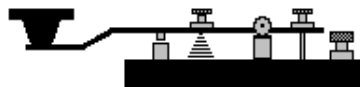


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 241 JULY 2018



## KEY CLICKS

- **FIRST CALL FOR N#A OPERATORS IN OCTOBER.** Each year, as part of our club anniversary celebration, we put special callsigns N1A, N2A, ... , N0A on the air running QRP/CW from all over the United States, and we need plenty of volunteer operators to pull it off. This year our 14th anniversary will be celebrated from 0000Z, October 8, through 2400Z, October 14. It's a lot of fun, no special equipment or skills are needed, logging and "paperwork" are minimal, and your operating schedule is completely flexible. If you are interested in being an N#A operator please contact club President Paul, N8XMS (email address on last page). There is no limit to the number of operators that we can have so "the more the merrier." If you would like to be the one designated N#A operator from your district that gets to use the special call during the sprint that week please indicate that as well. (First come first served, and previous sprint experience would be helpful.) Detailed instructions for special event operators will be sent out in September but if you have any questions just ask. More information about our anniversary celebration can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).
- **ARE YOU WORKING ON YOUR ANNIVERSARY PRIZE 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 at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_14th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_14th_anniv.html).
- **CHALLENGE RULE #3 CLARIFIED.** We are occasionally contacted by members asking whether or not a particular QSO falls under our challenge rule #3. This rule bans the use of contest-type QSOs for monthly challenge credit. We have attempted to clarify this rule with some additional wording and you can see this new wording on the *Challenges* page in this newsletter.
- **MORE SPRINT CERTIFICATES COMING IN JULY.** Last month we raised the issue about how 2nd and 3rd place certificates should be issued for our monthly sprints and we asked for your feedback through our regular webpage poll. Based on the results of that polling, we are changing the way those certificates will be issued. This change will not be retroactive and will begin with our sprint this month. You can see the details on the *Sprints* page of this newsletter.
- **NAQCC MEMBERSHIP HITS 9500!** On June 24 membership #9500 was issued to Che, WP3PW and by the time that you read this our numbers will be even higher. As we approach the club's 14th anniversary this fall more and more hams are discovering the joy of QRP/CW and the many great activities that our club has to offer.

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- **HELP WANTED - SWAP & SHOP MANAGER.** We need someone to take over the monthly Swap & Shop. The work is not too extensive and consists of collecting the items emailed in by members, compiling them into a single list, and emailing the list out once a month. If you would like to help us with this please contact Paul, N8XMS, and John, N8ZYA. (Email addresses on last page.)
- **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.
- **NEW NAQCC FACEBOOK PAGE CREATED.** Jerry, K4KBL, has created a special Facebook page for the NAQCC. This is a place where you can post a little "brag" about a recent QRP/CW QSO, report some unusual propagation conditions, give and receive help on technical questions, etc. The page will remain a "work in progress" as it grows and develops with your inputs. (The one thing that we don't want this to become is a substitute or distraction for getting on the air, but we don't think that there is much of a chance of that happening.) This is a "closed" page and members must be approved by Jerry before they can make a posting. The page is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2086110044999657/>.
- **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."



# THE uBITX TRANSCEIVER

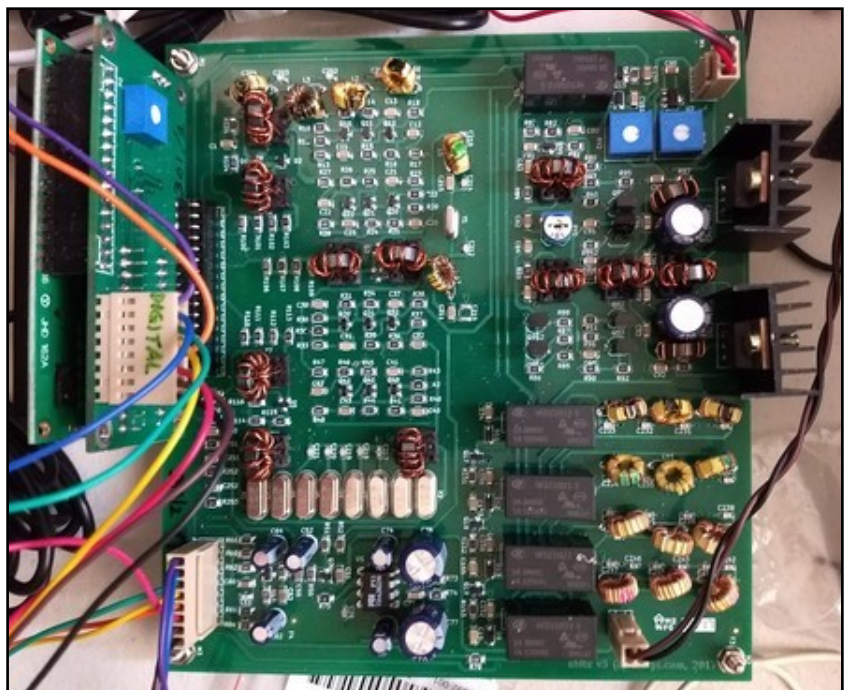
BY RON, W7HD



This was a \$109 investment that was very worthwhile. Sure, it took 2 months to arrive, but that only added to the excitement! They far exceeded their goals on this one. It is a very nice 80-10M 10W radio for ssb/cw. Yes, it has CAT with the onboard USB port using the FT817 control set.

What the end-user has to do is provide a case (if desired), knobs for the controls, a power supply of some sort, a key (if you want to do CW – the mic is provided), and a speaker. Since this is user configurable to the point that you can completely control the firmware (edit and compile it as desired), it makes for a fun toy all by itself.

**Here are some pictures of the partially assembled unit.**



This is the way it comes although you have to actually plug into the sockets. One connector on the back of the display for digital leads, one on the motherboard for audio leads, power input and antenna.

Everything else is wired and ready, including the basic firmware.

The Naztech battery bank is providing the 12vdc to run the rig. On top of it is the hand key mounted on a ceramic base for weight, and just to the right is the miniature paddle, which will likely be mounted on top of the radio itself.



The field battery pack consists of 4 (four) 26650 3.7v 5000 mAh Li-Ion batteries with a buck converter to reduce the output to 12.7vdc. I ran the radio off this pack for over a week before replacing the batteries with a freshly-charged set (as a just-in-case).



A picture of an assembled unit in the W5BEK case with the case opened up so you can see how it fits together.



This is how you receive it. A motherboard, a display unit that plugs into the motherboard, and a bag of parts that includes the controls, jacks and plugs.



One ham (Carl W5BEK) made this case using a 3D printer! Very nice looking. He even sells them for \$49.95.

[carl@carlbeck.com](mailto:carl@carlbeck.com)



One enterprising soul put his in a cakepan. It has standoffs so that it allows air to circulate for cooling.



You will definitely want to read through the hacks on the [ubitx.net](http://ubitx.net) website. They have all the mods and fixes you might want to implement (some before first powerup – esp. audio amp fix and wiring up the headphone jack and volume control). If your audio chip is a WX manufacturer (they don't handle 12v well), you WILL need to add a voltage regulator and pay specific attention to wiring your headphone/speaker jack. If you plan to use a paddle, the cw keying section is especially useful. This site also has the instructions for loading up Sketch on your Raduino, which is how you modify the code and compile and upload new firmware versions.

Several enterprising souls have put larger displays on the unit, one with a full color touch screen. Therein lies the beauty of this radio – it is easy to modify to make it do exactly what you want. I especially like the firmware put out by Ian Lee KD8CEC. He really makes it do some neat stuff. Visit his [KD8CEC website](#) to see more. He also has a number of enclosures shown, including some not-so-mainstream.

## GETTING HELP

If you are interested or building any of the HF Signals' kits, you can join the BITX20 group by visiting <https://groups.io/g/bitx20> . That's the only support provided.

The level of collective wisdom and experience on the Forum is enough to sort out almost any technical problem or question you may have. You will also meet some really great builders on the Forum.

If you need information specific to your shipping, billing and other commercial matters, you can send mail to hfsignals' inbox at gmail. The mailbox is the name hfsignals followed by the regular gmail.com

This list shows all the interesting groups that are supporting this radio.

<http://www.phonestack.com/farhan/bitx.html> The original BITX  
<http://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/bitx40/> BITX40 by HFSignals  
<http://www.hfsignals.com/index.php/ubitx/> uBITX by HFSignals  
<https://amateurradiokits.in/store/> BITX Store by Sunil  
<http://ubitx.net/> BITX Web Site of Mike ZL1AXG  
<https://groups.io/g/BITX20/wiki/home>

HF Signals was founded by Ashhar Farhan, VU2ESE as a part of Paradigm E-commerce Pvt. Ltd to encourage people all over the world to become more active in amateur radio, analog electronics and self-learning.

HF Signals is a small enterprise based out of Hyderabad, India, that works with a collective of workers. Each of the toroids is hand wound. This provides these working women with a livelihood. The assembled boards are then DC checked. A final RF check and tune-up is performed to check the receiver's sensitivity as well as transmitter's output before being shipped. Each board is individually numbered.

### **What is included and what is not?**

The boards are sold at a low price to encourage more people to build them. Due to the high postage cost of including heavy items like speakers and metal box, these are not part of the kit. You will have to supply your own project box, speaker, mic, power supply, antenna, etc.

### **Who runs HFSignals?**

HFSignals.com is promoted by Paradigm ECommerce Pvt Ltd. It is co-founded by M. Ehsanuddin and Ashhar Farha



# 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.

## JERRY PEREIRA, K4KBL, #8806



My ham radio career began while a boy scout, around 1958. I received my Novice license, KN1JIR. Beginning then, CW with a straight key, and a Johnson Viking Ranger with a Hallicrafters SX99, 15-meters would never be the same. My Dad, K1MBW and Mom, K1ODS bought the equipment along with a HyGain Tri-band antenna that sat on a 50' crankup tower. Back then I didn't truly know what an unbelievable station we had!

I soon earned my Technician ticket, followed by General a short time later. CW frankly took a back seat for awhile once I got a microphone in my hands. I maintained my General license for several years and eventually got the DX bug and knew that a greater band capability would be necessary to dig out the DX in the lower portions of the bands.

After a move to Virginia Beach, Virginia, I got my code speed back up and obtained my Advanced class ticket. I was now married after a 3-year tour in the Army which included Vietnam as an interrogator of prisoners of war. The equipment listed above remained with my parents in Milford, Massachusetts and I obtained a Kenwood TS-520 with a SB200 amplifier and a 3-band beam on a homebrew tower fashioned from a aluminum pole up about 45'. The FCC, at the time, issued a new call when you moved to a different call area. Thus, I became K4KBL.



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A very memorable period of time while I was in Virginia Beach, was when our Embassy in Iran was taken over on November 4, 1979. All official communications with the American Government was cut and only unofficial amateur radio sources in the community were potentially available. I was able to relay messages from a ham in Miami (from messages from Iran) to the Pentagon. It was a very tense period of time to say the least. The Miami operator appeared on the morning talk shows for the next few days. Gladly, I was never asked to appear!

Another interesting radio activity was when I became the QSL manager for OE5CA/YK. This was a United Nation Force stationed in the Golan Heights of Syria. This was during the late 1970's with no internet, no LoTW, or email. Logs were mailed to me about every two to three weeks and by that time I would have hundreds of QSL's with SASE's that needed a QSL from YK land. This was an experience that I will never forget. Once I had a few hundred QSLs, I would mail them back for their review. This kept me busy for a couple of years. OE5CA/YK can still be found by doing a Google search.

I continued my serious DX quest until we moved from Virginia Beach to Lilburn, Georgia. Amateur radio then took a back seat to raising two children and work efforts. All of my equipment was sold before leaving Virginia, a big mistake, but that's water over the bridge.

After our two children got a little older, I began my QRP interest with the likes of a HW8, HW16 and TenTec Argonaut. I also purchased a Kenwood TS-520 from Ebay and with a dipole, once again continued my DX endeavors. At last count I have confirmed 347 entities, both phone and CW.

My interests soon turned to QRP and CW almost exclusively. I joined the NAQCC and the SKCC and became somewhat more interested in QRP after earning Sx3 with SKCC. I most like the NAQCC Sprints and monthly challenges while using my recently obtained Elecraft K1. I can't say enough about the K1, but most of you are more than likely aware of it's capability. I have obtained many NAQCC and SKCC awards but am most proud of my Miles per Watt award from NAQCC; I worked 3B8XF on 30 meters with 5 watts (K1),  $9,914 / 5 = 1,982$  miles per watt! Another accomplishment is my 2-way, 2-watt QSO with GM3OXX with my HW8 many years ago.

Today I prefer my Nye Viking straight key but also have a Kent double paddle that my son and his family got me for Christmas 2017. I'm still trying to get use to the touch without making too many mistakes.

My other interests are going to our cabin in Murphy, NC as often as possible. I have a TS-570D at that location but most often carry my K1 for the trip. I also have a dipole there, but there are too many trees and the antenna is touching several of them. One good thing is the minimal noise level.

I also enjoy reading and learning as much as I can about the U.S. Civil War, a critical time in the history of our nation.

I should mention that I also got interested in U.S. Commemorative stamp collecting while in high school and have several stamps that are somewhat valuable at this time, but I haven't done much with the collection for many, many years.

Now 73 years old, I try and stay somewhat fit by riding my stationary bike for an hour every other day and use weights to maintain some upper body strength. Where has the time gone ? I have a grandchild starting college in the fall, with three others not far behind.

Look for me on 40, 30 or 20 meters these days, I would enjoy a QSO with NAQCC members aside from Sprints.

Best 73,  
Jerry - K4KBL



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be July 19, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday the 18th here in North America. Complete information about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201807.html>.

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_rules.html](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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** We had two sprints in June. First up was the regular monthly sprint on the 13th where 94 logs were submitted. A week later on the 21st 49 people participated in our semi-annual QRPp sprint where we add the challenge of making all of the QSOs with 1-watt or less. As W3TTT put it, "*[it's] amazing what a watt can do.*" If you have never tried one of our special QRPp sprints your next opportunity will be in December. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201806.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201806mw.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: K5UP K8GSD KD3FG W1JAB

**CHANGES TO THE CERTIFICATE ISSUING RULES:** As was explained in the June newsletter ([http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter/newsletter\\_240.pdf](http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter/newsletter_240.pdf)), 2nd and 3rd place sprint certificates have only been issued in each operating category if a certain minimum threshold of entries had been received. We polled you about this and a vast majority of the members who responded felt that this minimum threshold requirement should be removed. Consequently, beginning with the sprint this month, 2nd and 3rd place certificates will always be issued in each category. A few of you commented that a 2nd and 3rd place certificate in a category that only had 2 or 3 entries is really a meaningless award. And this is partially true and really the same argument could be made for a 1st place certificate in a category with only one entry (like our bug categories sometimes have). But then again, someone else might value such an award. (I had a friend in high school who used to brag, "we are the best marching band in Brandon Valley." My reply to him was, "yah, but you're the only marching band in Brandon Valley!" He would still make the brag anyway!) Since our sprint certificates are software generated and emailed out, there is no additional cost or work to do this. So we will simply leave it up to you whether or not the award is significant, and whether or not you want to print it out and/or brag on it. It is our ultimate hope that we will eventually get to the point where there are enough entries in all categories that the certificates do indeed represent some nice competition.

One final note about this. Some have said that we might have too many operating categories and that if we were to compress them we would obviously then have more entries in each one. There is an historical reason for the structure that we have and I would refer you to an article in the January 2015 issue of the newsletter entitled "Sprint Scoring Changes" that explains the rational behind our current structure. ([http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter/newsletter\\_199.pdf](http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter/newsletter_199.pdf))

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**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](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html).

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	KN1H	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	KD3CA		
W4	KJ4R	WG8Y	W4DUK
W5	N5GW		
W6	A16SL		
W7	KC7DM		
W8	WB8LZG	NF8M	
W9	WB9HFK	W9CC	
W0	N0TA	NN0SS	
VE	VE3RDE		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1JAB		
W2	WB2LQF		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	W4EDN		
W5			
W6			
W7			
W8	W8ES		
W9	AA9L		
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M		
W2	WA1GWH		
W3	KD3FG		
W4	WB4OMM	N4IAG	
W5	KE5YUM		
W6			
W7	AA7CU		
W8	WA8SAN		
W9	K9CW		
W0	WZ0W		
VE	VE7YU		
DX			

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

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K8GSD	W1JAB	KD3FG
MW SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N4IAG			

QRPP SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ		
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	
W3	K3JZD	AH6AX	
W4	W4DUK	WG8Y	
W5	N5GW		
W6			
W7	KC7DM		
W8	WB8LZG		
W9	WB9HFK		
W0	W0ITT		
VE	VE6BIR		
DX			

QRPP SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3			
W4			
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7			
W8			
W9	N9SE		
W0			
VE			
DX			

QRPP SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M		
W2	WA1GWH		
W3			
W4	AA4W		
W5	WA5IEK		
W6			
W7			
W8			
W9	N9CX		
W0			
VE			
DX			

QRPP GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		WU4B

QRPP PRIZE DRAWING WINNER
KD9EBS

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	94	87	217	4/17
Participants	129	128	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1144	1131	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	657	679	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	487	452	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	248	234	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	816	842	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	80	55	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.2	13	19.3	9/11

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

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	NU7T(SK) WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L
75+	K4NVJ N4FI WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) W4DUK WB8ENE VE3FUJ KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE WX4RM NO2D WA8SAN N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O
100+	N8XMS K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V
125+	W2JEK W9CC W2SH WB8LZG
150+	KA2KGP K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our challenge this month is an alphabet challenge related to the July 4th celebrations that take place all over the country. But there is a twist - the words in the list are all scrambled up so your first challenge will be to unscramble them! (If you don't want to tackle that part of the challenge the unscrambled list is available further down on the webpage.) Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201807.html>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** For those of you that like to do advanced planning, details on the August alphabet challenge can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201808.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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submissions for our two June challenges is still a few days away. Preliminary results for the Black Tom alphabet challenge can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201806.html>. For the Field Day challenge go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201806fd.html>. Final results will also be available on those pages shortly after the 10th of the month.

**CHALLENGE RULE #3:** General challenge rule #3 says that contest-type QSOs cannot be used for monthly challenge credit. (The idea behind this rule is to encourage all of us to include a little more significant content in our on-air conversations.) But what exactly constitutes a "contest" QSO can sometimes be a little bit confusing. We have added some wording to this rule in an effort to clarify:

*3. No contest or sprint QSOs may be used. This includes contests or sprints that you are "not participating in" but where the other person is participating. In other words, if either station is working the contest it's considered a contest QSO.*

*- QSOs with special operating events or stations such as the ARRL International Grid Chase, the 13 Colonies event, a local club's Memorial Day event, etc., are not considered to be contests and may be used for challenge credit.*

*- QSOs that are primarily designed to collect things like SOTA or IOTA locations, FIST or SKCC membership numbers, etc., if not part of an actual ongoing contest like SKCC's WES, are also allowed and may be used for challenge credit.*

The complete list of challenge rules can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/challenges\\_rules.html](http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**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](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](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+	K1IEE
125+	N8XMS 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: 1000 MPW and KMPW 100

Our 1000 Miles per Watt award is simple to understand and fairly easy to complete. Just make a CW QRP or QRPp QSO where the value of Distance/Watts gives an answer of greater than 1000 and you have it. If that's not enough of a challenge we also offer the KMPW 100 award that requires you to make 100 such 1000 mi/w QSOs. You can find complete details about these awards including links to useful distance calculators at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_1000mpswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_1000mpswa.html) and [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_kmpwcenturyswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_kmpwcenturyswa.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](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) (Suspended for the summer)	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)
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

From Net Manager Wayne, NQ0RP.

OK, so for those who didn't read my [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) page bio here it is. No picture yet (haven't found a camera lens tough enough...):

I will prefix my Bio by reminding folks that I was born and raised in the United Kingdom so some of the following may need some small amount of explanation/translation. As a good friend of mine once commented, "United Kingdom and the United States, two nations divided by a common language."

My interest in radio (wireless as we used to call it back then) began when I was 10 and was stuck at home over the Christmas school break with a case of Chickenpox. My Grandmother was babysitting me and so I asked if I could have the wireless on. It was a large Philco cabinet model with the usual long wave (198Kcs and down), Medium wave (200Kcs to 1640 Kcs) known here in the US I believe as the AM band and, unusually for a model of its time, the VHF FM band (88 to 108 MHz). No television for our house until late 1969. (I watched the Apollo moon landing at a friend's house.) Having got the go-ahead to play I sat myself in front of the monster Philco and proceeded to press buttons and tune around.

Daytime meant that I didn't hear much except the usual UK BBC broadcast stations (then known as the "Home", "Light" and "Third" stations which would become Radio 1, 2, 3 and 4) on the AM Band. VHF stations were very few and far between and usually faint. Then, as now, time seemed to accelerate when I was in front of the wireless. Before I knew it dad was home and standing behind me watching me fiddle with the controls and trying to tune stations in. It gave me quite a start when I noticed him there. All he said was "the set needs an antenna", he might just as well have been speaking Swahili, but the following evening an antenna was erected/installed (about 30 feet of insulated hook-up wire strung around the picture rail) and the following day I was back at the controls, what a joy it was to take the pulse of the open airwaves. Wireless became my own personal magic carpet, transporting me anywhere from across town to faraway places. I rode that magic carpet every opportunity I could, (and I still do). As I said, our family didn't get television until Christmas of 1969 and I am grateful for it. It was at about this time that I built my first receiver, dad and a family friend (Uncle George) having a large hand in my endeavors.

One of my Christmas gifts that year had been a copy of the "Boys Own Companion No 4" which carried reprints of the most popular articles from the "Boys Own Paper", one of which was Gilbert Davey's piece "Make a one valve receiver" (<http://www.daveysradios.org.uk/>) That's when the rot set in and I was hooked for life on wireless and home construction. Of course technology has moved on somewhat but the magic is still there, oh yeah!

I desperately wanted a "real communications receiver". I actually had my eye on an Eddystone receiver and approached Mom and Dad to see if Santa would bring me one the following Christmas. Unfortunately an Eddystone was out of the question, simply because of cost but I did receive a Codar CR70A, not quite an Eddystone but it was a "real" communications receiver. I spent many hours at the CR70A, learning the proper techniques for resolving Side Band signals as well as listening to the world on AM. Yes I still ride the magic carpet although the number of Broadcasters on the SW bands has diminished and has given way to digital technology; it's still fun to listen in after dark when sleep eludes me.

QRP operating was forced on me early on due to circumstances but I learned to love it and these days I operate at 5 watts or less all the time, snagging such places as Europe (from here in the mid-west), Tasmania, Alaska and Hawaii to name but a few.

I'm about 99% CW with the occasional excursion to the "dark side" operating PSK31, again at no more than 5 Watts.

If you hear me on please do give me a call, it will be my pleasure to work you.

Without further ado, on to the reports.

#### **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 FarnsWord 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.  
 May NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ 40/60/80-meter Round Table Net QNS Reports

FRN/40m at 6:00pm on Sunday (local) on 7056 kHz  $\pm$  0.5 kHz  
 Jun 3 QNS (7) N6IET, K6GVG, W7SAG, AI6SL, NR5NN, WI6O, KW6G  
 Jun 10 QNS (5) KE6EE NCS, W7SAG/P, K6GVG, NR5NN, KW6G  
 Jun 17 QNS (6) N6IET, W7SAG, K6GVG, KE6EE/p, AI6SL, K0DTJ

Jun 24 QNS (4) N6IET, NR5NN, K6GVG, W7SAG/p

53N/60m at 6:30pm on Sunday (local) on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)

Jun 3 QNS (10) NR5NN, AI6SL, N6IET, KE6EE, K6GVG, WI6O, AI6U, K7KY, KW6G, N6KIX

Jun 10 QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, K7KY, WI6O, W7SAG/P

Jun 17 QNS (7) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, W7SAG, K0DTJ, KE6EE/p, KW6G, K6GVG

Jun 24 QNS (5) NR5NN N6IET K6GVG KW6G WI6O

FRN/80m at 8:00pm on Sunday (local) on 7056 kHz  $\pm$  0.5 kHz

Jun 3 QNS (7) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, WI6O, KE6EE, K6GVG, KW6G, W7SAG

Jun 10 QNS (3) AI6SL NCS, K6GVG, WI6O

Jun 17 QNS (8) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, KE6EE/p, K6GVG, KW6G, K0DTJ, WI6O

Jun 24 QNS (4) N6IET NCS, K0DTJ, K6GVG, WI6O

Commentary

We'll continue meeting at the above times on the above frequencies during the month of July.

Several of us are avid experimenters with various kinds of antennas, including end-fed wires, ground-mounted verticals, and mobile antennas mounted either sideways (horizontally) off our balconies or vertically from metal fences or railings.

We try to follow NVIS propagation conditions when possible, which means we often change our net times with changes in season and solar flux.

Our coverage area is the entire Pacific time zone and sometimes beyond. We encourage QRP, of course but allow QRO when conditions warrant, as we do multiple rounds and like for all stations to be able to copy each other, if possible.

All CW operators whose speed is at least 15 wpm are welcome to QNI. We usually start at 21 wpm and possibly QRQ to 23 wpm during each net. We're working on our head copying skills and so we try to practice good inter-word spacing, as well as good character spacing.

72, 73 and 77

Rick - N6IET and JB - NR5NN

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**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

6/5/18 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM

I started the net about 5 minuets late due to a thunder storm just west of use and still got 2 check ins. Pretty noisy but copy was not bad. Thanks for hanging in there guys.

6/12/18 QNI(2) NCS KE5YGA KE5YUM

I was out of town and Andy and Terry tried for a QSO but report the band noise was very bad and only marginal copy. They both went QRO and still not very good conditions.

6/19/18 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM

Conditions were pretty got tonight. Terry (YUM) was QRP and 559/329. Got most of his comments. He is working satellites and having fun. Andy (YGA) was QRO and said I was fading out so I went QRO so he could hear me better.

6/26/18 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM

The band was good to us tonight. Terry (YUM) was 569/579 and QRP from NTX. Using an OCF dipole for 40 meters. Andy (YGA) was 599 and QRO from AR. QRN was a little rough but good copy though out.

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

Net suspended pending further expirements on a more suitable band/time.

=====
**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)

Net Suspended pending someone to take on the NCS position

=====
**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)

- 2018/06/08 QNI (5) NCS W7ANM, K7JUV, N7QR, AD7BP, WB4SPB.
2018/06/15 QNI (3) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, WB4SPB.
2018/06/22 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AB7BP, W7ANM.
2018/06/29 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, K7JUV, K7ANM

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



# 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

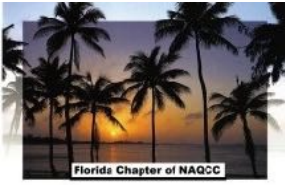


Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

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/>.

The Illowa group had a monthly chapter meeting **on June 14th** at the Moline Village Inn. In attendance were Mark, KONIA, Matt, N9MAT, Tony, N9YPN, Tim, N9BIL, Dave, NI9M (formerly KD9VT), Peter, NN9K and Brad, KC0RZP.

We finalized plans to operate as a QRP group on Field Day. The event was scheduled to take place at Dave NI9M’s house, and we decided to use his callsign. The event turned out to be a lot of fun, and a real success. Plans are already underway to operate as a QRP group in the 2019 FD!

We also discussed our intentions to get together to operate portable in upcoming summer QRP events, perhaps including Flight of the Bumblebees and the NJQRP Skeeter Hunt. More will be revealed as details about the events are made public by organizers and we finalize plans.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, July 12th at 7:00pm in the Moline Village Inn location.

## NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

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.

Our big event during June was our annual Field Day operation. This year was going to be different. Instead of using N3AQC, we signed up for and got N3A. Here's the story now. Other activities as usual can be found in my web site diary at [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com).

Mike KC2EGL and I got together on Thursday to do some FD planning before we took the trip to Pittsburgh I described earlier in the diary.

We were going to set up my sun shade in the back yard, but after studying the weather forecast for the weekend which was highlighted by one word, RAIN, we decided we'd instead operate from my front porch as we did last year and a few years ago.

Of course to be eligible for the 2B category, we couldn't use my regular antennas. So we did some thinking about that. I did come to the conclusion earlier that I wanted to use my portable jumper inverted vee dipole I use when we go out in the parks. I figured I'd set it up at the very end of my small back yard. Mike wanted to use his bottom loaded whip antenna. We thought we could set it up in my front attic window. That would separate both antennas as much as possible to hopefully prevent interfering with each other. Mike checked out the mounting setup and found the antenna could be attached to the bottom of the storm window since the window itself swings in horizontally instead of being a regular double hung window and couldn't be used. He also wanted to set up his portable inverted vee along the side of the house as he did last year. That way he could see which one performed best with the least interference.

After figuring out the antenna situation, we put things away till Saturday morning set up and headed off to Pittsburgh.

Fast forward now to Saturday morning. Mike arrived around 9:45AM or so. I had already cleared off the front porch and set up our operating tables and chairs. Although it looked good on the radar with no rain yet, we thought we'd get the antennas set up first of all. It took a bit of time, but all that went smoothly. Next we set up the rest of our gear on the porch as shown in the pictures below. We tried out the antennas and they seemingly worked good with minimal interference as long as we weren't too close to harmonically related frequencies.

Once satisfied with the set up, we headed out to Wendy's for our lunch around Noon. Back home again to kill some time till 1800Z arrived.

Things started quickly for me when the starter's gun fired. I made 10 contacts in the first 13 minutes on 40 meters, and it continued on good from there. At the one hour mark I had 42 contacts. After two hours, it was 71 and 96 by 2100Z. It looked like we had a good shot at our goal of 500 contacts. However it started getting harder to find stations I hadn't worked before as time went on. I did try 15 meters during those first three hours, but it was found pretty much wanting. I only made 14 of the 96 contacts there. Ten meters was dead for all practical purposes and I didn't make any contacts there. As it was the whole operation, 40 was THE band. More about me later. Let's see how Mike was doing.

He started off with problems. Although he was getting a 1:1 or 1.1:1 SWR, the reception level was low

and stations he called weren't hearing him. I thought about it and it sounded similar to what Tom WB3FAE experienced when we were at Moraine State Park. The KX3 was loading up a bad connector, but not really the antenna. I suggested to Mike that he check the connections around the whip antenna. So he went off to the attic and I'm not sure exactly what he did, but he came back down and said he found the problem. Maybe he can explain exactly what it was when he comes tonight and adds his thoughts.

Now with things working better and the signal levels up to what they should be, Mike started to roll at 1833Z. In looking at his log, it looks a little like the IL QSO Party at the start with 5 of his first 6 contacts being from IL. For the first hour and a half, it looks like 20 was pretty much in short skip almost like 40. There weren't any adjacent states in his log then, but all but a couple were from the same states I was working. As sunset approached, I see longer and longer skip till at 2212Z I see a couple CA (SDG) contacts and at around 2245Z, most all contacts were from west of the Mississippi or from FL. I'll let Mike add anything else about his part of the operation that he wants to in an addendum to this entry later this evening.

Getting back to me, after 2100Z, the QSOs on 40 kept on coming steadily, but a little slower. The hourly totals from 2100Z till bedtime were as follows: 23 25 21 17 20 19 3. All of those were on 40 except for 7 on 80. I wanted Mike to have 80, but he was having a good successful time on 20 and told me I could take it. It wasn't all that good and with my jumper dipole set to 40 which is as low as it goes, it wasn't working all that well.

My last contact before bedtime was at 0314, and Mike's at 0309. Then it was off to bed with no definite plans when we'd start again in the morning.

Looking at our logs, my first morning contact was at 1053Z with K4FC in FL on 15. So it looked like 15 might open up on Sunday as it did last year. Perhaps 10 also. We'll see, but now it was back to the workhorse 40 meters. I did hit 15 again at 1133 and ran off 9 QSOs in 30 minutes. Not great, but at least it looked like 15 would add to our totals. Nothing on 10 yet though.

The hourly totals on Sunday starting with the 1000Z hour were: 2 22 31 15 21 19 17 20. The 15 total was in the 1300Z hour when we took time out for breakfast. 10 meters did open up somewhat and I made my first contact there at 1253 working W4NPT in FL. I skipped among 40, 15, and 10 on Sunday. 15 and 10 fell short of last year, but still provided 73 and 19 contacts respectively to give us a total of 482 contacts, 9 short of last year and 18 short of our goal of 500.

We were happy with the total, but a couple of things held us back. One was a persistent problem with GenLog. For some reason, it took a long time to write the contact info to the hard drive. I remember having that same problem with Field Day before. However it's only a problem with Field Day, not any other contests. The time lag started out somewhere about 70 contacts when I noticed a slight delay till GenLog was ready for the next entry. As more and more contacts were added, the delay got longer and longer and reached around 25 seconds near the end of FD. Mike also noticed the same thing, but his delay was only several seconds. Perhaps because he had fewer QSOs. We'll have to investigate that problem, and perhaps try another logging program next year. Otherwise, GenLog is a fabulous contest logger for simple contest operating. I absolutely love it and use it for all my contesting.

Another couple little glitches held us back a bit. One was a neighborhood dog that got loose and came to visit us. The dog was totally friendly, but we took time to go find the owner. I see a little girl walking him now and then so I had an idea where to look for the owner although I didn't know exactly where they lived. I did run into him. He was out looking for the dog.

One thing that was absolutely great was using N3A instead of N3AQC. Now I (we) know firsthand why all the big contest stations want the shortest call possible. You can really sneak that call in and 'steal'



some contacts. I don't mean using improper procedures, but just being 'quick on the draw'. I've already signed us up for N3A for the 2019 Field Day.

Oh, by the way, it never did seriously rain over the weekend. Just a few rather minor showers and no wind to speak of. So we probably could have easily used the sunshade. Oh well.

I think that about covers the operation unless Mike has some things to add. If so, I'll post them right here this evening.

de Mike KC2EGL

This year I decided to try an antenna that I have had for nearly 20 years but have yet to use. It is a BW Apartment Window multiband whip antenna with an adjustable coil. It is advertised to work from 2M to 40M. To my surprise it worked like a charm (after I went back upstairs to connect the counterpoise). This will be my go to antenna for any operations at John's QTH.

As usual operating radio with John was a blast. -30-

Now a few stats from our operation.

I worked 80, 40, 15, and 10. Mike stuck it out on 20.

QSOs by band -

80 - 7  
40 - 272  
20 - 111  
15 - 73  
10 - 19  
Total  
tot 482

How did we fare with states? Not as well as previous years. We missed 8 this year - AK AZ HI ID MT ND NV WA. States per band -

80 - 5  
40 - 34  
20 - 34  
15 - 28  
10 - 10  
Overall -  
All - 42

Here's how we fared ARRL section wise. All is our combined total different sections from our 482 QSOs  
ARRL Sections per band -

80 - 5  
40 - 48  
20 - 45  
15 - 31  
10 - 13  
All - 61

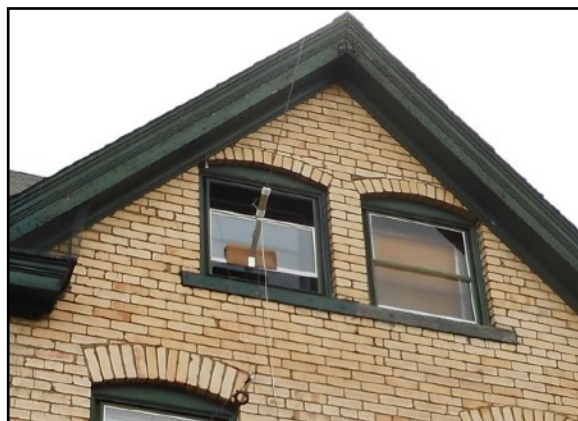
Now the picture collection.



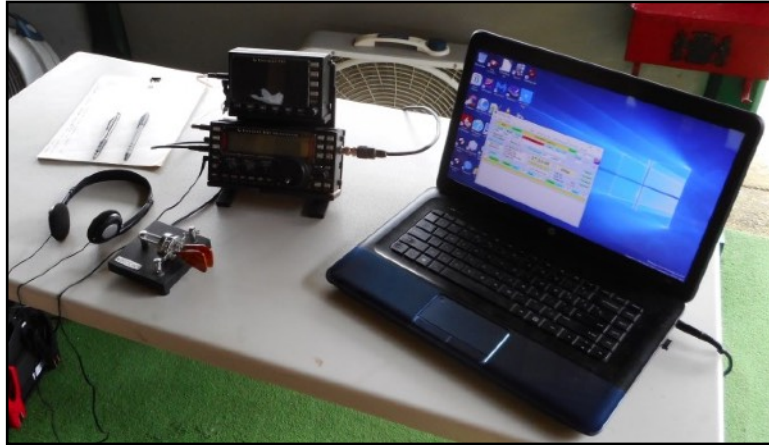
My jumper dipole set up at the far edge of my back yard. No, it's not as close to the house nor the power lines as perspective makes it seem.



The far end of one leg of the dipole fastened to the blue pole.



Mike's whip antenna mounted to one of my third story windows about as far as it gets from the backyard dipole.



My station setup with the KX3/PX3, logging computer, headphones, paddle, and some note paper and pens if needed. Also my fan in the background if needed (and it was at times).



Overall view of both our stations. You can also see our batteries in this picture.



The old man calling some station.



Mike doing likewise. Gee, I wish I were that young again.

That's it. Remember you can always find more such info in my web site diary at [k3wvp.com](http://k3wvp.com).



# 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 Ed, K8SZN, #6376 —

I use a variety of simple wire antennas, and like to test them against each other, to optimize my collection of permanent antennas. The WSPR mode provides a good vehicle for comparative antenna tests, but the results can be misleading if all one does is look at the reported signal strength (SNR). Here's what I've learned and concluded from quite a number of tests.

#### Observations:

- Signal reports (SNR) for the same antenna, tested in rapid succession on the same frequency can vary greatly--easily by as much as 10db.
- The SNR and number of hits for the same antenna can vary greatly with time of day and from one day to the next.

#### Conclusions:

- Run multiple tests for each antenna, at different times of day and over several days. Average the results.
- Evaluate performance by counting the number of hits for an antenna, and the direction and distance for the hits, rather than the signal strength.
- Look for unique hits for each antenna, never produced by the other (for example, one of mine consistently produced a report from Antarctica).
- If possible, switch back and forth between the antennas being compared, conducting successive, closely spaced tests, using the same transmitter output power.
- Assess the averaged results for the antennas being compared to determine relative performance advantages

Using this method, I have been able to identify what I believe are true performance advantages of one antenna versus another.

Ed Ketterer  
NAQCC # 6376

From Walt, KB1M, #8058 —

*Walt won the random prize drawing for one of our recent regular monthly challenges. He sent this in after being informed of his win and being asked to pick out his prize. - Editor*

What a nice surprise to receive your email. I would like the H10 Paddle Finger Pieces, they will look very nice on my K8RA key. The NAQCC has been a major contributor to the enjoyment I receive from Amateur Radio. Without the sprints and challenges my on air time would be very little, not to mention the pleasure I have had meeting some wonderful members.

Thank You. 73, Walt KB1M

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

As is my latest policy, I invite you to check out my web site diary for my personal news at [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com). I get an increase in hits on my web site right after these newsletters are published. So I thank you for visiting and for your interest in my doings.

Some highlights in the diary this month:

June 4 - Operating the Museum Ships on the Air event from the Requin story and pictures. What a blast!

June 8 - A near end to my DX streak.

June 13 - Soapbox comments on our NAQCC sprint.

June 14 - For those who enjoy my weather stories and pictures, a story of a hailstorm here.

June 21 - Mike and I go for a 'joy ride' on the Pittsburgh Subway and Light Rail system plus several pictures.

June 24-27 - More about the Field Day operation in addition to the WPA Chapter News article.

June 30 - Another close call for the DX streak.

Hope you enjoy the diary entries.



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

Amateur radio has something for everyone. SSB, FM, AM, the digital modes, and QRO power levels all have their place in this great hobby and we certainly recognize the importance of these modes as well as the enjoyment that they give to many. But for a growing number of hams the challenge of *“doing the most with the least”* makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio, and the North American QRP CW Club exists to promote this exciting facet of the hobby. As part of our focus we also encourage, but do not limit operators to, the use of simple wire antennas.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to enjoy QRP/CW operating. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

We also serve as a resource for people who are just getting started in QRP and/or CW. Our slow-speed CW nets are a great place for beginners to practice Morse code under real on-air conditions. Beginners will also find a wealth of helpful information on our club website and we are more than willing to try to answer any questions about QRP and CW that you might have. An extensive monthly newsletter is filled with useful projects and news from fellow QRPers.

A number of local NAQCC Chapters offer opportunities to get together for in person socializing and QRP/CW activities. Portable operations are especially popular with the local chapters.

Whether you are a veteran ham radio operator who is looking for a new challenge in the hobby, or a beginner who is intrigued by the possibilities of QRP/CW communication, we cordially invite you to join us. Membership is free and the benefits and fun are significant.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 9000 members world wide. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

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