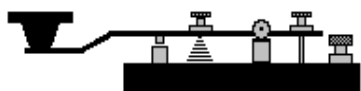


NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 232 OCTOBER 2017



KEY CLICKS

- **OUR 13TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS FINALLY HERE!** The week long celebration for the NAQCC's 13th anniversary runs from 0000Z October 9 through 2400Z October 15. Almost 50 members have volunteered to put our special N#A call signs on the air from all over the country, with special certificates and QSLs available for those who work them. To help you find the special event stations they will spot themselves on http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php in almost "real time" so check that spotting page often.

Member/participants in our anniversary sprint that week who submit a log by the submission deadline will be automatically entered into a random drawing where 10 really great prizes will be awarded. This drawing has the highest monetary value that we have ever given away! The drawing will be held online shortly after the sprint results have been finalized, and will be announced in an email to the membership. Winners will also be notified by email.

This year we are adding something new - a special anniversary prize drawing for our October challenge! It's an alphabet challenge so simply complete at least one of the words, and submit your report by the deadline, and you will automatically be entered into the prize drawing. The drawing will be held shortly after the submission deadline and the winners will be notified by email.

The entire week should be a lot of fun and a great chance to promote QRP/CW operating and the NAQCC. You can find more information about the celebration on page 3 and at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

- **DIGITAL NAQCC CALENDAR AVAILABLE.** Mark, K0NIA, has created a digital version (.ics) of our sprint schedule through the end of 2018. In addition he has included reminders for our monthly challenges and anniversary celebrations. Just about any calendar app that you use should be able to import this file and most of them will automatically convert the times into your local time zone setting. You can download the file for a one-time import into your app, or you can subscribe to it which would give you automatic schedule changes and updates. You can find a link to this file on our sprint schedule page at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html.
- **WESTERN PA CHAPTER TAKES 3RD PLACE IN 2017 SKEETER HUNT.** A team of three operators from our Western PA NAQCC chapter had a third place overall finish in this year's Skeeter Hunt August 20th. Congratulations to K3WWP, KC2EGL, and WB3FAE for this fine showing.

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- **CLUB CALL N3AQC ASSIGNED AN SKCC NUMBER.** Added to our FISTS membership number (#11900) our club callsign, N3AQC, now also has an SKCC number - #17510. Our memberships in these fine organizations shows our joint commitment to the promotion of CW on the amateur bands. By the way, N3AQC can be used by local chapters and individual members for special operations. Contact club president Paul, N8XMS, if you would like to use N3AQC for an operating event.
- **BETA TESTERS NEEDED FOR SPRINT LOGGER.** Ron, AC2C, has developed a logger for our NAQCC sprints that is very similar to the one that he created for the SKCC sprints that many of you may be familiar with. This logger is an alternative to GenLog, providing similar functionality and an output that is fully compatible with our Autologger page requirements. The program is designed to run in Windows 8 or higher but has also been used on Macs using CrossOver and on Linux under Wine. We would like to have a few people beta-test this logger for a couple of months and then serve as resource people for anyone that might have some questions about it. If you would like to be one of these beta testers please contact me, Paul, N8XMS, using the email listed on the *Contacts* page of this newsletter.
- **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.”



NAQCC 13TH ANNIVERSARY!



Time does fly when you are having fun and it's hard to believe that we are now going to be celebrating the 13th anniversary of the North American QRP CW Club! Our celebration this year is bigger and better than ever and here is a rundown of the great celebration activities that you can participate in.

Our party will run from 0000Z October 9 UTC (Sunday evening October 8th in North America) through 2400Z October 15 UTC (the following Sunday evening). 48 NAQCC members (see the list at the end of this article) are teaming up to put special event stations N1A, N2A, N3A, N4A, N5A, N6A, N7A, N8A, N9A, and N0A, on the air using QRP/CW from every call district in the United States. QSLs and certificates are available for working these stations and a very special certificate can be earned for sweeping all 10 call districts. There is no set schedule for N#A operations but they will all be spotted using our special webpage at http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php. QSL information can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

On Tuesday evening of that week all 10 N#A calls will be participating in our special anniversary sprint (0030-0230Z, Oct 11 UTC) and that could be a good time to try and pick up that call district sweep. Every member who makes at least one sprint QSO and submits their log by the submission deadline will be automatically entered into a drawing where 10 great prizes will be given away. I won't reveal what the prizes are other than to say that from a monetary standpoint this is the largest giveaway that we have ever had! Sprint details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201710.html> and information about the prize drawing is at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.

This year we have added to our anniversary celebration for those of you that enjoy our monthly challenges. A special drawing will be held to give away three nice keying-device prizes. The drawing will be held shortly after the challenge submission deadline in November and any member who completes at least one of the alphabet challenge words and sends in their report will be automatically entered in the drawing. Details about both the challenge and the drawing can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.html>.

So turn on your rig, tune-up your antenna, and get ready to have some fun celebrating the 13th anniversary of what I claim is the best club in the world dedicated to QRP/CW operating!

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We would like to thank the following NAQCC members who have volunteered their time and equipment to put our special callsigns on the air during our celebration week. Calls in red will be operating N#A during our sprint.

N1A - W4YFJ W2APF K1RID AB1VL NF1U K1IX
N2A - W2SH N2JJF K2CM AA2VG
N3A - K3WWP KC2EGL WB3FAE KC3RN W3TTT AH6AX W3TTT NR3Z W3RL N3IOD N3HEE
N4A - K4KBL K4ARQ KA3OCS K7HB WB4OMM KJ4R WA4ZOF K4BAI N4EEV
N5A - WA5KZP W5WIL N5ZN WI5H
N6A - KG6UBG N6IET K6MGO
N7A - K7TQ N7CQR
N8A - N8XMS WB8LZG N8VW
N9A - KD9VT WB9HFK AC9EZ
N0A - KN1CBR K6XT WA0ZSU



FASCINATING STRAIGHT KEY BY CHARLES, VE4AKI



When I was first licensed in 1984 sending and receiving the code at 10 wpm was a requirement. I learned to send code with an Ameco [Radio Shack] straight key and used this key for my first few years of operation. After much practice and a couple of attempts I succeeded in achieving the advanced level which required proficiency at 15 wpm. With new privileges time was divided between SSB and CW operation. The old straight key was Replaced with an electronic keyer and homebrew paddle.

Although I preferred using the keyer for day to day operation the fascination with the straight key remained. So began the building of a small key collection. Ham flea markets and swap meets yielded a variety of keys of various types and vintages. Some were in good condition and some needed work. The XYL contributed a few key and sounder combinations [KOB's] from local antique shops. A few homebrew paddles and straight keys have brought the collection up to a modest 22 instruments for sending code. Types and ages vary from a 1918 telegraph key, 1930's key and sounders, WW II armed forces keys and more recent examples for ham radio use.

Rather than letting the keys collect dust on the shelf I decided a while back to devote one day a week to using a straight key using a different one each week. Most of the keys in the collection had not been used extensively. Some interesting observations have resulted from this exercise.

Each key I have been using in this exercise has a distinctive feel and sound. Some are very quiet like the Navy Flameproof and some make a rather loud and distinct click like the Signal Electric KOB. Some have a smooth feel like the Western Union Polechanger and some have a mechanical feel like the Canadian Army Tank key. Although all of these keys are useable for sending code some are more pleasant to use due to their individual characteristics. Different operators favor different characteristics, whether they have a light touch or a heavy fist, whether they prefer their arm flat on the table or above the table in the European style. These are Some of the factors that determine which type of key suits you best.

A few of the keys in this modest collection stand out. The U.S. Navy flameproof key is very quiet, has a very precise feel and its mushroom shaped knob provides an excellent grip. The U.S. Army J-38 key, many of which have been made and used still provides a nice feel and smooth operation. Perhaps the most remarkable key is the 1918 Bunnell steel lever key which still provides a very nice feel and distinctive sound in spite of its near 100 year age. Lastly is the recent era Ameco K-4 key that I started with 33 years ago. It still provides a satisfying feel and sound and holds its own in this varied collection.

Although I prefer to use the keyer and paddle for most operation, I do enjoy returning to the roots of telegraphy and recognize this humble device still has its place in today's world.



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.

EDDIE BRADSHAW, KJ4R, #8048



I got interested in radio in 1985 during my last year in college. I ran across a copy of “Shortwave Listeners Guide” in a pile of discarded library books. I grew up in the 1970’s, and as a young teenager I would lay in my bed at night with a little transistor radio placed to my ear and listen to WLS, WCBS, WOWO, and many other AM stations that I can’t remember now.

The copy of “Shortwave Listeners Guide” made me aware that there was a lot more to be heard than just AM broadcast stations. I went to our local Radio Shack store at the first available opportunity and bought a DX-66 shortwave receiver. I spent many hours listening to shortwave stations from all over the world as well as hearing garbled SSB signals. The DX-66 didn’t have a BFO, and anything other than AM was unintelligible. I spent a few years listening with the DX-66 and decided I wanted to upgrade to a better receiver. I bought an Icom R71A and it opened the world of SSB, CW, and amateur radio to me.

Shortly after getting the 71, I got interested in getting my ham license. The written test wouldn’t be too bad, because I studied electronics in college, but the code was another matter. I rode around for months in my truck playing those 5 WPM cassette code tapes over and over until I felt I was ready to try for my Novice license. The week before I took my test, a local ham had a Kenwood TS 530 for sale and

I bought the rig as a way of adding incentive to pass the test. I figured if I spent money on a rig, then surely I was committed to getting my license. I passed the Novice written and 5 WPM code test in early 1993 and became KD4VKP. I also made myself a promise..... I put the microphone in a drawer and I would not use it until I passed the 20 wpm test. It took a while between work and other obligations, but in 1995 I passed the 20 wpm test. I still prefer and love CW and almost 99% of my operating is CW. For keys I have a Nye Viking straight key, an old Speed – X straight key, an MFJ Iambic paddle and my favorite, a Vibroplex bug.

Until about two years ago, most of my time on the air was spent trying to work new ones for DXCC, DXCC challenge, and US counties. That changed when I found John, K3WWP's website. I always had a passing interest in QRP, but for some reason I just never had done anything with QRP. Reading John's website and finding the NAQCC peaked my interest and I bought a Hendricks PFR-3B kit. I wanted to build a kit and when I was done, it would allow me to have a dedicated QRP rig. I put the rig together and to my surprise it worked! My first contact was with W1PID in NH and I was immediately hooked on QRP.

Since that time I've made hundreds of contacts using QRP and my simple homemade vertical antenna. I have a true ham shack.....99% of my operating is done from a small building in my back yard where I have my station set up. It gets hot in the summer and cold in the winter since I only have a fan for A/C and a small space heater to warm up things a little. If my CW gets choppy in the winter it's probably due to my hand being almost frozen!

Having been bitten by the award bug early on, I was naturally inclined to see what could be done with QRP. I was really amazed at how easy it was to work DX and it only took a little over a year of casual operating to get QRP DXCC. I'm still working on the QRP WAS. I need WA and my own state of SC to finish up QRP WAS.

I really enjoy the NAQCC challenges each month and I have a lot of good rag chews that remind me of my early novice days. For a long time I had moved into the "UR 599 73 TU" QSO mode, but now I find I'm really enjoying getting back to having good rag chews that often go on until my wrist gets tired. The sprints are also a lot of fun and I look forward to participating in them each month. I have to say that getting involved with the NAQCC and QRP has really put the fun back in ham radio for me. A nice plus is that since I've started being active in the NAQCC activities, I've made a lot of progress with working more US counties.

I work as a controls design engineer for a medical device company and most of my work involves working with PLC's (programmable logic controllers) and machine vision systems. I've been married to the same wonderful woman for almost 31 years. We have two grown daughters but so far I'm the only one in my family that has any interest in radio. My other hobbies are playing the guitar, hiking / backpacking, and cycling. My dream is to through hike the Appalachian Trail when I retire if I'm still in good enough shape to try it. I might even take a QRP rig if I can find one light enough! I feel very blessed to be part of such a great hobby and a great club.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our sprint this month will be on October 11 from 0030-0230 UTC (the evening of Tuesday the 10th in North America) and it's a **BIG ONE**, celebrating our club's 13th anniversary. Every member who makes at least one QSO in the sprint and submits their log by the deadline will be automatically entered into a special anniversary prize drawing that will be held about a week and a half after the sprint. You can find information about the prize drawing at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html. Complete information about the sprint itself can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201710.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: Band conditions were generally poor across the country and participation was a little bit down for our September sprint. 105 logs (104 + 1 late log) were submitted showing a total of 164 sprint participants. We had quite a few non-members participate in the sprint and we certainly hope that they will join the NAQCC in the very near future. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201709.html>.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: N7TES KK7A WA0ZSU

SPRINT SCHEDULE AVAILABLE: The schedule for our 2018 sprints is now available in both text and digital form at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html.

BETA TESTERS NEEDED FOR NEW SPRINT LOGGER: A new Windows based sprint logger that is similar to the one used by the SKCC folks for their sprints has been developed by Ron, AC2C. Please see the announcement on page 2 of this newsletter for details.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H		
W2	W2SH	W2NRA	
W3	AH6AX	K3JZD	
W4	K4KBL	W4OEP	K4BAI
W5	N5GW		
W6	WK6L		
W7	N7KM	KF7WNS	
W8	W3NP	WB8LZG WV8DH	
W9	WB9HFK	K9JWI	
W0	N0TA	K8UDH	
VE	VE2BZO		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	WB2LQF		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KJ4R		
W5	WI5H		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	AC8JW		
W9	N9SE		
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N2CN	
W2	K2YGM	AA2VG	
W3	K3RLL		
W4	KB9ILT	N4MJ	
W5	KE5YUM		
W6	KG6UGB		
W7	KG7VAK		
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	K9EYT		
W0	K9OSC		
VE	VE7YU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
			K7TQ

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	WA0ZSU		KK7A
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
WM4AA			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	105	125	217	4/17
Participants	164	201	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1354	2204	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	740	1184	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	614	1020	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	83	251	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	981	1838	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	290	115	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.9	17.6	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+	NU7T(SK) NO2D WA8SAN N0TA WG8Y NA4O AA9L N8BB WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P NQ2W KA9FQG WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC K6CSL KB0ETU K9EYT N5GW AK3X KC2EGL K2YGM VE5BC(SK) K4ORD N8LA
75+	K4NVJ K1IEE N4FI KD0V WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) W4DUK WB8ENE VE3FUJ KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE WX4RM
100+	WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL
125+	W2SH KA2KGP W2JEK W9CC
150+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our October challenge is an alphabet challenge that is in keeping with the Halloween season and works with a list of classic spooky movies. But on top of that fun we are also celebrating the 13th anniversary of the NAQCC with a **special challenge prize drawing**. Any member who completes at least one of the challenge words this month and sends in their report by the submission deadline will be automatically entered into the drawing. You can find more information about both the challenge and the drawing at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.html>.

The European challenge is an alphabet challenge working with the authors of some famous European fairy tales. And remember, you don't have to be located in Europe to participate in the European challenge. Many North American members have successfully completed them. The list for October can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2017-challenge/>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The North American challenge in November will be another alphabet challenge working with a list of words from land-line telegraphy. Details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201711.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.

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The deadline for submitting entries for the September grid square challenge is still a few days away but early reports indicate that this new type of challenge ended up being fairly easy for our members to complete. A similar challenge scheduled for next year has already been toughened up. You can go to <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201709.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/september-2017-challenge/>.

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+	KU4A K9OSC KD0V PA0XAW WY3H N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU KD2MX WA2FBN
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: WAC Simple Wire Antenna Award

This is the classic Worked All Continents award with our usual club twist - you have to do it with CW/ QRP and a simple wire antenna. See <http://www.naqcc.info/faqsinfo.html> for our club definition of a "simple wire antenna." Essentially it's a non-gain type of antenna even though it might not actually be made of wire. The award has endorsements for 2XQRP and QRPP. You can see complete details at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wacswa.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW AWARD

0534 KC2EGL VK3CWB - 2,027 09/25/17 110' Random wire

Alphabet Prefix Award - USA 100 Prefixes

0013 - WI5H 09/22/17



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. 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)	Monday 7:30 PM CT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7117 KHz	Bob, W0CC (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	3556.5 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 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 QRQ (FRN) 40 and 80 Meter Nets

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PDT (Monday 0000 UTC) on 7056 kHz +/-
 Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PDT (Monday 0300 UTC) on 3556 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Rick N6IET (California); Backup NCS - JB NR5NN (California)

2017-09-04 0000z (8) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, KW6G, KE6EE, W7SAG, K6GVG, N7HRK/M, NR5NN

2017-09-04 0300z (6) K6GVG, KW6G, W7SAG, AI6U, N6IET

2017-09-11 0000z (2) W6B/N6IET, W7SAG

2017-09-11 0300z (5) W6B/N6IET, KW6G, AI6SL, KE6EE, W7SAG

2017-09-18 0000z (7) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, KW6G, N7HRK/m, K6GVG, KE6EE, AI6SL

2017-09-18 0300z (5) N6IET NCS, W7SAG, K6GVG, AI6SL, K7KY
2017-09-25 0000z (8) N6IET NCS, NR5NN co-NCS, N7HRK/M, W7SAG/P, KE6EE, AI6SL, WU7F
2017-09-25 0300z (5) N6IET, AI6SL, NR5NN, KW6G, KE6EE

We've been having lots of fun discussing antennas, noise sources and noise reduction, RFI/TVI problems and solutions, keys and paddles, propagation, QRP rigs and portable operation, the RT66 OTA Event, you name it - we've discussed it, this month.

Our current net schedule is working pretty nicely and will probably be good until the end of Daylight Savings Time. We rarely have perfect NVIS and long distance propagation (over 600 miles) at the same time on either band. We need sunlight to even have a prayer of NVIS on 40m, but even a little sunlight causes lots of D-layer absorption over longer distances. On 80 meters, lower antenna transmitting efficiency (shorter and/or lower antennas in terms of wavelengths) and lingering absorption limits long-distance signal strengths, even after dark.

With everybody's help (comparison signal reports) we have determined that the AlphaLoop- and AlexLoop-style magnetic loop antennas made with LMR400 just don't cut the mustard on 40 thru 80 meters at low power, compared with longer wire antennas or even mobile whips, with proper ground counterpoises.

JB finally solved his RFI/TVI problems by routing his dipole away from his rooftop. Nothing involving ferrite chokes, baluns, or ununs made much difference. And a beefy "noise filtering" ferrite choke made no difference to my received sources of noise, including plasma TV, elevator motor hash, or my S8 background noise level.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

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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 Reports

=====
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)

2017/9/5 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

No luck tonight. Tried 40 and 80 meters and no replays. Found out Andy (KE5YGA) was hearing me just fine but was having problems with his rig so no output power. He has since found the problem and should be in there next week I hope.

2017/9/12 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

Well, same result as last week. Andy (KE5YGA) got his rig working but I still did not hear him last night. Called on 7.064 and 3.565 with no response. Conditions are still bad from the solar flare I guess.

2017/9/19 NIL

My luck continues. Thunder storms and lightning at net time Monday so I was QRT.
We needed the rain but the timing is terrible.
We will be there next week.

9/26/17 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA

The signals were outstanding. Andy was 599 QRO and tried QRP with a 579. I was QRP thru out the net and he gave me a 579.

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.

Net recommenced September 18 thanks to Bob Tenny - W0CC so let's give him a warm welcome as the new Midwest net controller.

2017/9/18 QNI (1) W0CC

I promptly started at 1930 local and kept calling until 2000 without any response. There was a moderate amount of QRN. Shortly before I started, VE4AKI was calling CQ and, receiving no response, he QSY. There was much less QRN in the lower end of the band. I do not know how many stations read the posting of no activity until Oct 2 and did not try to tune in? I will be here for you on Sept 25.

2107/9/25 QNI (1) W0CC

S-8 QRN. Heard some other stations up and down (10+ KHz) from calling frequency, but no one close. Thanks for the opportunity.

=====

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.

The weather is crisp, the leaves are turning, the breeze has a little edge to it, and the KEYS are getting ready to chatter. Are YOU ready? Check into the Rocky Mountain Regional and Continental net on Tuesday and Thursday on 14.0625 at 4pm MT, followed immediately on 7.0625. The NCS will match your speed. Let's get ready for Key Chatter

=====

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)

2017/9/6 QNI NCS N8ZYA W8GDP

I received an e-mail from Russ K3LT earlier in the day. He was not able to check in tonight. John W8GDP and I had a long QSO about the weather moving into Florida. He has a brother who lives right on the coast and is moving inland about a hundred miles with the hopes of avoiding the very worst of the storm. It's been a terrible couple of weeks in Texas and Louisiana. Now it looks like another terrible week for Florida. Band conditions not the very best but we enjoyed the QSO tonight. I used my straight key.

=====

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)

2017/09/08 QNI (3) WB4SPB NCS, KG7JEB, K7JUV

2017/09/15 QNI (5) KE7LKW NCS, KE7JEB, WB4SPB, W7ANM, AD7BP.

2017/09/22 QNI (6) KE7LKW NCS, KE7JEB, WB4SPB, W7ANM, AD7BP, KG7VTO.



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 QUIPS "Hand Microphone"



A True Voice Operated "Hand Microphone"



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.

"If it didn't fall down last winter, it wasn't big enough!"

Or so the saying goes. Yes, it is fall in Maine and time to check those antennas before winter sets in. This month I would like to highlight a couple of projects our members have been working on. The first would be Dick, W1KRP (#8396) Portable End Fed antenna.



"W1KRP's 9:1 Unun"

Dick started off by winding the transformer. Being the frugal yankee that he is a suitable "Project box" was just laying around the house.



"W1KRP Antenna Deployed and Station"

Dick says: "Using a MFJ 1910 fiberglass pole 29 ft of 16 ga. stranded wire hoisted up. Two radials 1-8', 1-16'. Used HB1B QRP rig thru a LDG 817 tuner. Tuned up great on 20 and 30. 40 was a bit of a chore but a longer radial would cure that."

Next, a 30m W8JK flat-top beam built by John, KQ1P (#3113)



"KQ1P's 30 W8JK Flat-top)

John says: "I built the whole antenna with twin-lead (a deal I found at Marden's). It is a powerhouse for QRP- I made DXCC using it from 40m on up with a tuner. The antenna was designed for 30m. I added dotted lines to show the antenna in place (in part). The red lines are the half-wave dipole portions. The magenta lines are the phasing lines. The antenna is feed half-way between the two dipoles. Other wires are visible since this antenna now is inside my 80m horizontal loop.

The antenna is broadly bi-directional. I had it oriented due east-west until the roofers broke it (another story!). I decided to re-orient it NW-SE to help me get into Asia better. Years ago I had a Zepp oriented along this axis and I worked into Japan often."



"KA1DBE Antenna Farm?"

I will conclude this month with a picture of my own antenna farm. In that pile there is a Hygain DX-88, Hygain 6BTV, Carolina 80 window, beams for 6 meters, 2 meters, and 70 centimeters, and probably a few more. The move back to 1 land has kept me busy this summer and I have been squeaking by using

my portable antennas. Old man winter is knocking so I think it is about time I move this project up the list.

That is all from Downeast Maine. See you down the log.

73/72

Jeff, KA1DBE

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER

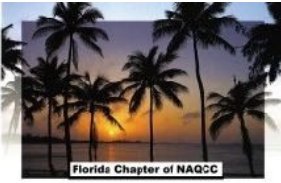


Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MWOMIE.

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 Florida Chapter – October 1, 2017

Well, doing our September outing would have been quite the challenge with three – count'em – three hurricanes in the Atlantic basin!! Irma, Lee, and Maria caused quite the mess in Florida, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico from mid-month on. It was scary. It was not fun.

Here in the Daytona Beach area, Irma slapped us around with some wind and rain – minor flooding, trees down, power loss for up to a week in some locations, but to be quite candid, we were lucky, very lucky. Within a few days we were pretty much back to normal. Not so for our friends in some other locations in the State, and our comrades in the islands and PR were just plain flattened! Our own Bob W2EJG lost his home (apartment complex flooded) and has been moved to another residence temporarily until his unit is repaired.....probably several months. Please keep these folks in your thoughts and prayers.

All of our parks are clear although there are still mounds of vegetation around the county waiting to be picked up. So with that being said, and no immediate weather emergencies looming in the waters off our coast, we are planning out next Parkpedition for Friday, October 20th, 2017 at Sunrise Park in Holly Hill, FL. Usual suspects, times, frequencies. You can access our Web Page for our schedule and information here: <https://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/> .

Hope to “see” you all on the air soon!

72/73,
Steve WB4OMM #5913

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



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

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/>.

No report available.

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/>.

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.

September featured a couple of nice events which I will talk about in a moment. First though some info about our portable operations.

It can be disappointing sometimes when we only make a few QSOs. After the slow going at the Requin, Mike and I put our heads together to try to figure out why we don't make more QSOs at times.

First of all, when we announce times and frequencies they are only a starting point and can't be guaranteed to be precise to the exact minute and kilohertz. If a frequency is busy or you just don't hear us, be sure to tune up and down 1 or 2 kHz to see if we had to move. Or if we can only operate a single band at a time as we must do on the Requin, check within 1 or 2 kHz of the frequencies on the other announced bands.

Generally we try to stick to announced times and bands for the first hour or so if we can operate only one band at a time. For example 1500-1530Z on 7041, 1530-1600Z on 10117, and 1600Z on 14059. After that we will go back to what we determine to be the best band(s) for the remainder of our operation. If one band seems to be dead, we'll try which of the other band(s) seemed to be the more active. Keep in mind that conditions do change, often quickly, so we may just give the band(s) that seemed dead earlier another shot later in the day. Ideally we will have 2 or more antennas and 2 or more ops so we can operate 2 or more bands simultaneously, but that doesn't happen all the time, especially on the USS Requin which has only one antenna.

Basically remember to tune around and look for us if you don't hear us. Don't just give up. We're definitely there pretty much continuously on 1, 2, or 3 bands depending on the antenna situation. If you come back an hour later, the bands may have changed completely and you could then hear and work us easily.

OK, now on to what we did in September.

Sun Sep 10 - As it is every time Mike and I get together, it's a great day. Today was no exception. Mike and I made out a time schedule via email for our day and stuck pretty much to it. We planned to start with breakfast at Ponderosa in Butler around 8:30. So we headed out a little before 8, arrived in time and were off to the BCARA hamfest in Unionville near Butler a bit past 9. We were checked in by Rick N3VKM who was the one who asked me to do the QRP/CW presentation at their club in November 2015. It was good to see him again. We then looked up Tom WB3FAE who was in charge of serving coffee. Mike and I then scanned all the tailgaters looking for some particular plugs which we never did find. Along the way we met with some of Mike's friends and my friends. We were surprised not to find Bob WC3O who is usually one of the first people we see at any ham gathering. We did find him though and discussed different things including the goings on at the Skyview club where we were a couple weeks ago. We also talked with a couple other Skyview members along the way. We got Tom to take a break from his coffee serving so we could get a group picture of me, Mike, Tom, and Bob. The Skyview member who took the picture with Bob's camera was Dewey W3VYK, whom I see on the Skyview web site is Chairman of the Board at Skyview. Sorry, but I never received the picture from Bob to post here.

Mike bought a bunch of 50-50 tickets so although we had pretty much checked everything out, he wanted to wait a little while longer for the drawing since the winner had to be present. When the drawing time came we happened to be standing near the ticket barrel. One of the BCARA members mixed up the tickets in the barrel, but he didn't want to make the drawing and asked for someone to do it. I said, "since I don't have any tickets, I'll do it." Turns out the ticket I drew at random belonged to the same Dewey who took the picture. When he came to get his winnings, I told him I made the drawing and kidded him about sharing the prize with me. That led to us talking about the Skyview club and he said that he'd be interested in having Mike and me come to Skyview sometime and the three of us could play around with the antennas. We told him we'd think about that. It sounded very tempting.

After that we headed back home for a stop at Walmart. We picked up some things there then came home here. We checked the bands and found them wanting, to say the least. There was nothing at all on 40 through 17 meters. So it was playing some hidden object games on the computer. After that, we decided to head off to Wendy's for a mid afternoon snack. We both had baconators. I had a frosty and Mike had some kind of pop and a baked potato. Back home again and another check of the bands showed about the same thing. So we went for a 2+ mile walk. On the bands again, things picked up just enough so that Mike could work PV8ADI with some effort. Back on the computer after that for a while, then Mike had to head home as Monday was a workday for him.

Sun Sep 24 - Let's see, which gave me more pleasure today, working with Mike KC2EGL on the USS Requin or watching Mike work VK3CWB in Australia on 30M at my place after we got home. How about a coin flip. Oooops, it landed on edge so I guess both were about equal.

Mike arrived a little past 8AM and we kibitzed a bit about this and that then headed for our encounter at the Requin. We arrived at the gate around 9:45AM and the two hosts let us in. We met Art at the radio room and chatted with him for a while as we were setting up to operate.

When we did get to operating just after 10AM, things went very slowly. Unfortunately the frequencies we announced along with our alternate frequencies were occupied by other activities most of the time so the QSOs came slowly as we had to move up or down the band a bit to find a clear spot. We figure the slowness was due to one of a couple of reasons. Either folks didn't tune up and down a bit looking for us, or folks believe the info that because the sunspots are dropping off, it isn't worthwhile even looking for us. So after we got tired of not getting any answers to our CQs we decided to tune around ourselves and look for stations to work. We easily worked VE7RAC operating for the 150th anniversary of Canada. Then the Texas QSO Party provided a lot of fun as we were easily working stations that way with our QRP and the simple vertical antenna on the Requin. Most all the TX QSOs came from just a single call. So conditions were NOT that bad, by any means.

We did wind up with 23 QSOs, 16 20M, 4 30M, 3 40M. A total of 11 states and the one VE province. Most QSOs were from the TX QSO Party.

Regular newsletter readers have seen pictures of us at the Requin before, but for those who haven't, we took some new pictures. Below at top left is Mike operating and at top right me operating. Below that are two shots of the Requin.

(pictures on next page)



When things really slowed down to a crawl, we decided to call it quits around 2:15PM and head home. Although we didn't make all that many QSOs, we did have a great time interacting with the Requin visitors. Some had served on subs or ships in the Armed Forces. Others recognized that we were using Morse Code. We got a lot of good questions about the sub and ham radio. Hopefully we answered them all satisfactorily. It was a bit tricky at times copying CW while chatting with the folks. All in all a really great time.

Now it was time for some other activities. We stopped at Best Buy in the Pittsburgh Mills where I bought a new digital camera. Then to Chili's where I got my favorite California Turkey sandwich with onion rings and Mike got the endless Chili/Salad meal. Then here at home again, we totalled up our sub results, then set up my camera. After that off to the shack to chase some DX.

That was the second equal highlight of the day. Mike and I tuned around to find some DX for Mike to work. He and I both found a couple of stations who weren't hearing him. Finally though I did find and he worked EI2HI on 30 meters. Then I looked again and found a real prize - VK3CWB. I had worked him on 30 meters before, and I told Mike I was pretty sure he could get him. Well it wasn't easy but fortunately Moz stuck with Mike and they did finish a good QSO. Possibly it was a long path QSO. I think I was almost as excited as Mike. A lot of the things I've worked are now in a sense, "old hat" and although I still enjoy working them, it isn't as thrilling as the first time I've worked them. So I get more kicks vicariously watching Mike work something like the Australian. He checked later at home and said that was only his second CW QSO with Australia.

Sep 27 - Monthly Pizza night with Mike. Also we made up some power pole jumper cables to use when we operate portable at Skyview, the Requin, parkpeditions, etc. This way we don't have to disconnect our shack cables.

In October we're looking forward to club anniversary week and our annual Columbus Day operation of N3A from Kittanning Community Park. That will be on October 9. Our schedule will be announced via the NAQCC email list. Study it and keep in mind the information about our operations presented at the start of this newsletter item. Hopefully we'll be able to give out many N3A QSOs to you all.



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.

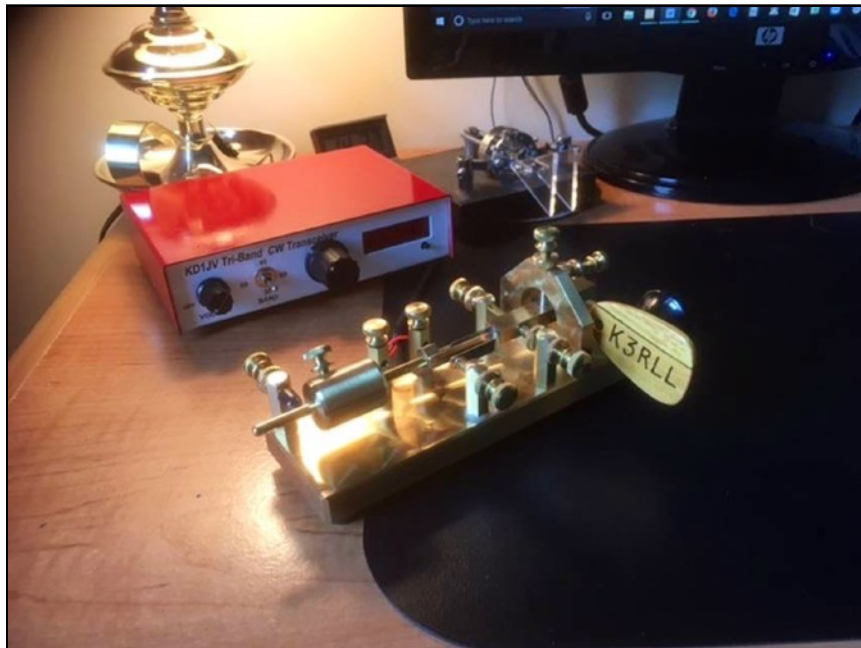
From Don, K3RLL, #1905 —

Don achieved the 100-sprint participation level last month and was awarded a nice key fob / paddle finger piece made by Gregg, WB8LZG, to commemorate this achievement. He sent this in after receiving his award. It sure looks great on that beautiful sideways bug! - Editor

The superb personalized call-sign key fob arrived in the morning mail here in Greater New Bethlehem. I'm really blown away. It is nothing as I pictured. Another of Gregg's wonderful wooden creations?

What a truly nice commemoration of the 100-Sprint milestone!

Thank you,
Don



From Jock, N1JI, #7012 —

I always get a kick out of a new "CW Sighting." That's what I call it when I experience Morse Code in an unexpected place. My most recent sighting was while watching Episode 13 of My Mother the Car on YouTube. Captain Manzini (played by Avery Schreiber) is speaking on a walkie-talkie and ends his transmission by saying "Over and out - di dah di dah dit."

"Di dah di dah dit" is the procedure signal AR, which means "End of Message." I didn't believe I'd heard it correctly until I played it back several times. That's definitely what he said. You can listen for yourself by going to <http://bit.do/mymotherthecar>. This link will start the video about 30 seconds before the CW reference.

I don't make a habit out of watching My Mother the Car, but I'd heard it's one of the worst TV shows of all time, so I decided to check it out. It's not great, but I've seen worse!

For anyone who's interested, I've posted some other CW Sightings on my web page at <http://qsl.net/n1ji/cwsightings.shtml>. My favorite one was the IV pump I was hooked up to for a few days in 2001. It gave out status messages in Morse Code.

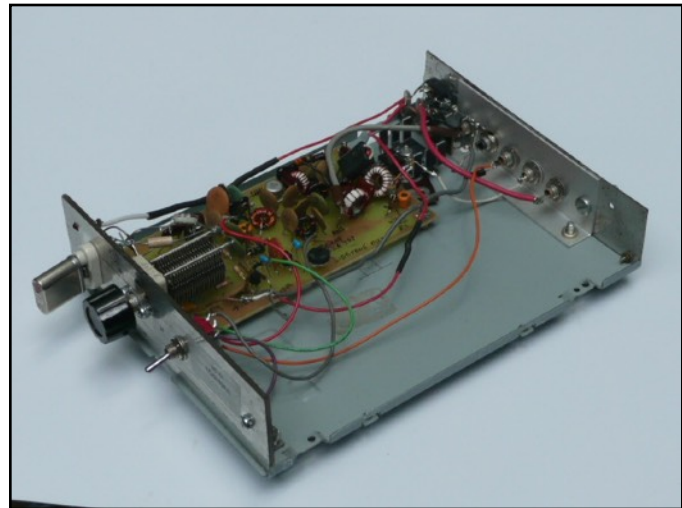
From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

The CD player enclosure from an obsolete or defunct PC makes a nice cabinet for a homebrew project. After de-energizing the power supply, the CD player assembly is removed and gutted. This yields an approximately 1.5 X 5.5 X 7.5 inch two-piece steel enclosure held together with three or four fixation screws (Photo 1).



The front and back ends are then covered by two rectangular panels made of tinned, double-sided circuit board held in place by screws or small brackets. Tinning can be achieved by slowly sweeping a small-wattage soldering iron back and forth across the board while intermittently applying small amounts of solder. All sockets, switches, controls, access holes and such can be cut or drilled through the pc board. Only a few small screw holes need to be drilled through the steel.

The second photo shows such an enclosure containing a version of the Deluxe 5-W QRP Transmitter from W1FB's QRP NOTEBOOK. A final photo reveals the innards. Notice there is room for another circuit board which could be a keyer, a compact receiver or other device. (see next page)



From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

I had a lot of good moments in September, some of which are described in the WPA Chapter news above and I won't repeat here.

The Grid Square challenge was one of the easiest challenges ever in my opinion after I thought it might be a little tricky when I first read the rules. I finished around midday on the 3rd, making both 72 and 73 with just 10 QSOs.

I think a lot of folks missed out on the great conditions we had when the solar flux was 100 or more from the 2nd through the 10th, peaking at 183 on the 4th. Anomalies like that do happen now and then as we slip towards the sunspot minimum. It was easy to work Europe again, and 17 meters opened nicely. I worked KH6ZM easily on 17. However there should have been a lot more activity. A lot of folks just don't bother checking the bands which is the only way to really tell what is going on. If there is no activity and still the band seems good, call CQ. I often get contacts on a 'dead' band by calling CQ.

Speaking of calling CQ, I figured out some stats on the days I had little else to do (those days are few and far between). I found I have made 156 DX QSOs in 52 countries in all continents from my calling CQ (just CQ, not CQ DX). I have all states but Hawaii from CQs. I've worked 16 CQ Zones from CQs. I mention that because it is often said you can't make (DX) QSOs via CQ with QRP and simple wire antennas. Obviously it's not as easy as with a KW and beam, but it can be done.

September 8 marked the 21st anniversary of starting my ham radio web site. I talked about that in my diary at k3wwp.com so I won't repeat the info here. In the diary entry are links to how my site looked in past years going back to 1998.

You know my love of statistics and over the years I've started a few times to figure out how many of the top level administrative divisions I've worked in various countries. I mean like states in the USA, counties in England, Prefectures in Japan and the like. I usually would do one or two countries, then get distracted by something else. This month however I've gotten further than I ever have before. Here's a table of what I've found so far listing the country, the type of division, how many there are, and how many I've worked.

United States	States	50	50
Canada	Provinces/Territories	13	13
Australia	States	9	5
Austria	States	9	8
Brazil	States	27	18
Croatia	Counties	21	18
Cuba	Provinces	16	13
Czech Republic	Regions	14	14
England	Counties/Cities	47	41
Finland	Regions	20	17
France	Regions	18	13 (so far, still more to check)
Germany	States	16	16
Greece	Regions	13	9
Hungary	Counties	20	17
Italy	Regions	20	18
Japan	Prefectures	47	33
Mexico	States	32	19
Norway	Counties	19	12
Poland	Provinces	16	16
Slovenia	Regions	13	11
Spain	Autonomies	19	17
Sweden	Counties	21	19
Switzerland	Cantons	26	13

Besides satisfying my thirst for dealing with statistics, I'm also learning a lot about the countries involved as I attempt to find (usually through Wikipedia) in which division a municipality is located.

Finally as I type on September 30, I just worked TI5/N3KS to continue my daily DX streak another full month for a total of 55 full months now.



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 contest 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

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



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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