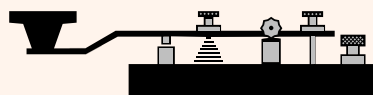


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 296 • FEBRUARY 2023



KEY CLICKS

• **IN THIS ISSUE**

John KK4ITX takes the reins; More QRP operating tips; QSO Parties start *now!*; Shaking the iambic blues with a single-lever conversion; 160m Inverted-L done right; Awards; Double Sprint reports; Soapbox activity; Member polls; Nets; Chapters; and more.

• **STATE QSO PARTIES ARE BACK**

In the first year of the NAQCC version of the challenge, 47 members logged 12,733 QSOs in 47 SQP events, with 18 qualifying for awards from Bronze to Platinum. This weekend kicks off with VT, MN, & BC. See page 4 to get started.

• **THANKS TO STEVE WB4OMM**

Club President Steve WB4OMM has resigned to deal with some health issues. Among his many accomplishments, Steve led us through our incorporation as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, and had a lot of fun playing on the radio while he was at it. Get well soon!

• **WELCOME INTERIM PRESIDENT JOHN KK4ITX**

John has been serving as VP and has stepped up to fill in while the Board of Directors makes a new plan. Please give him all the help you can.

• **YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS 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!

Our president Steve Szabo WB4OMM has resigned his position to facilitate his ability to deal with and conquer his recently diagnosed illness. For the immediate future I will assume the helm of the NAQCC and with the Board of Directors we will attempt to keep things progressing as Steve was doing. Please wish Steve well on his recovery.

Of note is that the Amazon Smile program for charities such as ours has been discontinued. Amazon is now deciding to which charities you may choose to direct funds.

HAMCATION in Orlando, FL is coming up in February on 10th-12th. I wonder if perhaps next year we should have a booth? It is a great way to meet new folks and gain new members.

Many members change email addresses and calls from time to time. It is up to you, the member, to keep your info updated. Notify us of any changes in call, address, or email by using our [member updates page](#). Also please check your email and contact on QRZ.com if you use the service.

Our Monthly Sprint will be on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, 0130-0330Z which is TUESDAY Eve between 8:30pm and 10:30pm EST.

The February Challenge starts the first day of the month 0000Z and runs through the last day of the month 2400Z. This month's theme is Q Codes.

NAQCC has many ways to stay in touch with its members including Facebook, Twitter and Groups.io. The Groups.io account (NAQCC@groups.io) is a fairly new method for us and it opens yet another resource to help each other in their quest for more efficient antennas, methods and so on. As time goes on we hope to allow photos and files be posted by members to share with each other as well as timely reminders of events.

Happy Valentines Day !

72/73!
John KK4ITX #7249
VP/NAQCC President



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



TIPS FOR IMPROVING QRP OPERATION

BY GLENN N4MJ #6587

TIP 2 – TIMING & PATIENCE

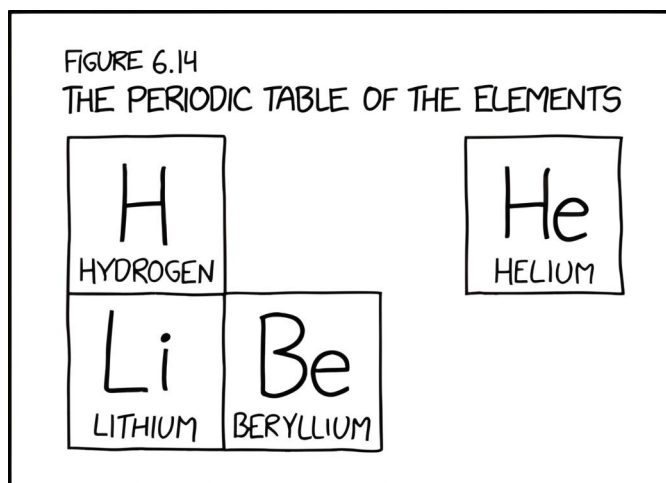
Listen before transmitting. Always check before transmitting to see if the frequency is busy. Use QRL? to inquire if the frequency is being used.

Often operators assume a frequency is "theirs" when nothing is heard initially, and start transmitting without knowing if the frequency is in fact being used. A frequency may seem quiet but someone may be hearing or working a station you cannot hear; propagation has its ways.

QRL is a double-edged code and may be used to both inquire and to state the status of a frequency. A common courtesy is to use QRL? to inquire if a frequency is in-use or to use QRL to advise others the frequency is in use.

Timing can make a huge difference in success rate. Develop this skill and be rewarded with more contacts faster. When you are trying to work a station in a pile-up, it can be advantageous to wait until the desired station is finished with a contact, then respond just before the desired station responds to anyone.

Listen for a momentary silence between the completion of a contact and the desired station's next transmission. It may be tough to catch that pregnant pause as some competitors will call on top of each other trying to get recognized. Listen for the pause and insert your call between all the other stations calling and just before the desired station responds with a call or QRZ.



YOU CAN SPOT AN OUTDATED SCIENCE TEXTBOOK BY CHECKING THE BOTTOM OF THE PERIODIC TABLE FOR MISSING ELEMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, MINE WAS PUBLISHED HALF AN HOUR AFTER THE BIG BANG.

NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE: 2023 REBOOT

Within a day of receiving this February NAQCC Newsletter the 2023 State QSO Party season begins. If you want to better your SQP Challenge score from 2022, don't miss out on the fun this weekend: three State QSO Parties.

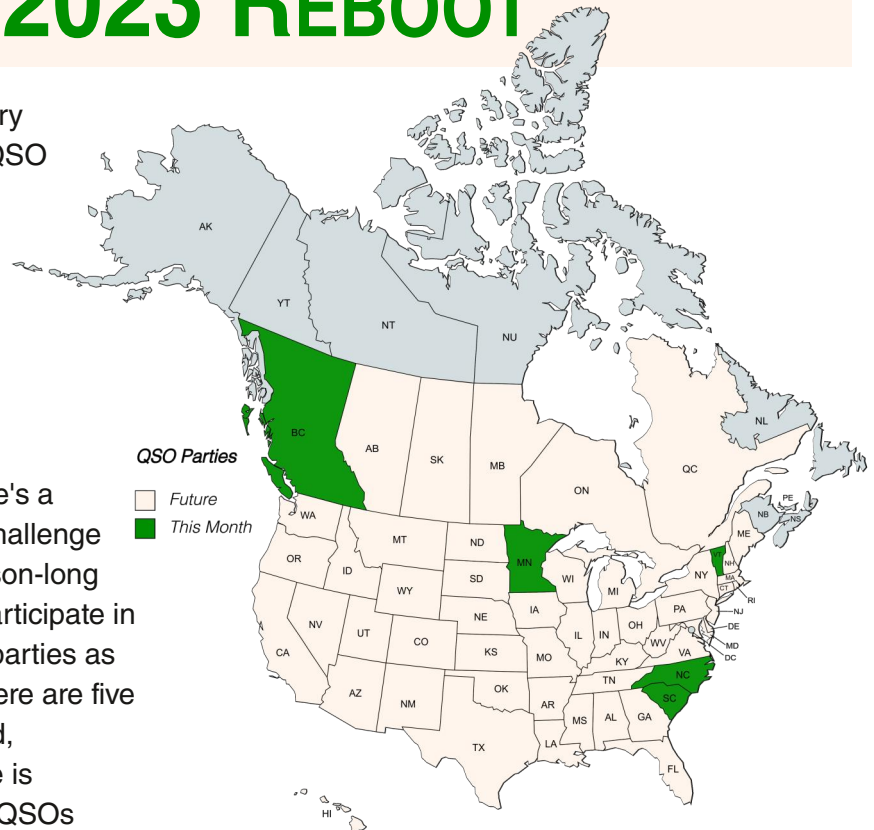
WHAT IS IT?

If you didn't participate last year, here's a brief review. The State QSO Party Challenge <http://stateqsoparty.com/> is a season-long (February to October) incentive to participate in as many of the state/province QSO parties as you can. At the end of the season there are five levels of certificates that are awarded, depending on one's score. The score is calculated by multiplying the sum of QSOs made by the number of events you participated in.

Within this overall SQP Challenge we ran our own friendly challenge among the NAQCC membership. Limiting ourselves to operating at QRP power levels and counting only our CW QSOs in the SQPs, each month Brent WT4U would devote a page in the newsletter to highlight the respective scores and award levels reached for the NAQCC participants, give tips for gaining points in each activation, and alert us to the events in the coming month. Frankly, I found it loads of fun to be doing this as a group, and it gave me that extra nudge to get on the air for the party weekends.

FIRST YEAR RESULTS

Last year in the NAQCC we had 47 participants making 12,733 QSOs in 47 SQP



events. Out of 271 clubs, the NAQCC came in 11th for the number of entrants. Overall, 18 participants qualified for awards from Bronze to Platinum. I find that impressive for the first year running this friendly competition. Can we increase those numbers this year?

TIME TO GET STARTED!

For instructions on how to participate in the SQP Challenge see the next page and <http://naqcc.info/qsoparties.html> If something isn't clear to you, please ask don@hekman.net Remember, the number of SQPs you participate in through the season is a multiplier for your final score. So this weekend you have a chance of having a running start by nabbing three: Vermont, Minnesota, and British Columbia.

UPCOMING EVENTS

State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
Vermont	Feb 4 0000Z to Feb 5 2400Z	RST County	RST ST	50 kHz up	Rules
Minnesota	Feb 4 1600Z to Feb 5 0359Z and Feb 5 1600Z to Feb 5 2359Z	RST County	RST ST	1.815, 3.535, 7.035, 14.035, 21.035, 28.035	Rules
British Columbia	Feb 4 1400Z to Feb 5 2400Z	Name County	Name ST	1.850, 3.550, 7.050, 14.050, 21.050, 28.050	Rules
South Carolina	Feb 25 1500Z to Feb 26 0159Z	RST County	RST ST	1.815, 3.540, 7.040, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040, and 50.095	Rules
North Carolina	Feb 26 1500Z to Feb 27 0059Z	County	ST	3.540, 7.040, 14.040, 21.040, 28.040, 50.040, 144.040	Rules

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 on the left side of the page in yellow.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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



HOW TO CONVERT THE KXPD1 TO SINGLE LEVER OPERATION

BY PAUL WORW #2500

I GUESS THE FIRST QUESTION IS, "WHY?"

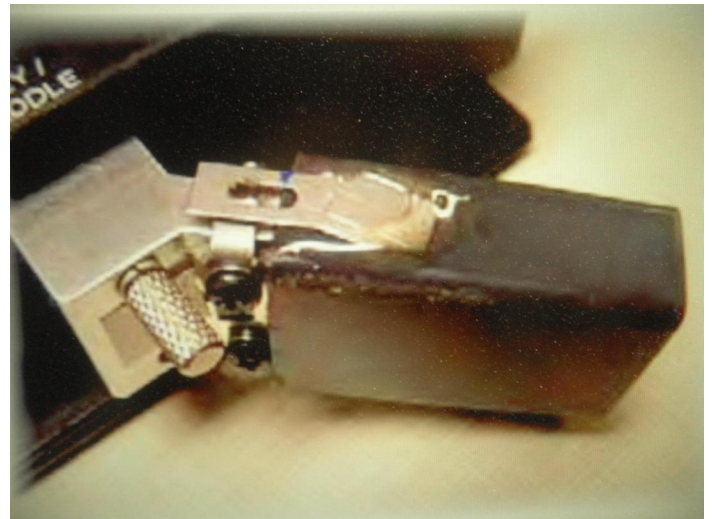
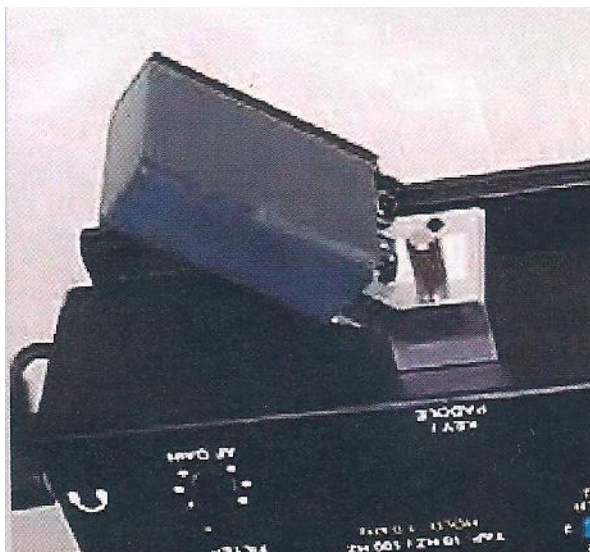
I use a single lever paddle when I am operating pedestrian mobile and find it better for sending while walking. My left hand seems to swing back and forth just like my right hand and that makes a pretty stable sending platform. You don't have to worry about all those lambic squeezing requirements. I can send faster and more accurately with a single lever key.

My KX1 had the KXPD1 paddle and it works fine but I wanted a single lever model.



THE CONVERSION

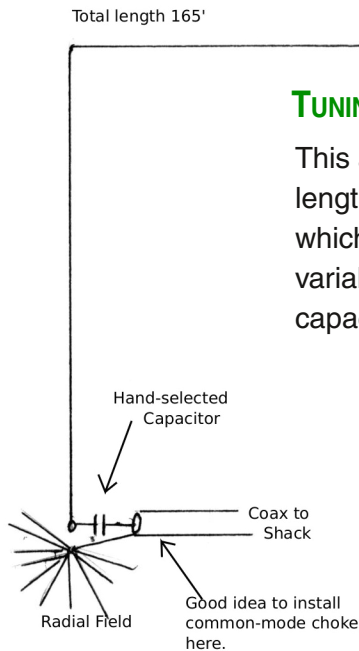
I converted the paddle by adding an exoskeleton case over it.



I found an old 9V Nicad plastic battery case that fit right over the KXPD1. I epoxied an Exacto blade to the top and added a hook on the top of the paddle mount. Then I used a rubber band to hold it in place.

THE TUNED 160M INVERTED L

BY JERRY KI4IO #6438



TUNING OUT THAT INDUCTIVE REACTANCE

This antenna was allegedly the favorite of 160 meter pioneer, W1BB. Overall length gives a radiation resistance of 50 ohm with some Inductive reactance which can be tuned out with a series capacitor. I used an SWR bridge and a variable capacitor to find the value of C—then I replaced it with a fixed capacitor. I use the antenna on other bands—see [my QRZ page](#).

GROUND

A low-loss ground is mandatory. I have 47 radials ranging in length from 15 to 70 feet, totaling about 3 wavelengths worth of wire. This is probably considered a minimum for 160m, but is FB on the higher bands



NAQCC AWARDS

FEATURED AWARD:

SUFFIX WORDS

Many call letter suffixes form common words such as W3CAT, K3GO, EA1JAR, etc. This award is for working stations with such call letters. This award is adapted from a suggestion made by George KN2GSJ (now K2GHM). Sounds like a lot of fun - thank you George.

Work as many different stations as possible whose suffixes form two or three letter words. An arbiter is needed to decide what is a word and

what is not. We've decided on a commonly used official Scrabble word list. See the end of these rules for the list which you may cut and paste into a text file for printing out if you wish. Working W2CAT and W3CAT counts as 2 stations, so there are a large number of available 'word calls' since the same word can be used with many different prefixes.

Only the whole suffix counts as a word - you can't get AT from W3ZAT or US from K2USN, and so forth.

NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: THE Q CODES

What ham doesn't know about the Q codes? We use them pretty much every time we fire up the station. They originally came from the British government in the early 1900s as a maritime communications aid. As well as being a shorthand for every day messages, they helped to bridge the gap between radiomen who did not share a common language.

As time went on, the list of signals grew and changed. The emerging aeronautical services found that they could make good use of the codes, and telegraphic services, including radio amateurs, also jumped on the wagon.

The need to coordinate and manage the Q codes and their meanings arose as they became more widely used. The management of the codes was divided between the various users. Q codes from QAA to QNZ went to the International Civil Avia-

tion Organization, QOA to QQZ went to the Maritime Mobile Service and QRA to QUZ went to the International Telecommunications Union Radiocommunication Sector.

The ARRL developed its own QNA to QNZ signals for use in amateur traffic nets. Our common amateur radio Q codes are a subset of the ITU list. While we can, of course, use the whole ITU list of codes, some do not make sense for amateur radio purposes.

If you were to listen in on Miami-Dade police and rescue operations in Florida you might well hear them using some Q codes. The military however, has adopted the Z codes, a set of codes similar to the Q codes but tailored for military communications. In the Q codes a "?" after the code makes it a question while in the Z codes "INT" before the Z code does the same thing.

QNB?

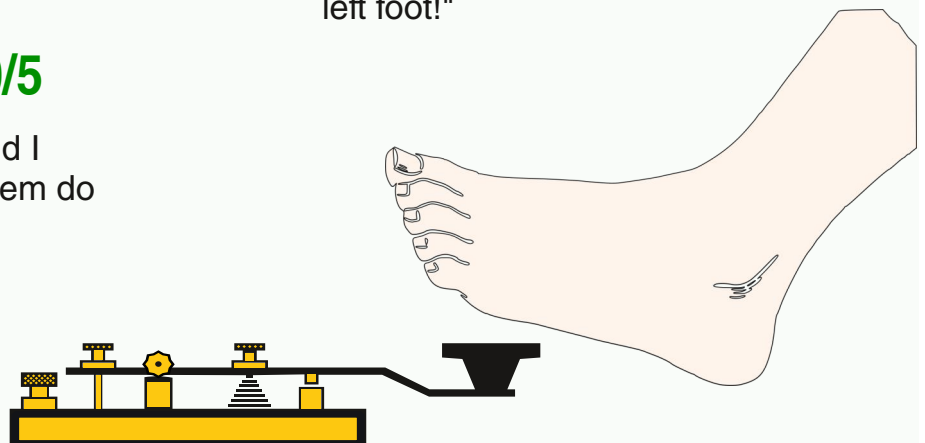
"How many buttons on your radio?"

QNB 100/5

There are 100, and I know what 5 of them do

QLF?

"Are you sending with your left foot? / Try sending with your left foot!"




WORDS

- QAA TO QNZ INT CIVIL AVIATION ORG
- QOA TO QQZ MARITIME MOBILE SVC
- QRA TO QUZ INT TELECOMMUNICATIONS UNION

CHALLENGE TRACKER:

A	B	C	E	G	I	L	M	N	O	Q	R	S	T	U	V	Z

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 anniversary 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 eligible calls you worked. It will apply the letters, tell you what you're missing, and fill out the email for you. <http://naqcc.wb5rvz.org>

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://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

Next month's March Guinness Widget Challenge is good for your head.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202303.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the PAVE PAWS letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202301.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 NN0SS ND9M KI8I NN9K AA4NN KQ1P
50+	VE3FUJ WI5H NF1U WA2FBN AK3X W3IQ KJ4R VE3DQN G3JFS AH6AX N9SE WB4OMM
75+	PA0XAW PA9CW
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	W2JEK K3WWP N8XMS

CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

KJ4R - One New Years day POTA activation was all it took this month. 59 QSO's on a beautiful Sunday afternoon on the Palmetto Trail in SC. HNY all.

KN4OK - I absolutely love the challenges and I am HOOKED! This month's challenge was with my KX2 radio. Great way to start 2023! HNY Dave

KC4GIA - First Word Challenge in a long time. I love this stuff.

ON7DQ - Lots of fun this challenge. It was not the number of A's or E's that made it difficult, but I struggled to find my last B, H or N. Setup was IC-7300 at 5W and a 100ft random endfed. Alternating between Junker SK, Vibroplex Bug and a homemade wooden cootie.

WT4U - Another fun challenge. Took me a while to get all those "E"s. Heads up for next month's challenge: 12xI, 10xT, 10xO, 7xQ! I may need to set some alerts to catch those.



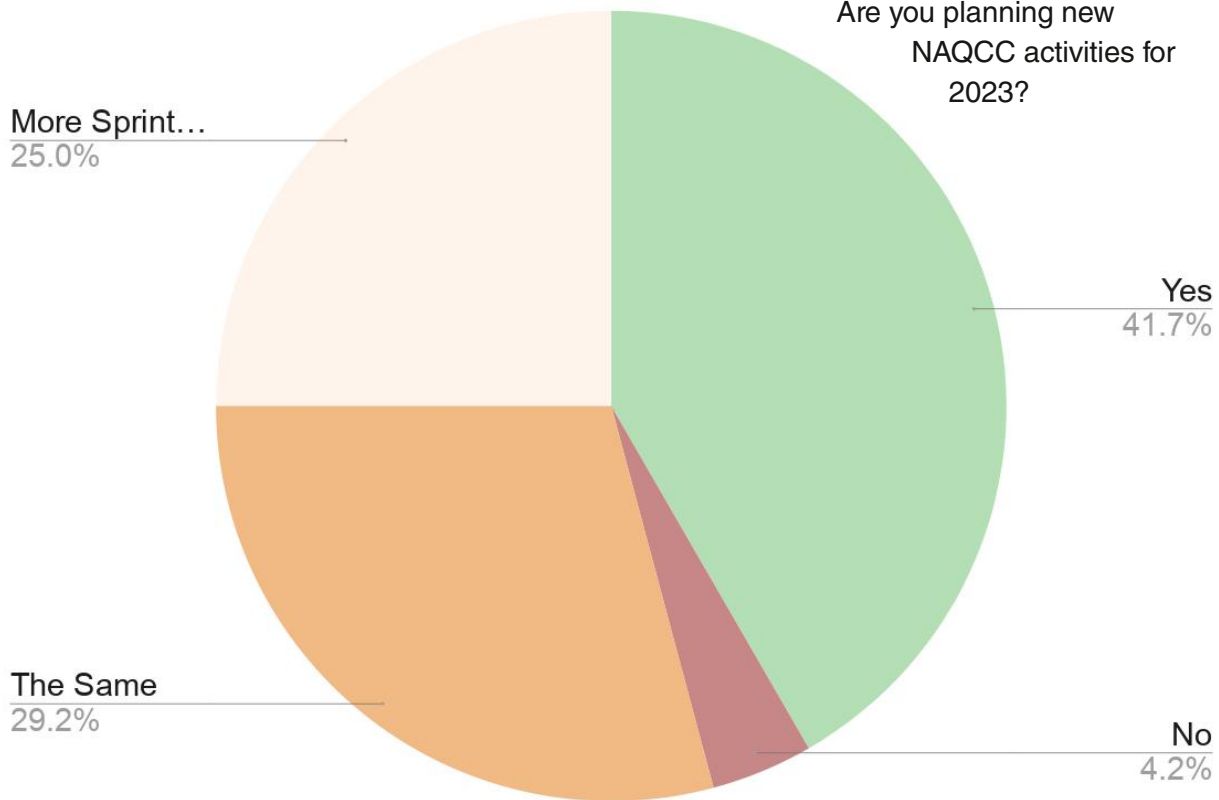
MEMBER POLL

FEBRUARY POLL

How many times do you operate portable QRP/CW outdoors each year? Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

JANUARY POLL

Are you planning new NAQCC activities for 2023?



POLL SOAPBOX

Mike WB0BEE - I just completed my first month challenge Fun!

Bobby KM4JEG - I am going to quit forgetting the Sprint dates...

Bob C K1QED - Instead of just listening, I have to dive in even though my "cw ear" is weak. Practice, practice, practice, every day.



YOU HAVE TO WORK HARDER ON CW WITH A SHORT CALLSIGN

BY JODY K3JZD #7936

How can that be? For a CW Op, the primary reason for getting a short callsign is . . . well . . . to have a short callsign. Short calls can be sent faster. Nowadays 1x2 and 2x1 vanity calls are the thing. Special event stations will use 1x1 callsigns. The short calls containing letters like e, t, a, n, i, and m are heavily favored by CW Ops. Some will even go outside of their call area to get a primo short callsign.

WHY NOT SHORTER?

So, since it takes less time to send a short call on CW, why then would one have to work harder? From my experience while running a frequency during events like the NAQCC Sprints, I would suggest that unless you are careful, having a short call can result in your sending a lot more characters, not fewer characters. Why is that you say?

HERE'S WHY

First of all, any US call sign that has fewer than three letters after the number is harder for those of us who have been around for a while to deal with. Being in that category, I can tell you that it takes me a few moments to figure out when a short call sign is complete. So I will wait just a little bit longer before responding. Quite often, while I'm deciding that I must have the whole callsign, the calling station will throw out his call again. If you have a short call sign, you need to be a little more patient. It may save you some work.

WATCH THAT SPACING

Secondly, any short call containing the favored e, i, and t letters really need to be sent with exaggerated character spacing. Long ago a friend was able to obtain the N3EE call when he upgraded to Extra. The "N" Prefix was new and the FCC was allowing folks to choose any available "N" call with the Extra. His rationale for N3EE? He was a CW guy, and this was the shortest possible three-area callsign.

However, he soon learned that he had to send it with exaggerated spacing: n 3 - - - e - - - e. If he didn't drag it out like that, then it would frequently get copied as n3i. And the other station would come back with n3i? Even if he did drag it out with exaggerated spacing, the other station would often come back with n3ee? Why? Well because there were not very many 1x2 calls out there at that time. So, while had obtained that shortest possible three call area callsign, he frequently had to do more work. It is never easy to be a pioneer.

So, if you have a short call containing the favored e, i, and t letters, use exaggerated spacing. Don't be in a hurry. When copying text, I can put the short e, i, and t characters into context. When copying a call sign in this world of guess how many characters is in that call, it is far too easy for me to combine them if the spacing is not exaggerated. I will get it wrong and I will come up a different letter. You end up having to send your call again. More work for you.

THE WRAPAROUND

Finally, far too many stations will wrap their calls whenever repeating them. By wrap, I mean repeating your callsign without leaving enough space between the end and the start. Once again, with any short call having less than three letters after the number, this can create a lot of copy errors.

As mentioned earlier, whenever I copy a short callsign, I will hesitate a moment or two while I'm deciding if I have the whole call or not. If you have one of these short calls, and you impatiently decide to resend it to me two or more times, and you do not leave a generous space between the end of your call and your starting it again, you may be causing even more confusion on my end. I still may not get it right. More work for you.

This is especially a problem if your short call ends in w, k, n, or a. I don't know if you are sending me a 1x3, 1x2, or 2x1 call. If you happened to be k7ak, and you very quickly repeated it two or more times, I could be sitting there wondering if I heard kk7a, k7akk, ak7ak,

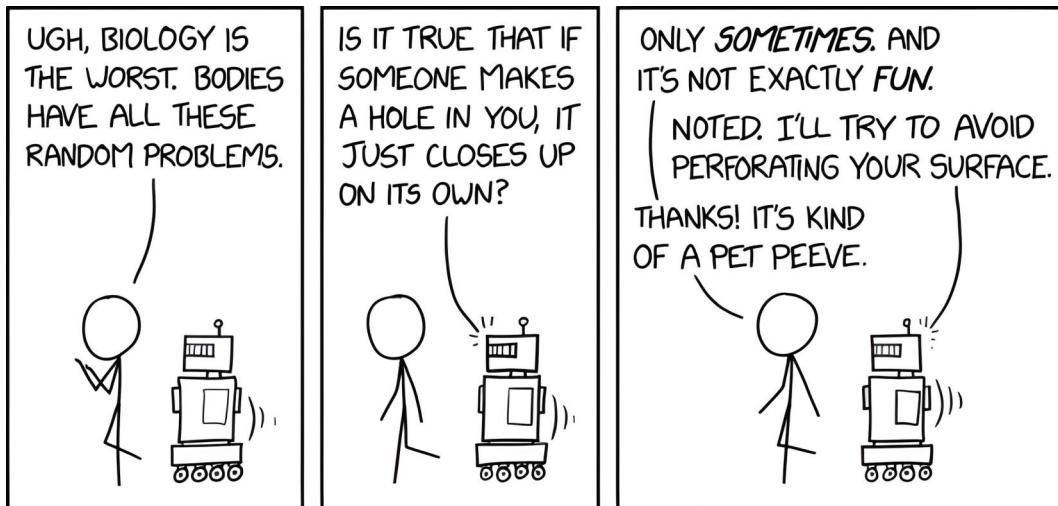
or k7ak. QRP, with QRM and QSB make it even worse. Bottom line, you end up doing more work.

THE SOLUTION

What's the solution? That is easy: Spacing, Spacing, and Spacing. If you have a short call that frequently gets copied incorrectly, exaggerate your spacing as required to rectify it. It takes much less time to send your short callsign once using exaggerated spacing than it does to send it over and over again until the other guy finally sorts it out. It does not matter if you are using paddles with an electronic keyer, a bug, a straight key, a sideswiper, or a cootie; you control the spacing.

To be able to take full advantage of having that short callsign, adjust your spacing as required to get a good copy every time. And it helps to be a little more patient while waiting for the guy on the other end to sort out what he just copied.

—Jody K3JZD #7936



NAQCC SPRINTS

FEBRUARY SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, February 8th at 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, February 7th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202302.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.

JANUARY SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202301.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: KD0FNR

January Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	79	93	217	4/17
Participants	105	128	269	2/13
Total QSOs	967	701	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	638	429	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	329	272	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	67	11	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	709	338	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	191	352	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.2	7.5	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	AC1KV	K1YAN
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	K2CWM
W3	K3JZD	W6WU	KD3CA
W4	KC5F	WX4RM	WT4U
W5	N5GW	KG5HCF	AC5BX KE5YUM (TIE)
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KN1H	K7ZI	-
W8	W8GG	N8XMS	NF8M
W9	WB9HFK	K9QEW	K9NUD
W0	KD0V	AA5LH	NNOSS N8LA (TIE)
Canada	VE3SIF	VE2ZAZ	VA3NU
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	K3CKO	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	AA2MX	K3RLL	-
W5	WI5H	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	K1IX	-
W2	WA1GWH	N2ESE	WA2FBN
W3	AC5XK	W3IPA	-
W4	K4KBL	W8DXU	KM4JEG
W5	-	-	-
W6	KD0FNR	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	NG8S W8RTJ (TIE)
W9	NN9K	AB9BZ	-
W0	W1TM	KC2MJT	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

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

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	KD0FNR	-	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			

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+	KJ4R KF7WNS AA0W NN0SS N7QR KC7DM KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU VE3GNU WD4OHD K4KBL N8QY WY3H K6CSL W5UAA AB8FJ NN9K WK6L KC2EGL K2HT KE9DR K1IX K4ORD K5GQ AA5LH N8HWV N1JI W4HH KB4QQJ KC3RN VE3HUR KB9ILT WA2NYY KC2MJT
75+	N8LA KQ1P K4NVJ KD3CA K9EYT WB4OMM K9OSC VE3FUJ WD0K N8BB KB1M N2CN WA1GWH VE3DQN WA2FBN WB9HFK K6MGO NF5U NQ2W WB1GYZ WI5H N8APO
100+	K4KRW K1IEE W4DUK AK3X AA9L N5GW KD2MX NO2D NA4O KN1H WB8ENE KA9FQG N4MJ
125+	K2CWM K4JPN KD0V N2ESE KE5YUM N4FI WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N0TA
150+	W9CC K4BAI N8XMS NF8M K3RLL KU4A
175+	W2JEK W2SH W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K7ZI - Heard many stations but unable to work most. Lots of QRM, great competition for those I could copy. Great sprint until the CWT "showoff's" come up on frequency just before 8pm.

N3CAA - Sending with a straight key using the non-dominant hand is starting to progress but still quite slow. Apologies to everyone who heard it.

KC5F - I didn't get to hunt much on 40m - they just kept coming back to my CQ's! A few more on 80m to end a good night. Thanks to everyone, including DK1VD!

K9QEW - All OPS on 40m and high noise levels. 50% of QSOs made using my ole HB rock-bound "Funmitter" A challenge at times but more fun. 72/73s & STAY TUNED! Daryl

KD0FNR - Wow! First time I've ever worked an entire contest, and first time I've ever made a QSO in a contest!!! I expected the 20 meter band to be shut down, but the RBN showed the Rockmite making it into Canada routinely with the furthest RBN station being VE2WU in Quebec which was kind of hard to believe. But then, four minutes later, I had a QSO with KN1H. ... What fun! Thanks everyone! 73 de KD0FNR Hamilton

N2GDS - On vacation and couldn't operate indoors, so I set up a vertical whip on the beach, in the dark, with a loading coil and an EFHW tuner that I normally use for SOTA activations. Rig was a homebrew direct-conversion receiver with a transmitter rockbound to 14060 and 14062. So no hunting and pouncing, just CQing and hoping!



JANUARY 160M SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202301_160.html

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	K1IX	-
W2	KN2G	W2JEK	-
W3	W6WU	WB8YYY	KC3MIO
W4	WT4U	W4NLT	WG8Y
W5	N5GW	KN1H	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	NF8M	-	-
W9	WB9HFK	K9NUD	-
W0	N8LA	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	-	-	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	W0LRF	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1WHS	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	KB9ILT	-	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	W0NY	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

160M SPRINT STATS:

Logs submitted: 28

Total participants: 42

Total QSOs: 255

States + Provinces : 23 + ON

160M SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

VE3DQN - The 160m sprints are always fun. Good to hear so many signals. Operated in the middle of a snowstorm here in eastern Ontario, so had to quit after 45 minutes in order to get home before the roads were packed in. (My "contest station" :-) is at my daughter's place in the country away from town noise.)

WG8Y - Hi all, Whew! Used a coil shortened 70 ft wire hooked to my grd mntd Hustler 6btv. Inverted L running up to app. 30ft. Best I could do to get on this year. No room at my QTH. QRN was from S3 to S7. Want to thank KN2G, Ken and my last contact KJ4ASE for the many repeats. TNX guys. Still FUN! 73 all from N.C. Mark WG8Y

WB1GYZ - Band was surprisingly accommodating tonight. Also snagged a contact with a member of the Antique Wireless Association using what sounded like a vintage Hartley. A fun hour for me.

KJ4ASE - First naqcc sprint. 5w on 160m with a subpar antenna is challenging!

N5GW - I was sitting under a pole barn out of the rain and wind. The antenna was an inverted L up about 60 feet over pine trees. Ground was the metal pole barn itself. The rain probably didn't help the antenna any, but it loaded up OK using a home brew tuner. Not many stations were heard, but fortunately the noise level was rather low. I quit after the first hour because stations were thinning out, and I started getting cold!

KN2G - MAN WAS IT CROWDED in our small slice of paradise!!! It was like digging small potatoes.... But as always a lot of fun. The rain and snow static was fierce here and the qsb amazing to listen to. I lost a few in the mud but I am tickled with an even dozen contacts.

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.

HAM LINGO "VINTAGE GEAR"



HAMS LOVE TO COLLECT "VINTAGE GEAR"

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
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 5 PM PST	Friday 0100 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)

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

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

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

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Jan 06 – QNI (6) KE7LKW NCS, WC7CW, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, N0DA, AD7BP

Jan 13 – QNI (8) WB4SPB, KC7CW, KJ7KDB, KE7LKW, K7JUV, AD7BP, KI7SJE, N0DA

Jan 20 – QNI (8) KE7LKW NCS, WC7CW, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, K7JUV, AD7BP, NB6M

Jan 27 – QNI (7) KE7LKW/P, KC7CW, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N0DA, K7JUV

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC,
on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Jan 03 – No Net (Weather)

Jan 10 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5MHI

Conditions good with reports 599/599/589. Jon was running his Flex remote with an iPhone from the couch tonight. My first iPhone QSO HI HI !

Jan 17 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Conditions were real good last night, and all were 599 from AR and GA. N4NN was doing a POTA and got called by KE5YUM. Always fun hearing from ops you know unexpectedly!

Jan 24 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA

Just me and Andy tonight. Good signals both ways. 589. He got a new puppy! Setting in his lap while he tapped out CW.

Jan 31 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N5MHI

Good signals and ice/sleet reported in AR from Andy and Jon was having trouble with his Flex on a Mac and had to switch to the Icom. Reported wet weather in TX. Good net for the end of Jan!

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

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

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

Jan 02 – No Net (Weather)

Jan 09 – No Net

Jan 16 – QNI (2) W0CC, N5NLP

The other operators were focused on working a nearby DX station so, without any other check-ins, Mike and I had a nice QSO.

Jan 23 – QNI (1) W0CC

Heard W7PAG but could not get him to respond back. Most of the traffic was working nearby DX stations.

Jan 30 – QNI (2) W0CC, N9EEE

When I was getting ready to sign on, N5W (WRTC) was on 7031 and we had a brief QSO before the start of the NET. I QSY'd to 7031.5 until he moved to SSB, then I moved back to 7031. Because things were slow, I was able to have a nice QSO with Dick and learn how cold it can be in WI in January!



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 John KK4ITX.

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 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 President John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The chapter's web site is

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

NAQCC-WFL AT WINTER FIELD DAY 2023

The club met at Linda Pederson Park on Hernando Beach January 28 & 29 for Winter Field Day set up and operations.

Those attending:

Tim, WB0YSX	James, N1PZX
Ron, N9EE	Doug, N9QY
John, KJ4OTM	Han, WB4ASV
Jim, K8JK	Keith, KN4ULU
Craig, WB2BGI	Tom, KO4UAF
Frank, KY4FG	Darel, KM4RWL



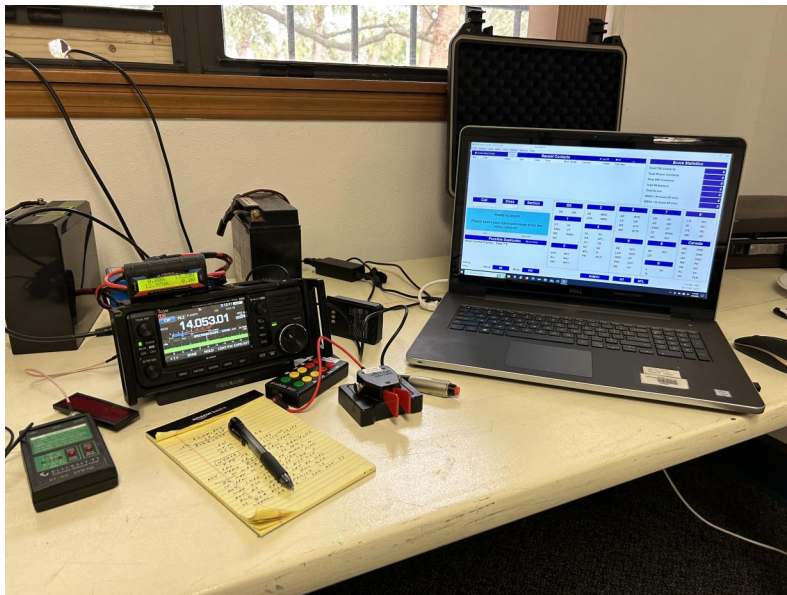
We set up 4 stations although only 3 were to be in operation at one time.

We were 30 (outdoors) North Florida (NFL)

Ron, N9EE operated CW on his IC705 QRP rig with 40m OCF dipole on 20 ft portable flag pole.

Fred brought food and gas grill, we had very good food Saturday noon and evening and good breakfast Sunday morning.

Ron, N9EE operating CW QRP made 60 QSOs, and X4 points



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.

New organizers needed

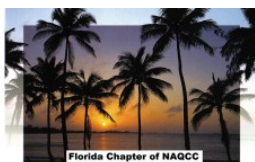
NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

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

NAQCC 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



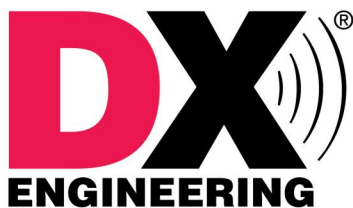
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www.qrpkits.com



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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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 John Leahy KK4ITX
3513 Aquamarine Way
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 USA

