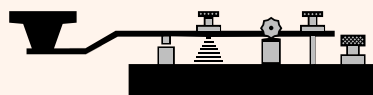


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 288 • JUNE 2022



KEY CLICKS

• IN THIS ISSUE

The Prez Sez... the Board has met and we have a busy month ahead; 18th Anniversary events & prizes are coming together; Lots of clandestine Paraset action; Reports on our QSO Party Challenge and how to maximize your score when it's your turn to host; Making cheap fiberglass antenna supports safe to use; Challenges; Poll results; Nets; Two chapter field reports; and more.

• FIRST CALL FOR N3A OPERATORS

This year we will be celebrating our club's 18th anniversary from October 9 through 15 (UTC) and, as in past years, we need volunteers to put our special event callsign on the air during that week. No special equipment is needed other than your regular QRP/CW gear. Your operating schedule is completely flexible, and logging "paperwork" is kept to a minimum. See the details on page 3.

• TWO CHALLENGES

June is doubly challenging with the the annual Field Day Challenge and a madhouse of a Ten-Cent Beer Night letter challenge that may have you re-thinking Field Day refreshments.

• 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 KD2MX: kd2mx@arri.net

• UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO

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

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THE PREZ SEZ...

GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!

I hope this month's message finds you well!

We had our "official" Board meeting this month, all is well!! (This is an annual requirement for our non-profit corporation requirement).

As you will see on page 3 of this month's Newsletter, we have started our planning for this year's **18th Anniversary Celebration**. Once again, Rich KC3MIO has accepted the responsibility of being our coordinator. With all that goes with the planning for this event, if you think you can help by being a Special Event call or maybe one of Rich's "helpers," please let him know. Zip him an e-mail and "volunteer"! We will again have some really great event prizes - **BUT MAKE SURE YOU MEET THE PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENT** to be eligible (they are pretty minimal). Stay tuned for more! The Anniversary page has been updated for the 2022 event - http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

Don't forget the **2022 ARRL Field Day** event is this month (weekend of June 25/26). Always a fun event.

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

JUNE NAQCC ACTIVITIES: LOTS GOING ON THIS MONTH!

Regular Monthly Sprint – Wednesday, June 8, 2022, 0030-0230 Z- (That's the evening of Tuesday, June 7, 2022 for us here in North America).
<http://naqcc.info/contests.html>

mW Sprint – Wednesday, June 15, 2022, 0030-0230 Z- (That's the evening of Tuesday, June 14, 2022 for us here in North America).
<http://naqcc.info/contests.html>

June 2022 Monthly Challenge – The Ten Cent Beer Riot Challenge -
<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202206.html>

June 2022 Field Day Challenge - <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202206fd.html>

Weekly Nets - http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html

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

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913
NAQCC President



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



18TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Planning continues for our NAQCC 18th Anniversary celebration the week of October 9. Special event stations will put N3A/# on the air from locations all over the country and we are now starting to recruit volunteer operators for that. Of course, a big part of our celebration each year are the special anniversary sprint and monthly challenge, with their associated prize drawings.

PRIZES!

We usually don't reveal the prize list ahead of time but we want to whet your appetite with just a little peek. Thanks to the generosity of the Four State QRP Group we have

- One (1) Bayou Jumper Rev D
- Two (2) Crystal Spotters
- Two (2) EFHW - End fed antenna experimenter boards

Thanks to Ron - AG1P
4SQRP Volunteer Secretary/Treasurer

PARTICIPATION COUNTS!

Please remember that there is a throughout-the-year participation requirement to be eligible for the best prizes. It's easy to rack up enough points, even if you started late. See http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_18th_anniv.html for drawing details.

MORE DETAILS

For more information about our celebration, and to see summary reports from previous years, go to http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

FIRST CALL FOR N3A OPERATORS

This year we will be celebrating our club's 18th anniversary from October 9 through 15 (UTC)

and, as in past years, we need volunteers to put our special event callsign on the air during that week. No special equipment is needed other than your regular QRP/CW gear. Your operating schedule is completely flexible, and logging "paperwork" is kept to a minimum.

We can put our special N3A callsign on the air from all 10 US call districts, Alaska, Hawaii, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. You can operate from your home QTH, on vacation or in a park (POTA) or up on a mountain (SOTA). Use your imagination.

OPERATE AS N3A IN THE OCTOBER SPRINT

One operator from each district will be exclusively designated to use the special call in the Sprint that week. That person should have some previous Sprint experience.

SIGN UP NOW

Other than that, there are no special requirements. If you are a member of the NAQCC and can operate QRP/CW (any speed) on one or more HF bands, you qualify. I joined the NAQCC in 2019 and participated in the Sprint only four months after my first CW QSO and I had a great time.

There is no limit to the number of people who participate so "the more the merrier."

If you would like to be one of our special ops, or if you just need some questions answered before making a commitment, send me an email. If you want to be the one designated N3A Sprint operator for your district let me know that as well—first come first served. (Please be sure to include your call district and NAQCC membership number in your email.) —Rich, KC3MIO hamberger@ptd.net



OPERATING THE PARA80SET FOR A RETRO EXPERIENCE

BY CURT WB8YYY #0059

The Para80set is not something I recommend to operate every day but it represents a noteworthy experience on the air. A long time ago, ARRL had a book for beginners titled *Become a Radio Amateur*, it sold for a dollar or less in the mid 1970's. It advocated homebrew construction of a simple, few-watt transmitter and a regenerative receiver. Now I wonder if any of us got our start with such a combination. Since most of us did not, operating this 80m transceiver designed a few years ago by KD1JV gives us this experience.

PARA80SET FEATURES

The Para80set fits onto a small circuit board, combining a crystal-controlled transmitter with a sufficient receiver. Moreover, it integrates QSK TR switching and provides a side tone. Only three controls are involved—main tuning using a traditional low cost variable capacitor, fine tuning using a variable capacitance diode and a volume control.

Wait —where is the regeneration control? It's there—a trimmer on the circuit board. Once it is adjusted it never needs to be touched.

The receiver can tune across the entire 80m CW portion and a little into the phone portion. Both CW and SSB signals can be received just fine. A spot switch allows finding the frequency in receive of the in-

stalled crystal. I use the rig both with the two supplied crystals as well as vintage crystals.

MAKING CONTACTS

Can someone really make contacts with this rig? To my surprise—yes! Many quick casual QSOs, mostly with SKCC operators, were made. Additionally, a conversational ragchew QSO with K3RDA was made lasting more than 30 minutes. The selectivity doesn't equal the 300 Hz or so filters we may be accustomed to—but it is sufficient for receiving when 80-meters is not occupied with wall-to-wall signals.

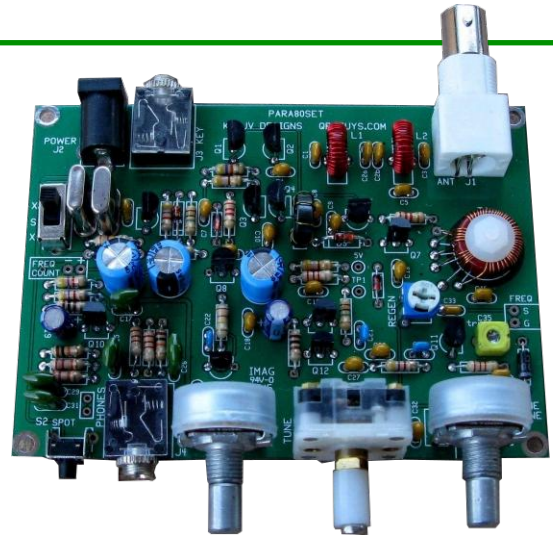


CONSTRUCTION

Given the low cost for the kit, the rig was built into a plastic case. The controls are mounted on top to resemble a Paraset. A makeshift crystal socket is made from some Molex connector sockets spaced properly. I did make one significant addition: adding an audio transformer after damaging some headphones with the supplied audio output circuitry.

While the kit is not currently offered, one of these could be constructed homebrew from the

available information. Oh, all my other regen receivers have been built from scratch. If you haven't operated the way ARRL prescribed for beginners around 50 years ago—you still have your chance!



REFERENCES

<http://www.wa0itp.com/mas80.html>

<https://qrpguys.com/para8040set-transceiver>



DARING PARASET ADVENTURES


In *The Suitcase Set*, WWII radio operator Ted Hall describes his parachute drop behind enemy lines in Serbia. His paraset survived the drop but the gas-powered generator to charge his batteries had a hard landing, as its parachute did not open. Luckily he also had a bicycle generator. Since he was unable to get his Serbian resistance fighters to pedal, he acquired powerful quadricep leg muscles in order to charge his batteries and contact his home base in Cairo, Egypt.

He took part in many missions, but for me the most exciting was the radio coordination he supplied in order to sink a tugboat at a critical narrowing of the Danube River. This frustrated the Germans since they were not able to resupply their troops until the wreck was removed.



Ted Hall (G3ETA SK) 1937

—Peter AA2VG, #6563
NAQCC News #237

The South Dorset Radio Society has made Ted Hall's novella-length memoir of his WWII radio adventures available as a [free downloadable pdf](#). It's a great read. 

NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE UPDATE

TWO MORE BEFORE THE SUMMER BREAK

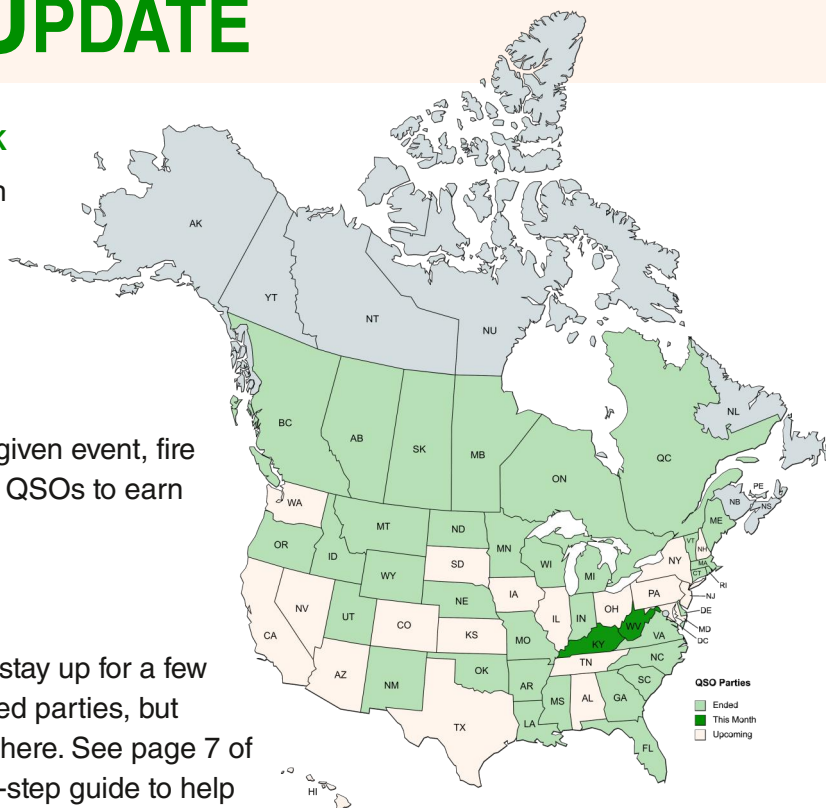
Kentucky on June 4 and West Virginia on June 18 are your last chances to pad your score before the events take a break until August.

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.



STATS

So far this year 38 NAQCC members have posted 6,703 QSOs in 26 QSO Parties

LEADERBOARD

Member	Mult	QSOs	Score	Award	Pace
Alan KR4AE, #5847	17	1,088	18,496	Gold	60,440
Mike W7LG, #10391	26	479	12,454	Gold	40,697
Don VE3DQN, #5846	25	463	11,575	Gold	37,824
Anthony K8ZT, #412	24	296	7,104	Silver	23,214
Dave AB9BZ, #9309	23	273	6,279	Silver	20,518
Brent WT4U, #9019	25	246	6,150	Silver	20,097
Rick KY0Q, #9647	14	328	4,592	Bronze	15,006
John W2QL, #8914	15	189	2,835	Bronze	9,264
Dale WC7S, #272	7	390	2,730	Bronze	8,921
Will NQ2W, #4839	6	215	1,290	Bronze	4,215
Mark NX1K, #1949	2	400	800	Bronze	
Vin W1VKE, #10599	2	229	458	-	
Bob N2EIM, #10373	5	84	420	-	1,372
Kevin KE3V, #855	4	75	300	-	980
Don KI4MZC, #10922	5	55	275	-	899

Upcoming QSO Parties					
	Start		End		Links
	Date	Time	Date	Time	
Kentucky	Jun 04	1400Z	Jun 05	0200Z	Rules
West Virginia	Jun 18	1600Z	Jun 19	0400Z	Rules

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. Work the QSO parties. Rules differ slightly by state, so check those. Work at least two stations in each QSO Party.
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 NAQCC some visibility.
4. Some QSO Parties lump CW together with digital or other modes. If that happens, send a note to QSO Party Chal-

lenge 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.

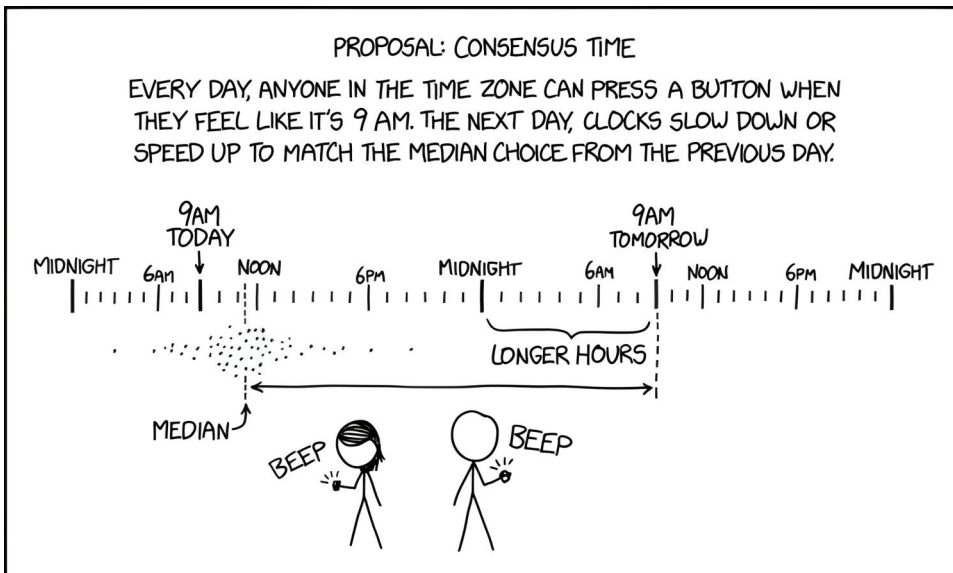
5. Check the NAQCC Newsletter each month to see how everyone is doing.

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



MAKING FIBERGLASS RODS SAFE

BY WES KN4NPH #9559

My favorite home DIY-store sells 72-inch by 1/4-inch fiberglass rods as "Driveway Markers." I like to use them to hold down and mark ground radial wires and to hold up the arms of my NVIS ladder-line inverted-Vee antenna. But the rods shed fiberglass shards, even new. To make them safe (and less painful) to handle and use, I do this.

SAFETY, SAFETY, and oh, did I mention SAFETY?

First and foremost, fiberglass in any form is just plain nasty and can be hazardous. I wear goggles, dust mask and plastic (food-handler's) gloves to do the following steps:

STEP 1

Outside or in a well-ventilated area, LIGHTLY and SLOWLY sand (to keep fiberglass dust down) the rods. I use 150-grit sandpaper. Then gently wipe the rods down with a damp cloth (I use water) to remove fiberglass dust.

STEP 2

I 'paint' my rods outside in the sun by placing a piece of cardboard on the ground and pushing the rods thru the

cardboard and into the ground to protect my lawn and hold the rods upright.

STEP 3

I apply a single coat of clear polyurethane 'Spar Urethane' to each rod and let them dry overnight. I could lightly sand the rods again and apply a second coat, but I want to minimize my 'waste' products; after applying that single coat, I bag-up the goggles, dust mask, gloves, used sandpaper and used cloth. I do not reuse any of these items.

The clear urethane seals the rods nicely and the slick finish makes them easier to handle and push into the ground. If the urethane lasts a year, that's fine; I will just reapply another coat then.



NAQCC SPRINTS

REGULAR JUNE SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, June 8, 0030-0230 Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, June 7th in North America. Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202206.html>.

MILLIWATT SPRINT

The bonus one-watt-or-less mW Sprint will be on June 15, 0030-0230 Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, June 14th in North America. Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202206mw.html>.

RULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at http://naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html. On that page you will also find information about the different computer loggers that are supported for our sprints. The membership data files for those supported loggers can be downloaded at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>. **Please be sure to always get the latest membership data for your logger about a day before the Sprint.** A complete schedule for our upcoming sprints can be found at http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html.

MAY SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202205.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: KQ9I, AC1KV, W3SI, N1SMB, & NO3U

May Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	95	96	217	4/17
Participants	138	125	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1376	1083	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	766	679	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	610	404	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	568	315	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	732	729	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	76	39	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	14.5	11.3	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	AC1KV	WB1GYZ
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	W2JEK
W3	KE3V	KC3MIO	K2DEP
W4	KY4ID	WX4RM	KB4QQJ
W5	N5GW	KA6J	AC5BX
W6	KI6M	K6GPB	-
W7	N7KM	K6XT	KL7IEE
W8	W8GG	NF8M	-
W9	WB9HFK	K9QEW	N8HWV
W0	N0TA	NN0SS	KD0DK
Canada	VE2KZW	VE7HI	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1ND	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	KJ4R	AA2MX	K3RLL
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	AA9L	-	-
W0	WU0A	KD0V	-
Canada	VE3HUR	VE3IIM	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	W1ZU	N1JI
W2	K2OID	WA1GWH	N2ESE
W3	KC3RN	AC5XK	-
W4	K4KBL	NG2J	K4KRW
W5	WI5H	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7Z	KI7LW	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	-
W9	AB9BZ	KC9ZO	K9EYT
W0	N8LA	W0CC	NO2D
Canada	VE3GNU	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	AB0TX	NQ2W	VE3DQN

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	AC1KV	W3SI	N1SMB
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
KB4QQJ			

SPRINT HONOR ROLL

We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our regular sprints. Exact counts can be seen at http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html.

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	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 K11X N1JI W4HH KB4QQJ KB9ILT
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

K4KBL - Sort of weird conditions tonight...close in propagation for sure. Nice to see a few 5 digit member numbers ! Welcome aboard.

KL7IEE - Trying to learn the band conditions after my move from Maine to Alaska interior. Need to improve my antenna height I think and orientation. Anyways I am trying an NAQCC come back KL7IEE / K1IEE

VE3DQN - Probably my best sprint ever, 37 Q's. 20m stayed open for the first half hour. Even got N0TA in CO for dx :-)

KB4QQJ - What fun! Nice to work some old friends and some new members. Lowest Nr was #56. Happy to work the EMS special event station during the Sprint.

AC2YD - It's been a while since I participated ... very impressed with lots of activity heard, but got a very late start about 15 minutes before end; happy to get 3 Qs in CO, WY, and SC! Nice opportunity to test the new 80m element for my fan vertical with the one final Q with SC. Thanks for a cool contest!

KN1H - Thanks for a very nice sprint. Unusual short propagation on 40 allowed me to work KB1M and W1ND- from my own state!-for the first time in recent memory. 20 was in good shape also and was delighted to work DK1VD with a really good signal. Looking forward to seeing everyone again next month. 73, John, KN1H



ENTER YOUR STATE / REGIONAL QSO PARTY FOR FUN AND EXCITEMENT

BY JOCK N1JI #7012

Our **NAQCC QSO Party Challenge** has been focusing on working as many of the weekend events as possible. This month Jock N1JI, #7012 gives us a look from the other side with tips for matching his success when it's your turn to host the party.

Everyone in the NAQCC should consider entering your state or regional QSO party. Here are some reasons why:

- 1 As a QRP station, you can be a "big fish in a small pond." Not a lot of folks in your state or region will enter in the QRP category and you'll have a much better chance of placing near the top of the pack than in a worldwide contest.
- 2 YOU will be the rare DX during the contest. Stations who normally wouldn't bother working a QRP station will be clamoring for a contact with you because of the points they can earn. You may even generate a pileup calling CQ.
- 3 You'll be helping out other hams who want to work your county (In 2020 and 2021 I was the only person in my county operating CW during the New England QSO Party).
- 4 QSO parties tend to be more laid back, and less cutthroat, than the big contests. The CW speeds tend to be slower, too. If you haven't participated in a ham radio contest before, QSO parties are a great way to get your feet wet.

My first serious effort in a contest was the New England QSO Party (NEQP) in 2020. I was home on lockdown because of the Covid-19 pandemic

and was able to operate during most of the contest. I certainly didn't have any high-level contesting skills or towers with gain antennas, but in the QRP category I placed #3 in New England, #2 in New Hampshire and #1 in my County. In 2021 family and work commitments kept me from working all but four hours of the NEQP. Even though I operated for only 20% of the available time, I still placed #4 in New England, #2 in New Hampshire and #1 in my county (Remember what I said about being a big fish in a small pond?).

For the 2022 NEQP I decided that I wanted to beat my score from two years ago, and maybe even place higher than #3 in New England. This meant I would need to make preparations several weeks in advance as well as learning some new contesting best practices. I'll detail some of these preparations below, and also my experiences during the contest. I hope that my account will inspire you to enter your own area's QSO party.

SCHEDULING

If you want to spend 12 or more hours operating on a weekend during prime family hours, you need to plan ahead. I told my XYL several weeks in advance that a contest was coming up and that I would be glued to my radio for most of Saturday May 7th and Sunday May 8th. A big complication this year was that Mothers' Day was on May 8th. I asked my mother and my wife if they would be willing to celebrate Mothers' Day on Saturday before the contest started and they graciously agreed to this (But it cost me two lobster dinners!). Next up was my work schedule; I work for a church, so most of Sunday morning is work time for me.



A snapshot of my operating position taken during a lull in the contest

About two weeks ahead of time I asked for, and was granted, permission to reduce my hours on the Sunday of the contest to just an hour and a half. The NEQP is twenty hours long, and by scheduling my life ahead of time I would be available for about eighteen and a half of those hours.

MAXIMIZE YOUR SIGNAL

You want to identify anything that could reduce the signal radiating from your antenna and address it before the contest starts. In my case, I just have a single antenna in my back yard but my signal was traveling through both a KXPA 100 watt amplifier and an antenna switch. Even though the loss through these two devices should be minimal, I bypassed them and ran a length of coax directly from my KX3 to the balun that feeds the window line to the antenna.

COMPUTER LOGGING

If you want to make a serious effort in any ham radio contest, you really should consider downloading and installing N1MM Logger+. It's completely free and designed specifically for contests (It's the program that the majority of contesters use these

days). One downside is that it doesn't run on a Mac, but I bought a refurbished PC a few years ago for \$100 and N1MM runs just fine on this older machine. There are lots of features that you can read about online, but probably the most important one is that you can have the computer send the CW for you. When I first heard about this feature I thought it was cheating somehow. After some very embarrassing contest exchanges, though, I realized that this is the best way to go during a contest—Especially when the CW speeds get above 25 WPM. The N1MM website has step-by-step instruc-

tions on how to set the software up for dozens of different contests, including State QSO parties.

CONTESTING BEST PRACTICES

A few days before the contest I watched two Contest University videos: "Contest Operating Best Practices" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lu3gitNgCJA>, and "Little Pistols Bigger Scores" <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ayMYtvQpAVI>. The two big takeaways for me were 1) You HAVE to start calling CQ at some point, no matter what power level you're using. There are lots of folks who will "search & pounce" only and if you don't call CQ, you'll never work them. And 2), Decide in advance how many times you'll try to work a station before moving on.

THE CONTEST

The QSO party started at 4:00 pm local time on Saturday and with most hams enjoying their Saturday afternoon there wasn't a lot of activity. I worked ten stations in the first hour and seven of them were participating in the 7-Area QSO Party—Only three were working the New England QSO Party. I stuck with it, though, and worked

seventeen stations in the 2nd hour, including my first SSB contact of the contest. Yes, I had decided to work as many SSB stations as I could for the same reason I would eventually start calling CQ—There are lots of stations (and potential points) I would never work on CW because some folks only operate on SSB. Since this contest has no category for QRP—CW ONLY, I needed to work both modes to stay competitive.

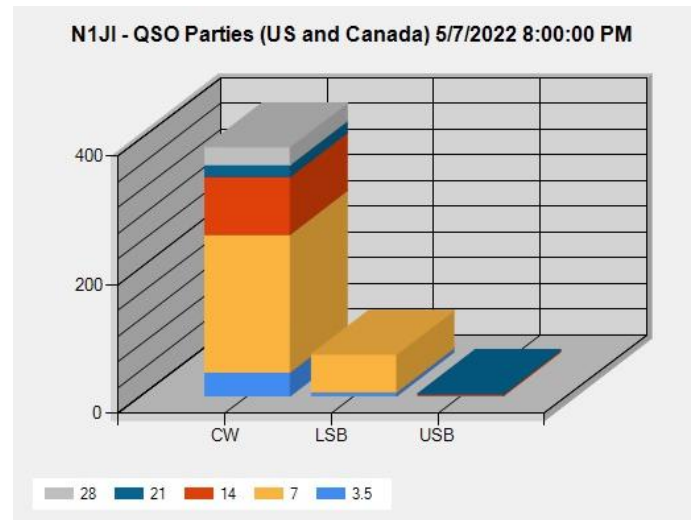
CW PUNCHES THROUGH

During the next hour, ten of the 26 stations I worked were SSB contacts. If you ever want a clear demonstration of how much better CW gets through than single sideband, try calling folks on 40 meter phone with only 5 watts. Every one of those contacts was a struggle and took substantially longer than a CW contact. In fact, I don't think the people who made the rules for this contest really understand how much more efficient CW is. CW contacts were worth twice as many points even though they were faster and easier than phone contacts.

MIXING STRATEGIES AND CALLING CQ

In the fourth hour, which was 7-8 pm local time, I was back on CW and tried calling CQ for the first time. I worked 26 stations in just under 20 minutes. Wow! These rates were much higher than when I was searching & pouncing. By now I had worked most of the "big guns" who were sitting on a frequency and calling CQ so I developed a new strategy: When first changing bands I'd do a quick scan to see if there were any new stations calling CQ that I hadn't worked yet. After working them, I'd find a clear frequency and call CQ. I kept an eye on the clock and, when I'd gone five minutes without a QSO, I would change something; Change bands, switch to SSB, or go back to searching & pouncing.

The slowest hour of the whole contest for me was 11:00 pm to midnight when I made only seven contacts. With things so quiet, I took the



A breakdown of all my contacts (By band and mode) generated by N1MM Logger+

opportunity for a 30 minute break to stretch my legs and get a snack. at 1:00 am the NEQP shuts down for an 8-hour sleep break and resumes again at 9:00 on Sunday morning. Precisely at 9:00 am the next morning I started calling CQ on 40 meters and worked 24 stations in about 30 minutes. Then I had to head to work, but I was back home and on the air at 11:15 am. I stayed at the rig, except for a couple of bathroom breaks, until the contest ended at 8:00 pm.

TAKEAWAYS

By the end of the contest it was clear that learning about those contesting best practices definitely made a difference. My raw score (before cross-checking against other logs) was 39,621 points, which is 50% higher than my score from two years earlier. Out of 457 total contacts, 205 (45%) were made by calling CQ while the rest were made searching & pouncing. I made 408 contacts on CW and 49 on SSB.

So what have I learned? 1) QSO parties are a fun, low stress way to try out contesting, 2) Just a little preparation beforehand can make a big difference, and 3) QRP/CW and QSO parties are a winning combination.

—Jock N1JI #7012



FIELD DAY CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

The special Field Day Challenge is one of the most popular NAQCC events. It's fun and easy for whatever your level of Field Day participation. Details at: <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202206fd.html>

RULES:

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

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

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

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



NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: TEN CENT BEER NIGHT

It is the first week of June 1974 and with a bottom-of-the-league finish the previous year and a marginally better year underway, crowds at the park in Cleveland have been small. A game in May brought only 4,234 fans to a park which could seat 74,400. On the average, 85 percent of the seats were empty.

The Rangers and Indians had played in Texas the previous week. An 8th inning brawl was followed by Rangers fans throwing food and beer at the Indians players. Dave Duncan, the Indians catcher, had to be restrained from heading into the stands to confront the Ranger fans. The game ended in a 3 to 0 Ranger win. A Cleveland reporter asked if Billy Martin, the Texas manager, was afraid of retaliation at the upcoming three game series in Cleveland. Adding insult to injury, Martin replied "Nah, they don't have enough fans to worry about." This apparently helped set the stage for the next week's game.

ROWDY FANS

More than 25,000 fans turned out to watch the June 4th, Rangers vs Indians, game and enjoy a ten cent beer promotion. It was a muggy and hot evening and college students were just returning home from school. It was a full moon and many fans had tipped a few before coming out to the ballpark. Many came with pockets full of firecrackers and began shooting them off before the start of the game. A second inning Texas home run gave them the lead. At the end of the inning a woman ran to the Cleveland on deck circle, tore off her shirt and while topless, tried to kiss the umpire. Fans were tossing their food beer and fireworks, onto the field and when the Texas pitcher was hit in the stomach by a line drive the chant of "hit him again" broke out. Beer sales were out of hand and vendors finally gave up and just filled whatever

container fans of any age put in front of them.

Some kind of incident occurred almost every half inning and security was busy chasing fans around the field. After another Texas home run in the 4th, a naked man dashed onto the field and slid into second base. He was grabbed up by security as he attempted to escape. Not

to be outdone, a father son team ran onto the field in the 5th and mooned the crowd. In the 6th another male streaker made his run wearing only one sock.

Later in the 6th, the game was halted as fans threw fireworks into the bullpen. The bullpen was cleared and the game continued. Fans began throwing rocks and anything else they could rip from the stands onto the field. Some tried to tear the padding from the left field wall. Even with all this the game went on.



THE BRAWL

Finally it was the bottom of the 9th, the game was tied with the winning run on and two out. At this point a drunken fan ran onto the field and tried to steal the Rangers left fielders hat. More fans ran onto the field and the Texas manager told his team to go out and protect their player. Grabbing bats, the team ran onto the field. Seeing this more fans ran out, some allegedly armed with chains, clubs and knives. The Indians manager then told the team to go and help protect the Texas players. Together, the two teams fought their way off the field to the locker rooms. The battle continued until the lights were shut off and the Cleveland police arrived in force and cleared the park.

Surprisingly, few injuries and arrests resulted. The unfinished game was called and a 9 to 0 forfeit was recorded for the Indians.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

July will get you connected with the Trunked Radio letter challenge.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202207.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for the Robertson Screw letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202205.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.

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	KU4A N1JI K9OSC KD0V KA5PVB N4OW KB1M WY3H WY7N AC2C VE3HUR DK1VD KI4IO N1LU KD2MX
50+	PA9CW VE3FUJ W15H NF1U WA2FBN AK3X W3IQ KJ4R VE3DQN G3JFS AH6AX N9SE WB4OMM
75+	PA0XAW
100+	K1YAN K1IEE
125+	
150+	W2JEK K3WWP N8XMS

CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

W1RCP - Ran this one from home this time. IC-7300 at just under 5 watts out to an EFHW up 25 feet. Thanks! Rob W1RCP 11143

M0KTZ - Another good Challenge! This one was completed with 3W and a Norcal Doublet in the attic. 72 and CU next month!

NX8Y - Started late on this one. As always, had fun searching out the last few...F, P and U. Got F and P with a nice QSO with F5PLC who was running QRP as well. I don't think we missed one letter during our QSO. 73, Ron

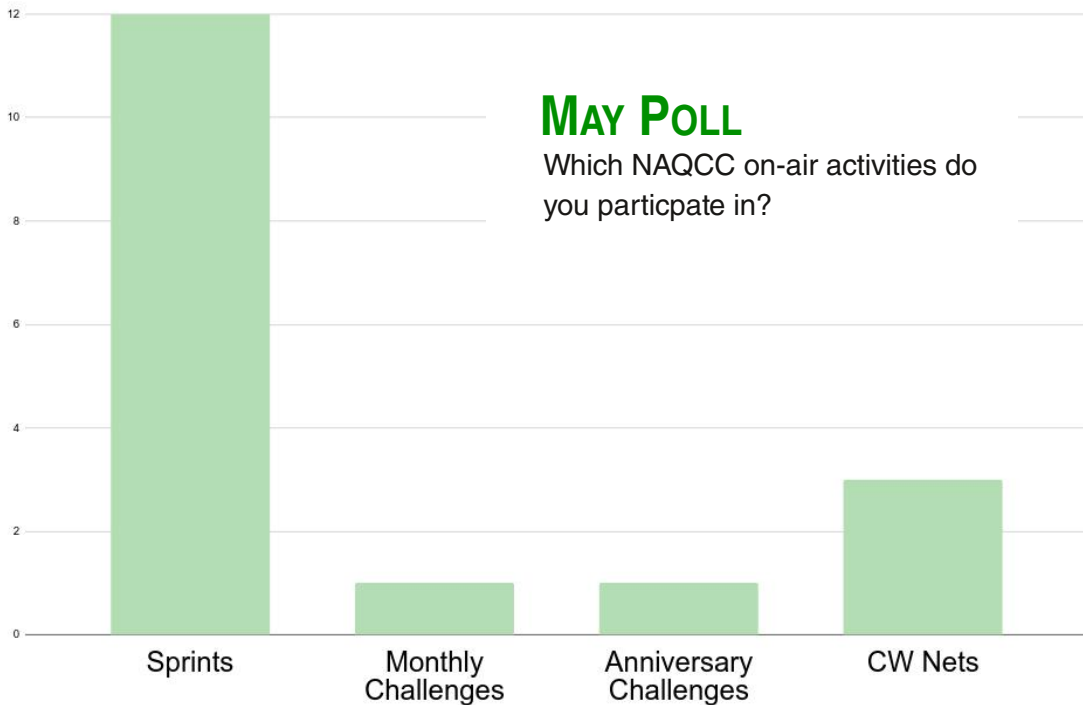
VE3DQN - KUDOS to Gary K1YAN for featuring the Robertson screw!!! As a dual citizen (U.S. and Canada) who have lived most of my life in Canada, I've been totally amazed that the Robertson screw hasn't caught on worldwide. It is VASTLY SUPERIOR to the slotted and Phillips screw heads. I'd never buy or use those screws when a Robertson is available, and here in Canada they are by far the most popular. Please tell me why the U.S. hasn't adopted it?!



MEMBER POLL

JUNE POLL

Are you planning on operating Field Day ? Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

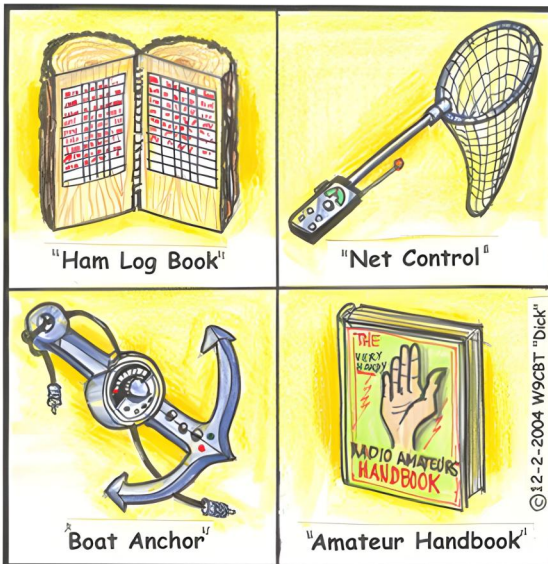


MAY POLL

Which NAQCC on-air activities do you participate in?



HAM LINGO



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 NETS

We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html. Questions should be directed to Net Manager Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
Wyoming Daily QRS 80 Meter Net (WY80)	Daily 6:30 AM MDT	Daily 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 May 01 – KE7UUJ (5), WG7GR (3), WB7S (3), WC7S (4)

Week of May 08 – KE7UUJ (2), WG7GR (2), WB7S (2)

Week of May 15 – KE7UUJ (5), WG7GR (2), WB7S (5), WC7S (4), AD0LI (1)

Week of May 22 – KE7UUJ (2), WG7GR (1), WC7S (2)

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

May 02 – QNI (4) W0CC, AB9BZ, KC9TYA, NJ3K

A lot of QRN with QSB. Dave, AB9BZ was, as usual, a GREAT help!

May 09 – QNI (2) W0CC, KC9TYA

Few stations on the air and plenty of QRN to go around!

May 16 – QNI (3) W0CC, KC9TYA, WB0END

Quite a bit of QSB. Dave, AB9BZ said that he could copy the signal; however, I could not hear him.

May 23 – QNI (2) W0CC, KC9TYA

A lot of QRM, QRN and some QSB. Mark did a GREAT job hanging in there. Dave, AB9BZ, could copy, but I could not hear his signal.

May 30 – No Report (Working)

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC,
on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

May 03 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

Ruff one last night. QSB and QRN from storms up north. Copied YUM pretty well but lost YGA to QSB. May be time to try some 40 meters for the net. N4NN listened but said signals too low for a QSO in GA.

May 10 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Signals from AR were good, 589/599. Allen in GA was 559.

May 17 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, N4NN

We tried 40 meters tonight with mixed results. On 7.066 I heard Allen well at 579/589. Andy KE5YGA said he heard us well but we could not hear him at all! Not sure if he had technical problems or just band condition. We will probably try 40 again next week and see how it goes.

May 25 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

Well not really! I could not hear Andy but he heard me fine. Seems he may have some problem that we could not solve during the net. He is working on it and will give me a try when it is fixed. Other stations were out of pocket this Monday and unable to join.

May 31 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN, KD5ZCQ

7066 kHz was good last night. YGA was running 4 watts and 579 here in ETX. NN was 589 and for the first check in ZCQ was 599 running 5 watts. ZCQ member 4997 was sounding good from about 116 miles away.

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)

May 06 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV, KI7SJE

May 13 – QNI (4) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB7WHG

May 20 – QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, N0DA, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV

May 27 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV



NAQCC AWARDS

FEATURED AWARD: ALPHABET PREFIX

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

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

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

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

30-30 AWARD - ONE MONTH

Nr	Call	Months	Date	
0061	- PA9CW	Apr 2022	05/10/22	all DX Contacts
0062	- PA9CW	May 2022	05/10/22	

30-30 AWARD - THREE MONTHS

Nr	Call	Months	Date
0016	- PA9CW	Feb, Mar, Apr 2022	05/10/22



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



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 LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited.

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

CAPTREE STATE PARK

The Long Island CW Club had great weather at Captree State Park (K-2028) for our first outing in a very long time.

Attending were Mario KC2SPZ, John W2XS, Ed N2GSL, Rob W2ITT, Bob K2ND, Peter AA2VG, and Dave WA2YYL. The band demons were unkind



Rob W2ITT & Bob K2ND

however and the conditions could have been a lot better, Mario even tried some SSB to make contacts! Still, a POTA activation was achieved with 13 contacts (10 are required).

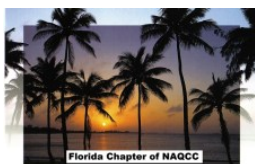
I spent most of the day trying to get my EFHW to tune 40-10 meters, but had to settle for 20-10 instead. Even so, I managed 5 contacts on 20 meters, including a rare DX - W2XS a couple of parking spots over. <grin> But we all had a good time and are looking forward to doing it again soon! de WA2YYL.

Ed N2GSL



Mario KC2SPZ

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

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

On Friday, May 20, 2022 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held our latest "Operation in the Park" at Riverbreeze Park in Oak Hill, Florida.

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



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

STEVE WB40MM #5319

Steve's Station consisted of an Elecraft KX-2 at 5 watts, and a 20M Buddipole vertical.

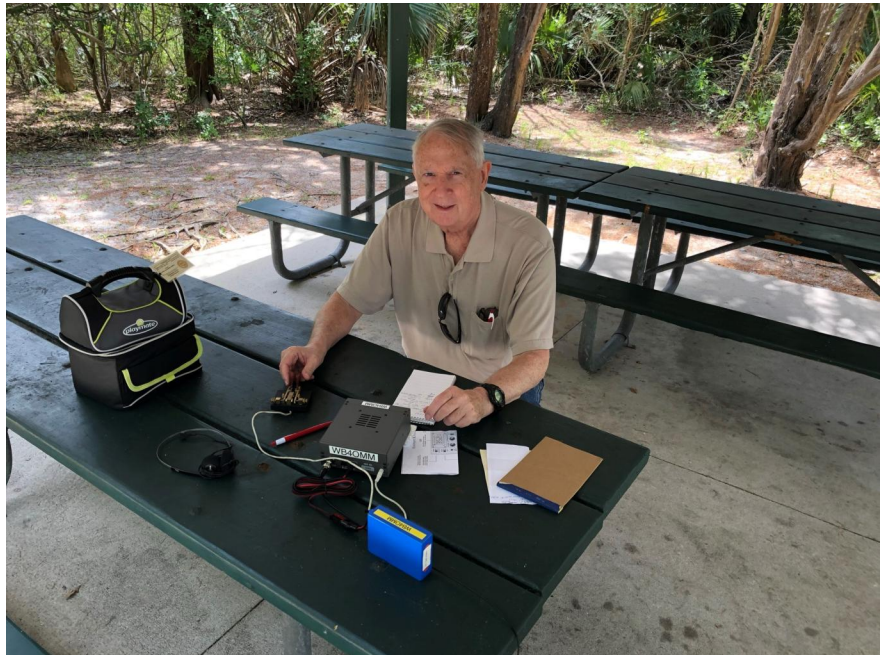
He made a total of 6 Qs, with the following 5 contacts with 5 members:



- Gene N5GW #5353 in MS
- Stan WB2LQF #4740 in NY
- Lloyd WO5W #10692 in TX
- Mike K8NS #8597 in FL (my neighbor!)
- Don KD3CA #6602 in PA
- And lastly, non-member KC2K in NJ

STEVE K8SR #10527

Steve's setup included an Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted 20M Hamstick vertical. He made the following 3 contacts with 3 members:



- Glen N4MJ #6587 in TN
- Walt KB1M #8058 in NH
- Don KD3CA #6602 in PA

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

We broke for lunch just before noon to a local restaurant - a great way to end a great day! Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this another successful NAQCC-FL event!

We're off for the summer! See you in the Fall (September)



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 WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

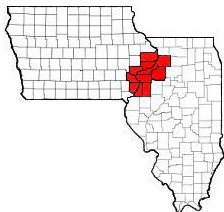
NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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 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.

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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

