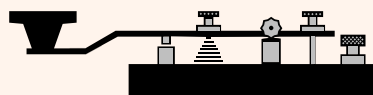


# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 286 • APRIL 2022



## KEY CLICKS

### • IN THIS ISSUE

The Prez Sez we have a new SE Director and need some html help; Some tips for cleaning your key; Members say they're heading outdoors; NAQCC is dominating the QRP category in the QSO Parties; Some help with 3830Scores.com; Portable ops in the dark; Sprint reports; Portable success and antenna fails; A challenge that should ring a bell; Friendly awards, Net reports; and all quiet on the chapter front.

### • GUITAR CW FROM NEW ZEALAND

Chris ZL4RA managed a CW QSO on electric guitar. Not the best fist, but it's got a good beat and you can dance to it. I give it a 579. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nb85M-hWLZ8>



### • 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](mailto: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](http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html)

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

## GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!

Congratulations to **Gary Lyons AF7T** who has been appointed as the SE Regional Director. Special thanks to the three other members who submitted for the position.....great applicants and much appreciated!

## A LITTLE HTML HELP NEEDED

While I'm at it.....I am looking for someone with some minimal experience in web page (html) modification. Every month, the Sprint and Challenge sections pages need updating. I've been doing them for some time now, but it would be nice (and a load off me!) if I could find two folks to take over the administration of these two activities. Generally, it is just updating a spreadsheet and two individual pages every month – so just some Excel knowledge and I use FileZilla and Komodo for the page, both free programs and pretty easy to learn – even for a non-coding person like me! Only takes about an hour or so at best once a month. If you are interested, please send me an e-mail and let me know.

## FCC FEES

IMPORTANT.... effective April 19th, 2022 the FCC is now charging a \$35 fee for amateur transactions for all new, renewal, trustee change, and vanity call sign applications. All fees will be per application. NO FEE: Administrative updates, such as a change of name, mailing or email address, or license cancellation. More details are forthcoming, but

here is a link to read about most of the change and how it affects us:

[www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee](http://www.arrl.org/fcc-application-fee).

## SEND IN YOUR NEWS

Our Newsletter Editor Brent WT4U is always looking for submissions for the Newsletter - anything related to NAQCC, QRP CW. Send Spotlight Editor Paul K2DMX an e-mail if you have something to submit or need more information - kd2mx@arrl.net .

## APRIL NAQCC ACTIVITIES:

- Regular Monthly Sprint – Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 0030-0230 Z- (That's the evening of Tuesday, April 12th, 2022 for us here in North America).  
<http://naqcc.info/contests.html>
- Monthly Challenge - April 2022 Challenge – The Bell Casting Challenge -  
<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202204.html>
- Weekly Nets -  
[http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html)

Hope to see you in the Sprints! Stay safe and get radio-active! Have FUN!

**72/73!**

**Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913**  
**NAQCC President**



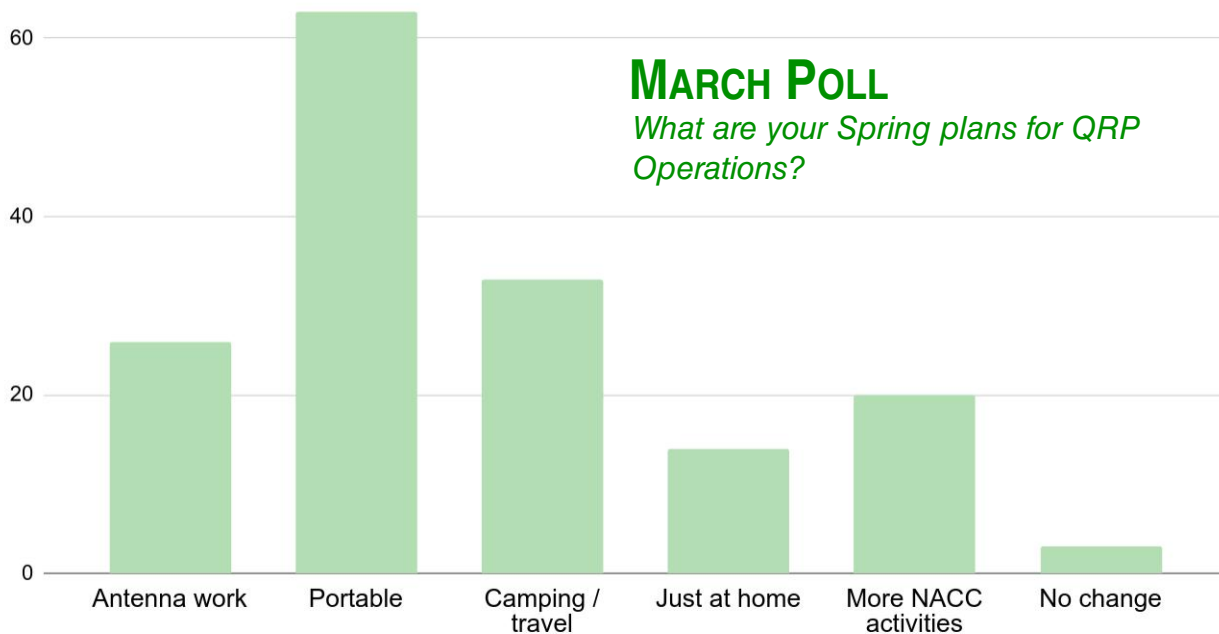
***A little bit of QRP on a wire goes a long way!***



# MEMBER POLL

## APRIL POLL

Are you planing some antenna work / upgrades in April to go along with your yard work and Spring planting activities? Let us know at [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

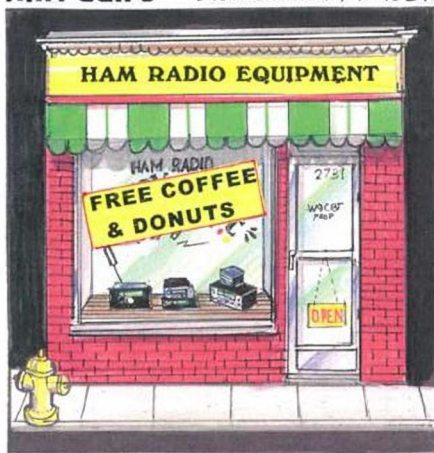


## MARCH POLL

What are your Spring plans for QRP Operations?



**HAM QUIPS** DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



© 3-31-08 W9CBT "DICK"

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](http://www.lulu.com).

# CLEANING KEY CONTACTS

BY GENE N5GW #5353

Almost all mechanical electrical contacts, whether they are morse keys, relays or other, eventually require some form of cleaning to restore their original state. This is because of the occurrence of oxidation, contact melting, or accumulation of foreign material (dust, dander, etc.). The results can be increased ohmic resistance and pitting, or irregularity of the contact surfaces.

Home-made or economy keys seem to be more susceptible than high-end keys, probably due to the fact that higher quality metals are employed in the contacts of the latter.

Using a dust cover or simply storing the key in a bag or drawer helps, but sooner or later it will be necessary to physically rub the contacts with a cleaner of some sort. A strip of paper may help temporarily, but may leave fibers behind. Sprays are messy and usually ineffective. Fine sandpaper or files will work, but have the disadvantage of removing metal and leaving scratches on the surfaces.

## THE RIGHT TOOL

By far the best cleaning method I have found is by using a burnishing tool. Two examples are shown in the photo. This simple device consists of a thin, flexible metal strip coated with a fine abrasive. The strip is placed between the contacts, usually not requiring adjustment, and pushed back and forth to

remove any foreign material. Also the burnishing action is said to smooth and actually harden the contact surfaces, making them more resistant to wear.

Since the contacts on my homebrew rake-tine key are of comparatively poor quality, I like to touch them up with a burnishing tool just before a sprint. Also I try to keep the dit contacts in good shape on my left-handed bug, because there is only slight keying pressure here. Less often I use the tool to clean my KX3 attached keyer.

## PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE

There are few things more frustrating than having your morse key go intermittent during a QSO, sprint or net check-in. Therefore I recommend periodic clean-up using a BT!



# NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE UPDATE

## THE PARTY'S JUST GETTING STARTED

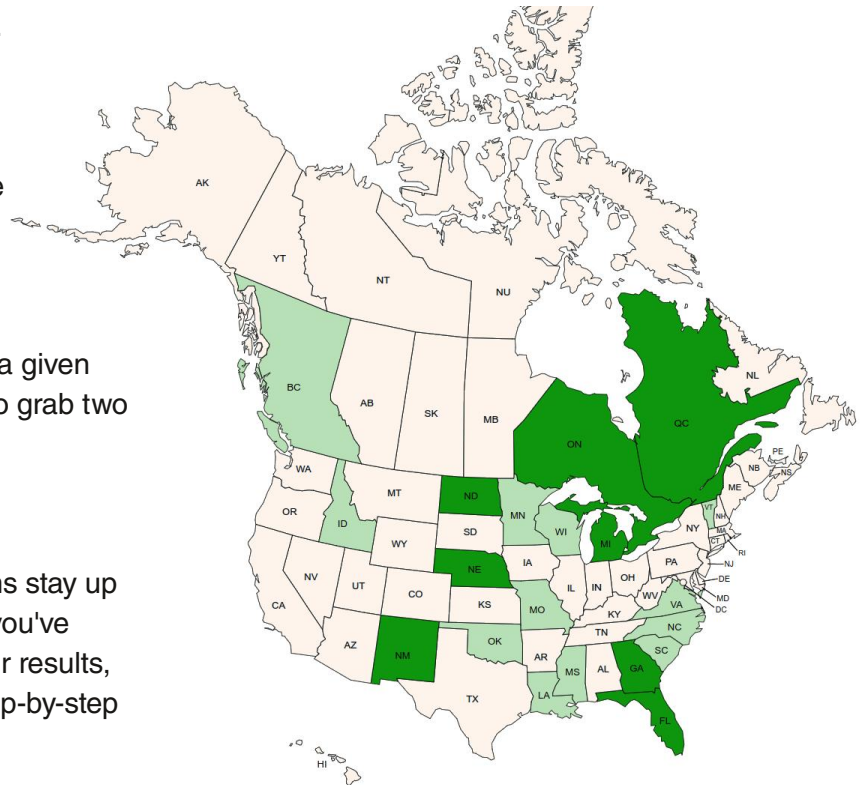
It's still early in the QSO Party season. The coming weekends are going to be busy. As you work events and add multipliers your score will increase exponentially, so don't think it's too late to start.

## GRAB THAT MULTIPLIER!

Even if you can't spend much time on a given weekend, fire up the rig long enough to grab two quick QSOs to earn the multiplier.

## POST YOUR RESULTS

The 3830Scores.com submission forms stay up for a few weeks after the events, so if you've worked parties, but haven't posted your results, get on over there. See page 7 for a step-by-step guide to help you fill out the form.



| Upcoming QSO Parties |        |       |        |       |                       |
|----------------------|--------|-------|--------|-------|-----------------------|
|                      | Start  |       | End    |       | Links                 |
|                      | Date   | Time  | Date   | Time  |                       |
| Nebraska             | Apr 09 | 1300Z | Apr 10 | 0100Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
|                      | Apr 10 | 1300Z | Apr 10 | 2200Z |                       |
| New Mexico           | Apr 09 | 1400Z | Apr 10 | 0200Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Georgia              | Apr 09 | 1800Z | Apr 10 | 0359Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
|                      | Apr 10 | 1400Z | Apr 10 | 2359Z |                       |
| North Dakota         | Apr 09 | 1800Z | Apr 10 | 1800Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Michigan             | Apr 16 | 1600Z | Apr 17 | 0400Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Ontario              | Apr 16 | 1800Z | Apr 17 | 0500Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
|                      | Apr 17 | 1200Z | Apr 17 | 1800Z |                       |
| Quebec               | Apr 17 | 1200Z | Apr 17 | 2000Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
| Florida              | Apr 30 | 1200Z | May 01 | 2000Z | <a href="#">Rules</a> |
|                      | May 01 | 1200Z | May 01 | 2159Z |                       |

## STANDINGS AT PRESS TIME

| Member              | Mult | QSOs | Score | Award  | Pace   |
|---------------------|------|------|-------|--------|--------|
| Alan KR4AE, #5847   | 8    | 346  | 2,768 | Bronze | 42,462 |
| Mike W7LG, #10391   | 12   | 183  | 2,196 | Bronze | 33,687 |
| Don VE3DQN, #5846   | 12   | 141  | 1,692 | Bronze | 25,956 |
| Brent WT4U, #9019   | 12   | 136  | 1,632 | Bronze | 25,035 |
| Dave AB9BZ, #9309   | 12   | 106  | 1,272 | Bronze | 19,513 |
| Anthony K8ZT, #412  | 12   | 79   | 948   | Bronze | 14,543 |
| John W2QL, #8914    | 8    | 93   | 744   | Bronze | 11,413 |
| Rick KY0Q, #9647    | 6    | 98   | 588   | Bronze | 9,020  |
| Will NQ2W, #4839    | 3    | 74   | 222   | -      | 3,406  |
| Dale WC7S, #272     | 3    | 66   | 198   | -      | 3,037  |
| Don KI4MZC, #10922  | 4    | 47   | 188   | -      | 2,884  |
| Vin W1VKE, #10599   | 1    | 56   | 56    | -      |        |
| Mark KC4GIA, #2385  | 1    | 48   | 48    | -      |        |
| Mark NX1K, #1949    | 1    | 45   | 45    | -      |        |
| Mike KD9LTN, #10671 | 1    | 13   | 13    | -      |        |
| Jerry K4KBL, #8806  | 1    | 8    | 8     | -      |        |
| Dave N3CI, #7912    | 1    | 3    | 3     | -      |        |
| Kevin KI4DEF, #247  | 1    | 3    | 3     | -      |        |

## HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Work the QSO parties. Rules differ slightly by state, so check those. Work at least two stations in each state.
2. Post a summary of your results for each QSO Party to the appropriate page on <https://www.3830scores.com> The links to the submittal forms are in on the left side of the page in yellow.
3. Under "club" choose "other" and then type in NAQCC. If enough people do that we can get added to the pulldown menu. If you're already committed to another club, don't worry about it. It won't affect our friendly competition, but it's nice to get some visibility for the club.
4. Some QSO Parties lump CW together with digital or other modes. If that happens, send a note to QSO Party Challenge Man-

ager Don VE3DQN at [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net) and let him know that you worked strictly CW, or if mixed, how many of your contacts were CW.

5. Check the NAQCC Newsletter each month to see how everyone is doing.

## NOTES

Individual QSO Parties will do their own official scoring based on uploaded Cabrillo logs. We're just looking at the summary you post to 3830scores.

To participate, you must enter as a QRP station. You don't have to limit yourself to CW operation, but only those QSOs will count toward the NAQCC QSO Party Challenge.

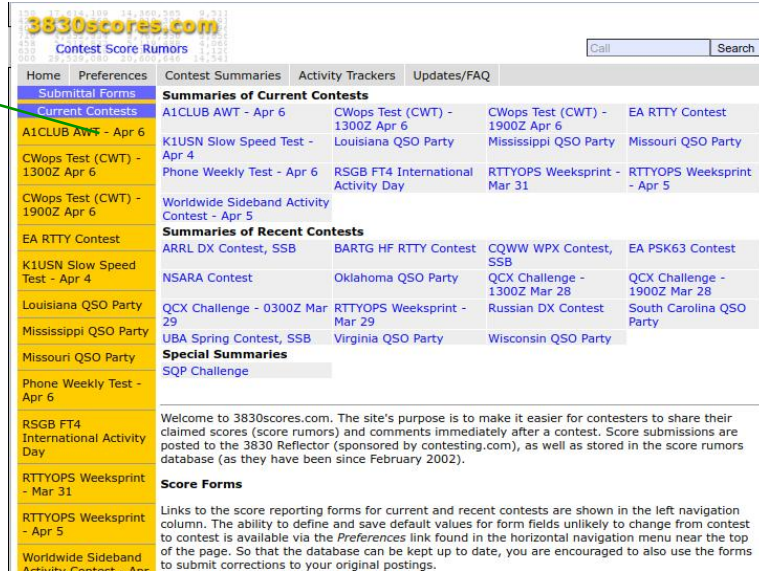
Questions? Read Don VE3DQN's [November article](#) or contact him at: [don@hekman.net](mailto:don@hekman.net)



# HOW TO USE 3830SCORES.COM

Find and click on the appropriate contest in the yellow sidebar

**3830Scores.com** is a self-reported brag site for contesters. We use it to collect data for our NAQCC QSO Party Challenge. Posting your scores there also lets you compare progress with all the stations in the main QSO Party Challenge.



Fill in or select an option for every box outlined in red

New Submission  Correct Previous Submission

Submitter's E-mail Address\*   Send copy to this e-mail address.  
 Location  Check the box to get an email confirmation

Call Used\*  Operator(s) Call(s)  Station Call

Class\*  Power\*  Check all that apply:  SO2R  2BSIQ  Remote operation

Op Time (hrs)  QTH  Club  Choose "other" then type in NAQCC (not required)

Club not on list

Summary:

|        | CW Qs                           | Ph Qs                          | RTTY Qs                        | FTn Qs                         |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 80     | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| 40     | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| 20     | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| 15     | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| 10     | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| 6      | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| 2      | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| UHF    | <input type="text"/>            | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           | <input type="text"/>           |
| Total* | <input type="text" value="10"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> | <input type="text" value="0"/> |

Mults\*  Total Score\*

*Don't forget the zeros for those other modes.*

*Calculate your score based on the individual contest rules. In this case: 2 pts each for CW contacts X 8 counties, plus 100 pts for working the bonus station*

Comments: (unlimited length, copy and paste from your log summary sheet if you wish)  
**Note:** Do not include your log in the comments field

Click to submit. If your form is rejected, read the error message *carefully*. It will tell you what you missed.



# NIGHT PORTABLE WITH THE LNR PRECISION MTR-4B

BY BRENT WT4U #9019

I'm so tickled to be the lucky winner of last year's grand prize, the LNR Precision MTR-4B V2, a wonderfully tiny 4-band QRP CW rig. It's pocket size and has all the features you need for portable ops.

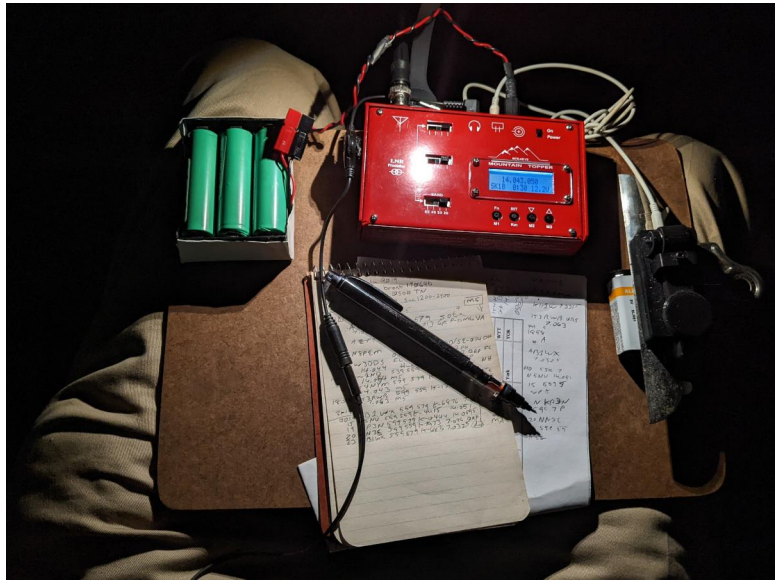
## DESKBOUND

I'm also somewhat embarrassed that I've had the radio for months and it hasn't left my desk. I've used it quite a bit in our sprints and off and on for daily operating, but always hooked up to my shack's battery and 80m EFHW. In crowded conditions with QRO stations, the tight IF filtering makes it much better than my wide-open FT-817ND and homebrew NESCAF filter.

Keeping up QRP CW QSO-a-day habit means that trips to visit family involve packing a radio and some wire. My North Carolina excursion last month coincided with the Virginia QSO Party. Don VE3DQN has me hooked on these with the new NAQCC QSO Party Challenge. I didn't figure I'd have a chance to make many QSOs, but I needed at least two for the multiplier.

## WIRE IN A TREE, CHAIR ON THE DECK

The back yard in Cary, NC is shallow, but has a great deck and some trees and after a few attempts I made a nice diagonal shot through the bare branches. To keep a low profile in the HOA neighborhood, I quickly replaced the florescent yellow throw line with some tiny twine and pulled the black homemade 40m end-fed into a lopsided too-high inverted-V fed with an 8-inch coax jumper and a 2m counterpoise draped over the deck rail.



## I LIKE THE NIGHT LIFE

Turns out some of the best time to get out of the way and on the air was after dark. Good for those short 40m hops to Virginia, but I also made it as far as California and Puerto Rico on 20m. A book light gripping my clipboard and the radio's backlit LCD made for a great lap shack. The three-18650 battery pack sustained well over 12v for the long weekend, so no need for the backup 9v.

## LESSONS LEARNED

- When you're in NC, quit sending "TN." Apologies to the first dozen or so stations.
- Just because the steel clip is the only thing the key's magnets will stick to doesn't mean it's a good place for it. The ergonomics (too high, too close) didn't help my fist one bit!
- Put some strain relief on that antenna transformer. You won't always have a soldering iron to fix things.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

## APRIL SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, April 13, 2022 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, April 12th in North America. Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202204.html>.

## RULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_rules.html](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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html).

## MARCH SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202203.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: AA5AD, KQ0E, N0QBX, WB4IT, N0IPA, W9YO, AI5EQ, & KJ4WNA

| March Sprint     |               |                |                 |             |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                  | Current Month | Previous Month | All-Time Record | Record Date |
| Logs             | 111           | 75             | 217             | 4/17        |
| Participants     | 145           | 107            | 269             | 2/13        |
| Total QSOs       | 1491          | 942            | 3154            | 4/17        |
| Hour 1 QSOs      | 831           | 544            | 1704            | 4/17        |
| Hour 2 QSOs      | 660           | 398            | 1450            | 4/17        |
| 20m QSOs         | 285           | 30             | 1232            | 8/13        |
| 40m QSOs         | 1133          | 519            | 2203            | 4/17        |
| 80m QSOs         | 73            | 393            | 1417            | 2/13        |
| Avg QSOs/Station | 13.4          | 12.6           | 19.3            | 9/11        |

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY |        |                         |        |
|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------|--------|
| Division                  | 1st    | 2nd                     | 3rd    |
| W1                        | K1MZM  | KN1H                    | WB1GYZ |
| W2                        | KA2KGP | W2JEK                   | W2SH   |
| W3                        | K3JZD  | KD3CA                   | KC3MIO |
| W4                        | KY4ID  | K4BAI                   | KC5F   |
| W5                        | N5GW   | AI5EQ                   | AC5BX  |
| W6                        | -      | -                       | -      |
| W7                        | K7ZI   | AE7TG                   | -      |
| W8                        | W8GG   | KI8JY<br>K3CTN<br>(TIE) | -      |
| W9                        | WB9HFK | N8HWV                   | K9NUD  |
| W0                        | N0TA   | KD0DK                   | N0IPA  |
| Canada                    | VE3KZ  | VA3NU                   | VE3IIM |
| DX                        | -      | -                       | -      |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY |        |       |       |
|------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Division         | 1st    | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| W1               | W1ND   | -     | -     |
| W2               | -      | -     | -     |
| W3               | NN3E   | K3WWP | -     |
| W4               | K3RLL  | KJ4R  | AA2MX |
| W5               | AA5AD  | WI5H  | -     |
| W6               | -      | -     | -     |
| W7               | N7QR   | -     | -     |
| W8               | K8NGW  | -     | -     |
| W9               | K9DRP  | -     | -     |
| W0               | WD0K   | -     | -     |
| Canada           | VE3HUR | -     | -     |
| DX               | -      | -     | -     |

| SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY |       |        |        |
|-----------------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| Division                    | 1st   | 2nd    | 3rd    |
| W1                          | KB1M  | N2CN   | -      |
| W2                          | K2OID | WA1GWH | N2ESE  |
| W3                          | KC3RN | AC5XK  | KD3FG  |
| W4                          | N4MJ  | K4KRW  | K4KBL  |
| W5                          | W5WIL | KA6J   | KE5YUM |
| W6                          | -     | -      | -      |
| W7                          | KF7Z  | KI7LW  | -      |
| W8                          | WI8J  | WA8SAN | -      |
| W9                          | KY0Q  | AB9BZ  | -      |
| W0                          | N8LA  | KQ0E   | WU0A   |
| Canada                      | VE7YU | VE3DQN | -      |
| DX                          | DK1VD | -      | -      |

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

| FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE |       |       |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Key Type                      | 1st   | 2nd   | 3rd   |
| SK                            | N0IPA | W9YO  | AI5EQ |
| BUG                           | AA5AD | -     | -     |
| K/K                           | KQ0E  | N0QBX | WB4IT |
| PRIZE DRAWING WINNER          |       |       |       |
| KC3RN                         |       |       |       |

## 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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

| Number of Sprints | Members  |
|-------------------|--|
| 50+               | WA1GWH KF7WNS WI5H WA2FBN VE3DQN WB9HFK NQ2W KC7DM AA0W WB1GYZ<br>KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU NN0SS KJ4R N7QR N8QY WY3H VE3GNU K6CSL W5UAA WD4OHD<br>WK6L KC2EGL K2HT KE9DR AB8FJ K4KBL K4ORD NN9K K5GQ K1IX N1JI W4HH KB4QQJ<br>KB9ILT |
| 75+               | NA4O N4MJ K4NVJ KQ1P N8LA VE3FUJ WD0K KD3CA K9EYT K9OSC N8BB K6MGO<br>WB4OMM NF5U N8APO N2CN KB1M  |
| 100+              | K1IEE WG8Y N0TA W4DUK K4KRW KD2MX WB8ENE AA9L AK3X NO2D KA9FQG N5GW<br>KN1H  |
| 125+              | K2CWM K4JPN N4FI KD0V KE5YUM N2ESE WX4RM WA8SAN  |
| 150+              | W8GG W9CC N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M K3RLL  |
| 175+              | KA2KGP W2JEK W2SH  |
| 200+              | K3WWP  |

### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**WB4OMM** - Holy Kow!! 20M was OPEN! Could only do 30 mins tonight, but in that short time worked 23 members in 16 states! WY and CO out West, NH up North, TX to my SW and lots of Mid-America. Woowee! Maybe the spots ARE coming back! Band was pretty quiet too, although QSB was starting near the end of my session. What was really nice (other than working old friends!) was 3 of those folks ?I worked were 10K plus numbers, meaning newer members! GLAD TO SEE THAT!! Hope you all had as much fun as I did. Hope to see everyone in next month's Sprint. Stay safe! 73, Steve

**K4KBL** - Only on for an hour tonight but nice to work a few 5 digit club member. KY4ID with 11080 GREAT !! Also nice to work old friends like W8GG with his fancy new call ;)

**KQ0E** - 1st Monthly Sprint for me. Good fun. Thanks to Ron (AC2C) for his e-consult to help me get SprintLogger configured for an IC-705.

**KJ4WNA** - My first NAQCC Sprint! Not a home run, but I had a great time getting out of my comfort zone. Thanks and 73 to everybody!

**W1ND** - Wow, 40 was hopping tonight. Usually I get most of my contacts on 80, but I got about 4x on 40. QSB and QRN was rough, but heard and worked more in 1 hour of this sprint than the previous full sprints this year. The time change and an early morning meeting prevents me from going the full 2 hours, but this was so much fun.

# PROJECTS AND PORTABLE OPS

BY DAVE WA4NID #9117

Well I've been looking at the NAQCC newsletters and wondering how I will "up my game" to get more involved. I am inspired by all the reports of those building gear, organizing "excursions" to operate portable in parks, and participating in on-the-air events like sprints and contests. Hopefully I will join you more in the events on the air this year.

## PROJECTS

I am a builder, and I have been spending lots of time building simple circuits, mainly audio oscillators, but also some kits and antennas. Since I have so many projects planned, or "in the works," it can seem that my progress is slow, but when I complete something that is a success, it provides joy and satisfaction.

I thought I would first share two things, one a positive outcome from several trials, and another a (so far) negative result with an antenna design.

## CAPACITY HAT ANTENNA ATTEMPTED

Let's look at the negative result. I seem to spend a lot of time in the car traveling with my wife, and while we chat or listen to car radio sometimes, other times she lets me dive into my notebooks. One of those sessions resulted in me using an old idea from the G-QRP CLUB ANTENNA HANDBOOK, 1992, p. 101-102. It was an antenna shortened with a top capacity hat and built simply with wires.

My version of the design used a tripod-mounted telescoping MFJ fiberglass mast with just 20 feet of vertical wire connected at top to three tophat

wires which serve as guys (sloping down to near earth, with twine to ground stakes). The feedpoint is at the bottom with used ladderline (Wireman 400-ohm window line) feed. One of the conductors goes to the vertical wire, and the other goes to two radials, each about 30 feet long.

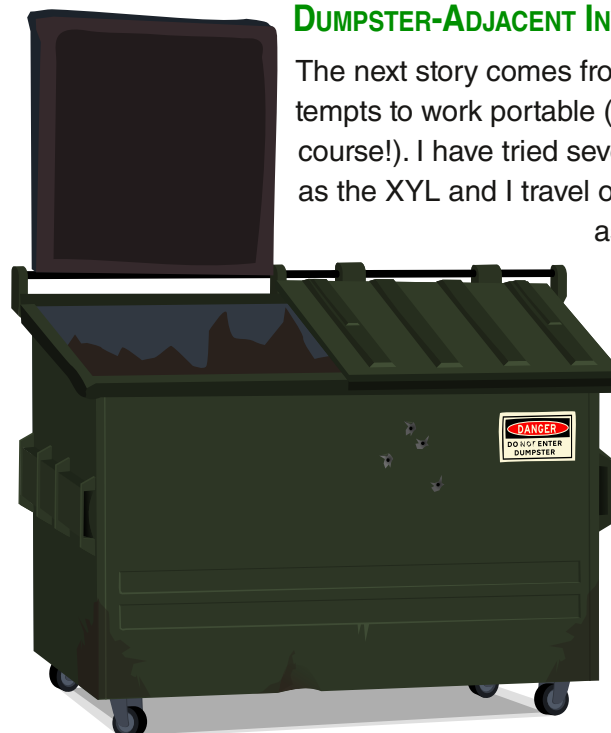
My tophat/guy wires were each 13 feet. I tried matching the system by connecting the ladder line feed to my trusty MFJ-901B but no match was obtainable on 40m. I did get a match using a MFJ-949E tuner but this is not really a portable device, and after much calling it seems I was not being heard.

So that was a negative result, but it was fun to try. And I do not want it to be the last trial, as I feel it has promise and may yet work with more tweaking! Has anyone tried this kind of design and found success?

## DUMPSTER-ADJACENT INVERTED-V

The next story comes from my ongoing attempts to work portable (QRP CW of course!). I have tried several deployments as the XYL and I travel on vacations, and as I do testing via "backyard portable" deployments.

One vacation outing was very successful. I used a telescoping mast to erect a 40m inverted-V and worked





a bunch of stations in one afternoon in Virginia. We were in the back part of a resort, sort of an offshoot road, but there was a Dumpster nearby.

I was just getting things set up to deploy the antenna when a giant waste pickup truck came up to empty the dumpster. I realized that I was quite fortunate in the timing, since if the truck had come just half an hour later, I would have had to flag them down to prevent a disaster with my antenna! Their truck would have plowed into my antenna system! All went well though, and a couple of management type people from the resort even came out to ask us what we were doing. I explained and they were cool. I do need to be more careful in the future with operating site selection with respect to Dumpsters! Haha!

### MAKE A LIST

OK, there is one thing that I have learned from the various deployments. Planning and preparation are KEY. One time I didn't have the right adapters for hooking up all circuits, and another time I had everything except the headphones! ARGH! I didn't get too frustrated though, as I always look at my experiences as valuable training to be used in the future for more successful results.

Now I have started a list of things to bring for portable operations. The list must include ALL things needed. Maybe later I will share my list with you, but only after I have found it to be working with successful deployments! I hope this idea helps you and inspires you to get out into the great outdoors! It is a lot of fun to enjoy fresh air and RF signals on a day of nice weather.

### PORTABLE QRP RIGS

Finally, I have found the QRP Labs QCX rigs to be great when operating portable. I also just acquired a second uBitX v6, since I plan to keep one in the shack and take one on the road.

Let's all keep having fun with operating QRP as the sunspots are really heating up the action on the higher frequencies. I am having lots of good results with QRP on 160m and 80m at night too!



# NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE:

Need something? It is a pretty safe bet that you can have it delivered right to your door. The companies that do this are everywhere. How about ones that will actually make the item right there at your location? That narrows the field dramatically. There is one company that will fabricate a custom bell for you right at your site. They are the only one with a mobile foundry capability. We are talking about bells for churches, special events and other purposes. They may weigh hundreds of pounds and be of historically significant or contemporary design.

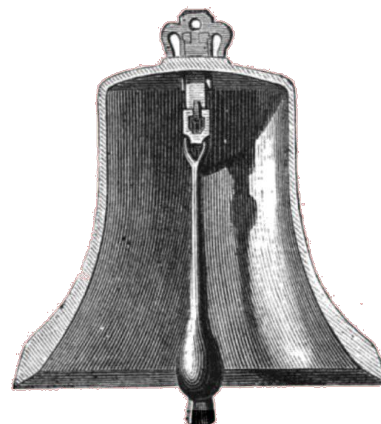


The Verdin company, of Cincinnati, Ohio, will design a bell to your unique specifications and then make the mold to create it. The mold is formed over a metal replica of the bell which has been made with all the required details and inscriptions. Their "Bell Foundry on Wheels" can then cast and polish the bell at your location. The foundry came to be in 2001, before the 2003 Ohio bicentennial. Bells were cast in each of the 88 Ohio counties as part of the celebration. The foundry has since worked across the US.

In 2019 one of their projects brought them to the Plimouth Plantation to cast a new ship's bell as part of the Mayflower II restoration. The 2,200 degree furnace, mounted on a semi trailer unit, along with other equipment, melted bronze ingots and medals donated by military veterans in preparation for the pour. The bell was poured and allowed to cool overnight. The next day it was

broken free from its mold, cleaned, hand polished and finally rung for the first time. It is an interest-

ing operation well worth viewing and provides a first quality product.





## NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

May's Robertson Screw Challenge offers an innovative twist.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202205.html>

## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our Phillips Code Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202203.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\\_schedule.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html)

| Number of Challenges | Members   |
|----------------------|---|
| 25+                  | KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX WB4OMM KU4A N1JI K9OSC KD0V KA5PVB WY3H N4OW KB1M VE3HUR WY7N KI4IO AC2C DK1VD N1LU KD2MX |
| 50+                  | VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U WA2FBN W3IQ AK3X G3JFS N9SE  |
| 75+                  | PA0XAW  |
| 100+                 | K1IEE K1YAN   |
| 125+                 |   |
| 150+                 | W2JEK K3WWP N8XMS   |

### CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**AC2C** - GREAT Challenge - lucky to get off to an early start and found a few "magic" callsigns.

**WT4U** - I figured it would take a while tracking down all those Ps, but then I remembered Puerto Rico! Thanks to WP4O for the final call. Another fun challenge!

**W1ND** - Most of my QSOs this month are /p with decent weather and excellent tests of my new /p antenna.

**WY7N** - Notice I had 12 1000MPW QSOs in this list and 15 DX QSOs!

**NX8Y** - That's a lot of P's! Had fun again this month. Keeps me on the air. Thanks to 15M propagation and PA1FP for my last P's.

**MOKTZ** - Good fun, and a good read about the Phillips Code. It was tricky to find all those Ts and Ps.... 72 de Enzo MOKTZ





# 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:

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Earn points for QSO's with members with more points being assigned to contest/sprint QSO's and especially where you really learn something about who you are working. Or work 200 different members counting each as simply a one-point QSO regardless of type. The choice is yours.

Details:

[http://naqcc.info/awards\\_workedmembers.html](http://naqcc.info/awards_workedmembers.html)

### NEW MEMBER AMBASSADOR

Work at least 25 different new members who have joined the NAQCC during the current calendar year. Details:

[http://naqcc.info/awards\\_ambassador.html](http://naqcc.info/awards_ambassador.html)

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 1000 MPW

| Nr   | Call  | Stn worked | - | MPW   | - | Award Date | - | Notes & Antenna  |
|------|-------|------------|---|-------|---|------------|---|------------------|
| 0584 | M0KTZ | KP4JRS     | - | 2,216 |   | 03/31/22   |   | ~13m random wire |
| 0583 | AA5AD | IK4IDF     | - | 1,045 |   | 03/21/22   |   | EF Dipole @25'   |

### 30/30

|      |   |       |          |          |
|------|---|-------|----------|----------|
| 0061 | - | PA9CW | Mar 2022 | 03/12/22 |
|------|---|-------|----------|----------|



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



# 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](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<br>6:30 AM <b>MDT</b> | Daily<br><b>1230</b> Z   | 3565 kHz                           | Steve KE7UUJ (WY)   |
| East Texas QRS Net (ETN)              | Monday<br>7pm <b>CDT</b>    | Tuesday<br><b>0000</b> Z | 7066 kHz Summer<br>3566 kHz Winter | Allen KA5TJS (TX)   |
| Midwest QRS Net (MWN)                 | Monday<br>7:30 <b>CDT</b>   | Tuesday<br><b>0030</b> Z | 7031 kHz                           | Bob W0CC (KS)       |
| Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80) | Thursday<br><b>7 PM PDT</b> | Friday<br><b>0200</b> 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 **MDT** which is **12:30** 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 Feb 27 – KE7UUJ (6), K7CLA (1), K7TRT (3), N7OOS (2), WB7GR (4), WB7S (5), WC7S (4), KG7VTO (2), KA6JLT (1)

Week of Mar 06 – KE7UUJ (7), K7TRT (1), WG7GR (5), WB7S (3), WC7S (4), AD0LI (1)

Week of Mar 13 – KE7UUJ (6), WB7GR (2), WB7S (1), WC7S (4)

Week of Mar 20 – KE7UUJ (6), WB7GR (3), WB7S (2), WC7S (3)

Week of Mar 27 – KE7UUJ (5), K7VTO (1), WB7S (4), WC7S (3)

## NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0030 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Mar 07 – No Net

Mar 14 – QNI (0) - W0CC

A lot of nearby stations calling amid the QRN. Dave was listening but could not hear the station.

Mar 12 – No Net

Mar 28 – No Net

## 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)

Mar 08 – QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KE5YUM, N4NN, AC5EH

Signals were good. YGA had a tornado touch down close to his QTH yesterday but no damage. NN checked in but had to unplug due to thunderstorms moving into the area. EH checked in for the second time and said he had local QRM so rough copy last night. He was 599 here and great copy.

Mar 15 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KE5YUM, N4NN

Real rough night! Had major storms just to the west of me moving east. The QRN level was S9+. Signals from AR were good but tough copy with the high noise levels. GA was uncopiable. First net after the time change on 80 meters. We will have to see how this works next week.

Mar 22 – No net tonight. Heavy weather and high QRN from thunderstorms all over ETX.

Mar 29 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KE5YUM, N4NN

Good conditions tonight on 80 meters 599/589/589. Noise level was pretty low for the end of March.

## NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PDT, which is Friday 0200 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Mar 04 – QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, N0DA, KJ7KDB, W7ANM, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, N7TB

Mar 11 – QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW, KI7SJE, N7TB, K8SAT

Mar 18 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, K7JUV, WB7WHG, N7TB, WB4SPB

Mar 25 – QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, KJ7KDB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, N7QR



# NAQCC CHAPTERS

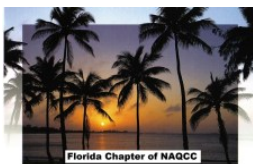
The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—but we would be more than happy to expand on that list. Chapters are more or less independent local gatherings organized by NAQCC members 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 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>.

## 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.

## 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/>.

## 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.

## 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.

## 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/>.

## 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>.

# NAQCC PRIZE SPONSORS



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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

|  |               |                        |
|--|---------------|------------------------|
| 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     |
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| Florida Chapter                            | Nikki KM4SBQ  | nickies1130@aol.com    |
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| 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

