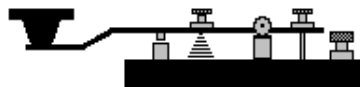


NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 254 AUGUST 2019



KEY CLICKS

- **HELP WANTED - NETS MANAGER.** Wayne, NQ0RP, has done an outstanding job as our NAQCC Nets Manager but he is now planning on stepping down from that position at the end of this year. So we are now looking for a replacement. The manager's main responsibility is to receive the net reports from our net control stations and compile them into a single file for the newsletter. (See the *CW Nets* pages in this issue to see what that looks like.) In addition, the manager does a little time and frequency coordinating with the different nets and serves as a general resource person for anyone who has questions about them. If you would like to help out in this position, please contact Paul, N8XMS. See the *Contacts* page for my email address.
- **ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL EVENT OPERATORS NEEDED.** This year we will be celebrating our club's 15th anniversary from October 6 through 12 (UTC) and, as in past years, we need volunteers to put our special event callsign on the air during that week. No special equipment is needed other than your regular gear; your operating schedule is completely flexible, and logging "paperwork" is kept to a minimum.

This year, because of some rule changes made by the 1x1 callsign administrators, we will only be using the *N3A* call and will add portable designators to indicate locations. The disadvantage to this is that our calls will be a little bit longer to send, but the advantage is that we can now easily include operators in Alaska, Hawaii, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

One operator from each district will be exclusively designated to use the special call in the anniversary sprint that week, and that person should have some previous sprint experience. But other than that, there are no other special requirements. If you are a member of the NAQCC and can operate CW QRP (any speed) on one or more HF bands, you qualify.

We have 26 volunteer operators so far (list at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) but there is still plenty of room for more, so if you would like to join in on the fun, or if you just need some questions answered before making a commitment, please email me at the address listed on the last page of this newsletter. (Please be sure to include your call district and NAQCC membership number in your email.) - Paul, N8XMS

- **10,000+ MEMBERS!** Last month we hit the milestone of issuing our 10,000th membership number to Paulo, PY6BZ, when he became member #10,014. (Numbers 10,000 - 10,013 are being held in reserve for our anniversary activities.) And as of this writing, we have even passed that mark with more than a dozen additional new members! WELCOME ALL!

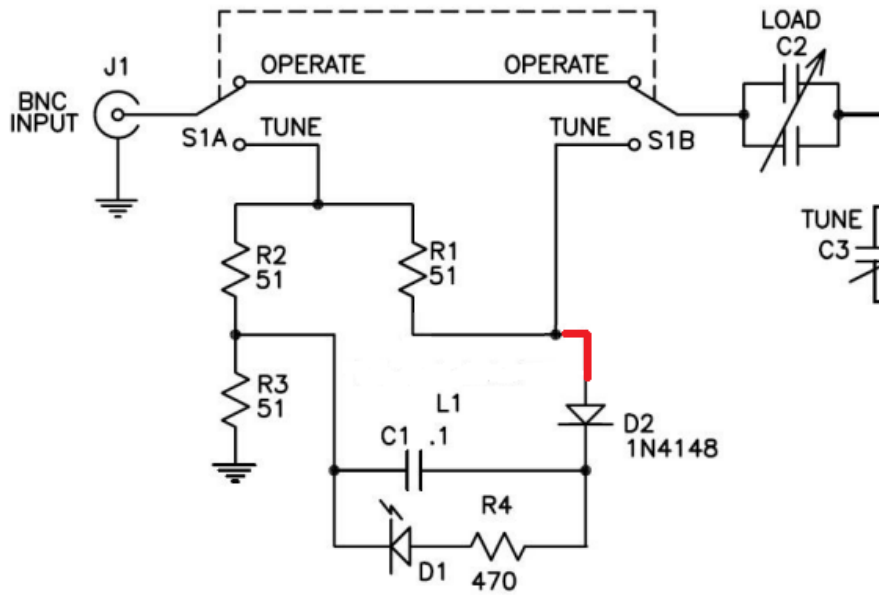
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- **ARTICLES NEEDED.** My cached supply of articles for the newsletter is almost empty and I could use a refill. Have you done some portable operating, built a kit or home brew rig, or have a new commercial piece of gear that could be reviewed? Just 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.
- **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."



As shown in this modified schematic, to make the circuit less sensitive to imbalance I simply removed the autotransformer and jumpered (red) the anode of diode D2 directly to R1. This eliminates the voltage boost provided by the autotransformer and places the imbalance voltage directly across the SWR indicator circuit.



The LED still sometimes will not go completely off. That is common with Z Match tuners that I have used. Generally even a significant dimming indicates a decent workable match. Now I can use the tuner with my transceiver and have some idea if a proper match is possible.



METAL ROOF COUNTERPOISE

By GENE, N5GW

My first 160M antenna was an hf doublet (CFZ), very short and low for mf. I could make occasional contacts out to a few hundred miles, but many stations could not hear me. Then I read up on the idea of using the doublet as a top loaded "T" vertical fed against my station's safety ground wire. It worked noticeably better, although I realized the rf ground connection was relatively poor. However there was no good way of installing radial wires through the adjacent forest of oak trees.

Next I hit upon the idea of using a nearby metal porch roof as a counterpoise. The first pic shows the 15 X 50 foot standing seam metal porch roof just beneath my second story shack. Two doublet ladder line feeders can be seen at the far right window.



Using a long piece of wire and an ohmmeter, I confirmed electrical continuity among all the panels, and also isolation from my station's ground wire. The two ladder line conductors were tied together, and a tapped coil was used to load a 50 foot high "T" against the counterpoise. A wire from the base of the coil was simply clamped to one of the standing seams. This antenna ground system seemed to work even better: using 100 watts most stations I could hear on 160M and 80M could hear me.

Next I tried an even bigger antenna. The second pic is of a combo storeroom/carport about 150 feet from my shack. It features a 27 X 47 foot metal roof. I used this with a larger, 75 foot tall doublet "T". It has worked as well or better, allowing 15-20 contacts during the NAQCC 160M sprints, as well as a few dx contacts. Also it does a good job on 80M and 40M.



According to the antenna books, such counterpoises should be isolated from earth ground, including a choke balun on the coax. The two shown here are rather small for 160M and 80M, more appropriate for the higher hf bands. However I feel that I have maximized the lower frequency antennas for this QTH.

Interestingly, I found it is possible to load up such a metal roof as an antenna, feeding it through a tuner against one or more radials lying on the ground. It behaves like a low dipole.

The message here is that in this age of increasing dependence on the lower frequency bands, if you have one of these metal roofs, you may be able to use it instead of a more elaborate ground system.

If can use it, let me know. Feel free to edit. Pics will be sent separately.

72, Gene, N5GW



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.



WARREN PUGH, KC9IL, #7610

I was interested in radio and electronics back in grade school and high school. I received my ham license in 1976, partially at the urging of my girlfriend's (now wife) grandfather, who was licensed back in the 1920's. In the early days I sampled as much as Ham Radio had to offer, including HF, 6-meters, repeaters, packet radio and early digital modes like PSK31. I've held a "know code" Extra license since 1987.

In 2001 I bought a Yaesu FT-817 at Dayton and became enchanted with QRP and portable operation. Being an avid bicycle rider, operating QRP portable just seemed to be a natural fit. I was traveling for work quite a bit in the 2000's so the '817 became a trusted travel partner for those nights on the road. I even took it along on a family vacation to Aruba in 2003, and had a blast working beach portable as P40WP.

My interest in CW was reignited in 2013 and I discovered the Straight Key Century Club (SKCC) in January 2014. This really got me interested in CW on-air events. Later that year I found the NAQCC and became #7610. I wasn't terribly active in NAQCC, other than a few nets, until late in 2018 when I started participating in the monthly sprints.

To my amazement, in my first attempt in an NAQCC Sprint in November 2018, I won the Simple Wire Antenna – Straight Key category in the 9th call area. At that point I became hooked. I will attribute my success to all the practice operating as an SKCC member. I know we have a number of hams who belong to both the SKCC and NAQCC, and would highly recommend both organizations. They are fine people.

My interests in Ham Radio remain diverse, including straight key CW, occasional contesting, digital modes, including FT-8, FSQCall and WinLink, as well as repeaters, both analog and digital (D-Star, DMR and Yaesu Fusion). My favorite NAQCC activities remain the monthly sprints. I can easily fit in a 2-hour event as opposed to an entire weekend for some other events. I try to get out during warm weather for a quick activation at a local park.

Current rigs include an Icom 7610 at home (so easy to remember my NAQCC number now that I have this rig!) that winds down readily to five watts, and an Elecraft KX-3 as my portable rig. For antennas I use a G5RV at 45 feet and for portable use I have a home brew end fed with a 9:1 UNUN as well as a Super Antenna. Each has their advantages. The rest of the fleet includes numerous VHF/UHF mobiles, portables and hot spots for digital voice modes.

While I have a number of keys, my favorite is a rebuilt J-38 that was a gift from my wife's grandfather. I use it every week. Another one I enjoy is a mini travel key from American Morse Equipment that I use while operating portable.

As far as awards, I have ARRL DXCC and Triple Play WAS as well as SKCC WAS but the one I am most proud of is being on the top of the list for SKCC "miles per watt", which I achieved by working K3SEW in Pennsylvania with just 2.5 milliwatts for a total of 213,757 miles per watt. Good conditions, but great ears on his part made it possible.

My other hobbies include bicycling, Senior Softball, astronomy, photography, boating and golf. With all these interests, I'm looking forward to being able to spend more time enjoying them.

Professionally, I am a Chief Financial Officer on the verge of (semi) retirement so that I can spend more time with family and enjoying the many hobbies I've accumulated. Not surprisingly, I'm also the treasurer of my very active local radio club in the Chicago area. I've been married for 41 years to the girl I met on CB radio 45 years ago, have two grown daughters, two great sons-in-law and two grand-puppies.

Thanks for reading and I look forward to meeting up with you on the air.

72/73,
Warren Pugh
KC9IL
#7610



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our August sprint will be on the 14th from 0030 to 0230 UTC. That's the evening of Tuesday the 13th here in North America. Complete information about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201908.html>.

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

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: We had 89 logs submitted for the July sprint with a total of 119 participants showing up in those logs. Conditions were generally poor over most of the country with several operators reporting thunderstorm conditions that cut into their operating time. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201907.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next two page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: KA1ULN KF9VV KG5RXG KI4TN KL0NP N4ARY N6HDV N7NAV

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	-
W2	KA2KGP	WA2FBN	W2SH
W3	AK3X	W3TTT	-
W4	K8LBQ	WG8Y	WD4OHD
W5	N5GW	KA5TJS	KG5HCF
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7WNS	KC7DM	-
W8	AB8RL	NX8Y	WB8LZG
W9	WB9HFK	W9CC	K9QEW
W0	AA0W	NN0SS	N0TA
Canada	VE9BEL	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KA1ULN	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	K3RLL	-	-
W4	KJ4R	W4EDN	-
W5	NF5U	WB4BIN	-
W6	N6HDV	-	-
W7	N7NAV	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	AA9L	-	-
W0	KD0V	W0KFG	-
Canada	VE3IDS	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	-	-
W2	WA1GWH	N2ESE	N2JJF
W3	NR3Z	WA3FIR	-
W4	WX4RM	KU4A	KI4TN
W5	WI5H	-	-
W6	KG6UBG	W6JIM	-
W7	KF7Z	KL0NP	-
W8	K3CTN	W8EWH	WA8SAN
W9	NN9K	K9CW	KF9VV
W0	K0NIA	K0EW	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	KF6C	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	K4BAI	-	-

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	N4ARY	-	-
BUG	N7NAV	N6HDV	KA1ULN
K/K	KF9VV	KI4TN	KL0NP

SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
NF8M			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	89	100	217	4/17
Participants	119	128	269	2/13
Total QSOs	785	1000	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	460	530	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	325	470	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	24	77	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	739	833	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	22	90	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	8.8	10	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+	KC7DM WA1GWH NU7T(SK) KB8FE KQ1P NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN WI5H NF5U
75+	AK3X K4NVJ KB3AAG WB8ENE K4KRW N2ESE VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO KA9FQG
100+	KE5YUM KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK
125+	W9CC W2SH WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A
150+	W2JEK KA2KGP
175+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our challenge this month is an alphabet challenge based on an important WW2 U-boat campaign called "Operation Drumbeat." You get the list of words and read about this operation and how the US Civil Air Patrol helped to thwart it at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201908.html>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In September we will get a fascinating peek at Indian (Asia) culture with our Dabbawala Delivery alphabet challenge. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201909.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 July "Uncle Sam" alphabet challenge is still a few days away but preliminary results can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201907.html> and final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

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+	W3IQ N9SE KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN WI5H PA9CW NF1U WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB
50+	PA0XAW 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: DXCC AWARD

This month we would like to remind you of our NAQCC DXCC award. Work at least 100 DX entities using QRP power and “simple wire antennas” and you will qualify for this award. Endorsements can be earned for 100 2X QRP QSOs as well as 25, 50, 75, and 100 QRPp DX entities. Complete information can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_dxccswa.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW AWARD

0545 K8RXB F6EJN - 1,309 07/10/19 Dipole



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 QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 6:00 PM PDT 8:00 PM PDT 9:00 PM PDT	Monday 0100 Z 0300 Z 0400 Z	5348 KHz ch2 3555.5 KHz 7046 KHz	60/40m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 60/80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	3564 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MD	Tues & Thurs 2200/2230 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
West Coast QRS Net (WCN)	Friday 8 PM PDT	Saturday 0300 Z	7062 KHz	Mike, N6MST (in CA)

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

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 6:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)
 Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0300 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-
 Sunday evenings 9:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0400 UTC, on 7046 kHz +/-
 60m/40m NCS - JB NR5NN (California); 60m/80m NCS - Rick N6IET (California)

FRN Net Station Reports for July (UTC dates and times)

Our nets are thriving, despite the dearth of sunspot activity. We have adapted to low solar flux by picking good times and bands on which to hold our round table nets. For a round table net one needs NVIS conditions for best results, but when that fails - and it often does - we fall back to using alternating net control stations and/or relay stations, which just adds to the fun and hones our operating skills.

We were blessed to be able to conduct successful 40-meter nets after dark and often still be able to copy each other. But when we couldn't, then we asked Polar Bear Rick N7HRK/m in Libby, Montana, to take the conch and pass it to each one of us in turn and relay any important information to the rest of us. Usually we can all copy his high-Q 40-meter home brew mobile antenna mounted on his Buick, even when we can't hear each other.

Our FRN nets have prompted many of us to experiment with and improve our antennas, which then enable us to have even more fun during QRP sprints and events.

We have a couple of QRP Top Ten ops in our group! Page 86 of August QST, DX CW Contest, has Dick/K2GMY and Chas/KW6G in the QRP Top Ten!

FRN/60 on 5348 kHz (Ch 2) at 0100z

- Jul 01 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, N6IET co-NCS, KE6EE, K6GVG, AI6SL, W7SAG/p
- Jul 08 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, KE6EE, K6GVG, AI6SL, W7SAG
- Jul 15 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, N6IET co-NCS, N6KIX, K6GVG, KE6EE, AI6SL
- Jul 22 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, N6KIX, N6IET/p, K6GVG, KE6EE, W7SAG, KW6G
- Jul 29 - QNS (8) N6IET co-NCS, NR5NN co-NCS, N6KIX, KW6G, AI6SL, KE6EE, W7SAG

FRN/80 on 3555.5 kHz± at 0300z

- Jul 01 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6GVG, AI6SL, KE6EE, W7SAG/p, NR5NN, WI6O
- Jul 08 - QNS (4) N6IET NCS, K0DTJ, KE6EE, NR5NN
- Jul 15 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G, AI6SL, K6GVG, NR5NN, KE6EE, W7SAG
- Jul 22 - QNS (8) N6IET NCS, K0DTJ, KW6G, KE6EE, NR5NN, W7SAG, K6GVG, N6KIX
- Jul 29 - QNS (5) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, KE6EE, KW6G, W7SAG

FRN/40 on 7046 kHz± at 0330z (new time is 0400z)

- Jul 01 - QNS (8) NR5NN, N7HRK/m, W7SAG/p, K6GVG, AI6SL, KE6EE, N6IET, WI6O
- Jul 08 - QNS (7), NR5NN NCS, N6IET co-NCS, W7SAG, K0DTJ, WI6O, K6GVG, N7HRK/m
- Jul 15 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, N6IET, AI6SL, N7HRK/m, W7SAG
- Jul 22 - QNS (8) NR5NN, N7HRK/m, KW6G, W7SAG, K6GVG, KE6EE, WI6O, N6IET/p
- Jul 29 - QNS (8) N7HRK/m NCS, N6IET, K6GVG, WI6O, KW6G, KE6EE, AI6SL, NR5NN

72, 73 and 77,
Rick N6IET
JB NR5NN

=====

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

2019/07/02 KA5TJS
Not a good start to July, nothing heard on 7.068khz tonight. QRN was bad due to thunder storms.

2019/7/23 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS N4NN
The band was QRN last night and I and Allen had to go QRO for a reliable QSO. No other stations heard last night.

7/30/2019 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN
The band was in good shape tonight. Some QSB but all stations were 100% copy. N4NN was the only station running QRP tonight but 579 from GA.

Allen KA5TJS

=====

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRc)

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MDT, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz
Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MDT, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.
Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

=====

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 01:30 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Bob W0CC

2019/07/08 - No Report

2019/07/15 - No Report

2019/07/22 - No Report

2019/07/29 - No Report

Work has been getting the best of me this month :-(
I have GREAT expectations for next month!

73,
Bob
W0CC

=====

NAQCC West Coast Net (WCN)

Friday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Saturday 0300 UTC on 7062 KHz
Main NCS - Mike N6MST (California)

07-19-2019 QNI (2) NCS N6MST, WD8KRV

My first time running a net and I already have a much larger appreciation for net control stations. Dave in Tuscon checked in but the noise here on my vertical was awful and I barely made out his call. Next week I will run the dipole and see if things go smoother. A big thanks to Dave for making the inaugural WCN a success and also to any other who were out there trying to get in.

07-26-2019 QNI (1) NCS N6MST

Called CQ for 15 minutes, didn't hear anyone. The dipole definitely helped the noise level but nobody heard. Always next week!

73
Michael N6MST

=====

NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

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

07-05-2019 PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, N7KC, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM, K7JUV, N0DA.

07-12-2019 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, WB4SPB, W7ANM, N7KC, AD7BP, K7JUV

Stewart KE7LKW, Randy WB4SPB, George WB4SPB

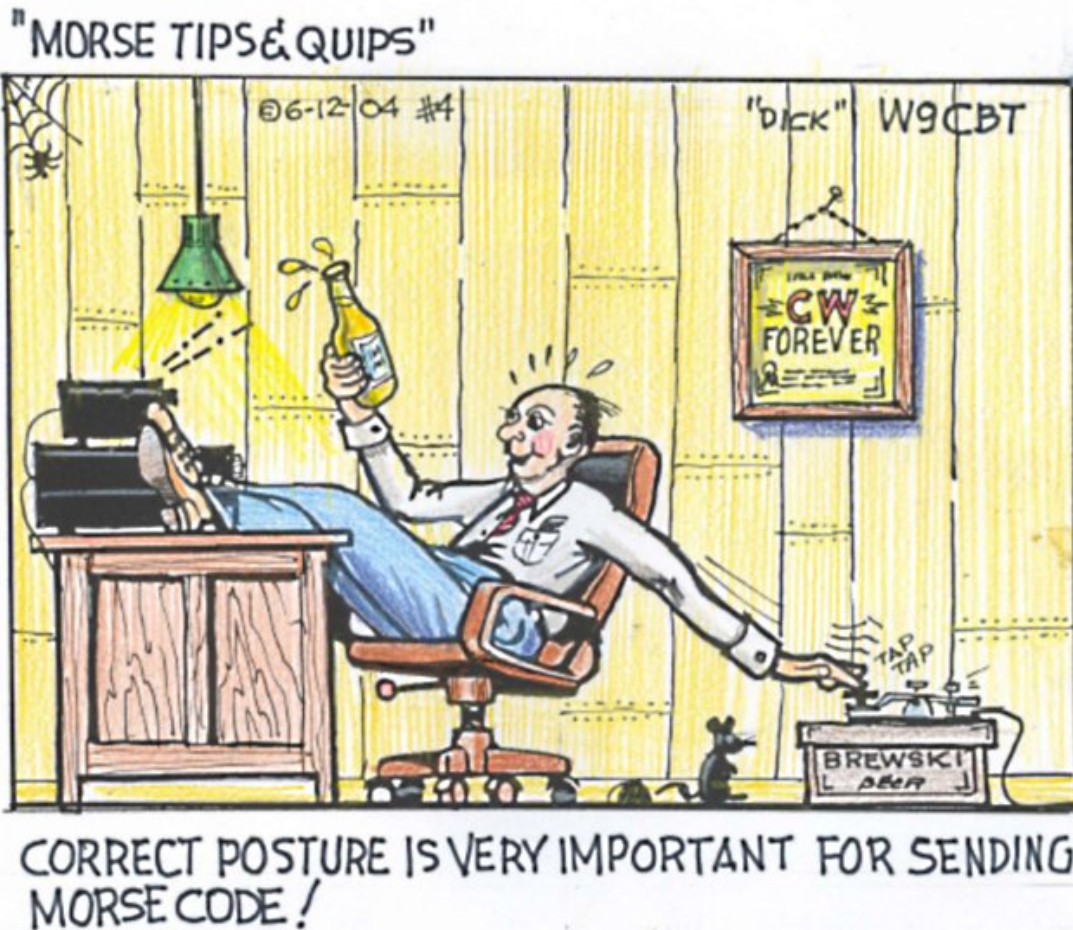
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HAM QUIPS



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.



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, 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 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/>.

NAQCC-WFL July 2019 Event Report

Upper Tampa Bay Park, 8001 Double Ranch Rd, Tampa, FL, Shelter 7.

Larry, KR4X arrived at park at 0830 hr, Ron, N9EE arrived at 0930 hr.

Larry's rig FT817 at 5W with Buddi Stick Vertical setup for 20m.

Ron's rig FT817 with Z817 tuner and 40m Windom up 15 ft.

Larry, KR4Z's Log

All QSOs were made on 20 meters CW using my FT-817 at 5 watts with my Buddistick Vertical antenna. All times are EDT:

nr	TIME	CALL	RST	COMMENTS
1.	0922	VE1BAB	rcvd 449 sent 579	Wayne Port Williams, Nova Scotia
2.	1010	W8A	rcvd 579 sent 589	Lee at the Patriot's Day Special Event Station in Mikado, Mi
3.	1015	6Y5WJ	rcvd 569 sent 579	Josh in Jamaica
4.	1025	K5KV	rcvd 559 sent 579	Benny in Star, Tx this was a nice long QSO

Overall band conditions were just so so with not too many stations on the band. I did hear several stations commemorating the Apollo 11 Moon Flight not a lot of DX on the bands at this time Larry/KR4X

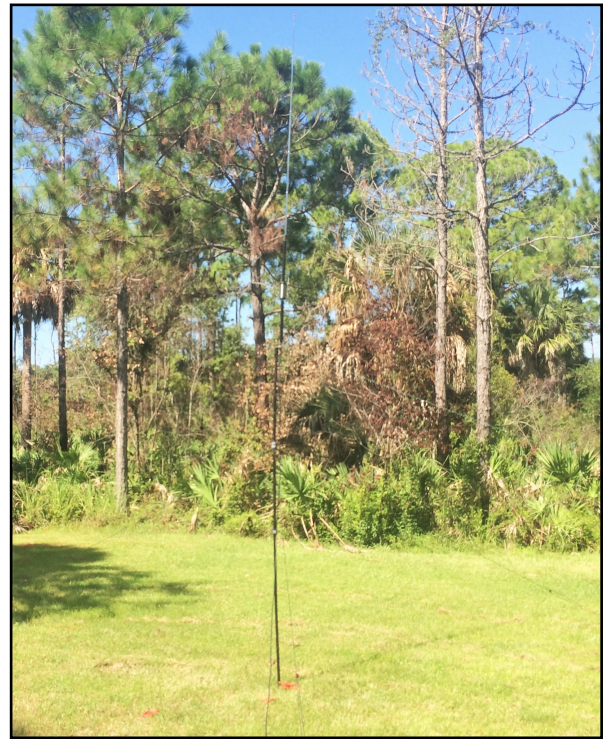
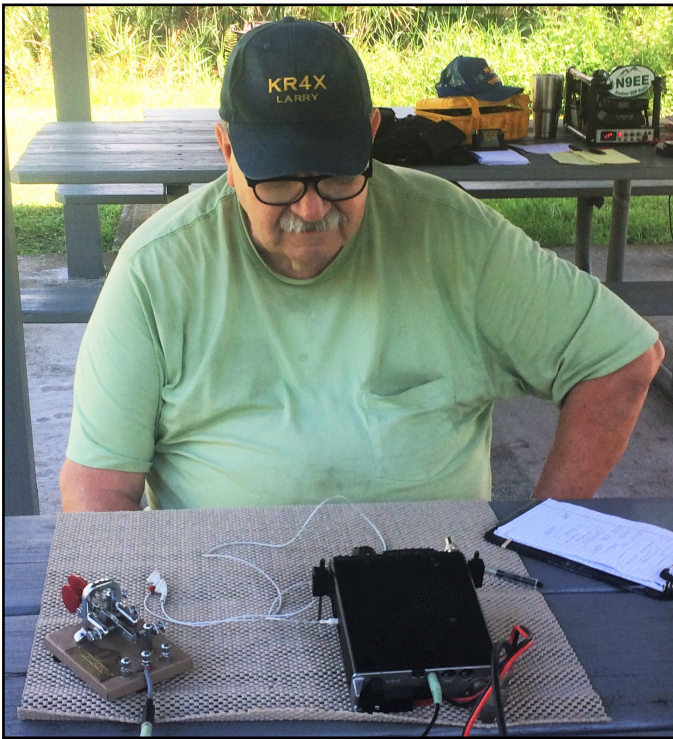
Ron, N9EE's Log

nr	timeEDT	call	stn	my	Freq	Comments
1.	1051	WZ4L	579	329	21.026	Sam, near Nashville, TN
2.	1130	K5VR	579	449	28.026	Arkansas
3.	1152	W4A	599	579	21.027	Alabama, Apollo 11 stn
4.	1210	K4LNN	579	479	7.050	Duane, Vero Bch, FL SKCC 3984
5.	1218	KK4PBJ	589	579	7.050	Steve, Park Land, FL, SKCC 20422, IC7300 100W
6.	1253	N1A	599	599	21.023	Peter

Early bands were not doing well, but picked up around 1100 hrs.

Weather was hot, I'd say 90 deg, but in the shelter in shade not so bad.

pictures on next page



Larry, KR4X, and his 20-m Buddi Stick



Ron, N9EE, and his FT817

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

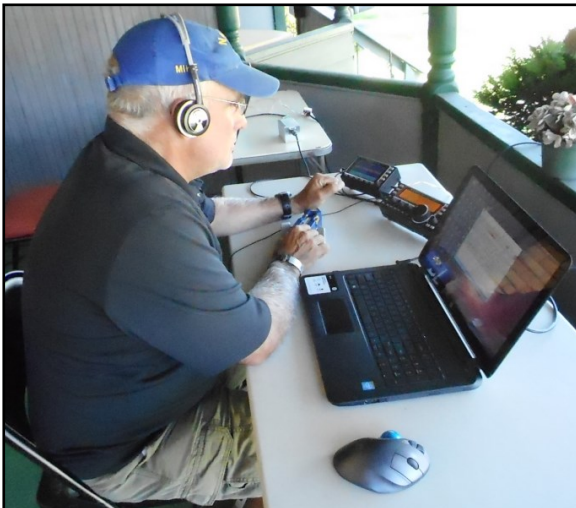


Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, K3WWP.

The year 2019 has not seen a lot of activity from the chapter due to a wide variety of reasons which I won't go into here. So far this year we've had only the following activities, mostly by Mike KC2EGL and I (K3WWP). I'll go from newer to older, June to February, then deal with July.

Wednesday June 26 - As we've done each month for a long time now on the fourth Wednesday, Mike and I got together for our monthly pizza party and did some chapter planning along with a bit of on-air activity.

Sat/Sun June 22/23 - Field day. Mike and I set up on my front porch with makeshift antennas as we had done a couple years previously. Conditions were not as good this year, but still we did fairly good making 265 QSOs in 40 states plus a couple VE provinces and KP2. Here are the two ops at their stations with Mike at left and me at right.



Sunday June 2 - Not really a chapter activity, but Mike and I helped out Art WA3BKD of the submarine USS Requin by operating in the Museum Ships on the Air event. Since it wasn't a chapter or even really a QRP activity, we used the sub call of NY3EC and also QRO power (on CW of course) to add around 25 QSOs to the Requin total. Conditions were very poor and it was rough making contacts even with QRO power. To show his appreciation, Art made Mike and me members of the USS Requin Amateur Radio Club, and presented us with Requin badges and Requin caps. Thank you Art.



More about the Requin when I get to our July activities below.

Saturday June 1 - As we do every year, we set up shop to promote the NAQCC at the Butler, PA Breezeshooters hamfest. Conditions were poor and we only made one contact, but did meet some club members and hopefully encouraged a few non-members to join the club. From my failing memory, I remember seeing the following club members there in addition to Mike and I: KC3IXE, WB3FAE, WC3O, WA8SAN, K3MIY, W3BBO, K8ZT. If I left you out, I apologize. I don't have our visitor sign-in sheet and with all the activity it is easy to forget especially when you get old as I am.

Sunday February 24 - Mike and I attended the South Hills ARC hamfest. As I wrote in my web site diary at k3wvp.com: The bottom picture (below) was taken at the South Hills hamfest this morning and shows L-R: Bob WC3O, Bob N3RDG, Tom WB3FAE, John K3WVP, and Mike KC2EGL. We understand that Jon AB3RU and Drew W3FFZ were there also but left before Mike and I arrived. A nice turnout of our NAQCC WPA Chapter members for our first real event of 2019. I had some nice model railroad chats with folks who were there. I also bought a couple little tools that I can use to work on my railroads. Mike and I stayed till around 11:30AM or so, then we left to, yes, go get something to eat before coming back home here. We picked Chili's in the Pittsburgh Mills for that. Back home we worked on our railroads, and also checked the bands where Mike worked some DX in the form of KP2M on 40 meters.



L-R: WC3O, N3RDG, WB3FAE, K3WVP, KC2EGL.

Sunday July 7 - After making a clean sweep in the 13 Colonies event, I thought it would be nice if Mike and I offered to operate K2M from PA in the 2020 13 Colonies event. He agreed, so we will look into that, perhaps making it a chapter event.

Friday July 11 - Several months ago Jim KC3IXE asked if I would be interested in doing a QRP/CW demo at the Beaver Valley ARA in Ambridge, PA. I said yes if Mike could accompany me since I had no other way of getting there. He agreed and Mike agreed. After several delays for this and that, we finally decided on July 11 for the demo. Here is what I wrote about it in my web site diary:

Mike came down early in the afternoon and we did a little soldering work on his portable antenna and a few other things. We decided to leave for the club around 4:00, which we did. One of the GPS routes took the PA Turnpike and Mike didn't want to pay the toll. The route he decided on took us on what seemed every back road in Western PA. We did get to see a lot of nice homes and nice scenery along the way and only missed one turn, I think. In Ambridge though, we realized the GPS had the wrong address, 911 14th Street instead of the 911 Center on 14th Street. After we rectified that and arrived at the site, we were warmly greeted by Jim who introduced us to other members of the club. We set our equipment in the meeting room and went outside to look for a site for the portable antenna. It was the same antenna we used at the Butler hamfest back in June. It went up quickly and perfectly. Then we had to position a long run of coax to connect it to the meeting room. After connecting it to the KX3 and hooking up the PX3, paddle, battery, etc., we waited while the club held their business meeting. Then it was time for Mike and I to head to the podium.

They had something there called a mickey phone or something like that (inside joke). They had their own laptop connected to a huge projection screen which made it easy for our demo.

Briefly, the demo started with me using material from my web site on the screen for the members to glance at or read while I commented on the content. After I went through sections on my biography, station and antenna pictures, working DX, my streaks, and the like, I fielded some very good questions from the club members. Then we kind of segued over to Mike who commented on the NAQCC after showing the club video on the web site. Then Mike talked about portable operating while we showed pictures of some of our operating sessions.

All in all it was a very good demo. All the club members were very receptive to the demo. We didn't notice any of the anti-CW or anti-QRP feelings that are present at some ham clubs. They were just a great bunch of folks as Mike and I agreed as we headed home.

Before we did leave though we showed off the KX3/PX3 setup. A lot of the members were impressed with both the KX3, PX3, and our portable antenna. Mike fielded a lot of questions about them while I attempted to make some contacts. It was rough being in the middle of all the talking going on, but I did manage to work K4IBZ in Florida on 40 meters easily. I think that definitely showed the members that QRP/CW and simple antennas do work well. That QSO also turned out to be my streak QSO for the 12th since it was after 0000Z.

While Jim and I went out to tear down the antenna, Mike was still answering questions about this and that. After a while we wrapped everything up and headed home. Jim told us it would be much easier if we just took route 65 and then hooked up with route 28 just north of Pittsburgh which would take us right here to Kittanning. That was much simpler than the GPS route taking us to the meeting.

A few times on the route home Mike and I again commented how much we enjoyed the demo and how great all the members were. Mike took off for home as soon as we arrived at my house since it was almost 11:00.

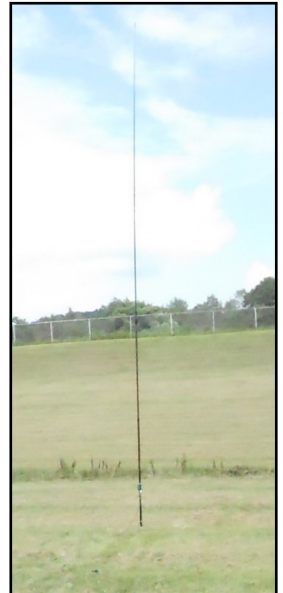
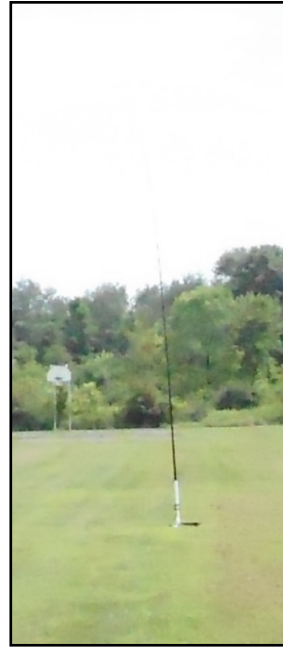
Wednesday July 24 - After our pizza, we called Art WA3BKD from the USS Requin to present an idea that Mike had. Since he is retired now, he thought we could go to the Requin to operate once a month. He initially thought a fourth Thursday would be a good regular monthly schedule that we could combine with a pizza evening. We told Art we had a proposal for him, and his first reply with his sense of humor was that he was already married. I said we paused for that expected answer from him. After a laugh, we presented the proposal and he said he was all for it, and would make arrangements. If the Carnegie Science Center Board approves, and we're certain they will since they love it when we activate the radio room, our first session will be on September 26. More later.

Sunday July 28 - The annual FOBB contest. Mike and I set up at Kittanning, PA in the 1600-1700Z hour. After some glitches finally traced to a short coax run between Mike's KX3 and his 40M bandpass filter, we got started in earnest a minute or so past the starting time of 1700Z. 40 was sporadic with contacts coming and going. 20 started slowly, then erupted into a flurry of activity. I wished I had brought my laptop for logging as I could hardly keep up with the pace from about 1715 to 1829 when I logged 38 QSOs logging all on paper. It slowed down for the rest of the contest. Mike and I both used our new portable vertical antennas from QRP Guys, and we were both pleased with them and I think they will be our antennas of choice unless or until something better comes along. They are easy and quick to set up with Jackite poles and take up very little ground space.

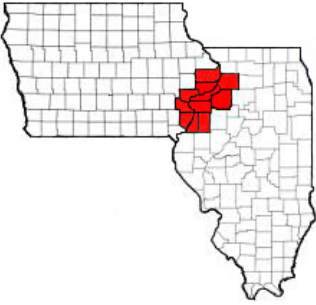
You wouldn't know we were at a sunspot minimum. Virtually all signals were strong with very few repeats needed either way. Finally activity did drag to pretty much a standstill about a half hour before the contest ended and we shut down about 20 minutes before the end. We wound up with 78 QSOs which seems to be the best we've done in either a FOBB or Spartan Sprint according to a glance through my old diary entries and old NAQCC newsletters. We made contacts from all parts of the country from WA to ME to FL to NM and many places in between. It was really a lot of fun and the weather was great with no rain, a lot of sun and the humidity wasn't all that high.

We tore down and headed home, then to Wendy's for dinner. Back home again we made up and sent in our FOBB report. Then we watched some train videos and made my streak QSO before Mike headed home. Here are the pictures from our FOBB report.

On the next page are pictures of Mike, his antenna, me, my antenna, and the park pavilion.



NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Tim, N9BIL.

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 July 11th at the Bettendorf Village In restaurant. In attendance were Tim - N9BIL, KONIA – Mark, Tony – N9YPN and Peter - NN9K.

Many topics were discussed including:

- Constructing a portable two element 20 meter beam using (4) MFJ-1620T mobile antennas and (2) MFJ-347 Double T Pipe Mounts.
- Review of common knots used by the Radio Amateur. Discussion to continue with examples at the next meeting.
- Field Day – our NAQCC group operated this year’s Field Day as K9WM from Dave’s (N19M) QTH with 418 QRP CW contacts.



Left to right: N9BIL – Tim, N19M – Dave and Pete - NN9K.

Missing from the picture is Matt – N9MAT, Mark – KONIA and Tony – N9YPN

NN9K shared this picture and soapbox of his July NAQCC Sprint operation:



NN9K - before this evening I've only operated the NAQCC Sprint from my home. This time I decided to operate from a portable location, a rest area at an I80 Welcome Center. The antenna system was my tried and true county hunting mobile array-a Hustler 54 inch mast topped with 20 and 40-meter resonators. Rig—KX3 @ 5 watts with battery power. Everything worked as designed except for the propagation. Really deep QSB on 40-meters and 20-meters seemed to die a bit early. Of course, the line of thunderstorm that passed through northwestern Illinois didn't help signals between me and the east coast. But all-in-all it was fun even with the high temperatures, humidity and low QSO count.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, August 8th at 7:00pm at the Moline Village Inn restaurant.

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Central Texas Chapter unless otherwise credited.

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

With the unfortunate passing in June of Danny, N5DRG, the Central Texas Chapter will be on hiatus until such time as they can get reorganized.

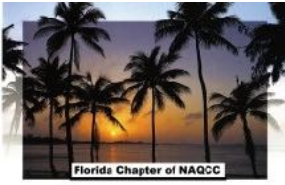
NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

Taking a break until the fall.

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

Taking a break until the fall.

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 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.

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 John, K3WWP, #0002 —

I don't have much to say that I already didn't say in the chapter news above, except for one very important item.

I'm stopping updates on my Windstream mirror web site with the intention of dropping it completely at some future date.

If you want to keep up on my doings, and for reasons I don't fully understand, it seems many hams do like to do that, from now on, you will have to use my <http://k3wwp.com/> site hosted by my friend WA4FAT on his Cahaba Internet hosting service.

That's k3wwp.com for my web site daily updates.

From Doc, K2PHD, #9194 —

I recently came across this most interesting article on CW and wanted to share it with members who might not have seen it.

https://www.qsl.net/n4nss/vti_txt/Improving_Morse_code_Proficiency_Tricks_of_the_Trade_-_Overcoming_Common_Problems_by_W%D8UCE.pdf



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

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

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

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

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

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

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 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		
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Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff - KA1DBE	ka1dbe@arrl.net
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	sszabo1@cfl.rr.com
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	jsk3wwp@windstream.net
Illowa Chapter	Tim - N9BIL	n9bil@arrl.net
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	n9ee@tampabay.rr.com
Long Island Chapter	Howard - WB2UZE	wb2uze@yahoo.com
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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

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

REPRINT POLICY

Unless otherwise stated in the article, local clubs and other ham radio organizations are free to reprint featured articles from this newsletter, provided appropriate credit is given to the North American QRP CW Club and the author of the article. If at all possible a link to the club website at <http://www.naqcc.info/> should be included.