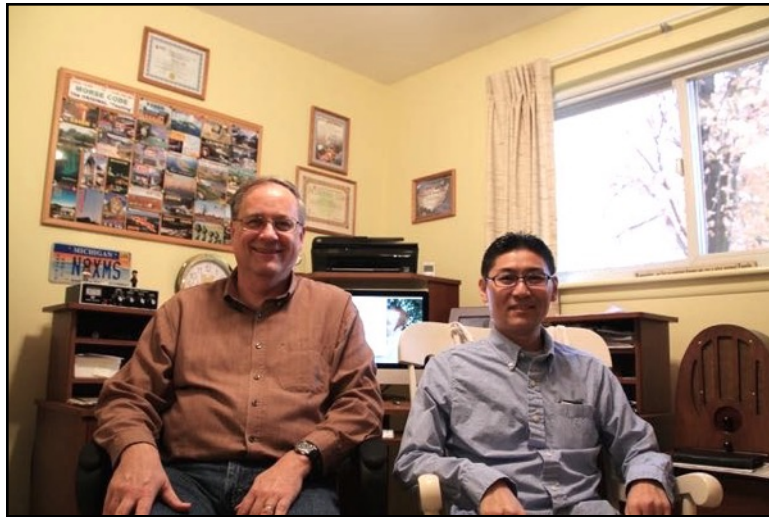
Here are a few more statistics that might be of interest: The average number of different states worked by operators was 12.1 and the highest count for a single operator was 46 (N3HEE). Operators in the 3rd call district made the highest number of QSOs, 454, but again that was skewed by N3HEE. The second highest QSO count, 217, went to the 4th call district. (The 3rd and 4th districts had the highest number of active volunteers - 7 and 6 respectively. Districts 2, 5, and 9 had the least with 2 in each.)

A number of our operators sent in soapbox comments about their experiences and you can find those at the end of this article.

Please remember that if you worked one or more of our N#A stations you can get a special QSL or certificate to commemorate your QSO(s). Complete details can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html. John, KK1X, is asking that QSL requests be sent to him by November 14 so that he can get them processed as a single large batch.

The other major event from our anniversary celebration was the sprint that week and the subsequent prize drawing that went along with it. 9 out of 10 of our US call districts were represented in the sprint with our special N#A callsigns. (One operator had a major computer crash that knocked his station off the air for the sprint.) 131 logs were submitted which is a little bit above our average for the year but less than what we were expecting for this special sprint.

Every NAQCC member who submitted a log was automatically entered in the prize drawing, and 42 of them had also fulfilled the throughout-the-year participation requirement and qualified for one of the three first-tier prizes. (The complete list of eligibility requirements can be found on the prize drawing page at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_11th_anniv.html.)



On October 24th Paul, N8XMS, and Noz, AD7TN, met at Paul's QTH to do the drawing. All of the eligible members were entered into a spreadsheet and computer generated random numbers were used to select the prize winners. As prizes were awarded pictures of the prizes, along with the callsigns of the winners, were posted on the prize drawing page in almost-realtime.

Prize #	Prize	Winner
1	Vibroplex Standard Straight Key	W4DUK
2	Vibroplex Standard Iambic Paddle	KB1UOH
3	YouKits MT-1 Longwire QRP Antenna Tuner Kit	WD0K
4	ARRL Antenna Compendium, Vol. 4	N5DUX
5	Hints & Kinks For The Radio Amateur, 18th edition	K6XT
6	ARRL Antenna Compendium, Vol. 1	AD7TN
7	Vibroplex Collectors Guide, by Tom French	N8BB
8	Keys II: The Emporium, by Dave Ingram	K4KRW
9	The Railroad Telegraphers Handbook, by Tom French	VE3FMW
10	Telegraph Anthology CD from the Antique Wireless Association	K3JZD

Congratulations to all of the drawing winners! Pictures of all of the prizes can be seen on the [prize drawing page](#). Pictures of the winners with their prizes will also be posted there as they become available.

In conclusion let me say that it is not too early to start thinking about our 12th anniversary celebration in 2016. Beginning in January you can start earning the participation points that will make you eligible for those great first-tier prizes, and sometime in the spring we will start to put out the call for N#A volunteer operators. (Some of the call districts were a little bit thin for active operators and we would certainly like to bump those counts up next year.) So come join in on the fun!

N#A Volunteer Operators:

W0EJ K0ALN N0WKZ W0IIT AB1VL K1RID KC1CMF W1SFR K1IX KQ1P W2JAZ W2LJ W2IU K2DEP
K3WWP KC2EGL WB3FAE WA3HIC W3ZMN AE3J W3TTT N3HEE KG4MTN K4NVJ N4MJ WA4RG
AA4GA K4KRW NA4O K4BAI W1TEF KS5H W5WIL WH7TT K6MGO KR5RR KK6NLZ N6IET AB7MP
KE6K KF7WNS WC7S N0DA K7ROH K7EW N8XMS AC8JW KD8RUQ AD7TN AB9YC KR9Z WT2P

Soapbox Comments From N#A Operators:

WB3FAE (N3A) - I spent Columbus Day (10/12/15) with KC2EGL (Mike) and K3WWP (John) at the Kittanning (Pa) Community Park. It was a beautiful day and I think we all had a great time. Unfortunately the band conditions on 20M were not that good. I worked one DX station (FR), 2 VE stations (MB and NS) and made 14 contacts stateside. Thanks to all that worked me on 20 meters. It was fun using N3A call. Looking forward to another outing next year.

AB9YC (N9A) - This was another great year. Work and family obligations limited my opportunities to operate but I managed to successfully block out the monthly Sprint and put N9A on the air. What a fun hour and a half that was! Thanks for all those who could hear me and stopped by to get in the log. Also, thanks for working with me to dig you out of my noise, which was not insignificant at that time. I hope to see more of you on the air next year, and look forward to having more time at the key for NAQCC's 12th Anniversary activities.

W2JAZ (N2A) - I worked approximately 18 hours over the course of the week despite rather poor band conditions. Among the 56 contacts made, 21 identified themselves as NAQCC members exchanging membership numbers with me. Operators were very friendly, courteous, and cooperative aside from one who was calling CQ on 80m and responded to my call by saying "no contesters" in very poor CW rhythm! I used my KX3 and Carolina Windom for all but one QSO when I needed more directivity and flipped in the Hex Beam. As for logging, GenLog worked just fine until I realized in exporting my log for posting that it does not provide a field for names! Oops! I learned after re-reading the directions that logs should include a name field. I could reconstruct that from my hand written notebook but would prefer not to take the time to do this. I am generally not a contesteer by nature but admit to enjoying this week-long activity as it got me away from watching TV hi hi!! I have also been participating in NAQCC Sprints as they provide a brief window as compared to most contests. Thanks for giving me the opportunity to be apart of this 11th anniversary celebration.

AB7MP (N7A) - I was afraid I was going to come up nil this year with no replies to my cqing, so I did a little "search and pounce" activity and worked a station in CO and snagged a nice DX on 4.9W – Japan (1004 m/w but your mileage may vary.) With only two contacts, it was still a good event. Conditions were a bit noisy north of the 45th parallel, but I had fun anyway!

KR5RR (N6) - Lots of good RBN spots through out the week all over USA/HI/PR/CAN, but not many QSO to show for it. CQ to QSO ratio has to be more than 100:1. Had to go S&P to get DX and 17m & 12m. A real education in band conditions. NCS'd FRN 80m Western USA net, and 8 Q's had no problem copying me - other times, only one other 80M Q. Operating /M on 20m Friday afternoon, first 29 minutes, no Q's, the next 31 minutes 7 Q's plus two I just could not copy. Great 15M DX opening late Saturday afternoon. Many THANKS to Curt/KB5JO for three bands (20/15/10) and also to Rick/N6IET for encouragement. Thanks to all for a fun event! 72 de JB.

K4KRW (N4A) - This was first time I'd ever operated a special event station and I operated as N4A from Charlotte, NC. What a fun week. My goal was to operate at least an hour each day and try to operate on multiple bands during the week. I was able to do this. I also decided that unless I had a pileup, I'd talk as long as the other station wanted to hang around. Most of the QSOs ended up being 5 minutes or less though. I have youngsters so it was hard to plan too far ahead to operate. So, for the most part, I posted right before I operated. The first Sunday night, N2A was the first station who called me and ended up being the only other N#A station I talked to all week. I heard N1A and N0A very weakly at times throughout the week but could not get back to them. With the sprint going on, I could not operate as N4A Tuesday night, so I ended up operating from work at lunch on Wednesday to get that day's contacts. Outside of my building, I found a great park bench with a perfect nearby tree to throw my half wave end fed over. I even got to show some co-workers what it was all about (I was relieved when my key card still worked the next day :-). People I talked to were running all kinds of rigs from QRP rigs like the K1 to high end rigs like K3s and Flex 6300s. Most of my contacts were with members. I used my KX3 for most of the week. I also managed some contacts using my Sierra. I used my Bencher BY-1 or the KX3's attached paddles. I thought I would get skunked on a few sessions. But, I only ended up with one 30 minute session on 15 meters where I did not get a contact. I often got a contact right as I was getting ready to end a session. Thanks everyone who called me. You made this a fun week. Happy 11th, NAQCC. 73, Richard

KS5H (N5A) - Tough band conditions, including lots of slow, cyclic QSB. Only 37 QSOs, including 10 Sprint QSOs, for 6 or 7 hours of activity. About half were not NAQCC members, so got the word out to a few. The only N#A station I was able to work was N8A.

WA3HIC (N3A) - Hopefully I will be in better health when next year rolls around. My only humble comment would be to encourage everyone to give QRP/QRPP a try. It's a thrill to Qso with another person on less power than most of our neighbors use to power their light bulbs!! Speed, no matter how slow you are... your speed will improve. Just try....

K6MGO (N6A) - For the times I had available to operate, band conditions were not very good and few were open, however did manage to make some contacts even though. Always a lot of fun operating as N6A and glad to see this time we had more fellows join in. Hope they had better luck than I did.

N3HEE (N3A) - I had the honor and privilege to operate as N3A for the 2015 NAQCC 11th anniversary special event. It always amazes me what you can do with QRP power levels and simple wire antennas. This event was no exception. Conditions were great on the lower bands and I was able to make 344 contacts over the course of the week. I operated on 7 bands giving out QSO's on 160,80,40,20,30,17 & 15 meters. I worked Danny WP4F on three (20,17,15) bands. I also operated the NAQCC October sprint as N3A. That was a lot of fun with lots of strong signals and good activity. I entered the 2015 PRE STEW PERRY TOPBAND DISTANCE CHALLENGE as N3A and took second place in the QRP category making 101 contacts to 55 grid squares with my best DX being 1528 miles. That was a real challenge for sure ! My rig is a K3 with the following wire antennas. 160 meter Inverted L with K2AV folded counterpoise, 300 foot horizontal loop at 12-50 feet for 80, 30, 17 meters, dipoles at 35 feet for 40, 20, 15 & 10 meters. I look forward to operating again next year. Thanks to everyone for working me ! -Joe N3A/N3HEE

KK6NLZ (N6A) - No computers, no software, and on battery power. I don't think I did that well but I am new so I have no clue, but I had a lot of fun and I think the people I had a QSO with were excited to reach me.

W3TTT (N3A) - I operated for only an hour, then for an hour and a half for the sprint, but not as N3A in the sprint. My grandson had a bar mitzvah this week so I didn't spend a lot of time in ham radio. But thanks for the chance to be a special station for a bit.

¹This article was written with three operator reports still outstanding but it is very likely that the final numbers will be very near, if not exactly the same, as what is reported here.



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.

JOCK IRVINE, N1JI, #7012



My interest in radio started during the summer of 1984 when I was home from college and working the 3:00-11:00 shift at the New Hampshire State Hospital. I was having a hard time unwinding and getting to sleep after work until I discovered AM talk radio. This was before talk radio became mostly politics and there were a lot of interesting programs to listen to as I lay in bed before going to sleep. Before long I discovered that I could tune in stations from New York City, Washington, D.C., Detroit, and even Chicago with my little clock radio. This seemed magical to me and I would often tune around just to see how far away I could hear. I still get that magical feeling when working a DX station today, knowing that I've made a direct connection, using just a piece of wire hanging in my back yard, to another part of the world.

I finished college in 1986 and joined the Air Force Band stationed at Pease AFB. I went in as a tuba player (my major in college), but I picked up bass as a secondary instrument after a couple of years. I didn't think much about radio until one day in 1989 when we were finishing up a tour of upstate New York. It was a 10-12 hour bus ride back to the base and, having just finished the book I'd brought with me, I had nothing to read.

A friend loaned me his copy of "The Complete Shortwave Listener's Handbook" and I read it cover-to-cover during the drive. By the time we arrived back at the base I was hooked. The next morning I went to Radio Shack and bought a DX-440 shortwave receiver, which you can just make out in the top right of my photo. After a couple of weeks, and a lot of listening, I knew I wanted an amateur radio license so I went back to Radio Shack and bought a set of Gordon West's Morse Code tapes.

I had a lot of fun listening to those tapes and I found that learning the code was pretty easy for me. By the end of a three-day weekend I was finished with the tapes and CW has been my favorite mode ever

since. Soon I was out of the Air Force and back in my home town of Concord, NH. I learned about a Novice class that was being run by the Contoocook Valley Radio Club and my father and I signed up. At the end of the class we both passed the code and theory tests and our call signs were issued on December 26, 1990; KA1WYD for me and KA1WYE for my father. We both have vanity calls now and his is K1FLI.

I was very active in amateur radio for over ten years but eventually my attention turned to other things; family responsibilities, a satellite radio receiver in the car, etc. Sometime around 2005 I was setting up a home office for my music business and anything that wasn't music related had to be moved out of the space. Since my radio equipment just seemed to be gathering dust, I boxed it all up and stored it in the basement. I think I always knew I would be coming back to the hobby though, because I made sure to renew my license and I never let my membership in the local radio club lapse.

I came back to radio about three years ago when one of my sons was starting his freshman year at Keene State College. I had replaced the satellite receiver in my car with a smartphone and was disappointed to find out that most of the drive to campus is a dead zone. As I was wondering how to make the trips more interesting, I remembered the Ten-Tec Scout sitting in a box in my basement - Eureka! A ball-mount on the fender (It's an old car) with a couple of hamsticks completed the setup and I was back on the air with my first QSO on November 24, 2012.

I think what first attracted me to QRP is its simplicity. A complete station that you can fit in a backpack vs. one that fills a desk. And, the fact that QRP is less likely to cause RFI is a real plus for me in my crowded neighborhood (The houses here are less than twenty feet apart). When I found the NAQCC and K3WWP's websites, it was sort of like that time on the bus when someone handed me a copy of "The Complete Shortwave Listener's Handbook;" I read just about everything on both sites and, when I was done, I was hooked on QRP. K3WWP's site in particular showed me that it's possible to be successful with low power, even from a small city lot like mine. At the end of last year, I replaced my 100 watt transceiver with a KX3 and now I'm 100% QRP.

My favorite NAQCC activities right now revolve around the awards program. After investing in a KX3 I want to make sure I use it, so I'm working toward the QSO-a-Day award. At first I thought that making a QSO every day would be a real challenge, but once I got into a regular routine, I found that it's really not too hard. As I write this I've already made it through the first seven months of 2015 and I'm pretty sure I'll make it through the whole year.

Another award I'm working on right now is the participation award, which means I'm taking part in the challenges and sprints each month. Thanks to the NAQCC, I'm spending more time on the air than I ever did before. I want to thank everyone who participates in the club activities, as well as those who volunteer their time and make donations, for making this such a vibrant club.

Music has been the one constant in my life and I've been performing in one group or another since I was fifteen years old. Currently I'm playing bass in about a half-dozen jazz and blues groups. This may sound like a lot, but no single group seems to get a lot of work these days, so I'm really just playing five to ten gigs per month.

After the Air Force, I found a day job working with computers and I just finished my 22nd year as the director of IT for a small school district here in New Hampshire. I'm making a career change next fall and I'll be in the same district, but teaching computer and music classes instead of running the computer systems. I have a wonderful wife and four kids who are 9 months, 3, 21 and 23 years old. We all live in a house that's just over 1000 square feet, which makes the KX3 an ideal HF station! My entire shack fits on a youth desk and several shelves in a corner of our bedroom.

I hope to hear you during one of the NAQCC sprints - 72!



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our November sprint will be on Thursday, November 19, 0130-0330 UTC. That is the evening of Wednesday the 18th here in North America. Please note the the UTC time change is due to the switch from daylight savings time, and the sprint will be at your same local time as always.

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>.

We occasionally get questions from sprint participants about how to use the GenLog software to log and report their contacts. Most of the time the answers to these questions can be found in the excellent illustrated tutorial written by KB8FE and found at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html. Alternatively, a logging spreadsheet for Mac OS X computer users is available at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html.

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: The October sprint was a special celebration of 11th anniversary of the NAQCC and included a special prize drawing for member-participants. You can read about that prize drawing in the *Anniversary Report* earlier in this newsletter. 131 logs were submitted for the sprint with 219 total participants showing up in those logs. That was a little bit higher than our average for the year but less than what we were anticipating. Possibly the poor conditions that many reported experiencing had something to do with that. The Presidential debate probably also had an impact. Nevertheless soapbox comments were overwhelmingly positive. Here is just one example from KQ1X, "WOW! Best Sprint ever! Got on 80 from the start and stayed on freq. I had pileups the whole time! That NEVER happens to me. Felt like I was working from some DX location. Thanks for all the contacts. Special thanks to all who make these Sprints happen and on this anniversary a special thanks to those who had the vision to create NAQCC. I really enjoy these Sprints."

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201510.html> and summary information can be seen in the tables on the following pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: N6TH, KB1WOD, K3JZD, N2HTT, KA8KUF, KE4S (nm), KS5H (N5A), KF6C

SO WHY DON'T YOU SUBMIT A SPRINT LOG? (AN EDITORIAL) In our October sprint 219 participants showed up in the submitted logs and 40% of those participants did not submit a log - Why?!? This rate is not atypical. Month after month 30% to 40% of the participants do not send in a log. Of course some of these no-loggers are probably non-members or even QRO ops who come across our sprint and decide to hand out a few QSOs to help out, and we certainly appreciate and welcome them. But many are members who are seriously "competing" in the sprint. I put "competing" in quotes because our sprints are supposed to be fairly relaxed events where we emphasize participation over points. Actually, that fact might be one of the one of the reasons for the "no-loggers" - they don't care about the

points so they don't send a log. Ok, but log numbers do make a statement of sorts and the higher the count the louder the statement that we all make supporting our great QRP/CW segment of the hobby.

Another possible reason for the large number of no-loggers is the dislike for doing the "paper work." Although there are some "stat freaks" who love keeping meticulous records (there is one in particular that we all know and love!), that probably doesn't describe the majority of us. But come on guys, many of us date back to the days when a well maintained log was a legal requirement from the FCC. The record keeping for our sprints really isn't that big of a deal and we try to make it as painless as possible with our automated "autologger" submission page. But I do admit that the autologger does require a very specific log format and that really leads into my next point.

I have had members say to me, "Paul, I would participate in the sprints but my ____ logging software (fill in any name that you want) isn't supported." So lets talk about logging. It is of course true that our autologger does not support Cabrillo and ADIF files. I suppose that it would be possible to rewrite the autologger software to do so, but it's a much bigger job than you would at first expect and it would require a lot of dedication and time to complete. Finding a volunteer with the skills, time, energy, and interest to do that would be very difficult. Not only that, but there is a good reason for sticking with a text file log - it's a universal format. Anyone with a computer can produce one. If you are the typical sprinter who only makes a few contacts, typing them up directly into a text file for the autologger is a very minor task. I've done it.

But what if you like to use your fancy logging software to keep all of your QSOs on, including your sprint contacts? Well, there is always a way to coax out an autologger file from your software but it might take a few creative computer tricks to pull it off. For example, for a while I was using a major logging software package that could not produce a text file. But it could make a CSV file. So I would open that CSV file in my spreadsheet software and then move and delete columns until I had a match for the autologger format. Then the spreadsheet was cut to the clipboard and pasted into a "pure" text file (not a "rich" text file) using something on my computer called "paste and match style." The result didn't necessarily look pretty, with perfectly lined-up columns, but it was exactly what the autologger needed.

If that sounds like too much work, and you are a Windows computer user, please consider using the free contest logging software developed by W3KM called GenLog. I'll be honest, I'm not really crazy about GenLog, and I wouldn't use it for my regular logging, but it does do a pretty good job for our NAQCC sprints. The fact that it will automatically fill-in the membership data, multipliers, and QSO points, into a perfectly formatted autologger file makes learning how to use the program well worth the effort. (Old dogs can learn new tricks and besides, GenLog is probably easier to learn than that fancy logging software that you are already using!) Then after the sprint you can export an ADIF file from GenLog and import it into your main station log. As I said, that's what I did for several years and it worked very well for me. If you need help with learning how to use GenLog be sure to take a look at the step-by-step tutorial that we have on our club website at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html. Carefully going through that tutorial should teach you everything that you need to know to log our sprints.

For a long time Mac computer users were an underserved minority in our sprints. GenLog will not run on a Mac unless you use some expensive parallel software. So when I switched over to an iMac I decided, mostly for selfish reasons, to do something about that. So there is now a spreadsheet alternative to GenLog that should work on just about any OS X computer that has the "Numbers" spreadsheet software on it. It has all of the functionality of GenLog, including the ability to make an ADIF file for importing into other logging software, and it doesn't have much of a learning curve. You can find the latest version of this spreadsheet at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html.

OK, if you're still reading this I need to apologize! I intended to write a little two paragraph encouragement for all of us to submit sprint logs and it has grown into a little bit of a monster. So let

me just close by saying this: Please participate, please have fun, and please submit a log. Our entire QRP/CW community will benefit from your efforts.

Thanks and 73,
Paul - N8XMS

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WI1B	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	KQ3Z	KD3CA	
W4	WH6LE	WX4RM	K2UFT
W5	K5JFB	KG5HCF	
W6	N6TH	N6IET	
W7	AA7VW	WD7Y	
W8	NX8Y	WA8AXF	
W9	N9SE		
W0	K6XT	AA0W	
VE	VE2TH	VE3DQN	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1IX		
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1SX		
W2	K2YGM		
W3	N8XEE		
W4	N4MJ	K4KRW	
W5	N5GW		
W6	KR5RR		
W7	N0DA		
W8	AC8JW		
W9	K9EYT		
W0	WD0K		
VE	VE7YU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI	KF6C	K4ORD

SPECIAL N#A STATIONS			
	1st	2nd	3rd
	N3A/ N3HEE	N9A/ AB9YC	N4A/ AA4GA

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	N6TH	KF6C	KA8KUF
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AC8JW			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	131	110	194	2/13
Participants	219	184	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2080	1905	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1120	982	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	960	923	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	347	340	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1053	1499	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	680	66	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	15.9	17.3	19.3	9/11

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+	N8BB KC2EGL VE5BCS N2ESE K6CSL N8QY WA8SAN N0TA WX4RM WD0K K4KRW NQ2W KB8FE NO2D WY3H AA9L KQ1P W4DUK KE5YUM WB8ENE WA2JSG K1IEE N4FI VE3FUJ KD0V NU7T
75+	K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN K4NVJ N8XMS KD2MX K4BAI WB8LZG KB3AAG
100+	W2SH W9CC W2JEK KA2KGB
125+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: For November we have our traditional US Thanksgiving Day alphabet challenge with a list of words that will make your stomach growl as you anticipate the big feast on the 26th. The list of words and other details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201511.html>.

The European challenge is a little bit more explosive this month, working with the names and heights of some currently active European volcanoes. <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/november-2015-challenge>

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: So who was responsible for the first general public voice broadcasts? Well, it must be ... Edison, nope ... Marconi, nope ... RCA, nope. Give up? To find the answer check out our December alphabet challenge at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201512.html>.

The European challenge next month will tickle your holiday taste buds with the names of traditional Christmas treats from six different European countries. You can find the list at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2015-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>. Detailed general rules for our challenges can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The deadline for submitting entries for the October Halloween challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201510.html> to see what has been posted so far, and the final results will also be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month. For those of you who are wondering where the Halloween words came from, challenge creator Gary, K1YAN, has given us a brief description of the folklore behind each of them on the next page.

The European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2015-challenge>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We have recently been receiving a number of challenge submissions that include various contest QSOs as part of the challenge effort. According to our challenge rules, contest QSOs like sprints and QSO Party contacts cannot be used in challenge submissions. Even if you are not "participating" in the contest, if the other person is getting some points from the contact it still counts as a contest QSO and is not allowed in our challenges. The complete challenge rules can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.

Halloween Challenge Folklore: Here is one set of folklore, certainly not the only one, which explains the items in the Halloween challenge list.

Black Cats

They have been believed to be a supernatural omen since the witch hunts of the middle ages, when they were thought to be connected to evil.

Since then, it is considered bad luck if a black cat crosses your path.

Broken Mirrors

An ancient myth was that the image in a mirror is our actual soul. A broken mirror represented the soul being astray from your body. To break the

spell of misfortune, you must wait seven hours (one for each year of bad luck) before picking up the broken pieces, and burying them outside in the moonlight.

Ladders

In the days before the gallows, criminals were hung from the top rung of a ladder and their spirits were believed to linger underneath. Common folklore

has it to be bad luck to walk beneath an open ladder and pass through the triangle of evil ghosts and spirits.

Owls

If an owl looks in your window or if you seeing one in the daylight bad luck and death will bestow you.

Salt

At one time salt was a rare commodity and thought to have magical powers. It was unfortunate to spill salt and said to foretell family disarray and death.

To ward off bad luck, throw a pinch over your shoulder and all will be well.

Sparrows

Sparrows are thought to carry the souls of the dead and it is believed to bring bad luck if you kill one.

Horseshoes

To bring good luck, the horseshoe must be lost by a horse and be found by you, with the open end facing your way. You must hang it over the door with the open end up, so the good fortune doesn't spill out.

Jack o' Lanterns

The tradition of carving jack o' lanterns originates with the Celts. A miserable man named Jack, tricked the devil. Unable to enter heaven or hell after his death,

he was destined to roam the earth listlessly. Jack placed a piece of coal into a carved-out turnip and used it as a lantern to keep the evil spirits away.

Bonfires

In northern Ireland, it was customary for Druids to perform ritualistic ceremonies and make sacrifices to pacify their gods. The Celts would bring wood and start

their Samhain bonfire or, fire festival, on the hilltop. Often, they would throw the bones of slaughtered cattle into the flames. The word "bonfire" is said to be

derived from such "bone fires." Bonfires and sacrifices guaranteed that the sun would burn brightly after a long, dreary winter.

Costume and Mask

The ancient Celts thought that spirits and ghosts roamed the countryside on Halloween night. They began wearing masks and costumes to avoid being recognized as human and thus escape harm.

73 Gary

CHALLENGE HONOR ROLL: We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our monthly challenges. Exact counts can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html.

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H K1YAN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T K1IEE
75+	N8XMS W2JEK
100+	
125+	K3WWP



NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

FEATURED AWARD: WAS Award Simple Wire Antennas

This month we are featuring the NAQCC's version of the classic Worked All States award. Your version of this award has three categories: 50 US States, 50 US States 2X QRP, and Lower 48 US States QRPp. Single band endorsements are also available. Complete information can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wasswa.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

None reported.



NAQCC QRS/QRQ NETS



We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) 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 Net Manager Scotty, NU0S.

NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0100 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 5 PM PT	Monday 0100 Z	7065 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 80 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 7 PM PT	Monday 0300 Z	3555 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 80m QRQ Net (FRN)	Monday 8 PM PT	Tuesday 0400 Z	3555	J.B., NR5NN (in CA)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2300 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2330 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0300 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes QRS Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

Note: On the rare occasions that there is a conflict between one of our scheduled nets and one of our regular sprints the sprint will take precedence.

From Net Manager Scotty, NU0S

What another fast month time goes to fast...Please see the new schedule time changes and thank you for your support...Hey follow me on Twitter @NU0Slong for live net updates and QRP CW in the field... Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns with any of our NAQCC Scheduled Nets...72/73 Scotty Long NU0S NAQCC 3715 MWN NCS / Nets Manager-Coordinator.

Quick Notes from our Net Control Station Professional Ops!!!

10-01-2015 NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan

We had four Check-ins tonight from Maine, Chicago, NC and Pittsburgh. We had a couple 51 degree temps, and Glenn is looking at 5 inches of rain heading his way. As fall is upon us conditions are changing. Dick in Maine was my strongest signal, and Ray in Chicago is normally 599++ was down a bit tonight. I am thinking about trying 80 meters for the net during the winter months. What do you think? Until Next week...

Dave/WA8AXF

10-05-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 meters; welcome to new QNI Greg KI7MT from Helena MT. Nice call! Nice fist! Greg doesn't have an 80 meter antenna so can't follow us to that band. He and Polar Bear Rick N7HRK/M (who didn't QNI this evening) are less than 300 miles apart and both in the same boat. Greg doesn't remember having worked PBR. And John W7SAG has become a regular. Starting out at 589, the 40m band's rapid lengthening took him out after about 20 minutes; we're 675 miles apart. He and Greg couldn't hear each other very well at all. Then, as I was closing the 40-meter portion of the net Greg relayed a QNI from JB KR5RR, 345 miles from me. I couldn't hear him at all. I heard no QRM on 7065 during the net, this time. 80 meters so right on schedule I closed 40m FRN and QSY'ed to 80m, and JB KR5RR checked in at 599. Speaking of nice calls, prodigy son Al NM5S in Santa Fe, NM, returned to FRN after a long hiatus. I love hearing from my home state! I grew up in Carlsbad, NM. I gave Al 589, but it probably should have been 489 because of QSB and a noise level of S8. He gave everybody a 499 because of static crashes. JB had heard some activity just before 0300z on 3555 and wondered if we were QRM'ing a net somewhere. Al said he didn't think so. I heard no QRM on 3555 during the net. Mort N7NLN was 599+ with his 50 watts operating from his forestry job site in Mesa Verde, CO. He'll be returning "home" to Tucson in a couple of weeks. John W7SAG found us on 80 meters a few minutes into the net and was 479 with rapid QSB. And a good time was had by all (I hope)! 72/73 de Rick N6IET

10-12-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters...Charles KW6G was enjoying operating from his lake house near Grass Valley, elevation 2400 ft. Despite the elevation, I think he said it hit 90° that day. It got to nearly 100° here in West LA. Charles almost faded out halfway through, but he agreed to meet us on 80 meters. John W7SAG reported perfect fall weather in Eagle, Idaho, at 70°. I think JB had planned to QNI, but the band was long, and I think he was looking for us at 7055 instead of 7065. Remember the time I called FRN on 7062.5 when it was supposed to be 7065.5? Everybody met on the correct frequency without me! :-)...80 Meters...Welcome back to Wyatt KF7YHB after a long absence! He was copiable using a 40-meter wire! Charles and John followed us to 80 meters, but John's signal at 675 miles from me was much weaker, while Charles' signal was much stronger at 332 miles - to be expected on 80 meters at night. JB checked in as N6A running 5 watts and was 589 at my location from 345 miles away. Later, he checked in again QRO as KR5RR so that everybody else could hear him. So on 40 meters I have trouble hearing the closer stations, while on 80 meters I have trouble hearing the more distant stations. And so it goes!

72/73 de Rick N6IET

10-19-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters, We had S9+ static crashes from thunder storms. KB7KY, Dave, checked in with a 589 with some deep QSB. He said they had just had some storms in the area, and I suspect that was the source of my QRN in SoCal. We heard Dave QNI some months ago when Doug, K7KY had also checked in. That caused some confusion! Nobody else checked in that we could hear, so we chatted for 25 minutes until time to QSY to 80 meters. Dave is honing his CW skills and listens to several nets. He says he enjoys listening to FRN for our great fists. (Thanks, Dave!) I was pushing his copying speed at about 19-20 wpm, and he copied fine. Dave lives near the ASU campus in Tempe and has relatives here in Orange County near Disneyland. Next time you visit SoCal, Dave, please give me a shout. 80 Meters, The static crashes were even a bit stronger on this band. Finally, I heard Dave coming through the noise with a 359 signal which quickly deteriorated to 239. I think I heard him give me a 449 initially. After a few minutes I closed the net but not before hearing another very weak and noisy QNI from John, W7SAG. Sorry John that I couldn't copy, but thanks for the QNI. And we all had such great signals on 80m last week!

72/73 de Rick N6IET

10-26-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters we had the usual problems with a skip zone on 40m... Stations closer than 400 miles couldn't hear each other very well. It was nice to hear Mark and Polar Bear Rick check in. John usually makes both nets and can be heard on both. I couldn't hear JB on 40m at 345 miles, but everybody else heard him just fine...80 Meters...JB was 599+, even running only 25 watts to avoid causing TVI. Mike was strong, and John's signal suffered from deep QSB at my station. I'll be entertaining suggestions and comments on whether to move the two nets up a half hour for the time change next week.72/73 de Rick N6IET

10-06-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

Thanks for picking up the net for me Danny. Much appreciated. I don't know if I will be there Monday or not. Will have to see how thing go. Been in the Hospital for 7 days in ICU and not having a lot of fun here. Hope to see you all soon. Just got home yesterday about 3:00pm. Good news is still breathing and have both legs!! Long story. *(Get well soon Allen...Scotty/NUOS)*
73's Allen

10-08-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

I cannot ever remember band conditions being so poor. The solar flux was 80 and the A index was 77 last night. The entire 40 meter was silent as the night before Christmas. Hi Hi...John (W8GDP) and I talked at length about health problems with family members and also club members. *(I remember the bands were very bad that night!!! Scotty/NUOS)*

10-14-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

John Lancaster (W8GDP) and I had a long QSO this evening. I worked with a local school group earlier today. The goal was to work the So 50 satellite as it passed over Charleston. Our club member K9ESE is teaching the students the basics of a new dual band VHF-UHF radio. The ultimate goal is to work the ISS. My wife and I watched it cross the night sky as we were walking the dog tonight. It's always nice to have a long CW QSO....regardless of the check-ins. Hi Hi

10-21-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

Another week with a "single QSO" with W8GDP. I'm puzzled because the band seemed to be in decent shape. John (W8GDP) and I had a 45 minute QSO about the President being here in Charleston today. President Obama was just a few blocks from me talking about drug addiction in Southern WV. I watched the jet leave along with another odd looking military plane this afternoon. Our fellow club members are also a topic for us.

10-28-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

John (W8GDP) had a long QSO about hiking in the Grand Canyon. No... We've never hiked there; but his son and wife are hiking there now. I was there back in 1966 but did not hike at that time. I know several people in Charleston that have hiked to the canyon floor and back. I plan to meet with his son and wife when they return to hear about the trip.
73's John N8ZYA

10-06-2015 and 10-13-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

WOW! This N6A thing is FUN! Now if I could just learn how to send a "6"! Thanks GUYS! First up, welcome to Hal/k7ira in Spokane. Hope you drop by again some time. Next, also a hearty welcome to Val/ak6vs in San Fran - please jump in a little earlier next week before NVIS goes away. Conditions were GREAT! Thanks for all the 579 to 599 signal reports for my 5 watt QRP signal. Everyone had good copy, except sometimes Rick says elevator QRN drowned out some of us - lazy college students, make 'em take the stairs next week. Topics were mostly about band conditions, signal reports, antennas, and of course, N6A. I think the last couple weeks of poor conditions had everyone talking about how good it was tonight, much different from last night. Rick is doing OK as N6A, and I've got 12 QSO with just two hours of mostly net operating time - hope to improve on that this week. Will try and be on 14060 +QRM each afternoon starting around 16h30 PDT, and 7055 in the evenings. To have better chance to work an NxA station, be sure to check the QRP spots web page, http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php I've read that the QSL card is worth it. 72 Everyone and hope to be N6A'ing ya'll.
JB.KR5RR

10-20-2015 and 10-13-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

I apologize for MY really bad CW tonight! My excuse -- I spent the last week operating as N6A and sending at 17 WPM. I was shocked, dismayed even, at how difficult it was to speed up to 20 WPM!!! As Chas pointed out, just couldn't get a rhythm going. Don't know how any of you copied that mess I sent tonight. Sorry guys, I will practice before next week! I'm looking forward to the "soapbox" comments from NxA operators. Here's my take away observation from a week's N6A operation: (A) Running a frequency, my CQ to QSO ratio was more than 100:1- I called CQ for endless minutes, got lots of good solid RBN spots throughout the USA, but very, very few QSOs. Didn't seem to matter if I was in the "QRP" band or not, however did have a little better luck near or in the SKCC guy's hangouts. (B) Using Search & Pounce, I got most stations on FIRST call, even one of the Japan DX stations. The other DX took a while to break the pile up, but still got through. So, if I do N6A again, I'm pretty sure I'll just S&P rather than run a frequency, much better use of time. Thanks to all for putting up with me tonight....
72/3 de JB.KR5RR

10-27-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

Daylight Savings Time ends this Sunday morning, so watch for time changes everywhere. Thanks Everyone! Good to hear Randy on tonight. Great group and discussion. Both Chas & I are doing the head copy thing so virtually no notes. Did discuss antennas, NVIS, verticals, noise levels, mosquitoes, back yard operating, and bugs, I think. And Rick rubbed in 70f temps and

balcony ops with a full moon rising. Gotta be a CCR song in there somewhere. The final "supermoon" of 2015 is tonight. <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supermoon> However, must say I was disappointed Mike didn't show up - we wuz having a dirty conversation last night when I had to QRT Rick's net and I wanted to know what Mike did the "bad dirt". Thanks to all and 73 de JB.KR5RR

10-12-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas (Danny N5DRG)

Three Check INS at start of net but band faded down to Nada and could just not copy Roger when time to talk to him, it was like a 229 or worse. And that was all. Hope you are doing better, and hope to hear you back on air soon.

Danny N5DRG-- Dirty Rotten Grouch *(Thanks for filling in Danny I hope Allen feels better soon... Scotty/NU0S)*

10-27-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas (Andy KE5YGA)

Thanks to Andy for picking up the net for me. He reported signals were 579. Good for this late in the year. The leg is still

keeping me off the radio that late in the afternoon. I hope to be back soon. Allen KA5TJS *(Get well soon Allen!!! Scotty/NU0S)*

**NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations
October/2015 Please note: Dates are in UTC**

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40M, 7.065 MHz, 80M 3.555 MHz

10-05-2015 40M QNI (4) NCS N6IET, KI7MT, W7SAG, KR5RR
 10-05-2015 80M QNI (5) NCS N6IET, KR5RR, N7NLN, NU5S, W7SAG
 10-12-2015 40M QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KW6G, W7SAG
 10-12-2015 80M QNI (6) NCS N6IET, N6A, KW6G, KF7YHB, W7SAG, KR5RR
 10-19-2015 40M QNI (2) NCS N6IET, KB7KY
 10-19-2015 80M QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KB7KY, W7SAG
 10-26-2015 40M QNI (5) NCS N6IET, WU7F, N7HRK/M, W7SAG, KR5RR
 10-26-2015 80M QNI (4) NCS N6IET, W7SAG, KR5RR, KE6EE

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR (NR5NN), California

80M, 3.555 MHz

10-06-2015 QNI (1) NCS KR5RR, 9RN on frequency, cancelled FRN
 10-13-2015 QNI (7) NCS N6A, N6IET, W7SAG, K7IRA, WU7F, WB6UBK, AK6VS
 10-20-2015 QNI (7) NCS KR5RR, KW6G, W7SAG, N6IET, KE6EE, WB6UBK, K7KY
 10-27-2015 QNI (5) NCS KR5RR, KW6G, N6IET, W7SAG, WB4SPB

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

40M, 7.065 MHz

10-06-2015 QNI (4) NCS N5DRG, N5RWK, KE5YUM, K5BRY
 10-12-2015 QNI (3) NCS N5DRG, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5RWK
 10-27-2015 QNI (2) NCS KE5YGA, N5RWK

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

40M, 7.117 MHz

10-06-2015 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, K0NG, AC8JW, KB7KY, N7ADA, WB0QQT
 10-13-2015 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, N7ADA, N6IET
 10-20-2015 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, AC8JW, KB7KY, KM4LT
 10-27-2015 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, AC8JW, KB7KY, K0NG

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming

20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz

10-01-2015 QNI (6) NCS WC7S K0EVZ, N7GES, AB4TC, N6IET, AA7CU
 10-01-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, AA7CU, KE6OIO, N6IET
 10-06-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES
 10-06-2015 QNI (7) NCS WC7S, K0EVZ, AJ4UQ, N6IET, KG0YR, KE6YX, KF7WNS
 10-08-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S N6IET
 10-08-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S K4QQ, AC8JW
 10-13-2015 QNI (3) NCS N7A N9OZW, AA7CU
 10-13-2015 QNI (8) NCS N7A, N6A, WA2DWX, VE1JBA, NC4CW, K5JS/M, NF5U, KM4GFY

10-15-2015 QNI (4) NCS N7A N7GES, AA7CU, N7KM
10-15-2015 QNI (4) NCS N7A N6IET, N4SX, N9SAB
10-20 AND 22 LOG LOST DUE TO COMPUTER HD CRASH
10-27-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S WA6MOK, N7GES, AA7CU
10-27-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S AA7CU, N6IET
10-29-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S AA7CU K0EVZ, AB4TC, KG9DW
10-29-2015 QNI (6) NCS WC7S AA7CU, KU7Y, N6IET, KM4GFY, K9DAC

**NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia
40M, 7.117 MHz**

10-08-2015 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP
10-14-2015 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP
10-21-2015 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP
10-28-2015 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP

**NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State
80M, 3.574 MHz**

10-02-2015 QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, W7ANM, KR5RR
10-09-2015 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, W7ANM, WB4SPB, N6KIX, N7QR
10-16-2015 QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, W7ANM, WB4SPB
10-23-2015 QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, N6KIX, N7QR
10-30-2015 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, AD7BP, W7ANM, N6UG, K7JUV

**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan
40M, 7.117 MHz**

10-02-2015 QNI (5) NCS WA8AXF, K1IEE, K9EYT, K4WRZ, N3FCS
10-09-2015 QNI (3) NCS WA8AXF, K1IEE, KD5VGJ
10-16-2015 QNI (3) NCS WA8AXF, WE8UPJ, KD5VGJ
10-23-2015 QNI (6) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT, WE8UPJ, K4WRZ, K1IEE, K3NLT
10-30-2015 QNI (6) NCS WA8AXF, WA2DWX, K4WRZ, WA4ZOF, N2TRJ, WE8UPJ



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. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/cw.html>.

Hi all.

Now with Christmas just around the corner, its time to think about the new rig you've been anticipating for a while to replace that ailing monster in front of you. There's still time to order it, provided the "higher" Authority has given the go-ahead. So sit down and ponder just what you want. Perhaps some of the things missing in the old "Monster".

It requires a good deal of forethought, so get some paper and a writing instrument (pencil with an eraser) and make a note of all the things you like in the old rig, then add the things you'll like in the new Rig. Put the note and "pencil" in your pocket and go about your normal activities and give the note a thought now and again. If any new thoughts comes to mind, mark them down. It would be terrible when the new Rig gets put to the "smoke-test " that you have forgotten the most important thing, because you thought it an automatic thing to be included. Give it another good thought then order the Rig and start enjoying the anticipation of it's arrival on your doorstep.

72 Brion 3011



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/>.



Hoping For A "Clean Sweep" In The Sweepstakes Contest, Rudy Sweeps Up The Floor Of The Ham Shack.



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Central Texas, Illowa, 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 President 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 Vice President John, N8ZYA, at the email address listed on the last page about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

A report about your chapter activity should appear here. Please send them to KD2MX or N8XMS at the email addresses listed on the last page.

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

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from Central Texas Chapter President Danny, N5DRG, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area.

Greetings,

The Central Texas Chapter has been dodging rain drops for the past few weekends as **El Niño**, “The Child” has been dumping rain on a seven day cyclic rate as it seems. Some areas in the central Texas area received up to 16” inches of rain over this past Halloween weekend. Might have been a good time to be Marine Mobil, if it wasn’t for all of the flooding.

So there has not been a lot of QRP in the Great out of Doors adventures this month.

But there was a couple of brave Chapter members that did brave the elements and were able to make a few contacts QRP this month, very late in the month that is..

Joe, K5BRY went out to a state park and made a few contacts using his Elecraft K-1, Ultra Max End Fed Antenna, and his Palm Paddle.

Joe’s to go kit when camping at a fixed location:



And that pretty much sums up the month of October.

One note concerning one of our Chapter Members, and N.A.Q.C.C. NCS for the East Texas QRS net, Allen KA5TJS, has had some serious health issues here of late, and has been in Hospital our thoughts are with him on his recovery. Some of the Regulars on the East Texas Net has stepped in and helping out by being NCS is his absence. A **BIG** thanks to Andy, KE5YGA for helping out. And we look forward to hearing Allen’s Brass pounding in the near future.

Keep Calm
&
QRP ON!

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.

No report available.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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



KD4JS WB4MNK K4LAL AA4W K3RLL W2EJG NU4C KM4JTE
(Steve WB4OMM is the photographer)

On Friday, October 23rd, 2015, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to one of our favorite local parks for our monthly adventure. We held our latest “Operation in the Park” at Lake Ashby Park in New Smyrna Beach, Florida (as previously discussed, the park address is in New Smyrna Beach – but it’s 17 miles to the beach!).

The 64-acre rural park includes primitive tent camping, a playground, volleyball court, nature/horse trails, boardwalks, fishing pier, grills, and pavilions with picnic tables. It also offers a free public boat ramp nearby and a 3,500-square-foot children's play area that includes a variety of climbers, swings and ladders.

This popular waterfront park offers many outdoor recreational opportunities, including canoeing, fishing, walking and simply enjoying nature. Angling is permitted from a boardwalk and along the shore. Additionally, a launch site for personal watercraft is available. Lake Ashby was named for Major James A. Ashby, who helped lead American military forces during the Second Seminole War.

This trip, we had nine - *yes, nine, count us!* - operators in our group. Our biggest outing to date! And we had five stations on the air at the same time! (Almost...)

Today we arrived to our site with bright blue skies and a temp of 74 degrees with 40% humidity, accompanied by a light, cool breeze. It was very comfortable for us to operate. The weather was a Florida fall "Chamber of Commerce" day and absolutely beautiful! By the time we left it was up to about 84 degrees and starting to look like it might rain. It didn't rain, but it was time to leave anyway so it didn't matter!

The signals were just "OK" on 20M today, with some pretty deep QSB. 30M had a few signals but not much other than some noise. 40M was again horrible (few weak signals and lotsa' noise) just like the last few months. We made a whopping two QSOs there.



Steve WB4OMM #5913 - Elecraft KX-3 and Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr paddle, running 5W to a 20M or 40M Hamstick on a ground mounted tripod. Steve and his helper "Henchmen" (below) worked 8 members in 8 different states on 20M including regular Curt #3457 in NJ and NAQCC VP John N8ZYA #2279; two other FL stations on 40M made a total of 10 Qs with 10 members in 9 states. States worked: FL, WV, PA, MI, IN, NY, NJ, AR and CT.

The "Henchmen of WB4OMM" - on the left is **John KM4JTE #7966**; on the right is **Bob W2EJG**. Bob made several of the WB4OMM QSOs - John is still learning, and although we both tried to persuade him several times, he held off operating! Soon Grasshopper, very soon!!

We're still convincing Bob to join NAQCC...he's still thinking about it.





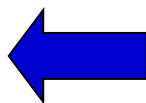
Art WB4MNK #5274 used a KX-1, Z100 tuner, 31' vertical wire fed with coax through a 9:1 UNUN sitting on a nice big tripod. The 31' vertical on tripod was built by John KD4JS and it works great.

Art brought along some "help" too...John KD4JS #8019 (below, on the left).

Art made 4 Qs on 30M, including Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ and another NJ; and another in OH. He worked KD2JC in NJ on both 30 M and 20M. A total of 5 Qs with 4 members.



The 31' Tripod Antenna



Wally KG4LAL #6278 brought his Yaesu FT- 817 running 5W with an LDG tuner to a 60+ foot end fed sloper antenna.

On 10M, he could hear several stations around 28.400 (some were really strong including Europe and Tel Aviv), but just couldn't work 'em.

We all admire Wally....he never gives up, and doesn't get mad!! See – always smiling! What a nice guy!

QRP phone is tough!



Rick AA4W #1628 brought his Elecraft KX-3 too. Running 5W, he fed a 53' wire and worked 15M & 17M. He made 5 QSOs, working two stations in the USA – MO & MN; plus DX stations in Hungary, Ecuador, and the Ukraine.

Great DX for QRP!

Don K3RLL #1905 used his trusty Elecraft KX-3 running 5W – but his antenna was “deaf”... he couldn’t hear any signals on his radio. After some time he dug into his sack of stuff and pulled out another antenna, an End Fed Wire. That one could hear, but he could not get the SWR down below 6:1 – so by now most of us know Don is not on the air, and we all slowly make our way to his location to see “what’s up”.



Art asks Don: “What is that?”

It’s a thing-a-ma-jig. It plugs into the whosie-whatsis. Makes the antenna and everything work better.”

Steve ain’t buying any of it.

Who knows what else Don may have buried in his “Felix the Cat” bag of tricks!



This is Paul NU4C....no, he isn't a member of NAQCC yet, but he is an avid portable ops fella and his last words at the end of the day were, "I really should join and get a number". There is hope for him yet.

Here, he holds the end of a wire....what wire?? Why the wire at the end of the counterpoise of Don's alternate antenna. Being a competent engineer Paul took one look at the wire and told all of us it works. What works? We don't know. But we thinks the antenna didn't! Fortunately for him, the radio was NOT connected to a 1.5 KW amplifier!

Here, two of the "experts" (Steve and Paul) offer advice, opinions, guidance, counsel and various theories of antenna failures to poor Don.

This time Art ain't buying any of it.



Another antenna goes up – the random Vee. Steve thinks the coax looks neat! And he is

soooo happy it is not him having trouble! Don keeps trying....a patient man.

Paul, once again, wants to hold wires! Must be some kind of Halloween fetish!



By 11:30 am, **EVERYBODY** was “helping” Don with his antenna problem.

Of the nine operators present, we had some 15 different opinions as to why he could not get that antenna working. (Yes, the “wires” were connected to his radio....a previous issue!)

Don is a very nice and a very patient man. Fortunately, he does not carry a gun.

After he changed to a 51'x33' random Vee with a Pomona connector he easily worked YV5DTJ on 17M. After the antenna change - in Don's words.....*“WOW! Where did all those signals come from?”* But by then it was time for lunch!



Lunch time! Antennas down, radios and stuff packed away. We “brown bag it”, and have a cornucopia of stuff to eat. Time to hob-nob with each other!

As usual the discussion revolved around great ham radio adventures and all of the great facets of our noble hobby. We never did figure out the mystery of Don's antenna problems, but a solution will be found, and he will be back to rack up the Qs! One of the greatest advantages of these forays into the wilds is we all get to experience “problems” from time to time, and then “solve them”. It adds to the collective knowledge of our group, and ultimately helps out other hams who might encounter similar problems. It's all about the collaboration, sharing, and fellowship – **NO DRAMA HERE!**

While the band conditions weren't quite “great”, the weather was great, the location was great, the food was great....and the friendship was great! Another great NAQCC-FL day!!

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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, November 20th, 2015 starting at 9:30 AM EDT (NOTE START TIME!) Colby-Alderman Park, Cassadega, FL (1099 Massachusetts St., Cassadaga, FL) – Park

webpage with directions: [COLBY-ALDERMAN PARK WEB PAGE & DIRECTION](#)

WHO: “The Usual Suspects” – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS & Paul NU4C (and whoever else can make it).

Visit our Web Page:

<http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/>

Look for our announcement!

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

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER

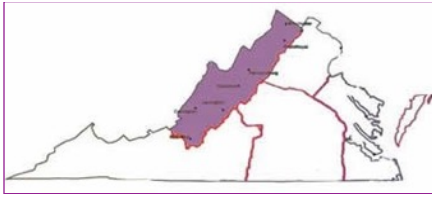


Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Pete, NN9K.

The Illowa Chapter operates in the “Quad Cities” area of Davenport, IA / Moline, IL.

No report available.

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.

I don't know where the time went this month, but we in the Shenandoah Valley were just super busy trying to get in some fall activities with the better weather we had for a while! I do not have a full report from everyone except to let you know we are still here and were active in our various efforts. Building new antennas and becoming acquainted with new (to us) equipment has been the focus of some I know. Others were doing some last of the season camping, and athletic activities of their children and grandchildren need to be watched. Personally, our youngest granddaughter was on the championship team for her high school varsity volleyball league team so we have enjoyed being in attendance at their recent games!

Best wishes to all for this coming "indoor" scene instead of the "to the field" events.

Russ K3NLT #2906

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.

This is my favorite time of year. The autumn leaves were beautiful this month and the cooler weather is a welcome change from another very hot summer. My wife and I actually did some hiking in the nearby forest this month. I can still "day hike" and it felt wonderful to spend a day hiking a loop trail in Kanawha State Forest. I actually cooked a quick meal with a small alcohol stove while on the trail.

Radio time has, again, been sparse because of time devoted to my father's return home from the hospital. It remains to be seen if he can function independently. This month has made me think of how fortunate I am to be able to send and receive Morse code; it's an excellent activity to keep the mind functioning well as the senior years creep upon me.

Not having a lot of "free time" has made me look at different ways to listen to radio as I doing chores around the house. I've found that plugging a little FM transmitter into the speaker jack of the Icom 703 allows me to at least listen to many nets on the home stereo. I worked WB4OMM last week from Smyrna Beach Florida on the 23rd of October. Steve was sitting at a picnic table at around 600 miles on 20 meters.


WB4OMM

FLORIDA CHAPTER NAQCC
Volusia County - Grid Locator EL98kw

Elecraft KX-3 running 5W Output
20M/40M Hamstick Antennas
Ground Mounted Tripod w/4 radials
Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. Iambic Key

Portable Operations in the Park

Lake Ashby Park New Smyrna Beach, Florida

QSO WITH	CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	FREQ/MODE	R S T	72/73!
N8ZYA	WB4OMM	23 Oct 2015	1413Z	20M/CW	599	NAQCC# 5913

Not only did I work him, but I listened to other club stations work him as I moved around the house. Steve (WB4OMM) sent me this nice card!

Another activity that caught my attention (of course) was our 11th Anniversary Event Stations. I'm always in awe at how popular they are when spotted on the clusters and our "members on the air" site. All the prizes have been mailed out now. The Vibroplex Company is held in high esteem by me and I hope the winners of the top tier prizes enjoy their products.

I spent some rare “free time” this month working with a high school radio club. Our club member Jeff Imel (K9ESE) is tutoring a high school group. Last year, this high school group launched a high altitude balloon (100,000 ft) with a GPS and a camera onboard. They have plans for another balloon launch at an altitude of around 50,000 ft. This balloon (with a GPS tracking device aboard) will be in the air for several weeks.

The school group is now focused on “satellites”. They eventually hope to work the International Space Station.



The SO 50 satellite was making a nearly 90 degree pass over West Virginia. They were unable to hear it but were successful in repeating a great signal into Michigan. My task with them was merely to ape a QSO. The goal was to familiarize them with normal satellite procedures.

I'm happy to report Steve Ashcraft (KC4URI) is doing MUCH better now after spending many months in the hospital. With a little luck, we can set up and operate from the field soon.

Sincerely Yours,

John N8ZYA

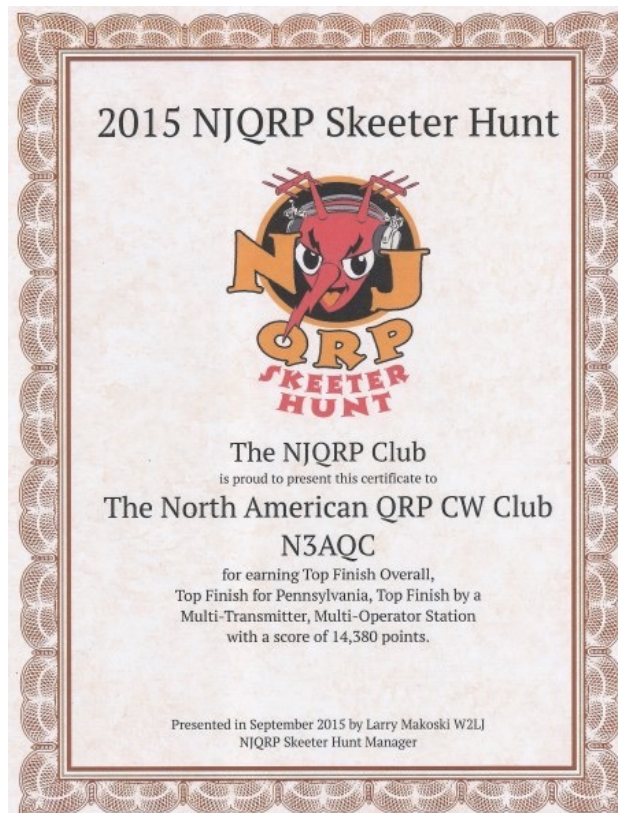
NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

Our annual Columbus Day parkpedition during NAQCC Anniversary Week is the main story this month. We'll get to that in a moment.

It was mentioned previously that the NAQCC WPA Chapter finished first overall in the 2015 NJ QRP Skeeter Hunt. Larry W2LJ, who runs the Hunt sent three of the certificates pictured here to me, one for me (K3WWP), Mike KC2EGL, and Tom WB3FAE, our three operators. The operation itself was described in a previous newsletter.



Mike and I set up power pole connectors for our stations as one of our many enjoyable project sessions. That has been written up as a feature article for the newsletter. I believe Paul told me either December or January. So I won't say more about it here other than you can get a sneak preview in my K3WWP web site diary archives for September 28 at k3wwp.com.

During another get together, Mike and I did some astronomy work. We cleaned the corrector lens in his 9.5 inch telescope. Again I refer you to my diary (October 4) if you want more info about that.

We again got together on October 21 for an impromptu session. It was only a brief visit with time for a buffet dinner at Ponderosa and a brief on-air session. Mike worked S57V, S58N, and 8P9AL on 30. I worked only the S57V station since it was only a day or so since I worked S58N, and I thought I'd "save" 8P9AL for another day if I was badly in need of a DX QSO for the DX streak.

Now to the meat of the news. Mike arrived on Columbus Day shortly before 9 AM and we chatted about various things for about an hour before we did the final packing of gear and headed to the Community Park. I was debating on whether to wear a jacket or not and finally (wisely) decided to do so. Although it was a perfectly clear sunny day with the high 77 here at home, up on the hill under the pavillion roof with a strong breeze blowing all day it was rather chilly.

Tom WB3FAE arrived shortly after we did, and we got right to setting up. I finished first with help from Tom in putting up the mast (which he supplied - thanks) for my antenna. Here is my antenna and me at the operating position working 30 meters.



Next I did what I could to help Tom with his setup, and here is his antenna which doesn't really show up too well against the bright sky with the jet contrail, and Tom operating on 20 meters.



While Tom and I were setting up, Mike had just about finished his setup and his antenna along with Mike operating 40 meters are the next pictures.



It was a really great time with the friendly banter among the three of us. The QSOs came pretty rapidly although there were lapses here and there. We made 87 QSOs from 31 states. We worked one DX station and one other N#A call. Four VE provinces. QSOs by band: 40 - 31, 30 - 39, 20 - 17. We are very pleased with those results considering the band conditions of late. Doing a little math, that's $87/5$ or 17+ QSOs per hour or one every 3+ minutes which is quite good considering conditions were only decent on 30 and 40, but down on normally very good 20.

While every QSO was enjoyable and most were with NAQCC members, I want to single out a couple. It was nice to touch base again with KO5Q down in GA. We have worked several times from my home using K3WWP. Another old friend whom I haven't worked in about 4 years answered the N3A CQ, and when I gave my own call, we had a 10 or so minute rag chew getting caught up on what we've been doing of late. That was George K1PQS. It was a delight to hear his call when he answered the CQ. One ham with whom our friendship started way back in the days of the County Hunters Net in the mid-1960s answered the call and another 10 minute rag chew ensued mostly talking about our contesting plans for the upcoming active contest season. That was Vic K9UIY. There were a few others whom I hadn't

worked for a while as well. To mention a couple, that would be Ed W1GUE and Rick AA4W.

The 5 hours sure went by quickly with the constant activity except for the brief break each of us took for a snack to keep our energy up. Mike commented that was the first time we made it through our complete Columbus Day outing schedule. Other years were shortened a bit due to weather, lack of activity, and the like. Thanks to Mike and Tom for everything.

Oh, and just to show how nice a day it was, here's a panoramic picture Mike took. I hoped it would show all our antennas as clearly as they looked to the naked eye, but it doesn't. From left to right, the antennas are Mike's, Tom's, and mine.



The 2015 Field Day results have just been posted (Oct 29) on the ARRL web site. Our N3AQC activity fared quite well with K3WWP, KC2EGL, and WB3FAE as operators. Keep in mind the results that I gathered here from the searchable results database are NOT for CW only operations since that is not one of the search criteria. If it was, I'm sure we would be even higher.

Second overall (of 40) in the WPA section. 1st (of 4) in the QRP category (multiplier 5).

19th overall (of 307) in the QRP category (multiplier 5). 8th (of ?) for entries with 3 ops or less.

6th overall (of 19) in the 3AB / QRP category (multiplier 5). 1st (of 4) for entries with 3 ops or less.

I think we did quite well and are satisfied with the results as well as being pleased to demonstrate that QRP can be very effective in emergency like situations, especially when using CW.



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

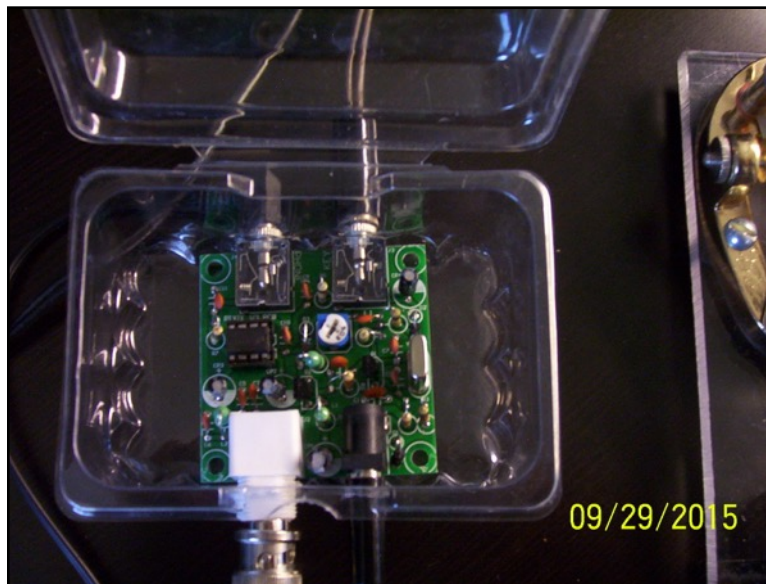


This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our News Editor 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 Mark, WG8Y, #4405 —

While I was at the Shelby Hamfest, Sept.5th, I saw a QRP kit at the Quicksilver Radio table and thought, boy that would be neat to put it together & use it for the Sept QRPp Challenge. They called it the "Kill-R Watt". Well, close to 300-400 mw @ 12volts. Basically just paid more for them to import it from China. Hi Hi. It went together easy enough once I finally sat down & got the solder out. Here is a picture of the "Kill-R-Half Watter", it's in a Harbor Freight battery container to keep my fingers out of it.



From Joe, W3TTT, #5230 —

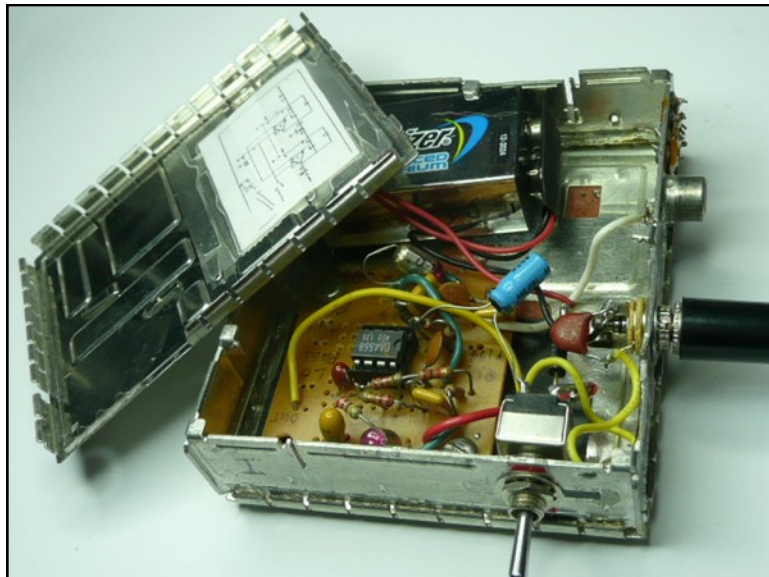
In the October newsletter K3WWP mentioned being given an "Archie's Ham Radio Adventure" comic book. The comic is actually available as a pdf file at https://kk4dtd.files.wordpress.com/2013/09/archies_ham_radio_adventure.pdf.

From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

UHF shielding boxes from defunct analog TV sets can often be gutted and used to house your favorite circuits. They can be drilled and will readily take solder. Many have one or more RCA jacks. Some do not have a bottom, but one can be fashioned from circuit board material, or the top of a different box can be used as a bottom. Also two bottomless boxes can be soldered together to make a larger enclosure, as shown in the first picture.



The second photo shows a two-pole low pass audio filter built into such a box. Notice the schematic taped to the inside of the top. An on-off-on switch allows selecting either one or two poles. The input is through an existing RCA jack, the headphone output is a 3.5 mm jack.



From John, AC8JW, #4189 —

John recently won the random drawing that we have each month for sprint participants and he chose as his prize a nice K1 spinner knob insert hand crafted by Gregg, WB8LZG. He sent this picture showing the installed knob.



He added, "Thanks to all at NAQCC for nice gift. Looks much better on my K1 than the earrings would look on me! :-)" (Go to our prize page at http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html to see what he is talking about. - Editor)

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 call signs of stations worked). Also we will have a 2 hour sprint each month alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with a bonus multiplier for using a straight key.

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

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

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

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has almost 8000 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 President Paul Huff, N8XMS
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Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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