

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 221 NOVEMBER 2016



KEY CLICKS

- **CHARTER MEMBER K4UK SILENT KEY.** The NAQCC recently lost one of its "charter" members when Stan K4UK passed away at age 85. Stan joined during our first surge of membership applications back in October 2004. He participated in 36 of our sprints over the years and earned our 30-30 Magnum, USA Alphabet Prefix (#0002) awards, and USA Alphabet Prefix Honor Roll listing (#5). Stan was also very active in FISTS as their QSL buro manager. He earned just about every one of the FISTS awards. I'll remember Stan not for those achievements as much as the many QSOs we had. I see 82 of them in my Access database log. One QSO stands out prominently in my memory. We were talking about the NAQCC, and I asked him if he had any suggestions as to any additional activities or awards we could offer. After thinking very briefly, he suggested, based on my QSO-a-Day streak which was about 10 years old at that time, that the NAQCC offer an award for making QRP CW QSOs every day for various periods of time. Thus was born the NAQCC's QSO-a-Day award. Stan will be sorely missed by me, the NAQCC and FISTS members as well as hamdom as a whole. Rest in peace, my friend. - K3WWP
- **NAQCC 12TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS IN THE BOOKS.** Our club's 12th anniversary celebration ran from October 10-16 with special event stations from all over the united States handing out QSOs, a fun anniversary sprint, and an exciting prize drawing. Complete details can be found in the article in this newsletter.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO UPDATE THE MEMBERSHIP DATA FILE USED IN YOUR SPRINT LOGGER!** The anniversary sprint this past month pointed out an important oversight being made by many of our sprinters. A large number of our log submissions listed the N#A stations as being worth 1 point instead of 2. This was because these operators failed to download the latest membership data files for the GenLog or Mac Sprint Logger programs. Every month we have changes and updates to our membership files and it is very important that you always use the latest versions when you operate in our monthly sprints. The updated data files are made available a day or two before each monthly sprint and can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html and http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_mac.html. So please keep those data files up to date!
- **NEW CW NETS MANAGER ON THE JOB.** For the past year and a half Scotty, NU0S, has done an outstanding job as our CW Nets Manager. Scotty is now stepping down from this position and we welcome Nelson, NP4LW, on board as our new manager. See the complete announcement on the *CW Nets* page in this issue.

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- **WE REALLY HAVE SOME GREAT VOLUNTEERS!** Mark Twain once said, “Let us be thankful for fools. But for them the rest of us could not succeed.” I would like to modify that to say, “Let us be thankful for volunteers. But for them I would look like a fool.” There is a small team of volunteers behind everything that we do at the NAQCC. If I tried to list all of them I would likely leave someone out, but you know who you are and you have my gratitude and thanks for all that you do to make the NAQCC such a great club!
- **A THANK YOU TO MFJ.** A couple of the prizes that we gave away in our anniversary sprint drawing came from MFJ and we would like to thank them for the very significant discount that we received when we purchased them.
- **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.”



THE FIST

BY GREGG, WB8LZG

A TALE OF HAM HORROR

It all started innocently enough. George and his friend Phil decided they would go to the Sunday hamfest together, carpooling to save a little money. Neither ham needed anything in particular, they were just going to browse, socialize, and have fun. Little did they know that this hamfest would change their lives, and their perception of reality forever.

We smiled “ear to ear” as we pulled into the parking lot, each looking at each other with that enthusiasm of two kids in a candy store! What hard-to-find electronic device would we be coming home with today? Only luck and fate would be the tell. Phil scowled at the gentleman taking money for parking. “Three dollars! Highway robbery!” he exclaimed as he pulled away from the attendant.

There was a line at the entrance, but it was moving quickly and soon we both had our tickets in hand and started off to find the coffee and the “ticket drum”.

The swap was at a local school, and the gymnasium was filled to capacity with tables, all filled with electronic “treasures” from days gone by. We started at one end and worked toward the doorways. Several nice looking “boat anchors” graced the tables, with odds 'n ends of several radio innards strewn in for good measure. Being CW men, we both naturally gravitated to any type of key, sounder, or sending apparatus that caught the eye.

We spent several minutes talking to the owner of an old Lionel bug from WWII. It had come into his possession from a friend of a friend who became a ‘silent key’, and through the family, he had inherited the key. It was well cared for, and had a nice “feel” to it, but the price was a bit too steep and he wouldn’t haggle. So we both just kept on walking. “Anyone who doesn’t haggle a little at a swap, just don’t want to sell very bad”, Phil whispered to me out loud.

We made it around the gym without buying a single item. The halls were also filled with tables so we ventured out to see if there were any bargains out there. I purchased a few plugs and jacks for a project I had on the bench, and was about to turn around and go back to the gym when I spotted it. Phil spotted it too, but he let me have first dibs. Off to the edge of the table sat an old bug. We both were intrigued by the appearance. It was definitely NOT an American-made key. Closer inspection revealed the origin was Japanese, from around the WWII era.

Behind the table was a wrinkled old man who had difficulty moving. When asked for some information about the key, he grimaced for a moment and said. “Are you ready for a story you won’t believe?” We kinda looked at each other with a half cocked eye.

“It was in the war”, he said, “and we were on the island of Tarawa in the South Pacific. We had spent three days in heavy combat and finally were able to win the battle, but with hundreds of casualties on both sides. The Japanese suffered tremendous loses. Of the over 1500 solders there, only some 50 or so were left alive when the fight was over.”

His face turned very somber. “One of the gravely wounded men was the Communications officer. Before he died he showed me his prized possession, a beautiful bug, machined to perfection by his friend and business partner in Shikoku before the war. It was apparently a family heirloom of some sort, and had been made for the Emperor’s nephew. He and this nephew were friends and so the key was

given to him as a gift. In his dying breaths he begged me to please find his young son, and return this key to him.” The man winced, “I agreed, in order to be comforting as the life slowly left the body of the enemy I could no longer fight.”

The man continued, “The Japanese officer mumbled something in Japanese just before he died. Then an eerie silence. So I asked one of the other Japanese prisoners who was watching what he had said. The interpreter replied, “He say no make sense.” Back and forth we went. “Tell me what he said !” “He say to return key to his son or curse will follow you .” “Bull! You little ...!”

Once me the soldier asked, “What did he say ?” Again the enemy soldier explained fearfully, “that if the key was not returned to his son that a curse would befall your hand, and that until the key was returned, your children would also know the curse.”

“Then a stern voice from behind stopped our conversation. “Move it out !”, the Sarge exclaimed, “no time play around here”. That was that. “I took some of the personal ID papers from the dead man and stashed them and the key into my backpack, rolled up in my knapsack.”

Phil and I were told that the key had come back with him to the States but he had never attempted to find the rightful owner. As the Marine returned to the civilian world he left behind, somehow the old key got set aside in a box and put into attic storage for who knows how many years. “Eventually when I moved out I found it again. And that’s how I came into the possession of the key, but all this time it was never really mine”.

He also told us of the strange curse which apparently followed the key, and that he wanted to find the rightful owner and give it to him so that the “curse” would end. “Well I looked around on the internet for a while but came up cold”, he sighed. “So now I’m going to try and sell it, and be done with it.”

So what is the curse?, I asked. “Don’t really know !”, he said sorta half clueless. “But it has something to do with your hand”.

Well, I put my hand on the old bakelite finger pieces and gave her a few di-dahs. “Hmmm...seems ok to me”, I said defiantly.

“Yeah , it seems to play OK at first, but everyone who has tried it says it will start sending the wrong letters. I tried it once. It grabbed my hand and wouldn’t let go, so I set it on the shelf in the closet and never touched it again.”

Good story”, Phil said, “sounds like a bunch of malarkey to me.” I said, “whatcha want for it ?” “Twenty-five bucks”. “Take twenty?” “Sold”.

I proudly placed the new key in my ditty bag and wandered over to the next table. “Looks like a good find”, Phil said. “Yeah but I don’t know if I believe all that stuff about a curse though.” “Yeah , pretty hokey story.”

We wandered up and down the isles of goodies for another hour and then in a “look” of mutual agreement we both chimed, “time to pack it in.”

The trip home was uneventful, but neither of us could get out of our heads what the old guy had told us about the key. It reminded us of an old black and white "cheapie" horror movie , THE HAND. We talked about “strange curses”, and other scary stories we had heard over the years, but this one was just a tad over the top. It was like something from Tales from the Crypt, CBS Radio Mystery Theater, and other macabre stories

Upon returning home , I took my new prize and placed it on the operating desk next to my other keys. "I'll check you out tonight", I said to myself in silent satisfaction of having landed a nice key at the swap.

Later that evening I found myself down in the shack putzing around, and thought I'd shine up the newly acquired instrument and give her a try out. I got out an old rag and started carefully cleaning the years of dust, dirt, and oxidation from the key. I peeled back the insulation from an old headphone cable, hooked it up to the terminals and plugged her into the rig's key jack. A couple of strings of dits to adjust the speed... and , yes! She seemed to send perty good.

So, I start pounding out a CQ. SMOOTH ! But just when I get to my call, I made a mistake. So I send it again. And just when I get to my call, the thing makes an error. I try again with renewed conviction. Just when I get to the "call" it starts sending something else. Well ! "Darn thing looks better than she sends, that's for sure." I tossed it up on the shelf , along with a few other "Project Keys" and figured I'd do a real cleanup on it tomorrow and adjust it to MY fist.

Next morning I wandered down to the shack to clean up the old key and give her a real good workout. As I cleaned the pieces, I began to gain an appreciation for the craftsmanship in it's construction. This was not a rapidly punched factory job, but a "one of a kind"; complete with some sort of engraving in Japanese.

"There ! ", I said with satisfaction, after a good bit of elbow grease gave better than usual results. The shine was superb. With renewed anticipation I hooked it up to the oscillator. Ran a quick string of dits. Hmmm not bad !

I plugged her into the rig and adjusted it on the desk. Quickly I turned on the old Heath "Hot Water 101" and waited for the warmup. I sent a few dah's to check SWR. Ahhh AOK. A set of "V"s and a snappy "QRL". Yes, this was more like it !

I sent a CQ, CQ , de W8EKR AR . And just when I thought it was FB, I just kept right on sending. But the problem was " I " wasn't doing the sending. "Dang thing" ! I said along with a few other expletives !

Not to give up easily, I tried again. CQ CQ de W8EKR AR. Again the thing just kept right on going. This time I tried to "pull away" but it was as if the key "held my hand there" forcing me to continue sending ! All the while I tried to decipher some of what I was sending. Not a word.

Again I attempted to "pull away" and was sorta scared ! It just held my hand and kept on sending! I finally reached over with the other hand and hit the XCVR power switch. As the lights went dim the key "Let Go" of it's constriction of my sending hand. "Very strange", I thought to myself, "Phil's not gonna believe this one!" I could hardly wait to dial the phone and tell Phil about it. I dialed. "Yello", he answered. "Hey your not gonna believe this, but you know that key I got at the swap, it really is cursed. "

End Part 1. Stay tuned next month for the exciting conclusion!



THE FRUGAL FORTY

By TOM, VE4AKI

The 40 Metre band is the workhorse band for many cw ops whether the interest is local contacts or dx. It is usually open many hours of the day and when propagation conditions don't favour other bands 40 Metres usually comes to the rescue.

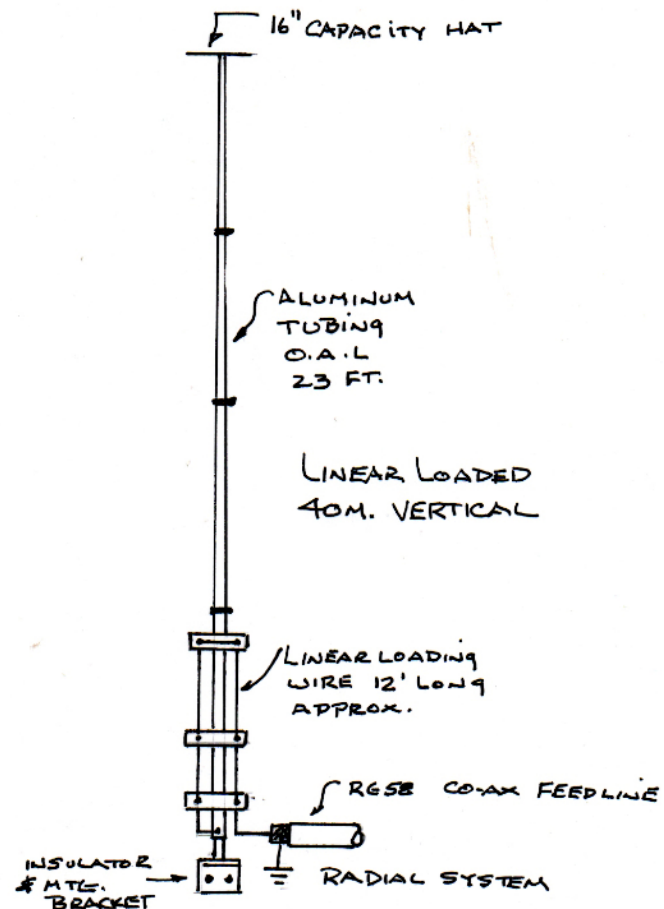
All types of antennas can be used on the 40 Metre band depending on the amount of space you have available. This article is a brief description of the antenna I developed to meet my needs for an effective antenna for limited space.

I currently live on a small city lot with no supports for wire antennas. After some struggling with dipoles and inverted L's at relatively low heights supported by flimsy masts a better solution was needed.

Having had good results with vertical antennas in the past [when I had more space] I decided to see if I could develop a 40 Metre vertical for my present situation. Digging into my stock of aluminum tubing [mostly salvaged from C.B. antennas] I found 4 pieces of tubing varying from 1.25 o.d. to .875 o.d. which when telescoped together gave me an element of 23 feet allowing for some overlapping. Kinda short for 40M. So some type of loading was needed to achieve resonance. In the past I had used a base loading coil on similar antennas but I decided to try another method which I had used with some success. I'm referring to linear loading. The antenna handbooks have had little info dealing with the theory of linear loading but a few examples of antennas using this method can be found.

The 23 ft. element is ground mounted [approx. 6" from the ground] on a homebrew "L" bracket and insulator on a corner of my deck. A second support at the 4 ft. level was added. A capacity hat of stiff insulated wire approx. 16" in diameter to the top. The linear loading consists of a long narrow inverted U shaped wire [14.ga. insulated solid] supported by 8" x 1" plastic strips clamped to the element tubing. The plastic trips were fabricated from plastic paint stir sticks. [we're big on recycling up here in Canada] The linear loading wire is approx. 12 ft. long. One end is attached to the aluminum tubing at the bottom and the other end becomes the feedpoint. The antenna is fed with 35 ft. of RG58 co-ax. Drawing 1 shows the overall arrangement.

A ground mounted vertical antenna needs a good ground system to work well. My situation presented a challenge to establishing a good ground. I added 12 radial wires of varying lengths arranged under the wooden deck over a span of 180 deg. One long radial also connects to two 6 ft. ground ground rods spaced 6 ft. apart as well as two metal window wells. Additional radials are added during the winter months. The antenna is adjusted to resonance by changing the length of the linear loading wire. SWR varies



from 1.3:1 at the bottom of the band to 1.8:1 at the top end. No tuner is needed with this antenna.

Although the ground system is not optimum this antenna has performed well for me. It presents a low profile and has weathered a couple of harsh Canadian winters without faltering. My XYL [who is very tolerant of my ham activities] has even approved the installation or at least not complained hi hi.



ANNIVERSARY WRAP-UP BY PAUL, N8XMS

Our 12th anniversary celebration the week of October 10-16 was a record breaking success. It was record breaking in that our special event operators made more QSOs than ever before. It was also record breaking in that we had more member logs submitted for our anniversary sprint than in any of the previous months this year. (Although the 126 submitted sprint logs was actually less than last year's 131, and far less than our all-time record of 196 set in February 2013.)

Initially 58 members volunteered (a record number) to put our special N#A callsigns on the air during the week. That number was reduced somewhat by work situations, family and health issues, and even some impact from hurricane Matthew, but ultimately 48 operators took to the air with our special event calls. A list of these operators along with some of their soapbox comments can be found at the end of this article.

These 48 operators made an average of 29.1 QSOs each for a total of 1396 contacts - a record high for our anniversary operations. For only the 2nd time in our anniversary celebrations, all 50 US states were worked. (The first time was in 2011.) They also worked 8 Canadian provinces - AB, MB, NB, NS, ON, PE, QC, and SK. And 24 non-US/Canadian DX entities - 9A, CE, CO, DL, E7, EA8, F, G, GM, HK, I, JA, OH, OK, ON, S5, SM, SP, UA, UA0, UR, VK, YV, and ZF.

As he was last year, our most prolific operator was Joe, N3HEE, with 123 QSOs - 30 states, 2 VE provinces, and 3 non-K/VE DX entities. Joe was the dedicated N3A operator for our anniversary sprint and 59 of his QSOs were from that.

Some other interesting statistics from our N#A operations can be seen in the following tables. With our current solar cycle conditions I don't think that there are any surprises in the band counts.

SECTION →	N1A	N2A	N3A	N4A	N5A	N6A	N7A	N8A	N9A	N0A
TOT QSOs →	173	161	248	175	86	70	83	103	173	124

BAND →	160	80	40	30	20	17	15	12	10
TOT QSOs →	1	217	696	96	346	37	1	2	0

Please remember that QSLs and certificates are available for contacts with our N#A stations and it is my understanding that we have already received some requests from people who managed to work a clean sweep of all 10 call districts. Complete QSL information can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

On October 12th (still the 11th in North America) we had our annual anniversary sprint. As mentioned above, participation was down a little bit compared to last year but it was nevertheless the highest that we have had so far in 2016. Of course having all 10 special anniversary callsigns on the air for the sprint was certainly an incentive to participate. But an even greater incentive was the fact that every member who made at least 1 sprint QSO and submitted their log before the deadline was automatically entered into our anniversary prize drawing.

As we have done in past years, the drawing had two tiers with the top three prizes going to people who

not only participated in the sprint but who had also accumulated at least 9 participation points from our different challenges and sprints from January through September of this year. The complete eligibility details can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_12th_anniv.html.

124 members qualified for the drawing and 38 of these met the participation-point requirement for the top tier prizes. The drawing was held on October 20th and winners were announced in near-realtime by frequent updates of the webpage. The prize winners are shown below and we hope to publish pictures of the them with their prizes as they become available to us. (Additional information about the prizes can be seen on the webpage listed above.)

NUMBER	PRIZE	WINNER
1	Gently used HB1A 3-Band QRP Transceiver	K1IEE
2	MFJ-9340K 40-meter QRP Cub Transceiver kit	N8BB
3	American Morse Porta Paddle	W4DUK
4	QRPme "Two Tinned Tunas" QRP Transmitter kit	K0FNR
5	MFJ 107B digital 24-hour clock	N1JI
6	"Perera's Telegraph Collectors Reference" CD	WA8SAN
7	"The Giant Book of Electronic Projects"	KU4A
8	"Perera's Telegraph Collector's Guide"	W5WIL
9	"Recollections of a Radio Receiver" book on CD	AA0FD
10	Ham Comic Book and ARRL Ornament	KN1H

So that's about it for this report on our 12th anniversary celebration. Of course next year it will be our "lucky 13" anniversary and it will be here before you know it! It's not too early to start thinking about it a little bit. Our participation points for the upper tier of the prize drawing will start accumulating in January, we will reserve our special callsigns sometime in February, and we will start to ask for volunteers to operate with those special calls somewhere around June. So please watch for all of that.

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We want to thank the following members for doing such a great job at putting our special anniversary callsigns on the air:

N1A - AB1VL, W4YFJ, K1RID, N1DN, K1OIK
 N2A - W2WC, KA2KGP, NW2K, K2CM
 N3A - K3WWP, KC2EGL, WB3FAE, AF3Z, N3HEE
 N4A - K7HB, WZ2N, K4BAI, AB9CA
 N5A - W5WIL, AF5Q, KF5RZG, WA5LSV, WA5ZKP
 N6A - KK6NLZ, K6MGO, N6IET, KF6C, WK6L
 N7A - K7QI, AB7MP, AE7US, K7DD, N7CQR
 N8A - N8XMS, N8VW, AB8RL, W3IQ, AA8SN
 N9A - KD9VT, NX1K, AC9EZ, K9XE
 N0A - W0EJ, K8UDH, N0WKZ, WB0PYF, W0IIT, K6XT

Here are a few soapbox comments from our N#A operators:

N8A/N8XMS - My administrative work significantly reduced my available on-air time but it was still a lot of fun. I managed to make 22 N8A QSOs on 20, 30, and 40 meters in several short operating sessions.

N7A/AB7MP - Skunked again! That's 3 .5 hour sessions with no takers. 80M RBN gave me a strong signal in Portland and really weak in North Bend, WA. 40M RBN – nil. Fear not – planning on trying again next year!

N2A/NW2K - Not a lot of QSOs, but I had fun!

N1A/W4YFJ - I really had a good time on this event. Hope to do it again next year. I cannot get into too many sprints as I work evenings. I have been a HAM 62 years and am just getting back into CW QRP. It does not look like I will be a contester, however had a really good time on this one.

N3A/AF3Z - My activity was limited, unfortunately, but I had good QSOs... and fun ;-)

N5A/WA5ZKP - This was a lot of fun and hard work. Count me in for next year and the 'lucky 13th'.

N8A/AB8RL - I did do a lot a cq'ing but band conditions and time did not favor the contacts for me.

N1A/K1RID - Not sure what was working against me this year but I am disappointed to say I only hooked 2 qsos after about 4+ hours of operating. I still love the event but am sorry for the crummy results.

N4A/K4BAI - Thanks for allowing me to be a part of the NAQCC S/E anniversary operation as N4A and especially for allowing me to operate as N4A in NAQCC Sprint.

N2A/W2WC - Thanks for all the help this is a great organization especially the leadership.

N0A/N0WKZ - It was really fun. Thank you for the opportunity to work N0A!

N9A/NX1K - Had a lot of fun although work and family commitments kept me being able to pick optimum times.

N8A/AA8SN - Thanks for letting me be one of the N8A operators. That was a new experience. I didn't do so well but enjoyed it. I had a bit of trouble with my key sticking which was rather embarrassing but that is the point of getting on the air--to keep your cw skills and equipment up to speed! Genlog is amazing. I am glad I took the time to get acquainted with it.

N9A/K9XE - I made 33 Qs in my 5 sessions and had a very enjoyable time. Even had a few Europeans call ME!

N0A/W0IIT - As disappointing as my operation was it was a valuable experience for me as far as it being a learning experience. I hope the celebration went well and many contacts were made. I look forward to doing a much better job for the club in the future!

N3A/N3HEE - This is my second year operating as N3A and I enjoyed it very much. It always amazes me how much you can do with QRP power levels and simple wire antennas. Looking forward to next year !

N7A/K7DD - Between rotten band conditions and very limited time to operate this was NOT my best effort.

N8A/N8VW - Work got me tied up during the week and conditions here were horrible. Had fun anyway.

N3A/KC2EGL - Had a great time with John and Tom as usual.

N2A/K2CM - My QTH is Vestal, NY. I operated remote into K2OQ for the entire event. The transmitter is about 20 miles away from my QTH.

N4A/W2ZN - Good times for all!

N0A/K8UDH - Thank you for giving me this opportunity.

N9A/AC9EZ - 73/72 and thanks for allowing me to be a part of your anniversary celebration!



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.

ROBBY ROBSON, WB5RVZ, #2646



I first got attracted to ham radio in Austin, Texas, around 1946. My next door neighbor (Bob Folmar, W5NZE) had what had to be then a stellar setup. Behind his beautiful, rambling Austin stone house was a building that was a miniature copy of the "big house". That was his shack and beside it was the biggest tower and antenna my six-year-old eyes had ever seen.

One day I screwed up enough courage to ask him what that was all about. He took me into his shack and I was immediately hooked at the sight of those glowing tubes, twitching meters, and those strange voices from distant places emanating from those racks upon racks of equipment. He let me call CQ a couple of times, making sure I knew that one always pronounced the "Z" correctly ("zed").

For various reasons, I never followed through on my fascination and just kept the memories. There were times I thought I might try and get a ticket, but never had an Elmer nor the real drive to follow through.

Then, life got in the way. College; law school; Army; marriage and kids; grad school. But finally, in late 1975, I found the opportunity and an Elmer and got my novice ticket. I found the code, which had been a stumbling block, was not only fascinating, but fun as well.

I received my WB5RVZ call in 1977 after upgrading from Novice to Advanced Class. Unfortunately, life got in the way again and I went into a period of inactivity that culminated in my letting my ticket lapse.

In February of 2007, I made up my mind to get back into ham radio and, starting at the bottom again, got my General and immediately applied for and received my old callsign as a vanity callsign. A couple of weeks later, I pushed on up to Extra in what was obviously more of a compliment to my memorization and test-taking skills than it was to my innate technical skills!

I like CW, though the almost 40-year hiatus has affected my once decent CW skills. I am slowly building my CW copying speed back up; however, since I love straight key, my sending speed is going to be limited by wrists that are 40 years older. To paraphrase, "The fist is willing but the wrist is weak."

I also have discovered many of the newer digital modes and have enjoyed using and experimenting with them, thanks to the efforts of the free software providers (MultiPSK, Digipan, Hamscope, FLDIGI, HRD, etc.).

I have spent my life trying to figure out what I wanted to do when I grew up. I have been a lawyer (TX State Bar), a Military Officer (US Army 1966-1988), a Data Administrator (Mobil Oil), consultant, and a database designer. Still not sure what I want to do when I grow up, although I have been fully retired since 2005 and stay quite busy flitting from hobby to hobby in between enjoying my six grandkids. My wife and I, along with an African Gray parrot and two schnoodles live in Far North Dallas, where HOA restrictions make QRP operation an even greater challenge.

My current infatuation is with Software Defined Radio (SDR), especially the Softrock kits. I have thoroughly enjoyed building and documenting (www.wb5rvz.org) most of the kits offered so far. The Softrock kits got me interested in QRP. They also got me interested enough in SDR to spring for a Flex 3000 (and, later, lust after but not yet get, a Flex 6300).

Recently, I was fortunate to be given the opportunity to develop and field the NAQCC Letters App (<http://naqccletters.azurewebsites.net/>), a website for hams participating in the NAQCC Letter Challenges. The App helps them record their progress in the challenges and, when complete, formats and sends the email report to the challenge managers.

My Membership Numbers

NAQCC: 2646

YL-ISSB - 16545

OMISS: 7280

10-10: 76090

SKCC: 8565



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our November sprint will be Nov 17, 0130-0330 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday, Nov. 16 here in North America. Please note the UTC time change due to moving off of daylight savings time which means that the sprint will be at your same local time as always. Complete details about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201611.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: 126 logs were submitted for the October sprint showing 193 participants making a total of 1982 QSOs. This included our special event anniversary stations from each of the the 10 US call districts. The special stations were very popular and were kept busy making sprint QSOs. N3HEE operating as N3A had the highest count with 59 contacts in the sprint. Second was K4BAI making 50 contacts using N4A, and third was AB1VL who used N1A to complete 48 sprint QSOs. Of course this sprint also had our annual anniversary prize drawing associated with it and you can find complete details about that in the anniversary wrap-up article elsewhere in this newsletter.

This sprint pointed out an important oversight that is being made by many of our sprinters. A large number of our log submissions listed the N#A stations as being worth 1 point instead of 2. This was because these operators failed to download the latest membership data files for the GenLog or Mac Sprint Logger programs. Every month we have changes and updates to our membership files and it is very important that you always use the latest versions when you operate in our monthly sprints. The updated data files are made available a day or two before each monthly sprint and can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html and http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html. So please keep those data files up to date!

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201610.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: W2JLK, N1IIX, WB5CTS, K5DOA, K14EZK, WH6YH, W1LMT (nm), W2WC (N2A), K7QI (N7A)

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1SX	KN1H	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	AF3Z	KD3CA	
W4	WH6LE	KB4QQJ	WG8Y
W5	WI5H		
W6	WK6L		
W7	KF7WNS		
W8	WV8DH	K3YP	
W9	WB9HFK		
W0	N0TA	AA0W	
VE	VE3DQN	VE3EDX	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	WB2LQF		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KJ4R		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	KD0V		
W8	N8BB		
W9	N9SE		
W0			
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN		
W2	K2YGM		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	N4KS	N4MJ	
W5	N5GW		
W6	W6STR		
W7	N0DA		
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	K9FO		
W0	K9OSC		
VE	VE3FAO		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	WB0CF		

N#A CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	N9A/NX1K		N3A/N3HEE

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	W2JLK		N2A/W2WC
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AF3Z			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	126	111	194	2/13
Participants	193	161	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1982	1576	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1054	898	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	928	678	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	118	194	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1262	1224	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	602	158	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	15.7	14.2	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+	KB0ETU KA9FQG K6MGO NA4O N8BB WG8Y 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: This month's North American alphabet challenge could be called "everything you wanted to know about cranberries but were afraid to ask" with a list of words that are all associated with that very traditional Thanksgiving food. (Oddly enough, that's just about the only part of the Thanksgiving feast that I personally don't like!) You can find the list of words and complete challenge rules at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201611.html>.

The European challenge this month works with a list of famous European photographers. Details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/november-2016-challenge/>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The North American challenge for December is another alphabet challenge that works with a list of words associated with our favorite communication mode. See <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201612.html>.

The European challenge for December can be seen at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2016-challenge/> and works with the names of some interesting subterranean man-made streams.

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/challenges/challenges201610.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. Of course the words for the challenge were all related to each other:

 KNUCKLE HEAD
 LUMINA
 LIL IRONSIDES
 MUNCHKIN
 PEANUT
 BUMPKIN
 HOOLIGAN
 JARRAHDAL
 LONG ISLAND CHEESE

Did you figure out the relationship? Take a look at the next page to see the horrible truth!

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



The name is O'lantern, Jack O'lantern

These are my boys



The Bumpkin Family



The Hooligans



Brass Knucklehead



Happy Lil Ironside



Smily Jarrahdale



Whitey Lumina



The Long island Cheese Brothers



Pretty Boy Peanut



Muscles Munchkin

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 N1JI PA0XAW 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: WAS Award Simple Wire Antennas

This month we are featuring the NAQCC's version of the classic Worked All States award. Our 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:

SUFFIX WORDS HONOR ROLL

K3WWP 684 10/22/16



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 Nelson, NP4LW.

NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
Farnsword 40/80 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 7:00/7:30 PM PT	Monday 0200/0230 Z	7056/3556 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	3561 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0200 UTC	7117 KHz	Wayne, NQ0RP (in KS)
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	7117 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)
Farnsword 40m QRQ Net (FRN)	Thursday 5:30 PM PT	Friday 0030 Z	7055.5 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 Club President Paul, N8XMS

For the past year and a half Scotty Long, NU0S, has done an outstanding job in his role as our CW Nets Manager. Unfortunately some personal circumstances are forcing Scotty to step back from this role. We thank him for the great work that he has done and certainly wish him all the best.

Fortunately, with that sad announcement, I also have a happy one. I am very pleased to announce that Nelson Cruz Abreu, NP4LW, has agreed to become our new CW Nets Manager. We welcome Nelson and thank him for volunteering to do this job. I asked Nelson to introduce himself to everyone. (English is not his native language and his message below has been edited a little bit to make it easier to read.)

Hi all, my name is Nelson A. Cruz Abreu. I was born October 28, 1975. When I was 16 years old I became interested in this hobby and started to learn CW from cassette tapes. I first got on the air when I was 17. I soon met a friend, KP4DJ, who has since passed away. He had a net around 3.500 and every

night I would chat with him using CW.

I love the CW mode and enjoy many QSOs with it. Twice I have worked the IARU CW contest with a friend and elmer KP4KE - 2013 and 2016. I learned CW the old fashion way but I work on improving my copy each day.

Thank you for letting me be the CW Net Manager. I will work hard to do my best and to get new ideas.

73 to all,

Nelson, NP4LW

*NAQCC #3888
ARRL INSTRUCTOR
ARRL FIELD EXAMINER
ARRL VOLUNTEER EXAMINER
ARRL OFFICIAL OBSERVER*

=====

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

10-03-2016 NAQCC FarnsWORD QRQ Net (FRN) Rick N6IET

40-meter Net at 7:00 pm PDT

Wow! It was good timing to schedule a mid-net move to 80 meters in October! PBR was the only person who could hear everybody. I couldn't hear Charles, JB, or Mike at all on 40 meters, while PBR's signal improved to almost 579 during the first 20 minutes of the net. I invited PBR to act as NCS until about 0225z, at which time I asked him to announce to the rest that I would be QSYing to 80 meters. I thank PBR for his assistance.

80-meter Net at 7:25 pm PDT

Right away it was evident that 80 meters would be the savior of our net. We had NVIS conditions. Everybody was virtually 599 except PBR, who was barely heard by most of us when he finally joined us after turning his Buick around and connecting his 80-meter antenna. Doug checked in with a 589 signal running 15 watts from Brookings, OR. He must have a fantastic 80-meter antenna! (I forget what type it is, but I think it's a wire up pretty high.) He always has a great signal during our ORCA digital nets on Tuesday nights.

When we switch to standard time in November I'll probably schedule a separate 40-meter net before sunset (and before dinner) at 5pm PST, like I did for a while last year, and the 80-meter net after dinner at 7pm PST. 40 meters usually works best for stations over 500 miles apart at the right time of day (just before sunset), and I always want to support our distant check-ins from Washington, Idaho, Montana, Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, and Arizona.

P.S. I've put several recipients in the BCC field, so that they'll get this initial recap without also having to put up with any follow up threads.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

10-04-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

The band was in good shape here tonight. I was QRP and Mike WI5H was also. I think Andy and Michael were QRO but not sure about the latter. No QRM last night for a change!

Allen KA5TJS

PS. Scotty, are you going to 80 meters this winter or staying on 40?? (Good question we will see...Scotty/NU0S)

10-04-2016 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

The band was rough tonight but we had a great net turn out, thank you very much...

10-07-2016 NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State
73, Randy WB4SPB (operating W7DK)

10-11-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

Well the band started out great and then crashed. Andy was 599 when we started and on the second go around 339 with fast QSB. K9EYT was very hard copy but we did trade numbers. He was a first time check in. We are getting into the winter conditions and the time change is coming. Time to think about going to 80 meters. I hate it when that happens.
Allen KA5TJS

10-17-2016 NAQCC FarnsWORD QRQ Net (FRN) Rick N6IET

40-meter Net 7:00-7:30 pm PDT

PBR N6HRK/M occupied the frequency for us with a couple of QSOs prior to net time. As usual, 40 meters went long very shortly after sunset, and I couldn't even hear, much less copy, anybody closer than 500 miles, which excluded JB, Ray, and John W16O from being heard here in LA. Doug K7KY checked in and out with a pretty good signal at 35 watts from SW Oregon. He always has a great signal here during his Tuesday evening 80-meter digital net, so I invited him to rejoin us on 80 meters. (He probably needed to have dinner at that time.) John W7SAG had the strongest signal at 599, as he did last week. This time he was QRO from his indoor station. He related that his car was hit by a truck recently, and he's recovering from a "leg ouch". He didn't yet know whether the insurance company will total his car. PBR N7HRK/M had a good 579 the first half of the net and reported he'd been getting rain for 3 days. PBR checked in (and out) JB, Ray, and John W16O and later notified everyone that I was QSYing to 80 meters at 0230z.

As so often happens, PBR in MT and John in ID could hardly hear each other. 40-meters usually goes long earlier up north than it does here in the south after sunset.

80-meter Net 7:30-8:23 pm PDT

Mike KE6EE and Charles KW6G were 589 at first, and so was JB NR5NN when he finally checked in. Ray N6UG was 579. But both of the Johns, W7SAG and W16O were only about 349 here. I think W16O was attending Pacificon in the North Bay area. The bay area stations reported getting quite a bit of rain. We got none here until early the following (this) morning, when it started misting enough to get everything on my balcony wet, including my FT-857 (protected by the overhanging roof and an umbrella, but nothing really protects against floating mist).

And a good time was had by all!

73/72 de Rick N6IET

10-15-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

The band had already gone long by the time we started the net and I could just hear Andy check in and that is about all. Time to think about 80 meters. I sent an email to KE5YGA and KE5YUM to see if we can try 3.556kc sometime this week to see how the propagation is.

Allen KA5TJS

PS. Just got the email about your situation and am sorry to hear you will be leaving. You have done a great job and will be missed. (Thanks Allen, I will still be around and as they say radio-active Scotty NU0S 3715)

10-19-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

Our first net on the new 40 meter frequency tonight. (Last week the 80 meter band was unusable due to holiday lights in the neighborhood).

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

NAQCC FarnsWORD QRQ Net (FRN) Rick N6IET

7056/3557 kHz 0200/0230z Monday (7:00/7:30pm PDT Sunday)

10-03-2016 40m QNI (5) NCS N6IET, Co-NCS N7HRK/M, KW6G, NR5NN, KE6EE

10-03-2016 80m QNI (6) NCS N6IET, KW6G, NR5NN, KE6EE, K7KY, N7HRK/M

10-10-2016 40m QNI (5) NCS N6IET, W7SAG/P, NR5NN, N6UG, N7HRK/M

10-10-2016 80m QNI (2) N6IET, NR5NN

10-17-2016 40m QNI (7) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, W7SAG, K7KY, NR5NN, N6UG, WI6O

10-17-2016 80m QNI (7) NCS N6IET, KE6EE, KW6G, N6UG, W7SAG, NR5NN, WI6O

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

40M 7.056 MHz

2016 QNI (8) NCS NR5NN

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

80M, 3.560 MHz

10-04-2016 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, WI5H, KE5YGA, KM4ELJ

10-11-2016 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, K9EYT

10-15-2016 QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

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

40M, 7.117 MHz

10-04-2016 QNI (8) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, WI5H, KG0LD, N7ADA, WB0QQT, KG7VTO, WU8G

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

20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz

NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

40M, 7.117 MHz

10-19-2016 QNI (2) NCSN8ZYA, W8GDP

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

80M, 3.574 MHz

10-07-2016 QNI (7) NCS WB4SPB (W7DK), KG7JEB, NB7M, W7ANM/7, KE7LKW/7, AD7BP, K7JUV

10-14-2016 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, W7ANM, WB4SPB, AD7BP

Reports from the end of the month are not available.

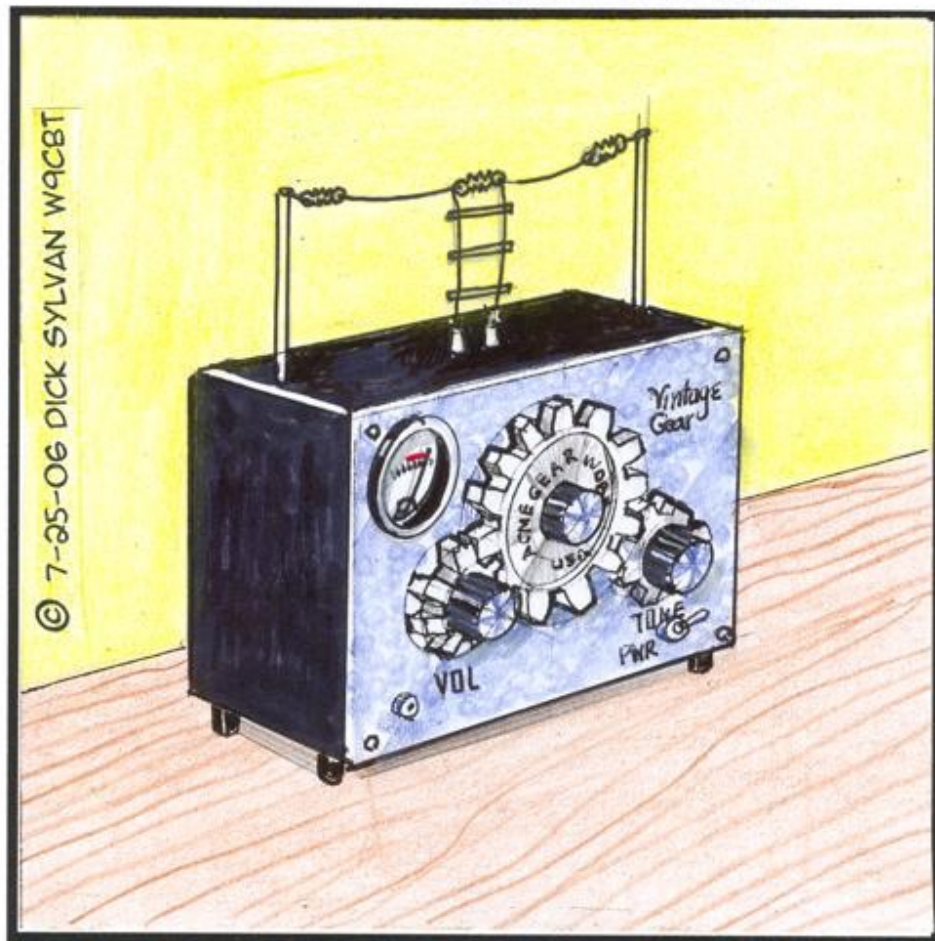


HAM QUIPS



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 "VINTAGE GEAR"



HAMS LOVE TO COLLECT "VINTAGE GEAR"

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.

No report available.

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER

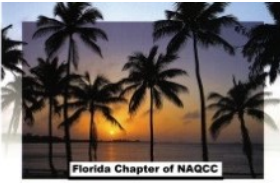


Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MWOMIE.

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/>

No report available.

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>.

NAQCC-FL OCTOBER 2016

On Friday October 21st, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to Lake Ashby Park for their monthly field event with Art, WB4MKN (#5274), Rick AA4W (#1628), John KD4JS (#8019), Wally KG4LAL (#6278) and Don K3RLL (#1905). Our group enjoyed a beautiful Florida autumn morning in this remote county park still recovering but apparently spared serious damage from Hurricane Matthew that recently ripped up the East Coast of Florida and into Georgia and the Carolinas. Lake Ashby Park is one of the few area parks reopened to the public in time for our October event. It is located about ten miles inland from New Smyrna Beach, an area that suffered a significant impact from the storm.



Our October Field Event Crew: Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, John KD4JS, Art WB4MKN and Wally KG4LAL.

Apparently not everyone received the memo to wear their NAQCC-FL shirts and hats.

A couple of the antennas used included the 31' vertical wire in a Jackite fiberglass push-up pole with a single wire counterpoise and fed with 30' of LMR240 coax to an LDG 100 Plus tuner at the base of the tripod used by WB4MKN and KD4JS on the left.

The photo on the right shows -- barely --K3RLL's 20' push-up pole there in the distance supporting a 51' sloper wire with a 16' elevated counterpoise going off in the opposite direction.



K3RLL's Lake Ashby station



With our crack CW operator Rick AA4W once again running away from the field with seven contacts on 17m and 15m, most of which were good DX contacts, Art WB4MNK and Don K3RLL each had four contacts on 40m, 30m, or 20m. Of our total of 15 chapter contacts, six were faithful NAQCC members whose support for our monthly field operations continues to be greatly appreciated. These supportive members included: NM1I (#5705), N5GW (#5353), WA2JSG (#3457), WB4M (#7351), WI5H (#7128) and W4KRN (#3392). Some of these contributive members were contacted on multiple bands by multiple operators during this event. Without such support, our club field events would not be the successful outdoor field experiences we enjoy. Thank you to all.



Our next planned monthly field event is scheduled for Friday morning November 18th from Colby Park in historic Cassadaga Florida. Hope to 'hear' you there.

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 13 October 2016

Attending: Tim, N9BIL, Tony, N9YPN, NN9K, Peter, Ann, W0ANN, John, WS0G.

There was a short discussion about the Peanut Power Sprint which we all feel either wasn't well attended or that there was such poor propagation that we couldn't hear anyone.

New radios--John has a new KX2 and Peter has another KX3 on order. John wants to be able to use the KX2 upstairs this winter from his favorite easy chair rather than having to go to the basement to play radio. There were several suggestions discussed for simple antennas that would allow multi-band operation along with easy access into the living room.

Ann is continuing to work on her CW skills. She showed us a neat CW practice program called Morse Toad. The program will work on both IOS and Android devices.

We continued the discussion that was started last month about simple QRP kits. Since John is blind he would like Ann or be able to accomplish simple repairs that require soldering. There are also a couple others in the group that would benefit from building a simple QRP transceiver kit. We all agreed that selecting a simple transceiver kit and doing a group building project would be a good chapter project. Tim agreed to research and forward some suggestions for a group build kit.

John reminded us that there are several amateur radio podcasts available for our listening pleasure. A quick search with your favorite browser will give you a listing of the podcasts available and you are certain to find several that fit your interests.

The next Illowa Chapter meeting will be held at 7:00PM on November 10th at the Moline Village Inn.

Peter, NN9K

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/>.

No report available.

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/>.

Approximately five months ago my son and daughter in law were the proud parents of "triplets". Two boys and a girl were born prematurely at 28 weeks. All three of the triplets spent at least two months in the pre-natal unit of the hospital. The girl (Jaylee Mae) was the first to come home although she was born weighing only two pounds and five ounces.

Sadly, she died on Sept. 16th. - Jaylee Mae simply stopped breathing sometime in the middle of the night. Despite all the marvels of science in today's world, SIDS (sudden infant death syndrome) is a condition which the medical profession still can't explain. The two boys continue to mature, gain weight, and progress normally. I'm extremely grateful for this. All my spare time is now devoted to my son and daughter in law.

There's been little time for radio since the granddaughter's death. I've also had some health issues. In the last two months, I've had a couple of EKG's and some minor surgery on my lower back.

I had an amusing day driving to the hospital last week to remove the staples from the back surgery. You can read about that episode on my [radio blog](#).

On a positive note: The brutally hot summer weather has finally left the state. I'm looking forward to the fall season.

I'm happy to say the NAQCC Anniversary Event was a great success. I've mailed or ordered, and shipped directly to our prize winners, the upper tier gifts. The MFJ Company gave us a great discount on their prizes.

Perhaps as the fall season approaches, there will be a bit of spare time for radio, but for now, the WV activities are at a bare minimum.

72's John N8ZYA

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 big activity for the WPA Chapter during October was our annual parkpedition on Columbus Day to the Kittanning Community Park to operate the NAQCC anniversary special event call of N3A. Here's how I described it in my K3WWP web site diary at k3wvp.com.

Mike KC2EGL arrived here about 9:45AM just about the time I was taking that last bite from my breakfast. We chatted for a while, and then we headed for the park a few minutes past 10AM. On the way up there a black cat crossed our path, and I kiddingly (not being superstitious) suggested that our day was now ruined. We arrived at the park just about exactly at the same time as Tom WB3FAE. We carried our equipment over to the pavilion where we would be operating and started setting up our antennas and rigs.

This year we planned to operate 40, 30, and 20 meters since those bands probably would be the only ones available as sunspots decline. We didn't decide till almost the last minute who would take which band. I wanted Tom and Mike to decide and leave me the leftover band. As we were setting up our antennas, Mike finally picked 40, but then Tom wanted me to choose between 30 and 20. I had thought of taking 30 since I felt lazy and thought it would be the least active of the three bands. Tom was helping me set up my antenna so we set the jumpers for 30 meters. I gave it a brief check to see if it was working as one time in the past I had trouble on 30, but I think that was due to a bad connection in a coax connector. This time it went right to 1:1 as I pressed the ATU button on the KX3. Tom then set up his antenna for 20 meters.

The weather was beautiful as you can see from this picture looking out over one of the ball fields in the park.



With our rigs and antennas set up, we started operating. Both 40 and 30 turned out to be in great shape, while 20 was not as good. I started off with several unanswered CQs, then a small pileup broke out and I logged 3 QSOs in a couple minutes. After that another batch of no answers for about 10 minutes.

I pause in the commentary now for some pictures of the three operators.



From L-R are Mike, Tom, and me. Note Tom multitasking eating and operating.

From that point on, activity was slow but steady for Mike and me. Unfortunately 20 was not being that kind to Tom, so he went hunting for and working some DX (on both 20 and 17) in addition to calling CQ.

At one point, for some reason, I developed a rather large pileup that lasted about 10 minutes. I was logging on paper and had a little trouble keeping up with the activity. I did put 7 QSOs from the pile in my log in 10 minutes. I might have had more had I been logging via computer.

I always get questions about our antennas when we do a parkpedition. This time with the bright sun shining just right in the perfectly clear blue skies, Mike was able to get some quite good antenna pictures.



Mike's jumper inverted V on his orange pole is at left. I'm not sure exactly what to call Tom's antenna - perhaps an inverted L or end fed random wire - is in the center. My jumper inverted V is at right.

We managed to stay the full 5 hours that we had scheduled. It turned out to be our best parkpedition ever (not counting Field Days) with 104 QSOs from 33 SPCs.

Here is a breakdown by band showing total QSOs, member QSOs, and SPCs.

40 ñ 44, 30, 24 (CT, GA, IN, MA, MD, ME MI, MN, NC, NJ, OH, RI, SC, VA, WI, WV + ON)

30 ñ 43, 25, 25 (AL CT GA IL IN KS KY LA MA ME MI MN MO MS NH NJ NY OH QC SC TN TX VT WI

20 ñ 17, 7, 10 (AL, CA, FL, GA, KS, MO, MS, TX + G, ON)

17 ñ 2, 0, 2 (DL, ZF)

It was a great day as usual when we get together. It went by pretty fast, and when 4PM came, we shut down, packed away our gear, and took down the antennas. Tom had to go home to take care of his dog, but Mike and I headed to the Butler Ponderosa and enjoyed as usual, their great buffet dinner. We wanted Tom to join us, but he couldn't.

As an aftermath to the operation, Paul sent me all the N#A stats and it was good to see the N3A call was the one with the most QSOs. It felt good that the WPA Chapter members helped make that possible along with other 3rd call area members not in Western PA.

We are still waiting to see how our efforts in Field Day and the FOBB turned out.

One other WPA meeting took place on October 27th when Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP got together for their monthly visit. No official activities were planned. We did take a trip to the Pittsburgh Mills where we visited Best Buy and Lowe's for some shopping and Applebee's for eating. Home again, we headed for my shack where Mike worked some 4 DX stations.

At least a couple things are scheduled for November. A get together on Veteran's Day and a subpedition to the USS Requin in Pittsburgh the day before Thanksgiving.



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.

A number of the winners from our special anniversary sprint prize drawing have sent in pictures of their prizes. We expect that a few more might be coming in over the next few days and if so they will appear here next month. - Editor

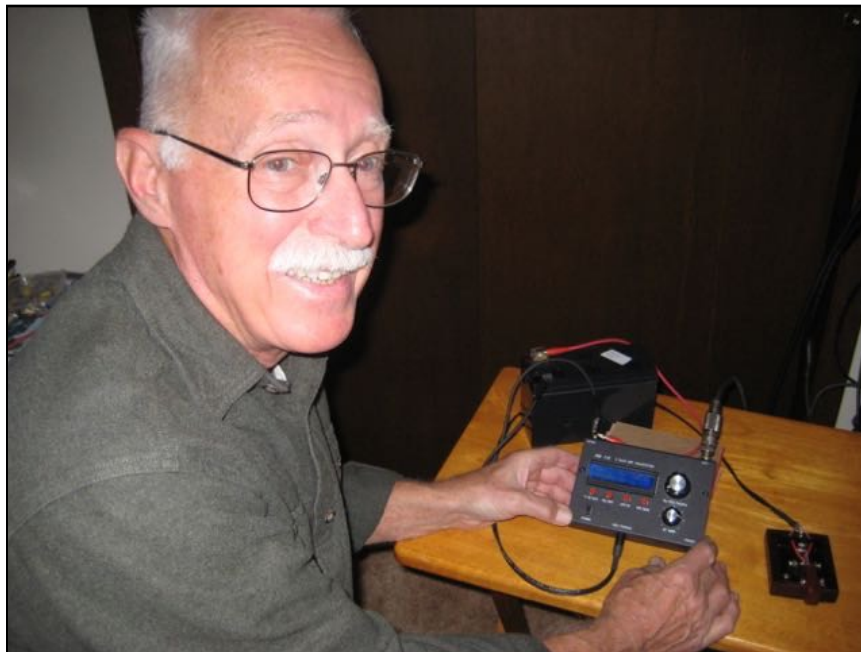
From Dick, K1IEE, #3966 —

Hi Paul,

Picture of me with the grand prize HB-1A TRX. Great little rig and have worked several states on 40M and some DX on 20M. Really like it. A big upgrade from the HW-9. Keyer and automatic CQ as well as Voltage monitor and more, I love it. Will use it in the next sprint.

Thanks to you and ALL the people that make the NAQCC.

73 Dick K1IEE #3966



From Mike, WA8SAN, #0792 —

Thanks guys for the Telegraph Collectors CD !! What a great club, free gifts just for doing what you like anyway - CW!

From Dave, W4DUK, #0617 —

I received the paddle kit in this morning's mail, and look forward to assembling and putting it on the air soon!

Thanks again and 73.

Dave - W4DUK - NAQCC #0617



From Keith, AA0FD, #8558 —

Prize arrived Wednesday as planned. Not selfied yet. I'll try to get myself into one.

Tnx es 73



From John, KN1H, #1204 —

Thanks for sending the wonderful prize from the NAQCC Anniversary drawing! Attached is a photo of me reading the (very funny) book while the ornament is decorating the D-104 until Christmas.

thanks again, 73,

John, KN1H
NAQCC #1204



From Jim, K0FNR, #6852 —

My QRPme tuna-tin xmtr kit from QRPme.com arrived in fine shape--- all neatly packed in a pull-top tin---- neat !!! I went all in and ordered the companion Sudden Storm receiver and Tuna Helper TR switch. When I get it all together I will send an update. Thanks !!!!



From Gene, N5GW, #5353

Checking Zero Beat

A recent mass e-mailing from NAQCC reminded me of a reliable way of checking to ensure that your transmitted signal is on the same frequency as the station you're calling. Most CW ops are using transceivers nowadays, monitoring with a side tone. The newer ones automatically set the transmitted frequency. However as the e-mail states, it is wise to find out for sure, because you may be surprised to learn that your transmitted signal is not exactly where you think it is.

You will need an outboard receiver and some sort of signal generator such as a simple crystal oscillator. First turn on the generator and tune in the signal with the outboard receiver. Then tune in the signal on your transceiver's receiver. Next, turn off the generator, and while listening to the outboard receiver, key your transceiver. If the pitch of the note is the same as that of the generator, you are zero beat. If not, some adjustments of the transceiver offset are needed.

This test can be performed using only an outboard second transceiver, but only if it has a proven zero beat function; therefore it is less reliable. Other methods have been described elsewhere, but none simpler.

From Dean, NW2K, #5407

Bruce Kelly QSO Party

While it's certainly QRP CW, I hope that this is not too far astray....the Bruce Kelley QSO Party is right around the corner, December 10 & 17.

The Bruce Kelly 1929 QP is a yearly event where participants build their own transmitters using the designs and tubes that were available in 1929 and earlier (modern receivers and power supplies are OK). Since they use early TX designs, it is a cacophony of whooping, chirping, buzzing, clicking, drifting, and other interesting signals.

The TX are easy to build with junk box materials but you may need to buy one or two \$3 tubes and \$3 sockets. I built a well-regulated, variable high-voltage power supply for \$30 (all new parts from Mouser, solid state) thanks to NAQCC member Cam N6GA's design. (Cam was very kind and sent me his homebrew HVPS that I am also using here on these old tube rigs.) Schematics are available for both Cam's PS and the "1929" TX. The TX took a day to build and make QSOs with and the HV power supply took another day to package up. With the regulated supply, there is no whooping, chirping, buzzing etc. Unless you bang the table and wobble the coil!

I use my modern rig for RX, but some amateurs use 1929-type RX. When you read this, there will be about one month before the Bruce Kelley QP. I'd like to encourage you to consider this challenge and participate. Send me a note (NW2K at ARRL.net) if you'd like links to schematics for both the TX and Cam's PS. With autumn turning into winter here soon, this is a nice self-contained indoor project.

Here is a link to the BK QP: <http://www.antiquewireless.org/bruce-kelley-memorial-cw-qso-party.html>

PS There is a Yahoo Group (AWAGroup) dedicated to helping folks get their TX up and running.

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

My personal headline news story is actually the N3A operation in the park described in the WPA Chapter news above. That was a lot of fun with Mike and Tom. Later that week I also added a couple extra hours of N3A operation from my home station. I totaled 56 QSOs in all with N3A. Nowhere near a record but a lot of fun nevertheless. Here are my totals through the years of the anniversary QSOs (N3A/3, then just N3A).

- 2006 - 150
- 2007 - 388
- 2008 - 403
- 2009 - 71
- 2010 - 105
- 2011 - 28
- 2012 - 153
- 2013 - 188
- 2014 - 52
- 2015 - 39
- 2016 - 56

I decided I was going to work for some FISTS awards since I hadn't done much with them while I was VP of the NAQCC - just not enough time. I started with the Perpetual Prefix Award since I love chasing and working prefixes. With my Microsoft Access log and a little help from Excel, I quickly found I had the required number of prefixes for the main award as well as the three endorsements. The main award was for 25 prefixes from each numbered call area (DL1A, K1IEE, UA1TAM, etc. all count toward the 25 from the number 1 call area, and so forth with the numbers 2-0). The endorsements were for 5, 10, and 15 additional prefixes from each numbered call area. I sent in my application and received the following beautiful award certificate from Dennis K6DF, FISTS awards manager.



Each month keeping my DX streak going gets harder and harder as we slip towards the next sunspot minimum. However I completed October with the streak at 1,341 days and counting. Getting a regular W/VE (sometimes DX) QSO for the big main streak is not as hard, and that streak is at 8,124 days as October ended. I've compiled some interesting stats from the 1,341 first DX QSOs such as which country has provided the streak QSO the most, which hour of the day and which band the most, and so forth. Not a surprise to anyone who scans the bands for DX that CO8LY gave me a DX streak QSO on 14 different days, followed by XE1XR with 13, EA6UN with 11. See my web site diary for more of the stats.

I think pretty much from now on if the DX streak is to continue it will be with DX QSOs in late morning or afternoon. The evening hours of 0000-0200Z show virtually no DX most evenings. Or if I do hear any, it is very weak at those times. Even the usually easy to work Caribbean, Central American, and Northern South American stations are pretty much way down in the mud at S4 at best.

I'm looking at my web site diary to see what else of interest happened during the month. You can read my diary via the link on my home page at k3wwp.com. I find a sad note on the 13th. Long time NAQCC and even longer FISTS member Stan K4UK passed away. We had 82 QSOs over the years - a mix of contest and rag chewing types. It was always interesting to chat with Stan. I will miss him as will a lot of members of the ham radio community. RIP Stan.

A happy event during the month was reaching the fourth anniversary of using my Elecraft KX3. That happened on October 21. As of the 22nd, I totaled 12,636 QSOs from 164 DX entities, all continents and states with the marvelous little rig.

Now as I sit here, I wonder what November will bring. I'm sure of the NAQCC November Turkey (Cranberry) Challenge. After I finish typing this news, I'm going to get a sheet of paper and set up my worksheet for the challenge. I like doing it with pen and paper rather than with computer as that makes it even more of a challenge and more rewarding that way.

I really got hung up on the letter "U" for the October challenge. All the other letters were gotten probably 7-10 days before the final 3 "U"s filled in the blank spaces on my worksheet, but I made it.

That's it till next month's news. There will be at least two visits from Mike KC2EGL to talk about including a trip to the Requin the day before Thanksgiving if all works out.

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

With all of the work involved with our 12th anniversary celebration I've been "busier than a one-armed wallpaper hanger" the past couple of months and frankly I'm glad that it's over. Don't get me wrong, it was great and I certainly enjoyed myself, but my available time to get on the air with QRP/CW has been very limited. With the coming of the winter months I'm hoping to be able to do a lot more operating - unless we end up with an awful lot of snow! So please watch for me. I spend most of my time on 20, 30, and especially 40 meters. I would certainly enjoy meeting you on the air. 73



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

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Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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