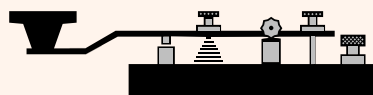


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 283 • JANUARY 2022



KEY CLICKS

• **IN THIS ISSUE**

It's a packed issue with three articles on keys—including a DIY two-paddle clothespin creation; The Prez Sez there are minor changes and major events; Three excursion reports from our local chapters; A Deadly Challenge; A double Sprint report; and NAQCC co-founder John K3WWP #2 breaks 10,000 in his QRP CW QSO-a-day streak!

• **TWO SPRINTS THIS MONTH**

A week after our regular Sprint this month is the annual 160 Meter Sprint. A giant antenna is a wonderful thing to have, but NAQCC Sprinters have shown year after year that 5 watts and a wire that will tune is all you need to have fun.

• **NEW DAILY 80M QRS NET (WYOMING)**

A new daily - 13:30 UTC - NAQCC QRS QRP 80M net aimed at new CW operators was launched in December. Thanks to NCS Steve KE7UUJ (#11009) for pulling this together. Please listen for this net and consider a check in.

• **YOUR ARTICLE NEEDED!**

Please take a few minutes to tell us about your latest excursion, that thing you built, your favorite rig, or something funny. As long as it relates to QRP CW. Send it to Paul K2DMX: kd2mx@arrl.net

• **UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO**

Any time you change your QTH, email, or callsign, you can update your member info with a simple online form. First, check your information at <http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html

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THE PREZ SEZ...

GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!

HAPPY NEW YEAR! I hope you enjoyed your Holidays.

A new year, and a new time to enjoy CW QRP!

Try something different this year - get out in the field, use a different radio or antenna, try a new contest or on the air activity. Have FUN!

Some minor changes starting today:

- Monthly Sprint and Challenge Drawing Prizes: Everyone is now eligible for a monthly drawing prize whether you previously received one or not. In addition, we will no longer keep track of monthly drawings on the prize page. Why? Every month we have pretty much a core group of participants in both, and even with a random draw, it usually takes multiple draws before I can pull a participant who has not previously won; in addition, it serves as an incentive for the regulars to continue! Everyone that participates has an equal chance to win one each month.
- Sprint monthly date rotations are now UTC days for the monthly rotations. Why? We already use UTC times, and somewhere over the last two years the non-UTC date was replaced with a UTC date (and I'll take the hit for it, most like I did it updating files). Makes no difference in the schedule, and the schedule is published for a two-year period and is listed every month on the Home and Sprint Pages

JANUARY NAQCC ACTIVITIES

- Regular Monthly Sprint – Thursday, Jan 20, 2022 0130-0330Z - (That's the evening of Wednesday, January 19th for us here in North America!).
- January 160M Sprint - Thursday, Jan 27, 2022 0130-0330 - (That's the evening of Wednesday, January 26th for us here in North America!).
- Monthly Challenge - January 2022 Challenge – The Poison Squad Challenge - <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202201.html>
- Weekly Nets - http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html

Hope to see you in the Sprints! Stay safe, stay healthy, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active! Have FUN!

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913
NAQCC President



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



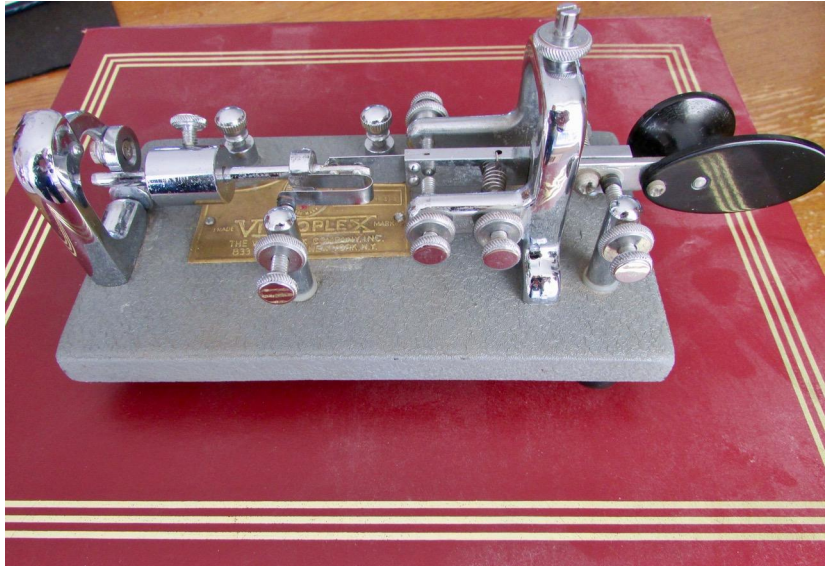
A BUG REFURB

BY BOB WB1GYZ #7895

I picked up an older Vibroplex bug recently and got right to work cleaning, polishing, oiling, and adjusting it. Hooked it up to an oscillator and found that the dit side was clean and even, but I got nothing from the dah side. So, I burnished the dah contacts a bit more, but still nothing. What could possibly be preventing this simple circuit from working?

I wondered if the synthetic clock oil applied to the pivot/bushing points created electrical resistance. That was a long-shot guess but I was running out of possibilities. It was time to stop guessing and get an ohm meter to trace the circuit.

The problem revealed itself quickly. During manufacture, the assembler inserted a strip of insulation where two conduct-



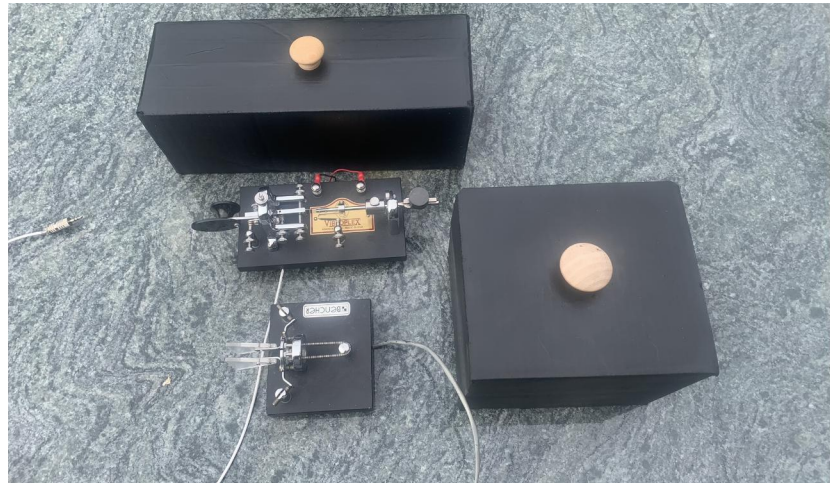
ing metal strips joined together. Insulation is necessary to prevent these bare conductors from shorting to the base, but insulating them from each other was cause for the open circuit on the dah side. The fix was to correct the assemblers' mistake, which makes me think that this bug has patiently waited about 54 years to operate.

It now resides alongside a restored 1944 Vibroplex Champion, and has a lot of catching up to do.

POOR MAN'S KEY DUST COVER

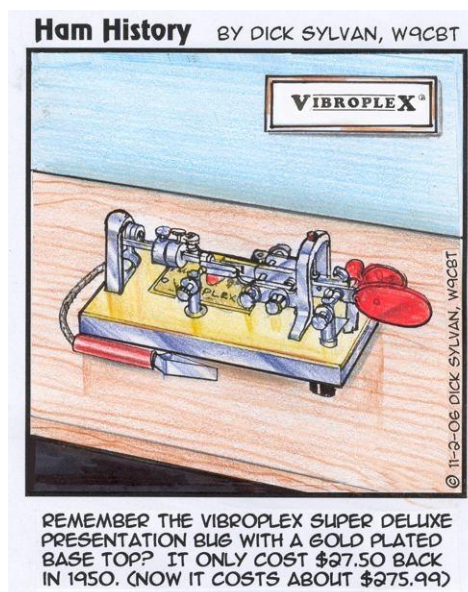
BY GENE N5GW #5353

Recently I noticed I was having to frequently clean the contacts on both my iambic keyer and bug. I believe this is due to my shack room also being used as a storeroom, workshop and even a small greenhouse! I decided that dust covers would be a big help. However having spent all my money on expensive keys, I had none left to purchase quality store-bought covers!



Since I never throw anything away, I had on hand an assortment of small cardboard boxes. It was a simple matter to locate an appropriately sized box, cut the flaps off, apply a few coats of flat black spray paint, and attach a drawer knob.

The pic shows the keys and their covers. If the latter get dirty it will be a simple matter to repaint them!



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.

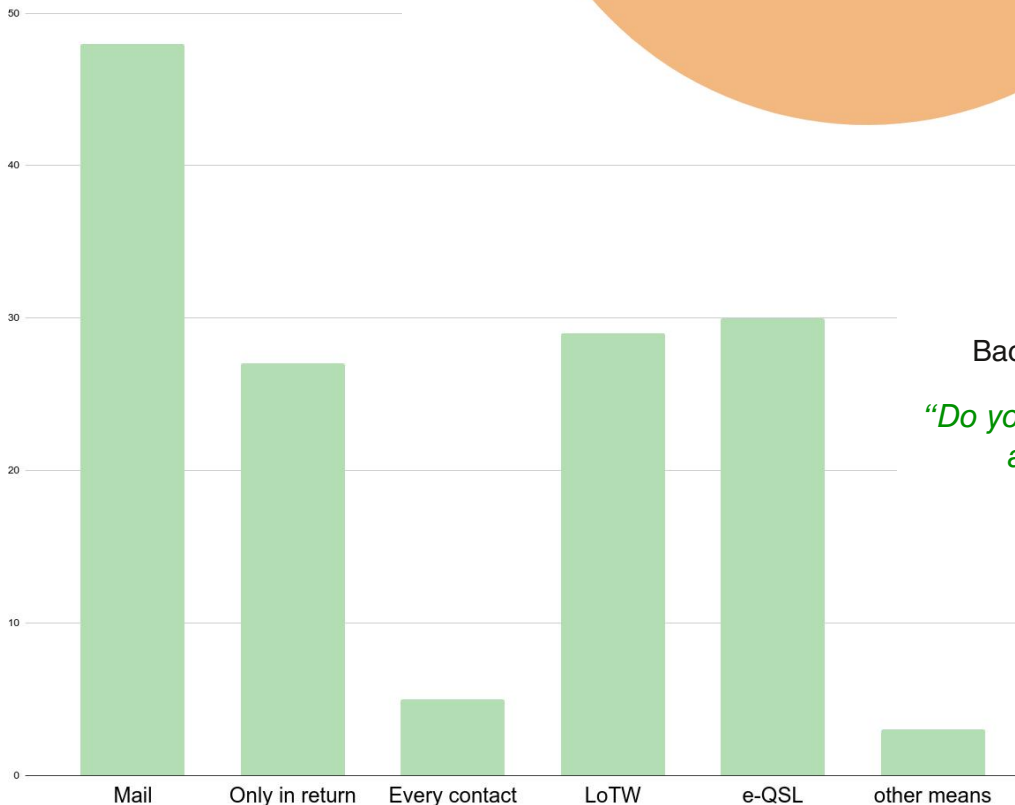
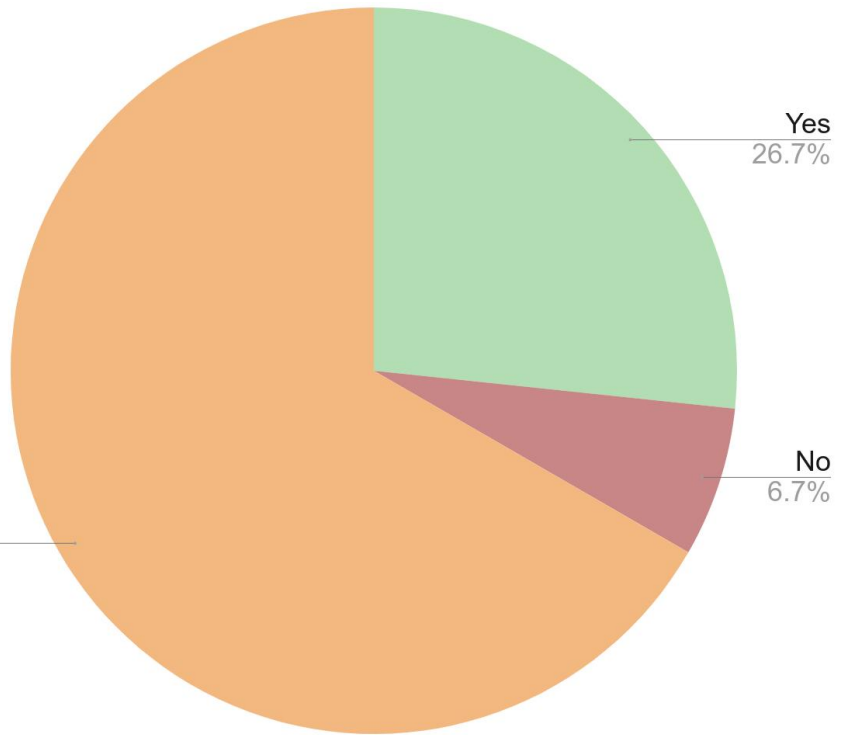
MEMBER POLLS

JANUARY POLL

Would you like the Newsletter to move an online format or keep the PDF?
Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

DECEMBER POLL

With the sun slowly waking back up a little have you found an Increase in QRP CW lately?



OLD POLL

Back in 2013 we asked:

“Do you QSL your contacts, and if so, How?”



NAQCC SPRINTS

JANUARY SPRINTS

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, Jan 20, 2022 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 19th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202201.html>.

160 METER SPRINT

Our bonus Sprint is on Thursday, Jan 27, 2022 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 26th in North America. Complete information at: http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202201_160.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.

DECEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202112.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: W4SKB, KN4RQD, W1TER, & KA6J

| December Sprint | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Current Month | Previous Month | All-Time Record | Record Date |
| Logs | 88 | 85 | 217 | 4/17 |
| Participants | 122 | 112 | 269 | 2/13 |
| Total QSOs | 812 | 896 | 3154 | 4/17 |
| Hour 1 QSOs | 478 | 540 | 1704 | 4/17 |
| Hour 2 QSOs | 334 | 356 | 1450 | 4/17 |
| 20m QSOs | 0 | 0 | 1232 | 8/13 |
| 40m QSOs | 303 | 129 | 2203 | 4/17 |
| 80m QSOs | 509 | 767 | 1417 | 2/13 |
| Avg QSOs/Station | 9.2 | 10.5 | 19.3 | 9/11 |

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | W1GF | WB1GYZ | - |
| W2 | KA2KGP | W2SH | K2CWM |
| W3 | KC3MIO | K3JZD | KD3CA |
| W4 | K4KRW | WB4OMM | WD4OHD |
| W5 | N5GW | KN1H | K5MBA |
| W6 | K6FA | K6GPB | - |
| W7 | K9QEW | - | - |
| W8 | W8GG | K8NGW | K8KUF |
| W9 | WB9HFK | KA9FQG | N8HWV |
| W0 | NO2D | AA5LH | - |
| Canada | VE2KZW | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | W1ND | W1TER | - |
| W2 | WA2FBN | WB2LQF | - |
| W3 | NN3E | K3WWP | - |
| W4 | KJ4R | K3RLL | WD4CFN |
| W5 | NF5U | - | - |
| W6 | - | - | - |
| W7 | N7QR | - | - |
| W8 | N8XMS | - | - |
| W9 | K9DRP | K9NUD | - |
| W0 | KD0V | - | - |
| Canada | VE3HUR | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|--------|---------------------------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | KB1M | N1JI | - |
| W2 | K2OID | N2ESE | - |
| W3 | - | - | - |
| W4 | K4KBL | N2AWE | - |
| W5 | K5WX | KA6J | WA5RML KE5YUM (TIE) |
| W6 | NS3C | - | - |
| W7 | AB9CA | - | - |
| W8 | WI8J | WB8ENE | WA8SAN |
| W9 | WR9R | AB9BZ | - |
| W0 | N0TA | N8LA | KC2MJT |
| Canada | VE2VAB | VE3DQN | VE3GNU |
| DX | - | - | - |

| GAIN CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|
| KEY | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| SK | - | - | - |
| BUG | KF6C | - | - |
| K/K | NQ2W | - | - |

| FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|--------|-----|
| Key Type | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| SK | W4SKB | KN4RQD | - |
| BUG | W1TER | - | - |
| K/K | KA6J | - | - |
| PRIZE DRAWING WINNER | | | |
| W4HH | | | |

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+ | N2CN WA1GWH KB1M KF7WNS WI5H WA2FBN VE3DQN KC7DM WB9HFK KB0ETU NQ2W AA0W WB1GYZ K2YGM AA7CU NN0SS KJ4R N7QR N8QY WY3H VE3GNU K6CSL W5UAA WK6L KC2EGL K2HT KE9DR AB8FJ WD4OHD K4ORD K5GQ NN9K K4KBL KB4QQJ |
| 75+ | KA9FQG N5GW NA4O KN1H K4NVJ N4MJ KQ1P N8LA VE3FUJ WD0K KD3CA K9EYT N8BB K9OSC K6MGO NF5U N8APO WB4OMM |
| 100+ | K1IEE WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N0TA W4DUK K4KRW KD2MX WB8ENE AA9L AK3X NO2D |
| 125+ | NF8M K3RLL K2CWM K4JPN N4FI KD0V KE5YUM N2ESE |
| 150+ | W8GG W9CC N8XMS K4BAI KU4A |
| 175+ | KA2KGP W2JEK W2SH |

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

VE2KZW - I started on 40m but RBN never picked me up. Moved to 80m where things were quite a bit better. It seems that I was heard better than I could hear. But I am happy with my 3 QSOs. Thanks to all and 73.

KN1H - Set up portable station while camping in Truth Or Consequences, NM on the banks of the Rio Grande river. Could only manage a short end-fed wire but had a lot of fun. Used KX2 @5W and Electrovoice KY-605 straight key. Thanks to all who heard me!

K4KBL - Wow...started on 40 and thought my antenna was on the ground. All contacts on 80 which was far better but not great after about 1.5 hours. Called it a night.

K3JZD - No joy on 40m - seemed like it was too long here in WPA. So, it all 80m for me. Because of the beautiful !*%\$*^% seasonal LEDs that are cluttering up my neighborhood, I had to deal with a variable noise level on 80m. So, if you tried calling me and I did not hear you, that would probably be why. K4 running 5w with 107' EFRW. Jody - K3JZD

W4SKB - This was my first attempt. I was surprised what 5-watts into an Inverted-L can accomplish. I would like to say a big Thank You for all your patience with my very poor fist.

K9DRP - Lots of sigs on the bands tonight! First run for me on a sprint with the 703. Took time out to go fox hunting during the sprint. Hope to hear everyone in next week's MW sprint. 72, Don

WA5RML - First NAQCC Sprint in about 10 yrs. Elecraft KX3 @5W to 40M dipole at 5 feet - hanging on a fence. Only one QSO (KC3RN - tnx). Heard a few other stations down in the noise, but no general not much activity heard. I see that others had much more success, so looks like I need to get the antenna back up in the air! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

DECEMBER QRPP SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202112mw.html>

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | K1MZM | WB1GYZ | K1YAN |
| W2 | WA2NYY W2SH (TIE) | - | KA2KGP |
| W3 | KD3CA | KC3MIO | AK3X |
| W4 | WG8Y | KC5F | K4KRW |
| W5 | N5GW | KE9DR | - |
| W6 | K6GPB | - | - |
| W7 | N7KM | N7QR | - |
| W8 | K8NGW | K8KUF | AB8FJ |
| W9 | KC9IL | WB9HFK | KR8L |
| W0 | AA5LH | - | - |
| Canada | - | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|-------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | KB1M | - | - |
| W2 | - | - | - |
| W3 | K3MD | KM3D | - |
| W4 | AA4W | N2AWE | K4KBL |
| W5 | W3RZ | K5WX | - |
| W6 | - | - | - |
| W7 | - | - | - |
| W8 | W8RTJ | WI8J | W8GG |
| W9 | N8HVV KD9LTN (TIE) | - | AB9BZ |
| W0 | N8LA | - | - |
| Canada | - | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| GAIN CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|
| KEY | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| SK | - | - | - |
| BUG | - | - | - |
| K/K | NQ2W | - | - |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------|-------|------------------------|-----|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | W1ND | NF1U | - |
| W2 | - | - | - |
| W3 | K3WWP | - | - |
| W4 | K3RLL | N0SMX KJ4R (TIE) | - |
| W5 | - | - | - |
| W6 | - | - | - |
| W7 | - | - | - |
| W8 | N8XMS | - | - |
| W9 | K9DRP | AA9L | - |
| W0 | - | - | - |
| Canada | - | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

QRPP STATS:

Logs submitted: 66

Total participants: 94

Total QSOs: 588

States + Provinces : 27 + ON

QRPP SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

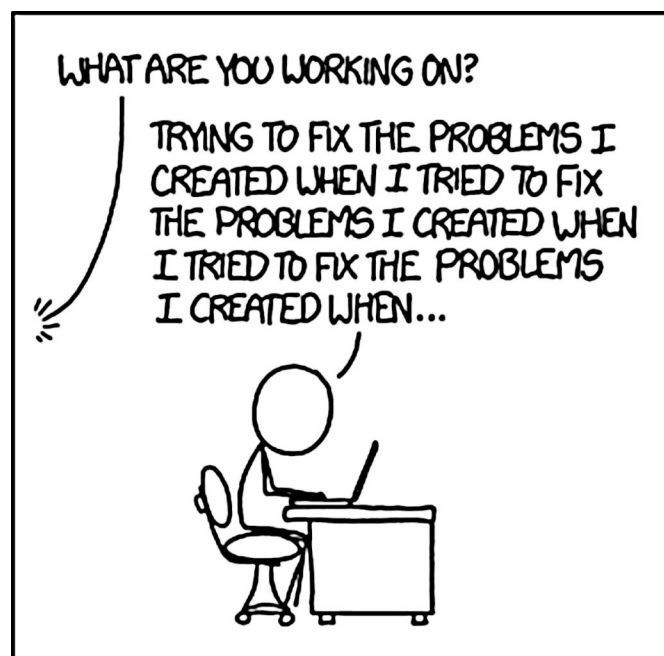
N8XMS - Well, I'm happy to say that I worked everyone that I heard with only 900 mW into my HyGain AV640 vertical. Unfortunately that was only 4 members and 1 nonmember, and they were all in about the first 15 minutes of the sprint! After that - zip. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to everyone! - N8XMS

K4KBL - My first mW Sprint and I had a great time. Truly what you can do with one watt ! Worked 10 states with 12 total member contacts... I'll be back ...

KC3MIO - I wish more ops knew what one watt can do. Icom 705 @ one watt. The MW sprints are more challenging, but they're great fun. Only made one contact on 40, although I went back to it several times. I even tried 20 to no avail. As it has been recently, 80 was the place to be. I was pleased to work NOTA and N5GW; I heard N5GW on 80 but he didn't hear me. I wonder if the NAQCC should have a few ad hoc sprints around mid-day, so that 20 and maybe 15 and 10 would be in play. Best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, thanks to the NAQCC and my contacts.

N2AWE - First mini sprint. Actually, first time I ever transmitted less than a watt. Very challenging to hear others. Thanks to everyone who worked me. Used my K2 (4712) which I built many years ago, bencher paddles and a roof mounted vertical antenna.

KN2G - It took 6 hours to set up my "new" 40' tower trailer modified from a portable construction light tower and then trim and tune my new 80/40 inverted vee complete with hb balun. What a satisfying night! 500mw and 7 contacts from my new qth! 40 was dark and mysterious fading in and out so I hit 80 and got several solid contacts amid the chaos of double sprints.



A SIMPLE-TO-MAKE CLOTHESPIN PADDLE

BY LUC ON7DQ/KF0CR #10986

I built this simple paddle from common materials found around the house, a clothespin, a piece of wood and some wooden dowels. I also needed: a spring (e.g. from a ballpoint pen), some self-adhesive copper foil (or other thin metal plates), and a stereo cable with 3.5 mm jack.

The following pictures will give you a good idea of how to make one for yourself, it's not complicated at all.

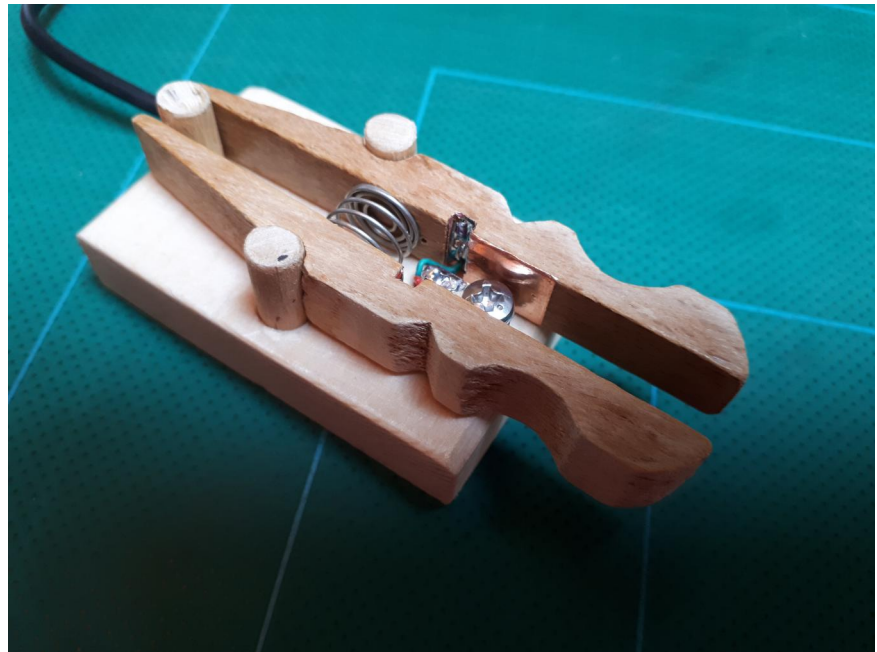
THE BASE

I took a piece of wood approximately 57 by 34 mm, and 10 mm thick. See some dimensions in the drawing below. You may have to change some measurements, because well ... not all clothespins were created equal, hi.

On the front to back centerline, drill two holes, the size of some wooden dowels. I used a 6 mm drill, which made the dowels press-fit.

You'll need three dowels of about 25 mm long. I used a chopstick to make the dowels.

In my first paddle, I used also a wooden dowel for the ground contact, clad with copper foil. But this time I used a hexagonal standoff (from the junkbox), which also presses into a 6 mm hole, and an eyelet and a screw.



Drill the holes for the front and back first, and put the dowel and the standoffs in.

Clothespin Paddle V2.0

Then measure where to drill for the side posts.

To measure where to drill, I put two pieces of cardboard, 1 mm thick between the paddles, so my contact spacing would be about 1 mm, which is fairly wide. You can adjust that spacing later, (see below).

The two "side dowels" are slightly tilted inward, by putting a small piece of cardboard under the opposite side when drilling the holes. This keeps the paddles going downward when you key.

THE PADDLES

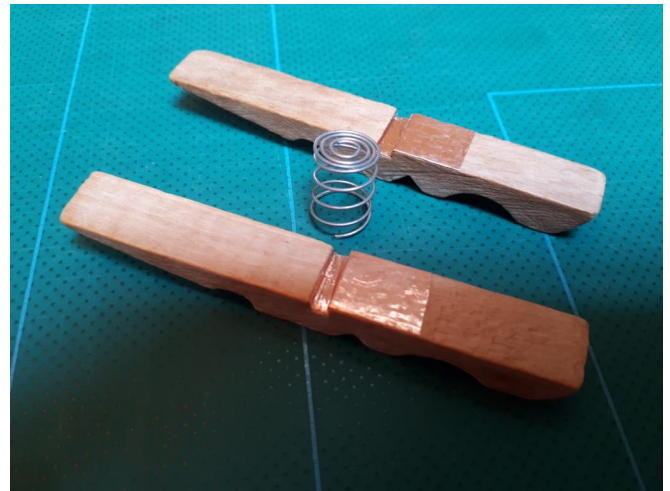
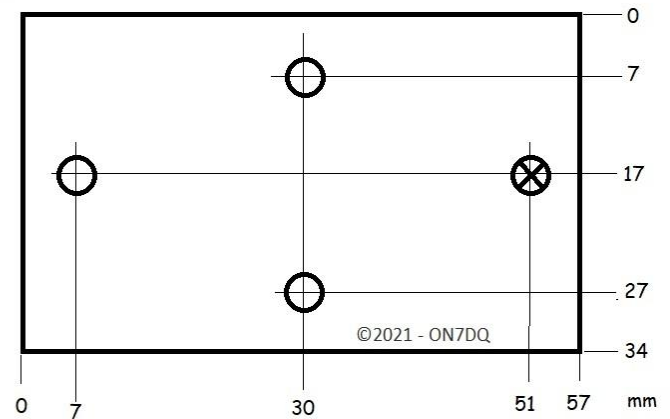
Two pieces of self-adhesive copper tape were put in the appropriate places. Again, this may differ from model to model. If you have no such copper foil, you may glue two thin copper or tinned plates to the paddles, like the screening plates of a TV tuner, or some metal cut from a Coke can, etc. Use your imagination.

I also found a rather sloppy spring in my junkbox, probably from the battery compartment of a toy. One end was bent over and pressed in a 0.8 mm hole in the left paddle. I drilled another 0.8 mm hole in the other paddle, just for the picture, to show the position of the hole.

WIRING

Then came the connecting cable. I cut a 3.5 mm stereo cable in two. I drilled a 3.5 mm hole right behind the center post. Then with some luck, and careful aiming ... I could drill another 3.5 mm hole from the back, horizontally through the base, and it ended in that first hole. Some fiddling with fine tweezers ...and I pulled the three wires of the cable through the hole.

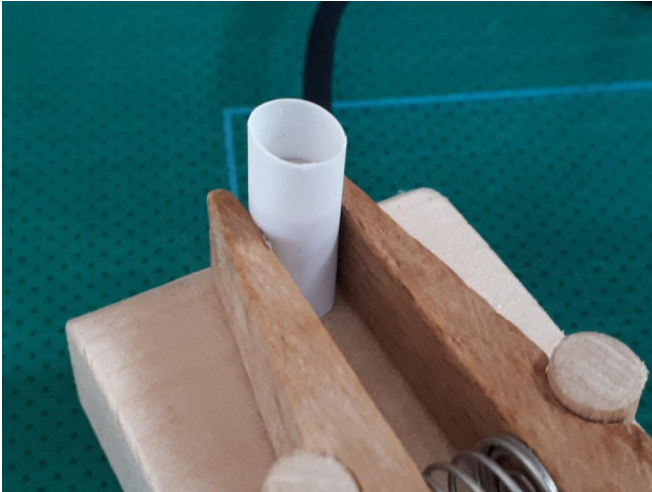
The ground contact is soldered to the eyelet on the center post. The other wires are soldered to the copper foil, in the small indent in the paddles, where I also pushed some foil into.



Clothespin becomes two paddles



Cable and spring inserted, ready for assembly



Adjust the spacing with a bit of rubber tubing over the back pillar

The whole assembly with the spring slides just between the two middle dowels and needed no other fixing. The weak point will probably be the flexing wires to the paddles, but that is easily repaired.

ADJUSTING THE SPACING

If you think the spacing is too wide for you, it can be adjusted by slipping a piece of shrink tubing, or the rubber piece of a mini crocodile clip, etc .. over the back pillar. See two examples below.

You could even make an oval shaped back pillar that you turn around to have a continuously adjustable spacing, but I wanted to keep things simple!



When all is to my liking, I may fill the holes of the center post and the hole for the cable with some two-component epoxy.

Have fun !

-Luc ON7DQ/KF0CR #10986

ON THE AIR

Here you see the paddle in action during its first test during the QCX Challenge.

I made four QSOs with it, and made very few errors.



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 AWARDS:

WAVE

This award is one suggested by Gary K1YAN. All questions about it go to him at gtxmx@verizon.net

It's just the classic WAS type award but focused on working the Canadian Provinces with QRP/ CW.

Time Frame For Qualifying QSO's:

March 1, 2011 0000Z through the present

BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Work All VE Provinces within the time frame using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas.

Categories:

A - 8 Canadian Provinces

B - 8 Canadian Provinces 2X QRP http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html.



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

QRP CW QSO STREAK REACHES 10,000 DAYS

JOHN K3WWP #2

August 5, 1994 through December 20, 2021 is a span of 10,000 days. On each and every one of those 10,000 days, John K3WWP made at least one QSO using CW, QRP power of 5 watts or less, and simple wire antennas including an end-fed random wire, most of which is in the attic and used on 160 through 30 meters, a 20 meters flat top inverted vee in the attic, a 15 meters vertical dipole on the side of the house also used for 17 and 12 meters, a 10 meters slanted dipole on the

front porch roof, and a 6 meters rotatable dipole in the attic.

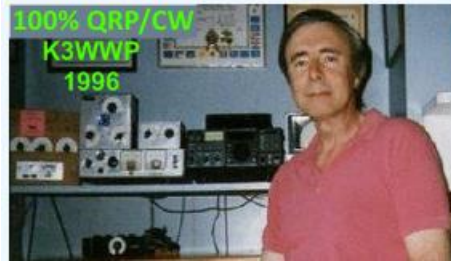
The rigs included a homebrew transmitter, a Kenwood TS-570, a Kenwood TS-480, an Elecraft K2, KX1, and KX3. All set at a power level of 5 watts or less output and only used on CW.

Here are some stats about the streak, all of which involved only the equipment listed above. John made a total of 72,190 QSOs during the 10,000

days. Involved were 20,098 different stations. Whether you worked John on one day or 100 days, you made it possible to have such a 10,000 day streak and John thanks you.

At least 2,099 QSOs were 1,000 or more miles per watt. 24,098 QSOs were DX (non W/VE) from 224 countries. All 50 states were each worked many times over, from 3,819 in Pennsylvania to 63 in Wyoming. Most worked DX country was Germany with 1,934 QSOs. Contacts by continent ranged from 52,639 in North America to 325 in Oceania plus 18 in Antarctica. 36 of the 40 CQ Zones were worked with 4 in Southeast Asia (22, 24, 26, 28) not worked. QSOs by band ranged from 19,279 on 40 and 15,459 on 20 down to just 28 on 60 and 39 on 6.

On 7,256 of the 10,000 days, the first QSO of the day came in the 0000Z hour. The latest time to log the daily first QSO was 2311Z on February 14, 1995 when John worked EA8/DJ1OT on 30 meters. 13 other days it took until the 2200Z hour to



get the QSO. Most all of those late QSOs came in the early days of the streak when it was not all that well established.

John also had a DX streak within the 10,000 days. On 1,980 days from March 1, 2013 through August 1, 2018, John worked at least one DX station. Of course with the same equipment listed above. The DX station was also the QSO for the main streak that day or in addition to another main streak QSO.

The greatest satisfaction John got from the streak was the input from other hams who said the streak got them interested in operating CW and/or QRP and finding it gave them a lot of pleasure also, as it did to John. In that way it helped to preserve the wonderful mode of CW or Morse Code. Oh and John says it is not over by any means and it will continue on to 11,000, 12,000..... or when something beyond his control ends it. You can see much more info about the streak and other aspects of CW and QRP on John's web site at k3wwp.com.



ARE YOU ON A QSO-A-DAY STREAK?

NOW'S THE TIME TO SEND IN YOUR LOG!

There's an NAQCC award for keeping up that QRP CW QSO-a-day habit. Full year, run of months, or just 30-days in a row—all qualify for awards.

Submit a log with one line for each QSO containing at least the following info sorted in ascending order by date:

Date, Time, Call, Band. For mW QSO's add the power used. Also include the total number of QSOs made in the time frame.

details: http://naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html

NAQCC CHALLENGE BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: POISON SQUAD

Do you ever wonder exactly what is in the food you eat? Dr. Harvey Washington Wiley, a chemist at the USDA, certainly did and he did more than just wonder.

In the late 1800s the food industry was pretty much on their own and with little oversight they added potentially harmful substances to their products. The basic ingredients themselves were not always clean, wholesome and healthy to consume either.

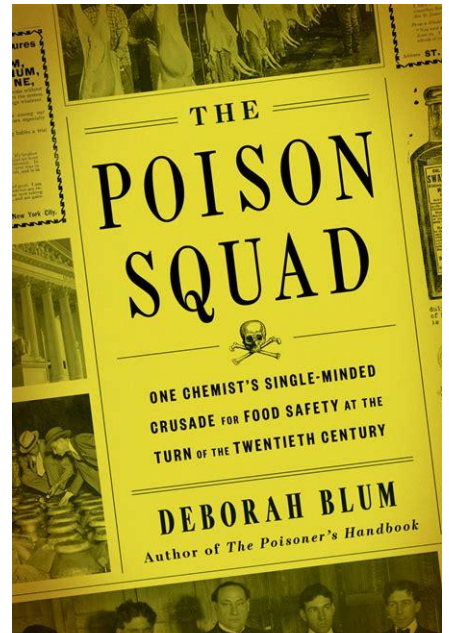


No oversight meant that there were no penalties for unsafe products. The human health effects of some of these additives had never been re-

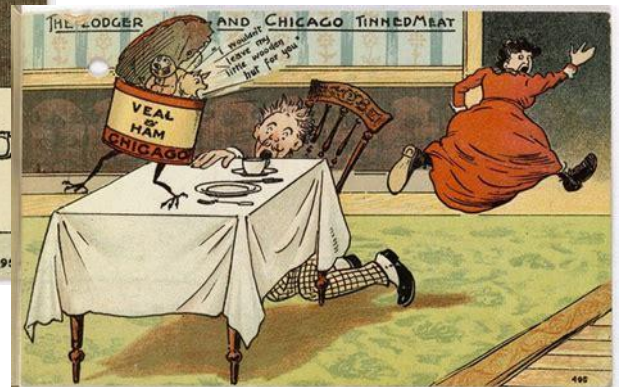
searched. Dr. Wiley gathered a group of young male volunteers and began experiments. He did this by providing all meals for the group which

contained the additive he was concerned with. The volunteers' diet was completely controlled and good records were kept, allowing the effects of an ingredient to be evaluated.

The daring group of volunteers became known as "The Poison Squad" and their participation resulted in some ground breaking research. The group itself resonated with the public and became the source of a lot of publicity for Dr. Wiley.



The doctor's work was a driving force in the establishment of the 1906 Pure Food and Drug Act, which was followed by the founding of the Food and Drug Administration.



WORDS

- HARVEY WASHINGTON WILEY
- USDA CHEMIST
- HARMFUL ADDITIVES
- THE POISON SQUAD
- 1906 PURE FOOD AND DRUG ACT



JANUARY CHALLENGE TRACKER:

Every time you work a new station this month, mark off the lowest box under each letter of the call to track your progress and see what letters you still need. You can download a printable version of this month's tracker at: http://naqcc.info/challenge_tracker.pdf

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 0 | 1 | 6 | 9 | A | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | L | M | N | O | P | Q | R | S | T | U | V | W | Y |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The easiest way is to use the great tool hosted by Robby WB5RVZ. Create an account, choose this month's challenge, and paste in all the eligible calls you worked. It will apply the letters, tell you what you're missing, and fill out the email for you. <http://naqccletters.azurewebsites.net/>

If you want to do it by hand, or got some but not all of the words and want to pick up a participation point, send an email to

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month) Challenge

Body:

your call:

word1 - call1 call2 call3

word2 - call1 call2 call3

RULES:

Just make ALL the words from calls of stations you work subject to the General Challenge Rules. (Any spaces in the phrases should be ignored. For example the challenge phrase "INVERTED V ANTENNA" should be treated as if it is the single word "INVERTEDVANTENNA.")

Each letter in a callsign you work during the month can be used twice to complete the challenge words. Complete rules, information, and a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge along with detailed general rules and submission instructions can be found at

http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

February's The Night Witches Challenge is the bomb.
<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202202.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our Flying Santa Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202112.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_sdchedule.html.

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

CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

WB4OMM: Finally had some air time! Got 'em all! Happy Holidays! 72/73, Steve

AK3X : That one went fast. Got down to needing 2 letter "L" and found N3FLL Frank. The most fun is getting those last letters.

N8RVE: While my main rig was being repaired, I resorted to my QCX 40 after dusting it off, and got involved with the word challenge for the first time. What a lot of fun, wish I had done them sooner. The online app for keeping track is a real blessing, Thanks to everyone involved in this program. 73/72 N8RVE John

AB9BZ: These challenges really add to the joy of getting on the air. Thanks for the challenge, Happy Holidays 72 ab9bz

KF6C: First NAQCC challenge. Received new Elecraft K4 on the 9th, great fun playing with it working the challenge.



NAQCC 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 |
| Wyoming Daily QRS 80 Meter Net (WY80) | Daily 6:30 AM MST | Daily 1330 Z | 3565 kHz | Steve KE7UUJ (WY) |
| East Texas QRS Net (ETN) | Monday 7pm CST | Tuesday 0100 Z | 7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter | Allen KA5TJS (TX) |
| Midwest QRS Net (MWN) | Monday 7:30 CST | Tuesday 0130 Z | 7031 kHz | Bob W0CC (KS) |
| Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80) | Thursday 5 PM PST | Friday 0100 Z | 3556.5 kHz | Stewart KE7LKW (WA) |

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

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

NAQCC WYOMING DAILY QRS 80 METER NET (WY80)

Daily at 6:30 AM MST which is 13:30 UTC, on 3565 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Steve KE7UUJ (Wyoming)

(Listing of stations checking in during the week. # after call = number of check-ins that week.)

Week of Dec 19 – NCS KE7UUJ (7), K0AMY, WB7GR (6), WB7S (4), WC7S (5), KG7VTO, KA0WKG

Week of Dec 26 – NCS KE7UUJ (6), WB7GR (2), WC7S (2), WB7S

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC,

on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Dec 07 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

80 meters was good last night. 599/589 respectively last night. Thunderstorms here earlier but cleared out by net time.

Dec 14 – No Net.

Dec 21 – QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN, WN0WWY
Signals were pretty good tonight, 599,589,589 and 579 respectively. Good to have Dave from KS join in tonight. Hope all have a Merry Christmas and CUL.

Dec 28 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA
Well, we had CW QRM on both sides last night and then digital QRM on top of us but was able to copy almost all! Great last net for 2021. Hope for great conditions next year! HNY to all and CU soon.

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130* UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Dec 06 – QNI (3) W0CC, N8HWV, NN4EC
NN4EC, Ed is just starting with CW and we WELCOME him to the net! It is ALWAYS good to hear from Nate, N8HWV!

Dec 13 – QNI (0) W0CC
There was a LOT of QRN. Could not hear any stations, including W1AW. Dave heard W5DT calling CQ.

Dec 20 – QNI (2) W0CC, K4JPN
Dave, AB9BZ, was only able to receive one of the local nets here. Steve, K4JPN, in GA, had a good signal and great fist.

Dec 27 – QNI (0) W0CC
Several stations calling CQ on adjacent frequencies; however, no responses tonight!

NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0100 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Dec 03 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AD7BP

Dec 10 – QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WS7DA, W7ANM, KJ7KDB

Dec 17 – QNI (3) NCS WB4SPB, KI7SJE, AD7BP

Dec 24 – QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AD7BP, N0DA, W7ANM

Dec 31 – QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, KI7SJE, AD7BP, N0DA, W7ANM, KJ7KDB



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—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 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/>.

ANCLOTE PARK

December 18, 2021

Attending:

Ron, N9EE

Don, KA2KDP

Jim, N0NL

Frank, KK4YDF

Bill, KO4UAF

Tim, WB8MVU



Arrived at Anclote Gulf Park at 9AM with gear of IC705 w/Elecraft T1 tuner and battery, FT817 & uSDX HF Xcvr, 40m OCF dipole with 20 ft portable flag pole, two 20m Ham Sticks as dipole on 8 ft tripod and Elecraft AX1 20 & 40m vertical on camera tripod.

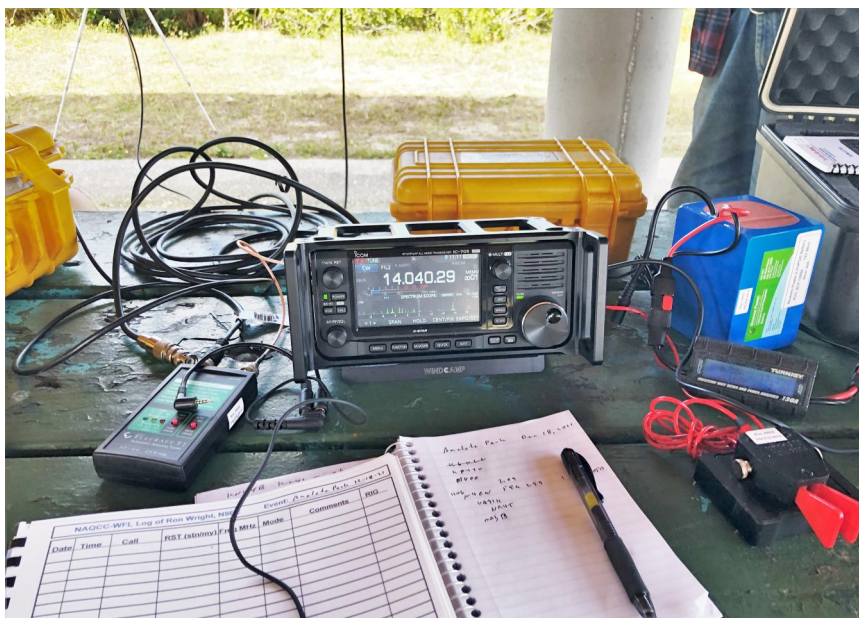
Setup IC705 with battery with Elecraft AX1 antenna T1 tuner. Assembled 40m OCD Dipole on 20ft flag pole. Elecraft AX1 vertical set to 20m w/T1 tuner on camera tripod.

LOG:

| TIME | CALL | FREQ | ANT | ST | TST | MY NR |
|------|--------|---------|------|----|-----|-------|
| 1106 | N4CW | 14.050 | OCFD | | 299 | 1 |
| 1128 | AA3B | 14.040 | OCFD | PA | 491 | 2 |
| 1136 | K2NV | 14.0066 | OCFD | NJ | | 3 |
| 1138 | 9A? | 14.021 | AX1 | | | |
| 1142 | VE7KW | 14.026 | OCFD | BC | | |
| 1145 | VE3FP | 14.027 | OCFD | BC | | 4 |
| 1152 | VE3BXG | 14.027 | OCFD | ON | | 5 |
| 1153 | N5EE | 14.028 | OCFD | AR | | 6 |
| 1220 | VE3KIU | 14.030 | OCFD | ON | | 7 |
| 1224 | K4RUM | 14.9385 | OCFD | NY | | 8 |
| 1226 | WB4HFK | 14.040 | OCFD | FL | 227 | 9 |
| 1227 | K4WW | 14.042 | OCFD | KY | 305 | 10 |
| 1242 | VE3MM | 14.036 | OCFD | ON | | 11 |
| 1246 | K6WSC | 21.026 | OCFD | AZ | 214 | 12 |
| 1247 | VE3ZY | 21.0255 | OCVD | ON | | 13 |
| 1249 | VE7CA | 21.022 | OCFD | BC | | 14 |
| 1255 | VE3UZ | 21.031 | OCFD | ON | | 15 |
| 1256 | VE3OI | 21.030 | OCFD | ON | | 16 |
| 1302 | KN7T | 21.026 | OCFD | WA | 150 | 17 |
| 1303 | VA7ST | 21.019 | OCFD | BC | | 18 |
| 1306 | WU6P | 21.018 | OCFD | CA | 176 | 19 |



The OCF Dipole outperformed the Elecraft AX1 by 7-8 S units on receive. For half the contacts switched between the AX1 and OCFD and calls on AX1 got little reply.





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>.

On Friday, December 18th, 2020, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held our latest "Operation in the Park" at the Candace R. Strawn/Lake Dias Park in DeLeon Springs, Florida. This is one of our favorite parks of the year. This 20-acre park includes a boat launch, RV camping, playground, pavilions, grills, picnic tables and restrooms. It's quiet (usually), serene, and not heavily populated. A great ham radio location!

We had an EXCELLENT time while at Lake Dias today. When the group arrived between 9:30AM and 10:00AM, it was roughly 70-75



degrees....it was unusually warm. When we left around 12:30PM, it was 80 degrees. Yeah....it was a HOT one today.

This trip we had a total of 2 members/ 2 operators on 2 radios in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5913; Rick AA4W #1628.



Steve WB4OMM #5913

Elecraft KX-3, Code Warrior Paddle, 5W to a 20M Hamstick Vertical.

Steve worked 9 members including WA9TUT IL #8375; K2CWM NJ #3457; K9OSC MN #3894; WA8SAN OH #792; KB1M NH #8058; WA2NYY NY #6388; W5MMI TX #8562; AJ8S OH #6829; KD3CA PA #6602



Rick AA4W #1628

Elecraft KX-3 to an end-fed wire. Rick worked 1 non member of 40M: N4DT SC, 1 non member on 30M: K1MZG RI and 3 members and 2 non members on 20M: KD3CA PA #6602; WA9TUT IL #8375; K2CWM NJ #3457; NJ8L OH and K3BOK (300 mw)



The View from the Dock

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

Next Month's Scheduled Event

Friday, January 21st, 2022

starting at 9:30 AM EST

Hontoon Island State Park (2309 River Ridge Rd
DeLand, FL 32720)

WHO: "The Usual Suspects" – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS, Phil NW4X and Steve K8SR (and whoever else can make it).

Visit our Web Page:

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

72/73 to all – Nicole KM4SBQ, #8749

The NAQCC-FL Chapter wishes all of our friends sincere, warm wishes, for a safe and prosperous New Year!



The operator's POV

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.

Greetings all from the frigid northeast. I think it is safe to say that our expeditions to the outdoors, excluding Winter Field Day and the FYBO, are pretty much on hold till spring. I would like to say that we all have winter projects that will be fun to see in action. I have heard rumblings of some QCX transceivers, QDX transceivers, at least two Penntek TR25 transceivers, and I myself have been working on my uBitX to make it better on CW.



The December NAQCC Challenge hit quite close to home. Our very own Joan, W1DLC (#2068) took on that challenge. She has done challenges in the past but this one was proving quite difficult. She got down to the last day and she needed the letter "I". Joan has her Father's call and as she sat there scanning 80 meters, she believed her father was out there saying "OK, Joan, it is time to finish this challenge. How about a call with 3 "I"s and call it good". At 2155 local, she heard Richard, N3III calling CQ. She worked him and completed the December Challenge!

Looking forward to a new year where we can get together and participate in events. See you down the log.
Very 73,
Jeff, KA1DBE

MY CHALLENGE: W1DLC THE FLYING SANTA CHALLENGE

Eligible Letters for Your Challenge: 129ACDEFGHLMNOPRSTUVWY

| Letter | 1 | 2 | 9 | A | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U | V | W | Y | Total |
|-----------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------|
| Required | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 85 |
| Matched | 1 | 1 | 2 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 9 | 7 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 2 | 85 |
| Remaining | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

W1DLC QSO Calls

| ID | QSO-Call | Remaining Letters | Matched Word Letters | Action |
|-------|----------|-------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 35334 | AA3EE | AAEEAAEE | none | Details |
| 35333 | AA9OM | AA9MAA9OM | none | Details |
| 35316 | K1GC | C1C | 3 | Details |
| 35385 | K1PUG | 1UG1UG | 2 | Details |
| 35341 | KSSJC | CSC | 1 | Details |
| 35376 | K9VEG | 9VE9VEG | 1 | Details |
| 34673 | KA5CRL | none | 8 | Details |
| 34641 | KD0YOB | none | 6 | Details |
| 34643 | KD6F | DDF | 1 | Details |

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 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>.

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 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.



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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

| | | |
|--|---------------|------------------------|
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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

