

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 233 NOVEMBER 2017



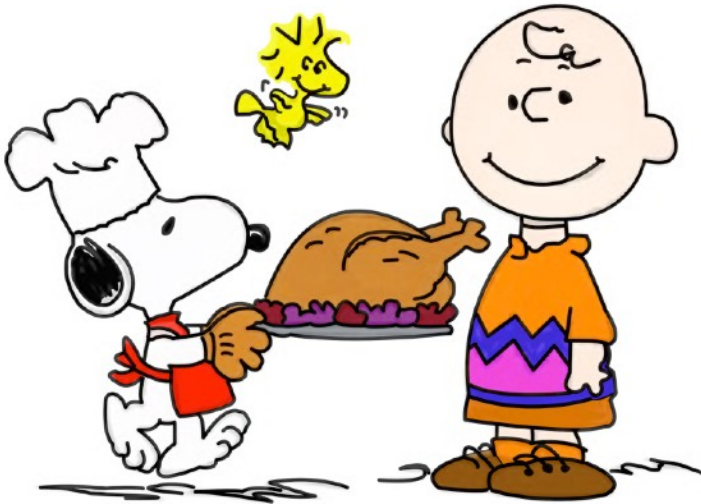
KEY CLICKS

- **N#A SPECIAL EVENT OPERATORS SET NEW CELEBRATION RECORD.** Our team of volunteer N#A operators made a total of 1718 QSOs during our week-long 13th anniversary celebration last month. A full report about all of our anniversary events can be seen in the feature article in this newsletter.
- **ADDITIONAL BETA TESTERS NEEDED.** last month we asked for beta testers for a new sprint logging application that has been developed by Ron, AC2C. Results in last month's anniversary sprint were very positive but we still need a little more help. Specifically we are now looking for a few more testers who do not have any previous experience with the SKCC logger which is very similar to the one that is under development. So if you have never used the SKCC logger, have familiarity with our NAQCC sprints and are planning on operating in the next couple of sprints, and would like to help test this new logger, please contact me and I can get you set up with the logger. Paul, N8XMS
- **PLEASE DOUBLE CHECK YOUR MONTHLY CHALLENGE SUBMISSION.** Recently we have had two monthly challenge submissions that did not get delivered to our submission processor, Hap, K7HAP. We don't know what happened to these submissions - they were definitely sent, and they were definitely not received. (My personal theory is that there are tiny little gremlins who inhabit the world wide web, called weblins, and who's only purpose in life is to cause mischief and wreak havoc with internet users.) So we are recommending that you periodically check the challenge webpage to make sure that your submission has been posted. If it's been a couple of weeks since you submitted, or the final results have been posted after the deadline, and your submission isn't there please contact Hap and we will try to get it straightened out.
- **MFJ AND VIBROPLEX PROVIDED OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE NAQCC.** We want to give "credit to whom credit is due." Most of the prizes that were given away in our 13th Anniversary Sprint prize drawing were provided to us by MFJ at a very significant discount. Not only that, but only 2 days after we placed the order with MFJ we heard from one of the winners that their prize had already been delivered! Big savings and speedy delivery - thank you MFJ! Although we only gave away one Vibroplex product, they also gave us a "virtual discount" by making a monetary donation to the NAQCC. We certainly appreciate their support of our club as well.

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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.”



Happy
Thanksgiving!

2017 ANNIVERSARY REPORT



A beautiful Bayou Jumper transceiver used by AA2VG for part of his N2A operating.

The thirteenth anniversary of the North American QRP CW Club was celebrated in grand style throughout the month of October with most of the activities taking place during the week of the 9th through the 15th.

That week started out with 37 volunteer operators taking to the air (QRP/CW of course) with our 10 N#A special event callsigns. In spite of the generally poor band conditions that were experienced all over the country, this team of great operators combined to make more than 1700 QSOs - a new record for our anniversary celebrations! Every state except Alaska was worked along with British Columbia, Manitoba, Ontario, and Quebec provinces in Canada. The poor propagation significantly limited the DX that was worked but DL, EA, EA6, EA8, F, G, HA, I, LY, OE, ON, P4, PY, SM, and XE managed to find their way into the logs. Some interesting statistics along with soapbox comments from the operators can be seen at the end of this article.

One of our N3A operators, Joe N3HEE, put in an absolutely amazing effort, making 476 contacts over the course of the week. Not only did Joe complete a lot of special event QSOs, but he also used the call for strong performances in our NAQCC sprint, the PA QSO party, and the CWT contest that week. Other significant individual efforts were made by KA3OCS with 200 QSOs, and K7TQ with 138 contacts. But even the operators who were only able to complete a few QSOs were an important part of the effort to promote the NAQCC and CW/QRP operating on our ham bands. A **BIG THANK YOU** goes out to all of them!

Our anniversary sprint that week suffered from all of the propagation issues that we have come to expect during these solar doldrums. Nevertheless 192 participant callsigns found their way into the 134 logs that were submitted. You can see all of the sprint scores and interesting soapbox comments at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201710.html>.

The 134 member/participants in our anniversary sprint were automatically entered into our special sprint prize drawing for a chance at winning one of 10 great prizes. 34 of those members had also completed the year-long participation requirement for the drawing and were eligible to win one of the 3 tier-1 prizes. This drawing was monetarily the largest giveaway that we have ever done and we want to thank MFJ and Vibroplex for the discounts that they gave to the club for the purchase of many of the prizes. Here is the list of prizes and winners. More information, including pictures of some of the winners, can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.

No.	Prize	Winner
1	MFJ-259C Antenna Analyzer	VE3DQN
2	YouKits HB1B QRP Transceiver	N9SE
3	Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr. Paddle	NN0SS
4	MFJ-9340K 40-m QRP Transceiver Kit	W4OEP
5	MFJ-9201 QRPocket Tuner	KB1M
6	MFJ-813 QRP Power/SWR Meter	KB0ETU
7	\$25.00 MFJ Gift Certificate	WB4OMM
8	\$25 MFJ Gift Certificate	KA9FQG
9	MFJ-107B Digital Clock	K9QEW
10	Solid State QRP Projects Book by W3FQJ (MFJ)	K9JWI

Let me pause for a moment and put in a plug for next year. The 34 people who qualified for those top three prizes had almost a 10% chance of winning something. Those are pretty good odds for a giveaway with some significant prizes! And how did those 34 people qualify for the tier-one drawing? By simply participating in, and having a ton of fun in, our NAQCC activities from January through September. You can find the eligibility details on our prize drawing page at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html. (It doesn't take much, just 3 months of doing both the challenge and the sprint will do it!) So make an early new-year's resolution to regularly participate in our monthly sprints and challenges in 2018 any you could find yourself in that tier-one drawing for our 14th anniversary celebration.

As I write this report there is still one part of our anniversary celebration that is yet to come. This year, for the first time, we have a special anniversary prize drawing to go along with our regular October challenge. Every member who completed at least one of the words in the alphabet challenge and sends in their report by the submission deadline will be automatically entered into the drawing. And since the entry deadline is still a few days away, the drawing has not yet taken place. That drawing will be giving away three nice keying devices donated by WA2ZOT and you can find more information on the challenge page at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.html>.

Returning now to our special event N#A operation, 48 members originally volunteered to operate during the week with our special callsigns. Some of these people ended up not being able to get on the air because of medical issues, work schedule conflicts, etc. The ones that did manage to make one or more N#A QSOs are shown on the next page. That is followed by some interesting event statistics and some soapbox comments from some of the operators.

OPERATORS (Red = Sprint operator)	
N1A	W4YFJ, W2APF, K1RID, AB1VL , NF1U
N2A	W2SH, N2JJF, AA2VG , K2CM
N3A	K3WWP, KC2EGL, WB3FAE, W3TTT, AH6AX, N3HEE , NR3Z, N3IOD
N4A	K4KBL, K4ARQ , KA3OCS, WB4OMM, KJ4R, WA4ZOF
N5A	WA5ZKP, WI5H
N6A	KG6UBG , N6IET
N7A	K7TQ , N7CQR
N8A	N8XMS, WB8LZG
N9A	KD9VT , WB9HFK
N0A	KN1CBR, K6XT , W0EJ, WA0ZSU

	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
160m QSOs	24	1	133	1	1
80m QSOs	357	217	160	34	91
60m QSOs	0	0	0	0	0
40m QSOs	903	696	453	525	582
30m QSOs	60	96	123	85	40
20m QSOs	360	346	313	348	533
17m QSOs	6	37	20	9	3
15m QSOs	4	1	17	74	30
12m QSOs	0	2	1	1	8
10m QSOs	4	0	2	71	29
6m QSOs	0	0	0	0	1
Total QSOs	1718	1396	1222	1148	1318
Total States	49	50	48	45	48
Total VE Provinces	4	8	6	4	6
Total DX (non W, VE)	15	24	16	40	29

Soapbox comments from some of our N#A operators:

K4KBL/N4A - Conditions were poor on 40 at least from my QTH. Spent the entire 2 hour session to make 9 contacts.

AA2VG/N2A - I had a fun event. I used my KX3 for the sprint and 80 meters. On Thursday evening and Friday morning I took out the Bayou Jumper and had a blast on 40 meters. I used both my WinKeyer and the straight key on the BJ to make N2A 40 meter contacts. It's off to see the grandkids in FL so I will miss the weekend fun. 72 Peter/AA2VG

K3WWP/N3A - Since I've done this for so many years, this year I only operated on Columbus Day with Mike KC2EGL to let other folks experience the fun and training of operating a Special Event station. Mike and I had enough fun just from that one day. Unfortunately we had to operate from my shack as a homepedition rather than from Community Park thanks to the remnants of Hurricane Nate.

N8XMS/N8A - Organizing this celebration was a lot of work but it was a lot of fun also. My deepest thanks to all of the volunteers who put the N#A stations on the air!

W0EJ/N0A - Wow, worked ND this year, tnx to WD0EGC. The weather and conditions favored operations during the week overall compared to what I've experienced the last couple of months. It was a lot of fun doing something for the club and in retrospect I wish I would have had more time to work additional time slots. My thanks to you all that pulled my signal out and apologies to all those I could not copy. Looking forward to working N0A again next year.... 72 Bill

N2JJF/N2A - Had a lot of fun. Was disappointed not more stations heard but most of my operating time was during day so most of the guys at work. I did participate in sprint but only made 2 contacts using my own call on 40M. Band was very noisy.

KJ4R/N4A - Had a very busy week with little time to operate. My wife was hospitalized due to a blood clot for a few days, so my time at the rig was minimal. Was able to get on for a few hours on Wed evening. Called CQ on 40M for an hour and only had one call. Very poor conditions. Was able to get on 30M for a few hours on Sunday afternoon and had 5 callers. I had fun during the time I was able to participate some and appreciate the opportunity. I hope to do better next year if the opportunity is available.

WB4OMM/N4A - Band conditions were dismal, generally not much activity. Most of the contacts made had decent signals, but some were work! Between the band noise and weak signals there were some challenges. BUT.....it was fun and I enjoyed every minute of it! To those who patiently repeated the information so we could make the QSO.....THANK YOU! To those that tried but just couldn't make it.....my apologies, and I hope you were able to contact one of the SE Stations. 72/73 to all! See you soon!

WA0ZSU/N0A - Thanks to everyone who QSO'd me (in sometimes poor conditions). Everyone I worked showed a lot of operating skill. Thanks especially for the opportunity to get to know more of our members and make more friends. I had a great time.

KA3OCS/N4A - My first time as a SES for NAQCC. At the start of the week i bit off a bit more than i should have and found myself a bit worn out by days end. I found that one hour spent on a frequency was a good period and i did not get worn out. I used my elecraft k2 at 5 watts the entire time. for 20 meters i used my cubex quad beam antenna and otherwise i used a 80m horizontal loop antenna. The solar storm near the end of the week really put a damper on my qso's. I wish i had been able to work all states but getting the west coast at five watts was a challenge for sure given the band conditions. thanks to all who worked me. on my time off i was able to get a clean sweep as ka3ocs. bob

WA4ZOF/N4A - I put N4A STATION on the air most of the Week. Conditions from GA. Were marginal at best. The spotting networks show that I was getting signal reports Up the east coast with varying signal strengths (3db-18db), Very little reporting from the central states. And west... I think OLE SOL did no favors this week.. ALL in all I enjoyed working the N4A/WA4ZOF call, I wish I could have put more calls in the log. Thank you to all that hunted me down and gave me a call. Tom WA4ZOF

K7TQ/N7A - A good first half of the week especially the Sprint. Last half of the week had much tougher propagation. Thanks to all who stopped by and a special thank you to Paul for organizing and directing the Anniversary celebration.

AH6AX/N3A - Wish I'd had more time to 'play'; however, much as I thought I'd be free – didn't work out. Next year (!)

N6IET/N6A - I had fun using my new KX2 with my 'stealth' rooftop dipole or my Hustler MO3 mobile antennas mounted horizontally off my balcony wall. Band conditions were generally poor the last few days. We had to deal with a coronal hole and very few sunspots. 72, Rick N6IET

KD9VT/N9A - I had a great time but band conditions and weather really hurt my totals. We had thunderstorms in the area for two days and every time I thought I could set up, I would hear thunder. On top of that, I had to pull the plug 45 minutes early during the sprint because of lightning in the area. NAQCC ops are awesome and I really enjoyed each and every qso. Thank you to all that answered me. 72 Dave, KD9VT

W2SH/N2A - Returned from 10 days in CA. Only able to operate during the final four days of the Anniversary Event. Saturday and Sunday had various contests going on that made QSOs difficult to insert into the formats of those contests. A few stations didn't wait to hang in for the time it took me to deliver a 21-word explanation of this event. Only 22 QSOs were achieved, these occurring on five bands. Two QSOs were on 160m, and it was a thrill to get my 5 Watts across the Atlantic on Topband where F5NTV and I exchanged a few words in our shared natal language.

AB1VL/N1A - Lots of member activity leading up to and including the Sprint but things dropped off quite a bit afterwards. The Sprint itself was a real hoot and I was pleased to work so many states from coast to coast despite S5-7 QRN and a persistent jammer on 40M. I heard a handful of NILs in QSB but could not work them due to their being off frequency too much, even with RIT.

WA5ZKP/N5A - I had a blast this year and my KX-2 really got quite warm a couple of evenings, This was my second year being a QRP N#A op and it won't be my last. It was both exciting at times, a lot of fun and at times quite difficult but very rewarding. There is no doubt in my mind that I will participate next year in the 14th anniversary celebration. On a personal note I would like to say to Paul Huff and the rest of the NAQCC members that make this celebration possible thank you for all you do. The amount of preparation for an event such as this must truly be formidable. TNX 72 and 73 to all. Terry, WA5ZKP

KG6UBG/N6A - Rig was Yaesu FT 817 , antennas were 20M inverted V, and OCFD both at 30'.

W4YFJ/N1A - I am sorry that I did not work more stations. Lots of CQ very little answers.

K2CM/N2A - Bands were terrible! Most of the time I could hear nothing but noise. If it hadn't been for the PA QSO party, would have worked just 6 stations. I had planned to operate remote to our club station in Oswego County where we have a 3 element beam and an 80/40 vee; but 20MTRs was terrible, and the 80/40 vee came down a couple of days earlier in a storm. Couldn't get the antenna back up because of a hornet's nest at the 50ft level of the tower, so operated out of my house with a 200ft long flat top.

WB3FAE/N3A - 20 METERS APPEARED TO BE IN GOOD SHAPE. CALLED CQ MOST OF THE HOUR. ONLY ONE CONTACT MADE IN THE HOUR OF OPERATION. IT WAS WITH SAM, K5KJ. VERY NICE QSO WITH SAM. BIG SIGNAL, 599 PLUS, FROM NTX.

K1RID/N1A - Although I worked about 5 hours, I had a very poor showing. Still love the event!

W3TTT/N3A - The anniversary week seems to come every year during the Holidays. Cuts into the time I have to get on the air!

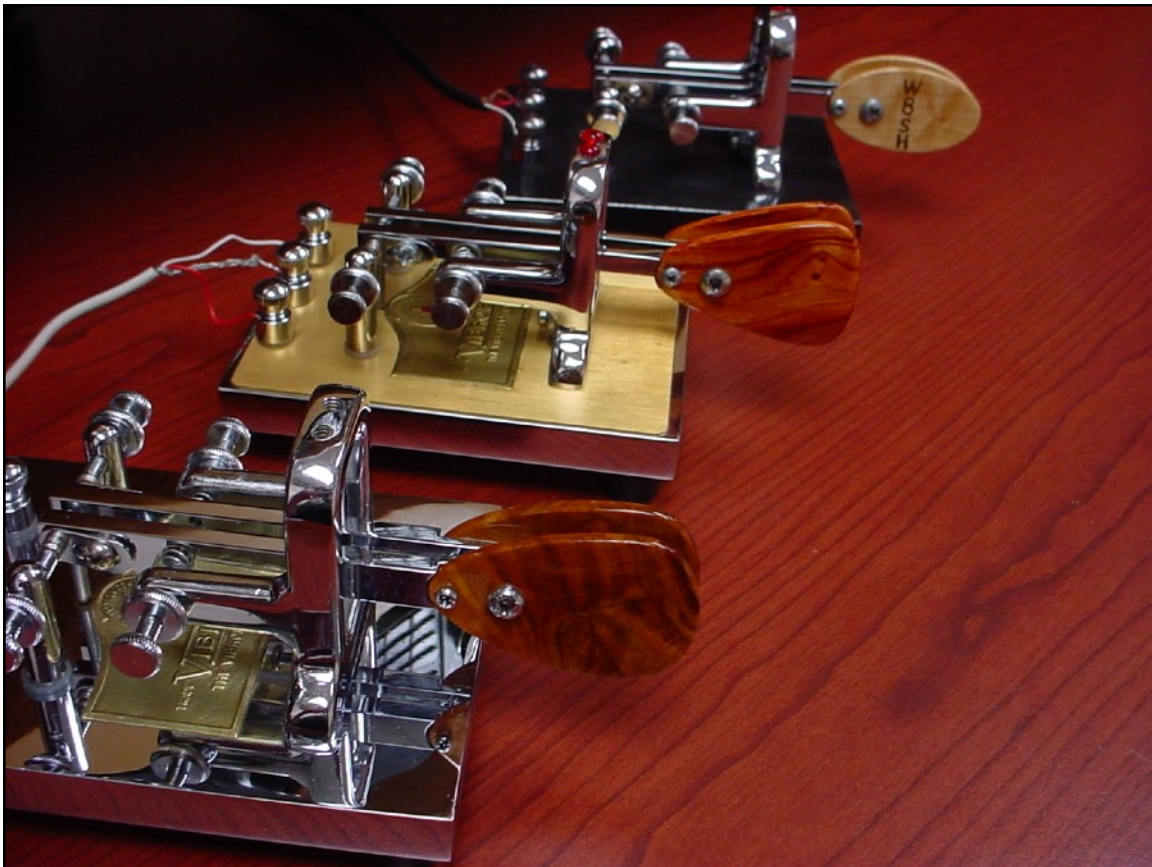


SHOOTOUT AT THE W8SH CORRAL

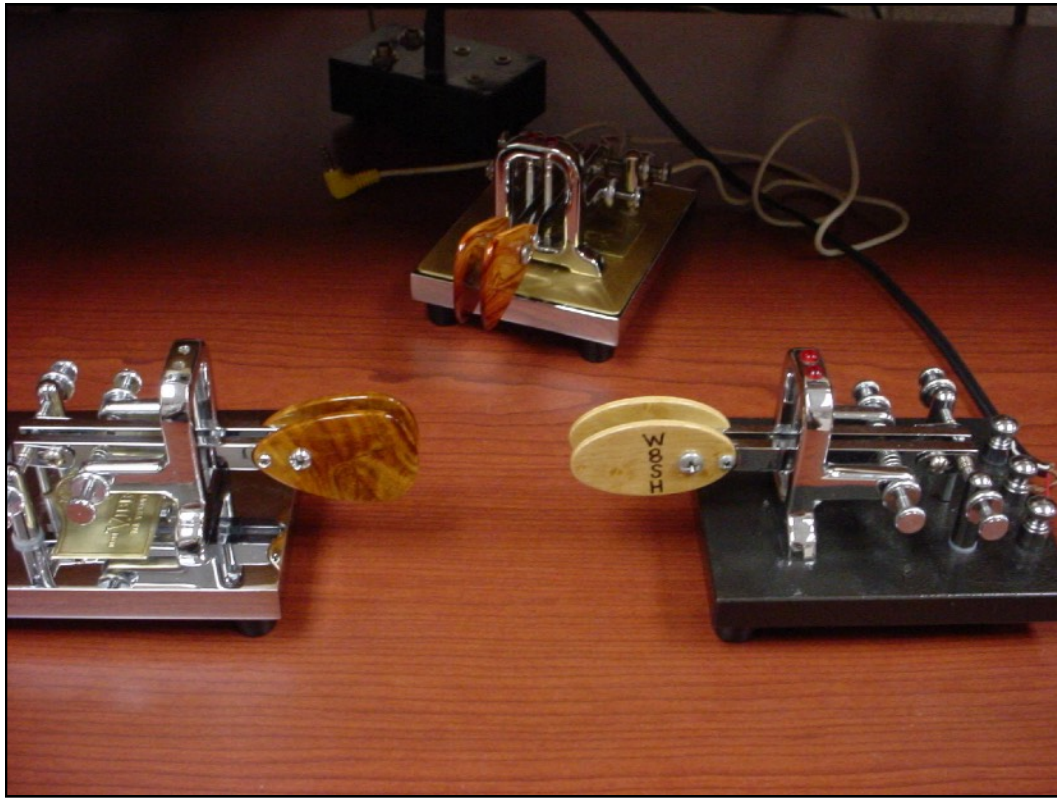
BY GREGG, WB8LZG

W8SH is the club station at Michigan State University and traces it's history back to 1919. Gregg, WB8LZG, works for MSU and is actively involved with the club - although I don't think that he goes all the way back to 1919! You might also recognize him as the craftsman who makes the fine prizes that we give away each month in in our sprint and challenge drawings. (http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html) - Editor

For quite a few years now I've been collecting and refurbishing old and worn keys and bugs. Naturally after a good refurb job, the very first thing to do is try em out on the air. Some are just ok, but some really surprise me with a feel and a "fit like a glove" action. Those are the ones that I usually put on the operating desk. But it occurred to me, how to tell which one was actually the best. That question is kind of like asking whose the best gunfighter. Billy the Kid? The Sundance Kid? Kid Shaleen? Well the only way this was gonna end up, was a shootout!



The fighters met at dawn. The new kid, a Vibroplex Deluxe with "canarywood pistol grips." The popular one, a Vibroplex Presentation with "tulipwood pistol grips." And the old standard, a Vibroplex Standard with "Branding iron curley maple grips."



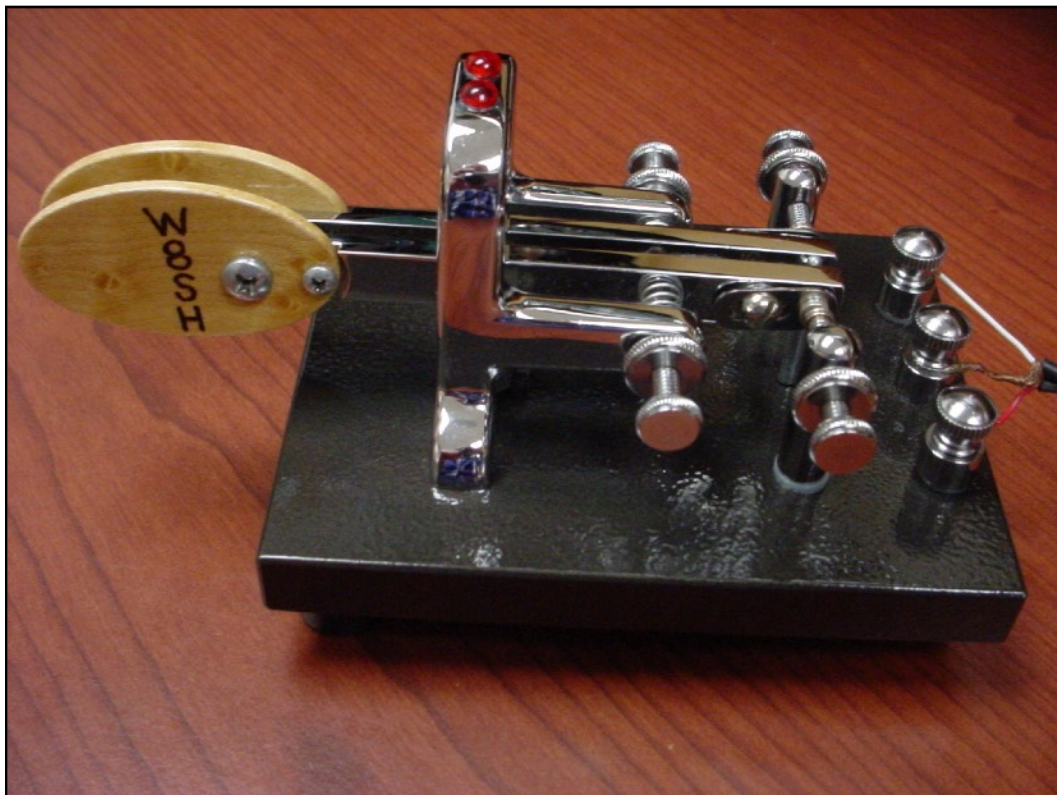
They met and eyed each other over. Each one confident that they had the fastest draw.



Billy the kid was flashy and quick! Finger pieces "ichin fer action."



Sundance was cool and steady. Never missed a dit.



Kid Shaleen was sleek and sly. Waiting for the right moment to spring to Morse mayhem!

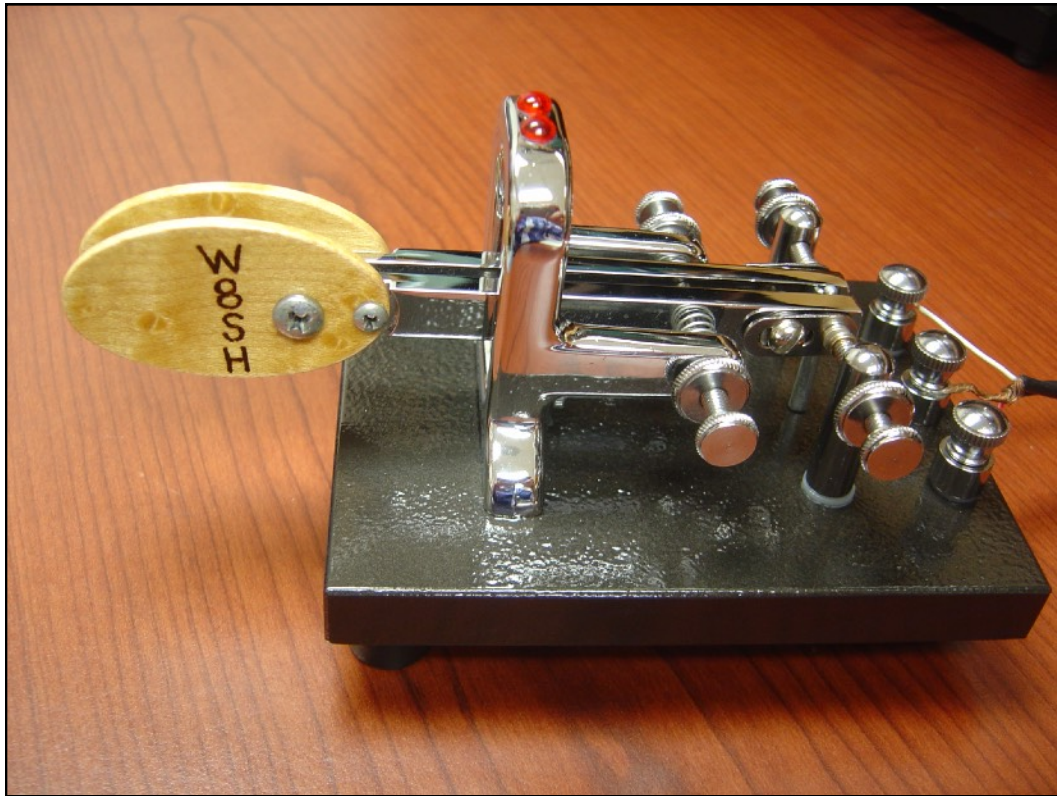


They faced off! Their Paddles gleaming in the sun. In this arena of death there was no room for error, no second chances! One false dit and it was all over! Dah winner would have to be cunning and fast! Who would be left standing when the dust clears??

Dits n Dahs started flying everywhere! Their jeweled movements nearly heating to meltdown in the maylay. What a fight! Half the world came out to listen in. They cried and cheered when Billy the Kid finally “caught a double dit.” Too bad, he was so young.

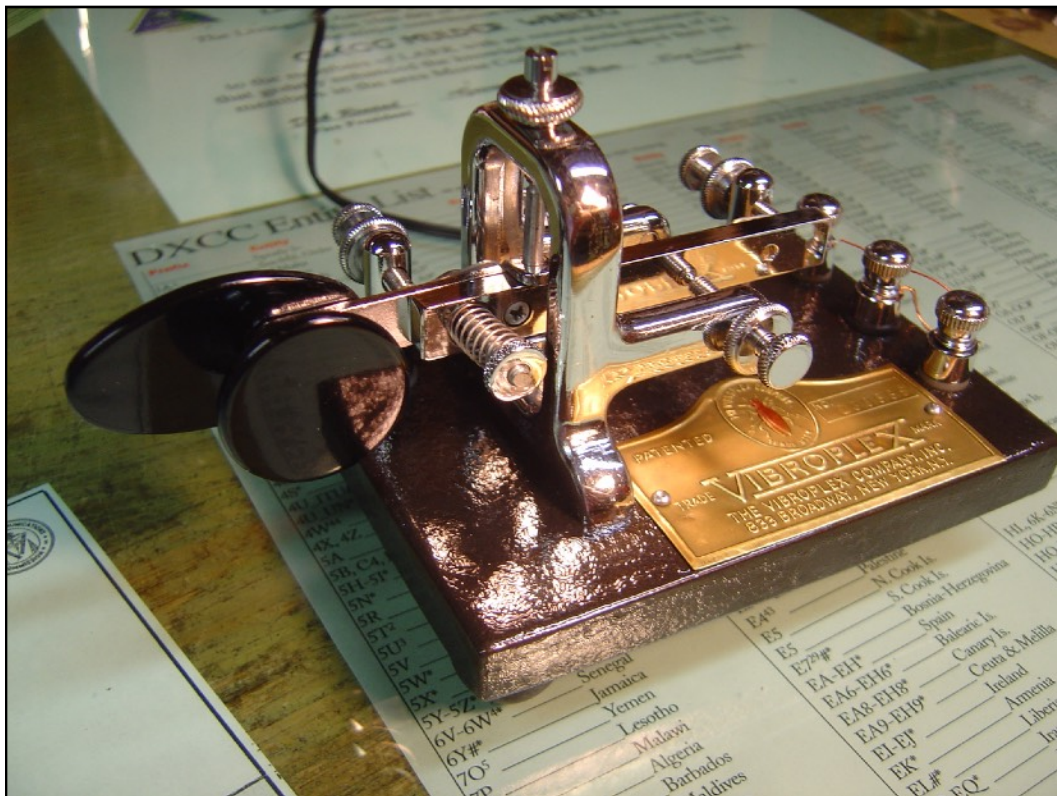
The Sundance Kid was a duelin’ good until that “Saskatoon station,” that double O dahs got em. The victor looked around at their lifeless base , red CW oozing out from the plated contacts.

The winner ...



Kid Shaleen. The Vibroplex Standard.

Guess he'll have to carve another "notch" or two into those custom pistol grips! But wait! Who's that coming up the trail? Why it's Black Bart. The meanest, roughest, toughest, fastest fingerin' paddle round these parts!



Well that's the way it is round the W8SH coral. Always some new kid a wantin to try his fist up agin the best ! Guess it never ends.

73 , Gregg WB8LZG



DIY CHOKE BALUN BY GENE, N5GW

Here's a gadget that can prevent common mode problems with your antennas, especially random wire, windom or other end fed antennas.



The first pic shows the basic components which include a suitable ferrite toroid, insulating tape, a 2 or 3 foot length of miniature coax, and at least two cable ties or clamps. Not shown are the coax connectors. First the tape is wound around the ferrite toroid to prevent sharp edges from damaging the coax. Next about 7 to 11 turns of the coax are wound and anchored using the cable ties as shown in the second and third pics. It is helpful to have one of the leads about two or three times as long as the other. The crossover winding allows the input and output leads to enter or exit the balun on opposite sides in perpendicular fashion, but is not otherwise necessary.



The black coax balun in the second pic was made using RG-174 wound over a surplus core which I believe must be the 43 ferrite material. Its inductance was measured at 65 microhenries. A pair of binding posts allow attaching antenna and counterpoise wires or even balanced feeders. In the third pic the white Teflon cable of the same diameter was wound on an FT240-77 toroid. It measures 150 microhenries. The large toroid is necessary because of the stiffness of the Teflon cable. However the Teflon is easier to solder because the iron will not melt the insulation. I have used such a balun at 100 watts for many years.

If a 2.4 inch toroid is too large for your liking, look at the fourth pic. This choke balun was wound using a subminiature Teflon coax which is one third less diameter than RG-174 (0.077 inches instead of 0.105 inches). Stripping the outer insulation off results in a bare coax which is only 0.05 inches in diameter. This was wound on a taped FT82-77 toroid (0.82 inch diameter) to give 50 microhenries, OK for the 5 watt level. The tape is necessary because many of the high permeability toroids are semi-conductive. A final pic shows the windings held in place by fiber washers and a nylon screw and nut.



Even though they have a slight impedance bump at HF, I like to use RCA phono connectors because they are cheap, compact, and easy to attach,. However BNC connectors are more state of the art and are better suited to HF and VHF. As a matter of fact, you can order a 3 foot length of miniature coax with factory installed BNC connectors and wind the balun on a core of your choice. If you don't have a handy toroid, you can use a large snap-on ferrite core or even a ferrite rod.

The DIY works well with either outboard antenna tuners or with transceivers containing an internal ATU. When using the latter, the SWR can be rather high within the coax, but since it is such a short length, losses should be minimal and the tuning range little affected.

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.

LARRY WANDEL, AH6AX, #7313



Hi Gang! Like many others (and probably some of you), I started my radio hobby during the Citizens Band fad of the 70's but moved to Ham Radio for the joy of being able to yak around the world instead of down the road a mile or so. Remember the days of "Breaker one-nine" and "10-4 Good Buddy?" We probably drove our big-rig driving friends crazy! This is not intended to denigrate CBers – it too is a fun hobby and I enjoyed it while I was a participant – this is just my tale of my personal journey into ham radio.

My ham radio 'story' actually starts many years earlier, when I was first introduced to ham radio as a teenager in a town in PA in 1961. One of my school chums was an amateur 'experimenter' in electronics – and he had a ham license. One day, while visiting him, he showed me his Hallicrafters™ and Hammerlund™ radios. These two big boat anchors with lighted dials and hot tubes were a sight to behold. As he spun the dial and we listened (and he made a few contacts) and he demonstrated what ham radio could do, it sparked (yep, small pun intended) my interest in the idea of talking to far-away places via ham radio. Who knew that one day, while in the U.S. Navy at an overseas site, I'd be tuning a Hammerlund receiver just like the one he had sitting on his workbench.

Time passes and I joined the navy after graduating high school. A few years later, while stationed in Scotland (UK) in 1968, I lived in base housing – my next door neighbor happened to be an avid ham radio operator. Tom, (NA4U today) had his radio equipment (I believe it was Swan twins) shipped to him and had the Scottish call sign GM5AOR. I can still hear him calling other stations with "...this is Golf Mike Five Alpha Ontario Radio") with me sitting while he operated on many evenings from his 'shack' in the quarters. Unfortunately, Scotland (UK) in 1968/69 didn't permit unlicensed operators to work the equipment with a 'control operator' present, so I never got to spin a dial. But Tom did give me an ARRL study guide which I started reading. But soon thereafter, I received to transfer back to the states for a

navy technical school and then went on to other overseas and shipboard assignments. So... another near miss for me in the ham radio opportunities.

In late 1978, while working out of Pearl Harbor on my second tour of duty there, I once again lived in naval housing (very few sailors could afford to live on the economy in Hawaii). A fellow sailor who was a ham lived two doors down and I asked him about ham radio – explaining that I'd been a CB'er but was interested in ham radio. Well, he didn't look down his nose at me, au contraire – he took me to the local ham radio store in Pearl City (now long since gone the way of many mom & pop ham shops) and got me signed up for a novice class. Well, because I already had morse code experience in the navy, I quickly obtained my novice ticket. Within a few weeks of getting the ticket, I was back downtown to the Honolulu FCC office for the general and advanced tickets. Thus, the call AH6AX was 'born'.

In 1979 I transferred to Fort Meade, MD for duty. Once there, I became very active in the Navy-Marine Corps MARS program for about 12 years. For my service to the organization as Area Coordinator, I received Associate Member status when, due to heavy military commitments, I was unable to continue as the MD/DC Area Coordinator. The navy program has since been discontinued. Now, it too is just a pleasant memory.

As is often said, "Life Happens" and during the 90's I dropped out of HF ham radio – but kept the call active and worked 2M while driving back and forth to work to yak during the "going to work/home shows" in the mornings.... In 2012 my interest was rekindled by another navy retiree (AC2C – Ron) and I started putting a station together.

Today I have a nice setup that gives me lots of capability (but I spent the kids' inheritance to get it – hi). I have Kenwood™, Icom™ and Elecraft™ HF transceivers: the Kx3 and the new Kx2 for QRP and for portable ops when traveling (my YL and I like to travel now that we're retired). I was fortunate to obtain a crank-up tower from the widow of a SK, and with very little investment and lots of help from members of my local ham club (Columbia Amateur Radio Association – for which I'm eternally grateful, as I am also a cardiac patient and unable to do much physical labor), I'm now able to 'reach out and touch some radios'. Fortunately, I have a 1 ½ acre yard to 'grow' antennas, so I also have two Windom OCFs for low bands and a hex beam for 20 through 10, and a 6m beam.

I have an Extra ticket but I've kept my Hawaiian call. I didn't go for Extra when I transferred to Maryland for duty in '79 because at that time, if you passed the test, you were given a call in the district where you 'lived', but if you just updated your address, you could keep your old call -- and I didn't want to lose my call. I found out in 2014 that the rules had changed so I took the test and kept the call — sorry to my Hawaiian "family" (ohana) of operators, you can't have it until I'm SK!

Now, the rest of the story: Remember my friend, "Tom" from Scotland? Well, serendipity is always at play: Who would have thought that almost 30 years later Tom and I would end up working together in the same project/program for the same large corporation. We continue to keep in touch. Tom now lives in SC and has a beautiful station.

Today I'm active on the bands, primarily working CW on SKCC and NAQCC. I enjoy the Challenges and have just started participating in the monthly Sprints. I plan on helping with this year's anniversary celebration and hope to work many of you on the bands. Oh, I also do *some* phone work and dabble in the digi-modes as well. I'm always up for a ragchew/chat or if you just need a quick contact. I support SKCC, FISTS and NAQCC – three excellent organizations that encourage the continuation of CW. NAQCC is a new 'challenge' for me – I got interested in QRP ops when a Ron (see above) showed me his Elecraft Kx3 and he was able to pull in a lot of stations on 5 watts and below (I eventually got a few at 250mW!). So, I now split my time playing QRP and QRO during the month – some for the NAQCC Challenge and some for SKCC/FISTS ops. I also play in the QSO parties and chase special events.

As a combat vet, I'm a member of the VFW (Vietnam); the American Legion and the Naval Cryptologic Veterans Association (NCVA). I also love shooting sports and I am proud to be a life member of the NRA. I'm ARRL too! Ok, this 'horn tooting' can be addictive so I better stop there before I think I'm the greatest... Oh wait, Muhammed Ali beat me to that, so you're safe! My humility returns: I'm SECOND in Command at my 'retirement quarters' in Carroll County, Maryland with MY skipper of 51 years. If you hear me on the bands, give me a call – I'm always up for a go – CW, SSB or Digi; QRP or QRO! Oh, and I QSL 100 percent – no SASE required – send a card/get a card! 73/72 and Mahalo/Aloha from Maryland!



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our sprint this month will be on November 16, 0130-0330 UTC. That's the evening of the 15th in North America. Please notice the change of UTC time due to Daylight Saving Time. If your location goes on DST the sprint will be at your same local time as always. Complete information about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201711.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: We had a good showing for our special 13th Anniversary sprint. 134 logs were turned in with 192 participants and a total of 2042 QSOs. Conditions were pretty rough in most locations but participants still had a lot of fun. 80-meters seemed to be the place to be. Here is part of the soapbox comment from K3WWP: *"20 dead. 15 minutes of CQs on 40 then yielded nothing. So off to 80 where for about 15 minutes I felt like a rare DX station running stations and handling pileups. Great fun ..."* Of course we had our special prize drawing that went along with this sprint and you can read about that in the article earlier in this newsletter. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201710.html>.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: K0FG W8BUD W3TU KX8I VE3RDE KE3KQ KA6JLT KM4IV

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.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	N2CN	
W2	W2NRA	W2JEK	
W3	KD3CA	KQ3Z	
W4	WG8Y	WD4OHD	K4JPN
W5	N5GW		
W6	A16SL		
W7	KF7WNS		
W8	AB8RL	K8SMS	
W9	K9JWI	WB9HFK	
W0	NN0SS	KD0DK	
VE	VA3NU		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	WA4SPJ		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	W8BUD		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M		
W2	K2YGM	N2ESE	
W3	W2CDO	W3PNM	
W4	KB9ILT	WB4OMM	KU4A
W5	K5MBA		
W6	N6IET		
W7	KF7Z		
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	K9CW		
W0	K9OSC		
VE	VE3IDS		
DX			

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

SPECIAL N#A CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	N7A/K7TQ	N5A/WI5H	N3A/ N3HEE

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	W3TU	W8BUD	K0FG

PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
NS3C			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	134	105	217	4/17
Participants	192	164	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2042	1354	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	1090	740	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	952	614	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	92	83	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1025	981	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	925	290	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	15.2	12.9	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+	NO2D WA8SAN NU7T(SK) N0TA WG8Y NA4O N8BB AA9L WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC K6CSL KB0ETU K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YG KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) K4ORD N8LA KN1H
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 challenge this month is an alphabet challenge that looks into the history of our favorite mode of communications - Morse Code. All of the words this month relate to landline telegraphy and the equipment that they used. Complete information about the challenge can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201711.html>.

The European challenge is works with a list of some European film directors and the first films that they directed. Your QTH does not have to be in Europe to participate in this challenge. The list of words can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/november-2017-challenge/>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The North American challenge in December will work with a list of some famous boat anchors. Details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201712.html>.

Complete information about our challenges including a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges.html>. Detailed general rules for our challenges can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The deadline for submitting entries for the October Alphabet challenge is still a few days away but you can go to <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.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. Remember that we have a special anniversary prize drawing to go along with this challenge. That drawing will be held sometime after November 10th and will be announced to the membership by email. You can see the list of prizes on the challenge page.

Here is the list of actors that go with the spooky movies listed in the October challenge:

Frankenstein - Boris Karloff
The Fly - Vincent Price
The Phantom of the Opera - Lon Chaney
Dracula - Bela Lugosi
The Mummy - Boris Karloff
The Hunchback of Notre Dame - Lon Chaney
The Pit and the Pendulum - Vincent Price
The Wolf Man - Bela Lugosi

The European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-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 PA0XAW KD0V WY3H N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU WA2FBN 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: WAS Award Simple Wire Antennas

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

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

WAS AWARD, Category C (Lower 48, QRPp). With KH6 and KL7 Endorsements.
0002 - K0FNR 10/06/17



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 Round Table Net (FRN)	Sunday 4:00 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 80 m QRQ Round Table Net (FRN)	Sunday 6:00 PM PT	Monday 0200 Z	3556 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 60 m QRQ Net (53N)	Sun & Thurs 5:30 PM PT	Mon & Fri 0130 Z	5348 KHz (Ch 2)	JB, NR5NN (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0100 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CT	Tuesday 0130 Z	7061 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2300/2330 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0200 Z	3556 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0300 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 40 and 80 Meter QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 4:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0000 UTC on 7056 kHz +/-
 Sunday evenings 6:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0200 UTC on 3556 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Rick N6IET (California); Backup NCS - JB NR5NN (California)

NAQCC FarnsWord 60 Meter QRQ Net (53N)

Sunday & Thursday evenings 5:30 PM PST, which is Monday & Friday 0130 UTC on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)
 Main NCS - JB NR5NN (California); Backup NCS(s) - John W7SAG, Rick N6IET

The declining sunspots and solar flux as Cycle 24 continues its decline, along with the earlier sunsets as winter approaches, have conspired to undermine NVIS conditions during our regular net times and frequencies. The current conditions just before sunset on 40 meters are such that we still have D-layer absorption attenuating distant stations, with deteriorating NVIS conditions preventing closer stations from hearing each other. This puts us between a rock and a hard place, and there's no good compromise that works well for both close and distant stations. I'm leaving FRN/40 at 0000 UTC, which means moving it earlier by an hour local time when DST ends on the first Sunday of November.

NVIS continues beyond 7pm PDT on 80 meters only about half the days and by our net time at 8pm it's often hopeless to copy anybody closer than 300 miles away. So I'm moving FRN/80 up an hour solar/UTC time, which is two hours earlier local/Pacific Standard Time.

JB and I love 60 meters, which seems to more readily support true QRP operations, provided we have NVIS going for us. As with the other two bands, we've been seeing the band go long toward the end of each half-hour net, so we're moving 53N up half an hour, just before FRN/80. Also note that we've been meeting on Channel 2 instead of Channel 1, because some SSB folks here on the West Coast had a regular Sunday schedule that coincided with ours on Channel 1.

72 de Rick N6IET and JB NR5NN

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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)

2017-10-03 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA WI5H

Good net tonight. The propagation was good and 3 out of 4 were QRP. Fall conditions may be kicking in I hope.

2017-10-10 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N5DRG

Well it was fun. Terry checked in QRP 559 and during our exchange the band went long and he disappeared. Called Danny who was QRO and 599 and in the middle of our exchange he disappeared as well. The band went long and I heard a VE3 calling CQ on our freq.

2017-10-17 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

The band was in far shape and QRN was low. Terry (YUM) was QRP and 559. Andy (YGA) was QRO and 599. They both gave me a 559/569. A station tried to check in at the end but I could not pull them out of the noise.

2017-10-21 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

Well from emails 3 tried to check in last night and no body could hear anybody! Guess its time to switch to 80 mtrs with the time change coming up Sunday. Please send the announcement that we will be going to 3.565khz +/- QRM starting next week and will remain on local time of 7pm CST here or 01:00z. Hope to CU there: Allen KA5TJS

2017-10-24 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS WI5H

Just one check in last night but signals were good.

=====

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

Monday evenings 9:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0300 UTC, on 7117 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Wayne NQ0RP (Kansas)

2017-10-02 QNI (2) W0CC, KC9TYA

S-7 QRN. There were several stations at and around 7.117 with wide signals. Initially had to go up to 7.1185 and, not receiving any response, when back to 7.117 and that traffic had left so I started calling at 1933 local and had the single check-in, Mark, listed above.

2017-10-09 QNI (1) W0CC

S+ QRN

2017/10/16 QNI (2) W0CC, KC9TYA

S+ QRN

2017/10/23 QNI (1) W0CC

QRN S-3

2017/10/30 QNI (1) W0CC

Received some SSB QRM

=====

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)

No Report.

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)

2017-10-17 NCS (5) N8ZYA W8GDP KB8ZPZ WA8SIE AC8LJ /4

I was "out of town" for the first two QRS nights this month. It was especially nice to have good check-ins and good band conditions tonight. Yesterday there was light snow in the mountains. We've had "freeze warnings" even in the valleys. Best signal tonight was Eric AC8LJ / 4 . His QTH was in North Carolina. He was running 100 watts into a doublet antenna up around 60 ft. His signal was a "solid" 599 + 20.

2017-10-18 NCS (5) N8ZYA W8GDP KB8ZPZ WA8SIE AC8LJ

I've been "out of town" for the first two QRS nights this month. It was especially nice to have good check-ins and good band conditions tonight. John W8GDP checked in and out quickly tonight. John KB8ZPZ

NCS N8ZYA W8GDP

Band conditions pretty bad tonight. John W8GDP and I had a nice chat about health problems with our relatives.

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)

2017-10-05 QNI (5) KE7LKW NCS, KE7JEB, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N7QR.

2017-10-13 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW, WB4SPB, K7TES, W7ANM, K7JUV

2017-10-20 QNI (5) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM

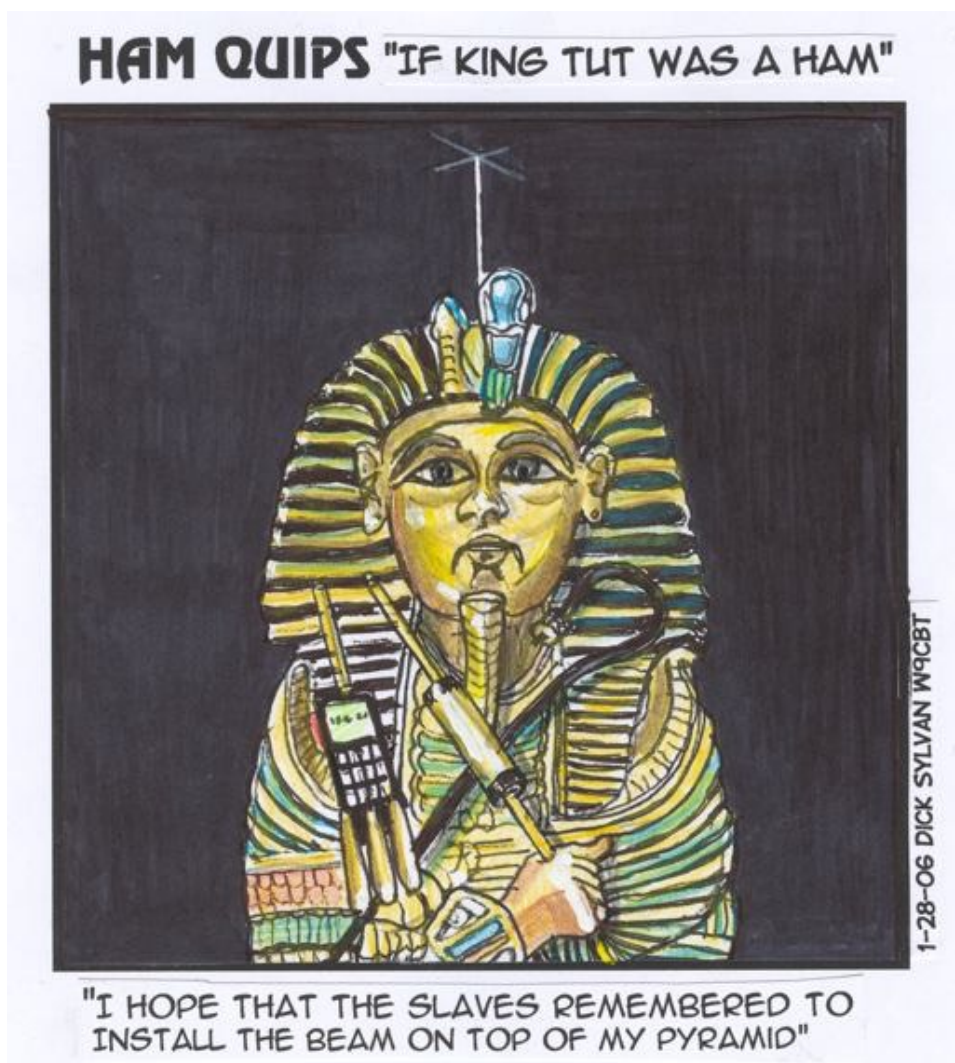
2017-10-27 QNI (7) KE7LKW NCS, AD7BP, N0DA, WB4SPB, K7JUV, N6KIX, W7ANM.



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.



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.

Hello Radio and all NAQCC members. The Delmarva Amateur Radio Funsters have been busy. In August club members got together for an Arduino learning party. This was getting familiar with the basic start up kit. Members had lots of fun and are very excited discovering new ways to use Arduino products in our hobby.



Also in August we got together to light up the Lightship Overfalls in Lewes DE for the lighthouse / lightship weekend. Saturday was a little slow but things picked up on Sunday. We used voice and cw to make contacts. We all had a great time. Our call sign for this activity was W3L. The weather was great!



On a lighter note N3IOD had a guest operator in his shack. Bones is an old timer that loves QRP and cw. You can't get him out of the chair to eat or drink, he just hates to give up. That's a quality that all QRP ops have.



Club members that participated in these activities were, Bob W3QJ, Jamie W3UC, Paul NR3P, Jay K3BH, Ed N3OB, Eric WG3J, Bill N3RNJ and Bill N3IOD.

Well I hope to have more to report next time so until then good dx and qrp fun.

vry 72/73, Bill N3IOD

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

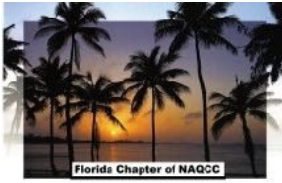


Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MWOMIE.

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>.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS: OCTOBER 2017

“Weee’rrrree baaaacck”

On Friday, October 20th, 2017 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to a local park for our monthly adventure. We held our latest “Operation in the Park” at Sunrise Park North, in Holly Hill, Florida.

To the unknowing (and most likely asleep!) we suspend our activities during the summer, because of the horrendous Florida heat, soaking wet humidity, severe summer thunderstorms with associated lightning and flooding, and hordes of mosquitoes the size of German Shepherds. This summer did not disappoint us. We were scheduled to reactivate in September, but Hurricane Irma had other plans for us (hunkering down). Fortunately, none of us suffered any catastrophic loss....other than fellowship and operating time!



This lovely park, set on the Halifax River, offers several “pavilions”, a large fishing pier and grills. The view of the Daytona Beach peninsula skyline is terrific, and it’s a great setting for hamming in the outdoors!

When I arrived at 8:30am (EDT local), I didn’t recognize any cars in the parking lot.... not a good sign (I usually am one of the last to arrive). I scooped up my equipment and walked towards the far end of the park by the water. I spied John KM4JTE in one of the pavilions by the water. Whew! Someone else was here! John had his antenna up (a wire to an adjacent palm tree) and was sending CQ. I visited a bit and then proceeded to another pavilion by the water about 50 feet away.

Just as I got my gear out and was finishing deploying my antenna, here they come! One by one, and in pairs, our folks arrived and quickly set up their “stuff”. By 9:45 AM we had 3 stations up and running at three separate pavilions, and while the bands were not great, we made some great Qs with many of them NAQCC folks.

This trip, we had a total of 10 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5913; John KM4JTE #7966; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; Bob W2EJG; Phil NW4X #8927; Don K3RLL 1905; Wally KG4LAL #6278; Art WB4MNM #5274; John KD4JS #8019; and Rip N3CNV. We arrived to our site with rapidly clearing partly cloudy skies and a temp of 82 degrees with 70% humidity – we had a pretty stiff breeze most of the morning, so it seemed a bit cooler than it really was. By the time we left around noon it was 85 degrees and a bright sunny day. The park had quite a few folks doing power walks and exercises (this park has a Fitness Trail/Walk that is very popular – and it showed today!). All of the folks waved and smiled at us as they went by.

The signals were not that good today with the usual deep QSB. Propagation has been really bad on our last few outings!! John’s camera conked out on him, so I don’t have the usual copious amount of “rogue’s gallery” photos for this report!



Steve WB4OMM #5913 - Elecraft KX-3, Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr paddle, 5W to a ground mounted vertical Hamstick setup for 20M. Steve made a total of 6 Qs in 5 different states – worked 4 members in 4 states on 20M including Mike - WI5H #7128-TX (W2EJG also worked Mike on 30M); Walt – KB1M #8058-NH; Curt – WA2JSG #3457-NJ; Gary - K1YAN #2365-MA; and Frank – W2IX #1205-NY. When importing the day’s log, I was quite surprised how many times I have made Qs with Mike, Walt, and Curt - between the 3 of them – over 40 times! That’s what I call support!

← L to R: Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, and Nikki KM4SBQ at the WB4OMM station

Phil NW4X #8927 used his KX-2 to a 29-foot Unun Vertical with counterpoise. He didn’t make a contact....Boo Hoo!! (His words!!!!) – in his defense, he was on 30M.....

Don K3RLL #1905 used Phil’s setup and made 4 Qs with 4 members on 20M. John KG9HV #0327-IN; Ian G4MLW #3510 in York, England (NICE DX Don!); Dirk WA9TUT #8375-IL; and Paul KB9ILT #5588-VA SOTA on W4V/BR-010 Bluff Mountain.



↑ L-R: Don K3RLL, Phil NW4X, Rip N3CNV, and John KD4JS at the NW4X station.



John KM4JTE #7966 using his KX-2 to a wire antenna strung from the pavilion to a nearby palm tree (real Florida style!!)

I know he made a few Qs on 40M, but I didn't get his log! Boo Hoo!! (those would be *MY* words!! Hi hi hi.....)

FLORIDA CHAPTER NAQCC
Volusia County - Grid Locator EL99

Halloween Edition

Portable Operations in the Park

Sunrise Park Holly Hill, Florida

Happy Halloween

QSO WITH	CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	FREQ/MODE	RST	72/73!
WA2JSG	WB4OMM	20 Oct 2017	1425Z	20M/CW	559	NAQCC# 5913

HERE IS OUR SPECIAL QSL FOR THOSE WHO WORKED US THIS TRIP!

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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, November 17th, 2017 starting at 9:30 AM EST
Lake Beresford Park (2100 Fatio Road, Deland, FL) – Park webpage

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

WHO: “The Usual Suspects” – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS, Phil NW4X, Nikki KM4SBQ, Paul NU4C & Charlie WX4CB (and whoever else can make it).

Visit our Web Page:

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

Look for our announcement!

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

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions 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 group had a monthly chapter meeting on October 12th at the Bettendorf Village Inn with Dave, KD9VT, Tony, N9YPN, Tim, N9BIL, Matt, N9MAT, Mark, K0NIA and Peter, NN9K attending. We discussed many operating matters, QRP equipment, upcoming NAQCC special events, as well as plans to operate as a group in November as a QRP station from Herbert Hoover historical site in West Branch, IA.

Our next meeting will take place on Thursday, November 9th at the Moline Village Inn.

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.

Only a couple of chapter activities in October.

Of course October is anniversary month for the NAQCC, and anniversary week always includes Columbus Day. That's a postal holiday which means that Mike KC2EGL has the day off. So as we do every year, Mike and I activate N3A on that day. This year was a bit different though. The remnants of Hurricane Nate were paying a visit to Western Pennsylvania. Here I'll pick up with my diary entry at k3wwp.com for the rest of the story.

"Mon Oct 09 2017 6:12PM - Mike arrived about 9AM today and we discussed the weather and the likelihood of us going to the park for our N3A operation. We still couldn't decide. Nate had passed but there were some lingering showers. So after I took Roscoe out, we went and had a breakfast to pass some time. Also I tried unsuccessfully to get my DX. Another check of the radar after breakfast led us to decide that we weren't going to risk going to the park and getting our equipment wet.

While Mike gathered up his things to take up to my shack for our homepedition, I went up ahead of him so I could try to get my DX. It didn't take long before I worked Rune SM5COP for a nice little 6 minute chat. That was on 17 meters.



After we both as shown above (me at L, Mike at R) got set up, we checked things out and found things not working well. I was on 40 and he was on 20. When he transmitted, my noise level went up around 1 or 2 S-units. When I transmitted, his noise went through the ceiling. We tried different antenna combinations, grounding his KX3 to my shack ground, and so forth, but nothing helped. We decided since it was time to start our operation, that we'd just live with it. Since he had the worst of the deal, I kept my transmitting time to a minimum with short CQs and short QSOs. However I did get a lot of activity during the first half hour so that didn't help all that much. I kept running things through my mind

and finally came up with the idea of me calling CQ twice, and if no answers, let Mike CQ twice, then keep alternating that way until one of us got an answer. Then the other one would be quiet until the QSO finished. Of all the things we did, that worked the best. Then later on when Mike tried his hand on 17 meters, I synchronized my CQs with his so we were both calling CQ at the same time and listening for answers at the same time. That also worked well.

However activity slowly ground to a standstill about 3 1/2 hours into our 5 hour scheduled stint, and we decided to quit then. We wound up with a total of 41 QSOs in about 25 SPCs. Most of the QSOs were with other NAQCC members. I'm not sure of Mike's percentage, but my member percentage was just under 75% members.

After we shut down, we chased some DX. Mike worked perhaps a half dozen stations, and I worked one. During the N3A operation, I got all letters except for a T and U. When Mike worked EA8/UA4WW, I also worked him for the U in his call.

Then we went out to Long John Silver's for a late afternoon meal. Then back home for a bit more DXing before Mike had to head home to get ready for a busy workday tomorrow after the three day weekend. -30-

The second chapter activity was the usual 4th Wednesday evening visit from Mike for pizza and some ham radio things. Again from my web site diary at k3wwp.com.

"Mike and I had a good time last night. Just before he came a little past 0000Z, I worked E77E on 30 for my DX streak QSO. I asked Mike if he wanted to try to work E77E also before we dug into the pizza he brought. He said yes, but as we listened conditions seemed to go downhill rapidly and E77E got weaker and weaker and Mike couldn't get him. So we had the pizza.

After that it was back to the shack for some more DXing. The only QSO was Mike working 9Y4/DL1QQ on 40. We talked about some of our future plans and then he had to head home."

Those future plans include a couple of activities in November. On Sunday November 5, we plan to attend the Washington, PA hamfest. You probably won't read this in time, but should you get it in time, here is some info about the hamfest if you would like to attend - <http://www.wacomarc.org/hamfest.html>. We first attended this gathering two years ago and found it to be a very nice compact gathering with plenty of vendors selling just about anything you could think of. I bought some extra power pole connectors, a very nice WPX book made by the RSGB, and a folding umbrella. Well I said just about anything could be gotten there. HI. This year, Mike and I plan to get some power pole connectors and donate them to the Requin so their power supply can be more easily distributed to their rigs and those that visitors may bring to the sub.

Speaking of the Requin, as we do each year, Mike and I will be operating from there on the day before Thanksgiving. More about that in my web site diary at k3wwp.com and via the NAQCC email list shortly before the event.



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 Frank NF8M #1478 –

To commemorate my 100th monthly sprint in June, Gregg WB8LZG (#1444) made me a very nice handcrafted polished-wood key fob with my call engraved. Gregg, who also makes craftsman-quality finger pieces for CW keys, presented me with the key fob during a recent visit to Michigan State University's amateur radio club station, W8SH (#7460).



From Mark, KA9FQG, #4506 –

Mark was the winner of an MFJ gift certificate in our special Anniversary Sprint prize drawing. He sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

The \$25 gift certificate from MFJ arrived this week – thank you! I look forward to deciding how to best use this prize... and it will definitely be put to good use. Thanks to you and everyone else who makes the NAQCC such a great club!

73,
Mark
KA9FQG #4506

From Daryl, K9QEW, #8973 —

Daryl won the 9th place prize in our 13th Anniversary prize drawing and sent this in after he received his prize. - Editor

Attached is a photo showing myself and the 9th place prize awarded to me from NAQCC. I can make good use of this clock when I travel to Arizona for the Winter.

73s and Thanks for the gift.

Daryl K9QEW, #8973

PS Limited to 20 meter operation while in Mesa, AZ.



From Don, VE3DQN, #5846 —

Don won the 1st place prize in our 13th Anniversary prize drawing and sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

Many, many thanks to the NAQCC and MFJ for the gift of the MFJ-259C antenna analyzer!! Not only is it a great product that I've seen used by my friends, but winning it is so timely for me. I've just moved to a new QTH and am in the middle of multiple antenna projects, including antenna options for portable operation. This is a great addition to my modest station.

Don VE3DQN



From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

October was a busy month with a lot of ham activities as well as non-ham activities.

Overall, keeping the DX streak going was probably harder this month than any of the previous 55 months. Many evenings there was no DX to be heard at all or at best just a couple of stations too weak to work. So probably around half of my DX streak QSOs came in the 1300-1600Z time segment when 17, 20, and also 15 would provide some good easily worked strong DX signals. However the 56th month was completed at 0231Z on October 31 when I worked VP5/N2WKS on 30M with but a single call.

Of course the regular streak continued to be easy to maintain. There is always someone to work in the evenings from W/VE land when DX may not be available.

Otherwise, I finally got a new DX entity confirmed when a card came in from KH8/KC0W for a QSO in May of 2016. Counting card/LoTW verifications combined, that's 220 of the 225 entities that I've worked verified now.

Since working new DX has really slowed down, I embarked on a new project. I'm going through all my DX QSOs seeing how many of the First Level political divisions I have worked in each country. For example, by that is meant states in the USA, provinces/territories in Canada, prefectures in Japan, cantons in Switzerland, and so on. It's an ongoing thing, and I've only checked 51 countries so far. I'm not going to bother with those countries with which I only have a couple QSOs. Also some countries have really confusing ways of dividing their area, and I've passed on them for now also and stuck with the easier ones. Of those 51 countries, I've found 941 divisions, of which I've worked 684. I've completed 14 of the 52 countries. As with most other info here and in the WPA chapter, more info is available in my web site diary at k3wwp.com should anything pique your curiosity.

Conditions were disappointing for our anniversary sprint, at least here (and many other places also according to soapbox comments). I found 20 totally dead, and 40 not much better. After 15 minutes on those bands with nothing to show for it, I headed to 80 and had a ball there. Quoting from my diary, "There I felt like rare DX for the first 15 or so minutes as I was running stations and working small pileups. That was FUN! But it slowed to a normal pace after that and I made 44 QSOs in 18 SPCs, all on 80 except for N5GW on 40 in the last few minutes when I stopped getting answers on 80 to my CQs."

I forgot to mention this in the WPA chapter news, so instead of bothering Paul with a correction, I'll just post it here. After a very long wait, the FOBB scores were finally posted. Our NAQCC chapter entry of N3AQC finished 7th out of 70 scores posted. As I said in the diary, "40 was our downfall this year. Conditions there were miserable and we made only 10 QSOs vs. 42 on 20 meters." The "we" was Mike KC2EGL and I. In previous years, we did much better in the FOBB.

From Steve, W4OEP, #7980 —

Steve was the 4th place winner in our 13th Anniversary Sprint prize drawing and sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

Thank you so much for this nice surprise. I am an avid kit builder and look forward to pairing this MFJ-9340K with the Inverted EII on the MFJ 1910 Telescopic Mast shown behind me in the attached photo. Please pass along my sincere appreciation to Martin and the folks at MFJ Enterprises for their wonderful support of amateur radio and NAQCC.

Vy 72,
Steve W4OEP



From Steve, NN0SS, #6908 —

Steve was the 3rd place winner in our Anniversary Sprint prize drawing and sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

The UPS driver was among the Halloween trick and treaters when he delivered a Vibroplex Code Warrior JR key last evening. This will be a great key for portable operations and daily use. I also will be able to convert it into a side swiper (cootie) key with a wire jumper when desired

Thanks to all the NAQCC volunteers who organize the great events for the club.

It is very enjoyable to work the sprints each month and meet other hams who have an interest in QRP operation.

72-Steve NN0SS



From Phil, KB0ETU, #7833 —

Phil won the 6th place prize in our Anniversary Sprint drawing and sent this in. - Editor

Thank You to NAQCC and MFJ. I will definitely make good use of it.

72,
Phil
KB0ETU



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

Club President Paul Huff, N8XMS
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USA



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.