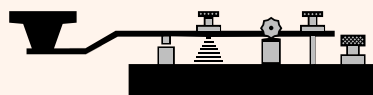


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 276 • JUNE 2021



KEY CLICKS

- **UPDATE ON NAQCC Co-FOUNDER TOM WY3H #0001**

Tom has had a rough go of it lately, but is on the mend. John K3WWP #0002 asks you to drop him a line and let him know you're thinking about him. Details on page 4.

- **IN THIS ISSUE**

It's 6m season; Two Sprints this month; Elmers needed; Tiny CW keys; Book review: *Conquering the Electron*; Double challenges; DIY QRP wattmeter; 7QP contest report; and more

- **FDIM VIDEOS ON YOUTUBE**

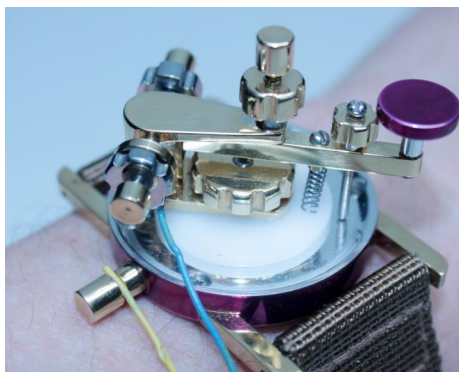
If you missed all the QRP action at FDIM this year—or just want to see something again—the presentations have been posted, along with links to download the proceedings papers in the video descriptions.

See Farhan's latest, an open-source SDR, Hans Summers's amazing balloon project, inexpensive test gear, propagation experiments, choosing microcontrollers, transceiver design, antenna couplers, and more. Search YouTube for “FDIM Archives” or jump to:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUCzINtN0mL0YopkHuSDkkA/videos>

- **QRP IS IMPOSSIBLE!**

Yep, can't be done, so just give up. That's a surprise to many of us who do it most every day, but it's what we heard from one new member. The Prez looks at how that happened and what we can do about it.



- **SPEAKING OF IMPOSSIBLE: A WRISTWATCH KEY?**

Ted WB3AVD #8548 and his tiny machineworks get small on page 18

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THE PREZ SEZ...

Greetings NAQCC Members!

I received this e-mail message a few days ago. It will remain anonymous for obvious reasons....

GET ME OUT OF HERE!

Good morning,

My frustration level has this morning reached its limit. It's time for me to disconnect from NAQCC and anything QRP.

As of this date and time, I am requesting that you remove my name and call from your database and to consider me as a non-member.

I know the member numbers are issued for life but I no longer will be making any attempt to work QRP in any form. After spending hours and hours trying to work someone, anyone at 5 watts and having no success, I give up and I quit. I just hope I can find someone who wants my equipment so that I can get back the money I have invested.

I do not want to hear all the reasons why I should continue.

Please make my membership invalid.

Thank you.

I responded to this new member (evidenced by the 5-digit member number) positively and provided thanks for being with us; I advised we wouldn't "remove" his membership but would take him off the mailing list. I said I was sorry he experienced this "bad time."

WHAT HAPPENED?

Our Membership Manager Brent WT4U and I discussed the message with some real heartfelt disappointment—and both of us questioned how we can possibly prevent this from happening in the future. Was it an equipment "failure"—maybe a piece of bad coax, poor antenna, not looking in the "right" places for QRP folks? Was it an expectation failure? (Yes, 5W is NOT like operating with 100W!) Did the member not understand propagation and QRP and try to work a major international CW contest looking for high rates and lots of contacts from overseas?

We'll never really know, but these questions need asking. I can also remember many prior times seeing an HW-8, YouKits, or Yaesu FT-817 QRP radio for sale because the owner bought it and was disappointed in QRP. What really bothers me is this member states he NEVER COULD MAKE A QSO! That tells me it was more than just a lack of activity on the bands. And yes, I looked this member up on qrz.com—this person was an experienced ham with many years of activity. So, what happened?

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Maybe we need more information on QRP CW and what the expectations should and can be. Equipment selection and on the air experiences from our folks. We have a "CW Assistance" page on our website but it's more about learning CW and increasing speed—we're not so good at explaining entry challenges into this exciting facet of our hobby.

I'm thinking we need to add more "operating" information. I would like to solicit our membership for short articles on specific QRP

CW operating activities—no, you don't need to be a Hemingway to be published here!
 Antennas and transmission lines, equipment both home and portable, operating skills learned, how to contest or chase “wallpaper” with QRP CW—outdoor Parks on the Air, parkpeditions, SOTA, Islands on the Air, whatever—anything that better provides folks that are new to the world of low power Morse and simple wire antennas with information that helps eliminate the kinds of frustration that makes them go away!

Our Newsletter Editor Brent WT4U is always looking for submissions for the Newsletter —anything related to NAQCC, QRP CW. Send Submissions Manager Paul K2DMX an e-mail if you have something to submit: kd2mx@arri.net

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913
NAQCC President



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



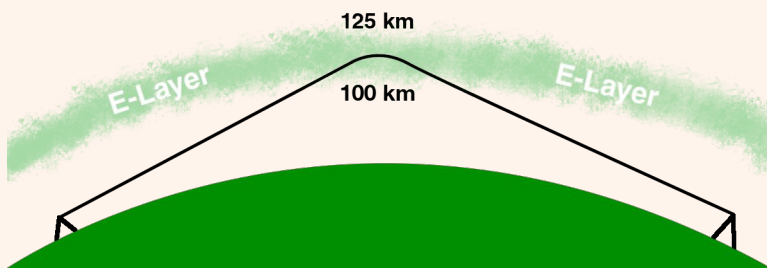
SIX METER REMINDER FROM GENE N5GW #5353

Six-meter sporadic E season is almost upon us, peaking around the summer solstice. Spotty openings usually begin in late May, peaking during June, and then fading away in late July. Band openings are generally unpredictable, but seem to occur more in late mornings or early evenings local time.

When there is a good opening, almost any radio using any mode and any antenna you can put on the air results in multiple contacts. Even a few watts of power can get out several hundreds or even thousands of miles!

Many of the newer transceivers cover 6 meters, but the owners may not realize that now is the time to check on the band. I like to listen for 10 meter beacons between 28.200 and 28.300. If I can hear more than 10 beacons, there is a good chance for a 6 meter Es opening.

I have had early summer success over the years on CW with 5 watts to an antenna tuner and HF doublet.



The QRP frequency is 50.096 but this is in the middle of most CW activity.

I hope to hear many QRP CW signals this June!

TOM WY3H #0001 UPDATE FROM JOHN K3WWP #0002

I thought the membership would be interested in the latest info on Tom Mitchell, founder of NAQCC as follows:

NAQCC Founder and First President Tom Mitchell

WY3H has been having some serious health issues lately in addition to his regular on-going health issues. I (K3WWP) talked to him for about a half hour today (May 27) and he is coming along well in his recovery from the latest issues. We talked about so many things, it is hard for me to remember them all, but here are the main points.



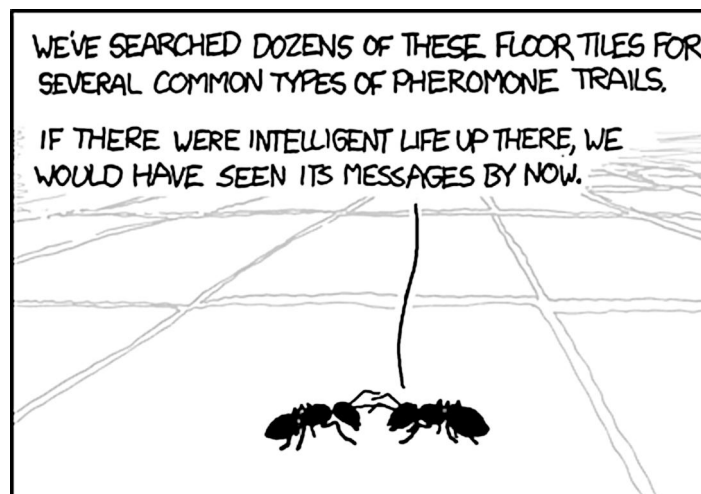
On May 12, he had a very serious operation to remove a cyst from his heart. As I understood what he said, they had to open up his chest to get at the heart, then disconnect the wires to his pacemaker, "flip" the heart over to remove the cyst, then put things all back together like a jigsaw puzzle. It was rough, but he got through it well.

He came home after a few days, then had some more problems. He fell three times, and the paramedics who attended him said he needed to go back in the hospital again. He had minor cracks in three vertebrae.

After that was taken care of, he went to a rehab center where he is currently recovering. He'll be there for several more days.

SEND HIM A CARD!

I bet he would like to get some get-well cards from members. He didn't tell me not to request cards, so I'm going ahead and making the request. I would suggest using the mailing address in QRZ for any cards.



THE WORLD'S FIRST ANT COLONY TO ACHIEVE SENTIENCE CALLS OFF THE SEARCH FOR US.

xkcd.com

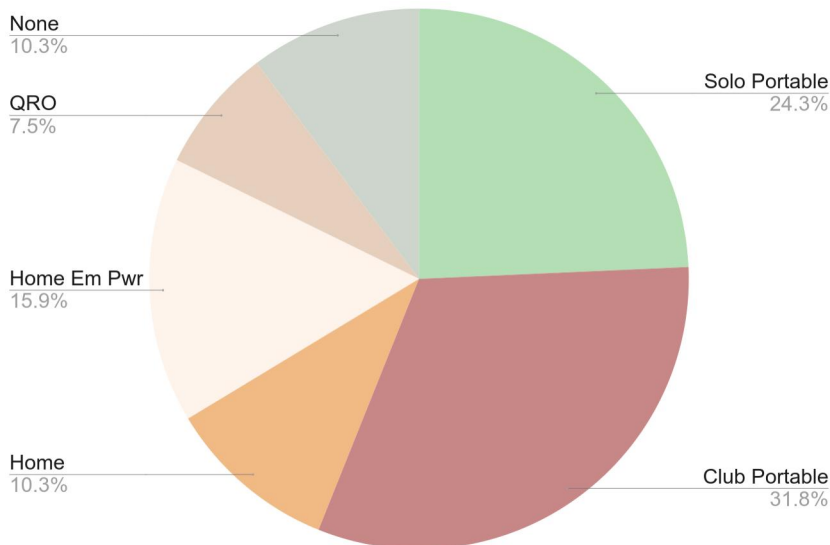
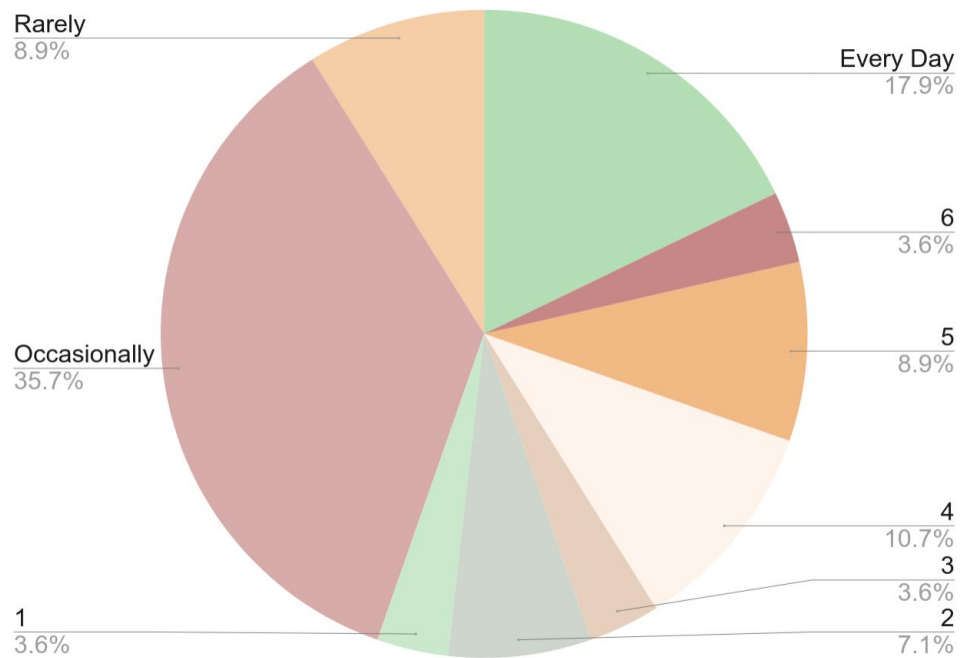
MEMBER POLLS

JUNE POLL

What do you use for a filter? Built-in IF filtering? External audio? DSP, capacitive, or ceramic?
Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

MAY POLL

How many days per week are you active on QRP?



OLD POLL

Back in 2013 we asked

What are your QRP plans for Field Day?"



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.

BOB CARDONE – N2EIM #10373

My interest in ham radio began when I received a gift of a crystal radio kit in the late 1950s. Listening to a radio that I built inspired me to learn more about ham radio. Growing up I often read *QST Magazine* in the library but I did not have an opportunity to become a ham because of the typical reasons cited: lack of an elmer, lack of financial resources and fear of asking my mother if it was okay to drill a hole in the house for an antenna.



RETIREMENT HOBBY

A couple of years before I retired I was looking for a hobby to occupy my free time. Ham radio seemed to be a good fit. I got my Tech license in 2013, followed in rapid succession by my General license and Extra license.

I joined a radio club and got HF operating experience at the club's shack. My first HF rig was a 50 watt Ten-Tec Argosy 525D. The 10M band was wide open at that time and I became hooked on ham radio. Six months later I purchased a Ten-Tec Eagle and I enjoyed working DX and contesting. I mostly operated SSB and

all the digital modes earning WAS, DX100 and Worked All Continents.

MORSE CODE

The lure of working distant stations using low power drew me to CW. I tried teaching myself morse code using online CW apps but I did not have much success. I read about the CWOPS CW Academy and enrolled in the Level 1 training class in fall of 2017. CWOPS requires that you use a paddle so I bought a Vibroplex Standard lambic key which I still have. The training

was great. I got on the air using CW and participated in the weekly CWTs before I finished the course.

To improve my head copying ability and sending speed, I enrolled in the CWOPS Level 2 training. I attended the Winter 2019 class. It was time well spent. Operating CW opened up a new world for me. I was able to make very long distance contacts with 100 watts and my compromised antennas.



In 2020 I purchased a Begali key and the day it arrived news broke that Covid-19 was raging in the Italian province where the Begali factory is situated. At that time the health experts were warning us that the virus could live on inanimate objects for up to two weeks so the box sat in my garage until it was “safe” to use. It was a long two weeks!

SPRINTS AND WORD CHALLENGES

My next challenge was to become proficient operating QRP. I joined NAQCC and participated in the Sprints. I like the Sprints because they give me an opportunity to run during a contest. I find that running is much more challenging than S&P and more rewarding.

I love the NAQCC Word Challenges. I did the April and May 2021 Challenges. They motivate me to get on the air and operate QRP.

IN THE CAR AND THE SHACK

Recently I began activating Parks On the Air. I operate from my car using a KX2 with KX2PD

paddles. My antenna is a trunk lip mounted Wolf River coil with a 118” whip. I am still learning how to operate the KX2 and the KX2PD keyer.

Current gear in my shack are an IC-7300 and a Begali Magnetic Classic key. I have a stealth ground mounted vertical antenna with a counterpoise on my deck. I use a Wolf River Mini for the low bands.

I retired from Merrill Lynch Bank of America in 2015 where I was a Six Sigma Master Black Belt and a senior software development manager. Before my finance career, I was a research chemist at Hoffmann-LaRoche. I am an avid birder and share this hobby with my significant other Christine (KD2EOZ). Chris is a great help with all of my antenna projects. We also enjoy providing radio support for community events like the NJ Triathlon and the March Of Dimes Races. I am a VE and teach Ham Crams at the Trenton Computer Festival.

I hope to hear you on the air. Please give me a call if you hear me doing a POTA activation. I will be doing many New Jersey parks this year.



A POOR MAN'S QRP WATTMETER

BY GENE N5GW #5353

The following is an adaptation of an old classic circuit found in many previous amateur publications. The first pic shows a hand drawn schematic of a typical peak reading voltmeter which can be used to measure power in the range of milliwatts to a few watts.

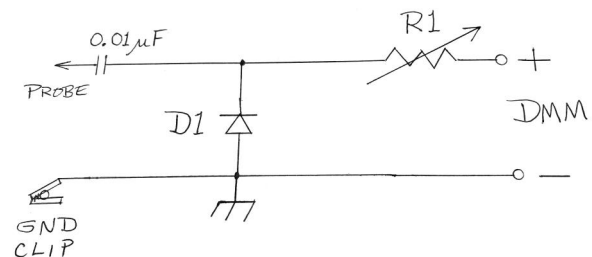
The second pic reveals such a device which I constructed on a terminal strip. The DMM (digital multimeter) is an el cheapo I purchased online for a total of \$8.44 including shipping.

THE THEORY

Here's my understanding of how it works: Transmitter RF from a 50-ohm dummy load is sampled through capacitor C1. On the positive half of the sine wave, the diode D1 (a low forward voltage type such as Schottky or germanium) is reverse biased (non-conducting) presenting a very high resistance. Also, the series combination of R1 and Rm (meter resistance) represents a very high resistance. Since the RC time constant is large, C1 charges only slightly. During the negative half of the cycle, the diode conducts resulting in a short RC time constant, so that C1 charges almost to the peak voltage.

R1 helps to prevent RF from getting into the meter. If we adjust R1 to cause the DC meter reading to be 70% of the peak voltage, it will be the same number as the RMS AC voltage, allowing us to use the formula $P=V^2/R$ to measure power in watts (R being 50 ohms).

Most of the low-end DMMs will have a resistance of around one megohm. Therefore R1 can be a 500K or one meg pot. Calibration is performed by connecting R1 and the DMM in series across a 9V battery and then adjusting

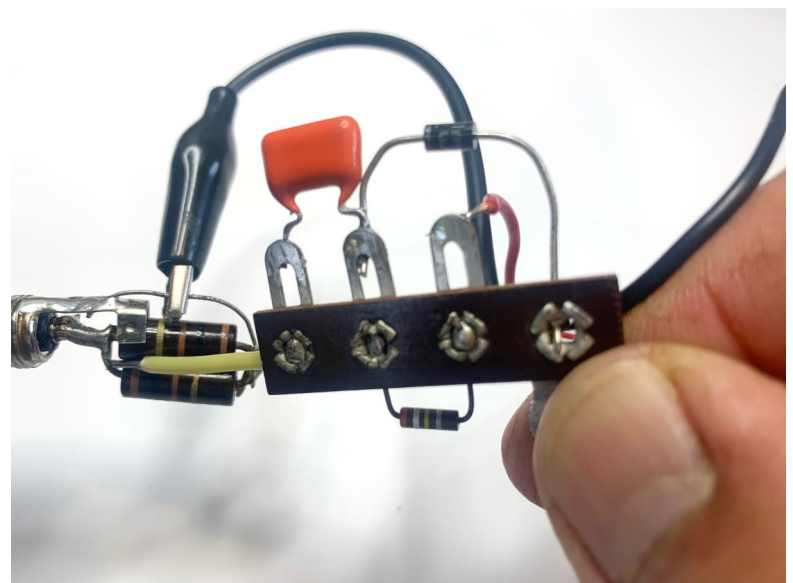


R1 for 70% of the battery voltage. R1 in my set-up was 378K, so I was able to use a 390K fixed resistor.

RESULTS

Performance on 3.5-14 MHz is surprisingly good, I can measure from 1/2 watt to over 10 watts. The largest error compared to a commercial wattmeter and oscilloscope was only 8%!

The final pic is of a typical set-up using a home brew dummy load. I set the output to four watts on my commercial wattmeter and get a reading of 14.5 VDC on my economy meter. The power for-



mula gives a result of 4.2 watts, a 5% error. Not bad for a “naked” circuit.

Unfortunately, accuracy falls off with increasing frequency, probably due in part to lack of shielding. Also R1 is a much smaller value than with the classic circuit using a 4.7 meg resistor, and a high-end 11 meg DMM. However if you own an expensive meter you probably do not qualify for a poor man's toy!

—Gene N5GW #5353



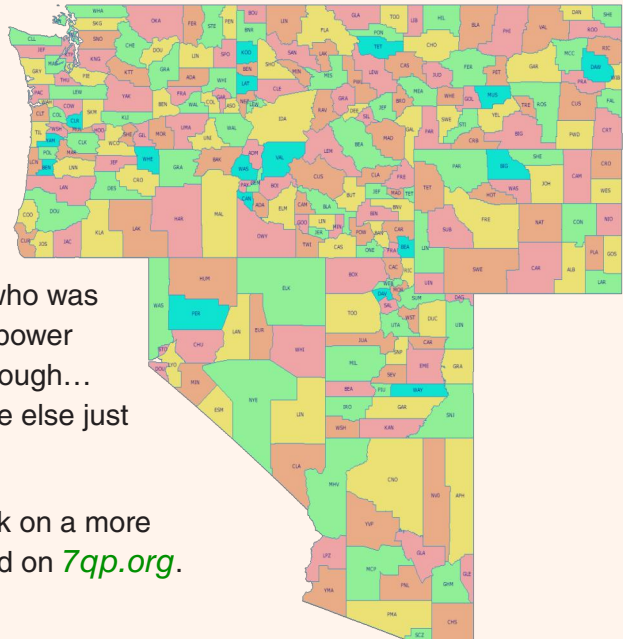
7QP REPORT FROM BRUCE WY7N #1127

Here's a quick report on how my county line expedition for 7QP went this year. The KX2 did very well!

Looking at Contest Score Rumors (<https://www.3830scores.com/editionscores.php?c=1&arg=O4fc6z8qgyiH>), my little QRP signal is

way ahead of everyone... except for Paula, NX1P/7, who was running a KX3/KPA500 specially modified to give full power with just 12 watts drive. I don't feel the least bit bad though... she was running 100 times more TX power! (Everyone else just 20 times more.)

I shot a bunch of video and a few photos and will work on a more complete report for when the official results are posted on 7qp.org.



BOOK REVIEW: CONQUERING THE ELECTRON

BY PAUL N8XMS #675

I just finished reading a book and want to highly recommend it for anyone who is interested in the history of electronic technology. The book is “Conquering the Electron,” by Dr. Derek Cheung and Eric Brach. It was published by Rowman & Littlefield in 2014 and is available on Amazon, in hardcover, paperback, digital, and audio formats, but I was able to check it out from my local library.

Dr. Cheung is a scientist and businessman who worked for a number of years as a research engineer at Fairchild Semiconductor, one of the first so called “silicon valley” firms. He then went on to become the president and CEO at Rockwell Scientific. Eric Brach is an author and lecturer in English at West Los Angeles College.

From the ancient discovery of static electricity and lode stones up to our modern world of OLED display screens, and nano-scale silicon chip circuits, just about all of the major discoveries in electricity and electronics are here. The technical descriptions are not overly heavy and anyone with a ham radio background in electronics should be able to understand most of that aspect of the story.

But there is so much more, because the stories about the people involved in the discoveries give an excellent human dimension to all of it. Familiar names like Benjamin Franklin, Charles de

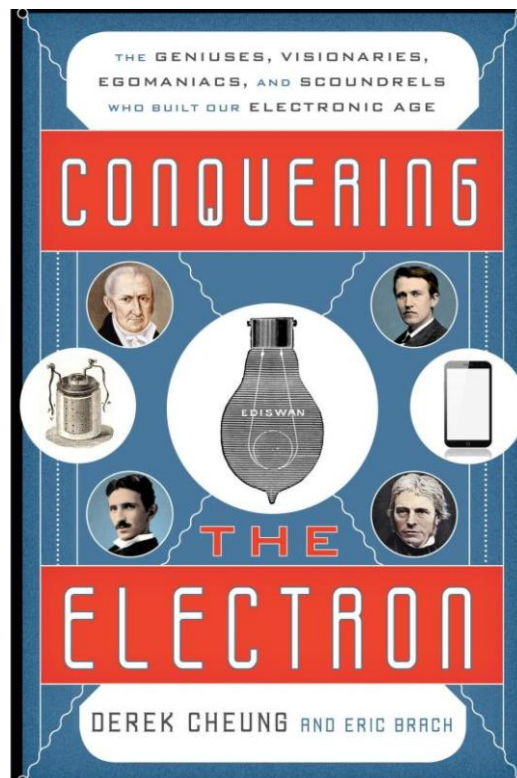
Coulomb, Alessandro Volta, Andre Ampere, Michael Faraday, James Maxwell, Heinrich Hertz, Samuel Morse, Alexander Bell, John Fleming, Guglielmo Marconi, Thomas Edison, Nikola Tesla, Reginald Fessenden, Edwin Armstrong, David Sarnoff, John von Neumann, Walter Schottky, William Shockley, Federico Faggin, and dozens of others, less well known, or even virtually unknown, are discussed in the book. Many Nobel Prize winners will be found in the mix as well as a few scoundrels.

There is also plenty of fascinating information about some of the biggest corporate names in the electronics industry, with risky research investments, intellectual property and patent disputes, and corporate cultures that either prevented or enabled companies to lead the way to great devel-

opments. You will read about Westinghouse, AT&T, Bell Labs, Edison Labs, Siemens, RCA, Texas Instruments, Fairchild Semiconductors, Intel, Apple, Samsung, Sony, Sharp, and many other major players.

Scattered throughout the text are numerous pictures of the people, experimental setups, and “first ever” inventions.

I really enjoyed “Conquering the Electron,” and may end up purchasing my own copy to put on my shelf for future reference and re-reading.



NAQCC SPRINTS

REGULAR JUNE SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, June 9, 2021, 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, June 8 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202106html>.

MILLIWATT SPRINT — 1 WATT OR LESS

Our bonus Sprint is on Wednesday, June 16, 2021, 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday the 15th here in North America. Complete information at

<http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202106mw.html>.

RULES

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.

MAY SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202105.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: W1VKE & WB0ISG

May Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	98	111	217	4/17
Participants	137	156	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1322	1481	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	786	840	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	536	641	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	229	76	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1013	1119	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	80	286	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	13.5	13.3	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	W1VKE	-
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	W2JEK
W3	K3JZD	KC3MIO	KW2A
W4	KC5F	ND1J	WT4U
W5	KF9LI	W8WEU	NC5G
W6	AI6SL	WU6P	K6GPB
W7	KC7DM	KN1H	-
W8	WB8LZG	N8XMS	AB8RL
W9	WB9HFK	W9CC	K9QEW
W0	N0TA	KD0Q	W0ITT
Canada	VE3SIF	VA3NU	VE9BEL
DX	CO8CML	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	NF1U	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	KJ4R	AA2MX	K3RLL
W5	NF5U	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N2CN	-
W2	K2OID	WY7N	WA1GWH
W3	AC5XK	K3EMS	-
W4	K4BAI	N4MJ	K4KRW
W5	K5WX	WB0ISG	W5WIL
W6	W2AFE	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	-
W9	NN9K	AB9BZ	-
W0	N8LA	-	-
Canada	VE3GNU	-	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY

KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	WB4OMM	VE3DQN	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE

Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	W1VKE	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	WB0ISG	-	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
WB0ISG			

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+	KF7WNS N2CN KB0ETU NF5U K2YGM AA7CU KC7DM NQ2W WI5H WA1GWH WB4OMM KB1M AA0W N8QY WY3H WA2FBN VE3DQN NN0SS K6CSL W5UAA WB1GYZ WB9HFK WK6L KC2EGL VE3GNU K4ORD AB8FJ K2HT KJ4R KB4QQJ N7QR K5GQ KE9DR
75+	K4NVJ NO2D AK3X NA4O KA9FQG N5GW VE3FUJ KN1H WD0K KQ1P N8BB N4MJ K9OSC K6MGO N8LA N8APO K9EYT KD3CA
100+	K1IEE W4DUK KE5YUM N2ESE WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y KD2MX N0TA K4KRW WB8ENE AA9L
125+	KU4A K4BAI NF8M K3RLL K4JPN K2CWM N4FI KD0V
150+	W2SH WB8LZG W9CC N8XMS
175+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

WB4OMM - My G5RV is down for replacement, so only worked 20M tonight using the beam - and it was hot for the first 50 minutes! Great signals and very little noise. Nice change! Band died at 50 mins in, so I quit - I hope 20m stays like this and better in the coming months! Thanks to all that worked me, will look for you next month with new wire for 40/80! 72, Steve

KN1H - Visiting family in Arizona this month. Set up KX2, pocket-size 12V battery and Electrovoice 605U straight key feeding a clandestine 30 up and 30 out wire antenna in a horrible, noisy, HOA location. Operation was doomed to failure but, thanks to John, N0TA, there was one QSO for the log!

WB8LZG - Hello Fellow Sprinters ! Fired up the FT1200 on solar pwr,5W to diploes. Great to hear some action on 20M.... Strange condx here. W2SH answered me, and when I came back to him, he was gone. ?? 40M was very noisy here, but still plenty of stns to work. Also propagation was short. No west coast. Went to 80 to finish up. Nice to work Frank,NF8M, as we usually don't work each other due to close proximity, and old pal Louis N8LA too. Nice to hear several old friends as well as a couple newcomers. Sorry to a couple of u who tried to call me es I couldn't make out the entire call. (better luck next time) Looking fwd to FD and the MW sprint next month. 73 Gregg

KA2KGP - A good nite for a sprint, even 20m. was open for a while. 40 & 80 were good here in WNY. Rig: IC-7000 at 5w. into G5RV up 25 ft. w/ old WWII German Junkers straight key. 73

WB0ISG - Lots of fun this time around! Lots of static crashes and the FT-818 wide receiver made for difficult operating but I worked two ops. Need to get that audio filter built up. 72!



FIELD DAY CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

The special Field Day Challenge is one of the most popular NAQCC events. It's fun and easy for whatever your level of Field Day participation. Details at: <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202106fd.html>

RULES:

ARRL Field Day rules govern all aspects of the contest for purposes of this challenge, except as noted:

- You must use QRP or QRPp power. The other station may use any power. You may use any type of antenna.
- If you are part of a multi-op FD station, no matter what call sign is used, even if it is your own, only the QSOs *made by you personally* at QRP or QRPp power count.
- Entities to be counted are the ARRL/RAC Contest Sections used for the FD exchange (see table), not US States.

ARRL / RAC Contest Sections	
W1	CT EMA ME NH RI VT WMA
W2	ENY NLI NNJ NNY SNJ WNY
W3	DE EPA MDC WPA
W4	AL GA KY NC NFL SC SFL WCF TN VA PR VI
W5	AR LA MS NM NTX OK STX WTX
W6	EB LAX ORG SB SCV SDG SF SJV SV PAC
W7	AZ EWA ID MT NV OR UT WWA WY AK
W8	MI OH WV
W9	IL IN WI
W0	CO IA KS MN MO NE ND SD
VE	AB BC GTA MAR MB NL NT ONE ONN ONS PE QC SK
DX	DX - The DX entity may be counted only once regardless of how many countries you work.

Participation Point	
10 Sections	Work 10 or more ARRL Contest Sections, either from home or portable in the field for a Participation Point (<i>Note: only 1 Challenge PP per month</i>)
Certificates	
30 Sections	Work 30 or more ARRL Contest Sections, either from home or portable in the field
Clean Sweep	Work all Continental US sections OR all VE sections
WAS	Work all 50 states on simple wire antennas
WAVE	Work all 8 Canadian provinces on simple wire antennas
Endorsements	
QRPP	Make all qualifying contacts at QRPP power, 1 watt or less
US Clean Sweep	For the US certificate only, there are endorsements for Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, and DX sections

NAQCC CHALLENGE BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: THE CROSSWORD PANIC OF 1944

Over 150,00 Allied troops and 200,000 vehicles landed at Normandy on D Day. Aside from being one of the largest invasion forces of all time, the D Day assault was likely the greatest security challenge ever. Assault troops, staff personnel, naval forces, supply movements and nearby civilians were all security risks.

TOO MANY CLUES

Who would have thought that a crossword puzzle in a local paper, the Daily Telegraph, could present a risk? Probably nobody, until the May 2nd puzzle contained the word "Utah," a code-name for one of the beach landing sites. Then the May 22nd puzzle solution contained "Omaha," another beach site codename. Next on May 27th "Overlord," the code name of the entire operation was part of the puzzle solution. Other puzzle solutions contained "Mulberry" and "Trident," two more D Day codewords.

MI5 COMES CALLING

This was just too much of a coincidence and MI5, the British security service, paid a visit to the crossword compiler, Leonard Dawe. He was the headmaster of the Strand School, in Surrey England, an area where there were many invasion troops housed. As part of making the crossword puzzle, his students would suggest words and he would then create clues for them.

Luckily for Dawe, he was able to convince the MI5 agents that he was not a German agent trying to

convey invasion secrets, but just an innocent puzzle maker.

LOOSE LIPS

It was later thought that the students had heard the words from Canadian troops who were camped nearby and had no idea of their significance. Apparently various codewords made their way around the marshaling areas, but the most critical secret, the timing of the invasion, was successfully held very closely. Although this incident did not have disastrous results, it was an example of the wisdom of the WW II poster that warned "Loose lips sink ships."

<p>No 5,775</p> <p>ACROSS</p> <p>1 A cause of postscripts (13)</p> <p>10 Very attentive commonly (two words -3, 4)</p> <p>11 A fool's weapon (7)</p> <p>12 But this isn't to be bought at this shop (6)</p>	<p>15 Foils start thus (two words-3,3)</p> <p>16 Definite (7)</p> <p>17 One of the U.S. (4)</p> <p>18 Achievement that the guardians of the Tower always have at heart (4)</p> <p>19 Proper behaviour (7)</p> <p>20 But cook has a</p>	<p>practical use for this old weapon (4)</p> <p>22 Part of one's last will and testament (4)</p> <p>24 This knight of old had a fair start (7)</p> <p>26 Little Samuel has got something from the pantry to make a boat (6)</p>	<p>27 The ceremonious tart (6)</p> <p>30 Fifty fifty (7)</p> <p>31 White wine (7)</p> <p>33 "Intense matter"</p> <p>DOWN</p> <p>2 This probably has a lateen sail (7)</p> <p>3 What all will be when the cease fire sounds (6)</p> <p>4 Try the clue for 22 across (4)</p> <p>5 Derby winner or preposition (4)</p> <p>6 Systematically sorted (6)</p> <p>7 When this loses its tail it doesn't grow another (7)</p> <p>8 He rations the port among those who want it (13)</p> <p>9 The ups and downs of business (three words -6, 3, 4)</p> <p>13 Conference centre lately (7)</p> <p>14 "Sleep rough" (7)</p> <p>15 Lay (7)</p> <p>21 Assess (7)</p> <p>25 "Having drink taken" (7)</p> <p>24 Many an oak-tree has this measurement (6)</p> <p>25 This might make mad, sir (6)</p> <p>28 This German Island sounds of alluvial origin (4)</p> <p>29 The last Alice saw of the White Rabbit (4)</p>
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The crossword that started the puzzle and, below, the solution

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

July's letter challenge will scramble up your 4th of July celebration and give you a few hints to get the letters back in the right order.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202106.html>

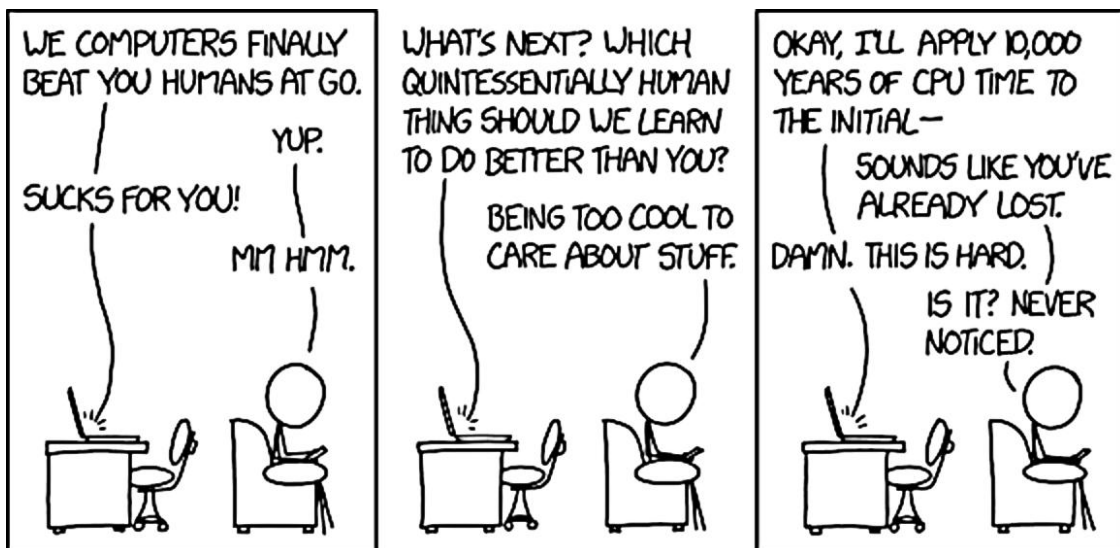
LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our May Full Moon Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202105.html> and final results will be posted on that page 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://naqcc.info/challenges_sdschedule.html.

25+	W3IQ KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX WB4OMM KU4A KD0V K9OSC N1JI KA5PVB WY3H VE3HUR KI4IO N4OW KB1M WY7N N1LU KD2MX
50+	VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U WA2FBN G3JFS AK3X N9SE
75+	PA0XAW
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	
150+	K3WWP W2JEK N8XMS



THINKING SMALL, ONCE AGAIN

BY TED WB3AVD #8548

The fortuitous discovery of a pair of nylon watchbands in my machinist's chest a few months back was all it took to derail my hobby machining efforts for the better part of a month! My minor-league obsession (well, sometimes it's a little more than that!) is building my own telegraph keys, and nothing seems quite so rewarding as working a distant country with QRP, using a key I built myself!

Those readers who are blessed with a much more acute memory than mine, might vaguely recall a previous article of mine ("Thinking Small" in *NAQCC News #243, September 2018*), in which I presented two miniature keys—a "cricket" and an iambic paddle—which were wearable as wrist-watch-size keys mounted on watch bands.



Photo #2

It didn't take me long to reach the conclusion that another pair of wrist-watch keys might just be the best possible use of my time (it seems we can never have too many watches!), and the resulting pair ... a straight key, and what I call a "rocker" ... made their appearance in due course. You'll see them in Photo #1, sitting atop the Elecraft K1 QRP with which they usually find use.



Photo #1

STRAIGHT KEY

Let first have a closer look at the straight key version. A glance at the bottom (photo #2) shows that the key was constructed on a disk of aluminum, a slice cut from a piece of 1.25" diameter aluminum rod. The two brass bars inset into this base are spaced to accommodate the width of the watch band, and a .035 hole is drilled into the end of each bar, into which the spring bars of the watch bands are inserted.

The rest of the architecture will make immediate sense to most readers (see photo #3): the trunnion which supports the key's lever is at the rear of the key, and the two adjusting knobs at either side of this support allow the lever to be centered in its yoke, while also adjusting the bearing tension to be regulated for free movement of the lever with little wobble.

Note that there are two adjustment knobs above the lever. The larger one at center is the key's upper travel limit (consisting of a knob at top, with its larger-diameter fluted lock nut). The small adjuster which sits immediately behind the paddle itself is

the upper contact, which can be adjusted up and down to change the key's contact (gap) spacing. This adjustment is effected with a small slotted screwdriver, the fluted lock washer again serving to secure the adjustment in place.

The spring which provides the lever's tension is visible beneath the lever (photo #3); this is not adjustable. In the same photo, it can also be seen that the aluminum base of the key constitutes the lower contact, and that the straight key itself is insulated from this base by a disk of white Delrin plastic. Hence the electrical configuration becomes apparent: the base of the key (to which the watch band is attached) constitutes one-half of the circuit, while the entire upper part of the "watch" (the key itself) comprises the other-half of the circuit. These two only come together in one place—where the upper contact meets the base.

Two binding posts are required to connect the key to the radio: the first is the "stem" of the watch, which electrifies the base of the watch, and the second is a part of the lever's trunnion adjustment, which electrifies the rest of the key. See

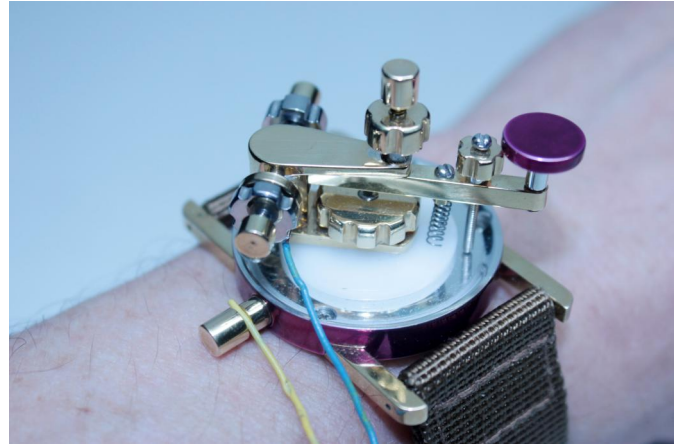


Photo #4

photo #4, which shows the key in actual use, and the two-circuit electrical connections will become immediately obvious. I usually use a several-foot-long piece of thin computer zip cord, with a 1/8" phono plug on the far end, to effect connection to the radio.

One final adjustment can be made. By loosening the large knurled knob at the center of the key (right above the white Delrin disk), the entire key can be rotated with respect to the base, so that the user can position the straight key in a comfortable aspect relative to the watch band (attached

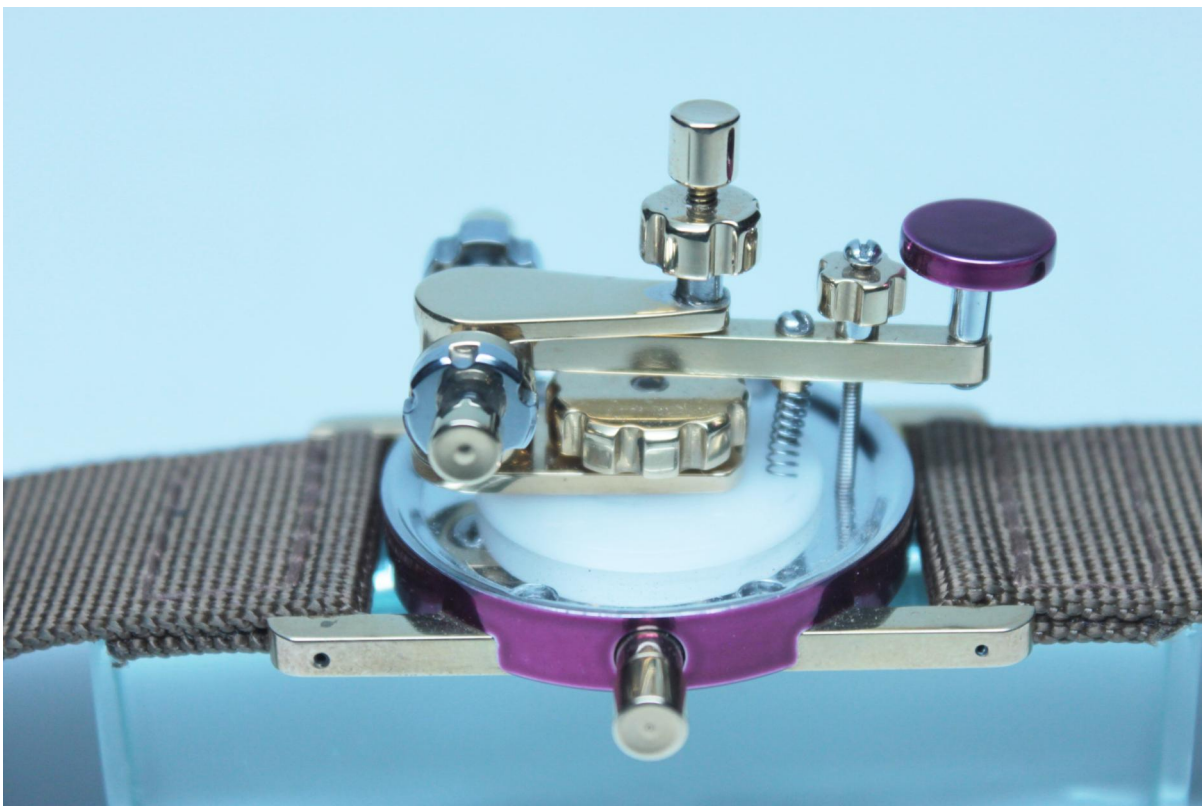


Photo #3

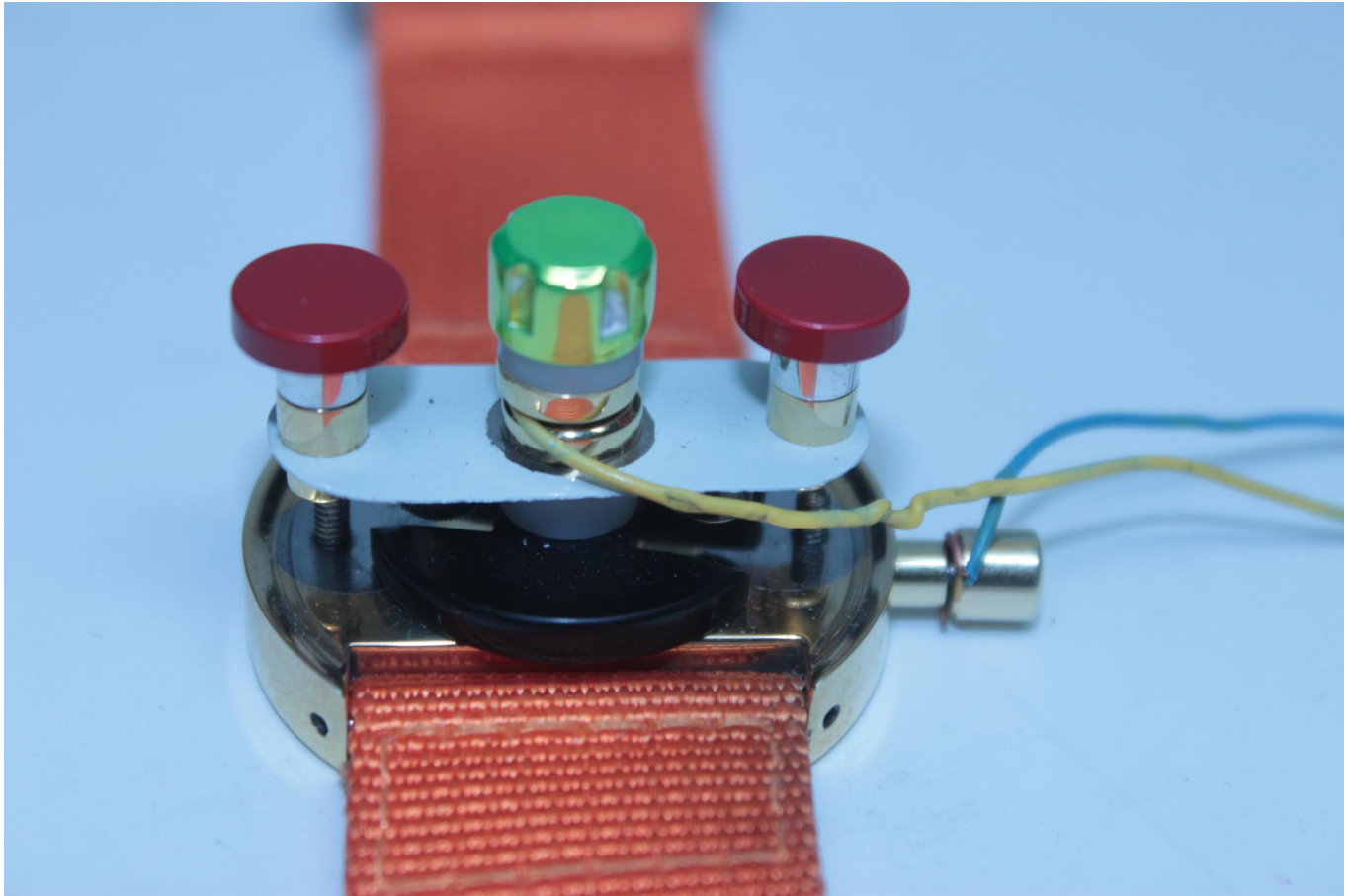


Photo #5

to your wrist); the key spins the whole way around on its base!

ROCKER KEY

Now let's have a look at our second wrist-key ... and this one's a bit unusual, perhaps ... but what are you gonna' do with a bright orange watch band! The view from the top (see photo #5) shows the lever (in white), one of the two binding posts (beneath the greenish knob at center), two paddles (one at each end of the lever, both maroon red), and the "stem" of the watch. The lever itself is a section of flexible feeler gage material (.006 thick). Thus it bends down at each end (hence the two paddles), with a lower contact beneath each end of the lever.

There was an old and rarely seen style of key which was, I believe, sometimes known as a "rocker." It had a rigid lever supported in the center with a paddle at each end (and a contact be-

low the lever on each end); it functioned just like a see-saw; and was presumably operated by rocking the lever back and forth using the thumb and little finger.

This miniature watch-key operates in a similar manner, though due to its small size, the keying is accomplished using the middle and index fingers, alternately, on each end of the lever (see photo #6). A side view of the key (photo #7) shows the architecture: the lever supports two paddles (the red knobs at each end), with each paddle's contact (the upper contact) immediately beneath the lever itself. The lower contact is the thin post, directly attached to the watch base, which projects upward beneath each paddle.

The lever, being flexible, allows pressure on either paddle to close the circuit with the contact beneath it. And beneath the lever on each side of the center post which supports the lever, can be seen two magnets (which stick to the lever). The

black Delrin disk below the magnets (on the watch base) can be rotated such that these magnets exert pressure against the lever, effectively shortening it and giving it a stiffer feel---this affords some degree of tension adjustment for the lever.

This also is a two-circuit manual key. The two binding posts are afforded by the green knob which sits above the center of the lever, and the stem of the watch (photo #5 shows the key connected up for use).

There's something aesthetically pleasing about using "small" keys with "small" radios. It just makes sense; it feels good! And if you've used miniature keys, you've undoubtedly discovered one of their foibles: they're not heavy enough to just sit on a desk and be stable in use; they have to be held down. Hence the use of detachable heavy bases for home use, or leg straps for field

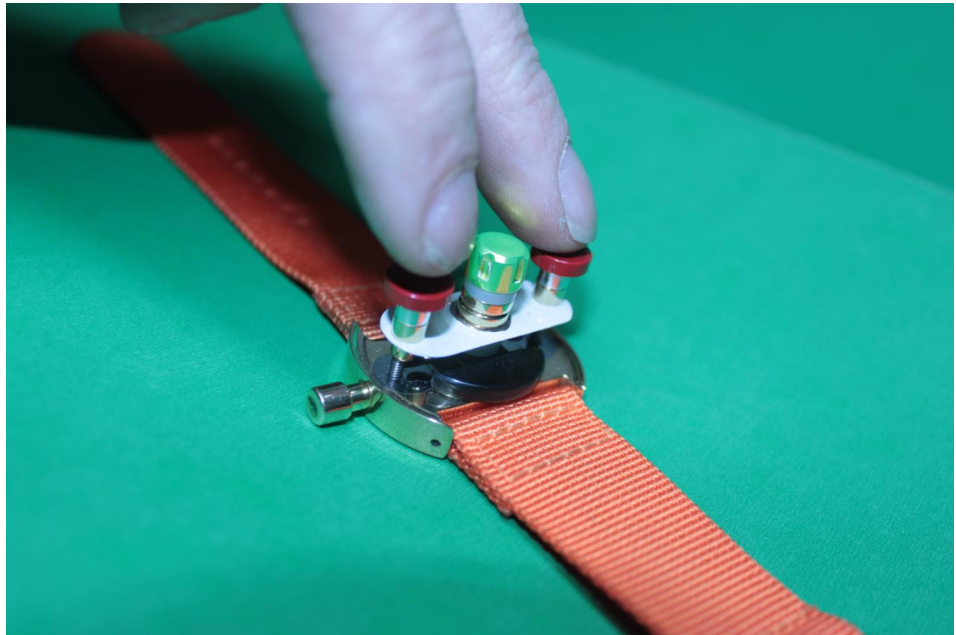


Photo #6

use. The wrist-band solves this nicely by attaching the key to your wrist! And just as a note, the colors on these keys were accomplished by powder-coating them in a small toaster oven, with the remaining bare metal surfaces being polished on a buffer.

So there you have it ... another month of my life spent in the shop, and two more jewelry accessories for the well-appointed 'little pistol!' I hope you've enjoyed the tour!

These projects are always an interesting journey for me, as I don't do much in the way of advance planning! I typically just start with a rough idea and start building, and see where it goes from there. Now ... if I can shrink those keys just a little bit more, a telegraphic tie clasp or cuff link might not be such a ludicrous idea after all. Stay tuned, be safe ... and keep those milliwatts pumping, my friends!

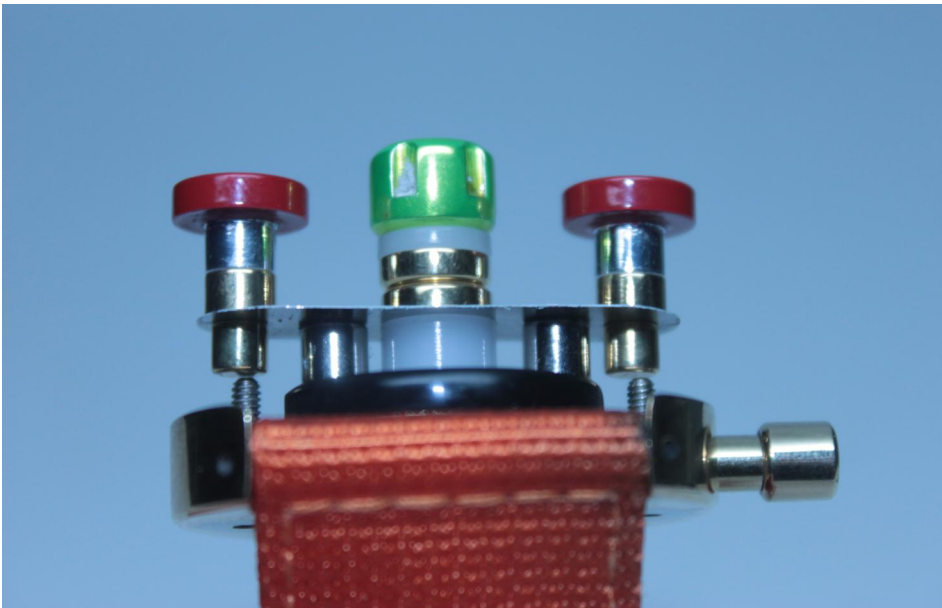


Photo #7

-Ted WB3AVD #8548

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	Monday		
	5 PM PDT	0000 Z	5332 kHz (ch1) Alt = 5348kHz	60m JB NR5NN (CA)
	7 PM PDT	0200 Z	3547.5 kHz	80m Rick N6IET (CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
The 1 Land QRS Net (1LND)			3560 or 3565 kHz	Ed K1RID (ME)

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 5:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)
 Sunday evenings 7:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0200 UTC, on **3547.5 kHz** +/-
 60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA)

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

- May 03 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, K6GVG, N6IET, WJ7S, AI6SL, K0DTJ, K6VN
- May 10 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, W6MK, AI6SL, K6JJR, K6GVG
- May 17 - QNS (8) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, N6VN, K6GVG, N6IET, NS3C, WJ7S, W6MK
- May 24 - QNS (8) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, KW6G, WJ7S, K6JJR, NS3C, AI6SL, K6GVG
- May 31 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, N6IET, NS3C, K6GVG, AI6SL

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS

- May 03 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K6JJR, K6GVG, K0DTJ, N6VN, WJ7S
- May 10 - QNS (5) N6IET NCS, W6MK, K6GVG, K0DTJ, AI6SL
- May 17 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, K6GVG, W6MK, N6VN, NS3C, WJ7S
- May 24 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, KW6G, NS3C, AI6SL, K6GVG, K0DTJ
- May 31 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, K6GVG, NS3C, KB6FPW/p, AI6SL, KW6G

THE NAQCC FARNsWORD QRQ CW ROUND TABLE NETS ...

... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at 21-25 wpm. We typically go two rounds after check-ins, including signal reports and topical commentary about the weather, the pandemic, recent contests or other CW events, antenna experimentation and/or catastrophes, and HF QRP and 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.

We want to emphasize the importance of "warming up" off the air prior to each net or CW session on the air to reduce errors, which tend to severely interfere with head copy. I use my sidetone and keyer set to my anticipated speed (or slower, at first) to send the alphabet followed by a pangram (sentence using every Morse alpha character at least once), error-free, if possible, by being especially mindful during the exercise, and that really helps me.

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

May 04 - QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

Well Terry was 599 from AR and I could not copy Andy also from AR and they are very close. We went down to 40 meters and I still could not hear Andy but he could copy me. One of those one way band days. Summer band conditions are fun.

May 11 - QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

YUM was 589 with high QRM and some fast QSB. YGA was 579 with same conditions. NN was 579 also. Everyone was at 50 watts or more tonight. QRN was ruff from storms.

May 18 - QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS N4NN KE5YGA

The conditions were very poor tonight on 80 meters. S9 QRN and QSB. Short with signal reports and about all.

May 25 - QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA

Just me and Andy tonight. Signals were good on 80 meters. 589 with some QSB. Band conditions have been rough due to solar activity the last week.

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0030 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas)

May 03 - QNI (0) W0CC

The band was very quiet until 0100 UTC. Next week will be better!

May 10 - No Report. Unfortunately, could not get off work in time.

May 17 - QNI (3) W0CC, WB5RYB, N8HWV

Unfortunately, could not successfully connect with KE8PAG. Bill and Nate did GREAT Jobs digging out the signal in the QSB and QRM! Hopefully, next week I will be able to QSO with Tom, KE8PAG.

May 24 - No Report - Working

May 31 - QNI (0) W0CC

No one home. Probably, they had not gotten back from the lake! Next week will be better!

NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7PM PDT, which is Friday 0200 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

May 07 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, KG7KKE, N0DA, WB4SPB, NB6M, K7JUV

May 14 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, N0DA, WB7WHG, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV

May 21 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, N0DA, WB7WHG, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV, KG7KKE

May 28 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, N0DA, WB7WHG, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV, KG7KKE

NAQCC 1 LAND QRS NET (1LND)

Main NCS Ed K1RID (Maine)

The 1LND Net operations suspended as Ed looks to find a new day/time to hold this net.



NAQCC AWARDS

You may already be a winner! NAQCC has an extensive list of awards. Check your log to see if you're close, or just need to submit. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

FEATURED AWARD: ALPHABET PREFIX

This month's featured award is a simplified version of CQ Magazine's popular WPA award. The goal is to work as many letter/number combination prefixes as possible using QRP CW and SWA. There are two categories for the award - World Prefixes, and USA Only Prefixes.

Handy tables showing all of the possible prefixes in both categories are available for downloading from the award web page. Basic awards are earned with 200 world prefixes or 50 USA prefixes and certificates are issued at the 400 and 100 prefix levels.

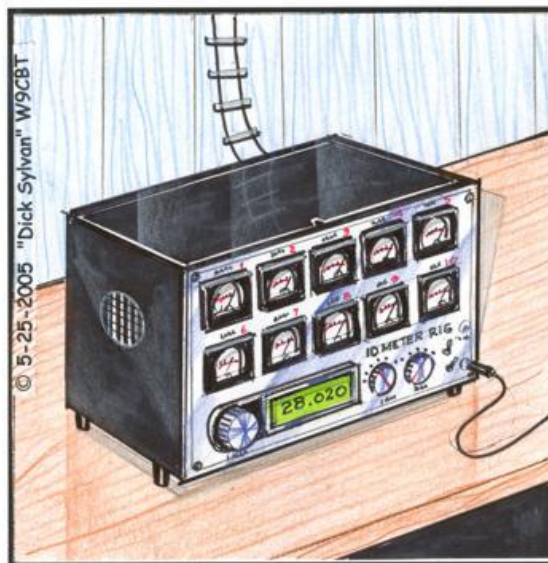
Complete details on this award can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wpxswa.html.



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.



HAM LINGO "10 Meter Rig"



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

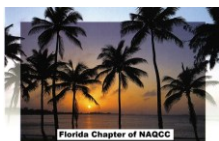
The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, and Florida - but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members in a geographical 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 Steve WB4OMM.

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 Steve, 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 Please contact call sign trustee, Club VP John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Nikki, KM4SBQ.

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

BACK FROM THE PANDEMIC!

On Friday, May 14, 2021 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held our latest "Operation in the Park" at Riverbreeze Park in Oak Hill, Florida.

The unspoiled beauty of River Breeze Park offers visitors a glimpse back into the early, unhurried days of Florida's history. Situated on the historic and fabled Indian River, the park is 35 acres with five acres directly on the river. The surrounding waters were once an abundant food source for the early Indian tribes, as evidenced by the shell middens (mounds of oyster and clam shells). After



Florida's settlement, the fertile shores became a thriving citrus grove, known to produce some of the best citrus products in the world.

River Breeze Park offers a panoramic view of nature's splendor and provides an excellent vantage point for bird watching. An excursion into a scenic balance between people and nature. Bringing our Amateur Radio equipment is quality time, well spent!

This Park features fishing, a playground and a free boat launch; restrooms and water fountains. Multiple covered pavilions with picnic tables, and a long wooden walkway pier round out the amenities.

This trip we had a total of 4 members/4 operators and two guests in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274; John KD4JS #8019; Steve K8SR #10527; Mike K8NS #8597 and K9-ASHer; Doug W4DBL, and not-quite-a-member-yet Phil N2EDX.

Steve WB4OMM #5319

Steve's setup included his Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical for 40 meters with a Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr and GenLog. Steve worked 1 member ultimately - Dave AB9CA #1442 in IN who was doing POTA! Signals were nil on 40M for most of the time he was on the air but he wasn't skunked!

Steve K8SR #10527

Steve's Station consisted of an Elecraft K1-2 at 5 watts, and a 31 FT end-fed vertical.

He made the following 6 contacts with 6 members:

- **A18S - Jim 20 meters - # 6829 - State OH**
- **WØMQY - Joe - 20 Meters - # 10355 - State KS**
- **K8NS - Mike - 20 Meters - #8597 - From 30 feet away! State FL - BIG DX**
- **AB4QL - Barry - 20 Meters # 777 - State AL**
- **NI9M - Dave - 20 Meters - # 8323 - State IL**
- **AJ8S - Jim - 20 Meters - # 6829 - State OH**



Steve WB4OMM #5319



Steve K8SR #10527

**Mike K8NS # 8597
and K9-ASHer (his pooch!)**

Using a K2 on the seat with internal battery; connected to the roof mounted TarHeel 11 antenna. I ran my installed IC7100 that is in the car all the time. Yes, it does turn down to 5W! HI HI HI Mike made three Qs/2 members - two on 17M - Brian K9VKY - #1040 - State PA; and non-member NY2PO in NY. He then worked our very own K8SR on 20m, about 30 feet to his South!

Phil N2EDX and Doug W4DBL

Yaesu FT-817ND to a Buddipole. Doug used Battery and Solar power. He was not able to get a contact but still had fun out there.

John KD4JS #8019 - John socialized with everyone, this was his first outing since before COVID-19; we were glad to see him!

When we were getting ready to leave, Steve noticed something under his car, a kinda large "lump ." When he got around to the passenger side, he found a ground tortoise taking a siesta. A bit early in the day for Steve, but then it's always a good time to take a snooze whenever you can! After loading the car, the tortoise moved out on his own without the need for, "prompting ." The tortoise was last seen crawling into the bushes.

Yes, he left safely for the woods.....we are VERY supportive and EXCEPTIONALLY PROTECTIVE of our wildlife! Happy to see him!

WX turned out to be perfect! A great park!! A great time!!!

We broke for lunch just before noon to a local restaurant where we traded stories and had a lot of laughs. A wonderful day with wonderful folks!

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

WE'RE OFF FOR THE SUMMER!!!
See you in the Fall (September)



Mike K8NS # 8597
and K9-ASHer (his pooch!)



Phil N2EDX and Doug W4DBL



A surprise under Steve WB4OMM's car! Mr. Tortoise!

He saw Steve and now he's "hauling shell"!

NAQCC GREEN SWAMP WCF



Items in this section are from the Green Swamp WCF Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Gary N3OS.

The chapter's website is <https://www.zaarc.org>.

WITHLACOOCHIE RIVER PARK

April 22nd, 2021 arrived and the members of Green Swamp Chapter of NAQCC gathered for our first "Parkpedition" at Withlacoochee River Park east of Dade City, Florida around 1000 Hours. By 1100 Hrs were were on the air, but without a great deal of completed QSOs. We did have a great time with us concluding at 1400 Hours.

The antenna situation:

N3OS used an Eagle One Vertical, K4VLP & KK4ITX used end-feds, and N9EE used another which he placed at "close proximity" to the one being used by K4VLP. This of course limited K4VLP's use of his Cricket. Lesson Learned: MAKE SURE ALL ANTENNAS DO NOT INFRINGE ON THOSE OTHERS...



Rigs included Yaesu FT-818, Cricket, IC-705 and a KX3.

Contacts logged: Six - W5L, CM6SQ, KP4LV, KD1JT, W3LR, & KI4IO all making contact with our club call, N3AQC, which we were permitted to use for this event. Want to use the call during your chapter's next outing? Reach out to John, KK4ITX, for that. He schedules the call's use.

Here are some of the comments and photos participants submitted:

From John, KK4ITX:

I have always operated alone except for one Field Day so I was not prepared for the interference one gets from other nearby stations regardless of the Band they are on. We were in the FL Green Swamp area and I expected a multitude of critters of all types..... nada..... hard to believe, never even saw a fly! But we did have some human visitors and that was good PR. Our event was a blast even though contacts were minimal we learned a lot from each other about equipment and procedure. I personally found out how much I had to concentrate when using the N3AQC call..... several times I found myself slipping into my call and or mixing both during a CQ. I'm looking forward to the next group outing and see if I can come up with a spray for the bugs in operating that popped up!

From Ron, N9EE:

We had excellent time at the park. Look forward to future events with this NAQCC group.
73, ron, n9ee

From Darryl, K4VLP:

As the QRPp operator of the group, utilizing a direct conversion receiver with a constantly-running oscillator, the necessity of distance between antennas was made paramount. Another wire antenna placed in close proximity and parallel to my own was my undoing for the



KK4ITX and his station



N9EE logging them in

day. On our next outing I'll be sure to avoid that pitfall and give my milliwatts an opportunity for success. Nevertheless, the weather was perfect and it was a very fine day to be in the outdoors for a few hours. By the next excursion, the heat, humidity, and skeeters should be in full bloom and we'll all be wishing for the return of April!



K4VLP and his QRPP gear



N3OS pounds the plastic

From Gary, N3OS:

A great day which was long awaited thanks to COVID. Looking forward to the next one but that probably won't be until July for me as I have a lot going on in May and June. I know that we are now approaching the migratory period and Green Swamp Snowbirds move to cooler climates,

but we'll be listening for their calls while awaiting the migration to the south later in the year. Those remaining in "The Swamp" (not the one west of DelMarVa) will function as best we can, hopefully better than those in that other "Swamp." Til next time... 73 DE N3OS

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.

No Report

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 WPA Chapter has suspended all its activities until further notice because of the virus situation.

NAQCC 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

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

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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

The West Florida Chapter has no outings to report, but here's a better look at Ron's mighty cool NAQCC shirt:



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Amateur radio has something for everyone. For a growing number of folks, the challenge of "doing the most with the least" makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio. The North American QRP CW Club Inc. exists to promote and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes, an exciting facet of the hobby.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to operate in QRP/CW activities. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace to increase code skills and experiment with different antennas. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp (less than 1W of power) 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, sharing information on low power Morse operations. 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 these web pages and we are more than willing to answer any questions about QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas 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.

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.



NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President	Steve WB4OMM	sszabo1@cfl.rr.com
NAQCC Vice President	John KK4ITX	jleahy00@yahoo.com
NAQCC Secretary	Gary AF7T	gary.af7t@gmail.com
NAQCC Treasurer	Jerry K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Brent WT4U	wt4u@knoxtour.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff KA1DBE	j.hanscom@gmail.com
Florida Chapter	Nikki KM4SBQ	nickies1130@aol.com
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Illowa Chapter	Tim N9BIL	n9bil@arrl.net
West Florida Chapter	Ron N9EE	n9ee55@gmail.com
Long Island Chapter	Howard WB2UZE	wb2uze@yahoo.com
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
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.

The North American QRP CW Club Inc., is organized exclusively for scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code to advance, promote, and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes. No dues or membership fees - open to any licensed radio amateur or shortwave listener (SWL) worldwide with interest in CW/QRP operation. Encouraging the use of CW and helping all hams increase CW speed and proficiency is a top club priority. Club activities are dedicated to QRP/QRPp operation, using CW and emphasize using simple wire antennas.

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 be sent to:

Club President Steve Szabo, WB4OMM
536 Central Park Blvd
Port Orange, FL 32127 USA

