

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 246 DECEMBER 2018



KEY CLICKS

- **HAVE YOU CHECKED OUT OUR CLUB WEBSITE RECENTLY?** You can find a ton of useful and interesting information on our club website - details about upcoming club activities, help and advice for beginning CW and QRP operators, a complete archive of past newsletters, helpful guides for participating in our sprints and challenges, a page to self-spot your QRP operating, and so much more! Take some time to explore it at <http://www.naqcc.info/>.
- **NEW LOCAL CHAPTER FORMED ON LONG ISLAND.** We are very pleased to announce that a new local chapter of the NAQCC has been formed on Long Island, NY, under the leadership of Howard, WB2UZE. You can learn more about this group in the *Chapter News* section of this issue.
- **ANNIVERSARY EVENTS NOW COMPLETED.** We had a summary of our 14th anniversary activities in the November issue of the newsletter but there was one more event that still needed to be completed - the prize drawing for the participants in the October Anniversary month-long challenge. You can see the list of prizes and the winners on the *Challenges* page of this issue.
- **KEEP YOUR INFORMATION UP TO DATE.** Please remember to keep your personal information up to date in our membership records. We have a special webpage (http://www.naqcc.info/member_updates.html) where you can report callsign changes, new email addresses, etc.
- **ANY AMBASSADORS OUR THERE?** In March of 2017 we introduced *The New Member Ambassador Award* that can be earned by working a specified number of the newer members of our club. To date, no one has applied for this award and we are wondering if we might have made it a little bit too challenging. But we are going to keep it in place and unchanged at least through 2019. Anyone up for the challenge? You can find the details about this award at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_ambassador.html.
- **DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO TELL?** We are always looking for items to publish in the newsletter. A report about a portable outing, a new piece of equipment to review, a description of a recent home-brew project, or just about anything that is QRP/CW related would be of interest to our membership. We can use shorter items in our *Member Submission* section and longer items can be used as featured articles. I can work with just about any submitted format and will do all of the formatting and editing required. So please share your story and claim your "15 minutes of fame."

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- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use *PayPal* to electronically send your contribution to Club Vice President John, N8ZYA, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please be sure to check the box that says “*I’m sending money to family or friends.*” Also please add a note indicating that this is a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file, your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a “check and balance.”



A PORTABLE TRANSMITTING LOOP

By Tom, VE4AKI



Portable operation has always been a popular activity in ham radio. Events such as field day and emergency activations are good examples. Lately programs such as SOTA and NPOTA have become very popular. The availability of more compact rigs suitable for portable operation has stimulated this activity to new heights. Antennas designed for portable operation are readily available for purchase or can be homebrewed if so desired.

I have operated portable on a casual basis with a variety of rigs for many years. Antennas used have usually been verticals of various types as supports for wire antennas have not always been available. The problem with achieving a satisfactory ground has always been the limitation with this type of antenna. What was needed was a ground independent antenna of reasonable efficiency that was easy to transport and setup for operation.

After some research in my collection of antenna books as well as the internet the small transmitting loop [STL] looked like a possible solution. This type of antenna offers reasonable efficiency, small size compared to frequency suitable for portable operation, and multiband capability. Numerous commercially manufactured STL'S are available varying from base models to more complex models featuring remote tuning. Prices seemed a bit steep for the limited use I would get for casual operation so I decided to try to build my own.

I chose to concentrate on the 20M band with the capability of 30M with less efficiency. Research indicated that a diameter of 30 inches [94 in. perimeter] would work for this frequency range. For the main loop I chose to use some surplus RG59 coax with the braid and center conductor tied together. Although this material might not be as low loss as solid copper tubing I felt that the flexibility for easy take-down for transport was of higher priority.

Because the coax is too flexible and does not hold its shape I used a light wood frame in a cross configuration. This resulted in a diamond shape of 24 in. per side. The loop is brought to resonance by a 150 pf. variable capacitor. This capacitor has spacing of approx. .025 in. which I figured would be suitable to handle the expected voltage. I intended to use the loop at relatively low RF levels. The capacitor was mounted in plastic box at the bottom apex of the loop. I used a shaft coupler, a non metallic extended shaft and a large knob to reduce hand capacitance. The RF is coupled to the main loop with a 7 in. dia. coupling loop of stiff insulated wire. This loop and a SO239 connector are mounted on a wooded block that can slide along the vertical support for SWR adjustment.

The building and testing was done in the early spring well before the weather in the Great White North was suitable for portable operation. Initial tests were done indoors. Resonance was achieved on 30M through 15M with the 150 pf capacitor. Tuning was sharp but easily achieved with a light touch on the tuning knob. Maximum capacitance almost achieved resonance on 40M as well. A short length of RG58 [24 in.] coax was used as an additional capacitor in parallel with the 150 pf cap. This increased the range to 40M although I did not expect it would perform well at this frequency. Brief tests at higher power levels as high as 50 watts showed no signs of arcing or excessive heating.

The opportunity for a short expedition finally arrived. A three day camping trip to a local campground was planned. Now camping for me means setting up my 17 ft. trailer on a full service site in an established campground. The days of roughing it are long gone! I chose to use my Ten Tec Scout [now 25 years old] as it had served me well in the past. I also took a small switching power supply so that I did not have to rely on batteries.

The 20M band offered the best opportunity for contacts in the time available for ham radio. The usual pattern for this band is favorable propagation from about 9 A.M. till noon. The band is somewhat quiet for the afternoon and picks up late afternoon till early evening. The STL was set up on an old microphone stand [amazing what you can find at Goodwill] at a height of 5 ft. This allowed east tuning of the loop capacitor. After tuning the antenna for resonance and low SWR propagation seemed only fair with significant QSB. With these conditions I decided to raise the power to 25 watts to improve my chances. [hey it's only an S unit above QRP]

Over the next couple of sessions I worked a variety of stations from the east coast to the west coast. This included a couple of SOTA stations, a few familiar stations from previous QSO's as well as a lighthouse activation in Washington state. The antenna performed as well as previous experiences with verticals. I found the loop to be somewhat directional with a noticeable null off the ends.

So the jury is in and the verdict is guilty, guilty of good performance, easy portability and setup, and the cost was minimal. I think I have found my ideal portable antenna. With some more time available this summer/fall I hope to get in a few more sessions. If you are looking for a portable or limited space antenna with good performance you should consider a small transmitting loop.



RADIO ROOTS REVISITED

BY PAUL, N8XMS



RADIO W9TPF		CONFIRMING		CW	QSO OF 12-15 19 40	
TIME	QRG	RST	QRM	QRN	QSO NO.	WX.
1520	80	599X	no	no	202	Snow
ORS	W9CGZ				AEC	
RCC					AARS	
XMTR. 6V6 - RK39 - 65 watts		RCVR. 3 tube superregener		ANT. Center fed		1/2 wave
RAG CHEW Pleased to work you, Bob. by 73 - Emory						
EMORY A. COX, 235 N. KNOX AVE., TOPEKA, KANSAS, U.S.A.						

My grandfather, Emory Cox, was a ham radio operator and helped me get started in the hobby when I was a young teen back in 1970. Unfortunately physical distance and life's circumstances significantly limited my radio-focused time with him and as a result I knew almost nothing about his personal history in the hobby. He became a silent key in 1992 and shortly after that I developed a desire to learn more about his ham radio career. So I started researching "the life and times of" W0MA (formerly W0CGZ, W5KNN, and W9CGZ), and that research has continued on and off to this day.

In 2008 I wrote an article entitled "*Radio Roots*" that documented my search for information. That article was published by the ARRL on their website and is still available at <http://www.arrl.org/news/radio-roots>. I won't repeat that information here but the article was well received and if you are interested in reading it you can follow that link.

The real reason that I am writing this current item is to share with you an amazing source of information that I recently found that may be of interest to others. The *Internet Archive* (<https://archive.org/>) describes itself as "a non-profit library of millions of free books, movies, software, music, websites, and more." It contains millions (multi-millions is not an exaggeration) of archived files. Entering "ham radio callbook" in the search field will show over 100 digitized copies of callbooks dating all the way back to 1913. These callbooks can be viewed online in your browser or downloaded in several different formats to your personal computer.

I found my grandfather's original 1939 callsign, W9CGZ, listed in a 1940 callbook, and his W5KNN, W0CGZ, and W0MA calls in 1946, 1948, and 1970 editions. The pages from these sources have now been added to my personal research files. I also happened to find my own novice callsign, WN0BJC, in a 1971 listing.

There is a vast amount of material to explore in the *Internet Archive*. Entering "amateur radio" into the search field produces some 6000 or so items ranging from field day videos made by local clubs, to scans of old ARRL publications, to copies of 73 magazine, and even a feature film from the 1940's called "*Cosmo Jones, Crime Smasher*." (I have no idea what the link to amateur radio is in that last one.)

So if you find yourself on a cold winter day with dead bands and some available free time, you just might want to poke around for a while in the *Internet Archive* to see what interesting things you can dig up. (*Caution: Like anything else on the internet, some searches in this archive may produce inappropriate content.*)



PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

BY GENE, N5GW

A preventive maintenance program (PMP) is a good idea for your ham station, allowing you to head off many potential problems around the shack. Although the PMP can be drawn up on a sheet of paper, a PC or smart phone can remind you of what and when something needs to be done in the way of PM's.

Here are some examples/suggestions:

Antennas: There is nothing worse than having your antenna fail in the middle of a period of nasty weather. Periodic inspections can discover problems such as frayed ropes, deteriorating insulation, corroding connections, overhanging dead tree limbs, etc. I haul down and inspect my tree-supported CFZ's in early winter each year when limbs are bare, including replacing the worn ropes.

Batteries: I still have a few SLA batteries around. They do a good job but must be maintained near full charge on standby; if they sit around in a discharged state they can go bad in a few months. I keep mine on home made chargers or solar panels. Penlight or 9-volt batteries inside accessories are either rechargeable types or lithium. I have given up on leaky alkaline cells which damage equipment.

Tools: A dull knife or drill bit, a snaggle-tooth Phillips screwdriver or a rounded-off slot screwdriver can be a real pain. Also they can damage equipment or yourself. Sharpen or replace them.

Vintage gear: Antique radios need an occasional workout to drive out moisture, keep lubricants from solidifying, and keep oxides off of contacts. Don't leave a mechanical band switch parked in one position, over the years it can weaken the contacts. Blow or wipe out dust. A good spray helps protect switches. Jiggle tubes in their sockets to break up any oxidation. Tighten loose hardware; look for rust. Check for deterioration of power cords.

Shack cleanup: When I can't see the tabletop any more, it's time to tidy up a bit. It's annoying to run out of workbench space in the middle of a project or to be unable to locate a certain book or paper. I have an oversize clear plastic jar into which I put odds & ends and miscellaneous parts. Periodically these need to be sorted out. I try to put the shack back to some semblance of order every three months or so, perhaps during commercial breaks of a TV ball game.

General safety: During lightning season I disconnect antennas and accessories from my radios when I'm not on the air. It's a good form of lightning protection. I have many AC accessories plugged into a spike-protected strip. When I leave the shack I look to make sure the strip light is off. If nothing else it prevents leaving my soldering iron on for a week!

I try to perform most PM's at least every three months. A good time for such is during rainy days, cold winter nights or hot summer middays.

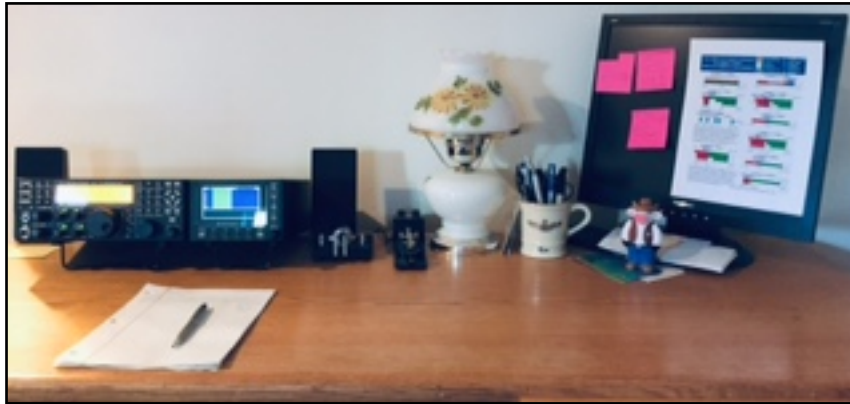


MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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.



LEE BROESTL, AA5LH, #5349

I've been a ham operator for over 50 years. Always exciting, challenging and one never knows where/when/what mode the 'thrill' QSO will rock the moment.

My primary operating mode has always been that of Morse Code/CW. However, before Amateur Radio launched into my life, a slight back story is necessary. Back in the mid-1960's, I was a Second Class Boy Scout (BSA), wishing to become a First Class Scout. I suspected Morse would be a huge challenge. My learning plan attempted to memorize individual letters/numbers A-Z/1-10. The passing criteria was to receive a 20-word message within a non-defined time limit. Trying to accomplish this test was very frustrating. Shortly afterwards, I quit the BSA. I thought mastering the Morse Code was an insurmountable feat.

When I was a sophomore in high school, I had two friends deeply involved in an early development of a new and bold social media platform-Citizens Band radio (you know, Breaker/Breaker, Ch.1-9). Since I was not 18 years of age, I went to my Dad asking him to sign the required FCC application, as my associate's Dads had done. As a strong individual, he knew such radio use was a folly. His reasoning was a high school student didn't need be tempted away from his required studies. My Dad stated that if I REALLY wanted to work Radio, I would be involved in KNOWING/LEARNING Amateur Radio! I realized right away though that this different style of radio required Morse. Gone were my thoughts of being on the radio.

Within a month my Dad handed me an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer newspaper highlighting the city wide Ham Radio activities. Also it mentioned of a club offering Novice license classes for new applicants. These sessions were held one night a week for ten weeks. My Dad offered this to me as a Father/Son activity. Though my Dad never got deeply involved, it set a fire of interest within me. I was surprised learning Morse quickly by 'grouping' similar sounding patterns for different characters. I still have that Ameco Code manual, Mastering the Morse Code.

After attending this class, I passed my first Novice license test, result: Callsign-WN8CPJ! Now I was really excited. I had challenged and won against my unease of the Morse Code. A friend of my parents, who was a ham (WA8SAM-SK) offered to become my 'Elmer.' It was impressive to visit his shacks. There were two separate, full operating Collins 'S-Line' stations operating on his property. Completing his station were two 50' foot towers and many wire antennas. He routinely had a scheduled QSO with a South African friend. SAM offered me a Collins 75-A4 Receiver with which to build my first station. For my transmitter I constructed a Heathkit DX-60. Another ham gave me a 3-element 20-15-10 meter Yagi antenna. Not to be left behind, I planted a 50' tower at my parent's house (before nasty HOAs).

I operated as a Novice for two years, the normal duration for this type of license. I had many wonderful QSOs around the USA/Canada. There was no renewal for Novice licenses. It was expected you would upgrade to General or a higher class of license prior to expiration. Since my first license had expired, I needed to retest which I did with the new Callsign-WN8OFB. Quickly (within months), I upgraded to my new General license - WB8OFB.

During the next 17 years, my code speed increased dramatically but my electronic theory knowledge stagnated. Until the FCC published the respective grade Question Banks and instituted Incentive Licensing (capping HF frequencies on General/Advanced licensees), it took me numerous tries to upgrade my General license. Finally in 1987, I achieved my Amateur Extra. Truly, it wasn't the 20 Words-per-Minute code speed which worried me.

Though I've been licensed for a half century, I've not owned many, different radios or antennas. Despite this, there have been many unique operations. My present HF transceiver is a Elecraft K3/P3. Present antenna is a G5RV, strung as an Inverted VEE. I've owned only four HF radios (Icom-720A, Heathkit SB-104 & Collins Rcvr/Heathkit DX-60 Xmtr). There have been many different station locations but two that deserve to mention. As a professional pilot, I've operated HF Aeronautical Mobile on the Boeing 747-400 & USAF RF-4C. Also, I've been licensed while living in Germany (DL4SL) & Korea (KD9LB).

As mentioned earlier, my primary fun mode of operation is CW/Morse. I estimate CW ops are 95% of my ops time. I'm usually operating QRP (<5 watts output). For five years, I've been operating PSK and RTTY using an Apple MacBook laptop. I've investigating moving into FT-6, but not totally grasping the concept or operational procedures. I expect swapping out my G5RV antenna to a horizontal loop within the coming month.

There are many aspects/modes which attract the human operator to new, focused technologies. I've been drawn to CW because of my past story. Yet, I can see various distinct modes which can draw other hams to their 'go-to' ops. There are many different areas I thought I would never dabble in. One of these areas, which popped forth in 2018 has been contests/challenges. NAQCC has matched my love of CW/QRP with a specific monthly challenge. It has given me the incentive to possibly dare to run with the Big Dogs in larger contest events. Antennas with their finicky requirements coupled with a strong hope for higher performance/less noise have driven me toward new antenna solutions.

Amateur radio has always been a big tent allowing any ham the latitude to find their likes/challenges. I hope that next generations will be drawn to the many wonders of Ham Radio, especially CW. At whatever modes/power levels allowed. QRT, my friends.

CUL/73s
AA5LH



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We have two sprints to enjoy this month. First up is our regular monthly sprint on December 12, 0130-0330 UTC. That's the evening of Tuesday the 11th here in North America. Then a week later we have one of our semi-annual special QRPp sprints on December 19, 0130-0330 UTC. (Tuesday the 18th in North America.) Complete information about these sprints can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201812.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201812mw.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: Our November sprint was possibly one of the worst in memory. My personal soapbox comment said, *"Well, I managed to work everyone that I heard. The problem is I only heard one, very weak, signal and that was from someone located about a dozen miles from me! Thanksgiving preparations severely limited my available time and that was probably true for a lot of people but on top of that conditions seemed to be about the worst that I can remember."* And that basic message was repeated by a lot of the participants. 80 logs were submitted showing 125 total participants and a 576 QSOs. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201811.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We had an unusually large number of first-time sprinters this month and we certainly hope that they were not too discouraged by the poor conditions and will return often: ACOI K0EMT K4JAZ K9DRP KC9IL KX6A NORZ N8IFU NA5N WO9B

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	KQ1P	WB1GYZ
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	W2JEK
W3	K3ESE	K3EW	KD3CA
W4	KB4QQJ	WG8Y	K4KRW
W5	N5GW	NA5N	
W6	N6IET	K6MGO	
W7	KC7DM	KF7WNS	
W8	K8AG	WB8LZG	NF8M
W9	KC9IL	WB9HFK	N9SE
W0	K0FG	KD0DK	NN0SS
VE	VA3KOT		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KJ4R		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8			
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	KB1M	
W2	NK1N	N2ESE	K2YGM
W3			
W4	N4MJ	K4JAZ	WB4OMM
W5	K5MBA		
W6	NR5NN	KX6A	
W7	N7YY	AA7CU	
W8	N8IFU		
W9	K9CW	WO9B	
W0	K9OSC ACOI K0EMT (TIE)		
VE	VE3DQN		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK			
BUG			
K/K			

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	KC9IL	NA5N	K9DRP
BUG			
K/K	K4JAZ	WO9B	KX6A N8IFU (TIE)
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N0RZ			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	80	110	217	4/17
Participants	125	168	269	2/13
Total QSOs	576	1408	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	303	758	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	273	650	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	2	85	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	64	1012	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	510	311	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	7.2	12.8	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) KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN
75+	K4NVJ W4DUK KE5YUM KB3AAG WB8ENE K4KRW N2ESE VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO
100+	K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI
125+	W2JEK W9CC W2SH WB8LZG N8XMS
150+	KA2KGP K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our monthly challenge creator Gary, K1YAN, has given us a really interesting alphabet challenge this month with a word list that is associated with the famous Pan Am Clipper airline service of the 1940's. When you go to the webpage for the list of words be sure to take some time to read through the interesting information and historical pictures that he has shared with us there. Complete details can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201812.html>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: We will kick off the new year with a "spirited" alphabet challenge. Take a look at the webpage to figure out the pun in that sentence. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201901.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 November "Kilroy Was Everywhere" challenge is still a few days away but preliminary results can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201811.html>. Final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARY CHALLENGE PRIZE DRAWING: As part of our 14th anniversary celebration, every member who completed at least one of the words in the October alphabet challenge and who submitted their report by the challenge deadline was automatically entered into a drawing for the chance to win some great "gently used" prizes donated by Roy, K8NQQ. Here are the results:

**MFJ 20-meter
QRP rig**



K1IEE

**MFJ 15-meter
QRP rig**



K1YAN

**MFJ QRP
Antenna Tuner**



N4OW

Congratulations to the winners and a big THANK YOU to all of our challenge participants.

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 G3JFS
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: The Participation Award

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

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW AWARD

0546	W8NNC	R7AB	-	1,086	11/25/18	Attic dipole
0545	W8NNC	R7LV	-	1,060	11/25/18	Attic dipole
0544	VE4AKI	K2MIJ	-	1,318	11/24/18	1/4 wave vertical @0'
0543	W8BUD	VK7CW	-	1,962	11/06/18	20m Delta Loop @25-65'

WAC AWARD CATEGORY A (QRP)

0037 - K4KBL	SO1WS - 4Z7IARC - CT1BHQ - K8OY - AH6V - ZP6CW	11/07/18
0038 - LZ2OQ	J28NC - UA0QN - DL1BUC - W1AW/5 - VK4FW - OA4O	11/19/18

WAS AWARD CATEGORY A (50 STATES QRP)

0034 - K4KBL	11/06/18
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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 60m, and 80m QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 4:00 PM PT 8:30 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z 0430 Z	5348 KHz ch2 3556 KHz	60m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0100 Z	3564 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CT 9:00 PM CT (?)	Tuesday 0130 Z 0300 Z (?)	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2300/2330 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 4 PM PT	Friday 0000 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.

A NOTE FROM OUR NET MANAGER

To all, although the net report as included is accurate please refer to the net schedule page to make yourselves aware of any schedule changes. As the seasons progress (?) our network of volunteers is trying to see what times work best. So please, a glance at the schedule before you try and call-in. When Paul and I receive any schedule changes Paul gets the change to the web page usually within 24 hours (more often it's within 24 minutes!) so please check. Secondly a heartfelt vote of thanks to our volunteer Net Control Stations, who, despite diabolical band conditions are there ready and able to conduct a net. Thank you all, you are tremendous. Last and by no means least on my list is to wish each and every one of you a very merry and joyous Christmas coupled (tank coupled if you insist) with a prosperous and healthy new year. I am finally getting around to getting an antenna up so I will be joining you all on the air, I hope, by Christmas. Be blessed all.
Wayne - NQ0RP

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

NAQCC FarnsWord 60m and 80m QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)

Sunday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0300 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-

60m NCS - JB NR5NN (California); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (California)

These are 'social' nets for fun and head-copy practice. We try to use good word spacing. We start out around 21 wpm and go up from there. We usually do a check-in round including signal reports followed by a round of whatever you want to talk about (weather, new antennas and/or radios, contests, sprints and/or DX, portable/mobile adventures), and a final check-out round.

We encourage you to check in QRP for signal reports, but feel free to QRO when conditions warrant for good copy all around. We're covering a very large region (entire Pacific time zone), and we try to pick net times during which NVIS propagation is in effect with low D-layer absorption. That makes us "NVIS-chasers", and our monthly schedules often change. We don't always succeed in these times of low sunspot activity, so expect some relaying, either between close stations or between very distant stations (or both). We hope you have a lot of fun while honing your CW skills.

New people are always welcome (if you can copy at least 15 wpm)!

FRN/60/80 Early Sessions on 5348 kHz (Ch 2) and 3556 kHz ±

Nov 04, 60m QNS (8) N6IET NCS, KW6G, KE6EE, AI6U, K6GVG, NR5NN, N6KIX, AI6SL

Nov 11, 60m QNS (4) NR5NN NCS, K6GVG, N6IET, KW6G

Nov 11, 80m QNS (5) NR5NN NCS, K6GVG, N6IET, KW6G, KE6EE

Nov 18, 60m QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, N6IET co-NCS, K6GVG, AI6SL, KE6EE, K0DTJ

Nov 18, 80m QNS (5) NR5NN NCS, KE6EE, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6IET

Nov 25, 60m QNS (6) NR6NN NCS, N6IET, K6GVG, KW6G, K6JJR, AI6U

Nov 25, 80m QNS (8) NR5NN NCS, AI6U, K6JJR, KW6G, N6IET, K6GVG, KE6EE, WI6O

FRN/80 Late Sessions on 3556 kHz ±

Nov 04, QNS (7) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, K6GVG, K0DTJ, K6JJR, KE6EE, KW6G

Nov 11, QNS (4) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, KW6G, NR5NN

Nov 18, QNS (2) N6IET, K6JJR

Nov 25, QNS (4) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K0DTJ, AI6SL

FRN Commentary

JB NR5NN is in charge of what we're now calling "FRN Early Session". Each session started out on 60 meters, but we often lost NVIS early on and QSYed to 80 meters, as indicated. That's fun! JB was chasing NVIS by adjusting his starting time during the month from 0100z to 0030z, but for December the starting time will be even earlier at 0000z (4pm PST) on 60m (5348 kHz, Ch 2). If you arrive late and don't hear us on 60 meters, check for us on 80 meters (3555.5 kHz ±).

FRN/80, which I'm now calling "FRN Late Session" was meeting at 0300z (7pm PST) in November, during which we almost always lost NVIS. So I've moved this session later by 90 minutes to 0430z (8:30pm PST) to catch the frequent "rebound" after a dip in fxF2 around 7pm. About half the time fxF2 rebounds to above 3.6 MHz an hour or two later, and NVIS returns to 80m! If not, then we'll do some relaying, if necessary.

We've suspended our 40-meter FRN nets until we start seeing more sunspots.

So please note the new FRN schedule for December, shown below:

FRN Early at 4pm PST Sundays (0000 UTC Mondays) on 5348/3555.5 kHz (NCS NR5NN)

FRN Late at 8:30pm PST Sundays (0430 UTC Mondays) on 3556 kHz ± (NCS N6IET)

72, 73 and 77,

Rick N6IET
and JB NR5NN

=====

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)

20108/11/13 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS Nothing heard tonight. Band was long and very weak here. Tuned around after 3 calls and did not hear much of anything on 80 meters tonight.

2018/11/20 QNI(12) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA Very good signals to AR this afternoon. Andy was 589 on peaks. We were both QRO. The QRN was pretty bad but had a good QSO. No other check ins heard tonight.

2018/11/27 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA The band was noisy but Andy got thru the QRN very well. 579/589.

Allen KA5TJS

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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 MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

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

2018/10/29 W0CC QRN 8 No one home! Monday night football?

2018/11/05 W0CC QRN 6 Some intermittent SSB and Digital QRM. Only heard one station near frequency; however, he did not respond to my call. Most of the rest of the band was quite. Next week will be better!

2018/11/12 W0CC QRN 8. Looking forward to next week

2018/11/19 W0CC Heard but could not receive a response from WA3CKA, QRN 7-8. Monday night football! Next week?

2018/11/26 W0CC QNI Another quiet week. Tuning around, I was only able to pick up weak stations. I suspect that everyone is "keyed-out" from the CQ WW DX CW contest this past weekend.

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NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3556.5 kHz.
 Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2018/11/02 QNI (2) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB.

2018/11/09 QNI 3, NCS wb4spb, kg7jeb, k7juv

2018/11/16 QNI 4, NCS wb4spb, kg7jeb, k7juv, ad7bp

2018/11/23 QNI (3) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW, AD7BP

2018/11/30 QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB. KG7JEB, AD7BP.

Stewart KE7LKW, Randy WB4SPB, George WB4SPB

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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 Fables

BY DICK SYLVAN W9CBT



UH-OH BOYS-THE WOLF'S HERE AGAIN AND HE SAYS HE WILL HUFF & PUFF & BLOW OUR ANTENNA DOWN IF WE DON'T CLEAR UP HIS TVI PROBLEMS IMMEDIATELY!



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

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

NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

The Long Island NY chapter of NAQCC was formally started on Nov 8, 2018 comprised of a group of 39 members very interested in all forms of QRP activities. This group will have frequent portable outings with the intent to socialize around all things QRP. Once monthly the group will meet on an internet video conference to discuss chapter business and to have presentations of interest. Because this chapter is connected via the internet, out of area members are welcome. Any out of area members will be encouraged to work our group on any of our portable outings which will be publicized in advance.

The first video conference meeting was held on Nov 19, 2018 with 17 members attending. We agreed to have winter outings at Robert Moses State Park and exchanged information on QRP frequencies, nets and NAQCC sprints. We agreed to have a once yearly Build-a-thon and for members to highlight individual QRP outings on the club email reflector. A video recording of the meeting was made for those that could not attend.

Many of the chapter members are also involved with the Long Island CW Club (longislandcwclub.org) which teaches CW also by internet video conference at Beginner, Intermediate and Advanced levels. So CW is a very important part of this group.

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.

I was a little extra busy around the end of October and the first of November and didn't have time to submit a WPA Chapter report then. So here is a summary of both our October and November activities.

Mon Oct 08 - Our parkpedition went very smoothly today with only a couple very minor glitches not even worth mentioning. Mike took 40 meters and I alternated between 30 and 20 with 30 being the better band. I made 17 QSOs there versus 7 on 20 with about an equal amount of time spent on both. Don K3RLL stopped by the site but didn't do any operating despite our offer to him to use our rig(s). He'll be heading back to FL for the winter at the end of the month so it was nice to see him before he departs.

The bands were very up and down with signals anywhere between eardrum shattering and a quiet whisper. I got RSTs from 599 to 229. I was surprised to work Oregon (KC7DM) on 30 meters just before 2PM local time here. My contacts were from 17 states and 1 province. 17 with NAQCC members, 7 with non-members.

We used our brand new just received band pass filters and they are fantastic. We never heard a single dit from each other.



L-R Above: Mike KC2EGL, John K3WWP, one of our new bandpass filters, K3WWP's KX3/PX3 setup.



L-R Above: Mike's antenna mast with our operating pavilion in the background, John and his antenna mast, John's antenna and mast.

The four hour session passed very quickly and we want to thank all of those who took time to contact us. You are the ones who make these sessions even more enjoyable beyond the fun Mike and I have together.

Wed Oct 24 2018 - I'm just sitting here chatting with Mike. This is our fourth Wednesday evening pizza "party". After the pizza, we are making plans for our November and December chapter and personal activities. In fact right now, Mike is ordering our tickets for a Trolley Museum visit and trolley ride on December 9th. We also hope to visit the Western Pa Model Train Museum sometime the week of Christmas. Then there is our annual day before Thanksgiving trip to the Requin for a chapter subpedition. Oh, and the Washington PA hamfest on November 4. Also a Veteran's Day get together on November 12. Wow, we are going to be busy the next couple months.

Sun Nov 04 2018 - Let me first post 3 pictures from today's WACOM hamfest, then do my comments after that just to be different. HI.



The left and right pictures are just a wide view of the hamfest setup, the first from ground level, and the second looking down from a 'balcony'. In the middle picture are L-R, Tom WB3FAE, Bob WC3O, John K3WWP, and Mike KC2EGL.

We had hoped to have more of our WPA Chapter members there, but we guess all were busy with other activities. Anyway it was nice to wander around with Tom, Bob, and Mike. We also saw Art WA3BKD from the Requin, and he pretty much assured us we could make our annual day before Thanksgiving trip to operate from the Requin, but to check a couple days beforehand just to be sure.

Mike arrived here shortly before 8 AM and with one minor deviation when we missed a turn, the trip was uneventful. We arrived a little past 9 AM and stayed for a couple hours. Mike and I both bought a couple things. He bought a mini-manual for some piece of equipment and some power pole connectors to use at the Requin. It was more a woodworkingfest for me as I bought a hearing protector for my woodshop work, some wood clamps, and a couple DPDT toggle switches for ham radio use.

When we left, we headed for Best Buy to mostly look around and drool a little over all the great computer, etc. stuff they have there. I bought a 4 port USB hub to have some more USB ports available for my new computer.

Of course, next it was on to some place to eat. We chose Max and Erma's. Mike had some Buffalo chicken and macaroni dish and I had chicken tenders and onion rings.

One more stop before heading home. We both bought a pair of new shoes at Dick's Sporting Goods, and Mike added some gloves to keep his hands warm on his mail route.

Back home again. We kibitzed a while, then went to my shack where Mike worked, I think 11 QSOs in the SS. I just enjoyed watching him work while I took it easy. 15 meters was in good shape, and he worked OR, UT, ID, AZ, NM, TX, and I think SD and maybe one or two other states.

Then we finished out the very enjoyable day watching a couple episodes of one of our favorite British Comedies, "Are You Being Served?" before Mike headed home.

Fri Nov 09 2018 - The 2018 ARRL Field Day results were finally released today, at least in the QST Digital Edition. Our WPA Chapter N3A operation with me and Mike KC2EGL netted us second place in our category of 2B - 2 operators - Battery power. Overall in the total of 5 2B categories, we came in 3rd out of about 30 participants. The results in the digital edition don't lend themselves to further analysis. That will have to wait till the results are added to the ARRL Contest Database. As of this afternoon they were not there yet.

Mon Nov 12 2018 - Today as I had been saying was a Mike visit day, and those days are always good and busy ones. Today was no exception. Mike arrived around 9:15AM and we spent a while talking college football before getting on to a couple projects.

The first project was building a new antenna for our portable operations. It was a kit from qrpguys.com - a tri-band 40,30,20 vertical antenna which required minimal assembly and went fairly smoothly with only a couple glitches. It involved winding a couple toroids and we never have that go smoothly although it wasn't too bad today. Pictures follow below.

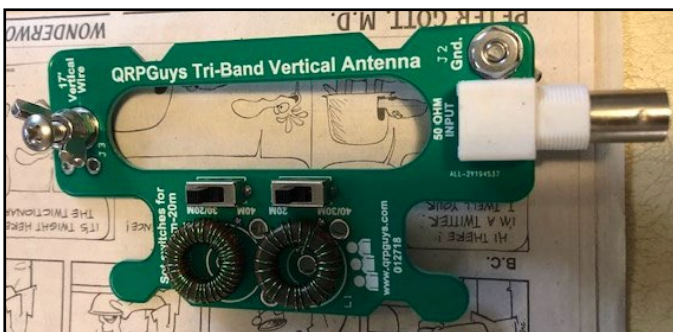
When we finished the assembly of the circuit board, it was time for a meal at Wendy's along with a trip to a hardware store to pick up a couple parts for the rest of the antenna project.

Back home we measured out some wire for the antenna and ground plane wires. After that we fixed up the rest of the mount which consisted of some PVC pipe and a long bolt to support it in the ground to hold the 17 foot mast on which the antenna, radials, and circuit board mounted. Some minor tweaks finished the antenna project.

Next it was connecting some power pole connectors to a couple lithium polymer batteries. That's another thing that never goes all that smoothly - hooking up power pole connectors. I kidded Mike that if we'd known we were going to make so many power pole connections we should have bought the \$30 or so dollars crimping tool when we first started working with them a few years ago. We'd have saved a lot of aggravation over those years. We did get the connections made and they worked well hooked to my PX3 as a test.

One final project was Mike's computer. It has been running very slowly lately and I suggested he needed to increase his RAM from the 4GB it has now. 8 is the maximum it can handle, so he is going to get 2 4GB chips to increase the RAM to 8GB total. That should help because we checked his RAM usage and the physical RAM was just about maxed out and a lot of programming was being paged out to his hard drive slowing things down. So we'll see what the increased RAM does to help.

Now here are the pictures of our projects. Just a couple. The one at left is the antenna circuit board with all parts mounted. At right the LiPo batteries with the power pole connectors attached.



Oh, we also got a call today from Art WA3BKD saying our subpedition the day before Thanksgiving should work. However about a week later he called me back also when Mike was here again and said he couldn't be there the day before Thanksgiving. Would the day after work. We said yes. More on that later.

Fri Nov 23 2018 - Good evening everyone. Tonight I (Mike KC2EGL) will be filling in as John's ghost writer.

Our day started out around 8:45AM when I arrived at John's QTH. We chatted for a few minutes before heading to the USS Requin at the Carnegie Science Center. We arrived shortly before 10AM where we met Art WA3BKD the caretaker of the sub. He escorted us below to the radio room where we set up shop for the day. Radio activity was very busy for the first hour or so and died down as usual. There

was a steady stream of visitors to the sub all day long. Most would stop by and ask what we were up to. We explained that we are privileged to be allowed to operate from the Requin multiple times during the year. Some were surprised to find out that Morse Code is still in use. Everyone were quite fascinated with the sub. With all the visit's John and I have made to the sub we are still fascinated with her. We were on the air until 3:30PM or so before we packed up for the day. Thanks again to Art WA3BKD for allowing us to 'play radio' (as we tell the visitors to the sub) once again.

After we departed the Science Center we took off for another of our favorite activities. Yes we stopped at Chili's for an early dinner. Then we headed back to John's QTH where John showed me his new portable antenna mast for the QRP Guy's vertical antenna's we built a couple of weeks ago.

Now it's time for me to get ready to head North to my QTH since tomorrow is an early wake up for me (retirement can't come soon enough). Until the next time John needs a day off.

DE Mike, KC2EGL 73.

Sat Nov 24 2018 - My ghost writer Mike said I would have stats and a photo from our Requin subpedition yesterday, so here goes.

First my stats, then Mike's, then combined.

QSOs 12 - 16 - 28

States 7 - 12 - 14

DX (CT3, HC) (CM, PY, KH6) (CT3, HC, CM, PY KH6)

Plus Mike worked Ontario

We worked 2/3 of a WAC - NA, SA, AF, OC.

Our first QSO came at 1515Z, last at 1954Z

QSOs by hour - 1500-12, 1600-4, 1700-3, 1800-4, 1900-5.

QSOs by band - 40-11, 30-6, 20-10, 15-1.

It was pretty much the usual pattern of any parkpedition or subpedition. They start off with a burst of activity for the first hour or maybe two, then die out rapidly. This time the answers to our CQs died out after a couple hours, so we went on and switched to chasing some DX.

I would like to comment on a new problem that developed on the Requin the last couple times we were there. There is now some strong wide band noise on 20 meters that really ruins reception centered pretty much on our planned 14059 frequency and extending up and down 15-20 kHz from there. So we spent much less time calling CQ on 20 than we planned. The 20M QSOs were mostly DX that we chased and caught on the lower portion of the band. I think for our next subpedition sometime early next year we'll announce a frequency lower in the 20 meter band, maybe around 14025-14030 and see how that works out.

We were having such a good time making contacts, kidding around with our host Art, and interacting with many many visitors who passed by the radio room that we forgot about taking our usual pictures.

However here is a picture that Mike had of the other (port) side of the sub that we normally never see.



And that wraps up two months of activities for the NAQCC WPA Chapter. Till next month, 73.

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.

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

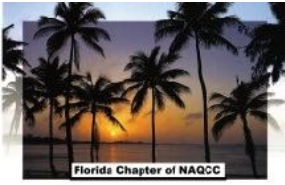


Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

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.

MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

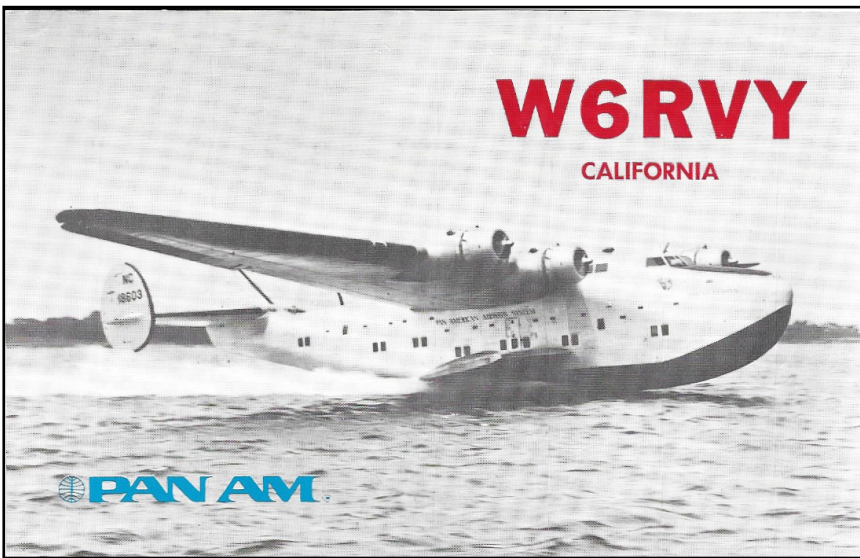


This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our News Editor 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 Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

This month's alphabet challenge about the Pan Am Clipper service of the 1930's and 40's reminded me of a QSO that I had many years ago with a man who had been a radio operator on a Clipper plane. His name was Ralph Holzkecht, W6RVY, and he was a QRPer. At the time I was a 100-watt guy. His license has now expired so I suspect that Ralph is now a Silent Key. Here are front and back scans of the QSL card that he sent me:



QSO WITH RADIO	DATE	GMT	BAND	RST	2 WAY	QSL
N8XMS	SEPT 16, 94	0106	14MHz	579	CW	-

RALPH HOLZKNECHT, W6RVY
 1425 Gretel Lane
 Mountain View, California 94040
 U.S.A. (Santa Clara County)

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 Since 1927, Pan Am radio amateurs have been advancing the state-of-the-art in aviation electronics. This operator is proud to be one of them.

XCVR TEN TEL ARGO 509
 XMTR —
 RCVR —
 AMPL —
 ANT DIPOLE
 PWR OUT 4 WATTS

Photo: A Boeing B-314 Flyingboat on take off run. Twelve of these aircraft were built. The most famous, named "Yankee Clipper", was used by Pan American Airways to inaugurate the first commercial Trans-Atlantic flight in 1939. The ultimate in airborne luxury, Pan Am operated these aircraft on Atlantic and Pacific routes until 1946.

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★
 HI PAUL - OLD TIMER
 HERE - AGE 72 - YEARS
 AGO WORKED AS RADIO
 OPR ON PLANE SHOWN
 ON OPPOSITE SIDE -
 73 - Ralph

By the way, I know that digital services like eQSL, LOTW, and ClubLog, are very useful but there is nothing like having a shoebox filled with "real" QSL cards like this!

From Ken, W2GIW, #9668 —

Looked at the NAQCC site on/off for a long time and finally decided to join (9668). 67 now, retired three years and tired of SSB and other modes so need to get to the point where I don't have to write-it-down. Slow but sure.....I hope!

Anyway, nice web site with lots of great info.....CUL,
Ken, W2GIW

PS: Photo is one of our 16 great nieces/nephews when she was three last March. Four now. The caption I used when I sent the photo to the family was... "I can copy 20WPM in my head, talk to uncle Ken and eat a snack all at the same time".

Bye, Brynn



From Val, WD4EXI, #6640 —

Val was one of the prize winners in our 14th anniversary sprint drawing in October and sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

I received a gift last month from the club's random drawing in the 14th anniversary event. Thanks to the leadership of the club and other members for smoothly running the monthly events. The MFJ power supply will be a great addition to my QRP station when I operate from my QTH.

73

Val
WD4EXI.

From Terry, KE5YUM, #3102 —

Terry was one of our prize winners in our October anniversary sprint drawing. He sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

I want to thank NAQCC for the MFJ clock which was my prize in the random drawing last month. The clock makes a great addition to my shack, and I look forward to enjoying it for many years.

Sincerely,

Terry Hall
KE5YUM
Pottsboro, TX

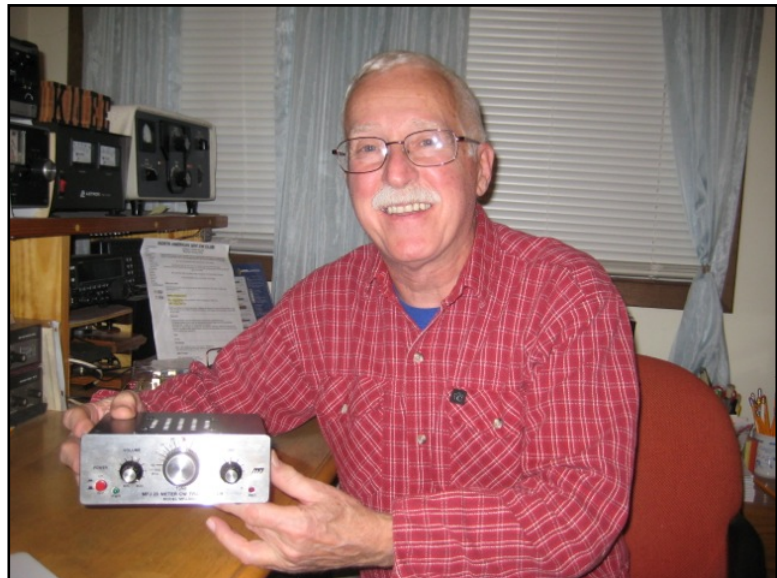


From Dick, K1IEE, #3966 —

Dick was one of the prize winners in our 14th anniversary challenge drawing, winning a gently used MFJ QRP rig donated by K8NQQ. He sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor

What a wonderful surprise to receive the little MFJ-9020 20M QRP rig. Made several QSO,s with it and very happy with the performance. Love it. Thanks to NAQCC and to all the folks that make this great club the success that it is.

Thank You all 73 Dick
K1IEE 100% QRP CW

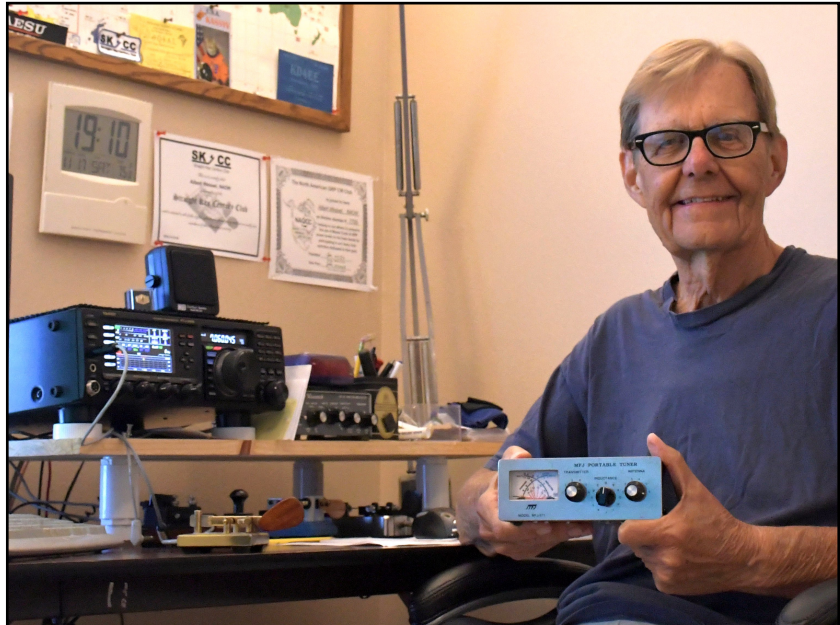


From Al, N4OW, #7700 — —

Al was one of the winners in our 14th anniversary challenge drawing, winning a gently used MFJ antenna runner donated by K8NQQ. He sent this in after receiving his prize. Back in June 2017 Al also happened to be the winner in our sprint drawing that month and won some nice paddle finger pieces made by WB8LZG that are also mentioned in his email and visible in the picture. - Editor

Thanks to NAQCC for the nice MFJ tuner and the finger pieces, I added to my Twanger sideswiper. Very useful stuff. At the moment I do not have a dedicated QRP rig. I use the FTdx3000 dialed down to 5 watts which shows 4 watts out on a somewhat accurate power meter. The MFJ Tuner I was awarded will no doubt be more accurate. I hope to sell off a FT950 and use that money toward a Elecraft KX3 or KX2 and use it for beach park portable ops and NAQCC events.

73/72 de AL, N4ow 7700



In a subsequent email Al shared this very cool piece of trivia...

My one claim to QRP Fame: I was Doug De Maw's first QSO with his Tuna Tin 2 with my first call K4DAS. That QSO is documented in the QST article regarding the Tuna 2 TX :)

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 9500 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
Long Island Chapter	Howard - WB2UZE	wb2uze@yahoo.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
Facebook Page Manager	Jerry - K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
NAQCC CW Nets	Wayne - NQ0RP	wayne.dillon@gmail.com

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They are given here in graphic form to avoid harvesting by spambots.

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