

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 234 DECEMBER 2017



KEY CLICKS

- **K3WWP CLOSING HIS SPREADSHEET.** After more than 13 years and more than 13,500 submitted logs, John, K3WWP, will be doing his final sprint log processing and cross-checking this month! The amount of time and effort that he has put into this over all these years can't be imagined and it will literally be impossible to replace him. We are taking some steps to try to at least partially fill the void created by John's retirement and we hope to detail those to you in next month's newsletter. But two things are certain - it won't be the same, and John will be missed!
Thank you John for everything that you have done over all these years and enjoy your well deserved retirement!
- **NAQCC ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE DRAWING WINNERS.** On November 12th we had our final 13th Anniversary activity when the special prize drawing for the participants in our October challenge was held. The winners of the three keys that were donated by WA2ZOT were W2JEK, AH6AX, and N8BB. Details can be seen on the October challenge page at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.html>.
- **AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHER SEEKS INFORMATION ABOUT MORSE CODE.** Shortly after Thanksgiving I received an interesting email from a woman in Australia who is doing some research for a possible future documentary on Australian public broadcasting. She is looking for information about Morse Code and gave me permission to publish her email in the newsletter. You will find it in the *Member Submissions* section of this issue under "From Debra Shulkes."
- **THE NAQCC WPA CHAPTER HAD GREAT RESULTS IN THE ARRL FIELD DAY.** The ARRL recently published the results from their Field Day in June and our Western PA chapter was a top finisher in several categories. See their full report in the *Chapter News* section of this issue.
- **EUROPEAN CHAPTER NEEDS SOME HELP.** Matt, MW0MIE, needs to step down from his position as the leader of the European chapter of the NAQCC. If you are interested in helping fill this position please see the additional details on the *Chapter News* and *NAQCC Challenges* pages in this newsletter.
- **AUSTRALIAN FISTS CLUB LIKES OUR MONTHLY CHALLENGES.** I received a request from VK2GAZ, an officer in the *FISTS Down Under Club*, asking for permission to adapt our monthly challenges for use with their members. We thought that this was a nice honor and of course granted their request. Gary, K1YAN, does an outstanding job with crafting our monthly challenges and if you have never tried one you just don't know what fun you are missing!

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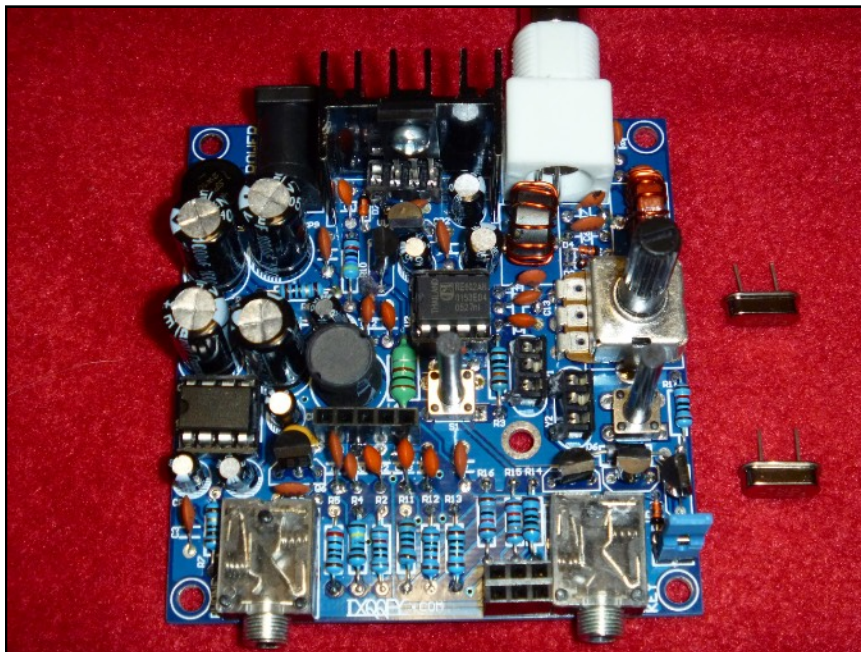
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the 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.”



Assembly

The pc board was extremely well designed and easy to follow. I mounted L1, L2, L3, and L4 first and carefully soldered the leads. Next, I very carefully installed the electrolytic capacitors being careful to observe correct polarity. Next, the resistors were installed one by one after checking them with the ohmmeter one final time before applying the solder. It is imperative to do the job correctly the first time as trying to unsolder a component afterward is an easy way to ruin a pc board and maybe, the whole kit. Luckily, I did not have to do that. I also made simple crystal sockets using pieces of IC sockets for Y1 and Y2 so that I would not be locked into a single frequency. I am glad that I did as I found that the crystals supplied for 7.023 Mhz. worked fine but there is a lot more activity between 7.030 Mhz. and 7.060 Mhz. (Then again, I am currently in the Persian Gulf and I find that out here, 7.023 Mhz. is extremely active in the evening. I hear a lot of Russian and European stations.) Anyway, it is nice, not having to be locked into any one frequency.

Reading the markings on the small ceramic capacitors was not easy for my 66 year old eyes so, I used a Genrad 1659 RLC Digibridge that we had sitting in the back of the transmitter room to double check their values before installation. I then installed all of the remaining components carefully checking polarity before applying solder.



After plugging in the IC's and crystals it was time for the smoke test. It worked perfectly the first time 12 VDC was applied! Success. Next, I wanted to check transmitter output so I hooked up our Bird 6145 wattmeter. I measured only 750mw output instead of the 3 watts advertised. They must mean 3 watts input which is about what it draws from the DC power supply. Gotta love the Chinese. Of course, the Bird 6145 is not designed to measure anything below 25Mhz. so it could be reading a bit low. What I probably have is a QRPP rig. I unsoldered Q1 and installed a socket so that I could try different final transistors in an attempt to increase output but all I accomplished was over heating U1, the 78L08 voltage regulator. I reinstalled the stock D882 transistor and will leave it as a QRPP rig.

I next began assembling the case which is included with the kit. All of the plastic parts fit perfectly and are held together with nylon spacers and screws. The case comes with already drilled to accommodate the antenna connector, key, head phone, and power jacks so no special skills or tools are required. Only a small screw driver.

On The Air

Patching the rig into one of the ships 35 foot vertical antennas I had no trouble working K6KPH in Point Reyes Station, CA. while tied up at the pier in San Diego, CA. I've worked a number of other stations up and down the California coast and one in Montana which is not too bad although not exactly a record. Late one night I heard a station in Coventry, RI calling CQ very clearly On 7.040 Mhz. but was unable to work him. So, the receiver seems to be a good one when hooked up to a decent antenna. I think that with a better antenna I could have easily worked him. Not bad, for a transceiver that sells for approximately the price of a heavy snack at Mickey D's.

Conclusion

A nice beginner project with or without the wifi module. This radio would make a good rig for camping as it's so small it can easily be stashed inside a back pack and if it gets broken, no big deal. It even comes with its own case so it makes a great paper weight when not in use.



DIY CHOKE BALUN

BY GENE WARREN, 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 pic to the right 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 next two pics. 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.

MARK HOPKINS, NA4O, #368



This year, 2017, marks a milestone in my ham radio adventure as I celebrated my 50th year licensed as an amateur radio operator in June. That makes this a great time to look back and remember the days that have gone before.

As a youngster, I enjoyed building various electronic circuits on project boards. One board had 50 different circuits and I built each one. From that, I advanced to building a Heathkit GR-81 regenerative receiver kit that I used for several years. One night during that time, I remember my father brought home a book that someone in his office had sent to me. He said the coworker was a 'Ham' and this was a study guide to get a 'ham' license.

Well, I had been called a ham before and was not sure why I needed a study guide, but I immediately became fascinated when I looked at it. That was the beginning of my amateur radio adventures. In those days, one had to go to the FCC office to take the exam. I studied and rode into Atlanta one day with my father to take the exam. As a 15-year-old teenager in the office of the FCC, I still remember being a bit intimidated. I took the written Novice exam and the 5 WPM code test and was delighted to hear that I passed. In June, 1967, I was issued the call of WN4GDQ.

I had my station set up and was ready to get on the air. I called a high school friend who was a ham and had my first QSO using my regen receiver and a homebrew transmitter built on a TV chassis (CW, of course). I took advantage of the summer months to study for the General class test and, in August,

upgraded to the call WB4GDQ. All of the contacts in the early years were on CW using simple equipment and antennas because that was all my budget allowed.

Over the years, I upgraded to a Knightkit R-100A receiver that had a separate dial for the ham bands and later I built several Heathkits. I particularly remember how nice the HW-16 was. When I finally was able to get a Yaesu FT-101, I felt like I had arrived! After that, I began using SSB a lot more, but I never left CW behind as it always seemed to produce better results from my modest station. In February, 1981, I upgraded to Extra class and received my current callsign, NA4O. It has proven to be a nice one, on CW particularly.

Over the years, through college, working, marriage and family, I was not always active, but I did maintain my license. No matter where I lived, I always managed to put up some type of antenna. Ham radio provided opportunities at every stage to make friends and be involved in interesting activities like public service support and Field Days. Off the air, I have always enjoyed building projects and antennas, particularly wire antennas. On the air, I mainly enjoy jumping into contests and QSO parties and sprints where I can immerse myself in my hobby for hours or entire weekends.

In recent years, it was rare for me to ever raise my power above QRP levels. I guess I never feel like I needed to. I have won first place several years in the ARRL Sweepstakes for GA Section Single Op QRP and have won first place in the Georgia QSO Party for GA Single Operator QRP Phone for 10 years. QRP works fine for me. I am particularly proud of receiving the WAS Certificate during the W1AW Centennial in 2014 using QRP CW.

Once I discovered the NAQCC which combined my love for QRP and CW, much of my on-air activity has been focused on the sprints. I can also be found in the SKCC sprints (#5045T) and some of the FISTS events (#10158).

Though I have modified it a bit, the operating desk that I use today is the original one my Dad built for me as a teenager before I was even licensed. And, to this day, my antennas are still simple wire elements. My workhorse antenna is the AlphaDelta DX-LB+ up 45-feet and angled among three trees. The station equipment is vastly more sophisticated today than when I began, although the mode and power level is about the same. My current station equipment consists of the Elecraft KX3 as my main radio with a Vibroplex Straight Key attached. I also have a Yaesu FT-817 that I used for years. It is what really made me a convert to QRP. Once I put the 817 on the air, I found I never really needed to get back on the 'big' radio. Everything was fine and more fun with the tiny radio.

I recently added an Elecraft KX2 to take on trips and outings. (I also have an FT-847 for satellite work and an FT857D for the car.) The arrival of the KX2 just after I retired was bitter sweet because I lost my beloved wife at that same time. I was thinking retirement would bring many hours that I could devote to my hobby, but lately radio has been a bit on hold. I still try to make the sprints when I can, but I do look forward to being more active on the air before long (as well as doing more running, hiking, biking and other things I love).

One thing I have learned over my 50 years in ham radio is to hang onto that privilege known as my amateur radio license. There are times when one has to focus on other things, but to me it has been a constant that I have always treasured being available. From the very beginning, thinking back to the days of the Atlanta Society of Teenage Radio Operators (ASTRO), to more recent times with involvement in the local ARES group and orbiting satellites, ham radio has provided many fun times, friendships, learning opportunities and pure joy. Even with all the technology around, I am still amazed each time I make a contact using a measly 5 watts of power squeezed into a thin wire 45 feet in the air and consisting of carefully timed closures and openings of a hand-operated key.

I look forward to many more QSOs and making more friends on the air. Not only have I been in ham

radio 50 years now, but I am still using the same CW and low power that I used in my very first QSO and still thrilled each time I hear a station come back to my call. While I find it necessary to embrace advances, I also find comfort being able to connect with the many pleasurable QSOs and experiences from the past. I am looking forward to adding many more NAQCC numbers to my log.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We have two sprints this month to play in. First up is our regular monthly sprint on December 13, 0130-0330 UTC. That is the evening of Tuesday the 12th here in North America. Then in the following week on December 21, 0130-0330 UTC, we have one of our special QRPp sprints. (Wednesday the 20th in North America.) Complete information about these sprints can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201712.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201712mw.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>. This will be the last month that we track Silver Logs and 2018 will be the final year that a Silver Log award will be issued.

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: Absolutely horrendous conditions plagued most locations for the November sprint resulting in only 120 total participants and 93 submitted logs. This is only the 7th time in the past 7 years that we have dipped below the 100-log level. Even when the conditions are poor participants still seem to enjoy themselves as is indicated by the many positive soapbox comments that were received. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201711.html>.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: KK6EME AA5OY(nm) KA4DRB W0ITT N9BIL KX4S

SPRINT SCHEDULE AVAILABLE: The schedule for our 2018 sprints is 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		
W2	W2NRA	W2SH	
W3	AH6AX	AF3Z	
W4	WG8Y	N5GW	N4OW
W5	W5WIL		
W6			
W7	KC7DM		
W8	KX4S	WV8DH	
W9	KD9VT	WB9HFK	
W0	NN0SS	N8LA	
VE			
DX			

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

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M		
W2	K2YGM	N2ESE	
W3	W3PNM		
W4	WB4OMM	K4KRW	N4MJ
W5	K5MBA		
W6			
W7	KF7Z		
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	N9BIL		
W0	NO2D		
VE			
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	KK6EME		NN9K

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	KX4S		N9BIL
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
KA4DRB			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	93	134	217	4/17
Participants	120	192	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1145	2042	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	604	1090	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	541	952	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	16	92	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	337	1025	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	792	925	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.3	15.2	19.3	9/11

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

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	N0TA NU7T(SK) WG8Y NA4O N8BB AA9L WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD
75+	K1IEE K4NVJ N4FI KD0V WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) W4DUK WB8ENE VE3FUJ KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE WX4RM NO2D WA8SAN
100+	WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL
125+	KA2KGP W2JEK W9CC W2SH
150+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our challenge this month will have all of you boat anchor fans happily tripping down memory lane. It is an alphabet challenge working with the names of some great old rigs. (For the younger crowd we should mention that radios used to glow in the dark and were given catchy names and not just model numbers.) Complete information about the challenge can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201712.html>.

The European challenge is an interesting alphabet challenge that works with the callsigns of hams who have participated in their various challenges over this past year. Your QTH does not have to be in Europe to participate in this challenge. Details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2017-challenge/>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The North American challenge in January will be an alphabet challenge with words that are all associated with our calendar. Details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201801.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 November challenge is still a few days away. You can go to <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201711.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/november-2017-challenge/>.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE DRAWING: On November 12th we had our final 13th Anniversary activity when the special prize drawing for the participants in our October challenge was held. The winners of the three keys that were donated by WA2ZOT were W2JEK, AH6AX, and N8BB. Details can be seen on the October challenge page at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201710.html>.

CHANGES WITH THE EUROPEAN CHALLENGES. Ton, PA5LR, has done a wonderful job creating and managing the European challenges but he is now retiring from that position. At the same time there are some other changes taking place in the European chapter (see the *Chapter News* section) and as a result the European challenges are being discontinued in 2018. We will of course make an announcement if and when they return.

AUSTRALIAN CLUB BORROWS OUR CHALLENGE IDEAS: The *FISTS Down Under Club* heard about our monthly challenges and liked the idea so much that they asked us for permission to adapt the idea for their membership. (Which we granted.) This is a nice testimonial to the great job that Gary, K1YAN, does for us in designing our challenges.

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: The Participation Award

This is a very special award and it comes with a special prize - a free membership in FISTS, The International Morse Preservation Society. Each year our members earn points by their participation in our monthly sprints and challenges. One point is earned for each sprint or challenge that you participate in, and an extra point is awarded if you participate in both of these activities in a single month. In other words, a maximum of 3 participation points can be earned each month thus producing a total of 36 possible points for the year. At the end of the year the member with the highest number of participation points wins the prize. (Actually the winner is usually determined by a random drawing from the several members who end up in a tie with their points.) You can see the complete details about this award, along with the points that you have individually earned so far this year, at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW AWARD

0534 VE6NS WL7F - 3,394 11/29/17 33' EF vertical, 9:1 balun

WAVE AWARD - Category A (Basic)

0009 - VE6NS 11/29/17



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 5:00 PM PT	Mon & Fri 0100 Z	5348 KHz (Ch 2)	JB, NR5NN (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0100 Z	3565 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 5 PM PT	Friday 0100 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, 60 and 80 Meter Nets

FRN Sunday evenings 4:00 PM PDT (Monday 0000 UTC) on 7056 kHz +/-
 53N Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST (Monday 0100 UTC) on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)
 FRN Sunday evenings 6:00 PM PDT (Monday 0200 UTC) on 3556 kHz +/-
 FRN NCS - Rick N6IET (California); 53N NCS - JB NR5NN (California)

November 5/6

FRN/40 QNI (8) KE6EE, K6GVG, AI6SL, N7HRK/m, NR5NN, N6IET, N6KIX
 53N/60 QNI (3) NR5NN, K6GVG, N6IET
 FRN/80 QNI (7) N6IET NCS, KE6EE, AI6SL, W7SAG, K6GVG, K7KY, KW6G

November 12/13

FRN/40 QNI (5) N6IET and NR7HRK/m NCSs, K6GVG, AI6SL, NR5NN
 53N/60 QNI (4) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, K6GVG, AI6SL
 FRN/80 QNI (4) N6IET NCS, NR5NN co-NCS, AI6SL, K6GVG

November 19/20

FRN/40 QNI (6) N6IET NCS, N7HRK/m, W7SAG, NR5NN, K6GVG, KW6G
 53N/60 QNI (4) NR5NN NCS, K6GVG, W7SAG, N6IET
 FRN/80 QNI (2) N6IET NCS, W7SAG

November 26/27

FRN/40 QNI (7) N6IET NCS, KE6EE co-NCS, N7HRK/m, AI6SL, KW6G, K6JJR, K6GVG
 53N/60 QNI (4) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, K6GVG, AI6SL
 FRN/80 QNI (5) N6IET NCS, K6GVG co-NCS, N6KIX, W7SAG, NR5NN

Newsletter Commentary

Nets thrive on NVIS, which potentially allows all participants at all distances to hear each other. We're seeing the worst conditions for NVIS in our lifetimes, I believe. To have NVIS above 160 meters requires some minimal sunspot activity (SFI above 75), and we had more days without a single sunspot than we did with, this month. And conditions are only going to get worse before they get better. The foF2/xfF2 indices (which define the maximum NVIS frequency) have been dropping precipitously beginning just before sunset.

By the end of the month, even our much earlier net times couldn't beat each band going long during the net or even before the net started. JB moved 53N up another half hour from 0130z to 0100z and even that didn't solve the problem of the band going long before we were finished. We required frequent relays, which our great operators handled nicely.

Adversity inspires resourcefulness and creativity. Net members have been trying to improve their antennas and operating skills. We've discussed how best to adjust our noise filters, bandpass filters and RF Gain controls for weak and/or noisy signal reception. We're all becoming experts on NVIS propagation, antennas and operating techniques.

Next month the Solar Flux Index should hit bottom and start creeping upward. Or not. I read an article in Astronomy that suggested we could be entering another Maunder Minimum.

"The Maunder Minimum, also known as the 'prolonged sunspot minimum', is the name used for the period starting in about 1645 and continuing to about 1715 when sunspots became exceedingly rare, as noted by solar observers of the time.

"The term was introduced after John A. Eddy published a landmark 1976 paper in Science. Astronomers before Eddy had also named the period after the solar astronomer Annie Russell Maunder (1868-1947) and E. Walter Maunder (1851-1928), who studied how sunspot latitudes changed with time." (From https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Maunder_Minimum)

72/73 de Rick N6IET

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NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3565 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

2017/11/7 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM

Well our first try on 3.565khz was not a smashing success. YGA was about a 579 with very deep QSB and I was QRP but kicked it up to QRO when the QSB started. I just heard YUM on the check in but nil when I went to him 15 min. later. The propagation has not been that good so far this month but hope it will improve with shorter days.

2017/11/14 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA WI5H

I had to drop down 1kc. due to a carrier on 3.565kc. Signals were pretty good on 80 meters this week with some QSB. I ran QRP the whole net and got a 579559 report from the guy QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA Terry was QRO on his new OCF dipole at 20 ft. and 579. QRN was ruff but we had a nice QSO. Andy was also QRO and the same report. I did QRP for Terry but had to bump it up to 50 watts for Andy to hear me. Glad we can do QRO for the QRS nets on 80 meters. It helps a lot in the winter for sure.

2017/11/21 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

Terry was QRO on his new OCF dipole at 20 ft. and 579. QRN was ruff but we had a nice QSO. Andy was also QRO and the same report. I did QRP for Terry but had to bump it up to 50 watts for Andy to hear me. Glad we can do QRO for the QRS nets on 80 meters. It helps a lot in the winter for sure.

2017/11/28 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

No check ins heard last night. Hope for better conditions next week.

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

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

2017/11/06 QNI (1) W0CC

QRN S 5-7. The Ten Tec Net is on 7.063 MHz (QRO) and operates 4 miles from my QTH. His signal is 4 KHz wide, but could not hear any buried signals and could easily filter out with 500 Hz filter.

2017/11/13 QNI (1) W0CC

QRN I did not hear any other stations in this part of the band. All of the stations that I was receiving were in the lower part of the band working split DX.

2017/11/20 QNI (1) W0CC

QRN S-7. SSB QRM. Heard 2 different stations fade in and out of the QSB. Tried to return each call without subsequent response.

017/11/27 QNI (1) W0CC

QSN S3. Had only one station respond to the CQ, W9????, lost in the QSB. Looking forward to next week and improving band conditions.

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)

2017-11-2 NCS (3) N8ZYA KB8ZPZ W8GDP

QSB was a factor this evening. KB8ZPZ in Wirt County was between 339 and 549 at times. John KB8ZPZ has a very good fist. It was nice to hear him again. John W8GDP continued on with the net. Our conversation was about the health status of his brother in law, and of course mine also. Hi Hi We are looking forward to breakfast next week at our usual Chapter breakfast.

Hi Folks,

2017/11/19

I will be out of town for the next two weeks visiting relatives in New York for Thanksgiving.

If you would like to run the QRS net for the next two weeks, drop me an e-mail.

72's John N8ZYA

NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Friday 01:00 UTC on 3574 kHz.
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2017-11-03 QNI (2) KG7JEB NCS, WB4SPB.

2017/11/10 QNI (4) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, W7ANM.

2017/11/17 QNI (5) KE7LKW NCS, WB4SPB, KG7JEB, N7TB/7, N0DA.

2017/11/24 QNI (3) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, VE7DSN.



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.



"CW HOUND"



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, and Florida - but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members in a geographical area and subject to a list of guidelines from the NAQCC. They provide opportunities to have fun and to promote our parallel passions of QRP and CW. If you are interested in forming a local chapter please contact Club President Paul, N8XMS.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted on the club email list or in the newsletter, send an email with the subject "NAQCC Portable Operation" and with the exact wording of the announcement to Vice President John, N8ZYA, at the email address listed on the last page about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

A report about your chapter activity should appear here. Please send them to KD2MX or N8XMS at the email addresses listed on the last page.

NAQCC chapters located in the United States are welcome to use the NAQCC Club call, N3AQC for their special operations. Please contact call sign trustee Paul, N8XMS, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Central Texas Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Danny, N5DRG.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area and maintains a website at <http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/index.html>.

No report available.

DELMARVA CHAPTER



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

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

No report available.

DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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

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

No report available.

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



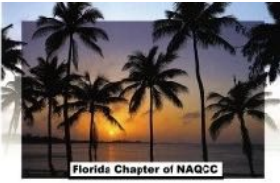
Items in this section are from European Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Matt, MWOMIE.

The European Chapter has its own monthly challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just members in EU, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter website for dates and details at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>

Matt, MWOMIE, has announced that due to excessive time pressures with his personal and work schedules he needs to step down from the leadership of the European chapter. At the same time Ton, PA5LR, has announced his retirement from managing the monthly European chapter challenges. Both Matt and Ton have done a great job in these positions for many years and we certainly thank them both and wish them well as they move on.

This of course means that we have needs for some new workers in the European chapter. First priority would be to find a replacement for Matt and after that the situation with the challenges could be addressed. If you would be interested in stepping into this position or first have some questions about it please contact Matt at the email address given on the last page of this newsletter and cc a copy to club President Paul, N8XMS. Matt has stated that he will help transition a new person into the position.

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: NOVEMBER 2017

A New Location In Our Rotation!!

On Friday, November 17th, 2017 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to a local park for our monthly adventure. In our never-ending quest to find nice places to operate, we held our latest "Operation in the Park" at Lake Beresford Park in DeLand, Florida.



Lake Beresford Park is within the Lake Beresford Greenway, a 210-acre parcel that was acquired with assistance from the Florida Communities Trust in 1991.

The park is highlighted by a 1.8-mile multi-use trail that follows the perimeter of the parcel. This trail connects to the Spring-to-Spring Trail, which allows patrons to walk, run, skate or bike three miles down to Blue Spring State Park.

The two nature trails in the northern portion of the park are open for those who prefer a more natural hiking experience. Other amenities include a modern restroom, two pavilions, two playgrounds, and plenty of paved parking spaces for your convenience. The park opened in 2007. It is a nice park!!

When I arrived at 9:00 am (EDT local), just like last month, I didn't recognize any cars in the parking lot... And that's still not a good sign. I scooped up my equipment and as I walked towards a pavilion,

Nicole KM4SBQ arrived, helping me carry my stuff. Within a few minutes I spied Don K3RLL and Wally KG4LAL setup in another pavilion. Not long after that Art WB4MNK and John KD4JS arrived, followed by Rick AA4W and John W2IV.

John KD4JS found a “friend” moving across the cement sidewalk on his way to the pavilion. He barely got a picture as it “boogied on down” away from him. Yes, folks – that is a Coral Snake, highly poisonous. Happily, it did not return. Happily, it did not bite John!



By 9:45 AM we had 4 stations up and running at two separate pavilions; the signals were not good, propagation was probably the worst it had been so far this year. We still made some great Qs with many of them NAQCC folks.

This trip we had a total of 8 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5913; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; Don K3RLL 1905; Wally KG4LAL #6278; Art WB4MNK #5274; John KD4JS #8019; Rick AA4W #1628, and John W2IV #6150. We arrived to our site with gloriously wonderful clear skies and a temp of 64 degrees with 60% humidity – it was nice and cool! By the time we left around noon it was 78 degrees and a bright sunny day. Special thanks to Nikki and John for taking the pics!!



**Steve WB4OMM
#5913**

Elecraft KX-3,
Scorpion Mini Black
Widow paddle, 5W to
an End Fed 53-foot
wire with 9:1 Balun.

Steve made a total of
5 Qs.

He worked 3 members
in 3 states on 20M
including Mike - WI5H
#7128-TX; Curt –
WA2JSG #3457-NJ;
John - KG9HV #327;
non-member
K5EDM....and F5UQE
in France! FB DX!



The WB4OMM Station – KX-3 & Scorpion Mini Black Widow Paddle

L to R: Wally KG4LAL, John W2IV, and Steve WB4OMM at the WB4OMM station having a discussion.

Wally is a really smart fella! He don't step on da' snakes!!

We listen!!



Don K3RLL #1905 having a discussion with Rick AA4W

Don had his Elecraft KX-3 and Weber Tri-bander.

Each time he hit the key, he was "working Art" very loud and strong through his KX1, so spent the time visiting folks. Nice guy! Later, Rick AA4W used his "stuff" and worked non-member Ralph – K0RO in MS. It's all about the people!

L-R: Don K3RLL and Rick AA4W comparing notes

Art WB4MNK #5913
Elecraft KX-1, 4W to a
29.5-foot vertical
antenna.

Art made 2 Qs in 2
different states, both
members - Russ,
K3NLT, in VA #2906
and John, KG9HV, in
IN #0327



**That's a lot of
antenna!!!!**

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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, December 15th, 2017 starting at 9:30 AM EST

Lake Dias Park (5320 State Road 11, De Leon Springs, 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

***The NAQCC-FL Chapter wishes all of our friends sincere, warm wishes, for a safe and Happy Holiday Season and a wonderful New Year!
Remember those not so fortunate.....be grateful for what you have!***

May Santa bring you that K3S.....and the bill!!



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.

The WPA Chapter closed out the main portion of its 2017 schedule in November with a hamfest and a subpedition. The hamfest was the Washington County Hamfest on November 5. Those of our chapter members who attended all had a good time and some bought needed (or not needed - HI) items from the many vendors there. Mike and I bought a power pole connector block to donate to the USS Requin to make it easier to hook into their 13.8V power supply. Art from the sub was there and we asked if the sub would be available the day before Thanksgiving. He said probably but to check again a couple days before we plan to go. Now a couple pictures, the first of which gives a good idea of the setup there. The second picture is of our chapter members who attended (L-R WC3O K3WWP WB3FAE KC2EGL W3FFZ).



As requested, I called Art to find out about the subpedition. He said he wouldn't be available on Wednesday. Could we make it on Friday. I contacted Mike and it was OK with him. So instead of the day before Thanksgiving as usual, this year it would be the day after Thanksgiving.

Comments from Mike: As usual we had a lot of fun on the Requin. It was one of the better visits with all the traffic passing through the sub being it was kind of a holiday day after Thanksgiving. It was probably the heaviest visited operation we've had at the sub. We enjoyed talking with all the visitors as they passed by the radio room or dropped in for longer chats. Actually if we summarized all our very interesting chats with the visitors, this would become just the first of a series of articles needed to include all the stories. We won't do that though. Overall it was a fantastic post-Thanksgiving visit.

I'll add my AMEN to that. As far as activity on the bands, it was pretty much par for the course. A lot of answers to our CQs the first 90 minutes or so, then things quieted down, so we abandoned our CQs and went off chasing DX. I should mention we had a broadband noise of some kind that was about 30-40 kHz wide centered on our 20 meters frequency. It was a real struggle to make 5 QSOs on 20 where the noise was. In total we made 31 QSOs. States worked included NJ NY MA ME NC FL TX ID TN MD PA. In Canada BC QC. Countries besides W/VE were: FJ V2 TK KH6 CT3 6Y YN V4 PJ4 KP2. Most, if not all the DX was from stations setting up for the CQWW DX Contest. By the way, the power pole connectors we donated to the sub worked perfectly. It's nice now to not have to lug a heavy battery through the small doorways on the sub.

To close the sub story here are 3 pictures of the crew (K3WWP KC2EGL) We wish more of our chapter members could have made it, but we guess they all had other holiday obligations with family, etc.





Here's a brief summary of our 2017 chapter activities.

We attended 5 hamfests in WPA. Three regular parkpeditions at Kittanning Community Park and Moraine State Park. We activated N3AQC in three contests - Field Day, Flight of the Bumblebees, and the Skeeter Hunt. We made it to the Requin three times. We activated N3A during NAQCC anniversary week.

The results from FD were recently posted by the ARRL. Our little operation by KC2EGL and K3WWP using N3AQC in which we made 491 QSOs and 5,160 points netted the following finishes according to the on-line ARRL contest database:

Category 2B2B - 2nd overall, 1st in WPA, 1st in the Atlantic Division.

QRP - 1st all categories in WPA.

All categories, all power levels - 5th overall in WPA, 1st with only 2 operators.

QRP all categories in USA/VE - 23rd.

Not bad considering we were operating from my front porch with makeshift antennas. Hopefully we can find a better site somewhere next year.

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, W2JEK, #1135 —

Don won the first place prize in the special drawing that we had for the participants in our Anniversary monthly challenge in October. He sent this in after learning that he had won. - Editor

What a wonderful surprise. It will be put to good use in my shack.

Many thanks and 73.
Don W2JEK



From Larry, AH6AX, #7313 —

Larry won the 2nd place prize in that same special drawing and sent this in. - Editor

Here's a picture of me with the prize: mini-cootie key, playing on Elecraft Kx3. I just finished a QRP QSO with N4PGJ (Ron) from SKCC. Very nice little key – have to come up with a way to keep it held down while sending – but it will be great for portable ops with either KX3 or KX2 on 'field trips'. My thanks to NAQCC/you guys and all involved in the anniversary doings – it "ain't easy" (I know from my own past experiences... like herding cats!) Best to you and yours for Thanksgiving Holidays.

73/72!
Larry Wandel
AH6AX



From Debra Shulkes, non-member —

I received this email from Debra Shulkes and was given permission to publish it in our newsletter. If any of you have stories that she might find interesting I would encourage you to contact her. My reply follows her email. - Editor

Dear North American QRP CW Club,

My name is Debra Shulkes and I'm a freelance researcher working with the Australian public broadcaster SBS (Documentary and Drama Unit).

SBS is keen to produce a project about Morse code and they are currently searching for untold stories about the code.

The team is especially looking for recent stories with an Australian element. These might be stories about

- relationships developed between Morsecodians around the globe - for example, unlikely connections, friendships and romances
- surprising discoveries or events involving the use of Morse code
- personal reasons for learning and using the code today
- other aspects of the code that you think would intrigue viewers

I would be extremely grateful for any suggestions of stories that might fit this bill. I'd also appreciate any recommendations of individuals or other organisations that I should contact.

I'd be very happy to answer any questions about this project.

Thank you very much for your time.

Best wishes,

Debra
debra.shulkes@gmail.com

=====

My reply...

Hello Debra,

I doubt that I personally have anything that would be of interest to you, although I will share a couple of things with you in just a moment. However, can I have your permission to publish your email (and email address) in my club's upcoming newsletter? It is possible that one of our members might have some useful information for you. The next newsletter will be published on December 4 or 5 and I will wait for your permission before including your email in it.

Other ham radio organizations that you might try to contact are the ARRL, FISTS, and the SKCC. FISTS calls itself the "Morse Preservation Society" and they might be especially helpful to you. The Wireless Institute of Australia might be another source for you. You could Google those to find their websites.

continued

Now...

You asked for personal reasons for learning and using the code today. Let me share a few thoughts with you.

Morse code continues to prove it's worth in radio communications. It is an efficient communications mode that can often get through poor band conditions when voice modes don't stand a chance. (There are some digital communications modes that rival Morse code but they all require more complicated equipment, namely a computer, special software, and an interface between the computer and the radio.) My club, the North American QRP CW Club, focuses on using Morse code with very simple equipment at very low power levels. The radios that we use can be as small as the size of a deck of cards and might output anywhere from a few milliwatts up to a maximum of 5 watts. (Think of the power used by a bathroom nightlight as representing the upper end of that power spread.) Using this "QRP" equipment and Morse code we are often able to communicate all over the world. As a personal example with an Australian connection, I used Morse code at 4-watts of power to contact a special expedition on St. Peter Island in South Australia a few years ago. (You can see the details about that contact on the QSL card scans that I have attached.)

But there is something else about Morse code that goes beyond the practical efficient radio communication mode. There is a mystique to using Morse code that is difficult to put into words. I liken it to boating. There are people who use motor boats but there are still plenty of people who use sail boats. The motor boat is faster and easier to use while the sailboat is much slower and requires a great deal of specialized skills to use. So why are there so many people that enjoy sailboating? Part of it is the satisfaction of mastering the skills that few others have mastered. But I think that there is also a somewhat mystical connection to the past when bold sailors set out in sailing ships to discover the world. Of course the history of Morse code is not as long as sailing, but those same two factors are there - pride in the mastery of a rare skill, and a connection to history.

So, good luck with your project. If possible I would enjoy receiving progress updates from time to time.

73, (That's a Morse code abbreviation for "Best Wishes To You.")

Paul Huff - N8XMS
NAQCC President
NAQCC #0675
<http://www.naqcc.info/>

From Marty, N9SE, #7452 —

Marty won the 2nd place prize in our special 13th anniversary sprint drawing and it finally arrived from China. He sent this in after receiving his HB-1B rig. - Editor

The mail carrier delivered the HB-1B today. It's a nice little rig. I look forward to using it frequently on outings.

72,
Marty N9SE



From Ed, KJ4R, #8048 —

Ed won the regular monthly drawing for our October challenge and sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

I won the monthly prize drawing for the October Challenge and chose a nice birds-eye, maple poker-chip finger rest. It makes a nice addition to my old Speed-X straight key. I've attached a photo of the key with the piece installed, along with my MFJ paddle which has the finger pieces that I won from a previous sprint drawing. I think both pieces add some nice character to the keys and make them more fun to use. My thanks to the club and to Gregg, WB8LZG for these great prizes!

73,
Ed KJ4R



From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

As I type, it's been just a few minutes since I worked Mike F5IN to complete another month of my DX streak. That's one of the highlights of November. The streak is now at 1,736 consecutive days of working some DX.

The sprint was another highlight and somewhat of a surprise. With poor conditions seemingly somewhat universal, I found the opposite here with very good conditions and I was able to make 50 QSOs in 25 states. Unusual to not work any Canadians. Although I don't compete against others in contests, but only against myself, I was pleased to have made the most QSOs in this month's sprint.

The challenge was another matter. I came up 5 Os short of completing it. Just too many other distractions this month to really concentrate on it.

It was great visiting the Washington, PA hamfests in early November and meeting and visiting with some of our WPA Chapter members and other folks as well. Also operating from the USS Requin in Pittsburgh again was a delight. Those two events are described in the WPA Chapter news above.

Although conditions were far from the best, I did have fun in the CQWW DX Contest as I do in all big DX contests, especially on Sunday when conditions did improve a bit from Saturday. I only made 79 QSOs

in 33 countries, all DX since I don't go for a score and don't work W/VE stations which I could to improve my score. I just enjoy making the DX contacts.

I'm just starting on a new little project. I want to see how many hams with whom I've made contact over a span of 50 years plus. That is having worked someone back in the 1960s and also 50 years later in the 2010s. Without checking my Microsoft Access log yet, I remember these folks: WA8REI, WA4FAT, K4BAI, W8LQ (then W2WOE), K1ZZ (K1ZND). I'm sure there are some more that I'll find in my log. Some I may not find are those who've changed calls via the Vanity Call program or otherwise. The only way to find those is if I know someone well enough to be aware of the change.

Another planned project brought on by a QSO with former Heath Co. employee Bob W9RAS who as part of his job helped design the HW-9, is figuring out and listing all the HeathKit gear I've built over the years. There's a lot.

There are still more things I could talk about that happened in November, but I won't take up more space here in the December newsletter. Instead I'll just refer you to my diary which is found at k3wvp.com. The November entries contain such diverse topics as a review of the wonderful GenLog program, the varied November weather, and silly putty to name a few. I never cease to be amazed by the interest shown in the diary. I'll mention something in a QSO, and the other person will say something like yes, I read about that in your diary. Or I'll get an email about this or that matter I mentioned in the diary. I really don't understand it, but I do appreciate it. I get around 100 visitors each day, many of whom are there just to follow the diary. Thanks.



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
9928 Eckles
Livonia, MI 48150
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
NAQCC Vice President West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
Delmarva Chapter	Bill - N3IOD	william.hammond@mchsi.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff - KA1DBE	ka1dbe@arrl.net
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Central Texas Chapter	Danny - N5DRG	n5drg@naqcc-centraltexas.net
Illowa Chapter	Mark - K0NIA	iowamv@gmail.com
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	n9ee@tampabay.rr.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
NAQCC CW Nets	Wayne - NQ0RP	wayne.dillon@gmail.com

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