

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 219 SEPTEMBER 2016



KEY CLICKS

- **NAQCC 12TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMING SOON.** Einstein said that a person's measurement of time is relative to their frame of reference. Right now my frame of reference must be close to setting a new speed record because I can't believe that our club's 12th anniversary celebration is just a month away! And that immediately brings up three important facts:

1) You have just one more month to make sure that you have met all of the requirements to be eligible for the great top-tier prizes that will be given away to the participants in our October anniversary sprint. You can find the drawing rules at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_12th_anniv.html.

2) You have just one more month to sign up to be one of our special N#A operators for our celebration week. N#A stations will be on the air operating QRP/CW from all 10 US call districts but there is still room for some more. (We are a little bit thin in districts 6 and 7.) You can find more information about our N#A operations at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

3) You are just one month away from a whole bunch of QRP/CW fun with special event stations to work, a big anniversary sprint to play in, and opportunities for earning some wallpaper and winning some great prizes. Look for a more complete announcement in the October newsletter and mark your calendar for the week of Oct 10-16.

- **SOME BIG NUMBERS.** Our ace statistician K3WWP sent me some interesting statistics about our sprints. After 142 regular monthly sprints (11 years, 10 months) John has cross-checked a total of 11,713 submitted logs containing 171,287 QSOs! That's an average of 82.5 logs and 1,206.2 QSOs per sprint. Since April 2010, which was the first month where we had at least 100 submitted logs, we have only slipped below that mark 5 times and have averaged 118.1 logs and 1,809.4 QSOs per sprint. These numbers certainly represent a lot of QRP/CW operating fun, and although I have no other statistics to compare them to, I think that we can safely claim say that our NAQCC sprints are among the most popular monthly activities that any club anywhere has to offer.
- **SOME CREATIVE CHALLENGES ARE COMING UP.** Gary, K1YAN, has worked hard to develop some interesting and fun North American monthly challenges for us to enjoy. You can see the list of upcoming challenges at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>. Thank you Gary for your wonderful creativity!

IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Key Clicks</i>	1
<i>An Amazing Alpha App</i>	3
<i>Need a Good Wattmeter?</i>	8
<i>Rotten Logging</i>	11
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	13
<i>Sprints</i>	16
<i>Challenges</i>	19
<i>Awards</i>	21
<i>Help For Beginners</i>	22
<i>CW Nets</i>	23
<i>Ham Quips</i>	27
<i>Chapter News</i>	28
<i>Member Submissions</i>	41
<i>About The NAQCC</i>	45
<i>Contacts</i>	46

- **THE 2017 NAQCC CLUB SCHEDULE IS NOW AVAILABLE.** I was a school teacher for 34 years and late August and early September were always the time to make plans for the coming year. Well, old habits are hard to break and so the complete challenge and sprint schedules for 2017 are now available on our club website. You can find the list of challenges at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>. The sprint dates can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html> and a printable schedule for the sprints is available at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html.
- **MAJOR UPDATE DONE TO NAQCC WEBSITE.** Almost 3000 files are used to create the pages of our extensive club website and over the years they had grown into an mess of tangled cross-links, old superfluous files, and relative disorganization. For a long time I have wanted to do something about this but the task looked impossible. Well, Andy, N2CN, has done the impossible. He has managed to untangle the cross-links, identify and delete files that are no longer needed, and create a well organized filing system. These changes are hugely significant but they are invisible to website visitors since page appearance and functionality have remained the same. We owe Andy a **GIANT THANK YOU** for all of the time and energy that he has put into this job! By the way, with a project this extensive there could still possibly be a few bugs hiding in the dark corners. If you happen to come across a broken link or other problem somewhere on our website please report it to us so that it can be fixed.
- **NEW ONLINE ALPHABET CHALLENGE APP RECEIVING GREAT REVIEWS.** The alphabet challenge app written by Robby, WB5RVZ, has been receiving some very positive reviews in it's first month of operation. If you have used the "too much paperwork" excuse for not participating in our North American and/or European alphabet challenges, that excuse is now gone. Read the article in this issue about how to use the app and then join in on the fun. The next North American alphabet challenge will be in October but you can use the app for the September European challenge right away.

We appreciate the bug reports that have been sent in and improvements to the app are continuing. Perfecting something that is this complex is not a trivial matter so your feedback helps, and your patience is appreciated.

- **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."



AN AMAZING ALPHA APP BY PAUL, N8XMS

In the July issue of the newsletter I presented an article about a spreadsheet application that I had written to help with the “paperwork” and record keeping needed for our frequent alphabet challenges. This spreadsheet will only work on *OS X* Mac computers running *Numbers* software, and in the article I said that it would be great if someone developed a similar spreadsheet tool that would work in *Excel* on *Windows* computers. That *Excel* version has been developed and is available on our club website. But one of our members - Robby, WB5RVZ - did some creative “outside the box” kind of thinking about the situation and came up with a brilliant idea. He believed that it would be possible to develop a web-based application that could be used by anybody with an internet connection and browser, regardless of the kind of computer and operating system that they are using.

Robby did some preliminary work on this idea and then contacted me to see if I thought that this would be something of interest to the membership. I told him that it was a great idea but I expressed concern over the amount of effort that such a project might take. I said that the effort/benefit ratio might be too high since both *Windows* and *OS X* versions of the spreadsheet were already available. But I did tell him that he was welcome to continue his project if he wanted to. Frankly, I thought that Robby would agree with me and give up on the idea.

I was surprised to get an email from him just a few days later telling me that he wanted to demonstrate his application for me. We set up a Skype connection and Robby spent about a half hour showing me his application in action. I was impressed (more like blown away). Not only was it easy to use, but it could also do so much more than the spreadsheets could do. It even works equally well with both the North American and European Chapter challenges.

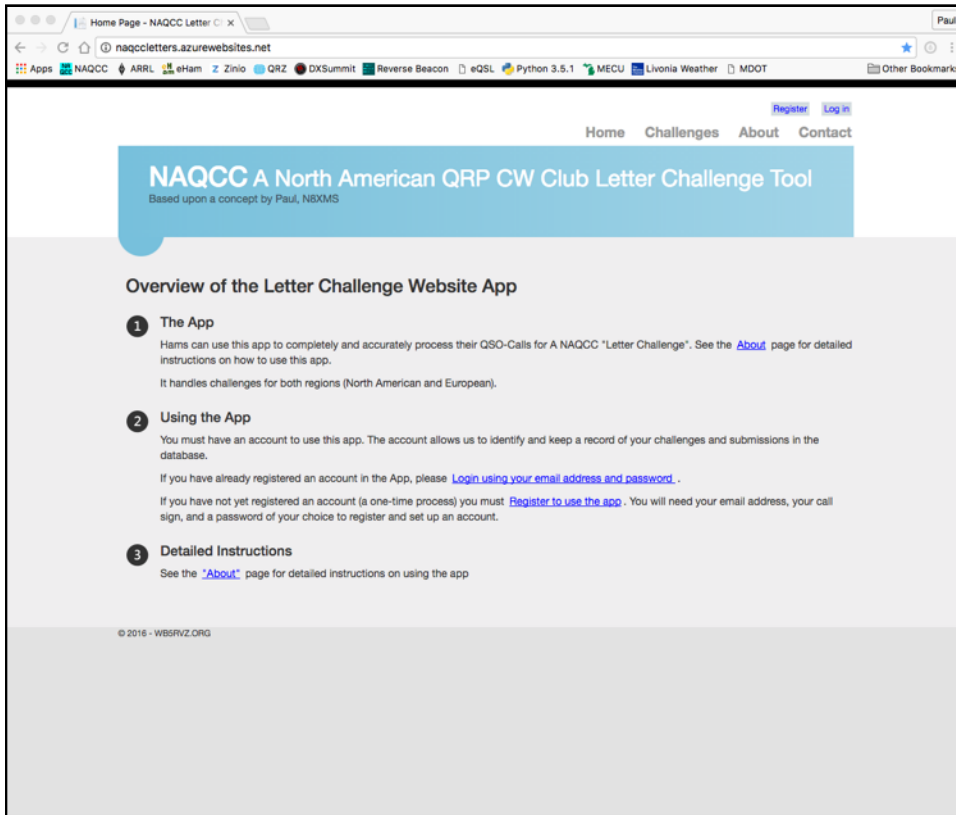
At this point I put Robby in touch with our challenge managers (K7HAP and PA5LR) and then I got out of their way. Robby got feedback from Hap and Ton about their report format needs, the subtle differences between the North American and European challenge rules, the common errors that they see in challenge submissions, and so on. He took all of their input and ended up crafting an absolutely outstanding alphabet challenge tool.

Even though there were (and probably still are) some bugs and tweaks to deal with we decided to go ahead and unveil the application with an email to the membership on August 1st - in time for both of the challenges that month. Initial reaction has been extremely positive and I am already anticipating an increased participation in our future alphabet challenges because of this great tool.

Although the application is just about as “plug & play” as you can make it, the rest of this article will step you through the basics of using it. If you carefully read through this information and look at the various screen shots you shouldn't have any trouble getting the app to work for your next alphabet challenge. You will also find that there is a lot of help available in application itself. For example, if you hover your mouse over a screen button you will be given a description of exactly what that button will do.

So here we go...

First, go to the application by following this link: <http://naqccletters.azurewebsites.net/>. (You should bookmark this page in your web browser because you are going to want to return to it often.) You will see the home screen shown on the next page.



The first thing that you will need to do is to click on the **Register** link in the upper right corner. Enter the requested information, including a case-sensitive password that you will remember, and click the **Register** button. This will create an account for you and you will now be able to return to the app at any time to work on your alphabet challenges using the **Log In** link at the top of the home screen.

Register. Create a new account.

Email address

Password (CaSeSeNsItIvE)

Confirm password

callSign

You now need to tell the app which challenge(s) you are interested in working so click on the **My Challenges** link and you will be given a list of the ones that you are “subscribed” to. If this is your first time using the app your list will be empty but you will see buttons that will take you to pages where you can subscribe to North American and/or European alphabet challenges. Normally there is no need to subscribe to a challenge ahead of time so you can simply select the one for the current month.

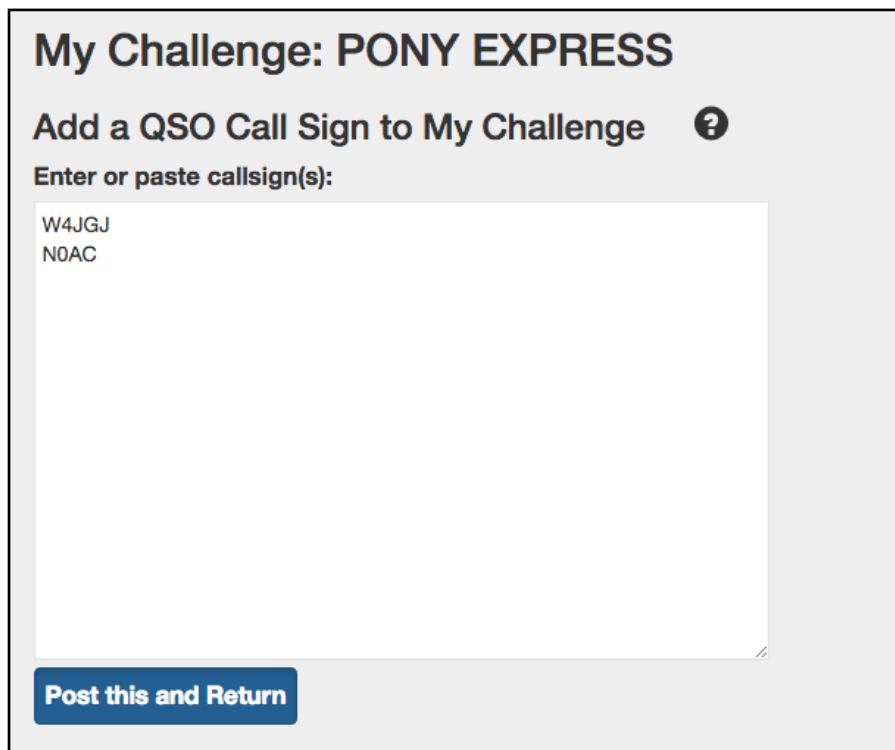
Click one of the following buttons to subscribe to a new Challenge@user.callSign

North American Challenge
European Challenge

Id	Challenge	Month	Letters	Words	Completed	QSO Calls	Locked	Action
88	PONY EXPRESS	Aug 2016	ABCDEFGHIJLMNOPRSTUWY ?	9 ?	0 ?	1 ?	No	Work It Report It
18	GHOST ARMY	Jun 2016	23ABCDEFGHIJKLMNQRSTUY ?	6 ?	6 ?	35 ?	No	Work It Report It
41	WIRE	Apr 2016	ACDEGHILMNORSTUWZ ?	7 ?	6 ?	22 ?	No	Work It Report It

Now you can exit the app and get on the air for some QRP/CW fun. When you have completed some QSOs (and remember that contest QSOs are not allowed for our challenges), and are ready to check your challenge progress, go back to the app, log yourself in, and open the **My Challenges** page. Next click on the **Work It** button for your current challenge. Among other things you will see a table that shows information about the letters needed to complete the challenge.

Click on the small button labeled **Add**. This will take you to a window where you can enter the calls of the stations that you have worked so far in the month. The callsigns can be typed in directly or pasted from a text file. After entering your calls click on the button labeled **Post this and Return**.



My Challenge: PONY EXPRESS

Add a QSO Call Sign to My Challenge ?

Enter or paste callsign(s):

W4JGJ
N0AC

Post this and Return

You will now be returned to your “Work It” page and you will find a wealth of information there about the progress of your challenge. You will see that letter counts have been updated, calls used are listed, and your progress on completing individual words in the challenge is clearly shown. Click around on the different **Details**, **#**, and **?** buttons to see additional information about your progress. In the rather fuzzy screen shot on the next page you will see that I have entered 6 calls so far for my challenge. I have one challenge word completed but still need to collect 57 more letters - with “A” and “O” being my greatest needs.

At this point I need to warn you about one weakness in the app that could, under certain circumstances, have an impact. In our North American alphabet challenges a member receives a participation point toward their yearly participation total if they complete at least one challenge word. Because of the order that the application assigns collected letters to the challenge words, it is possible to actually collect enough callsign letters to complete one of the challenge words near the bottom of the list but have the app assign these letters to words that are higher up in the list and that still have other missing letters in them. In other words, you might have collected enough letters to complete a word and earn your participation point but the app will report that you have not yet completed any words. (Or it will report fewer completed words than you can actually create with your letters.) If you ever find yourself in this situation at the end of the challenge month your best option is to just create your challenge report by hand or with one of the spreadsheets and email it in to get your participation point. Then try a little bit harder next time! Is this something that Robby could fix in a future version of the app? Possibly, but it would be a lot better to just make a few more QSOs during the month!

Reset
Eligible Letters for Your Challenge: ABCDEFGHIJLMNOPRSTUWY Delete Refresh Report Run Report

Letter	A	B	C	D	E	F	H	I	J	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	W	Y	Total
Required	12	2	5	3	5	2	2	5	2	9	4	5	8	1	4	8	5	2	1	2	87
Matched	4	0	2	3	4	0	2	0	2	4	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	2	30
Remaining	8	2	3	0	1	2	0	5	0	5	4	1	8	1	4	6	5	2	0	0	57

All 6 Calls Show
 Unused

N8XMS QSO Calls ? New Call: ADD Remove Call(s): REMOVE

ID	QSO-Call	Remaining Letters	Matched Word Letters	Action
1161	K1ESE	none ?	6	Details
1158	N0AC	none ?	6	Details
1159	N9HAL	none ?	8	Details
1157	W4JGJ	WJJ ?	2	Details
1160	W4KLY	WW ?	4	Details
1065	WW2DD	WWWWD ?	4	Details

PONY EXPRESS Challenge Words ?

ID	Word	Matched Letters	Remaining Letters	Action
1201	RUSSELL	6	RU ?	Details
1202	MAJORS	2	MORS ?	Details
1203	WADDELL	7	COMPLETED ?	Details
1204	RELAY STATIONS	6	RLSTTIOS ?	Details
1205	SAINT JOSEPH MO	4	SAITOSPMO ?	Details
1206	SACRAMENTO CA	3	SARAMETOA ?	Details
1207	BUFFALO BILL GODY	2	BUFFALOBILLCO ?	Details
1208	MOCHILA	1	MOCILA ?	Details
1209	CANTINA	1	CATINA ?	Details

When you have completed the challenge (or have at least one word complete but are now out of time) you will want to submit your challenge report to the appropriate manager. (The app knows who is supposed to receive the report.) Get back into your **My Challenges** page and click on the **Report It** button for the challenge. This will create a perfectly formatted email report for all of the challenge words that you managed to complete. It will also give you a box where you can add your soapbox comments to the report. (See the screen shot on the next page.) When you click on the **Lock and Submit Report to ...** button your report will be sent and a copy will be emailed to yourself as well.

A well proven and time honored saying in the world of computers is that “there is always one more bug.” (How many “updates” have you had to your smart phone’s operating system?!) If, as you use this app, you come across any problems or issues please take the time to report them to us with as many details about exactly what happened as you can provide. We will certainly do our best to fix it.

We need to close this article with a **HUGE THANK YOU** to Robby, WB5RVZ, for all of the work that he has done, and continues to do, for this project! I can assure you that he has put more hours into this than several years worth of pencil & paper alphabet challenges would have cost him! We also need to thank K7HAP, PA5LR, K1YAN, and MW0MIE for their valuable input into the project, as well as for all that they do throughout the year to bring enjoyable challenges to us each and every month.

GHOST ARMY IS COMPLETE!

Draft Email

k7hap2@gmail.com, paul142857@gmail.com
 From:paul142857@gmail.com
 To:k7hap2@gmail.com, paul142857@gmail.com
 Subject:(N8XMS) NAQCC (Jun 2016)

Body:
 N8XMS:
 GHOST ARMY - WA9YXG K9GHD K0RO K3SAV W1XT WA9YXG K0RO VE2MF WA9YXG

SONIC DECEPTION - K3SAV K0RO K1USN K3VIG OK1CF K9GHD VE2MF OK1CF VE2MF K1PUG W1XT K3VIG OK1CF K1USN

SPOOF RADIO - K1USN K1PUG OK1CF W1KOK VE2MF K0RO WA9YXG K9GHD K4II W1KOK

TANK, INFLATABLE - KT4P K3SAV N4RAY K9GHD K4II N4RAY VE2MF WA9LDD K3SAV KT4P KA6U WB2ZRU WA9LDD EA1DR

ATMOSPHERE - KA6U W1NVT VE2MF VE3OU K1USN KT4P K9GHD EA1DR WB2ZRU VE3OU

23RD HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL TROOPS - WB2ZRU K3SAV WB2ZRU EA1DR W4BVH VE3OU WA5CAV EA1DR K2MQY KA6U WA5CAV EA1DR
 W1NVT KB1EFS EA1DR KB1EFS KB1EFS KT4P KB1EFS WA5CAV K4II WA5CAV NZ5L K4BFT N4RAY VE3OU OG3077F WA5PFJ K4VVS

(optional) Soapbox Comments:

B I [List Icon] [Link Icon] [Quote Icon] [Reply Icon] [Help Icon]

Report Complete

[Return to Managing MyChallenge](#)

[Lock and Submit Report to K7HAP](#)

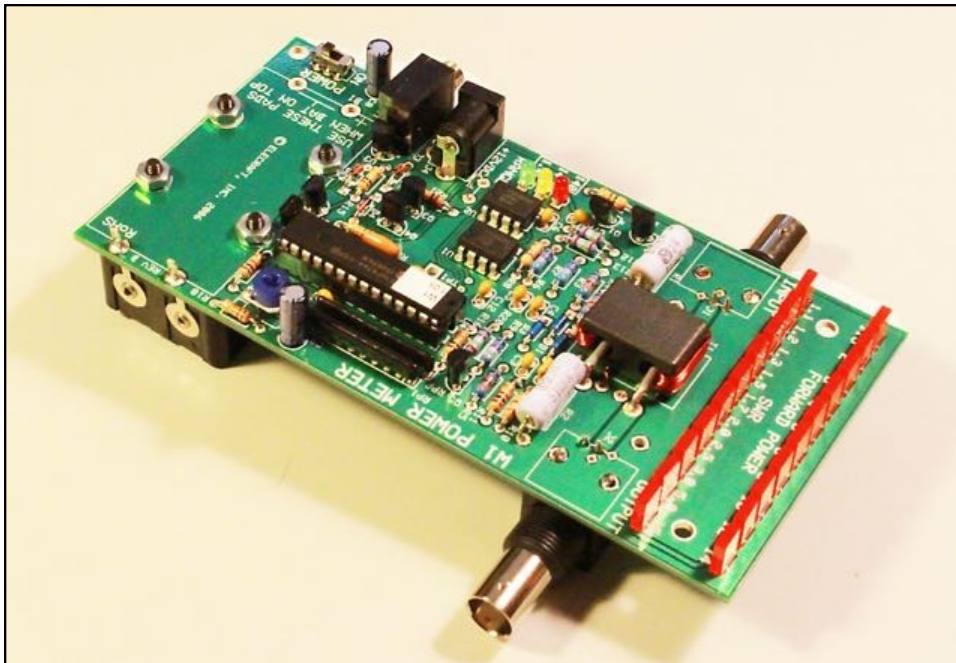


NEED A GOOD WATTMETER? BY BOB, K9OSC

One of the more useful pieces of test equipment in my station is the wattmeter. With it I can monitor antennas, transmitter output, calculate various power losses and antenna parameters and use it in my shack or the field. It's importance peaks when applied to QRP and QRPp activities. Having some independent means to measure output power can confirm what power level you have selected and whether or not the equipment is working properly.

In the field such a tool is quite useful when setting up antennas and tuning them. Terrain, antenna height over ground and antenna type all vary from setup-to-setup and having some way to measure where I'm at can mean the difference between success or abject failure for the day.

Having owned many different types of wattmeters over the years I wanted to upgrade from analog to digital along with a high degree of accuracy. I also wanted it to cover all the power ranges of my equipment and not be limited to just QRP levels. The last criteria was to not to "break the bank" when buying one. I selected the Elecraft W1 wattmeter because of it's small size (5-3/8" x 2-11/16" x 1-1/2", power efficient, accurate to within 0.5 dB. and reads power levels from 0.1 to 140 watts.



Designed so that even first time kit builders would be able to complete the assembly without a lot of stress, I found this to be an easy kit to build. Assembly is straight forward and there is nothing tricky about it at all. The only caveat is to wear a conductive wrist strap and/or to use an anti-static mat. This keeps static away from sensitive IC's until they are placed into the PC board and soldered in place. I used my bench which is non-conductive and along with a wrist strap.

Parts verification prior to the build went flawlessly and assembly was very straight forward. I took my time spending about six hours to complete the process. Taking my time I double checked everything as I went so there weren't any mistakes that I had to try to reverse. Having to unsolder components on a board with plated through holes can be both time consuming and difficult. There is even the risk of board damage in some cases. So patience is key.

The only different thing that I experienced with this kit was the winding of a binocular toroid. I have wound all kinds of toroids in the past with many different types of windings but not a binocular type core. This turned out to be the easiest toroid wind I had ever done. There was nothing tricky about it and the illustrations in the manual showed exactly what it should look like when the winding was complete.

When the assembly process was completed I inserted a 9-volt battery and turned it on. Everything lit up properly and worked just as it should. So, how do you calibrate this meter? Using a DMM, you connect it between two test points on the board and turn the calibration pot so that the meter reads 4.5 volts. That is it.

The readout is via a series of LED's for both power and VSWR. Both rows of LED's operate simultaneously and are easy to see and read. The nice part is selecting the power range which uses it's own set of LED's. The W1 does this automatically. Each time it begins at the lowest level. You apply power from your transmitter and it figures out what range it needs. Instantly the range is selected and power output is displayed along with whatever VSWR is present.

You can also plug this meter into your computer. Elecraft provides free software so that you can read everything numerically easily. It will also let you vary the way that the meter displays readings. You set it to show instantaneous readings, peak only, slow decay rate, etc. All programmable from the provided software. There is a plug on the side of the board where computer access is gained. You can also use external power and they have a jack on the board to accept between 7 and 14 volts DC. The provided instructions are crystal clear.

The only thing that doesn't come with the kit is a case. Elecraft opted not to include one for a couple reasons. Some hams build this kit into transmitters or antenna tuners. A case is not needed there. Some prefer to use it without a case and that is perfectly acceptable as it is designed to be self contained without a case. That keeps the cost down and provides alternatives for the builder. For those who prefer a case an aftermarket plastic case just for the W1 is offered by W8FGU (www.w8fgu.com/w1encl.html). In my situation I opted to make my own case and I did so using some white oak and a clear plastic panel for the front.



One nice feature is the option for placement of the battery and the input/output BNC connectors. You can place them on top of the board or on the bottom depending whether you want to use the kit as-is or in a case. My case has a removable panel on the back for easy access to the 9-volt battery.

I have used this meter repeatedly on all my equipment and with a wide variety of antennas. It fits in my hand nicely and is very light weight which is perfect for portable work. I have found it to be well within the accuracy specified by Elecraft. It has truly become one of the most used pieces of test gear in my shack.

If you are in need of an accurate way to measure your power and VSWR this is one way to go without breaking the bank (\$99.95). Not only do you learn by building your own, but you end up with a solid piece of test equipment that will work with just about anything in your shack and that can be utilized with and without a computer.



ROTTEN LOGGING! BY T. O. M.

Hiram Percy Maxim, the original W1AW and before that simply 1AW, was one of the cofounders of the ARRL. For 20 years, from 1916 until his death in 1936, Maxim contributed regular editorials to the pages of QST under the moniker "The Old Man" (T. O. M.). Many of these editorials would start out with the word "Rotten" and were written in a grumpy curmudgeonly style designed to humorously point out needed improvements in the amateur radio community. (For example see his January 1917 editorial, ["Rotten QRM"](#), about the problems that relay stations were having with passing traffic messages.)



When I read the item submitted by John, K3WWP, that appears on the next page I thought about The Old Man and I wondered what he would have said about the situation - probably "rotten" something or other. Every month John does an amazing job cross checking all of our submitted sprint logs. This is not a trivial task and even though he has been doing this for many years and "has it down," it still takes him a significant amount of time and effort to complete. Unfortunately the mistakes that we keep sending him in our logs month after month significantly adds to the work that he must do.

So what I wanted to do was to adopt The Old Man's style and grump at all of us for doing such a "rotten" job with our sprint logging. Unfortunately my writing skills are not really up to that task and I don't think that I could get away with threatening to use a "wouff-hong" or "rettysnitch" on all of the "rotten loggers" out there. So all that I will do is to say, **"come on guys! We can do better than this!"** Read John's article and lets all commit to doing a better job with our sprint operating. We can all work to improve our CW copy, be more careful with the accuracy of our logs, and proof read our submissions before we click that button at the bottom of the autologger. I know that John would appreciate the help. And T. O. M. would approve too!



From John, K3WWP, our sprint log cross checker...

We get many compliments thanking us for the way we run our sprints, especially the cross-checking aspect. Since there are way too many to address each one personally, I want to take this opportunity to tell each and everyone how much they are appreciated. HOWEVER there is an even BETTER way to say thanks which we will appreciate even more. I'd like to talk about that here.

The best way to say thanks is to send us a perfectly formatted error-free log that we can simply copy and paste into the cross-checking Excel program. That saves me a lot of time, effort, aggravation, and headaches. It's so easy to do also. All you need to do is to examine your log and correct any mistakes BEFORE submitting it. DO NOT rely on GenLog to spit out a perfectly formatted error free log. If you enter wrong info into it, it is not a mind reader knowing you entered something wrong. If you transcribe a paper log into any electronic format, please CHECK that electronic log and correct any transcription errors before submitting.

Remember the text box in the autologger is totally editable and you can correct any errors right there after pasting in your log.

Let's take a look at the kind and number of errors that were found in cross-checking the recent August sprint logs followed by an easy way YOU could have found and corrected most of them.

Wrong member number or power - 50
Wrong call - 39
Wrong SPC number (next to last column in a log entry) - 33
Wrong time - 18
Wrong QSO points (last column in a log entry) - 14
Wrong SPC - 5
Duplicate QSO - 3

Not in log QSOs - 20 (not much you can do about this one before submitting - the cross-checking program finds these)

That's a total of 182 errors from 118 logs or an average of about 1.5 errors per log. 57 of 118 logs had at least one of the above errors, not counting not in log QSOs.

How can you correct this situation? Simple, just look at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt> and compare the info there with your log. Then make any corrections before submitting.

Thanks for your help in making the cross-checking process a less painful one.

Oh, and remember if you move on in contesting to other contests, they are not as lenient as we are with improperly formatted logs or error-containing logs. They WILL penalize you for such things and if there are more than a certain number of errors, your log will be disqualified and in severe cases you will be prohibited from receiving any awards for the next few years in their contest. We'll never do anything like that as long as I am in charge of cross-checking. We even give you a chance to check with the other station if your call is not in their log if you question our scoring adjustments and a not in log QSO is the reason for the scoring change.



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.

JODY NELIS, K3JZD, #7936



I started out as K5SCC in Fort Smith Arkansas, in 1958. Learning to wigwag Morse Code for a Boy Scout Merit Badge, and some articles about ham radio that were in Boys Life magazine, led me into this hobby. I became K3JZD when I moved back to the Pittsburgh PA area in 1960.

I'm now 72, and I have been retired for two years. During my working years, I did electrical installation engineering and startup support for steel mills, tested computerized central traffic control systems for railroad and rail based public transit systems, and tested and prepared new computerized home health care respiratory medical equipment for their FDA certifications.

In addition to ham radio, I enjoy riding my Harley on the lesser traveled back roads, target shooting and trap shooting, programming computers, and homebrewing various items. Lately I have been building some of the small kits that are available from various QRP clubs and vendors. I am an active member of the Skyview Radio Society, currently serving as the newsletter editor.

Not counting the Heathkit Tener that I had in my car, I was strictly a CW operator during my first 10 years. Not QRP, but it was low power with a rock-bound transmitter that had 50 watts of input power (today that would probably be called 30 watts of output power). Then, I finally went and bought a Swan 350 SSB transceiver and a microphone. CW skills sure have a way of deteriorating once you connect a microphone to a radio.

I went through the usual period of scaled back ham activity once I got married and started a family. Priorities change. But, I kept that Swan 350 transceiver connected and on the air throughout those 'busy' years. At some point I upgraded to a used Kenwood TS-520S. However it ended up being a pattern of blowing the dust off of the transceiver once or twice a year and operating for a few hours

during some SSB DX contest to make a lot of quick QSOs to be sure that everything still worked. My CW skills deteriorated to the point where I rarely tried using any CW.

After retiring, I became interested in the small inexpensive Software Defined Radios (SDRs). I decided that using CW with these low powered SDRs would provide me with a great way to rehabilitate my CW skills while I was learning to use SDRs. I ended up with a Softrock RXTX SDR built for use on 40-30-20 meters and another one built for use on 15-17-10 meters. They are QRPp radios, each producing about 750mw of output. Since that QRPp power was not always getting it done, I added a MX-P50M amplifier to take it up to five watts output whenever necessary. I modified each of these Softrock RXTX units so that they do real-time CW keying by adding a home-brewed Arduino-based K3NG Keyer interface. My K3NG Keyer interface circuit supports using iambic paddles or a straight key. It handles all of the T-R switching for the HDSDR software, the RXTX unit, and also the amplifier whenever it is being used. I can use either type of key with it. But, I have not yet successfully mastered using iambic paddles, and do not use them on the air. I have always used a surplus J-38 straight key, but I am now becoming attached to a SKCC straight key that I purchased last year.

In addition to the regular usage of my Softrock RXTX SDRs, I have also built and periodically use an extremely simple 250mw Chinese 40-meter Pixie transceiver (yes, I put it into an Altoids tin). I have worked down into Atlanta Georgia from here (Pittsburgh PA) using that simple 250mw transceiver and my 40m dipole. I think that is pretty darn good for an \$8.00 transceiver with full QSK (and I overpaid - they are \$5.00 someplace else on eBay). I love the reaction I get whenever I report what my 'rig' is. I plan on trying some of the other economical, small and simple QRP transceiver kits that are available. I would like to find one that has a receiver that has a little more selectivity - the Pixie receiver is just a bit too wide.

I have recently taken an interest in doing battery-powered QRP CW operation out in the parks. There, I use a Yaesu FT-817 and a SOTABeams 40-20m link dipole. I did one NPOTA activation from the North Country National Scenic Trail, but the rest of the time it has just been from some local park. However, I'm finding that it is a bit challenging to get someone interested in your QRP operation with the band conditions being very so-so. I may try some SOTA Activations. They seem attractive due to the fact that the SOTA Chasers that are looking for you will work real hard to hear your QRP signal so that they can get their SOTA Chaser points. Plus, climbing up to those summits is probably darn good exercise. I have not had much luck with working QRP DX. But I attribute that to not focusing on looking for DX and the poor band conditions that we now have. I did have a couple of 'almost' European contacts on 20m while running QRP CW from out in a local park. But while they heard me, and we started into a QSO, they quickly lost me in the QSB and their noise level.

With my renewed interest in operating CW, I soon discovered the SKCC and the FISTS organizations. I joined each of them. Then, John-K3WWP and Mike-KC2EGL came to the Skyview Radio Society in August 2015 and gave a presentation on the Joys of QRP and provided information about the NAQCC, I joined the NAQCC. So, I'm still a 'new guy'.

I have found that, even though I'm still rusty with my CW skills, I am able to participate in the NAQCC Sprint events. I am usually only using 40-meters as I do not have any simple wire antennas up for any other bands. I particularly like doing the NAQCC Milliwatt Sprints. I enjoy seeing how far I can get with my barefoot RXTX SDR unit with its 750 mw output. In my case, I have a rather complex switching system in place that allows me to quickly connect any of my radios to any antenna. So, that 750mw signal ends up going through two SWR/Watt meters, four coax switches, a low pass filter, and about 100 feet of 40 year old coax to get to my 40m dipole. And, amazingly enough, there is still some RF left to radiate once it gets to the antenna. And I do make some contacts. For the rest of the NAQCC Sprints I use the amplifier to crank my power up to just under 5 watts.

While it is not my focus, I have collected a little bit of NAQCC and FISTS wallpaper, and some SKCC 'bragging rights' from running QRP or QRPP power during the various Sprints. My CW copy is still not quite good enough for doing any serious rag chewing, but I will get there. It is just taking a little longer to do now than it took to do back in 1958.

So, that's the 'condensed version' of my story. I'll be listening for you during the NAQCC events.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our September sprint will be on the 22nd, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday the 21st here in North America. Complete details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. Everything that you need to know about how to have a Silver Log can be found at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt>.

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

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: Participation in our August sprint was higher than in any of the previous summer months with 118 submitted logs and a total of 168 participants found in those logs completing 1832 QRP/CW QSOs. For a change conditions were reported as being fairly good over most of the country and everyone had a great time.

Please be sure to read the "*Rotten Logging*" article earlier in this issue. Also take a look at the interesting sprint statistics that are given in the *Key Clicks* item entitled "Some big numbers" on the first page of this newsletter.

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201608.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: K3ZGA W2FAL VE3IDS W6STR VE3FAO AA0FD WA4CHQ N3IOD WD8OUX K0NIA WB4SNU KC2IGE

2017 SPRINT SCHEDULE: The complete 2017 sprint schedule can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html> and a printable text version of the schedule is available at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html. Be sure to pay careful attention to the adjusted date in February due to Valentine's Day and the one in May to accommodate travel to the Dayton Hamvention and Four Days In May event.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	N1JI	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	AB3RU	KC3DOF	
W4	WH6LE	WM3X	W4OEP
W5	N5GW	WB4BIN	
W6	WK6L	W6STR	
W7	KF7WNS	KC7DM	
W8	NF8M		
W9	W9CC	NX1K	
W0	N0TA	KD0DK	
VE	VE3DQN		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1SX		
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY	WZ2N	
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	N8XMS		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	W1PID	
W2	K2YGM		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	N4KS	N4MJ	KU4A
W5			
W6			
W7			
W8	N8QY		
W9	N9SE		
W0	K9OSC		
VE	VE7YU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI	G3RSP	

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K3ZGA	WB4SNU	W2FAL
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
K4WLW			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	118	102	194	2/13
Participants	168	155	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1832	1337	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1010	762	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	822	575	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	527	486	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1261	803	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	44	48	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	15.5	13.1	19.3	9/11

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

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	KA9FQG K6MGO NA4O WG8Y N8BB AA7CU KC2EGL VE5BCS N2ESE K6CSL N8QY WA8SAN N0TA WX4RM WD0K K4KRW NQ2W KB8FE NO2D WY3H AA9L KQ1P W4DUK KE5YUM NU7T
75+	WB8ENE WA2JSG VE3FUJ K1IEE N4FI KD0V K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN K4NVJ KD2MX KB3AAG
100+	N8XMS K4BAI WB8LZG W2SH W9CC W2JEK
125+	KA2KGP K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our North American challenge for the month of September is a QRPp challenge with the goal to accumulate a total of 5000 miles/watt while operating with an output power of 1 watt or less. Details on the challenge including how to do your maw calculations can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201609.html>.

The European challenge for September goes artistic with an alphabet type challenge involving the names and exhibition dates of some famous European artists. The details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-2016-challenge/>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In October you can have a frightfully fun time with an alphabet challenge working with words that are all associated with Halloween. There is also a puzzle inside of the challenge for you to solve. Details are at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201610.html>.

The European challenge for October works with a list of European lakes and their depths. <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2016-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 August Pony Express challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201608.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.

The European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/august-2016-challenge-2/>.

ALPHABET CHALLENGE WEB APP: Be sure to read the article in this newsletter about the new alphabet challenge web app developed by WB5RVZ. We appreciate the reports that have been coming in from the early users that have helped us spot bugs and make improvements. To clarify one issue, the app does not automatically post your submission to the challenge webpage. Your report is emailed to K7HAP (with a copy to your own email address). Hap reviews the submission, adds it to his web report, and updates the webpage every 3 or 4 days starting about half way through the month. If you have not seen your submission show up on the webpage after a few days it is possible that there has been some sort of problem with the submission and you will want to look into that. *One suggestion is to go to your challenge and do a "Reset," then "Run Report," and click on the "Submit" button.*

There is one characteristic of the web app that you need to be aware of. Because of the order that the program follows in assigning collected letters to the challenge words, there can be times when it will give you less credit than you deserve. This will only happen if you have not been able to complete the challenge. For example, for the August challenge the web app claimed that I had completed 2 of the required words. But with some strategic changes to which words I applied my collected letters to, I actually was able to complete 4 of the words in the list. Of course I still didn't complete the challenge,

and whether I submitted my 4 words or just the 2 words from the app, I still get my participation point. However, for personal vanity, the 4-word submission was what I sent in. (I used the alphabet challenge spreadsheet for this.)

2017 CHALLENGE SCHEDULE: Gary, K1YAN, has once again come up with a creative and fun set of monthly challenges for all of us to enjoy. We are especially excited about some significant changes that have been made to the June Field Day challenge. You can find links to all of the upcoming challenge pages at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

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+	PA0XAW KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H
50+	K1YAN VE3FUJ NU7T
75+	K1IEE
100+	N8XMS W2JEK
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: QSO-A-DAY Award

This is an award that was inspired by the amazing QRP/CW QSO streaks of K3WWP (<http://k3wwp.com/?>). It can be completed in a month or stretched out for a full year. The idea is simple - make at least one CW/QRP QSO per day for a period of time. The time period can be as short as a month (or 30 days) and up to a full year. Of course making a CW/QRP QSO is not really a big deal, but the self discipline and the demands on your personal schedule is what makes this a significant challenge to work on. Details can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW AWARD

0519 WV8DH F6HKA - 1,022 08/21/16 G5RV

DXCC AWARD - Basic Award (Category A - QRP)

0020 - VE3DQN 08/21/16 Cushcraft R-7

WAS AWARD - Category A (50 USA States QRP)

0032 - VE3DQN 08/21/16



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>.

To all Radio Amateurs. It is now September and winter's coming. So do yourself a favour (Canadian spelling) Check your outdoor antennas etc. and don't over look anything, as it will only break on the most miserable day Mother Nature can put up. (Murphys Law says so). So with a little forethought the following would be an excellent Idea.

Make up a check list and go over it several times over several days so you get every thing down on paper, then proceed to check everything, tick it off as you do, so nothing will be forgotten.

Halyards all the way to the antenna and if it's attached to the antenna center insulator with a knot it would be a good Idea to cut off the old knot including the part that ran over the pulley and redo it with the now new end and don't forget the pulley itself and its attachment. Also make a close check on the Halyard itself all the way down to the other end it may have been rubbing on a branch or bolt.

While you had the antenna down you should have checked on the solder joints and even measured them with a very low ohm ohm-meter.

The other important thing is the lead-in wire. If it is open wire check for kinks and where it may have been rubbing against something. (Heaven forbid). If it is Coax it may be a good idea to check on its parameters, and even redo the Weather seal or even replace the Coax itself. Coax does deteriorate over time so if it has been up for a while (more than 2 years) it will be good to check. Even if your antenna is an indoor attic antenna it's a good Idea to check the Coax. It is amazing how lossy it can get in a short amount of time. Moisture from temperature differences etc. can some how get into it.

Also don't forget the end insulators on a Dipole and the ropes etc. that is attached there to hold it up as well as the solder joints.

Murphys - Law has a way of striking when it would be the most miserable for you to fix it like shoulder deep snow below Zero temps and or high wind and perhaps a flooding. As the Scouts Motto says " be prepared " ---- and don't get caught with your D-----S down. If you choose to ignore the suggestions because you just put it up last year (or was it the year before?), and Murphys Law chooses to strike, you have only yourself to blame.

72 Brion



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
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 7:30 PM PT	Monday 0230 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	14060 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2230 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	3565 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Thursday 7:30 PM PT	Friday 0230 Z	7056 KHz	J.B., NR5NN (in CA)

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

Hello Op's, we had a great month with very good net participation; please see comments below. I want to personally thank all of the net control operators for their time and dedication. Thank you-thank you... 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!!!

08-02-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

It was a rough night with very deep QSB. Some stations are hearing me for a change though. Hoping for better conditions soon.
Allen KA5TJS

08-02-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

Very rough night here as well tonight but we still had a great net, very rough copy for me with the darn vertical antenna and area noise from thunder storms, we got lots of rain last night. It was great to have a new check in Randy (Eugene Day) KF5RZG from Anacoco, LA hope to hear you again soon. Also had John AC8JW check in QRP from San Angelo, TX; that was a work out HI HI with the deep QSB...Nick K0JFJ checked in good copy, and Dave KB7KY BOOMING in as usual, are you running 1500 Watts Dave and a full size 40m beam at 300 feet, great signal!
73 Scotty NU0S

08-03-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

Band conditions were good tonight. Great signals from all stations. Dave WV8DH talked briefly about my QRP presentation at the next gathering (8-8-16) of the WV Amateur Radio Club meeting. Russ K3NLT checked in again tonight with a great signal. He and I will both be out of town next week. He has an antenna out in his garage for 40 and 20 meters. We will attempt a QSO while I'm in New York next week. John W8GDP and I talked about the new location of the Dayton Hamvention next year. We talked about my three new grandchildren and the new "video" app on Facebook. I've been talking with my son, my grandson, and my daughter in law using my desktop and my Android tablet. It's basically "Skype" in another box. It works great and I'm using it a lot now to say hello and keep up with triplets. All the triplet are home now and parents back to work. It's a busy time for all.....

08-09-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

Wow the band was very noisy tonight; I didn't check the weather out except for the temperature so there may have been a lot of storms around the country. We still had a great net, my apologies to Nick K0JFJ he checked in strong then I lost him on the go around. Dave KB7KY relayed for the net thank you very much so I picked up Lyle AF7OS great to have you in the log. Thanks to everyone for checking in and your participation in the nets...
73 Scotty NU0S

08-16-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

Andy was the only station I heard last night but he was 599 through our QSO.
Allen KA5TJS

08-16-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

Great net I was very tired didn't help. The band was in good shape for summer time with very good net turn out. All stations had fairly strong signals into the Midwest, Central Plains. I started with the long wire antenna and 25W then switched to the Hustler vertical antenna with 100W for the last part of the net, switching to the long wire with the pre-amp on for better reception; poor man's beverage HI HI...
73 Scotty NU0S

08-17-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

The band was like a bunch of squirrels tonight. There one minute and gone the next. AC8LJ was loud a clear but WA8SIE was hard to copy. Amazingly K3NLT was fairly strong from Broadway Virginia but shut down quickly due to thunderstorms in the area. I was in New York last week so no net. It's always good to be back home.
72's John

08-23-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

Dave KB7KY and his wife Sandi N7QZB stopped in from Tempe Arizona for an eye ball QSO and bought me a very nice dinner down in the Lincoln Haymarket; thank you very much and it was great to see you all. I hope to make it over to Arizona again someday, I'm a Royals fan but also like the D-Backs and would like to go to a game some day... I just made it home in time for net and worked Dave KB7KY/0 and N7QZB by proxy from his park location. The weather was very nice tonight unseasonably cool, great sleeping weather. The band however was not in very good shape tonight but we had a great time with friends, thanks again Dave and Sandi for a great evening, I hope to see you all again soon...

Ham Radio is a great way to meet and make new friends!!!

73/Scotty/NU0S

08-24-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

John W8GDP and I had a nice chat about the grandchildren and meeting this Saturday morning for breakfast. I bought a few new toys which I intend to bring along to show folks.

72's John N8ZYA

08-30-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

We were stormed out tonight, it rained all night and was still raining this morning. No storm damage so very thankful. See ya all next week...

73/Scotty/NU0S

08-30-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

We had thunder storms and then no power. I could have hooked up the battery and run the FT-817 but was too dark in the shack to see anything!

Better luck next week.

Allen KA5TJS

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

Thunder is STILL preceded by lightning. But it is getting better. The lightning, and the Prop Princess is in a better mood this time of year too, particularly on 40m.

08-31-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

Tonight was an unusual night with mostly close contacts here in the valley. The band conditions were not good. I was close to the noise level with John **W8GDP** in Charleston (3 miles straight line distance and Russ **K3NLT** at 150 miles in Virginia. All my check in stations had to power up to 100 watts tonight for a decent reception report from me. All the stations tonight were running at their 100 watt level. I had perfect 599 signal from all. - My 703 will max out at 10 watts so I gave it everything it had but still didn't make much difference. Hi Hi. Soon after closing the net, I heard a strong CQ on 3564 from **KB4QQJ** in North Carolina. I couldn't resist the temptation to say hello to another NAQCC member. (I recognized the familiar call-sign) **Randy is NAQCC member #2086** and we had a wonderful chat about QRP. Randy was using a Doublet antenna up about 35 feet and his KX-3. The QSO was a perfect 599 both ways. Randy was 193 miles from me, which evidently, was the perfect "first bounce" distance from Charleston tonight. He was using his **SKCC** straight key. We exchanged NAQCC and SKCC numbers.

**NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations
August/2016 Please note: Dates are in UTC**

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**40M 7.056 MHz**

08-01-2016 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, NR5NN/M, KW6G, N7HRK/M, W7SAG/P, N6UG

08-08-2016 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, W7SAG/P, NR5NN, N7HRK/M, KE6EE, WI6O

08-15-2016 QNI (8) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, W7SAG/P, KE6EE, N6KIX, NR5NN/M, K7KY, WI6O

08-22-2016 QNI (5) NCS N6IET, KW6G, WU7F, N7HRK/M, W7SAG

08-29-2016 QNI (8) NCS N6IET, W7SAG/P co-NCS, K7KY, N7HRK/M, KW6G, NR5NN, KE6EE, WU7F

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California**40M 7.056 MHz**

08-05-2016 (5) NCS NR5NN, N6IET, N7HRK/M, KE6EE, W7SAG

08-12-2016 (6) NCS NR5NN, KE6EE, N7HRK/M, WU7F, N6IET, W7SAG

08-19-2016 (4) NCS W7SAG/P, NR5NN, N7HRK/M, N6IET

08-26-2016 (4) NCS NR5NN, W7SAG/P, N6IET, N7HRK/M

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**80M, 3.560 MHz**

08-02-2016 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, N5DRG, KE5YGA, N5MHI, WI5H

08-16-2016 QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

08-30-2016 QNI (0) NCS KA5TJS, No net see notes bad night for storms

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**40M, 7.117 MHz**

08-02-2016 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, K0JFJ, AC8JW, KB7KY, KF5RZG
08-09-2016 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, K0JFJ, KF5RZG, KD0DK, KB7KY, AF7OS
08-16-2016 QNI (7) NCS NU0S, KD0DK, K0JFJ, KG0LD, KF5RZG, KB7KY, N7ADA
08-23-2016 QNI (3) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, N7QZB (by proxy)
08-30-2016 QNI (0) NCS NU0S, Sorry Op's we were stormed out no net

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRC) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming**20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz (BOTH FREQ SHOWN ON ONE LINE)**

08-02-2016 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, K7LVJ, KD9EB, AA7CU, KE6EE
08-09-2016 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, N6IET, W3HZZ, K2UFT
08-16-2016 QNI (6) NCS WC7S, W8WQ, W7GB, KA2ZEY, KD0DK
08-20-2016 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, N6IET, NK6A, AA7CU
08-23-2016 QNI (7) NCS WC7S, VE3CGC, AA7CU, W9GS, EA8YV, AA7CU
08-25-2016 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, NQ7R, AA7CU, WB6SEL
08-30-2016 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, AA7CU

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

08-03-2016 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA, K3NLT, W8GDP
08-17-2016 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, K3NLT, WA8SIE, AC8LJ
08-24-2016 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP
08-31-2016 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, WA8SIE, K3NLT

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

08-05-2016 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, NB7M, N7TES, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV
08-12-2016 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, AD7BP, N7TES, N7QR
08-19-2016 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM/7, WB4SPB, KG7JEB, AD7BP, NB7M, K7JUV
08-25-2016 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW, W7ANM, N7TES, WB4SBP, NB7M

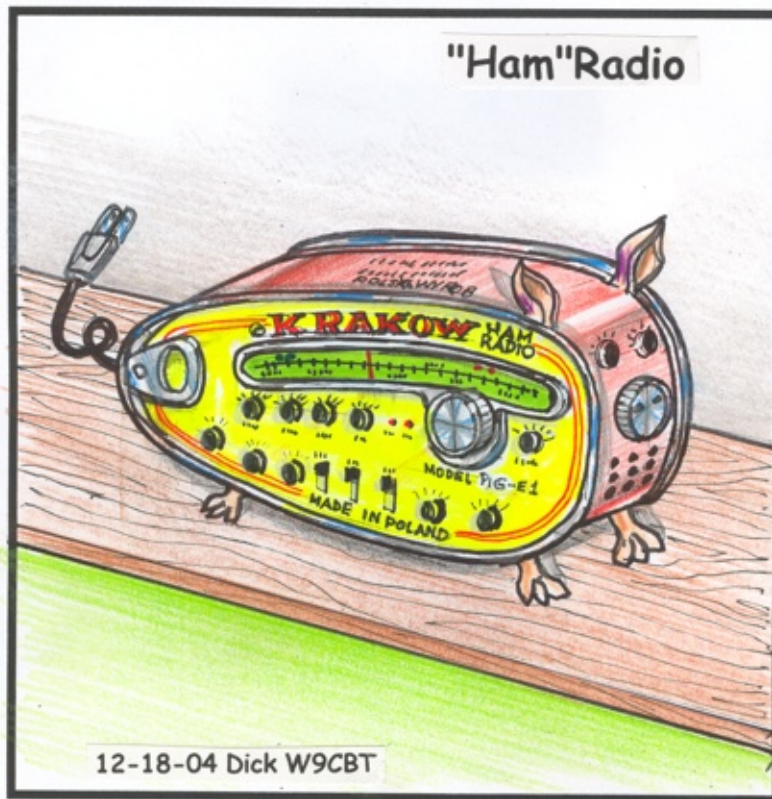
NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) currently suspended

HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at www.lulu.com.

HAM LINGO



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, 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 the Central Texas Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Danny, N5DRG.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area.

No report available.

DELMARVA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Delmarva Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Bill, N3IOD.

The chapter is located in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area.



Hello Radio and hello NAQCC! Is everyone having fun, we are!

The Delmarva Chapter, The Delmarva Amateur Radio Funsters, got together on July 28th for a cookout and some radio fun. Ten members were present and good food and fellowship followed. We erected an end fed dipole with little luck, but "FUN" was had by all.

On Thursday September 1st we had an antenna erection party for our oldest/youngest in spirit, member Bill N3RNJ. Success, we got it up! Bill is now radio active on all bands, 160 thru 10 meters. Members present were Paul NR3P, Jay K3BH, Bill N3IOD and of course Bill N3RNJ.

Stay radio active and have fun!

72/73, Bill N3IOD NAQCC 3360

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MW0MIE.

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 website for dates and details at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>

Activity Day

The August Activity Day was a great success. We saw more QSOs than ever before, and were particularly delighted to observe a remarkable number of member-member QSOs. We were grateful to receive entries from EA1XN, K1IEE, M0MIE, RW3AI, US1UU and Z35M. Vladimir Z35M gained the most points: an astonishing 2338. We've never before seen a score so high in an activity day! We also praise K1IEE for persevering despite poor propagation conditions from the USA to Europe. The full results are available on the website: <http://naqcc-eu.org/activity-days/august-2016-activity-day/> Many thanks to all who participated, and to everyone who sent us feedback on the event.

Previous Challenge

The premise of the August European challenge was to construct the names and basin areas of nine European rivers. Propagation conditions were generally reported to be poor -- particularly to the USA -- so particular congratulations to EA1KC, EA1XN, K1IEE and PA9CW for successfully completing the challenge.

Upcoming Challenge

The September Challenge is now in full swing. The premise, suggested by EA1KC, is to construct the names of six 20th century European painters and the dates of their first one-man exhibition. Full details are available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-2016-challenge/>

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

Our Next “Adventure”!

Friday, September 9th, 2016

starting at 9:30 AM EDT

(Yeah a week early – we just can’t wait!)

Spruce Creek Park in Port Orange, FL

– FLORIDA SEPTEMBER PARKPEDITION ANNOUNCED –

WHAT: The Florida Chapter of NAQCC – Monthly Event

WHEN: Friday, September 9th, 2016 starting at 9:30 AM EDT

WHERE: Spruce Creek Park, Port Orange, FL (6250 Ridgewood Ave., Port Orange, FL)

Park webpage with directions: [DIRECTIONS TO PARK AND INFO](#)

FREQUENCIES: Please listen for us near 7.061, 10.116, 14.061, 18.080, and 21.061 – Look for posts to www.qrpspots.com via the Internet when we QRV and occasionally during the operation to let everyone know who is on and where. We will also post when we go QRT. QSLs via the operator call.

WHO: “*The Usual Suspects*” – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, Paul NU4C, Charlie WX4CB, John KM4JTE, & John KD4JS (and whoever else can make it).

WHY: TO HAVE FUN, OF COURSE!!

HOW: By the magic of QRP Ham Radio!

72/73,
Steve WB4OMM #5913

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



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

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

Illowa Chapter Regular Meeting 11 August 2016

Attending: Tony, N9YPN, Tim, N9BIL, Dave, KD9VT and Peter NN9K. Discussion primarily revolved around EFHW antennas and Tuners. Dave, KD9VT brought an Emtech ZM-2 tuner to show us and although he hadn't used it yet the reviews he read have all said that it is an excellent product.

We also continued our discussion regarding possible operating locations. Since our Chapter is bisected by the Mississippi the discussion turned to possible island locations. A benefit to an island location is the possibility of an increased number of contacts because of the US Islands folks who are always looking for island contacts. Tim, N9BIL agreed to scout Credit Island on the Iowa side of the river and Peter, NN9K will do the same with Campbell's Island on the Illinois side.

Three members of the chapter, Mark, K0INA, Dave, KD9VT and Peter, NN9K operated in the New Jersey Club's Skeeter Hunt. All three went to local park locations and had varying degrees of success. Mark, K0INA who has a park very close to his home has his portable operating system refined to the point that it takes him a very few minutes to be set up and operating. His HB1B, antenna, paddles and other needs are all contained in one small backpack which is light and easy to carry. Some of the rest of us need to do a little more work on our “stuff”!

The next meeting will be held at the Bettendorf Village Inn on Thursday, September 8th.

NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

NAQCC-WFL Event

Saturday, September 17th at 9 AM - 12 PM

Cypress Point Park I275/Memorial Parkway, 5620 W Cypress St. west Tampa, FL

The West Florida chapter of NAQCC will be at Cypress Point Park NW corner of Memorial Parkway and I275 on west coast of Tampa/Old Tampa Bay.

From 0900-1200 hr or when we want to QRT. Bring you gear, QRP or more with antennas and will need power for I think there is no AC.

We will be operating on the frequencies CW frequencies

40 m – 7.060 Mhz

30 m – 10.115 Mhz

20 m – 14.060 Mhz

17 m – 18.075 Mhz

15 m – 21.060 Mhz

Bring your rig and antenna, No electric so must have power/battery/etc.

All invited, Ham or not, member or not and work any mode you like, but our primary interest is CW QRP.

73, ron, n9ee/r a know code Extra

NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>.

It was another hot and rainy month in West Virginia. As noted in last month's report, a direct lightning strike on the neighbor's home damaged my Icom 703. I was lucky to lose *only* its transmitting capability. My thanks again to Rick Robinson **W8ZT** for the loan of his 703 until my radio could be repaired.



Viewing the exterior of the house, which was struck by lightning, doesn't show the true damage. I've since learned that my neighbor's house was severely damaged by that lightning strike. All the electrical wiring in the home needs replacing and every electronic device in the home was destroyed. A sink in their upstairs bathroom was literally blown to bits. In short, the house is un-livable. Words to the wise that operate radio as a hobby – Shut down and disconnect all antennas at the first sound of thunder.

I gave a NAQCC presentation to the West Virginia Amateur Radio club this month. The power point presentation worked well with the equipment which was provided to me. The presentation was well attended and a new HT, provided by Tom Gladis **AB8RL**, was won by our WV NAQCC club member Jim Stephens **NX8Z**. I enjoyed doing this advertisement for the WV Chapter of the NAQCC Club. The



A few weeks ago, Jock N1JI, his wife and children, had planned to meet my wife and I for lunch as they travelled through the Charleston area. The meeting was cancelled due to the worsening health of his father who has since passed away.

I will be SO glad when outside temperatures become what I consider “tolerable” this upcoming fall season. I look forward to using my YouKit HB1B from the woods. My favorite mode of operating is still sitting at a picnic table.

My three new grandkids are doing well. All are putting on weight and progressing well. My Dad (96 years old now) had problems with his right arm but is still living independently.

The WV Chapter had breakfast together last week. All our members are in agreement concerning the sweltering heat and the extreme rainfall in the Western portions of the state.

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

The first chapter activity of August didn't come until the Skeeter Hunt on August 21. As I wrote in my web site diary at k3wwp.com on the 21st with some additions:

I say this every time Mike and I (and Tom) get together - it was a really great day today. We activated the NAQCC club call of N3AQC in the Skeeter Hunt. It was also a NPOTA activation. Let me explain. The NJ QRP Club offered bonus points to any stations that activated a National Park in the Skeeter Hunt. So we (mostly Tom WB3FAE) did some research and found that the North Country Trail ran through Moraine State Park a little west of Butler PA. The Park is NOT a National Park, but the Trail is considered one. So to activate it Tom found out that we could set up in the park and as long as we were within 100 feet of the trail it would count as NPOTA TR04. He scouted the park and found a spot for us that would qualify.

Mike arrived around 9AM and after some chatter about various things, we headed off to Myrt's for breakfast. That was a bad start to the day. Myrt's was so busy there wasn't even a parking place left. Knowing we were on a schedule and don't like waiting anyway, we headed to another place - Kings in West Kittanning and had our breakfast there. Since neither Mike nor I knew exactly where the spot was that Tom picked out, we contacted him and he said to meet him at the Park office. Fine - we knew where that was. We met him and followed him to the spot. Of all our many parkpeditions, Mike thought, and I agreed, that this was just about our smoothest set up ever. There were absolutely no glitches and we wound up with the following set ups.

First pictures of the North Country Trail:



Tom and John out in the field setting up Tom's antenna and his big inverted L antenna:



Mike's (L) and John's (R) inverted V jumper dipole antennas:



Mike's station (L) and Tom's (R)



When 1700Z arrived we got down to business. While we were setting up antennas, I asked Tom what band he wanted and he picked 20 leaving 40 for me so I set my jumpers for 40. We already planned that Mike would do a non-Skeeter Hunt NPOTA activation on two of the WARC bands - 30 and 17 since with current conditions it was likely only 40 and 20 would support contest QSOs.

Conditions were rough on all bands except for 40 meters. So I lucked out there when Tom made the choice of bands. Although there were some gaps in activity of 10 minutes or more (longest being 17 minutes, I believe), there was pretty much a steady stream of answers to my CQ BZZ N3AQC calls. It was hard to believe I never moved off my chair for the full four hours. Not only that, harder to believe I held one frequency (7041.18) for the full four hours without any challenge at all. I wound up with 52 QSOs in 26 SPCs and NPOTAs. Unfortunately Tom and Mike did not have as much luck nor good conditions. Tom made 17 QSOs on 20 and Mike only 2 on 30 meters. I think because of that we are going to activate TR04 again in a strictly NPOTA event and publicize the heck out of it, as I put it.

Here's a picture Mike took from our backs showing Tom at left and me at right working our way through some QSOs. The North Country Trail is that gray ribbon in the upper left of the picture just some 50 or so feet in front of us.



After we shut down at 2100Z, Mike and I stopped at Ponderosa in Butler on our way back here. Mike hung around a bit to see if I could get my DX streak QSO, but I didn't so that will have to come later tonight or in the morning or afternoon. (It did) We did both work NPOTA station N0AC/M in National Park TR14.

On our regular 4th Wednesday evening get together, Mike and I (of course) had a pizza (actually 2 although we both saved some for the next day) from our favorite Vocelli's. Then we made up a couple of power cables for our trip to Skyview on Sunday where as we've done previously we will set up our QRP rigs with their huge antenna farm and see how the other half lives. HI Among the six chapter members who will be attending, none have a big antenna farm. Mike and I also both worked ZW8I on 40 meters and he later worked CY9C while I was out walking Roscoe. I didn't go for CY9C as I already had a few CY9 QSOs from the 1990s.

On Sunday August 28, it was off to the Skyview Swap and Shop. Mike arrived around 7:15 AM and we started for Skyview around 7:30 AM. The trip there was uneventful by which I mean we didn't get lost anywhere. As soon as we arrived we set up our stations only to find that unlike last year, we were

interfering with each other. The other members of our group, WB3FAE, N3CU, K3RLL, and AB3RU arrived in turn and the interference got worse and more confusing. We tried one group of filters from Skyview and that didn't help matters any. Then our saviour Jody K3JZD arrived at the radio room and got us straightened out by hooking in another set of filters and all was well from then on. It was then that we remembered those were the filters we used last year when we didn't have any trouble.

As with most of our similar activities, it started out pretty busy, and then we got fewer and fewer answers to our CQs. So eventually we wound up looking for and working DX. 17 and 15 were both open in good shape to Europe. Among the six of us we made around 30 QSOs. Some of the states worked were MS NY IL NC MD FL CO NM TX OH NJ KS WA. One VE province - ON. DX was 9A DL G GM UA1 I. One of the German stations and I engaged in a 12 minute rag chew - solid copy both ways. There is a difference in signals when using bigger and higher antennas. That's why we list antennas in our sprint results and even have a separate Gain antenna category. In use were a 2 element quad at 60', a multi-band beam near 60', and a 40 meter dipole at probably the same height. We all used our own rigs or switched among them - 2 KX3s, a KX2, and an FT817.

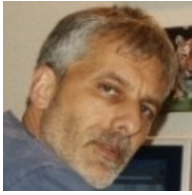
It was a lot of fun after we got the interference problem taken care of. It was a bit hectic with all the visitors who showed up in the radio room along the way, but very enjoyable chatting with them about CW, QRP, etc. Our session wound down around 2 PM and after chatting with Bob WC3O, Jody K3JZD, and other Skyview members for a while, we packed up and headed home.

To close, here's a picture of the group:



L-R: that's me, Mike KC2EGL, Ken N3CU, Jon AB3RU, an unID Skyview member, and Tom WB3FAE. Don K3RLL left before the picture was taken. Thanks to Bob WC3O for being the photographer.

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 Bob, K9OSC, #3894 —

Bob recently won the prize drawing for one of our monthly sprints for a set of paddle finger pieces crafted by Gregg, WB8LZG. (See http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html for information about our sprint and challenge prize drawings.) He sent this email after receiving his prize. - Editor

The finger pieces arrived today in perfect condition. Many thanks to NAQCC for the prize. They will adorn a keyer paddle that I am restoring. When I get it done I will forward a photo for possible inclusion in the newsletter.

Again, thank you!

72,

Bob - K9OSC #3894

From Bill, K4WLW, #7801 —

Bill was also a drawing winner for a recent monthly challenge and he chose for his prize a set of earrings crafted by Gregg, WB8LZG, to give to his wife. After he received the prize we exchanged this series of emails. - Editor

Bill: Received the earrings. They are a wonderful work of craftsmanship, and the wife said she looks great in them, but she doesn't like to be photographed so she said you'd just have to take her word for it, hi hi.

Thanks again

Me: I'm very glad that your wife enjoys the earrings Bill. Be sure to remind her of them the next time there is a piece of radio gear that you are thinking about getting! ;-)

Bill: Ha! It's going to take a lot more than earrings to make up for the K3S/P3 I got this summer. Now if I had won a new car for her she might consider us even. ;-)

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

As you know from the (big) article in last month's newsletter, I have been building a few Popsicle stick keys. I was surprised (disappointed) I didn't get one single piece of feedback about them. Anyway during August most all of my activity was done using them except for DXing where I like to stay up around 24-25 WPM and can do that better with my keyer. I also built a final(?) version using a piece of composition wood as the base instead of a Popsicle stick base. Here's a picture:

I find the solid wooden base is just heavy enough to be stable without any added matting or sandpaper. I have a pretty light touch on keys anyway, be they paddles, bugs, or straight keys. The relay contacts I used on this version work like a charm. I haven't noticed a single glitched dot or dash with it vs. the thumbtack contacts. One other thing of note. I used an old tuning knob with some of it filed away as the knob on the key. It has a great feel even better than those described in the article.

On August 4, my main streak reached the 22 year mark or 8,036 consecutive days, 264 months. Whew! Unlike the DX streak which had some questionable rough days of late, this streak has been easy to maintain. There were a few days in August I was prepared to write and end to the DX streak, but it is still going on as of August 31 albeit taking quite some time on some days to find (the hard part) and work (a little easier part) a DX station. You can find more info on both streaks in the QRP section of my web site at k3wwp.com. Also in my web site diary there.



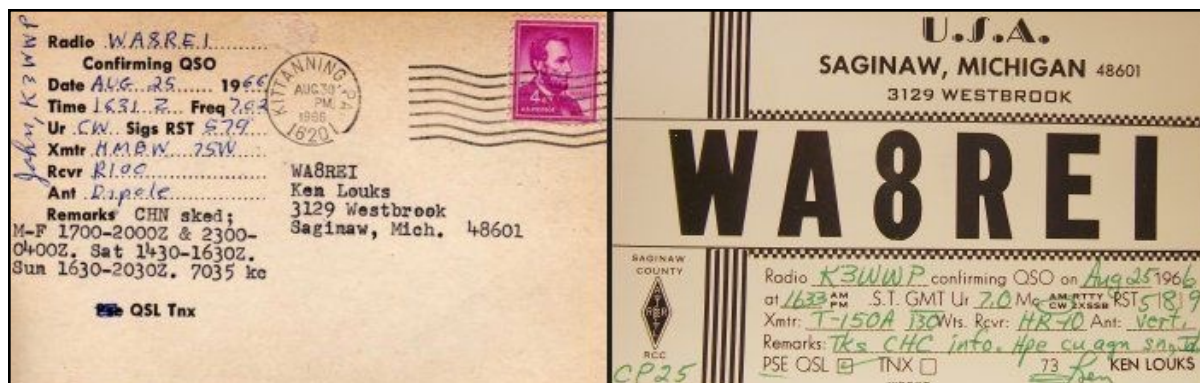
On August 11, I bought an automobile battery jumper for \$10 at the Ol' Station Marketplace in town. I thought I could use it as a battery for our portable operations. I figured it would have a much bigger SLA battery in it than my standalone 7 Ah one. I was right. When I got it home, all 13 pounds of it, I found it contained a 19 Ah SLA battery. The only problem was the battery was old and wouldn't hold a charge for long. No problem. I went to Battery Warehouse and bought a new 18 Ah battery and replaced the old one. Along the way, I also removed the air compressor the pack contained. Next it was the battery jumper cables which I wouldn't need. A bit of rewiring finished the conversion and I came up with a nice unit which started out like this:



I haven't taken an after picture yet, but it still looks about the same except the ugly torn label is gone as are the jumper cables.

I tested it the week before the Skeeter Hunt and with the new battery it held a charge for a good many hours of a lot of transmitting and listening. That was with the display backlight on the KX3 and the PX3 running as well. It looked like I had a real gem. The real test would come in the Skeeter Hunt. Since the story of that is in the WPA Chapter news, I'll only say here that it never even blinked during 4 straight hours of almost steady CQs and QSOs.

On August 25, I had a very special QSO. Back on August 25, 1966 at 1631Z on 7020 kHz (was it kc then?) WA8REI and I had our first of many QSOs over the years. This year on August 25, 2016 at 1631Z on 7030 kHz we had a 50th anniversary QSO. We couldn't duplicate the 7020 frequency since Ken is still a General without access to 7000-7025. That didn't diminish the thrill one bit though. Here's a look at the QSLs we exchanged for the 1966 QSO. We'll come up with a special QSL/Certificate for the 2016 QSO sometime over the next few days. Now we both wonder if we can make it to a 60th anniversary QSO.



On August 28, I had an enjoyable time with other WPA Chapter members at the Skyview Swap and Shop near New Kensington, PA. That is written up in the WPA Chapter news above. Just one note. I took my Popsicle key with me, and got a lot of great comments about it. Bob WC3O even wanted to take a couple pictures of it. As a joke, I call it my ByGolly StickKey, of course a play on Begali.

From Paul, AA4XX, #0102 —

I feel that a number of our fellow CW ops would be willing to respond to the need for thoughtful comments one way or the other to both FCC and ARRL.

You can view details on my website at aa4xx.com.

Feel free to link to or use any info therein.

Also pse feel free to ask any questions.

tnx es 72,
Paul AA4XX

From Ron, N9EE, #6145 —

Site showing daily band condxs.

<http://bandconditions.com/>

73, ron, n9ee/r a know code Extra



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

Amateur radio has something for everyone. SSB, FM, AM, the digital modes, and QRO power levels all have their place in this great hobby and we certainly recognize the importance of these modes as well as the enjoyment that they give to many. But for a growing number of hams the challenge of *“doing the most with the least”* makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio, and the North American QRP CW Club exists to promote this exciting facet of the hobby. As part of our focus we also encourage, but do not limit operators to, the use of simple wire antennas.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to enjoy QRP/CW operating. For contester types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

We also serve as a resource for people who are just getting started in QRP and/or CW. Our slow-speed CW nets are a great place for beginners to practice Morse code under real on-air conditions. Beginners will also find a wealth of helpful information on our club website and we are more than willing to try to answer any questions about QRP and CW that you might have. An extensive monthly newsletter is filled with useful projects and news from fellow QRPers.

A number of local NAQCC Chapters offer opportunities to get together for in person socializing and QRP/CW activities. Portable operations are especially popular with the local chapters.

Whether you are a veteran ham radio operator who is looking for a new challenge in the hobby, or a beginner who is intrigued by the possibilities of QRP/CW communication, we cordially invite you to join us. Membership is free and the benefits and fun are significant.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 8000 members world wide. 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
9928 Eckles
Livonia, MI 48150
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
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