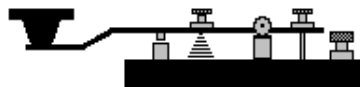


NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 259 JANUARY 2020



KEY CLICKS

- **CLUB WEBSITE TARGETED BY HACKERS.** Early last month hackers managed to insert some malware into our club website. The malware caused some (but not all) combinations of operating systems and browsers to be redirected to a site advertising ED medications. (This was not a commentary on the “aging” ham radio population!) Once discovered the malware was quickly removed and steps have been taken to increase the security of our website. This attack did not include any attempt to spread malware onto any computers that connected to our site.
- **WEBSITE UPDATES OVERDUE?** Just think about how much internet technology has changed in the past 5 years, let alone the 15 years of the clubs existence! There has been some preliminary thought and discussion about the desirability of having a webmaster (or team of webmasters) who could work on updating the functionality, content, and appearance of our club website. Be watching for more about this from club President Steve, WB4OMM, in the near future.
- **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.”

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THE PREZ SEZ.....

Greetings NAQCC Members!

I hope you had a quiet and wonderful Christmas Holiday - and my hopes that Santa brought you many new toys!

I am excited to start off 2020 as your new, "fearless leader". And yes, I am arranging for dem sunspots to come back as we speak! (We should be so lucky!)

We have been experiencing a lot of wet weather here in East Central Florida; but better than the unseasonable heat or frigid ice/snow storms some of the country has experienced. This time of the year is my "cleaning out" time. Not quite "Spring Cleaning", but I start sifting through all of the various "papers/files" I've accumulated over the past year (in preparation for the inevitable taxes I have to do) and shredding the no longer needed "stuff" I kept "just in case".

I also start going through my Dog House (shack) and conducting an inventory, inspecting and maintaining existing items and adding and deleting new or disposed items. I keep my inventory in an Excel Spreadsheet. I also digitally photograph **EVERYTHING IN THE SHACK, THE ANTENNAS OUTSIDE AND THE SHACK! ALSO, A DIGITAL VIDEO OF A PANORAMIC VIEW OF THE INSIDE AND OUTSIDE.** Make three copies for the Spreadsheet and photos - one on the shack, one in your fireproof safe (you do have one with your important papers and stuff, don't you?), and give one copy to a relative or friend that lives at least a few miles from your home. Update it at least once a year.

Most folks have never (and I can only hope and wish it stays that way!) had the horrible experience of a "property loss" of consequence. About 30 years back, I got hit by lightning twice in two weeks, and lost not only a significant number of appliances, TVs, and other electronics, but also my main radio transceiver (a Yaesu FT-767GX - not a cheap radio). I was fortunate to have receipts, pictures, and serial numbers, and was paid pretty quick for replacements.

But if your shack (or home) gets destroyed by fire, flood, tornado or some other devastating event - do you really KNOW what you lost? And how do you prove you had the stuff to begin with, and the condition it was in?

Close your eyes and think for a few minutes, then write down everything you have in your house/home. Betcha' you miss 80% or better of the contents. (Yeah, you remembered EXACTLY how many pairs of socks were in that dresser drawer!)

You Ham Stuff is no different! Lotsa' pieces and parts here and there. And if you add them up, it is a significant investment. Take the time to do a total home and ham radio inventory now. Do it now! Not tomorrow.....you'll be thankful you did! (And according to Murphy's Law, do it and you'll never need it!).

Best wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year - and let's get them sunspots back!

72/73!

Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913

NAQCC President



A little bit of QRP on a wire goes a long way!

OPEN WIRE FEEDLINE

BY GENE, N5GW

Moving to a new QTH, I found a good site to hang my multiband doublet between two trees. Unfortunately it is over 200 feet from the shack, quite a long run for weather-sensitive ladder line. The only reasonable way I could think of to feed such an antenna is through a long run of open wire feedline (OWF).

Checking the internet, I found an excellent article in W1AEX's web page (www.w1aex.com) entitled "Homemade Open Wire Feedline". He uses ribbed electric fence insulators, 14 gauge THHN stranded wire and a hot glue gun, all readily available materials.

But instead of rushing out to buy a 500 foot roll of wire, I decided a better idea was to try fabricating a short segment of OWF. This would allow me to find out whether I liked the method as well as giving me some construction practice.

I followed W1AEX's directions closely and found excellent results. The first pic shows an eight foot segment of the line I constructed for practice.

I came up with a couple of innovations: first I found I could drill the insulators faster by using a mini- drill press instead of having to clamp the insulator in a vise (second pic). Next I discovered that joining segments of the OWF is fairly easy: one inch of insulation is stripped from the wires to be joined; a two inch segment of spaghetti insulation such as from RG-58 is slipped over the wire; wires are twisted together and soldered; a coat of liquid electrical tape (LET) is applied and allowed to dry; a second coat of LET is applied, the spaghetti insulation is slid over the connection, and the ends sealed with LET (third pic). This weatherproofs good electrical connections without weakening the line or disturbing its characteristic impedance. Also it allows a long run of OWF to be constructed in segments which can be joined.

It should take me a few hours to construct and test a long run of the OWF, but I hope to provide an update in the near future.





A RADIO OFFICER REMEMBERS

MARITIME CW

BY DENIS, N2JFJ, #1117

Most people will be surprised to hear that the main mode of communication onboard ships up to late 1990's was CW. I served on various flag vessels including passenger, tramp, reefer(refrigerated), bulk carriers and oil tankers from 1970 – 1984.

CW was the chief means of communication with the head office. SSB phone calls were used sometimes, but most of the traffic was via CW. It was much easier to copy CW thru QRM when signal levels were weak, which they were most of the time.. A typical daily watch began at 8am ships time to noon. Then a combination of two hours between noon and 4pm. Then any two continuous hours between 6pm and 10pm.

Arriving and departing port meant more traffic and longer hours. My first duty after departing was to check the relevant traffic lists from various worldwide HF stations from whom I might be expecting traffic. If I was on a list, I would call a station directly on a calling frequency which was determined by propagation conditions, and we then moved to a working frequency to send/receive the traffic. The Maritime Mobile bands were 2Mhz, 4Mhz, 6Mhz, 8Mhz, 12Mhz, 16Mhz, 22Mhz and sometimes 25Mhz.

One of the largest and busiest stations in the world at that time was Portishead Radio in England. On many occasions when I called for my traffic, I was given turn #40 or more (QRY40). That would be a long wait until they got to me, and many times conditions would change and I would lose contact and have to start over again on a different band.

The main frequency that we monitored at all times was 500khz. This was the distress and calling frequency on medium wave. It was used for intermediate distance communication. During day the range was 200-300 miles, but at night it would come alive with stations thousands of miles away.

At 15-18 minutes and 45-48 minutes past every hour all transmissions on CW worldwide ceased in order to listen for vessels in distress. This was known as the Silence Period.

Some typical equipment we used were: A main 1500W transmitter and a reserve 100W transmitter; a main and reserve receiver, Auto Alarm, Direction Finder and a lifeboat transceiver with 5W (QRP) output.

When a ship was in distress the first thing sent was not SOS, but 12 four-second dashes separated by one second. The radio room clock had markings for silence period and four-second markings to help with timing. After four, four-second dashes were received, the auto alarm on nearby ships rang on the bridge and in the radio officer's cabin.

At the end of 12 dashes (one minute) the SOS was sent with the ship's call sign and position, the number of people onboard, and nature of distress. Fortunately I was never involved in any real SOS, but I did act as a control and relay station for a ship that was sinking in heavy seas in South China Sea. We stood by for 36 hours till a tugboat arrived and towed her to safety to Hong Kong.



A typical radio room clock is shown above. The red sections were CW silence period and green sections were for 2182Khz silence period on voice.

The radio officers job had to have been the best job onboard. When in port, no radio transmissions were allowed. In some countries the radio room was locked and sealed by customs. I once joined a vessel when I was 20-years old and served 18 months without a break, sailing around the world three times, and when I was paid off I owed the company money!!!

Around 1983 I saw the writing on the wall for the ships radio officer. The GMDS (Global Maritime Distress System) was being introduced. Satellite communication would take the place of the radio officer. This was the beginning of the end for CW on ships. CW did manage to hang on officially until 1999 when the last US station closed down.

Today the last bastion of CW is Ham Radio. I did not have a ham license while I was at sea and I regret that now. Imagine some of the pileups I could have had from some of the way out places I visited.

Not surprisingly CW is my main mode on the ham bands. I guess it makes me a little nostalgic. I know advances in communication technology makes life much easier for seafarers today. They can contact their families directly and immediately by phone and email. CW has saved thousands of lives since the Titanic and even though they say it was slow, it always got through and always got the job done.



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.



DUANE DAVIS, WI8J, #10084

I discovered radio at a young age. In the 60's and 70's, I was listening to the radio all the time. From the local stations, I branched out to AM broadcast band DX. I used the AM/FM radio that my parents had on the kitchen counter. I was so excited to hear KMOX from St Louis or WWL from New Orleans. In high school, one of my elective classes was to build an AM radio. That sparked my interest in electronics in general.

At Lake Superior State College, I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Electronic Engineering Technology and an Associates Degree in Computer Engineering Technology. During college, I dabbled in the CB radio craze.

After college, I discovered Shortwave Radio and had a Radio Shack DX-200. My antenna was a random wire looped around the interior of my apartment. I worked just up the street from my apartment so I would dash home at lunch time and catch the game shows that were broadcast on the BBC. These days the shortwave bands are pretty much limited to China and Cuba. All the biggies are gone. Radio Moscow, BBC, Radio Netherlands, Radio Australia... all have moved to online services or just shut down.

In 1984, I switched employers and one of the lab techs at the new place was a General Class ham. He

encouraged me to get my license. I took my Novice test on July 5, 1985 from a ham in my childhood neighborhood. In August '85, I was assigned the call KA8WZX. So there I was, with license in hand and no way to get on the air.

I upgraded to Technician in September '85 and bought an ICOM IC-2AT and was able to get on the local repeaters. I was involved in ARES and SKYWARN for the next 17 years.

In early 1987, I picked up a used Kenwood TR-9000 (2M all-mode), an old HD 1410 Electronic Keyer and Bencher paddles. I rewired the keyer so I could plug my paddles into it. One of the local hams was really into 2M SSB/CW and chasing grid squares and that caught my interest. He helped me check out the keyer and said that the plastic paddles on the 1410 were like slapping two 2X4's together and I really needed to have a good set of paddles. With a 13-element beam and 10 watts, I was able to work quite a few grid squares while improving my CW skills.

I found a CW character generator program for my Atari computer and made my own CW practice tapes. In February 1988, I was ready to take the 13-wpm code test and upgrade to General Class. I was a General Class for about 10 minutes... while they passed out the Advanced written test. And then I took and passed the Extra Class written test. In May 1988, I passed the 20-wpm code test to finish my upgrade to Extra and received the WI8J call. I installed a 132-foot long wire and I was on HF. I started checking into CW traffic nets. I was a NCS for the Michigan Novice Net and the QMN slow session for about two years.

In 1993, all the antennas had to come down and were packed up for a move across town. My log book is pretty short for QSO's from '93 to 2002. The kids were older and school activities took priority.

I bought a Yaesu FT-817 in 2002, more for the all-band, all-mode capabilities in a small package. I played around with it portable on PSK-31 with a laptop and had some success at QRPp output levels.

Sometime in 2008, I blew out the finals in the 817. That didn't surprise me because of the wacky antennas I used in portable operations. I replaced the finals board and then went off the air for about 10 years. Other activities took priority over radio.

I would occasionally listen to Shortwave or AM band DX stations but didn't do much in the ham bands.

In June of 2019, I discovered that my 40/80M trapped dipole, that had been up for 20 years, had finally failed. I took it down and put up a 130-ft, end-fed half wave from MyAntennas. I have had great success with this antenna.

I retired in July of 2019 and have really gotten back into ham radio. I have developed an interest in serious QRP operations and did a web search for QRP organizations. That's where I found out about NAQCC. I read all the info on the website and decided to join and participate in the monthly sprints. October was my first Sprint. I had never been much of a contester, but I had so much fun with the Sprint. I participated in the November Sprint and had fun again. I can't wait until the mWatt Sprint in December to give that a go.

I have recently discovered two other radio activities. Parks On The Air and Summits On The Air. Both involve making contact with portable stations. I hope to be able to activate some of the local parks in the near future. There aren't many 'summits' here in the flatlands of southern Michigan, so a summit activation will require a trip to the upper Lower Peninsula or Upper Peninsula. Those activations will definitely be QRP portable. The SOTA contacts favor CW because of QRP and not so optimal antennae. If the bands are good, I try to make QRP contacts for both POTA and SOTA.

My current station is a Kenwood TS-570D, a Kenwood TS-430S, and a Yaesu FT-817 (for QRP). My

antenna is the end-fed long wire MyAntennas, Model EFHW-8010P, both ends at 20 feet.

I usually watch the [QRPSPOTS](#) and try to make contact with anyone calling CQ. See you there!

72/73

PS. I just worked John as NY3EC from the annual day before Thanksgiving outing at the USS Requin in Pittsburgh. 40M 2-way QRP.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We have two sprints to enjoy this month. First up is our regular monthly sprint on January 16, 0130-0330 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday the 15th here in North America. Then the week after that on January 23, 0130-0330 UTC (22nd in North America) we have our annual 160-meter sprint. Complete information about these sprints can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202001.html> and http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202001_160.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 two sprints last month our regular monthly sprint on December 11, and one of our semiannual QRPp sprints on the 18th. 90 logs showing 141 participants were submitted for the regular sprint. About 60 hardy souls lowered their power to 1-watt or less and tackled the bands on the 18th. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201912.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201912mw.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next two pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: AC1BS KC5F

2020 SPRINT SCHEDULE AVAILABLE. The 2020 sprint schedule is available at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>. Convenient text file versions of the schedule, customized for each of the four continental US time zones, can be downloaded from http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html. Information about a digital version of the calendar created by K0NIA that is suitable for most calendar apps is also available on that same page.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	K1IEE
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	WA2JSG
W3	KD3CA	AK3X	-
W4	K4JPN	K9EZ	N4OW
W5	N5GW	W8WEU	KE5YUM
W6	-	-	-
W7	KC7DM	-	-
W8	W4XX	NF8M	N8XMS
W9	NI9M	WB9HFK	W9CC
W0	N0AR	KD0V	N0TA
Canada	VA3KOT	VE9BEL	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WB2LQF	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	K3RLL	-	-
W5	NF5U	K5GQ	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	N9OL	K9DRP	AA9L
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	KB1M	-
W2	K2OID	WA1GWH	N2ESE
W3	NR3Z	WA3FIR	K3WWP
W4	K4BAI	WB4OMM	KU4A
W5	K5TSK	N5AAS	-
W6	W6JIM	W6SMF	-
W7	W7SWB	K7MK	KF7Z
W8	WB8LZG	W8EWH	WI8J
W9	NN9K	KY0Q	AB9BZ
W0	K9OSC	K0EW	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

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

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	AC1BS	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AA5LH			

QRPP SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	NF1O	WB1GYZ
W2	WA2NYY	KA2KGP	W2JEK
W3	KD3CA	K3PXC	AK3X
W4	K4ORD	N4OW	KC5F
W5	N5GW	W8WEU	N5ZN
W6	W6JIM	-	-
W7	KC7DM	-	-
W8	W4XX	AB8FJ	-
W9	NI9M	KC9IL	WB9HFK
W0	NN0SS	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	VE9BEL	-
DX	-	-	-

QRPP SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	-	-	-
W5	K5TSK	NF5U	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	W0KFG	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

QRPP SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	N2CN	KB1M	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	K3RLL	WB4OMM	K4RHG
W5	KE5YUM	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	W8EWH	WB8LZG	W8J
W9	-	-	-
W0	N0TA	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

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

QRPP SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER
K9DRP

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	90	85	217	4/17
Participants	141	103	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1172	630	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	634	389	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	538	241	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	22	0	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	677	259	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	473	371	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	13.0	7.4	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 NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN WI5H NF5U WA2FBN WB4OMM AA0W W5UAA
75+	AK3X K4NVJ KB3AAG K4KRW VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO KA9FQG KQ1P N5GW
100+	KE5YUM KD2MX K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK N2ESE WB8ENE
125+	W9CC WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M
150+	W2JEK KA2KGP W2SH
175+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: I live near Detroit where large cargo ships are frequently seen moving up and down the Detroit River between the Great Lakes of Huron and Erie (with Lake Saint Clair in between) and I have often wondered about the cryptic markings that can be seen on the sides of these large ships. Well, our alphabet challenge this month will explain those interesting markings. Complete details for the challenge can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202001.html>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In February we will have an alphabet challenge based on the famous Tacoma Narrows bridge collapse that should be interesting to anyone thinking about oscillations, frequency, and harmonics. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202002.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 December Bubble Wrap challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201912.html> and final results will be posted on that page shortly after the 10th of the month.

2020 CHALLENGE SCHEDULE AVAILABLE: Gary, K1YAN, has planned some great challenges for all of us to enjoy in 2020. The complete schedule is available at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

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

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	W3IQ KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN WI5H PA9CW NF1U WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB AH6AX WB4OMM
50+	PA0XAW VE3FUJ NU7T(SK) N9SE
75+	
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
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: WAVE (Worked All VE) Simple Wire Antenna Award

This award only requires 8 QRP QSOs using "Simple Wire Antennas" with the following regions of Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Maritimes, Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. Notice that the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have been grouped together into the Maritimes region. Also the really challenging regions in Canada - Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut Territories - are not required for this award but can be worked for an added endorsement. There are two categories for the award - QRP and 2xQRP. In addition to the Territories endorsement, there are also endorsements for Single Band and QRPp. Only QSOs made since March 1, 2011 can be applied and as with all of our awards, we take your word for it - QSLs are not required. Complete details on the WAVE award and how to apply for it can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_waveswa.html

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW AWARD

0547	K0QLT	KJ4BQS	-	3,858	12/13/19	Inverted V @18'
0546	K3IRV	LZ304AE	-	1,060	08/12/19	43' Vertical



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 Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 4:00 PM PST 5:00 PM PST	Monday 0000 Z 0100 Z	5348 KHz ch2 3556 KHz	60m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	3567 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Sunday 8 AM MST	Sunday 1500 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 4 PM PST	Friday 0000 Z	3556.5 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
West Coast QRS Net (WCN)	Tuesday 6 PM PST	Wednesday 0200 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 4:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-

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

The NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ CW round table nets ...

... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at between 20-23 wpm. We typically go three rounds, including check-ins and signal reports, topical commentary about the weather, recent contests or other CW events, antenna experimentation and/or catastrophes, and HF portable CW operations.

Anybody who can copy and send at least 15 wpm is welcome to participate – you don't have to be a member of NAQCC. Below are the lists of stations who checked into each net, each week.

FRN/60 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - JB NR5NN NCS

Sunday 5pm PST (Monday 0000 UTC) on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)

Dec 02 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, N6IET Co-NCS, KW6G, AI6SL, K0DTJ, K6GVG

Dec 09 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, N6IET, AI6SL, KE6EE, K6GVG, AI6U

Dec 16 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, AI6SL, K6JJR, KE6EE, N6IET, K6GVG
 Dec 23 - QNS (5) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, AI6SL, K6GVG, N6IET
 Dec 30 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, WJ7S, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6IET, KW6G

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS
 Sunday 6pm PST (Monday 0100 UTC) on 3556 kHz ±

Dec 02 - QNS (8) N6IET, K6JJR, NR5NN, KW6G, AI6SL, K6GVG, K0DTJ, KE6EE
 Dec 09 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, AI6U, KW6G, AI6SL, K6GVG, NR5NN
 Dec 16 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, K0DTJ, K6JJR, AI6SL, KE6EE, K6GVG, KH2EE
 Dec 23 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G,, K6JJR, K6GVG, AI6SL, KE6EE, K0DTJ
 Dec 30 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, AI6SL, K0DTJ, KE6EE, NR5NN

Commentary

Congrats to John, formerly W7SAG, for his new vanity call, WJ7S!

We've had lots of rain and lots of wind. I had one of my Hustlers blow over during FRN/60 on Dec 15 that terminated my operations for the rest of that evening. JB has also suffered some weather-related antenna issues this past month.

I think we're helping energize the ionosphere in the absence of any sun spots, despite that many of us are operating qQRP (less than 15 watts). And we've all become NVIS-aware, as nearly every week we start out enjoying NVIS conditions on each net and then the band goes long halfway through, as the foF2 typically drops from about 5.0 MHz down to about 2.5 MHz during that two-hour period.

It looks like we can continue our current net schedule for another month, and with the longer days perhaps NVIS will persist a bit longer during each net.

JB and I wish all of you a very Happy and Prosperous New Year!

=====

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 7068 KHz +/-
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

12/3/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM

Good signals last night, Terry KE5YUM was running 5 watts to his end fed antenna and hitting 579 in the noisy band. Andy was QRO and about the same level from AR. We had some QRM but 80 meters seems to be working out OK so far.

12/10/2019 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N4NN

The band was really bad tonight. I got call signs but the QSB was very bad and got almost no comments copied. Most were 229/329 with bad QSB. Allen N4NN made it up to 449 for a very short time. Hope for better luck next week.

12/17/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N4NN

The band was is fair shape tonight. YUM was running 9 watts and NN was running 10 and we managed a good QSO with both. Some QSB tonight.

12/31/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N4NN

Band was very QSB last night but YUM was hitting 599 with 9 watts and NN was 559 with 10 watts. I was running 10 for Terry but kicked it up for Allen as he only gave me a 229 in GA. Thanks to all for a great year and hope to hear you guys in 2020!

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NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRC)

Sunday mornings 8:00 AM MST, which is 1500 UTC on 7062.5 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

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NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-
 Main NCS - Bob W0CC

12/02/2019 QNI W0CC

QRN S-8. Heard a few stations before and after the Net on the band, all faint (1-3). Last night worked some DX; however, next week, the band will be better!

12/09/2019 QNI W0CC

S-8. Some success earlier in the evening; however, the band got quiet around time to call. Must be Monday Night Football!

12/16/2019 QNI W0CC

QRN: S-8. Very few stations on the air. Have a long wire in the attic and at least 6 inches of new snow. Suspect some attenuation. Next week!

12/23/2019 - No Report - Could not get out of work early enough

12/30/2019 - QNI W0CC

QRN S-8. Very few stations on the band. Looking forward to 2020!

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NAQCC West Coast Net (WCN)

Tuesday evenings 6:00 PM PST, which is Wednesday 0200 UTC on 7062 KHz
 Main NCS - Mike N6MST (California)

Restarting in January

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NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 4:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0000 UTC on 3556.5 kHz.
 Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

12/6/2019 QNI (7) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW, WB7WHG, N7KC, K7JUV, AD7BP, KG7JEB

12/13/2019 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, N7KC, N7TB, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AD7BP

12/27/2019 PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, N7KC, WB7WHG, KG7JEB, AD7BP, WB4SPB, N6KIX

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NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, 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 LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

DE WB2UZE

A very nice day was had by all. We started off this time for an early lunch at the Atlantis Diner with 6 of us having the usual good food and conversation. We then headed out over the same Great South Bay bridge but this time to a new venue suggested by Mike N2PPI: Captree State Park Overlook which afforded a beautiful view of the bay, bridge and Fire Island Lighthouse. The weather was supposed to be a warm 53F but even though it was 50F, there was a damp breeze making it a bit chilly but we all braved it. There were so many 'maybes' for this outing but the majority showed up as follows:

Tony KB2OMC using a KX3 into a 20m inverted Vee. Tony worked IL and TN

Bob KD2NFS who brought his brand new KX3 5W and he hooked up temporarily to Tony's antenna and made his first CW QSO with AA8WH in OH. So congratulations to Bob who was our first charter member and finally achieved his first CW goal!

Peter KB2RSQ came down on his motorbike

Father John WI2C using a KX2 5W into a sotabeam dipole and he immediately worked 2 Bulgarian stations

Kevin KC2KC

Walt W2TE

Tony WV2C

Rob W2ITT

Mike N2PPI using a FT891 into a wire vertical on jackite pole. Mike's set up and breakdown is remarkably easy/quick and his rear tire holds down the antenna base. Mike reached Europe and also worked member **Jim W6JIM** in CA and made a POTA-POTA QSO with OR

Howard WB2UZE

Ed N2GSL using a MountainTopper 3.5W into a car mounted whip with Wolf River coil. Ed worked Nova Scotia

This location is right near by to Robert Moses Field 5 where the previous 7 outings were. Since Captree has a better view, is located right near a restaurant/marina, is a POTA park and has BBQ grills, we will come here from now on.

This was a very nice outing highlighted by Bob KD2NFS making his first CW QSO, which is always gratifying for all of us to see.

Regards and Happy New Year
Howard

photos follow



Lunch



N2PPI



KB2OMC



N2PPI



N2GSL



K2UPS WI2C



WV2C N2PPI KD2NFS K2NY KC2KC



KB2MC Antenna



Antennas all lined up

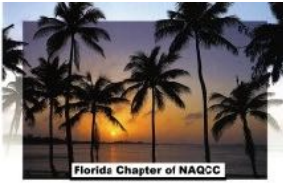


KB2RSQ



WI2C W2ITT WB2UZE K2UPS

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>.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS: December 2019



We finally go out and play!

On Friday, December 20, 2019 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC (we'll two of us anyway) arrived at our park – after last month's weather washout. We held our latest "Operation in the Park" at Candace Strawn-Lake Dias Park in DeLeon Springs, Florida.

A small county park "sandwiched" between State Road 11 and Lake Dias, this park has a nice covered pavilion, adjacent parking, a restroom and several large picnic tables (many near the water), making for easy setup. We've been to this park quite a few times and it is one of our favorites. I arrived to a temp of 65 degrees and 50% humidity, accompanied by mostly clear skies and a light breeze (Florida Winter).

But it didn't start out that way!

This month was almost another "washout". Driving from my home to the site on State Road 40, it began to pour rain about halfway there (it came down in "buckets" for about 10 minutes). It had been raining regularly almost every day for the previous 4 days, and today again was dark and overcast in my QTH City of Port Orange (about 30 miles South-Southeast from the park). I actually was on my cell phone with the XYL, telling her I was thinking of turning around and heading home, but figured I'd at least arrive to see if anyone else was braving the wet weather.

As I approached State Road 11, the rain stopped; making the left turn towards the park some 5 miles South, the skies actually cleared and the road was dry!!! I arrived at the park finding Nicole KM4SBQ

#8749 and Art AG4QQ #9748; both high and dry! They said there as a slight “drizzle” for a few seconds, but other than that, no rain, no wind, no wet! WONDERFUL!



Steve WB4OMM #5319

Steve’s setup his trusty Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical for 20 meters with a Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr and GenLog. 5W out produced a large number of members!

Steve worked: Walt KB1M #8058 in NH; Don VE3DQN #5846 in ON; Phil K2NPN #1469 in NY; Tom KA2KGP #555 in NY; Dirk WA9TUT #8375 in IL; F4HQL (France); Glenn K3SWZ #3793 in PA; Gary W0ITT #9113 in MO; Curt WI5H #7128 in TX; Don KD3CA #6602 in PA; Alan KA3FAD #9400 in PA; and ZF1DM in the Cayman Is.

9 members in 6 states, 1 member in Canada, and two non-member DXCC contacts - a total of 12 QSOs in just under 90 minutes! Signals were pretty good, and 20M was pretty quiet. A plethora of Qs! It was GREAT FUN!



Art AG4QQ #9748

Art brought one of those new fangled Chinese SDRs with him - hooked up to a vertical with “tape measure” radials.

He was experimenting with the radio and the antenna, but didn’t make any contacts.



But Art had FUN!



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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, January 17th, 2020 starting at 10:00 AM EST

**Hontoon Island State Park (2309 River Ridge Rd DeLand, FL 32720) –
Park webpage with directions: [DIRECTIONS TO PARK AND INFO](#)**

WHO: “The Usual Suspects” – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS, Phil Nikki KM4SBQ, John W2IV, Doug W4DBL (and whoever else can make it).

Visit our Web Page:

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

Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all – Steve WB4OMM, #5913

THE NAQCC-FL CHAPTER EXTENDS OUR MOST SINCERE WISHES TO ALL OF YOU FOR A SAFE, PROSPEROUS, AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR!



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 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

No report available.

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/>.

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.

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 Dejan, SA3BOW, #6935 —

Hot tea, tasty buns, and solder smoke - a perfect winter activity!



From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

Back in 2014 I wrote an article for the newsletter about the special ham radio logs that I keep (http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter/newsletter_190.pdf). At the conclusion of each year I run some statistics on my computer log, print out the results, and use that as the cover page for my log notebook for that year. I just finished running those stats for 2019 and was not surprised to learn that my QSO count for the year was the 2nd lowest that I have had since returning to the hobby in 1993. Over the years I have averaged about 500 QSOs each year, but in 2019 I only had 259 (all QRP/CW). A very busy personal schedule, other interests, church activities, GRANDKIDS, club work, bad propagation, and a very old antenna that really needs to be replaced, are just a few of the factors contributing to this low count. I don't really have any control over some of this stuff but I do hope to put up a new antenna this spring, WB4OMM is now the club president, and sun spots have to come back sometime (fingers crossed)! So I'm making it my resolution to improve this count by a significant amount in 2020. Please help me out by getting on the air and listening for N8XMS. I spend most of my time on 40-meters but also enjoy 30 and 20, and even higher if we can get the propagation!



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From former 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 Steve Szabo, WB4OMM
536 Central Park Blvd
Port Orange, FL 32127
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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Facebook Page Manager	Jerry - K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
NAQCC CW Nets	Mark - W8EWH	mark.yergin@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.