

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 231 SEPTEMBER 2017



## KEY CLICKS

● **N#A OPERATORS NEEDED IN OCTOBER.** Each year, as part of our club anniversary celebration, we put special callsigns N1A, N2A, ... , N0A on the air running QRP/CW from all over the United States, and we need plenty of volunteer operators to pull it off. This year our 13th anniversary will be celebrated from 0000Z, October 9, through 2400Z, October 15. It's a lot of fun, no special equipment or skills are needed, logging and "paperwork" are kept to a minimum, and your operating schedule is completely flexible. We would like to finalize our operator list over the next couple of weeks. Right now we have volunteers in all 10 call districts but we are a little thin in all of them except districts 1, 3, and 4. We also need N#A sprint operators in districts 1, 2, 3, and 5. (Sprint operators can use the call at other times during the week as well, but during the sprint we can have only one N#A operator from each district on the air.) If you are interested in being an N#A operator please contact club President Paul, N8XMS (email address on last page). Detailed instructions will be sent to all of our N#A operators later this month. You can see the list of current volunteers along with additional information about our anniversary celebration at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

● **NAQCC 13TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUST ONE MONTH AWAY!** Excitement is growing for our 13th anniversary celebration which will be held from 0000Z October 9, through 2400Z October 15. Some great prizes will be given away to 10 lucky member-participants in our special anniversary sprint that week. And remember that you don't have to be a seasoned sprinter to participate and be eligible for the prize drawing. Details can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

● **2018 SPRINT AND CHALLENGE SCHEDULES AVAILABLE.** The NAQCC sprint schedule for 2018 is available on our club website at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_sked.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html). On that page you can find a link for a printable sprint schedule customized for each US time zone. Dates and times are also given in UTC. Gary, K1YAN, has also worked up the monthly Challenges schedule for the coming year and you can find links to those challenges at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

● **PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION UPDATED.** We occasionally get emails from members reporting that they have not been receiving the newsletter announcements lately, and usually we can track that back to the fact that they have a new email address and forgot to tell us! So please remember to let us know about any changes in your membership data - new callsign, QTH, email address, etc. - by submitting your updates at [http://www.naqcc.info/member\\_updates.html](http://www.naqcc.info/member_updates.html).

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- **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.”



# PADDLE FOR THE MASSES

BY , LYLE, AF7OS

I was recently introduced to an aspect of Amateur Radio known as SOTA, Summits On The Air, in which you go to a summit and make at least four contact. You get points for activating the summit and chasing a summit and each summit is worth points, both for the activator and the chaser. If you want to know more about it, Google "SOTA ham radio" but be warned; SOTA is crack cocaine for QRP ops and hikers and you'll find yourself pouring over maps planning for your next bigger and better "high". I'll write another article of my experience getting started in SOTA at another time.

I'm not fast at CW by any meaning of the word "fast" and usually hang out in the novice band on 40 meters. I was given, at the time, my one and only straight key from a friend of a silent key to keep it on the air. And when my own dad passed away last year from cancer, I used that key with a bit more reverence. Even though my dad wasn't a ham, he was a radio operator in the Korean War and would tell me stories of how CW saved him behind enemy lines.



So, I needed a key I could pack with me but I wouldn't care a whole lot if it got destroyed in the trip. My first attempt was to take on old broken mouse (I work in IT and they get tossed all the time.) and mount the button in an Altoids-mini tin. I then took a stiff scrap piece of wire and fashioned a lever out of it to work the button. Soldered on some wire and a plug and, insto-presto, I have a portable straight key I can fold up inside the tin and toss in my backpack.

Which led me to my latest problem. Remember when I said I wasn't very fast at CW? Well, I can copy at 15-16 WPM when I'm relaxed being able to copy enough to hold a simple QSO. Outside, hot and tired after hiking though the desert for over an hour, not so much. It would be closer to 10 WPM or maybe even a little less. But, when I started making contacts, I started getting excited. And when I saw those contacts were coming in from Oregon, Kansas, and Missouri running maybe 4 watts, I got really excited. And I unintendedly started sending faster than 15-16 WPM and they sent back at the same speed I was sending; too fast for me to copy.

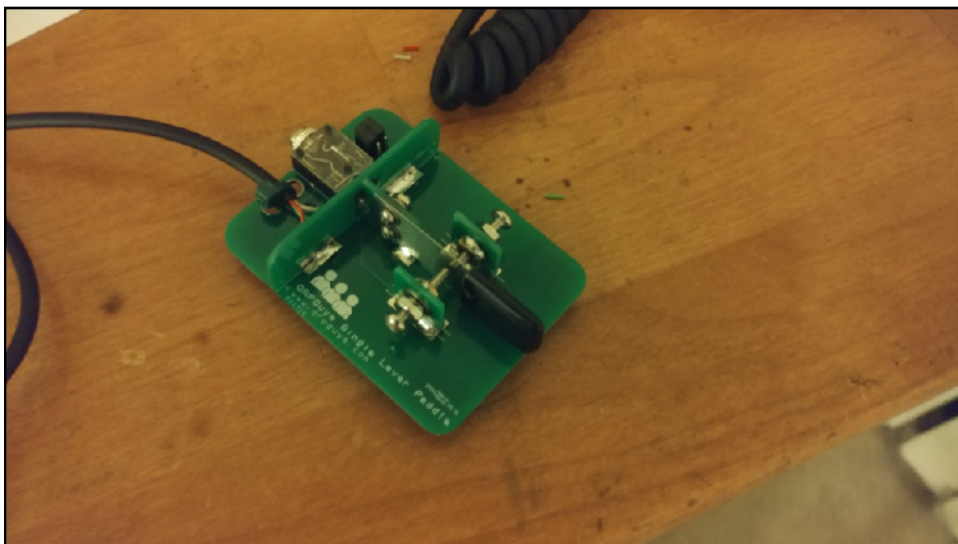
I needed to use the keyer built into my rig to keep my speed under control. I at first tried to build one out of what I had around the house but they proved too fragile to take the abuse of hiking. And when I made one that was sturdy enough to take the rigors of working outside, it was too bulky to pack well. And looking at HRO for a set of paddles available made me flinch at the price with some costing a small fortune. No, I needed a different solution and knew where to look.

I've worked with [QRPGuys.com](http://QRPGuys.com) in the past on making an EFHW antenna to replace my MFJ 1899T that would break all the time on hikes. I had seen their paddles in the past but never really thought about it because I felt comfortable on the straight key. But, now that I was missing contacts and likely frustrating the poor guys on the other end, I needed to rethink my decision. I was happy with the antenna from them and saw that the single lever paddle was only \$20 so decided to give it a chance.

The kit is marked as moderate difficulty but I put the thing together in about an hour and a half. I kid you not. The only thing not included in the kit was the three-strand wire for the included plug. Ace Hardware across the street did so it wasn't a problem for me. To hold the pieces in place to tack them, I used a pair of vice grips and a foam triangle my wife used for makeup to change the angle of the pliers. With that, I was able to position the parts into the 90 degree angles needed to tack them.

One thing I need to point out if you want to try this kit for yourself; tacking is vital to getting this together. Each part has four pads to hold it into position and if you decide to solder all of them down at once and the angles aren't exactly right, you're going to have a very bad day. Tack just one of the pads and then do the exact same for the other parts. Once everything is right and the angles are set, go back and solder them properly.

As this was my first set of paddles, I really didn't have anything to compare them to. And as anyone who has gone from a straight key to paddles will attest, there is a learning curve getting used to them. On my ft-450D, there's a button to turn on and off the keyer and a button combination to turn off break-in. The ft-815ND has it in the menus but the functionality is essentially the same. By turning on the keyer and turning off break-in, I can use my radios as practice oscillators while I learn my right from my left.





I haven't had a chance to use them on an activation yet but I'm happy with them so far. I'll keep you updated when I use them next and let you know how they work in the wild and any corrections that are needed. As for packing them for the hike, I took a box that a replacement mouse came in (I think I may have an obsession with computer mice) and pack it inside. Even though I'm confident with my soldering job, it's not uncommon to stumble on a hike and a little extra protection is always smart.

73

Lyle Crane  
AF7OS  
#7859



# BEACH TRIP

BY RICHARD, K4KRW



Once a year, our extended family rents a beach house at Sunset Beach, NC for a week. I have been going to this same beach with family for truly 50 years. I am 57 now. I was licensed in 2001 and after buying my first HF rig in 2005, I thought about bringing one to the beach every year but didn't for a long time.

Finally, in 2013, the NAQCC sprint was going on while I was at the beach. I just love these sprints and that was all it took to get me to take the plunge and bring my OHR-100A. So, thanks NAQCC. Since then, I have enjoyed many hours of operating at the beach.

At the beach I operate in two different locations. When there is enough wind, I operate on the beach with my antenna running up a kite string. I use a 56-foot end fed wire with a 6.5-foot counterpoise and hook it straight to my KX3 and let the antenna tuner do the matching.

The second place I operate is from the widow walk (kind of like a deck over the roof of the cottage where you can view the ocean). That puts me probably 30 feet in the air. I run the end fed diagonally to the ground to a nearby short palm tree. This is where I operate for the sprints.

I use the KX3's attached KXPD3 paddles and have found them to work quite well. I have some cheap over ear headphones for listening. I also have a 1 Mega Ohm resistor that I use with another wire to bleed static electricity from the end fed to earth.

When on the beach, I am at the mercy of the wind. This year, the wind started picking up around noon and usually by 1:30 or so I had pretty reliable winds. I use a Chinese dragon kite for my 'tower'. This cannot fly with really light wind. So, another kite designed for lower wind speeds could be better.

On Tuesday July 18<sup>th</sup> this year, the winds were not very good. But, I did manage to complete a contact while on the beach with John K3WWP who was operating as N3AQC on a parkpedition

On Wednesday the 19<sup>th</sup>, the weather was right and the winds were good and I spent an hour and a half operating. The bands were not the best. Signals were 559 or so and there was quite a bit of QSB. I

started out at about 2:00 PM on 14.060 and very quickly had a contact with KI4TN in TN. Paul - WA9PWP in WI was next and I talked with him about 10 minutes. I then switched to 17m and talked to Francis - KG5DKG in MS.

At this point I've been operating about an hour and the fun QSO of the day happens. I switched back to 20m and was calling near the QRP calling frequency and Jim - W1PID in New Hampshire comes back to me. Usually somewhere in the QSO I'll tell the other party that I'm operating on the beach and using a kite. They usually get a real kick out of it. Before I can say anything I hear from Jim 'on beach' and 'end fed in tree' and KX3. So here we are, both at the beach, both running KX3s and both operating QRP using end fed wire antennas. The only reason he wasn't also running a kite is he had no wind. So, I snapped a picture of me and emailed it to him later when I got back to the beach house. What fun. He posted a nice little write up of the contact on his blog.

I had one more contact with Hank - K1PUG in GA. He had the best signal I heard that day. He was running 100 watts from his Omni D and was using a beam antenna. We finished up at 3:18 pm. I had been on the beach most of the day and decided to go back in.

That night was the night of the sprint. I charged the KX3 internal batteries for about 3 hours before the sprint. The bands were very noisy and quite rough but the end fed sloper did a great job and I had lots of fun pulling signals out of the noise. I held a frequency running 4 watts and the batteries made the whole 2 hours without any problem. It was such a great day I had decided that I would leave the radio alone for the rest of the trip.

However, Friday the winds were great and I just could not resist getting one more day of operating on the beach. The bands were better and I was able to have some longer QSOs. First contact was Paul - NA9M on 14.060 at around 2:35 PM. Next I talked to Bob - AK4JA in GA who was running 5w from a homebrew transmitter. We were on 30 meters and talked about 20 minutes. It is always fun talking with folks running homebrew equipment.

Then came a great 30-minute contact with John - KA8YWG from OH. He said he also enjoys operating from the field and had done so on July 4<sup>th</sup> on the shore of Lake Erie. Towards the end of the QSO he asked "Are you on a private beach?". Sunset is a public beach so "no". "Do you get any funny looks?". I told him that most people are just curious and are usually very nice.

This is one of the things I like about going out into the field to operate. This is really a great opportunity to promote the amateur radio service. It is not every day you see a guy put up a kite and attach a wire to it. So, naturally some get curious. I'm not in anybody's face. They don't have to do anything. Also, the beach is pretty crowded so I don't really stand out like a sore thumb. But, some will get curious enough to ask what I am doing. It happens at least once every year when I'm at the beach. They are usually very nice and are surprised and often impressed once I explain what I am doing.

And sure enough, John was signing and a family walked up. It was a dad and three kids. Two young girls and their even younger brother. So, I unplugged the headphones and let them listen to John sign via the rig's speaker. I told them he was in Ohio. I showed them the text being decoded on the KX3 display and then they saw me sign using my paddles. I showed them the radio and explained the wire going up the kite string. They thought it was great.

Now that family knows that ham radio still exists. They know something the size of a brick can be a nice little ham radio. They also have some understanding of what it can do. Hopefully, the next time they hear the words 'ham radio' they will think about 'that guy on the beach having fun talking to Ohio in Morse code' and not "I don't know anything about it, so I should be scared."

My last contact was with Andy SP7ASZ in Poland. It is always nice to get a DX QSO from the beach. So I was thrilled.

That was it. There was nothing left to do but clean all of the sand off of my equipment. The wind that keeps the kite up is also pretty good at blowing sand on your rig and other equipment. So, I always clean everything well once I get home. The rig once again looks like new. The paddles are all cleaned out too. What a fun week.





# 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.

## STAN LEVANDOWSKI, WB2LQF, #4740



I became interested in electronics at the age of 11 when I found a library book with plans to build a crystal radio from an oatmeal box wound with magnet wire, a large safety pin and a copper penny. I built it, strung an antenna wire throughout the house and clipped the ground wire to the dial stop on our old rotary phone because my dad said "the telephone company has good grounds." The darn thing worked and I was hooked on the magic of radio!

Boys Life magazine introduced me to amateur radio and I taught myself Morse Code by listening to W1AW code practice on a National NC-60 general coverage receiver. I earned my Novice license in 1962 at the age of 13.

I built my first transmitter from the innards of a discarded black and white television set and a broken RCA table radio. It was called the "22 Watt Monster." It used a 50L6 output tube and a 50Y6 rectifier. There was no power transformer. A simple voltage doubler provided the high voltage to the plate. The chassis was grounded to a cold water pipe and only the hot AC lead was plugged into the wall. It had 22 watts DC input and probably about 10 watts RF output on 80 and 40 meters. My first contact was WA8LAR in Hubbard, Ohio. I had a blast with my homebrewed rig until an Official Observer's pink card arrived in the mail advising me that I was transmitting on 40 *and* 80 meters simultaneously.

I earned my Technician Class license just as my one year Novice License was about to expire. I built a Heathkit Two'er and spent some time on VHF-AM. In 1964, at age 15, I finally had the opportunity to go

to New York City and sit for the General Class exam under the watchful eye of legendary FCC Examiner Charles Finkelman. Now that I had regained access to the HF bands, I built a Knight-Kit T60 and its companion R-55A receiver. I would rush home from high school every day to operate CW. In June, 1965 I qualified for the ARRL Code Proficiency Award at 20 wpm and joined the original Rag Chewer's Club.

With the Vietnam War heating up and a 1A draft status, I figured a floating foxhole might be a better long term investment in my future, so I joined the Navy. The local Navy recruiter examined my General Class ticket and said I would be guaranteed promotion to Petty Officer 3<sup>rd</sup> Class automatically upon graduation from Radioman School. So I signed on the dotted line.

That's how I came to spend the "Summer of Love" (1967) in Class A Radioman School in San Diego. When school was over, I was assigned to the USS BOXER as a Radioman. We had a ham station aboard, K9YGR/MM, and I helped the "chief op" – Harry – run phone patches back home for the crew when we were underway. My job in Radio Central involved both CW and secured radioteletype.

Upon release from active duty, I had to worry about a job, an education and ultimately a place to call home, a family and all the strings attached to these goals. This is sort of where my ham radio interest temporarily fizzled. I always maintained my original license and original call sign and I always had some kind of equipment, even if it was stored in a box on a shelf for some period of time. At one point, I even had a tower, a beam and a 100 watt Ten Tec Triton IV but it didn't get a whole lot of use. Another major conflict with ham radio occurred when I became interested in aviation. I earned my pilot's license, flew my family on vacations, learned to soar in sailplanes, took up aerobatics and ultimately built and flew my own Experimental-Category airplanes.

I retired from IBM in 1992 and in 2009 I retired from my second career as a college professor. The year 2009 was also noteworthy because I made the decision to sell my hangar and airplane. I figured 36 years of incident-free flying was enough excitement. I had a wife, two daughters and four grandchildren and flying homebuilt airplanes wasn't totally risk-free. My interest in ham radio, especially QRP, then blossomed. I bought a Ten Tec 1340 and strung up a simple dipole. WOW, did I have fun. My CW skills came right back! I was RE-hooked for sure.

A subscription renewal to QST introduced me to the Elecraft advertisements in 2010 and I've been their steady customer ever since. I've built and operated the K1, K2, K3, KX1, KX2 and KX3 along with the KXPA100 and most of their accessories and mini-modules. Eventually, I pared my station down to its current configuration – a KX1 for portable ops and a KX2/KXPA100 for my QRPp to QRO home station.

I consider myself a 100% CW op and a 99% QRP/QRPp op. I don't own a microphone. Rag chewing and QRP DXing are my favorite activities, followed by NAQCC sprints, working on vintage tube gear, operating QRP portable and participating in Special Events. My preferred key is my Vibroplex Presentation bug, followed by my GHD sideswiper. I enjoy being able to work a little personality into my sending. When working DX, I usually use my N3ZN paddle and match the DX's speed. I generally operate around 16-22 wpm but I can still hit 30 wpm if I use my electronic mill to type the copy.

Since retiring, we've moved to a townhouse and I have the usual CC&R hassles to deal with. The good news is a townhouse means I have plenty of time for operating because someone else shovels the snow, trims the lawn and does the maintenance. I am extremely lucky in that my two story attic (32' AGL) is extremely RF friendly. I installed a 136 foot doublet, all bent up, into my 24 foot attic! Incredible as it may sound, this antenna performs fabulously. I feed it with about 14 feet of 450 ohm window line to an SGC-231 autocoupler located in a second floor linen closet.

The experts among us will cite coupler loss, unknown radiation pattern, signal cancellation and signal absorption among the many reasons this shouldn't work. But it does! I even operate QRPp by

“pretuning” the doublet with my KX2 at 5 watts before switching to my KX1 or reducing KX2 power to QRPp level. I’ve got the hardcopy QSL cards to prove my claims. Infrequently, I use my KXPA100 amplifier when conditions are unfavorable and I want to make the rag chew a little more comfortable for the other guy. Usually, I find I don’t have to go above 25 watts. The difference between 100 watts and 25 watts is only one S-unit.

In 2012, during celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Titanic sinking, I decided I wanted to earn the Commercial Second Class Radiotelegraph Certificate – just because. It always irked me that I had earned my Amateur Extra *after* the code requirement was eliminated. I guess I just wanted some official recognition of my CW skill. I earned it on the first try and added it to my GROL with Ship Radar Endorsement and the GMDSS Repairman’s licenses .

Because of my Navy background, in 2012 I was drawn to the museum ship USS SLATER in Albany, NY. The SLATER is the last fully restored WWII destroyer escort afloat in America. I’ve been a volunteer tour guide and I am a member of the “radio gang.” We have a very rare and operational Westinghouse TBL-8 transmitter and RBA and RBC receivers in our fully restored Radio Central. We also have a modern CW/SSB station consisting of an Elecraft K2/100. Our call sign is WW2DEM and we’re on the air, often at QRP power levels, using our original 1945-era maritime antennas. The antennas are a 100 foot long wire, a 190 foot long wire and 70 and 80 foot wire verticals. Our counterpoise is 1,240 tons of steel floating in the Hudson River. As a point of interest, I worked N3AQC when they were holding their “SUB-pedition” aboard the USS REQUIN. I worked them QRP on both 40 and 20 meters, using the 100’ long wire. Sort of neat – a destroyer escort communicates with a submarine instead of sinking it!

*HAM RADIO – THE BEST HOBBY IN THE WORLD!*

72, Stan WB2LQF



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be on September 21 from 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday the 20th in North America. Complete details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201709.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](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](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** Most of the action in the August sprint was on 40-meters where conditions were reported as being pretty good over most of the country. AF4OI reported "*the 40m band was filled with QRPers making NA contacts causing a number of pileups.*" Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201708.html>.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: AH6AX WA3GM NX1K AB4RH AI6SL AE4RM KN8KAZ

**PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY:** Remember that participating in a combination of sprints and challenges will make you eligible for the top-tier prizes in our anniversary drawing in October. Eligibility details can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_13th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html).

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ		
W2	W2SH	KA2KGB	
W3	AC2C	W2JAZ	
W4	N4OW	K4KBL	WX4RM
W5	NE5DL	W5WIL	
W6	A16SL		
W7	KF7WNS		
W8	N8BB	WV8DH	
W9	WB9HFK	K9JWI	
W0	K0NIA	N8LA	
VE	VE3RCN		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	NF1U		
W2	WB2LQF		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KJ4R		
W5	W5ODS		
W6			
W7			
W8	N8XMS		
W9	N9SE		
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN		
W2	K2YGM		
W3	KD3CA		
W4	AB9CA	WB4OMM	
W5	N5GW	AC5T	
W6			
W7	KF7Z		
W8	NX8Z		
W9	N4IY		
W0	N0MII		
VE	VE3IDS		
DX			

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

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	AH6AX	AE4RM	
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AK4NY			



	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	125	118	217	4/17
Participants	201	173	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2204	1457	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	1184	835	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	1020	622	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	251	237	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1838	1131	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	115	89	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	17.6	12.3	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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	NU7T(SK) NO2D WX4RM WA8SAN N0TA AA9L WG8Y NA4O WD0K N8BB K6MGO KQ1P KB8FE NQ2W KA9FQG WY3H N8QY AA7CU K6CSL K9OSC KB0ETU K9EYT KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) AK3X N5GW K4ORD K2YGM N8LA
75+	K3RLL K4NVJ K1IEE N4FI KD0V WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) VE3FUJ WB8ENE W4DUK KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE
100+	K4JPN WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KD2MX KU4A NF8M
125+	W2SH KA2KGP W2JEK W9CC
150+	K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our September challenge is a new one for us that involves the grid square locations of the stations that you work along with some creative play with a calculator. We don't have the room here to give you any of the details but you can find everything that you need to know at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201709.html>.

The European challenge is an alphabet challenge working with the metro systems in several major European cities. The list of words can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-2017-challenge/>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The North American challenge in October will be a Halloween related alphabet challenge. Details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.html>.

The European challenge can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2017-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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submitting entries for the August Fu-Go Balloon challenge is still a few days away. You can go to <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201708.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-2017-challenge/>.

**PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY:** Remember that participating in a combination of sprints and challenges will make you eligible for the top-tier prizes in our anniversary drawing in October. Eligibility details can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_12th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_12th_anniv.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](http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KU4A K9OSC KD0V WY3H PA0XAW N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU KD2MX
50+	K1YAN VE3FUJ NU7T(SK)
75+	K1IEE
100+	W2JEK N8XMS
125+	
150+	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](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

30-30 Award - One Month

0040 - K3WWP Aug 2017

08/24/17



# 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](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html). Questions should be directed to Net Manager Wayne, NQ0RP.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 5:00 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 80 m QRQ Nets (FRN)	Sunday 8:00 PM PT	Monday 0300 Z	3556 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 53 QRQ Net (53N)	Sun & Thurs 6:00 PM PT	Mon & Fri 0100 Z	5332 KHz (Ch 1)	JB, NR5NN (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) <i>Suspended until October 2, 2017</i>	Monday 7:30 PM CT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7117 KHz	Wayne, NQ0RP (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2200/2230 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	3556 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)

**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.

## NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

=====

### NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ Net (FRN) 80 Meter Net 3556 kHz at 8PM PDT Sunday (0300 UTC Monday)

- 2017-08-07 QNI (5) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, KE6EE, W7SAG, K6GVG
- 2017-08-14 QNI (6) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, KE6EE, W7SAG, K6GVG, AI6U
- 2017-08-21 QNI (6) N6IET NCS, W7SAG, KE6EE, K6GVG, NR5NN, KW6G
- 2017-08-28 QNI (5) N6IET NCS, KW6G, KE6EE, K6GVG, NR5NN

Starting next Sunday, September 3, I'm adding a 40-meter FRN net, as we had last fall and winter. The NAQCC website listing should read as follows:

NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ 40 and 80 Meter Nets (FRN)  
 Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC on 7056 kHz +/-  
 Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0300 UTC on 3556 kHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Rick N6IET (California); Backup NCS - JB NR5NN (California)



=====  
**NAQCC FarnsWord 53 QRQ Net (53N)**  
**5332 kHz (Ch 1) Sunday 18h00 PDT, which is Monday 0100 UTC**  
**NCS(s) - JB NR5NN (CA); Rick N6IET (CA); John W7SAG (WA);**

No Report

=====  
**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**  
**Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-**  
**Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)**

2017/8/1 2017/8/1 (1) NCS KA5TJS  
NIL, not looking good for this band at this time rite now for sure.

2017/8/8 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS WI5H  
Very strange conditions. Nothing on 40 so went to 3.565 and heard KE5YUM and N5DRG in QSO. When they cleared I called but they did not respond. Then WI5H called but he was 229 and down in the mud. At least I could hear someone on 80 and Terry and Danny had a good QSO.

2017/8/17 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KD5GCX  
I got check ins on 7.065kc so we stayed there and Terry was 589 QRO. Bill was 569 QRP and just above the noise level here but 95% copy. I did announce a QSY to 3.565kc but got no calls.

2017/8/29 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM  
Called the net on 7.065 and got no response so announced a QSY to 3.565. Picked up Terry there with QRM so moved down 1 to 3.564. He was a low 529 but the QRN was low so we managed to make a QSO.  
We have had 6 inches of rain here so far in East TX since Saturday and maybe more coming.

Allen KA5TJS

=====  
**NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)**  
**Monday evenings 9:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0300 UTC, on 7117 kHz +/-**  
**Main NCS - Wayne NQ0RP (Kansas)**

No Report.  
Please note that the 40m Mid West net is suspended until the first Monday of October (10/2/2017).

=====  
**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRc)**  
**Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz**  
**Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.**  
**Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)**

Suspended until October

=====  
**NAQCC West Virginia QRS NET (WVN)**  
**Wednesday evenings 9:00 EST, which is Thursday 0200 UTC on 7117 kHz.**  
**Main NCS - John N8ZYA (West Virginia)**

2017/8/3 The net was canceled last night due to thunderstorms in our area.

2017/8/17 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA W8GDP  
Heard no other stations on the entire 80 meter band tonight but John W8GDP and I had a very nice QSO about breakfast this morning. I spent the rest of the day with my dad who is 97 years old now and still living independently in the next city. His health secret, in my opinion, was his Marine Corp service in WW 2. He was on Iwo Jima and saw the famous "flag" raising". We also enjoyed the hour long QSO as we reminisced about a theme park in Huntington called Camden Park. The upcoming Huntington Hamfest was located there many years ago.

2017/8/16 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA K3NLT W8GDP  
The 80 meter band was much longer tonight. Russ K3NLT was 599 plus at times from Broadway Virginia at 153 miles. John W8GDP was also 599 plus but could barely hear me (339) from across the river at 2.2 miles. Hi HI -- Russ thanked me for my e-mail about the monthly Sprints and promised to check in again in two weeks due to his work schedule.

=====

**NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)**  
**Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3574 kHz.**  
**Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)**

2017/08/03 QNI (6) KE7LKW/7 NCS, KE7JEB, W0YSE, W7ANM, N0DA, AD7BP.  
2017/08/10 QNI (6) KE7LKW NCS, NB7M, KE7JEB, WB4SPB, W7ANM, K7JUV.

Here are reports for two PNW80 nets (dates UTC) I conducted during Stewart's travels. I was operating the W7DK station.

2017/08/18 QNI (5) W7DK NCS, KG7JEB, KE7LKW/VE6, AD7BP, N7RKS  
2017/09/01 QNI (4) W7DK NCS, KE7LKW/7, KG7JEB, N7TES

73,  
Randy WB4SPB



# HELP FOR BEGINNERS



Items in this section are from CW Assistance Project Coordinator Brion, VE3FUJ, unless otherwise credited. If you are interested in helping out or need some help yourself please contact VE3FUJ. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/cw.html>.

Hi all! I started out the month of August by building another Hartley LO for 7 MHz, it too was drifter more than I wanted, not quite as bad as the first. I scrapped that one and tried a Colpitts both series and parallel Oscillator, it turned out to be worse than the first Hartley. I tried different Coils of various configuration 2 different Toroids (yel, & white) with some improvement but not enough for me. I also tried air-wounds I had an old 3/4" from years ago just the right size for 40, that improved the stability a little more but still not enough. Some say that building a VFO is an ART, I've come to the conclusion that it's either a HIT or a MISS. I really wanted to get on with it, A couple of years ago I had purchased a couple of Stand alone as 250mW Tx's VXO's for 40 so I decided to use one of them. I proceeded with the job of putting one together and reached the first Check-point stage when Murphys Law reared its ugly head, it must have been lurking in the background for a while since nothing really went my way. The check revealed a flaw, I could not achieve the posted numbers. I checked all the components that I could, and when it came to the RF choke my dipper had given up the ghost and not having an alternative as my RF generator is waiting for a replacement tube to arrive in the mail I decided to shelve the project for a while, at least till I could get the RF generator going again. Also I may try a VXO Xtal LO Mixer type VFO as an alternative to LC circuits.

We are having our street torn up to replace aging Water-mains, Sewers and Storm Sewers and in order to supply us with water they've run above ground water-pipes and hoses through back and front yards so it'll take another 20 to 30 mins to cut the lawn and a lot more walking.

Another thing is I finally got all the parts together for a long standing project, namely a Steel Guitar so I'll be devoting some time to that. It involves making a 12 String Pick up, wheel-Bridge and wheel-Nut, just in case I later on decide to install up and down tuning rods and Pedals. That would be a another fun project.

So to anyone who maybe following this I'm sorry I shelved the project. over the years I've learned that when you have adverse condition like the above its best to switch to something else totally unrelated for a while. I will however keep you posted. 72 Brion



# 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](http://www.lulu.com).

## HAM QUIPS "Antenna Heights"



© 8-6-2005 Dick Sylvan "W9CBT"  
 " Up Here We Have Absolutely No Restrictions On Antenna Heights. The Sky's The Limit!"



# 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 and maintains a website at <http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/index.html>.

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.

## DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

The chapter is located in the Hancock and Washington counties area of Maine.

No report available.

## NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER

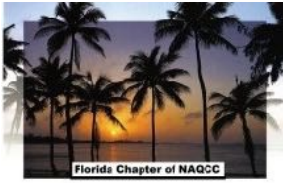


Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MWOMIE.

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>.

No NAQCC-FL Chapter operation in June, July, or August.....too darn hot! So.....no reports!

Next scheduled parkpedition is September 15<sup>th</sup>.

72/73!

Steve WB4OMM



## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Mark, K0NIA.

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

The Illowa Chapter website is at <https://sites.google.com/site/naqccillowa2/>.

The Illowa chapter continues to meet monthly, alternating between the Moline, IL and Bettendorf, IA Village Inns. We meet on the 2nd Thur of each month, at 7:00pm. The August meeting was held at the Bettendorf location. Attending were Tony N 9YPN , Tim N9BIL, Matt KD9JGF, Peter NN9K, Dave KD9VT, and Mark K0NIA.

On August 20th, members Peter NN9k, Dave KD9VT and Mark K0NIA participated in the 2017 NJ QRP Skeeter Hunt together. Tim N9BIL and Matt KD9JGF also attended. Since the Skeeter Hunt organizers encouraged operating from Parks on the Air locations this year, we decided to attempt a multi-operator activation of nearby Campbells Island, along the Mississippi River. Conditions were rough; we were able to get 6 Skeeter QSOs and 1 non-Skeeter QSO. Dave KD9VT writes in his soapbox report “ Right after the event started, a storm came through and we had to tear down and move to a sheltered area which meant a late start. Once we got going, band conditions were so bad that we heard very little activity. Equipment: 2 Elecraft KX3s, 1 mobile antenna on a van and one 30 portable mast with a G5RVjr on it in an inverted V. Great fun though and will be doing the Skeeter Hunt again next year.” It really was great fun just gathering together.

Next month we plan to gather as a group again to operate in the Peanut Power QRP Sprint on October 1st. We are still making plans, but it looks like we’ll be operating from Dave KD9VT’s yard for that event. Our next meeting will be on September 14th at 7:00pm at the IL Village Inn location.

## 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

August 2017 Event

Anclote Park, Florida

Met at Anclote Park, Holiday Florida, Aug 18th.

Attending me, Ron, N9EE and Roger, AE4RM from Lake Land, FL

Arrive about 9AM, set up Windom on 20ft portable flag pole with stake mount.

Roger, AE4RM setup his KX3 w/BuddiPole.

We worked 20 & 40m, band ok, kinda light, but found a few strong stations.

73, ron, n9ee/r





## 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/>.

No report available.



## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

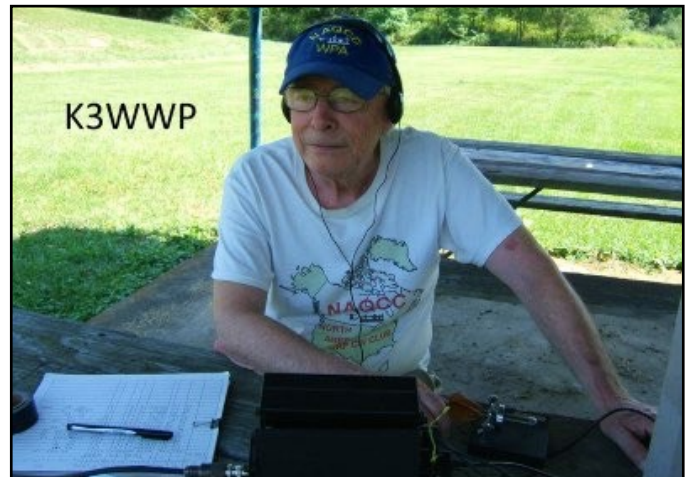


Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, K3WWP.

The first 19 days of August saw little activity for the chapter except to work on our plans for the last 12 days of the month. Those 12 days would feature the Skeeter Hunt, a monthly fourth Wednesday get together of Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP, and a visit to the Skyview Radio Society Swap and Shop.

Sunday August 20 - A great day for the Skeeter Hunt. The bands weren't all that good and it was a struggle to make 46 QSOs in 19 SPCs. That was secondary to the fun and fellowship among Mike, Tom WB3FAE and me though. Here are some labeled pictures of our great day.





Wednesday August 23 - Mike and I got together for our monthly pizza party. We checked the bands and didn't find a lot of activity, especially DX. We finalized our plans for the Skyview visit on Sunday. A bit of gaming on the computer, then it was back north for Mike.

Sunday August 27 - The Skyview visit was a blast. It's fun once a year to operate our QRP rigs into their huge antenna farm, although personally once a year is enough for me (K3WWP). It's just too easy making QSOs that way. I enjoy the challenge of doing things with my little "antenna victory garden" instead. I'd probably get quickly bored having a farm like Skyview's.

We had four stations set up to operate simultaneously. In past years, it was tricky figuring out their multi antenna, multi filter, etc. operation. However this year Bob WC3O (thanks!) had everything set up for us to just connect our KX3/KX2 rigs to their power pole bus and the four antennas we'd be using. That was a big time saver for sure.

Here's what we used:

- 40M - a 40M dipole
- 30M - an 80M dipole
- 20M - a triband beam
- 17M - a six element beam

All antennas reside on their big hilltop property and are probably in the neighborhood of 60-70 feet high. There's a picture of their whole antenna farm in my web site diary archives at [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com). Look at the August 31, 2015 entry. Actually since that picture was taken, they've added a phased vertical array for we believe 80 meters.

As it seems with all our portable events, this one got off to a fast start, and then the activity diminished. I don't know why that is. I may write a separate article with some ideas on it. Anyway we made 45 contacts in 25 SPCs in the approximately 4.5 hours we were active. Mike had the prize contacts working Asiatic Russia and Slovenia on 20M. As somewhat expected, 17M didn't have much to offer in the way of DX at this point in the sunspot cycle and only domestic contacts were made on that band. Another bit of a hindrance was the Kansas QSO Party which spilled into our announced operating spots on 20 and 40. They sure had a lot of activity compared to what I'd heard in previous years.

Another thing we really enjoy when visiting Skyview (and the Requin also) is interacting with the visitors (and Skyview members) to the S&S. Most all are very interested in CW (and QRP) and ask some good questions and have some good comments. Unlike some clubs, virtually all the Skyview members respect CW/QRP operation and are very helpful when we visit there each year.



The chapter members who were there included K3WWP KC2EGL WB3FAE AB3RU K3JZD W3FFZ. Jody K3JZD, a Skyview member, was busy with S&S activities and didn't get a chance to operate. Being a member though, I imagine he's tried his QRP with the club antennas before. Drew W3FFZ is still learning the code, so he didn't operate, but he did take the first of the two pictures below.



*From front to back, the old man K3WWP, KC2EGL, Jon AB3RU, Tom WB3FAE.*



*In reverse order on this picture.*

Our little KX3/KX2 rigs look lost in the sea of big rigs, amplifiers, computers, etc. But they performed well considering conditions. Last August we worked a lot of DX with a similar setup. Those sunspots can make a difference.

Now after a couple weeks off, the chapter is back in action with a visit to the BCARA hamfest in Unionville, PA near Butler on Sept 10. Then a subpedition to the USS Requin on September 24. Oh, that reminds me, we ran into Art WA3BKD from the sub at Skyview. He said it looked good for the visit on the 24th, then the annual day before Thanksgiving visit as well. He also invited us to participate as the CW station in next year's Museum Ships Weekend. I don't have the 2018 date handy, but this year it was the first weekend in June. Hmm, that may conflict with next year's Butler hamfest. We'll have to work that out. There's plenty of time.

After the Skyview visit, Mike and I came back here after stopping at Applebee's where we both had fish and chips although mine was fish and rings as I love their onion rings. At home we tried some DXing for

a couple hours. It wasn't easy with conditions and without the big Skyview antennas, but Mike did work a couple of stations. I forget which ones now.

And that closed out August for the WPA Chapter.





# 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 Joe, AA4NN, #0970 —

*Joe won the random drawing for the participants in the July NAQCC Challenge. He sent this email after receiving his prize. - Editor*

Back home from 5 days in North Louisiana, I was surprised to find in the mail the K2-4 spinner knob sent to me as a participant in the July Challenge. Much appreciated.

73

de Joe aa4nn

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

It was an eventful month here. It was nice to continue to get positive feedback on my article in the August QST on pages 73-74. The most rewarding type of feedback was hearing the article encouraged those in similar situations to mine to get on the air again with CW and QRP. It was also interesting to hear my streak has encouraged others to try streaks of their own.

Speaking of streaks, my main streak reached the 23 year mark on August 4 when I worked K3NLT, P4/DF4XX (for the DX streak, and an old friend I first met way back when - Ernie VE3OU. The DX streak endured through the month to reach 1,645 days on the 31st. It's getting a little harder to find DX these days. Not as hard to work the DX once it is found though.

My web site diary for August contains a lot of statistics about the streak, the DX streak, and our August NAQCC sprint for those interested in stats as I am. I won't repeat them here, but you can read them in the diary via [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com) if you wish. Incidentally, my web site begins its 22nd year of operation on September 8 this year. There hasn't been a day in all that time that something wasn't updated on the site. That's yet another streak.

Early in the month I got a phone call from a ham in Florida who is originally from Kittanning. He was coming back for a visit to Kittanning and said he'd like to get together with me. We made arrangements, and on August 12 we had a very enjoyable couple hour long eyeball QSO. His call is KI4TSI. He loves DX as I do, although we do it 180 degrees differently. He does it with high power, big antennas, and on RTTY and SSB. He needs 10 entities to make it to the DXCC Honor Roll. Some of our continent totals are close, but his Asia, Africa, and Oceania totals overwhelm mine. Just a couple examples. I have all the North American entities. He still needs Navassa Island. He has all of the European entities. I need four to complete Europe.

I had another good sprint this month. Although I don't really work for such things, I wound up with more

QSOs than any of the other 124 entrants who submitted logs. Actually I was just trying to beat my August personal record of 48 which I did with 55 this year.

As mentioned in the WPA Chapter news above, I had a good time in the NJ QRP Skeeter Hunt with Mike and Tom on the 20th. Also at Skyview on the 27th with our chapter members.

The very next day following the Skeeter Hunt was the much anticipated solar eclipse. The clouds did horn in a bit, but I still got to follow a good bit of it via projection through a pinhole, binoculars, and my old 4 inch telescope. Of course at the maximum point of the eclipse, the clouds moved in so I missed that, but I did see it at only a few percent less covered than at the maximum.

I got another NAQCC 30-30 award in August. 30 behaved well most of the month and I got my 30th 30M QSO well before the end of the month. I also completed the August challenge quickly, finishing on the 22nd.

I received a surprise in the mail on the 28th. The North Georgia QRP Club sent me a gift of their KX3/PX3 stand. Here's what it looks like.



You can find out more about the stand on the NOGAQRP web site. Do a Bing search for "no ga qrp" to go there.

Thanks to all the NOGAQRP club members for their kindness and thoughtfulness.

### From Joseph, W3TTT, 5230 —

Here is my park-portable station. It consists of a Small Wonder 40 (Dave Benson), a key, and a dipole antenna. I had a nice time recently calling CQ for an hour, but copying just a few stations. The location is in Oregon Ridge park near Baltimore Maryland. I hiked up to the top of the "red trail" and took refuge in a small shelter, where I deployed the antenna. The whole station fits inside the little carry bag.



I had a nice occurrence while operating, a couple with a 10-year-old boy stopped by and we had a nice discussion about ham radio. The boy was interested and I let him send some beeps, and he sent his name in morse code. The dad was also interested and I mentioned some possible kit building to do with his son. I gave them my QSL card (NAQCC logo !) and hope to hear back about what they are doing in electronics and ham radio.

### From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

The common mode impedance (CMI) problem is occasionally encountered by us QRP ops using portable antennas, including random wires, especially those directly connected to the transmitter. In this situation a relatively high rf voltage (voltage loop) is present on the transmitter chassis or cabinet, and can be capacitively coupled to the innards of the radio or attached accessories. Unpleasant things can happen such as your automatic antenna tuner suddenly jumping out of gear, your keyer acting up, your SSB audio being distorted or other bizarre behavior. With higher power, damage to the radio is possible. Such an occurrence is often described as a "grounding problem".

An insidious feature is that a high CMI may be present but not bad enough to cause problems, at least not obviously or not right away. It may suddenly flare up in mid-QSO or may be causing intermittent puzzling behavior of your gear.

A simple test is to first tune the radio for low SWR. Then place the palm of your hand flat on the top of the radio's cabinet. If the SWR changes markedly, you have a potential CMI problem. As I understand it, the SWR change is due to the high impedance being capacitively coupled to your body, detuning the antenna system.

Cures include changing the length of the antenna or counterpoise, adding an additional counterpoise, or feeding the antenna through an outboard tuner with choke balun at the input. Placing a decoupling 1:1 or 1:4 balun at the high impedance input is less desirable but will usually work OK too.

From Paul, W4KLY, #5816 —

The stand that you see in the submission from K3WWP is just one of several designs for the KX3/KX2 family of radios that the North Georgia QRP Club is selling as a fund raiser for the club. You can find more information about them at <http://nogaqrp.org/>.



# 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 9000 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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#### REPRINT POLICY

Unless otherwise stated in the article, local clubs and other ham radio organizations are free to reprint featured articles from this newsletter, provided appropriate credit is given to the North American QRP CW Club and the author of the article. If at all possible a link to the club website at <http://www.naqcc.info/> should be included.