NAQCC NORTH AMERICAN QRP CW CLUB

ISSUE 287 • MAY 2022



#### • In This Issue

The Prez Sez thanks; Putting numbers on a diet; A traditional response to electric guitar CW; Three field reports!; **Paul N8XMS #675** simplifies his shack and helps a lot of new hams; An extra-twisty Challenge; WFL Chapter report, A static-y Sprint; Poll results; Nets and more.

#### • 1,000-MILE PER WATT AND WAC WINNERS

Chris VE3CBK #7048 really blew out the 1000-mi/watt prize this month submitting 15 entries! He also used some of those long DX contacts to complete his 20m QRP-CW Worked All Continents. All on a low inverted-V. Bob K9OSC #3894 and Larry W7ZDX #7095 also stretched their watts out for the award.

#### • PORTABLE ANTENNAS, GOOD AND BAD

**Ron N9EE** #6145 logged some outdoor QSOs last month and pitted an EFHW against a whip vertical. No contest! **John KK4ITX** #7249 carried a quick-setup magnetic loop. What's your go-to for field ops?

#### • 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 ORP 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 <a href="http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php">http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php</a> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: <a href="http://naqcc.info/member\_updates.html">http://naqcc.info/member\_updates.html</a>

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

#### **GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!**

I'm sending this out a day early as I will be "on the road" for the Florida QSO party for the weekend. I'll be with the N4DAB club setting up in 7 different counties over the weekend. If you hear me, say "hi"!

#### THANKS FOR THE HELP

A HUGE THANK YOU to all of you who volunteered to help with some web page maintenance. Some 15 folks responded (several with some great qualifications and experience!)

My best wishes for a safe and happy Memorial Day Holiday – please done forget the reason for the holiday – say thanks to a Vet!

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

#### MAY NAQCC ACTIVITIES:

Regular Monthly Sprint – Thursday, May 19, 2022, 0030-0230 Z- (That's the evening of Wednesday, May 18th, 2022 for us here in North America). http://nagcc.info/contests.html

Monthly Challenge - May 2022 Challenge The Robertson Screw Challenge http://naqcc.info/challenges/
challenges202205.html

Weekly Nets - 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!

### 

HAVE YOU SEEN
THIS BIG COMET,
C/2014 UN271?
IT'LL PASS NEAR
SATURN'S ORBIT
IN 10 YEARS.

WOW, LOOK AT THE ORBITAL PERIOD.

YEAH, IT HASN'T BEEN TO THIS
PART OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM
SINCE HUMANS EVOLVED.

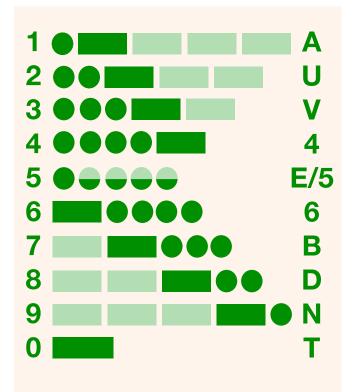
AT LEAST.



xkcd.com

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# Morse Cut Numbers



We all know about using N for nine and a long T for zero, but there are cut numbers for most digits that can really speed up your code when appropriate.

The idea is that you leave out all but one dash in each digit. That's why a cut nine is dah-dit instead of dah-dah-dah-dah-dit. It works for most of the numbers except for 4, 5, & 6. The official ATU list leaves 5 as 5, but in practice most ops shorten it to a single dit.

For example, we recently welcomed Gianluca IK1VQO as member #11111. That's a lot of dit-dah-dah-dah-dahs! Adopting cut numbers in our Sprints would turn them into dit-dahs and save Gianluca 15 dahs! How much shorter would your number be?

Cut numbers work only when both parties know that the characters being sent should be read as digits. That makes them great for member numbers, but you can't use them in your callsign!

# MOUNTAIN DULCIMER CW

**BY STEVE KC5F #10148** 

Seeing the Guitar CW note and video from ZL4RA in the newsletter reminded me of this. It's not strictly QRP, and not an entire QSO, but at least the CQ and 73. I came up with it on mountain dulcimer for our dulcimer club a couple of years ago, and put it on our website, since I run it!

The "Morse Music" recording: https://wncdc.org/mp3/Morse%20Music.mp3 The explanation I give for non-ham folks finding it on our club's newsletter music list:

https://wncdc.org/tab/Morse%20Music.pdf

That J-38 is still my primary key, in use every day after 56 years. I use it for NAQCC and it goes on my weekly POTA activations, too, including a recent one in SC.



# ZEPHYR PARK EXPEDITION

### **ВУ ЈОНИ КК4ІТХ #7249**

We are very fortunate in Florida to have so many parks and beaches in which to play radio, and of course the weather that entices one to partake in the outdoor splendor. Zephyrhills has its share of history and parks and this is the first in a short series exploring this unique QRP-inviting area.

The area itself was founded in the late 1800's and became a popular tourist area early on, mostly because the very first official (military) road in the state (now US301) came right through town, running between Tampa (Fort Brooke) and Ocala (Fort King). In the very early days the Tin Lizzies



were often seen at this park camping out and enjoying the lakes in the park. The photo above right shows Zephyr Park in use early in its life. In the real early days Henry Ford used the Spanish Moss that hangs from the trees as fill for the seats of the Model T's.

So today I had a few hours to spare and there was "Sasquatch" QRP event to play in so off I went. Of course the wind picked up and a few raindrops were in the air but no skeeters or lightning threats. I chose my 20m homebrew loop and FT-818 for tools and brought along a new toy to play with too.



My setup usually takes about five minutes because the loop stays assembled and ready to be connected to the rig.

As has become my standard practice, I run WSPR to check the propagation. Today I am using my new toy (QCX-Mini) with its WSPR ability. After sixto-ten minutes of viewing where the signal is going and confirming my antenna is working, I switch off the WSPR and run the FT-818. The photo below shows the Mini and today's results. I am aware that usually I am transmitting WSPR at 200mw with a WSPRLite but today using the Mini we are at 5w. The Red Dot is me and the Green Dots are the folks that copied me. So at this point I can as-



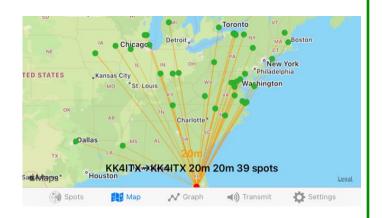
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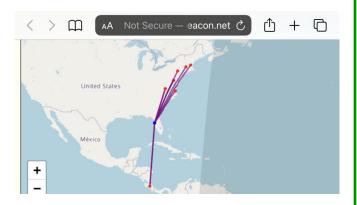
sume that IF there's anybody on the air, then I should have some activity. In just a few seconds I change from WSPR to the FT-818 and QRL? And then CQ on 14.061.

I worked for quite some time before I got an answer but it's not at all surprising for a Friday afternoon for the bands to be quiet. Finally around 3:45pm I made my first contact to VA (W4RJH) and at 4:00 (W4NLT), also VA. Raindrops started to increase and I had evening plans so I wrapped it up.

Checking the RBN I noticed something odd. All of the RBN hits were packed together but by the WSPR spots, you would think it was a different day and antenna!





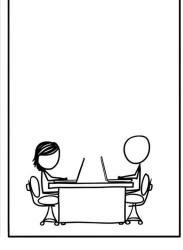


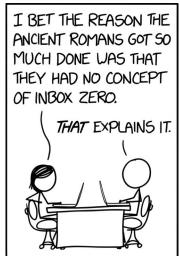
The loop is 3/8" copper tubing on a \$4.00 Flea Mkt tri-pod and tuned with the MFJ-9232 QRP-Pocket Loop Tuner, 15ft RG-58 and CW Morse 3d printed key. It's great to get out!



### TARTE QRP QRP







xkcd.com

# NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE UPDATE

#### **BIGGEST PARTIES OF THE YEAR**

The biggest QSO Parties of the year are coming up in May. This is the month for the big multi-state events in New England, the Canadian Prairies, and the 7th Call Area.

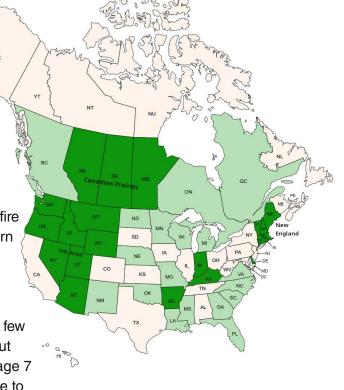
As you work events and add multipliers your score will increase exponentially, so don't think it's too late to start.

#### **GRAB THAT MULTIPLIER!**

Even if you can't spend much time on a given event, 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 of the *April 2022 Newsletter* for a step-by-step guide to help you fill out the form.



Upcoming QSO Parties						
	St	art	Eı	nd	Links	
	Date	Time	Date	Time	LIIIKS	
7th Call Area	May 07	1300Z	May 08	0700Z	Rules	
Indiana	May 07	1500Z	May 08	0300Z	Rules	
Delaware	May 07	1700Z	May 08	2359Z	Rules	
New England	May 07	2000Z	May 08	0500Z	Rules	
	May 08	1300Z	May 08	2400Z		
Canadian Prairies	May 14	1700Z	May 15 0300Z		Rules	
Arkansas	May 20	1400Z	May 21	0200Z	Rules	
Kentucky	Jun 04	1400Z	Jun 05	0200Z	Rules	

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#### HOW TO PARTICIPATE

 Work the QSO parties. Rules differ slightly by state, so check those. Work at least two stations in each QSO Party.

- 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 Manager Don VE3DQN at don@hekman.net and let him know that you worked strictly CW, or if mixed, how many of your contacts were CW.
- Check the NAQCC Newsletter each month to see how everyone is doing.

#### SCOREBOARD

#### Member Mult **QSOs** Score **Award** Pace Alan KR4AE, #5847 11 913 10,043 Gold 55,462 Don VE3DQN, #5846 7.239 39.977 19 381 Silver Mike W7LG, #10391 20 325 6,500 Silver 35,896 Brent WT4U, #9019 19 200 3.800 Bronze 20,986 Dave AB9BZ, #9309 19 192 3.648 Bronze 20.146 Rick KY0Q, #9647 13 274 3.562 Bronze 19.671 Anthony K8ZT, #412 19 161 3,059 Bronze 16,893 John W2QL, #8914 15 189 2,835 15,656 Bronze Will NQ2W, #4839 6 215 1,290 Bronze 7,124 6 135 4,473 Dale WC7S, #272 810 Bronze 5 55 275 1,519 Don KI4MZC, #10922 Bob N2EIM, #10373 3 76 228 1,259 1 194 194 Mark KJ4YM, #9721 Phil K4PQC, #2335 1 185 185 Tim K8NWD, #314 1 156 156 Ron KQ0E, #10571 78 39 Vin W1VKE, #10599 1 56 56 David K6FA, #10626 1 51 51 Mark KC4GIA, #2385 1 48 48 Mark NX1K, #1949 1 45 45 Bill K2EKM, #50 1 36 36 15 Jerry WB7S, #10231 1 15 Mike KD9LTN, #10671 1 13 13 1 8 8 Jerry K4KBL, #8806 Mat N4DLA, #8939 1 6 6 Dave N3CI, #7912 1 3 3 3 Kevin KI4DEF, #247 1

#### **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

# FLORIDA QSO PARTY OUTING AT EAGLE POINT PARK BY RON N9EE #6145

Ron, N9EE working the Florida QSO Party of April 30 at Eagle Point Park in west Pasco County, Florida (north of Tampa, FL) with the Suncoast ARC

Running QRP with IC705 and 40m 65ft End Fed Wire 20 ft up. Made 54 QSOs, some in AZ, CA, OR and WA. Also some Europe. 20m Was good, 40m not much activity. Worked as WA4T <RST> PAS.





# **NAQCC SPRINTS**

## MAY SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Thursday, May 19, 0030-0230 Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, May 18th in North America. Complete information at <a href="http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202205.html">http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202205.html</a>.

#### **R**ULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at <a href="http://naqcc.info/sprint\_rules.html">http://naqcc.info/sprint\_rules.html</a>. 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 <a href="http://naqcc.info/contests.html">http://naqcc.info/contests.html</a>. 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 <a href="http://naqcc.info/sprint\_sked.html">http://naqcc.info/sprint\_sked.html</a>.

# **APRIL SPRINT RESULTS:**

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <a href="http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202204.html">http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202204.html</a>. 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: KC9ZO, NG2J, W1CFZ, KE6YX, N4SD, & W1RCP

April Sprint							
	<b>Current Month</b>	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date			
Logs	96	111	217	4/17			
Participants	125	145	269	2/13			
Total QSOs	1083	1491 3154		4/17			
Hour 1 QSOs	679	831	1704	4/17			
Hour 2 QSOs	404	660	1450	4/17			
20m QSOs	315	285	1232	8/13			
40m QSOs	729	1133	2203	4/17			
80m QSOs	39	73	1417	2/13			
Avg QSOs/Station	11.3	13.4	19.3	9/11			

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY						
Division	1st	2nd	3rd			
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	WS1K			
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	KN2G			
W3	КСЗМІО	KD3CA	KE3V			
W4	W4 KC5F		WG8Y			
W5 N5GW		AC5BX				
W6	AI6SL	W6IRA	K6GPB			
W7	K8MPW KC7DM (TIE)	-	-			
W8	W8GG	NF8M	-			
W9	WB9HFK	K9QEW	K9NUD			
WO NOTA		AA5LH	KD0V			
Canada	VE7HI	-	-			
DX	-	-	<u>-</u>			

SWA BUG CATEGORY						
Division	1st	2nd	3rd			
W1	-	-	-			
W2	-	-	-			
W3	NN3E	-	-			
W4	KJ4R	K3RLL	-			
W5	WI5H	-	-			
W6	W6 -		-			
W7	<b>W7</b> N7QR		-			
W8	K8NGW	-	-			
W9	K9DRP	AA9L	-			
W0	WU0A	-	-			
Canada	VE3HUR	-	-			
DX	-	-	-			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY				
Division	1st	2nd	3rd	
W1	KB1M	K1IX	N2CN	
W2	K2OID	WA1GWH	N2JJF	
W3	AC5XK	KC3RN	K3WWP	
W4	W4 K4NE K4KRW	K4KRW	K4KBL	
W5	KE5YUM	-	-	
W6	KE6YX	-	-	
W7	-	-	-	
W8	WA8SAN	WI8J	-	
W9	KY0Q	KC9ZO	WR9R	
W0	KQ0E	N0QBX	KC2MJT	
Canada	VE3GNU	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	N4SD	W1RCP	-				
BUG	-	-	-				
K/K	KC9ZO	NG2J	KE6YX				
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER							
W6IRA							

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### 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 <a href="http://naqcc.info/sprint\_dates.html">http://naqcc.info/sprint\_dates.html</a>.

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

#### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**WB4OMM** - On the road this week working in MD, so went up to Gettysburg Natl Battlefield in PA to work the Sprint. Got a few before the band went out. Thanks to those I worked! See you all next month! 72/73 Steve WB4OMM

**NOTA -** Weird night! 23 on 20m, 7 on 40m. I had 5 Q's with Colorado stations on 40m - that has never happened before! I think 40m was both short and noisy (s9 here). Thanks for the Q's. K3 @5w, doublet & vertical, Amplidan key

**KN1H** - Thanks for another enjoyable evening of pounding the straight key with old friends. Lots of activity, lots of two-fers. IC-7300 and Nye Viking Master Key

**K9DRP -** What a noisy night! Paired my Timewave filter up with my RGO One to try to work thru the QRN, and did better than expected. All QSOs on 40 as 80 held an S9 noise level. (Almost worked NQ2W on 80). It was noisy but still fun!

**K8NGW -** 20M was good for the first 30 minutes. Moved to 40M and oh the noise, THE NOISE! I had to dig really hard to pull faint signals out of it. Checked 80M and didn't hear much activity. Not the most productive sprint, but fun none the less!

**W8GG** - Fired up on solar pwr last night. 20 was open at the start, and i went back es forth from 20 to 40m. 20m died after 1st hour es 40 got vy noisy here in mid-Mich. 20m propagtion was not normal, es 40 turned very noisy after the 1st hour. I had fun working old timers and new members alike. Thanks to 2 or 3 guys out there who called and i couldn't pull u out of the crud. Better luck next sprint.



# HAM RADIO EQUIPMENT DONATION

### **BY PAUL N8XMS #675**



In the fall of 2021 my wife, who is not a ham but is a great supporter of my hobby, encouraged me to finally take the plunge and purchase my Elecraft KX3 "grail" radio. The arrival of that fantastic transceiver prompted me to think about reducing my overall radio footprint. With more than 30 years of accumulation I certainly had a number of good radios, books, and accessories that were very rarely, if ever, being used anymore.

Of course there were some things that I would never want to get rid of: My Elecraft K2, a great radio with many hours of fun construction invested into it. My small vintage key collection. My Elecraft KX1-based "Shack-In-A-Box" for portable operations. A set of headphones that I have had since my Novice days more than 50 years ago. And a few other miscellaneous items.

#### **GOOD STUFF**

But there was plenty of other "good" stuff that was almost begging to be used again: An Icom 725 transceiver. A 4-band Elecraft K1 with add-on options. Several other kit-built and home-brew QRP radios. A heavy Astron linear power supply. An MFJ antenna tuner. Books, keys, accessories, etc. My final list of surplus gear was more than two pages long!

So what to do with all of this good stuff? I could probably post a "for sale" message on the QRZ.com swap meet page, or rent a table at a local hamfest and sell off a lot of it, but I didn't want the hassle and I really didn't need the money. Besides, most of the local swaps are on Sunday mornings and that is pretty much filled up for me with church activities.

Donating it seemed to be the way to go. If I could get this gear into the hands of young or disadvantaged hams it would well be worth the effort. I first tried to contact a rather well known ham in my area who is involved with the ARRL and who has written a guide for kids and their parents on how to get started in amateur radio. After a couple of emails and a snail-mail letter he had not replied, so in January I posted this to the grp-I mail list:

With my wife's encouragement, I recently purchased my "holy grail" radio - an Elecraft KX3.

Along with this purchase came the decision to reduce my radio "footprint" and get rid of a lot of my old gear that is no longer getting much use. Some of this equipment has some non-trivial monetary value, but I don't need the money, I don't want to go through the hassle of trying to sell it, and I don't want to deal with shipping issues. I want to just give it away locally, preferably to a club that could use it (or the proceeds from selling it) to help younger or disadvantaged hams get on the air.

I'm a 100% QRP/CW operator and most of this stuff relates to that. The gear includes an Elecraft K1, Rockmite 30, SST40, MFJ Versa Tuner II, Astron PS, various accessories and numerous books. I have a 3-page pdf document that gives a complete list. Almost everything is in perfect

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working order and there are both hard and digital copies for most of the owner's manuals.

I will organize everything, box it up, and can deliver it to just about anywhere in the SE Michigan area. I want to donate all of it as a group and not piece it out a little bit at a time. If you are associated with a local club that could use this donation to promote ham radio please contact me off the list.

Thanks and 73

#### MIDLAND AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

A few days later I received an email from Dennis, N8ERF. He is an officer in the Midland Amateur Radio Club (W8KEA.org). MARC has an educational outreach program with two middle school clubs and one high school club. I'm a retired school teacher and this sounded like an ideal place to donate everything.

I sent Dennis my complete list of items and he emailed me back, "I took a look at your list and it is quite a generous list. I think the QRP rigs would be a fantastic incentive for the students to get their tickets and learn Morse Code. Our club gives every student that passes the Tech exam an HT, so that gets them on the local repeater immediately, at no cost to them. Having the QRP rigs would broaden that incentive." Later he also told me that the Icom 725, with it's simple no-menu design, might make a good base station for one of the middle school clubs.

Midland isn't exactly local, but Dennis said that he would be willing to make the 2-hour drive to pick up my donation. It took us a couple of months to harmonize our personal schedules and dodge winter weather, but in March Dennis and his wife were able to drive down to my QTH and get the gear.

#### **SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT**

I have to believe that a majority of our NAQCC membership is like I was, having years of accumulated "good stuff" collecting dust on the shack shelves. I know that it can be hard to say goodbye to an "old friend," but finding an organization like the Midland ARC, that can put your old gear to good use, is really making an investment in the future of our hobby. And it's a great feeling too! (Besides that, when you die your heirs are probably going to call it "grandpa's radio junk" and won't have a clue about what to do with it!)

As QRPers we like to say that we "do the most with the least." So why not follow Henry David Thoreau's advice to "simplify, simplify" and donate some of that underused radio gear? I'm sure that you could find individuals or clubs in your area that could benefit from your generosity.

#### A FINAL SURPRISE

A few days ago I found an unexpected package in my mail. When I opened it up I was surprised to see a beautiful wooden bowl that had been made from a Gambel Oak burl. Inscribed on the bottom of the bowl was a short "thank you" from N8ERF for my donation to the educational outreach program of his club. What a wonderful gift! And now that I have cleared out so much space in my shack I have a great place to put it!

-Paul N8XMS #675



# NAQCC CHALLENGE BY GARY K1YAN #2365

## This Month's Letter Challenge: The Robertson Screw

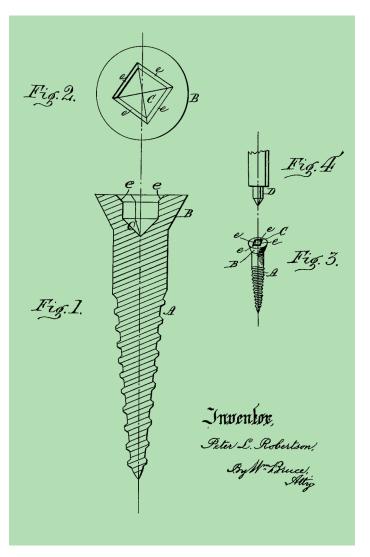
Before the 15th century, the screw mechanism had limited use because of the high cost to manufacture threads. It found use in water pumping and pressing

chines for olive or grapes and other small scale applications. The early flathead slotted screw fastener was used only in expensive items such as knight's jousting armor and the wheel lock rifle. In 1760 the invention of a lathe-type machine, able to cut threads economically, opened up the market for screws. They usually had a slotted head for driving. During the late 19th century, other types of driving mechanisms were proposed to replace the slotted head, but, due to manufacturing problems and the many flat blade screwdrivers in use, none were very successful.

In 1890, Peter L. Robertson, a Canadian inventor and traveling salesman, was demonstrating a screwdriver for driving slotted head screws when it slipped and severely cut his hand. This prompted his new screw head design meant to avoid slipping or camming out, a major problem with the slotted head screw. The design used a square cavity that could be stamped into the screw and did not require heating the piece. His design corrected earlier problems with other similar products that were too expensive to manufacture and had weakened screw heads.

The design became popular in boat building and furniture manufacturing since cam outs caused unacceptable damage to the product. The P. L. Robertson Manufacturing Co. opened in Canada in 1908 and, in 1913, secured a contract to supply screws for use in building the

Ford automotive chassis. Robertson had a plan to expand into Europe by opening a British plant to sell primarily to the Russian and German markets. WWI and the Russian revolution derailed this effort and Robertson retreated to Canada. Ford brought him another setback when Henry Ford wanted to use Robertson's screws but demanded an exclusive contract and some control of the screw manufacturing. Robertson declined the offer and decided to remain a Canadian company. The square cavity design is still made although its popularity is much greater in Canada than elsewhere.



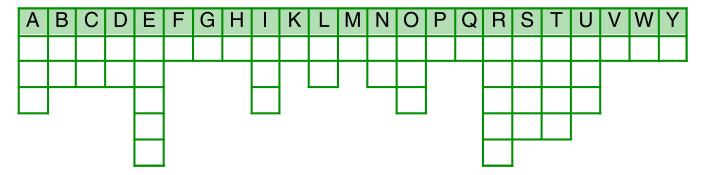
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#### **WORDS**

- SLOTTED HEAD SCREWS
- PETER L ROBERTSON
- SQUARE CAVITY DRIVES

- CAMING OUT
- FURNITURE MAKING
- BOAT BUILDERS

#### **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



Entering the Challenges earns you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual aniversary drawings.

#### **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 elligible 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 year) 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://nagcc.info/challenges\_rules.html

# **NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGES**

June is doubly challenging with the the annual Field Day Challenge and a Ten-Cent Beer Night letter challenge that may have you re-thinking Field Day refreshments http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202206.html

# LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our Bell Casting Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <a href="http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202204.html">http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202204.html</a> 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 <a href="http://nagcc.info/challenges\_schedule.html">http://nagcc.info/challenges\_schedule.html</a>.

Number of Challenges	Members				
25+	WB40MM KU4A N1JI K90SC KD0V KA5PVB N40W KB1M WY3H WY7N AC2C VE3HUR DK1VD KI4IO N1LU KD2MX				
50+	PA9CW VE3FUJ WI5H NF1U WA2FBN AK3X W3IQ KJ4R VE3DQN G3JFS AH6AX N9SE				
75+	PA0XAW				
100+	K1YAN K1IEE				
125+					
150+	W2JEK K3WWP N8XMS				

#### CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**NX8Y** - Interesting topic again. I struggled a bit on all the E's and I's but thanks to good band conditions on 15M, I was able to finish up. Always have fun with this. Thanks es 72

**KE4GTQ -** My very first NAQCC Challenge! This experence was very fun and exciting. Looking forward to the May challenge. 72's Russell KE4GTQ

**W1RCP -** I said I would participate in a Twitter post. It took me a few days to get around to entering this info, but the online app really made it quick. The operating time for this challenge was just over 4 hours. Easy as a day in the park. My equipment was a MTR4B to a Super Antenna inside Reed Bingham State Park while my kids were in a camp. I worked 40m, 30m, and 20m.

**WA2FBN** - Another fun challenge. Great to see band condx improving. Tnx to all who help with these challenges. 72 Ken - WA2FBN

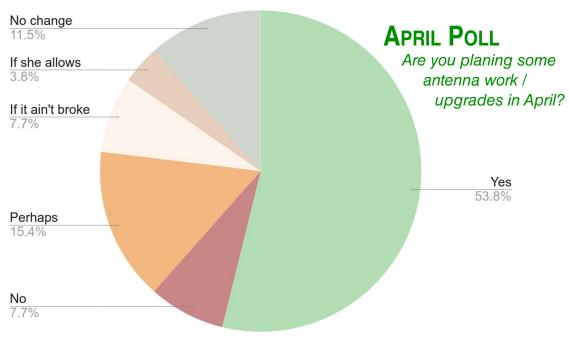


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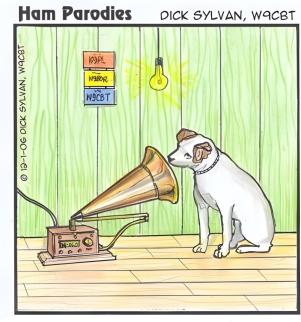
# MEMBER POLL

## May Poll

What NAQCC on-air activities do you participate in? Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll\_new.html







NIPPER HEARS HIS MASTER'S FIST

### Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062,

has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at www.lulu.com.

# **NAQCC Awards**

### FEATURED AWARD:

#### 2X QRP

I have often thought that a great deal of the credit for a successful QRP QSO should go to the operator on the receiving end of those radiated QRP watts, and our 2X QRP Award gives you the chance to see what you can do on that end of the QSO. To earn this award you not only need to transmit at QRP power levels, but the person on the other end must be doing so as well. Any kind of QSOs are allowed for this award, including contest QSOs, so our NAQCC sprints can be a

fertile place to earn your points.

QSO points vary based on whether or not the other person is DX and whether or not they are an NAQCC member. Certificates are issued at several different point levels and numerous endorsements for things like single band, homebrew gear, or straight key use are also available. Complete details for the 2X QRP Award can be found at <a href="http://www.naqcc.info/awards">http://www.naqcc.info/awards</a> 2xqrp.html.

### RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

#### 1000 MPW

Nr	Call	Stn worked	_	MPW -	Award Dat	te - Antenna
0603	VE3CBK	CX2DK	_	1,136	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0602	VE3CBK	PP5RT	_	1,056	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0601	VE3CBK	VK2GR	_	1,988	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0600	VE3CBK	PY2XU	_	1,077	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0599	VE3CBK	ZP6/N2TTA	_	1,026	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0598	VE3CBK	RD0A	_	1,089	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0597	VE3CBK	RP76UAI	_	1,290	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0596	VE3CBK	LU8MHL	_	1,082	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0595	VE3CBK	JH1GEX	_	1,290	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0594	VE3CBK	RORT	_	1,082	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0593	VE3CBK	L21RCA	_	1,101	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0592	VE3CBK	CX2DK	_	1,136	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0591	VE3CBK	5B4AMM	_	1,069	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0590	VE3CBK	PQ213CFN	_	1,029	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0589	VE3CBK	TA7I	_	1,054	04/17/22	Inv V @20'
0588	K9OSC	AE1T	_	1,065	04/10/22	4BTV @0'
0587	K9OSC	K5PE	_	1,026	04/10/22	4BTV @0'
0586	K9OSC	K6RC	_	1,501	04/10/22	4BTV @0'
0585	W7ZDX	JH1OCC	_	4,703	04/08/22	575' Horizontal loop

#### **Worked All Continents - 20m Endorsement**

0039 - VE3CBK CT3MD - RD0A - RP76UAI - AL7KC - VK2GR - CX2DK 04/17/22



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual aniversary 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 <a href="http://naqcc.info/cw\_nets.html">http://naqcc.info/cw\_nets.html</a>. 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 Daily 6:30 AM MDT 1230 Z		3565 kHz	Steve KE7UUJ (WY)		
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)		
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)		
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)		

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 Apr 03 – KE7UUJ (6), WG7GR (4), WB7S (5), WC7S (6), AD0LI (1)

Week of Apr 10 – KE7UUJ (7), WG7GR (6), WB7S (6), WC7S (3)

Week of Apr 17 – KE7UUJ (7), WG7GR (5), WB7S (7), WC7S (5)

Week of Apr 24 – KE7UUJ (3), WG7GR (4), 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

- Apr 04 No Report (Working)
- Apr 11 QNI (2) W0CC, AB9BZ Strong signals thru QSB. Hopefully more operators will be on the air next week.
- Apr 18 No Report (Working)
- Apr 25 QNI (3) W0CC, AB9BZ, KC9TYA
  Signals were weak with background static. Next week will be better!

#### **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)

- Apr 05 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, KE5YUM

  Good signals but storms moving into NW AR. YUM was 599 and YGA was 589 with QRN to
  10 over S9.
- Apr 12 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N4NN
  Storms in AR with some QRN tonight. YUM was 599 and NN was 579. Not too bad for conditions.
- Apr 19 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA
  YUM having landscaping put in this week and planting tomatoes. YGA only flowers this year.
  Both having lots of rain in AR. YGA had tornado 1 mile away a few days ago.
- Apr 26 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

  Both had good signals tonight. 589. YUM still working POTA stations and worked N4NN this weekend as a POTA station. YGA says the summer bugs are starting to show up in AR. N4NN sent a message that he was there but very poor copy in GA. I did not hear him.

### 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)

- Apr 01 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, KJ7KDB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, AD7BP
- Apr 08 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, N7QR
- Apr 15 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, N7QR
- Apr 22 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, KI7SJE, KJ7KDB, KG7VTO, WB7WHG, AD7BP
- Apr 29 QNI (7) NCS WB7WHG, KG7VTO, KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV, N0DA (with tail enders: N6KIX and K6DF)

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# **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 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 <a href="https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/">https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/</a>.

### EAGLE POINT PARK - MARCH 26, 2022

NAQCC-WFL met at Eagle Point Park in west Pasco Co, Florida (50 mi NW of Tampa) March 26, 2022 with the Suncoast ARC of New Port Richey, FL.

Eagle Point Park 4499 Straub Memorial Dr New Port Richey, FL 34652 On the Gulf of Mexico

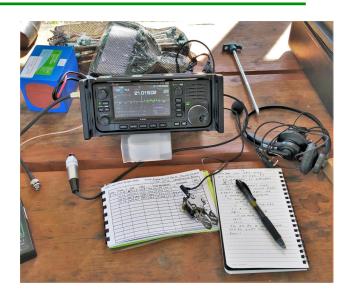
Arrived around 9 AM. Setup my IC705 with newly purchased and assembled KM4ACK End Fed Wire Antenna (\$39 in kit form). Thru



throw line with 16 oz weight over 40 ft tree and ran the 65 ft of wire down to north west attaching it to small branch with 49:1 balun on the other end. Also assembled the EleCraft AX1 20m vertical on camera tripod on the picnic table.

#### Log

TIME	CALL	RST (G/R'd)	FREQ	COMMENTS
1024	N8TI	559/599	14.058	IL
1026	N3XLS	579/599	14.058	
1030	KE4COH	589/339	7.021	Bryan in SC SB102
1118	W9ZN	599/569	14.034	Bill, IL
1223	AC7P	549/579	14.061	
1226	K3MD	599/	14.041	John, 2091
1228	K3WW	599/599	14.0356	Chas, 2217
1231	WOVX	589/	14.026	Dave, 2015
1236	KR9L	559/549	14.051	IL, 4112



I was very impressed with the KM4ACK End Fed Wire. 10, 15, 20 & 40m were hopping, all open. The end-fed showed good SWR on these bands without the T1 tuner so kept it out of line. The EleCraft AX1



small 20m vertical with T1 tuner did not perform well at all. Tried a couple of QSOs with it, but no replies. Also, receive was down by at least 7 S-units vs the endfed. I am sorry I spent the \$200 for this antenna.

The Suncoast ARC supplied hot dogs and trimmings. We had a very good time.

# 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.

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# 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/nagcc-fl-chapter.

### 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**











Laser Engraved Gifts





**KB3IFH QSL CARDS & Ham Radio Gifts** 



# **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 contester 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 <a href="http://www.nagcc.info/">http://www.nagcc.info/</a> should be included.

NAQCC CONTACTS					
NAQCC President	Steve WB4OMM	sszabo1@cfl.rr.com			
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NAQCC Secretary	Gary AF7T	gary.af7t@gmail.com			
NAQCC Treasurer	Jerry K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com			
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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 <a href="http://www.naqcc.info">http://www.naqcc.info</a>.

Inquires can be sent to:

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