

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 240 JUNE 2018



KEY CLICKS

- **JUNE IS A VERY BUSY MONTH FOR THE NAQCC.** We have double the fun scheduled this month! There are two different challenges and two different sprints to enjoy in June. See the appropriate pages in this newsletter for the complete details.
- **14TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN THE WORKS.** The plans are well under way for our 14th anniversary celebration that will run from 0000Z Oct 8 (the evening of the 7th in North America) through 2400Z Oct 14. Our special N#A callsigns have been reserved for all 10 US call districts and we will start to call for volunteer operators next month. Of course there will be a great prize drawing connected with our special sprint that week and, as in previous years, there is a throughout-the-year participation eligibility requirement for the top-tier of prizes. You can see those requirements, along with the kinds of prizes that we will be giving away by looking at last year's prize drawing page at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.
- **POSSIBLE SPRINT RULE CHANGE?** We would like your opinion on a possible change to one of our sprint rules that deals with how 2nd and 3rd place certificates are awarded. Currently a 1st place certificate is issued for the high score in each of our operating categories. But a 2nd place certificate is issued only if there were at least 5 entries in that category, and a 3rd place certificate requires at least 10 category entries. In other words, if there were say 4 entries in the W8-Straight Key category, the high score would receive a 1st place certificate but no 2nd or 3rd place awards would be given. We are considering changing this rule to always issue 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards in each operating category without that minimum entry requirement. Please tell us what you think about this by answering the question on our regular monthly poll page at http://www.naqcc.info/poll_new.html.
- **ARTICLES NEEDED.** My cached supply of articles for the newsletter is almost empty and I could use a refill. Have you done some portable operating, built a kit or home brew rig, or have a new commercial piece of gear that could be reviewed? Just about any QRP and/or CW related item would be of interest to our members so please consider sharing your experience with a write-up and a few pictures. You don't need to be a professional writer or turn in a "polished" piece that could win a Pulitzer prize. Just a basic text file and a jpeg or two would be great and I can take care of the formatting for the newsletter. Thank you in advance for your submissions.

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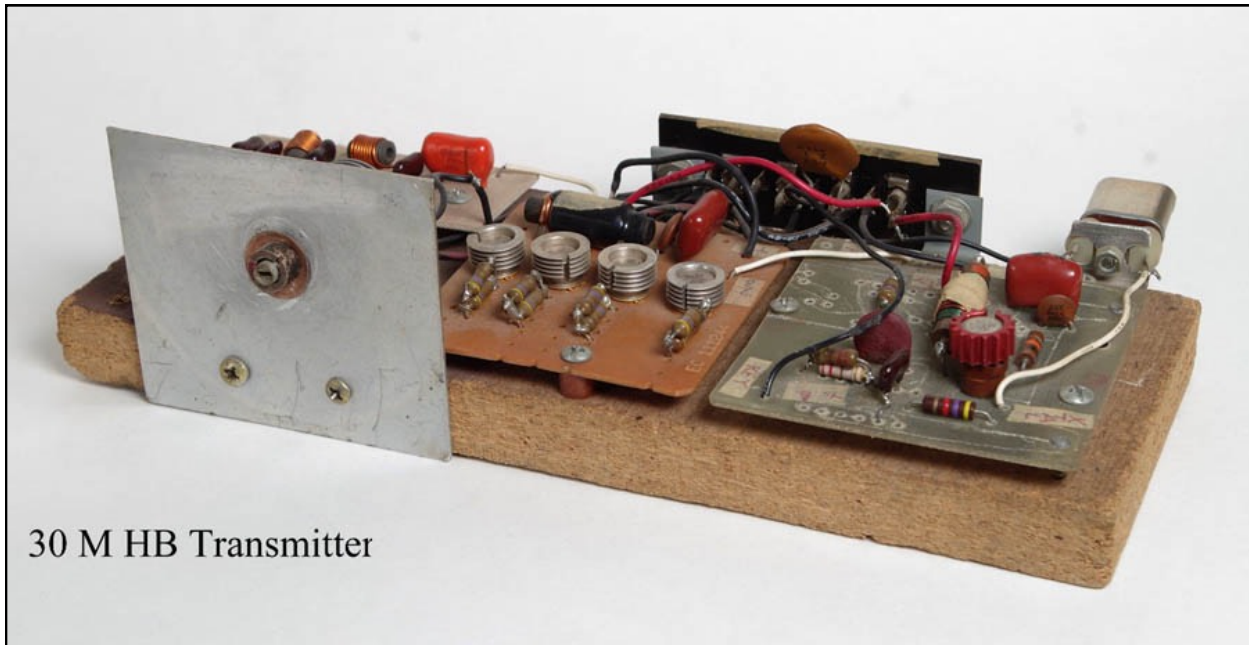
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- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. If others would 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.”



BUT DOES IT WORK?

BY TOM, VE4AKI



30 M HB Transmitter

I have a confession to make. In an earlier article, Fun With Funmitters Feb 2017, I gave a short description of a couple of QRP transmitters that I had built. Now for my confession. These were not my first attempt at building QRP gear. The photo shows shows my first attempt at building a transmitter, kinda ugly ain't it?

This project was a pure junkbox project. The junkbox contained many components from old TV sets and other defunct electronic devices. The circuit used for this project is a basic Colpitts oscillator link coupled to 4 parallel transistors used for the power amplifier. This feeds a two section output filter. All transistors are 2n3055's. Coils are wound on either RF chokes, or slugs of unknown characteristics. A series coil and adjustable capacitor is used to "warp" the crystal frequency giving a 3-4 khz. spread. The circuit boards are also recycled by cutting down larger boards, stripping of the traces and replacing them with new traces made with adhesive backed copper tape. No attempt was obviously made to make it pretty.

The result is a transmitter capable of 1-2 watts output [depending on voltage] on the 30M band. Keying seemed clean and good results were received from stations as far away a 900-1200 miles using a sloping dipole.

This project was useful in a variety of ways. It helped me develop my home-brewing skills in soldering, reading and following schematics, and understanding how electronic circuits worked. These skills have been put to use many times over the years in building many other projects to improve my station and enjoy QRP activity. I've kept this crude project all these years as a reminder of where it all started.

73-----TOM



BUDDIPOLE TRIPOD ADAPTER BY STEVE, W3UEC

I hope I don't shock or scandalize you when I say that I lust after portable antennas. Part of the motivation is the joy of being outdoors and obligation for preparedness. The main reason for me, however, is the fear that my family will try to shuttle me off (AKA "downsizing") to some antenna-impaired community, so I want my bug-out box to have "good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over." (Luke 6:38 KJV)

Among my portable antenna treasures is a Buddipole[™]. This antenna system is built around the Versa Tee[™] that serves as the base for the various configurations. In addition to standard 3/8"-10 sockets for radiating components on the sides and top, the Versa Tee[™] has a 1/2" pipe thread at the bottom to accommodate the support. An adapter is available to allow use of a "painter's pole" as an alternative to their proprietary tripod mast.

Once my friends got tired of holding the painter's pole for me, I realized that I already have a sturdy tripod left over from times when video cameras were cumbersome and heavy. This tripod has a crank-up mast segment, an elaborate head with three degrees of freedom and fancy compass dials. As with many camera tripods, there is a "quick change" plate with a 1/4"-20 screw (Figure 1.). My goal was to attach the Versa Tee to my tripod without major surgery or disabling the tripod from use with a camera if I should wish.



Figure 1. Camera Attachment Plate

In my spare parts cabinet (junk box), I found a cored brass plug with 1/2" pipe threads. Experimentally I found that this plug fit well into the bottom hole of the Versa-Tee. I also decided to use some teflon pipe tape the next time I fit them. As a first technically elegant but unsuccessful attempt to transform the brass plug into an adapter; I drilled a 1/4" hole in the top of the plug and ran in a 1/4"-20 tap. Either the

top of the plug did not have enough “meat” or I am not good at tapping, but the threads failed with only moderate stress. I was left with a useless plug with a ragged hole.

In my previous contribution (NAQCC News #208, Oct. 4, 2015, pp 43-44), you may see that I like rivnutstm. Briefly a rivnuttm (or rivit-nut) is like a wide hollow pop rivet with internal threads. For more details on rivnutstm, please see the other article. As you might guess by now, part of the answer to my project is a rivnut. A few swipes with a reamer made a nice fit for a 1/4"-10 rivet nut. In addition to the brass plug, I have made similar adapters using PVC plugs. These are easier to drill and remarkably inexpensive (about 75 cents each). Out of an abundance of caution, I set the special camera screw aside for safe keeping and substituted a 1" SS 1/4" -20 bolt to hold the adapter firmly on the camera plate.

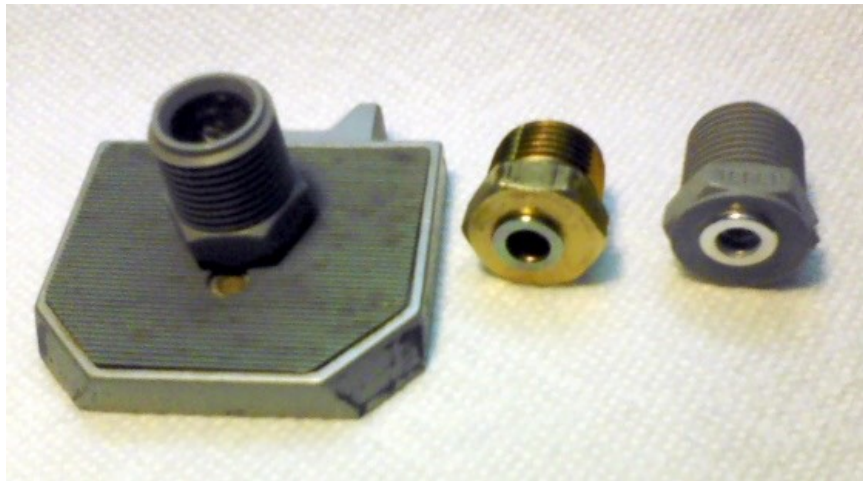


Figure 2. Brass and PVC Adapters

The basic Buddipole setp on the tripod using the adapter is shown in Figure 3. (*next page*)



Figure 3. Buddipole on Tripod

Although I'm sure there are more elegant ways to mount a Buddipole on an existing tripod, this one is cheap, fast and it works. VY 73 de W3UEC (Steve Dubin)

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.

VLADO KOVACESKI, Z35M, #7883



Vlado, Z35M - NAQCC#7883 is almost 35 years on the air with more than 430,000 QSOs from a low profile station. Prefers CW on HF, often QRP and so far has more than 450 "Guerrilla QRP Portable" style of outdoor activations (ultra-light radio equipment weight, non- motorized access, autonomous power supply, objects found on the field used as antenna supports, natural shelters, minimizing the need for operator's comfort devices).

QRP portable and backpacking activities are from mountains, summits, national parks, castles, beaches and other interesting places with battery powered K1 max 5 W and wire vertical with ground radials or Inv-Vee link dipole, lifted on fiberglass pole or tree limb. Has tried pedestrian, bicycle, boat and car QRP mobile. From home QRP activities are with K2 and TS-480HX and single element antennas.

Initiated Summits, Flora and Fauna, Castles and Beaches on the air programs in Macedonia and founded the „Z3 Portable Group“.

Realized several Bicycle QRP mini- DXpeditions in Albania and Greece and was active QRP portable from Germany and Bulgaria.

In 2016 won the year-long "Field Flowers QRP Portable Marathon" with 142 QRP portable activations and 3736 QSOs.

Was special guest in W5KUB's Amateur radio roundtable weekly TV show talking about "Guerrilla QRP Portable".

Has published the following QRP portable related articles in the CQ Amateur Radio:

"Flight of the QRP Bird ... or the Freedom of QRP", June 2012

"Bicycle QRP mini- DXpedition to Albania", June 2016

"Guerrilla QRP Portable", February 2017



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We have two sprinting opportunities this month! First up is our regular monthly sprint on June 13, 0030-0230 UTZ. That's the evening of Tuesday June 12 in North America. Then the following week we have one of our semi-annual Milliwatt sprints on June 21, 0030-0230 (20th in North America). Complete details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201806.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201806mw.html>.

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at http://naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html. On that page you will also find information about the different computer loggers that are supported for our sprints. The membership data files for those supported loggers can be downloaded at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>. **Please be sure to always get the latest membership data for your logger about a day before the sprint.** A complete schedule for our upcoming sprints can be found at http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html.

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: We only had 87 logs submitted for the May sprint. Part of this might be due to the fact that some of our regulars were already on the road to Dayton. Special mention should go to Steve, WB4OMM, who was on his way to the Hamvention but still managed to get in about 30-minutes of sprinting from his car in a motel parking lot. Well done Steve! Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201805.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables at the end of this section.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: K2KGJ NO3J

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: Remember that participating in a combination of sprints and challenges will make you eligible for the top-tier prizes in our anniversary drawing in October. Eligibility details can be seen on the page for last year's drawing at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | WB1GYZ | | |
| W2 | W2SH | KA2KGP | |
| W3 | AK3X | | |
| W4 | KJ4R | K4KBL | WG8Y |
| W5 | N5GW | | |
| W6 | A16SL | | |
| W7 | KF7WNS | | |
| W8 | WB8LZG | | |
| W9 | WB9HFK | | |
| W0 | N0TA | NN0SS | |
| VE | | | |
| DX | | | |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------|--------|-----|-----|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | | | |
| W2 | | | |
| W3 | K3WWP | | |
| W4 | | | |
| W5 | W5ODS | | |
| W6 | | | |
| W7 | N7QR | | |
| W8 | N8XMS | | |
| W9 | AA9L | | |
| W0 | KD0V | | |
| VE | VE3RDE | | |
| DX | | | |

| SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|-------|-----|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | N2CN | KB1M | |
| W2 | WA1GWH | | |
| W3 | NO3J | | |
| W4 | KU4A | AF4OI | |
| W5 | K5MBA | | |
| W6 | | | |
| W7 | N7YY | | |
| W8 | WA8SAN | | |
| W9 | K9CW | | |
| W0 | | | |
| VE | VE3DQN | | |
| DX | | | |

| GAIN CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------|-------|-----|------|
| KEY==> | SK | BUG | K/K |
| | K4BAI | | NN9K |

| FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|-----|------|
| KEY==> | SK | BUG | K/K |
| | K2KGJ | | NO3J |
| PRIZE DRAWING WINNER | | | |
| K2KGJ | | | |

| | Current Month | Previous Month | All-Time Record | Record Date |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Logs | 87 | 121 | 217 | 4/17 |
| Participants | 128 | 177 | 269 | 2/13 |
| Total QSOs | 1131 | 1965 | 3154 | 4/17 |
| Hour 1 QSOs | 679 | 1022 | 1704 | 4/17 |
| Hour 2 QSOs | 452 | 943 | 1450 | 4/17 |
| 20m QSOs | 234 | 89 | 1232 | 8/13 |
| 40m QSOs | 842 | 1458 | 2203 | 4/17 |
| 80m QSOs | 55 | 418 | 1417 | 2/13 |
| Avg QSOs/Station | 13 | 16.2 | 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+ | NU7T(SK) AA9L WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ |
| 75+ | K4NVJ N4FI KD0V WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) W4DUK WB8ENE VE3FUJ KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE WX4RM NO2D WA8SAN N0TA WG8Y N8BB NA4O |
| 100+ | N8XMS K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE |
| 125+ | W2JEK W9CC W2SH WB8LZG |
| 150+ | KA2KGP K3WWP |



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: As we do every June, we have two different challenges that you can participate in. (But only one participation point is possible.) Our month-long challenge is an alphabet challenge working with words that are all related to the 1916 Black Tom Island explosion (sabotage?). Details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201806.html>.

In June we also have our annual Field Day challenge - <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201806fd.html>. The rules for this challenge were modified a little bit last year so please be sure to read them over carefully.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our July challenge is a combination of word scramble and alphabet challenge working with words that are all associated with that great American tradition of a 4th of July parade. Complete details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201807.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 submissions for our May Home Brew Challenge is still a few days away but you can see what has been posted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201805.html>. Some additional comments can be seen in my *Member Submissions* item in this newsletter. Final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: Remember that participating in a combination of sprints and challenges will make you eligible for the top-tier prizes in our anniversary drawing in October. Eligibility details can be seen on the page for last year's drawing at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.

CHALLENGE HONOR ROLL: We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our monthly challenges. Exact counts can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html.

| NUMBER OF CHALLENGES | MEMBERS |
|----------------------|--|
| 25+ | PA9CW NF1U WI5H KU4A K9OSC KD0V PA0XAW WY3H N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU KD2MX WA2FBN |
| 50+ | VE3FUJ NU7T(SK) |
| 75+ | K1YAN |
| 100+ | N8XMS K1IEE |
| 125+ | W2JEK |
| 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: ALPHABET PREFIX AWARD

This month's featured award is a simplified version of CQ Magazine's popular WPA award. The goal is to work as many letter/number combination prefixes as possible using QRP CW and SWA. There are two categories for the award - World Prefixes, and USA Only Prefixes. Handy tables showing all of the possible prefixes in both categories are available for downloading from the award web page. Basic awards are earned with 200 world prefixes or 50 USA prefixes and certificates are issued at the 400 and 100 prefix levels. Complete details on this award can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wpxswa.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

None



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 6:00 PM PT | Monday 0100 Z | 7056 KHz | Rick, N6IET (in CA) |
| FarnsWord 80 m QRQ Round Table Net (FRN) | Sunday 8:00 PM PT | Monday 0300 Z | 3556 KHz | Rick, N6IET (in CA) |
| FarnsWord 60 m QRQ Net (53N) (Starts immediately after the FRN 40m net.) | Sunday 6:30 PM PT | Monday 0130 Z | 5348 KHz (Ch 2) | JB, NR5NN (in CA) |
| East Texas QRS Net (ETN) | Monday 7 PM CT | Tuesday 0000 Z | 7065 KHz | Allen, KA5TJS (in TX) |
| Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN) | Monday 7:30 PM CT | Tuesday 0030 Z | 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 2200/2230 Z | 14060/7062.5 KHz | Dale, WC7S (in WY) |
| West Virginia QRS Net (WVN) <i>Operations currently suspended.</i> | Wednesday 9 PM ET | Thursday 0100 Z | 3556 KHz | John, N8ZYA (in WV) |
| Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80) | Thursday 7 PM PT | Friday 0200 Z | 3556.5 KHz | Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA) |

Note: On the rare occasions that there is a conflict between one of our scheduled nets and one of our regular sprints the sprint will take precedence.

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

OK folks, before I kick off the May net reports just a couple of things. Please everyone take note of some schedule changes listed in the "Net Schedules" part of the newsletter. As band conditions have been "challenging" (!) NCS's are trying their best to find times when the bands may perform a little more kindly to us. Paul has also asked that I provide a short bio, well this i'll try and do for next months report (maybe even a picture!) but for now if you'd like to know a little more about me please visit my QRZ page where I have recently updated the info. OK, without further ado, on to the report...

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NAQCC FarnsWord 40 and 80 Meter QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 6:00 PM PT, which is Monday 0100 UTC on 7056 kHz +/-
 Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PT, which is Monday 0300 UTC on 3556 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Rick N6IET (California); Backup NCS - JB NR5NN (California)

NAQCC Farnsworth 60 Meter QRQ Net (53N)

Sunday evenings 7:00 PM PT*, which is Monday 0200 UTC on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)
 Main NCS - JB NR5NN (California); Backup NCS(s) - John W7SAG, Rick N6IET
 * 53N may start early, immediately following FRN40.

I'm including QNS lists for both April and May because I forgot to submit these, last month.

April and May NAQCC Farnsworth QRQ 40/60/80-meter Round Table Net QNS Reports

FRN/40m on Sunday (local) on 7056 kHz \pm 0.5 kHz

Apr 02 0000z QNS (7) N6IET, W7SAG, AI6SL, KE6EE, N6HRK/M, K6GVG, NR5NN
 Apr 09 0000z QNS (6) N6IET, AI6SL, W7SAG, N7HRK/M, KW6G, NR5NN
 Apr 16 0000z QNS (5) N6IET, K6GVG, KE6EE, NR5NN, W7SAG
 Apr 23 0000z QNS (5) N6IET, KW6G, K6GVG, AI6SL, KE6EE
 Apr 30 0000z QNS (4) N6IET, KE6EE/P, K6GVG, W7SAG
 May 07 0000z QNS (6) N6IET, KW6G, NR5NN/M, K6GVG, KE6EE, AI6SL
 May 14 0100z QNS (6) N6IET, KE6EE, K6JJR, K6GVG, AI6U, NR5NN
 May 21 0100z QNS (4) N6IET, NR5NN, KW6G, KE6EE
 May 28 0100z QNS (4) N6IET, KW6G, KE6EE, AI6SL

53N/60m on Sunday (local) on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)

Apr 02 0055z QNS (7) NR5NN, KE6EE, AI6SL, N6IET, W7SAG, K6GVG, WO6M
 Apr 09 0100z QNS (5) NR5NN, W7SAG, N6IET, KE6EE, N6ZI
 Apr 16 0050z QNS (4) NR5NN, N6IET, W7SAG, K6GVG
 Apr 23 0100z QNS (5) N6IET, AI6SL, KE6EE, AI6U, K6GVG
 Apr 30 0040z QNS (5) NR5NN, K6GVG, N6IET, W7SAG, KE6EE/P
 May 07 0100z QNS (5) NR5NN/M, AI6SL, KE6EE, K6GVG, N6IET
 May 14 0142z QNS (6) NR5NN, N6IET, AI6SL, K6GVG, KE6EE, AI6U
 May 21 0145z QNS (5) N6IET, N6KIX, NR5NN, KW6G, WI6O
 May 28 0150z QNS (3) N6IET, KW6G, NR5NN

FRN/80m on Sunday (local) on 7056 kHz \pm 0.5 kHz

Apr 02 0200z QNS (3) N6IET, AI6SL, K6GVG
 Apr 09 0200z QNS (4) N6IET, NR5NN/P, KE6EE, AI6SL
 Apr 16 0200z QNS (4) N6IET, KW6G, W7SAG, KE6EE
 Apr 23 0200z QNS (4) N6IET, K6GVG, AI6U, KW6G
 Apr 30 0200z QNS (4) N6IET, K6GVG, W7SAG, AI6U
 May 07 0200z QNS (5) N6IET, KW6G, KE6EE, K6GVG, NR5NN
 May 14 0300z QNS (6) N6IET, KE6EE, AI6SL, K6JJR, K6GVG, WI6O
 May 21 0300z QNS (4) N6IET, KW6G, KE6EE, WI6O
 May 28 0300z QNS (5) N6IET, KE6EE, KW6G, AI6SL, K0DTJ

Commentary

Several of us FRN/53N participants continue to have fun experimenting with antennas. Having been inspired by Roy K6GVG and by Mitch KB6FPW, both JB NR5NN and Rick N6IET have become Hustler mobile antenna enthusiasts for portable as well as compromised fixed station use. So long as a metal fence or railing (or large bicycle rack) is available for mounting it, one can use the fence or railing in lieu of a car body for the ground counterpoise, and get out well, even with low power! And for non-mobile doubling the radiator rod length makes the antenna more efficient without detuning the resonators.

And Rick (thanks to Mitch) experimentally coupled two Hustler 80-meter resonators in series on one of his balcony antennas to work 160 meters with not too bad of a signal. And both have discovered how to get their Hustlers to work as quad-band antennas using Hustler's tri-coil adaptor, with a 22-inch (or longer) extension rod and a 4th resonator coil and stinger coupled to the center mounting stud of the tri-coil bracket.

Once again, the Point Arguello DIDBase site (for NVIS data) has been down this weekend. The Boulder data looked ugly, with a combination of E, Es and F2 layers complicating things. The SFI was up to 74 (not shabby - we actually have both sunspots and a coronal hole facing us). What we know from the evening's experience is that signals were fluctuating a lot. We had NVIS conditions only during the 60m and 80m nets.

Probably from a combination of CQ WW WPX contest burn-out and the holiday weekend, we had sparse attendance, this evening.

Charles checked into all three nets using his KX3 at 10 watts. But he was pretty weak here in LA.

Mike was using his fancy DZ Sienna rig at 50 watts.

I ran into Brian (Half Moon Bay) on 40 meters earlier Sunday morning and invited him to join us. He has a nice fist and good CW skills and also operates QRP from time to time. And he can operate on 60 meters! He has both a K3 and a KX2 (and a K1). We look forward to hearing from you often, Brian!

QST QST: JB and I have decided to keep FRN/40 short for the rest of the summer so we can start 53N at 6:30pm (0130 UTC). So FRN/40 will be just QNI followed by one turn each to give signal reports and relate any interesting news. I'll try to close the net promptly at or just before 6:30. This is how many other CW roundtable nets operate.

So the new schedule will be:

FRN/40 on 7056 kHz ± at 6pm PDT (0100z)
 53N/60 on 5348 kHz at 6:30pm PDT (0130z)
 FRN/80 on 3556 kHz ± at 8pm PDT (0300z)

72/73/77,

Rick N6IET

=====

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)

5/1/18 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N5DRG KE5YGA

The band was in outstanding shape last night. Myself, YUM and DRG were QRP and all 599. YGA was QRO and +20 db over!

Having good summer prop on 40 meters and enjoying it for sure.

5/8/18 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA WI5H

The band was in bad shape last night. Andy YGA started out 579 and dropped to 239. He was QRO.

Mike was 549 and QRP from San Angelo, TX.

Worst night we have had on 40 meters since we switched.

5/22/18 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS WI5H

Well the band was long last night. North TX and AR tried but could not get in. Mike in San Angelo out in west TX made it 599

with 5 watts. I was QRP as well and he gave me a 579. Mike was using his new cootie and sounded really good for a new user.

5/29/18 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

No response to CQ's last night although I had emails indicating folks were listening. Guess the band was to long.

Allen KA5TJS

=====

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

Monday evenings 9:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0300 UTC, on 7117 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Bob W0CC

2018/04/30 QNI (1) W0CC

2018/05/07 No Report

2018/05/14 No Report - Unfortunately had active Lightening/Thunder Storms at the time of the NET.

2018/05/21 No Report

2018/05/28 No Report

Bob W0CC

=====
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)

No Report

=====
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)

- 2018-4-27 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, W7ANM/7, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV
2018-5-11 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, WB4SBP, K7JUV, AD7BP, W7ANM
2018-5-18 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM, KG7JEB, W7OTT, AD7BP, WB4SPB
2018-5-25 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB.
2018/6/ 1 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM, KG7JEB, AD7BP, WB4SPB.

Stewart KE7LKW

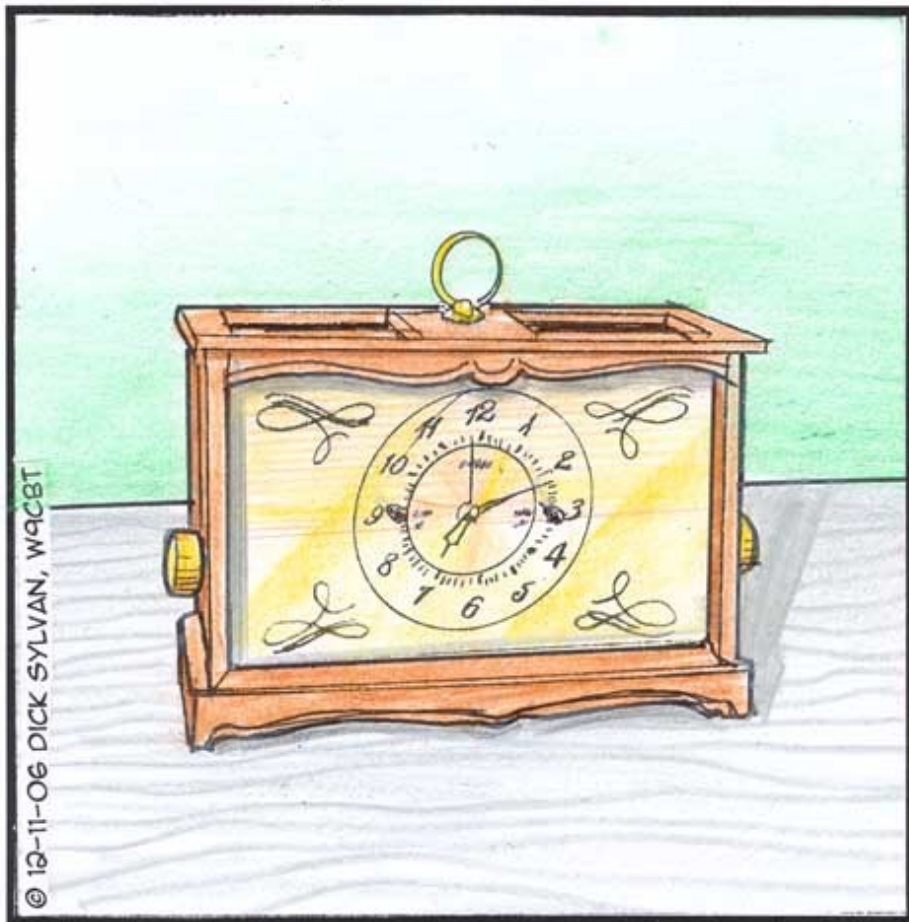


HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at www.lulu.com.

Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



WHAT PROMINENT HAM EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURER MARKETED THIS BEAUTIFUL CLOCK RADIO IN 1954?



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, Downeast Maine, 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

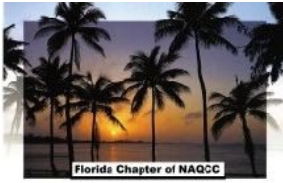


Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

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

No report available.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM.

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

No report available.

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.

Only one major activity for the chapter in May. Here verbatim is my diary entry for the event. You can read the diary for other news including the monthly get together of KC2EGL and me (K3WWP) at k3wwp.com.

Sun May 20 2018 6:53PM - Although Tom and I had a good time at Moraine State Park today, the results of the parkpedition were not all that good for various reasons. There was one good hour from about 1538Z to 1630Z when we made 10 QSOs on 40 meters from 6 states. After that, it was like no one was interested in working us any more. CQs on 30 and 20 meters went unanswered.

When we weren't getting answers to our CQs, we tried chasing some DX. That also didn't work out. Finally we found out that Tom was having some kind of problem with his antenna. After some work on that, he was still having problems. We think we did find the problem at last, but too late to take advantage of it. It seemed the right angle connector going into Tom's KX3 was loose internally. When he was taking it off, it felt like something wasn't right with it. After he fooled with it, the antenna tuned much more quickly. I don't want to dwell on it too long, so let me just sum up our thoughts.

We think that the tuner in the KX3 may be just too good. Apparently it was tuning the defective connector to 1:1, and not really tuning the antenna system as a whole. It took much longer to tune the connector than it did to tune the system as a whole after the connector was apparently fixed. It's going to take some more thought, testing, and tweaking to be sure that is the case.

One thing that is becoming apparent and something that we referred to a lot after I first brought it up was that our age is slowing us down. When it seemed it was taking a longer time than usual to set things up, I said ten years ago we'd have been done with this a half hour ago. We used that as a catch phrase a few times during our operation and it is the truth.

We started out setting up my antenna, then our little sunshade. We set up my station and I started making contacts while Tom worked on setting up his antenna. After I made 7 quick contacts, I went and helped him finish his setup. After his setup was finished, I made 3 more contacts on 40 meters. It turned out those were the last QSOs we made. Tom soon noticed his setup just wasn't working right. He called other stations who were at S9 or better and they just weren't hearing him. That was because of the problem I described earlier.

Being at Moraine State Park near a hiking trail, we had several people stop by and ask what we were doing. It was nice to be able to explain to them about ham radio. Two folks who stopped were fairly new hams.

I did get an email from someone who was interested in what antennas we were using, so let me describe them here, then they'll be in the pictures tomorrow.

My antenna was a simple inverted vee jumper dipole mounted on a ~20 foot mast. By closing/opening little slide switches in the antenna wires, it could be set for 20, 30, or 40 meters. Tom's was an end fed flat top random wire with a counterpoise. The ends were mounted on ~20 foot masts similar to mine.

All in all a good day with some disappointment along the way. We're going to do it again to try to have better results. That will be sometime after Field Day.

The weather today was just about perfect. It was cloudy and with temperatures in the upper 60s with very little wind, it was neither too hot nor too cold, but just about right.

To close, for anyone who is reading this and worked us, our grid square at Moraine was EN90 and the POTA for Moraine is K-1387 and for the North Country Trail which was right next to our setup is K-4239.
-30-



L-R above that's K3WWP, K3WWP's setup, WB3FAE



That's our little mis-named sunshade. There was no sun, but fortunately no precipitation either. So it didn't really protect us from anything, or maybe birds?



Finally a picture of my jumper inverted vee antenna. Unfortunately as with most antenna pictures, the wire never seems to show up all that well. You can see it sloping to ground against the trees background if you look closely. I also took pictures of Tom's antenna, but they were even worse and not worth posting.

Actually the height of the antenna masts is more than 20 feet. I knew that, but couldn't remember the exact height and was too lazy to look it up. If anyone really needs to know an exact figure, I'll try to find it or measure them. -30-

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 Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

Over the years I have continued to amass a large collection of electronics components including vintage parts. I never seem to sell or throw any away, since they are all "keepers". Recently my XYL frankly told me that I am a hoarder and my oldest son told me it's a disease. So I looked it up on the internet, and sure enough, I suffer from a psychiatric condition known as "Terminal Radio Amateur Syndrome of Hoarding", or T.R.A.S.H. The condition consists mainly of an uncontrollable compulsion to collect and keep such items, called "Just Unnecessary Nonessential Keepers", or J.U.N.K.

Although it is not fatal, unfortunately there is no known cure for this disease. However I must mention one anecdotal advantage of this affliction: about two years ago I constructed both a transmitter and receiver for 80M and didn't have to order or scrounge any parts from anywhere!

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

As I have been doing lately, I'll just describe my highlights from the month and if you wish, you can read more detailed info in my web site diary at k3wwp.com (http://k3wwp.com/home_ss_diary.html).

May 3 - Recognizing hams just by their fists.

May 4 - Spring pictures for those who always comment favorably when I include pictures.

May 10 - DX streak QSO from my CQ

May 12 - DX streak hits day 1,900

May 17 - NAQCC Sprint described

May 20/21 - Moraine State parkpedition (see WPA chapter news above)

May 22 - Quickest DX streak QSO ever at 00:00:00Z

May 26/27 - Back in a time warp to the great sunspot maximum conditions in this year's CQWPX contest for a few hours.

May 28 - DX QSOs from my CQs

May 29 - More pix

Also I reached a great age for a ham (73) during the month.

If you read the diary, please email any comments via the email link at the top of the diary page. I always enjoy hearing from diary visitors.

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

I had so much fun with the NAQCC May Challenge that I wanted to expand on my soapbox comments. I absolutely love our Home-brew challenge month each year. I use it as an excuse to pull out some of my old HB and kit projects from past years and get them on the air again for a few QSOs. Some of these old projects date back almost 40 years! In 2016 I managed to use almost every piece of working gear that I had and I wrote an article about it in the June newsletter (http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter/newsletter_216.pdf). This year I didn't have the time to do that (more on this later) but I still had a nice representation of gear. Here is the list of HB/Kit gear that I used: Hacksaw blade straight key, Elecraft K2, Elecraft K1, Wilderness SST 40, Rockmite 30, BLT tuner, Elecraft W1 power meter, Black Widow paddle, AZ Scorpions paddle, NorCal keyer, and an Elecraft KX1.

Even though I am retired, my available operating time seems to be continuously shrinking. I always participate in our challenges but I don't always manage to complete them. Church and family activities, especially with the granddaughters, newsletter and other club business (not a complaint, just a fact), three trips to the dentist including a root canal (I'll complain about that!), spring yard cleanup, and a dozen other things all conspired to really cut into my play time. As a consequence I came into the final day of the month two letters short (S and Y) of completing the alphabet challenge. Our schedule for that day had some early morning grocery shopping, followed by babysitting our youngest granddaughter for most of the day at her house, 30-minutes to our west. We would then have a short time to catch a bite for supper before heading 30-minutes to our east for some babysitting of our other granddaughter for the evening. (I should say that we don't view all of this babysitting as a chore. We prioritize on it, enjoy it, and wouldn't have it any other way. But I will admit that it does get very physically tiring.)

So I was pretty much resigned to not completing the list of words but by 2315Z I had finished my supper and had about 30-minutes before I had to leave for our evening gig so I decided to turn on the radio. Almost instantly I found an "S" with N4KS calling CQ on 30-meters. Conditions were poor but he heard my call and we were able to exchange our reports. Twentynine minutes to go and things were getting interesting. Now could I possibly find a "Y"?

I tuned across the bottom of 20-meters and heard a very strong 6Y6 station operating split. But during the few seconds that it took me to set up for split he went QRT! I finished tuning across 20-meters and then went to 40 but couldn't find another "Y." Just as my available time was running out I heard N4RAY, who happens to be an NAQCC member, finishing up a QSO around the SKCC hangout. I tail-gunned a call to him and wonder of wonders, he came back to me! Exchanges were completed and at 2341Z I logged my final challenge letter! That was close, that was exciting, and that was a ton of fun!

If you have never tried one of our challenges I would encourage you to do so. Win or loose, they really are a lot of fun. Our alphabet challenges are very popular but over the course of the year we have several other types that you can try as well. You can learn more at http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.



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 |
| Florida Chapter | Steve - WB4OMM | wb4omm@arrl.org |
| Western Pennsylvania Chapter | John - K3WWP | jsk3wwp@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 |

NOTE: These email address are not automatic links.
They are given here in graphic form to avoid harvesting by spambots.

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.