

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE #207 SEPTEMBER 2015



## KEY CLICKS

- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR N#A OPERATIONS.** Our October anniversary celebration is just over a month away and we still need more volunteers to put our N#A special event callsigns on the air October 12-18. We especially need N#A operators for our sprint that week in districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7. Please read the “*Celebrate!*” article in this issue for more information. If you are interested in being an N#A operator contact club President Paul, N8XMS (email on last page). There is no limit to the number of operators that we can have so “the more the merrier.” *If you have already signed up to be an operator but find that your schedule has changed and you now need to opt out please let us know.* (Having someone on the operator list who doesn't actually operate complicates our record keeping and wrap-up work at the end of the week.) Detailed instructions for special event operators will be sent out by the end of this month but if you have any questions just ask.
- **ARTICLES WANTED.** My supply of backlogged feature articles for the newsletter has now shrunk down to exactly zero. So unless you want to see a shrunken edition of the newsletter next month please consider sending something in. Do you have a new piece of gear that you could write a review about? Have you recently participated in an interesting portable outing? Do you have some expertise and advice to share with others in some aspect of QRP/CW operating? Or do you just have a fun ham radio story to share? Your article doesn't need to be “perfect” and you don't need to worry about the formatting because I'll take care of that. You can simply send your submissions to me as a text file or as a .doc file, along with any pictures, and I'll take it from there.
- **THE NAQCC IS NOW “OFFICIAL” ON CLUB LOG.** The NAQCC has now been recognized as a club by the popular *Club Log* electronic QSL server. You can list your NAQCC membership as one of your associated clubs in your *Club Log* account. Approval of the listing will normally take a day or two.
- **SO WHAT EXACTLY IS QRPP?** It was recently pointed out by a member that our website was inconsistent for a definition of QRPP. In our awards program it said that a QRPP endorsement could be earned with QSOs at “1 watt or less.” But in our QRPP challenges over the years the instructions have said to make QSOs with “less than 1 watt,” and our special milliwatt sprints have always said to use “999 mW or less” (an impossible measurement for most of us to make). Ok, so we really are splitting hairs here but you have to draw the line somewhere - so what is it? Is an output of 1 watt QRPP? Well, I decided to get the “definitive answer” by going to that all-knowing source of information - the internet! But it didn't help. I found a document from the QRP ARCI that said “1 watt

### IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
OS X Sprint Logger	3
Chinese Alligators	5
Celebrate!	8
Member Spotlight	10
Sprints	12
Challenges	15
Awards	17
QRS Nets	18
Ham Quips	25
Chapter News	26
Member Submissions	40
About The NAQCC	43
Contacts	44

or less,” but the NJ QRP club has a popular slide presentation called “Why QRP” that says it’s strictly less than 1 watt. Other major QRP clubs either didn’t mention it at all, or were vague about the definition. A QRP book that I have, published by the ARRL, said it was “1 watt or less” but a link that is on the league’s website sends you to an external page that says it’s strictly less than 1 watt. So I guess that I now need to exercise my “Presidential authority” and make a decision that will greatly impact the lives of thousands! (My tongue is imbedded in my cheek right now!) When I learned that there are rigs that only indicate integer power output values and that only go down to a minimum indication of 1 watt I made up my mind. Here it is - “lighten up” (pun intended) and have some fun! If the lowest you can go is 1 watt, and you want to participate in one of our QRPp activities, go ahead and join in on the fun. (With the accuracy of our power measurements there is at least a 50% chance that your output is actually less than 1 watt anyway.) But if you can accurately measure and set your output power to less than 1 watt I would challenge you to do so. I have worked about 27 states and a couple of Caribbean DX using a Rockmite on 30-meters with 450 mW into a trap vertical antenna, and there are many that have earned QRPp WAS with even less power than that! So, “how low can you go?”

- **2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.** We want to encourage all of you to “talk up” the NAQCC and as an incentive we will be offering a prize each quarter of 2015 to the person responsible for the most new membership applications during that quarter. (The application form includes a field where the person can indicate how they heard about the NAQCC.) The prize will be a gift certificate for 100 free QSL cards from <http://cheapqsls.com/naqcc.html>.
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use *PayPal* to electronically send your contribution to Club Vice President John, N8ZYA, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please be sure to check the box that says “*I’m sending money to family or friends.*” Also please add a note indicating that this is a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file, your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a “check and balance.”



# OS X LOGGER BY PAUL, N8XMS

A little bit more than a year ago I switched my home computing over from a *Windows* machine to an Apple iMac running *OS X*. I had a number of reasons for making this switch but I won't go into them here. Although I have had absolutely no regrets, there have been several issues to deal with and high on that list has been the lack of a good way to use my computer in our NAQCC sprints.

Of course *Windows* users have the *GenLog* program by W3KM to use in our sprints but it doesn't run on a Mac. (Unless you run Parallels and I didn't want to spend the money for that.) So for awhile I simply logged my sprints by hand and typed in the text log for the autologger submission. Then I used my regular station logging software (at first *Aether* but now *RUMLog*) to log the sprints, but that's not really designed for contest logging and converting the log into a format that would work for autologger submissions was difficult. Now I've developed a spreadsheet that runs in the *Numbers* software that is on every Mac computer. And I must say that I'm very pleased with it.<sup>1</sup>

#	BAND	WORKED	UTC	RST s	RST r	NAME	STATE	MEMBERSHIP NUMBER	MULTIPLIER	POINTS
1	20	K3WWP	0040	559	559	John	PA	2	1	2
2	20	WY3H	0045	559	339	Tom	GA	1	2	2
3	20	KE0Z	0047	579	579	Will	SD	6877	3	2
4	40	K4BAI	0050	599	579	John	GA	644	-	2
5	40	N2ESE	0100	559	559	Gary	NJ	5555	4	2
6										
7										
8										
9										
10										
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25										

QSOs are logged in this table in real time during the sprint.

Member QSOs:	5
Non-Member QSOs:	0
Multipliers:	4
Key Bonus:	2
<b>Total Score:</b>	<b>80</b>

*NAQCC Sprint Logger.numbers* will log your sprint QSOs in realtime and it duplicates almost all of the functionality of *GenLog*. As you enter the callsigns of stations worked, the spreadsheet automatically fills in all of the necessary membership data, keeps track of multipliers, and calculates your sprint score. It simultaneously works in the background to create a correctly formatted report for autologger submission and an ADIF file that can be used to import your sprint QSOs into your main station log. It works with a special membership database file that will be updated every month and will be available for download just like what is already being done for *GenLog*.

A webpage for the spreadsheet has been added to the club website at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_macs.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html). There is also a link to this page from the Sprint General Rules page.

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<sup>1</sup>*GenLog* is a contest logging program with templates for a hundred or more different major and minor contests. This spreadsheet is not that. But it is a very good alternative for our specific NAQCC sprints and in my opinion it's a little bit easier to use than *GenLog* and it has a shorter learning curve.

From the webpage you can download the zip file containing the spreadsheet and it is also the place where the monthly database update will be found. Also included are some FAQ's and a few "how to" videos that go through the steps for installing and using the spreadsheet.



There is a modest learning curve to mastering the spreadsheet and I recommend that you practice with some simulated sprint QSOs before you actually try to use it in a real NAQCC sprint. It's certainly not a perfect sprint tool but it's a lot better than most of the alternatives that Mac users currently have.

I developed this spreadsheet for both personal use and as a service to any other members who would like to participate in our sprints and who use Mac computers. It is completely free and you are welcome to share it and modify it as you wish. It works well on my iMac but I can't guarantee that it will work for you or meet your needs. I would be very happy to help you get up and running with it but there is a limit to the amount of support that I can provide.

I would like to thank the members who beta-tested the spreadsheet in the August sprint. All of their feedback was appreciated and several of their suggestions ended up in the final product.

**HAVE FUN IN OUR NEXT SPRINT!**



# CHINESE ALLIGATORS

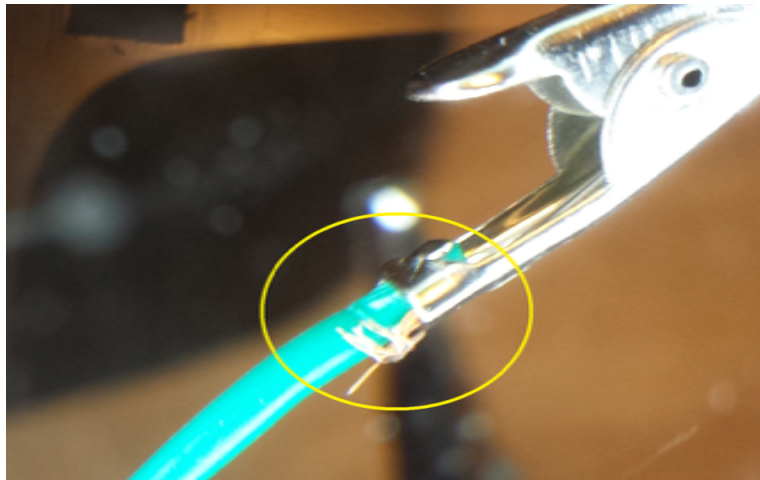
BY JOHN, K8AG

I bought a few packages of alligator clip jumper wires in Ebay a while back. I have known about the problems with them and have a solution that makes them a lot more reliable. I thought I would document my solution for others who may have found themselves with a set of these questionable quality tools.

I knew these were going to be badly made as they were very very cheap. The way to find out is to pull back the rubber boot completely off of the clip and onto the wire.



Sticking something between the jaws can make this easier. Next look closely at the clamp for the wire at the back of the clip.

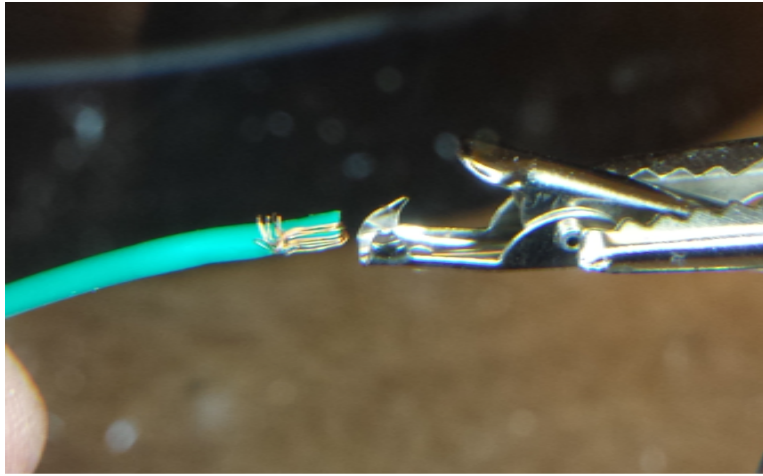


Notice that the bare wire strands are simply bent back along the wire insulation under the clamp. No solder is used.

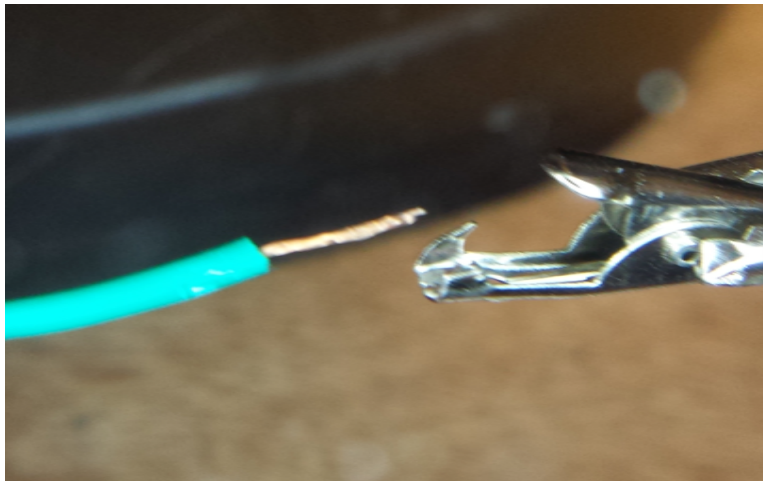
What I do is disassemble each clip and reassemble them with solder in the proper place.



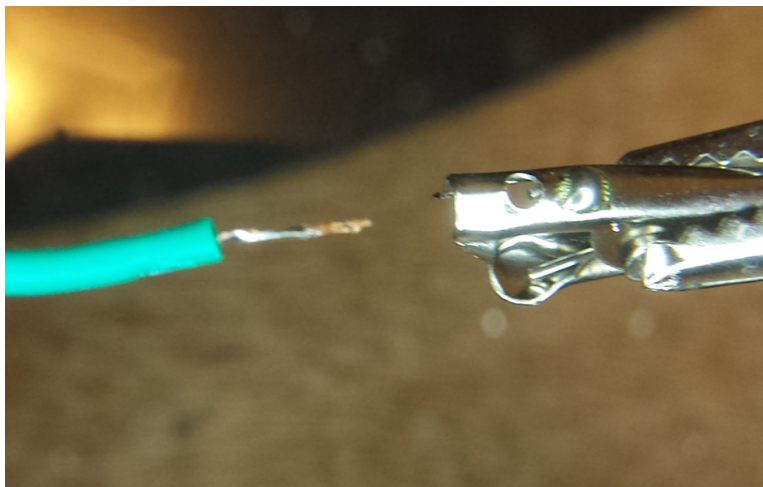
First I use a pair of diagonal cutters to pry open the wire clamp and separate the wire.



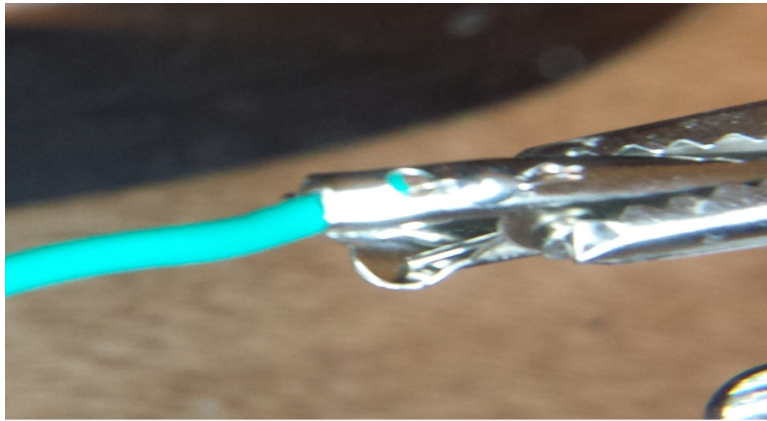
Next I straighten the strands back along their original orientation (when the wire was still on the spool).



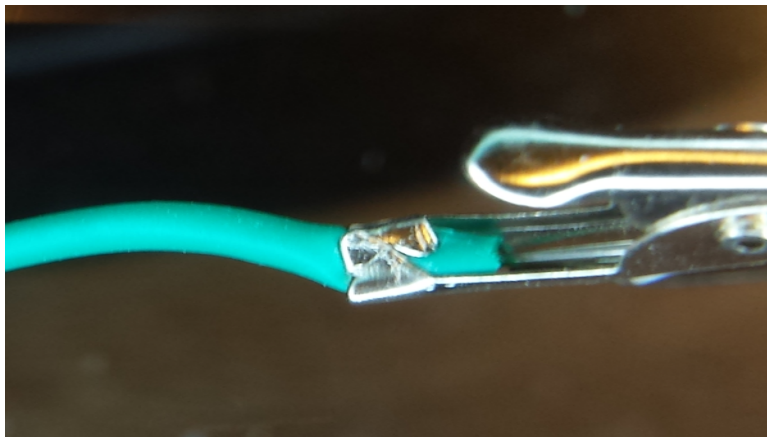
Now I tin both the wire and the clip as shown.



I push the wire up through the hole and solder the strands to the clip.



Finally I bend the wire clamp back in place.



And finally I replace the rubber boot back to its proper position.



When I get a whole bag I slide off the rubber boots from all of the wire ends before I start rebuilding them. This makes the process go quicker.

Once I found the issue my jumper wires have been a lot more reliable. If I am clipped to metal at both ends I can usually rely on that contact being made. It makes troubleshooting a lot quicker.



# CELEBRATE! BY PAUL, N8XMS

**Tempus fugit!** It's almost here! Our club's eleventh anniversary celebration is next month and we want to make sure that everyone knows how they can join in on the fun.

First, let's talk about our week-long special callsign operations. From 0000z October 12 through 2400z October 18, member operators will be putting the special event callsigns N0A, N1A, N2A, ... N9A, on the air from all over the United States. Special QSL cards or certificates will be available for stations that you work (\$1.00 for up to four cards) and a special certificate can be earned if you manage to work all 10 call districts. (There is a \$3.00 charge for a printed certificate but it's free for one via email.) Details on how you can request your QSLs and/or certificate will be posted on the club website.

But there is another side to the special callsign fun - you could be one of the operators! It's really a lot of fun and you might even get to experience a minor pileup here and there. No special equipment is needed and you can operate as much as your personal schedule will allow. (We coordinate operating times and bands with an almost-realtime webpage.) QSOs can be anything from quick contest-like exchanges to actual rag chews. Of course all operations are done with CW/QRP. Your only requirement, beyond actually getting on the air, is to send in a text file log of contacts made at the end of the week. You don't even need to deal with QSL requests.

Here is a list of our volunteer operators thus far. The stations shown in red will be operating with the special call during the sprint that week (as well as at other times).

N1A - AB1VL K1RID KC1CMF  
N2A - W2JAZ  
N3A - K3WWP KC2EGL WB3FAE WA3HIC W3ZMN AE3J  
N4A - KG4MTN K4NVJ  
N5A - **KS5H** W5WIL  
N6A - WH7TT  
N7A - AB7MP KE6K  
N8A - **N8XMS** AC8JW KD8RUQ  
N9A - **AB9YC**  
N0A - W0EJ **K0ALN**

There really is no limit to the number of operators that we can have and, as you can see, there is still plenty of room for more to join the fun. If you would like to be one of our special call operators please email me, Paul N8XMS, and you will be added to the list. If you would like to be the sprint operator that week please indicate that as well. Complete details about the operation will be emailed to all of the volunteers before the end of this month.

The fun certainly isn't limited to our special event stations, because there is also a very special anniversary sprint to enjoy on Tuesday evening the 13th (0030-0230 Oct. 14 UTC). Not only should all 10 special callsigns be on in the sprint, giving you the chance to earn that special certificate in a matter of just two hours, but everyone participating in the sprint will also have the chance to win some great prizes. And the good news for most of us is that you don't have to "win" in the sprint to win a prize because every member participant in the sprint will have a chance at winning a prize.

As in past years, we will have two different tiers for prizes. The top tier of three great prizes will be given away in a random drawing to sprint participants who have also participated in club activities throughout the year. As we explained in the January newsletter ([http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter\\_199.pdf](http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter_199.pdf)), a



member needs to have earned a total of at least 9 participation points from January through the end of this month to be eligible. You can see your almost-current point total in the table at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html). (This table is updated about the 10th of each month.) If your point total is close, but not quite there, you might be able to bump yourself up by applying for one or two of our club awards. See that January newsletter for the details.

But what if you haven't earned nine participation points? Well, don't worry, because every member participant in the sprint, regardless of participation points, will be automatically entered into the random drawing for the seven second-tier prizes.

So lets do some math... Over the last five years we have averaged 124 submitted logs in our anniversary sprints. (Although we did have 156 in 2013.) So lets bump that up a bit and assume that 150 members will submit logs this year. That means that you have a 6.7% chance of winning one of the 10 prizes and that's a whole lot better than the odds in your state lottery, and it's probably even better than any hamfest or swap-meet drawings that you have entered.

I hope that you will join in on the fun next month. I'll be operating as N8A and hope to see you in the log.

73!



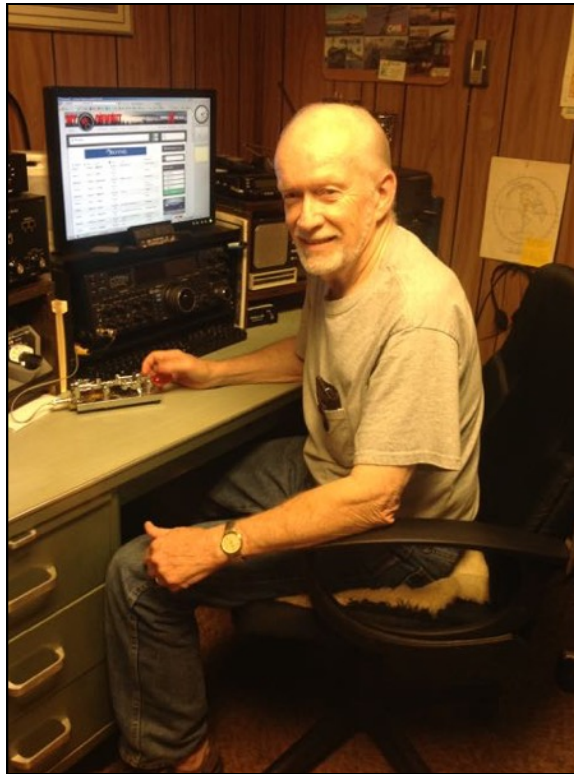
# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX.

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

## FRANK McINNIS, K1IX, 7116



It's funny how a single event can set your life on a course that was unanticipated. My "event" began with a Christmas gift of an Arvin AC/DC portable radio of my own at about age ten. That started me on BCB logging. I soon after discovered nighttime DX propagation. It wasn't long before I wondered what was on the air waves beyond 1600 after the dial hit the stop. With no mentor around it took some time and a Lafayette Radio catalog to find it, "Short Wave Radio". After saving many months of paper route money I was able to walk into the local radio store and say "I want that one there, the S38D, with the big dial". Now I was off and running with a long wire up and the DX just started rolling in. My first big Ham radio catch was CX5AF, Montevideo, Uruguay, who I sent a SWL report to and received his QSL back. These guys had their own radio stations? This was just too cool, I had to get my own license.

A few years rolled by, but finally after mastering 5wpm, the novice ticket KN1IXX arrived and I was on the air with a HB transmitter and an SX99 receiver. Within a year I had moved up to Technician, then General, and CW was the name of the game. This whole adventure lead me after high school to a technical school education and a career as an Electronic Technician. During the ensuing years I had many periods of on air inactivity as life got hectic with family and job responsibilities, but I managed to keep in the game and not let my ticket lapse.

With the kids grown and more free time, I moved up to Extra in the early '80s and really upgraded the station with a tower and non-kit equipment. Heathkit and I had been on a first name basis. Now in retirement, everyday is involved in some sort of ham radio activity. I like to work all the modes but have recently found the NAQCC and really enjoy the sprints.

See you on the bands.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be on September 17, 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of the 16th in North America. Complete details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201509.html>.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. Everything that you need to know about how to have a Silver Log can be found at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt>.

Complete sprint rules and information on log submissions can be found at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>.

A spreadsheet alternative to the GenLog logging program has been developed for members who use an Apple Mac computer running Numbers under OS X. See the article earlier in this issue for details.

We occasionally get questions from sprint participants about how to use the GenLog software to log and report their contacts. Most of the time the answers to these questions can be found in the excellent illustrated tutorial written by KB8FE and found at [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint\\_genlog\\_tutorial.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** We had another fine showing for our August sprint with 127 logs submitted and a total of 180 participants. It's exciting to see the number of participants with fairly high membership numbers and the number of soapbox comments that start off with something like, "this was my first CW contest...". We hope that our rather low-key style of sprint helps these newer people feel comfortable and that it will continue to attract even more new participants.

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201508.html> and summary information can be seen in the tables on the following pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: N4KS K4YA NR3P K7ROH KA5T WA4FQN K5JFB N1TF K4WRZ KA2RVO N5XTH N4PBQ AF7OS

**PARTICIPATION REMINDER:** *Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.*

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1IEE	KN1H	
W2	K2YGM	WA2NYY	
W3	N3HEE	K3PXC	KQ3Z
W4	WH6LE	WG8Y	N4KS
W5	WI5H	W5WIL	
W6	WK6L		
W7	K9JWV	KF7WNS	
W8	N8XMS	WA8AXF	
W9	W9CC		
W0	WB0PYF	AA0W	
VE	VE2TH	VE3RCN	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	W2IUY		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	N1TF	
W2	N2ESE		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	K4YA	WX4RM	WM4AA
W5	N5GW		
W6	W4NJK		
W7	K7EY		
W8	N8ZYA		
W9	K9EYT		
W0			
VE	VE7YU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY=>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		NN9K

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY=>	SK	BUG	K/K
	N4KS	NR3P	K4YA
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
W4NJK			



	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
<b>Logs</b>	127	128	194	2/13
<b>Participants</b>	180	196	269	2/13
<b>Total QSOs</b>	2049	1918	2804	2/13
<b>Hour 1 QSOs</b>	1090	949	1468	2/13
<b>Hour 2 QSOs</b>	959	969	1334	2/13
<b>20m QSOs</b>	336	861	1232	8/13
<b>40m QSOs</b>	1677	1057	1534	4/12
<b>80m QSOs</b>	36	0	1417	2/13
<b>Avg QSOs/Station</b>	16.1	15.0	19.3	9/11

**SPRINT HONOR ROLL:** We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our sprints. Exact counts can be seen at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_dates.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	N2ESE KC2EGL VE5BCS WA8SAN K6CSL WX4RM WD0K N8QY K4KRW N0TA NQ2W NO2D KB8FE W4DUK KQ1P WY3H AA9L KE5YUM WB8ENE WA2JSG K1IEE N4FI VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG NU7T
75+	K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN K4NVJ N8XMS KD2MX K4BAI WB8LZG
100+	W2SH W9CC W2JEK KA2KGB
125+	K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The North American Challenge for September is to simply make at least 10 QRPp QSOs with an output power of 1-watt or less. As an added personal challenge you might want to see just exactly "how low you can go?" Even with the rather poor propagation conditions that we have been experiencing lately you might really be surprised to see how well you can communicate with CW at a few hundred milliwatts! Details for this challenge can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201509.html>.

The European Challenge this month is very interesting and unique. It is again an alphabet type challenge that is based on the recently completed Tour de France but with an interesting twist. This time the dates that you work your different stations will be important! You can see all of the details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-2015-challenge>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The North American Challenge in October will be a little bit spooky with an alphabet challenge working with a list of Halloween words. <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201510.html>.

The October European Challenge will be a little more philosophical with words and dates that come from some of the famous Greek thinkers of antiquity. <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2015-challenge>.

Complete information about our challenges including a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submitting entries for the August scrambled antenna words challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201508.html> to see what has been posted so far and the final results will also be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month.

The results for the August European Challenge are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/august-2015-challenge>.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Recently we have been receiving entries to our alphabet challenges in non-standard formats that complicate the processing of the submission. Please use a simple text report (the actual email or an attached file) where each word is listed on a separate line with the callsigns that form that word listed horizontally across that same line. For example...

WORD - K3WWP CO8CL W3WMR KD9QS  
NEXT - N8XMS K1EIR N8XMS N5PHT  
etc.

**PARTICIPATION REMINDER:** Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) for the details.

**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://www.naqcc.info/challenges\\_schedule.html](http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H K1YAN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T K1IEE
75+	N8XMS W2JEK
100+	
125+	K3WWP



# NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

## FEATURED AWARD: QSO-A-DAY Award

This is an award that was inspired by the amazing QRP/CW QSO streaks of K3WWP (<http://k3wwp.com/?>). It can be completed in a month or stretched out for a full year. The idea is simple - make at least one CW/QRP QSO per day for a period of time. The time period can be as short as a month (or 30 days) and up to a full year. Of course making a CW/QRP QSO is not really a big deal, but the self discipline and the demands on your personal schedule is what makes this a significant challenge to work on. Details can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_qsoaday.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html).

## AWARDS ISSUED LAST MONTH:

No report



# NAQCC QRS/QRQ NETS



We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html). Questions should be directed to Net Manager Scotty, NU0S.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 8 PM PT	Monday 0300 Z	7065.5 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Monday 8 PM PT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7065.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2230 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes QRS Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

**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.

August was a crazy month for band conditions although we did have 2m and 6m openings which was a lot of fun. Please see the notes from all of our net control operators below for details. Hey follow me on Twitter @**NU0Slong** for live net updates and QRP CW in the field...Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns with any of our NAQCC Scheduled Nets...72/73 Scotty Long NU0S NAQCC 3715 MWN NCS / Nets Manager-Coordinator.



## Quick Notes from our Net Control Station Professional Ops!!!

### **08-03-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

There was QRM on and to either side of our new frequency up till net time, so I QSY'ed up 1.5 kHz and called the net on 7067 kHz. Some kind of warbling digital signal came on about a minute before net time, smack on 7065.5, and I wanted it out of my band pass. No Mexican or Canadian SSB, though. :-) Everybody could copy each other at R4 or R5 this evening, despite heavy lightning static. Polar Bear Rick, N7HRK/M was first in and last out at 90 minutes. Wyatt KF6YBH was quite strong here in LA, as usual, as were Mike KE6EE and JB KR6RR. JB just did a quick Hello and Goodbye, and it was nice to hear him. PBR has been working on a new, high-Q coil for his 40-meter mobile whip. He reported near 100-degree highs and smoke from forest fires. Wyatt is converting a fixed-voltage power supply to variable-voltage so he can test various equipment at various voltages. He hopes the fire extinguisher won't be necessary. Mike is building a portable station with the K1 kit as the centerpiece. He is also learning to use a paddle keyer after using bugs most of his ham life. It's a difficult transition. I built a new fan dipole using zip cord to use on SOTA and IOTA activations, hoping it would work on 4 or maybe 6 bands using just two 2-conductor lamp cords for the cross dipoles, one for 40 and 20 meters and the other (at right angles to the first) for 30 and 17 meters, with the 40 and 30 meter antennas hopefully also covering 15 and 10 meters, respectively. Well to my shock and disappointment, zip cord doesn't work for a "parallel" dipole (with each conductor cut for a different band) unless you separate the two conductors and let one hang a few inches below the other. I'll attach a photo of it, taken on the roof of my building, which served as my test bed. Don't get the mast for the fan dipole confused with my AV-680 vertical behind it. To use the fan dipole on 15 and 10 meter CW will require a tuner, as the resonant frequencies are at the top of each band. This is always a problem when using a dipole as both a half-wave and a 3-half-wave dipole. The resonant frequencies are not exactly a 1:3 ratio because of different end effects on each band. I could probably fix that by hanging a few feet of wire from each longer antenna attached at the half wave points (at the 3-half-wave frequency), which lowers the resonant frequency of the higher band without affecting the lower band. Maybe I'll experiment with that after my island adventure. Thank goodness for my Comet CAA-500 antenna analyzer!  
72/73 de Rick N6IET



### **08-10-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

I just returned this afternoon from a 72-hour "radio camp" on Santa Cruz Island with ten other campers. I set up my new fan dipole made with zip cord (lamp cord) for 40, 30, 20, and 17 meters. I had to separate the two conductors of each cord to make it work, but it loaded perfectly in the CW portions of each band, despite that one leg of the 30/17 meter dipole had to bend around and through some leafy branches of a eucalyptus tree. I think the insulated wires made that possible without any deleterious effect on loading. But the high mountain ridges to either side of our campsite blocked anything lower in angle than about 40 degrees, and maybe that's why I got such lousy signal reports, aside from the poor band conditions. Long story, short (or is it too late for "short"? ) - I only worked a total of 8 CW stations the entire weekend, not a single one of which was interested in an Islands on the Air (IOTA) contact. One of them was Rob, N6KIX, on Saturday morning. We gave each other S3 reports and cut it short. I heard quite a lot of SKCC (WES) activity on Saturday and finally gave in and worked a few on 20 meters on Saturday evening. I wish I had deliberately worked the WES and made more contacts. But I really had only about three hours' worth of battery (at 20 watts) in between solar charges. I lent my rig to the FM repeater guys for a net Thursday night, which totally depleted the battery (down to 8 volts!!) and so couldn't get on Friday morning for my usual QRQ QSK roundtable. But the battery was fully recharged by midday and depleted again by last evening, preventing me from getting on this morning before breaking camp. And, of course, there were other things to do like hiking, kayaking, cooking, socializing and star gazing. I walked a total of about 12 miles and about killed myself trying to keep up with double-kayaks in my single kayak during a guided tour of several caves. We had perfect weather! One thing I specifically noticed was that the background noise level on all four bands - with preamp on - was S-ZERO!!! I could easily copy stations whose signal didn't register on my S-meter. But they couldn't hear me at all. When answering WES stations, several 569 stations never heard me calling them. Here at home I wouldn't have been able to hear them, either. So this evening's FRN was back to the old noisy home grind with a background noise level of S-6 and cyclic QSB. Polar Bear Rick (PBR), N7HRK/M was the first to QNI. Rick got caught up in extra work and hasn't yet have a chance to test his new loading coil. Maybe tomorrow. Then Mike, KE6EE checked in. He was weak at first but QRO'ed to 75 watts and became 589 (with QSB). He has assembled his new K1 kit and made his first contact with 1 watt. I had my FT-857 and motorcycle battery on a charger in the kitchen and so was using my old IC-761 this evening.

That's the rig that craps out after about an hour. And, sure enough, about the time I had dismissed the net at 0412z, I heard a little hum on Mike's signal. Then Rob, N6KIX, called, and my signal deteriorated quickly to kind of a buzzy hiss. Sorry about that, Mike! You must have had a laugh at the sound of my final transmission. But I must say I do love the Bencher paddles and I've missed using them when using my "breadboard rig", which sports an American Morse mini-paddle and mini-straight key. I look forward to checking into JB's FRN tomorrow evening! It's good to be home and have running (and hot) water and a real stove and refrigerator and bed - and a purring kitty to keep me company.  
73 de Rick N6IET

#### **08-17-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

This is a tentative report, because I invited K7KY to take over as NCS after I stopped being able to hear anybody. I have no idea what transpired after I went QRT at 0313z. If Doug reports additional QNI, I'll send a corrected report. We probably all know that the HF bands have been horrible these past few days. I'm not certain why, but the A index has been up into the teens. But this is the worst I've ever encountered 40 meters for the FRN. It did get that bad on 80 meters early last summer before we switched to 40m. This morning I tuned the CW portion of every band 80 thru 15 meters at about 8:30am and only heard a few weak signals on 20 meters and nothing elsewhere. Nada! Oddly, when I called CQ on 80 meters (just for kicks and giggles) somebody whose call I never could copy replied. Even the RBN skimmers weren't hearing me very well. I couldn't copy PBR N7HRK/M well enough to be certain of his call after several attempts, but I did hear him confirm my guess. Doug K7KY and John W7SAG were R4 when they first checked in but when I turned it back to them to give PBR a signal report I heard absolutely nothing. So I sent into the unknown void an invitation for Doug and the rest to carry on without me, and I did hear Doug faintly respond, but I couldn't copy his reply, as he faded back into the noise. My noise level was S8, which isn't all that much worse than usual, but signals were unusually weak. Both Doug and John gave me a 559, and I never could copy PBR's signal report. I hope things get better for tomorrow's FRN, as I want to hear about PBR's testing of his new loading coil.  
73 de Rick N6IET

#### **08-31-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

I had to drop down half a kHz to avoid some RTTY QRM. Signals were pretty strong all around except between JB and his closest associates - they were skipping over each other the first 45 minutes or so. Then we all started hearing each other just fine. The general consensus is that the bands are improving with the advent of fall. Mike related his weekend dock-side portable operations using his K1 at 4 watts on AA battery power into a 44-ft twisted-pair-fed dipole (one end of which was thrown over a tree branch), which worked pretty well on 20 but not so well on 40. The whole thing with batteries and antenna weighs only 5 lbs. Great portable setup, Mike! Polar Bear Rick's signal has been much stronger this past week since he installed his new beefy hi-Q 40m loading coil on his mobile whip. He reported cool temperatures in the low 50s. JB and I praised and damned our American Morse paddles. Mine seems not to have good continuity, causing glitches every few minutes. I started out using my Bencher, during which there were no glitches. So we know it isn't software glitches but hardware. I'll get my Am Morse new (and properly threaded) SLP base in the mail today and perhaps substitute it for the iambic mini paddle on my "breadboard rig" and see if works better with my FT-857. I'll use the other one with whatever rig I decide to mount on a clipboard for my "clipboard rig". Chas has been putting the finishing touches on his refurbished shack. Can't wait to see it. John said something about doing yard w... (Unprintable 4-letter word). I think he's installing a grill in his back yard. Did I get that right? You mean like a BBQ pit? Or did my brain glitch about that time? Several of us went QRQ and QSK starting about 75 minutes into the roundtable: JB, PBR, and I with a little tentative participation by Mike and John. Mike got interrupted by his doorbell. I'll bet we're the first group to do three- and four-way QSK operations. It can be difficult to tell each other's signals/fists apart, especially if we're all on the exact same frequency (which we weren't quite, last evening). JB and I agreed that we can always tell PBR's nice fist. And JB claims my FT-857 has a particularly unique keying envelope, which he likes. And Mike's fist has shorter elements and longer spaces between them. I think JB and I probably sound a lot alike. I heard a very faint signal to which JB responded, after I closed the net. Was it Randy? That's my story, and I'm sticking with it (until somebody corrects me, that is). I hinted at changing our net time and frequency soon. But based on the past two weeks, it looks like 8pm (PDT) is still a good time, and certainly no earlier. I won't change the frequency unless and until I change the time.  
73/72 de Rick N6IET

#### **08-04-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California**

Thanks Guys! Conditions went from poor (Mike was 439) to GREAT by 45 mark. By the time we quit, one hour and 40 minutes in, everybody was nice and strong. Its fun to listen to the band "develop" or change as the sun goes down. Lots of technical stuff tonight, projects all are working on, from PBR's new coil, Mike's portable rig, Rick's antenna and setup for his IOTA weekend - lots of good stuff. Especially interested in Mike's Z-Match tuner and non-resonant dipole. Rick is going to post his Santa Cruz Island ops time and probably frequencies on an email to the group. He looking forward to a QRN free zone - no electricity or generators on the Island. 7065.5 seems to be working for us, on Monday anyway. Had one "robot" digital signal interruption early on, but only that one. Danny you mentioned them - what are they? There was a CW ident at the end but I was trying to ignore it and missed copying. Oh, BTW, I switched from Win7 to Win10 on this old e4300 laptop this weekend, everything working well so far. Smooth, error free upgrade. Except for the PASTEL themes - who came up with this washed out blue stuff? Yuk!

**08-11-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California**

Welcome to W7SAG, John, in Boise, ID. First time CW netter! Good to hear you and glad you joined us. NAQCC #5849.

There is no doubt the summer solstice is fading behind us. Close in stations to me, Chas, Rob, & Mike, all within 45 miles, were by far the weakest signals at start, with Rob just barely audible at 229. Improved to solid R5 by end. So, here's the downside to head copy; my notes are illegible. Well, they usually are anyway because of poor penmanship, but with you guys, I only write down the long or unfamiliar words, so my notes look like random words scattered across the page. OK, here goes:

- Chas is increasing the warmth in his shack with another boat anchor, a National NC303, I believe. He's getting quite a collection with the Drakes, Hammarlund, and Johnson Ranger, etc., so much that he dismantled and stored the Lionel train.
- Rick had the Santa Cruz Island rig on solar/battery power, operating from his balcony - notice I didn't say "working". Says he's relaxing from the "stressful" preparations for the IOTA trip - wait; vacation, ocean cruise, Island paradise, camping, ham radio, stressful? What am I missing here?
- Good to hear Doug even if only for a short while. - Rob is entangled in "FM" nets both Sunday and Monday on and is missing us. Says the "lousy" low HF band conditions are getting him down, to point, he may just have to build another antenna. Drastic measures, for sure.
- Mike seems to be working on a different rig each week, if I got it right this week it's the K2 QRP rig and portable antenna. Rick says Mike and John QNI'd at the same time and were equal 599 strength in LA; I didn't hear Mike at all and John was S9+.
- Finally John. Doing really well for somebody that's been on CW for only a couple three years. Don't be a stranger, come on back, Sun/Mon, same time, same place, mostly the same cast of characters. Oh, BTW, I didn't hear any QRM on frequency tonight, well, except for just a little bit of short, really weak, SSB - no digital robots. Thanks to all for your participation, without you there'd be no FRN. 72/3 de JB. KR5RR

**08-17-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California**

Man! I am exhausted! While conditions were a whole lot better than last night, no one, except John in ID even moved my S-Meter against background noise. I still had mostly R5 copy with occasional QSB to R4, but who's complaining after the last four/five days/nights? However, trying to get intelligible copy for everyone through the noise and QSB is very draining. PBRick is almost finished with his coil and it seems to be working well, with good bandwidth, especially now that we've moved FRN to 7065.5. Rick has so many projects going they're hard to keep up with - now it's the QRP clip board SOTA rig with a single lever paddle he's nearing completion on, before getting back to the portable antenna. Chas is untangling himself from (former) shack wallpaper, getting ready to paint the shack - didn't hear what color but wonder if it'll glow in the dark? I think John tied some /P QRP this weekend but conditions scuttled that. As most of us saw in a separate post, Mark took some AWESOME pictures of the Milky Way this weekend instead of operating /P! The GKids & I clearly saw the Milky Way this Sat/Sun from the beach but it didn't look anything as spectacular as the images Mark captured! I got in some great kayaking this weekend, and Mark teased me about operating /MM from the kayak. I've done that on Marine VHF channels, FRS radios, and two meter ham bands, no HF yet. But here's another hams experience. Be sitting down and don't be drinking coffee when you read this. <http://www.eham.net/articles/34736> RF Burn #2 -- In a Canoe! 72/3/JB.KR5RR

**08-23-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California**

We were sort of OK for the first 25 minutes, However John was bouncing between 449 and 589. Then the band changed. First to drop was Chas, then Rick and John could not hear each other, and, my pizza came, so we called it quits. Saturday morning on the Coffee Mug Net Chas was NCS and no one could hear him. Five check INS where we usually have 12 to 15. It is still fun! Thanks everyone! 73/JB.KR5RR

**08-24-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California**

Wow! Great net tonight! And the band cooperated! Had some seriously deep QSB between 20 to 30 after the hour, but then stabilized for the duration - all 90 minutes of it! We went QSK to start the second hour, and that means I can't possibly recap all the topics! Chas says the shack is going to be egg shell white but he hasn't started it yet, and didn't do any work at the lake this weekend. PBRick's really happy with the new coil and has pictures he'll post as soon as he's OK with the sizing. Also not been raising too many stations late at night, seems no one's on. Rick's trying to decide to repair the Patriot or buy a HB1B or something else. Also having no luck getting early morning contacts, seems like no one's on after 6am. John highly recommends the KX3 like he's been using /P for the last three years. I'm having no luck getting 20m QRP /M contacts around 5pm, seems no one's on. And still trying to get the SWR below 3:1 on my 12' stationary-mobile antenna that sort of mimics PBRick's - gotta be a lack of ground problem. There's more, but I didn't write it down. Thanks everyone for a great evening! 72/3 de JB.KR5RR

**08-04-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

The band was noisy but signals were very good. I think everyone was QRO!  
Allen, KA5TJS

**08-11-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

The bands was in good shape. Welcome to Curtis (WI5H 7128) from San Angelo.  
73's Allen KA5TJS

**08-25-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

Bad night! Storms close by and moved in after Roger. Had to shut it down early because of lightning. 5 min. later the power went out until 10:30pm.

Allen  
KA5TJS

**08-06-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

A very productive net tonight with seven check-ins. (a F2RT station I didn't list because I think it was a pirate) - The highlight was hearing (599) **CO8RRM** from Cuba! Rafael was coming in like a local station here in WV. The band was long with Michigan and Cuba having the best signals. Rafael and I have worked many times before but was the best signal I've heard at that distance (a little over a thousand miles) in a long time. He wished me happy DX.

72's John N8ZYA

**08-13-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

I think due to last night's "Sprint" activity, check INS were light this evening. Last night I worked 13 contacts in 13 different states. I was selective as I worked the 20 and 40 meter bands. I also imagine some were catching up on sleep with the expectations of getting up early to watch the Meteor showers early tomorrow and the next day. Hi Hi. W8GDP and I talked about the stars and our club breakfast this morning. We always look forward to good food and fellowship. WA8SIE was mobile this evening but I lost him on the second go around.

Sincerely Yours,  
John N8ZYA

**08-20-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

Terrible band conditions tonight with QRM from the digital folks. -- It seems they all run 20 watts and never listen before they transmit--. All local check-ins tonight with the exception of AC8JW in Michigan (5W) who was 599 before QSB. Great to hear Frank (KA8SYV) with his OHR QRP rig. A very stable signal tonight. Always good to hear John (W8GDP) and Eric (AC8LJ). John has his Ten-Tec again tonight after some repair work. Heading to NY in the morning for a week. No net next week while visiting relatives.

John N8ZYA

**08-04-2015 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**

Great to be back on the radio; my Morse code skills are sure hurting due to inactivity this past month. I was concerned about all the SSB QRM on 7117 KHz from Mexico but it all cleared up for the most part at net time. Dave KB7KY and Ken N7ADA and I had a nice chat after net. The band conditions are still not great but copy was fine for the most part... I did miss some... thanks gang for patience and repeats... I hope to hear you all again very soon have a great week my friends... I hope to get a computer very soon for Net QNI as paper logging and short memory makes it hard to recall names... Heck I forget my kid's names at times...

73/Scotty/NU0S

**08-11-2015 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**

Hey great net tonight nice to be back on the radio and feeling more comfortable at the key. I never feel 100% comfortable or copy at 100% but not writing anything down really helps a lot with copying and sending. Hearing the words flow in your head is much easier and makes sending much faster as well as you see the words in your head and just send it without thinking about it... it was great to work Dave KB7KY at the end of the net for a quick rag chew. All the kids are going back to school to early; it won't be long and they will be all year round and require vacation days for good time earned...what ever happened to the three R's???

73/Scotty/NU0S

**08-18-2015 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**

The net tonight was very good even with poor band conditions and thunderstorms in the area. We also had a nice rag chew at the end of the net between Dave KB7KY, Ken N7ADA and I. I had to unplug at the end due to thunderstorms and lightning. It was great to hear Forrest WB5HQO check in last night I have not talked to him for a while. Also great work Don K5UOS from Oklahoma thank you for your patience it was hard copy last night. 73/Scotty/NU0S

**08-25-2015 NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska**

Bands were in great shape tonight. Did not have a whole lot of check INS but had some great check INS. Worked Dave KB7KY and John AC8JW/0 in Denver. John had a very weak signal with his KX1 and wire laying on the ground; but I was just able to pull him out of the mud after multiple tries. Then Dave and I had a nice rag chew afterwards.



**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan**

It has been more than a year now since starting the GLN. Thanks to all my regular check-ins as your calls have become very familiar and thanks to the new stations that stop by from time to time. Operating as an NCS for the NAQCC has been a true pleasure for the last year and hopefully for a long time to come!

**NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations  
August/2015 Please note: Dates are in UTC**

**NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California  
40m, 7.065.5 MHz**

08-03-2015 QNI (5) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, KF7YHB, KE6EE, KR6RR  
08-10-2015 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, KE6EE, N6KIX  
08-17-2015 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, K7KY, W7SAG  
08-23-2015 QNI (4) NCS KR5RR, N7HRK/M, KW6G, W7SAG  
08-31-2013 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, KE6EE N7HRK/M KR5RR/M KW6G W7SAG

**NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California  
40M, 7.065.5 MHz**

08-04-2015 QNI (4) NCS KR5RR, N6IET, N7HRK/M, KE6EE  
08-10-2015 QNI (7) NCS KR5RR, N6IET, N6IET, KW6G, K7KY, W7SAG, KE6EE  
08-17-2015 QNI (7) NCS KR5RR, WU7F, KW6G, N6IET, N7HRK/M, W7SAG, N6KIX  
08-24-2015 QNI (5) NCS KR5RR, KW6G, N7HRK/M, N6IET, W7SAG

**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas  
40M, 7.065 MHz**

08-04-2015 QNI (4) KA5TJS, KE5YGA, K5BRY, N5RWK  
08-11-2015 QNI (5) KA5TJS, N5DRG, N5RWK, KE5YGA, WI5H  
08-18-2015 QNI (1) KA5TJS, no net due to poor band conditions and solar storms.  
08-25-2015 QNI (5) KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5RWK, K5OAI

**NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska  
40M, 7.117 MHz**

08-04-2015 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, KK5IB, AE5KA, AI0Q, N7ADA  
08-11-2015 QNI (7) NCS NU0S, WB0QQT, AC8JW, KB7KY, W4OEP, K7KMR, N7NLN  
08-18-2015 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, N7ADA, K5UOS, WB5HQO, KB7KY  
08-25-2015 QNI (3) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, AC8JW

**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming  
20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz**

08-04-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-04-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-06-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-06-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-11-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES  
08-11-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, K0KUZ, WA2DWX  
08-13-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, K9JWV, AA7CU  
08-13-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, N6IET, K9JWV, AA7CU, WD9F/8  
08-18-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S, AA7CU, N7GES, KA5T  
08-18-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, WA2DWX, N6IET  
08-20-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-20-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-25-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S, N7GES  
08-25-2015 QNI (3) NCS WC7S, N6IET, K4EAY  
08-27-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S  
08-27-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S, N6IET, KE6OIO, N6ZI, AA7CU



**NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia****40M, 7.117 MHz**

08-06-2015 QNI (7) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, WU8G, KM4LT, AC8JW, CO8RRM, KB3ENU

08-13-2015 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, WU8G, WA8SIE/M

08-20-2015 QNI (5) NCS N8ZYA, KA8SYV, AC8LJ, AC8JW, W8GDP

08-27-2015 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, W4DAX, K4WRZ, WU8G

**NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State****80M, 3.574 MHz**

08-07-2015 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, N6UG, WB4SPB, K7JUV

08-13-2015 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, N6KIX, WB4SPB, K7JUV

08-21-2015 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV, W7ANM, KG7HCL

08-27-2015 QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, N6KIX, KE7LKW/7, K7JUV, W7ANM

**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan****40M, 7.117 MHz**

08-07-2015 QNI (4) NCS K9EYT, AC9JW, WE8UPJ, KA9NLX

08-14-2015 QNI (5) NCS WA8AXF, VA3KOT, K4WRZ, WB0QQT, K9EYT

08-21-2015 QNI (3) NCS WA8AXF, KA5T, K4WRZ

08-28-2015 QNI (3) NCS WA8AXF, K4WRZ, KD5VGJ

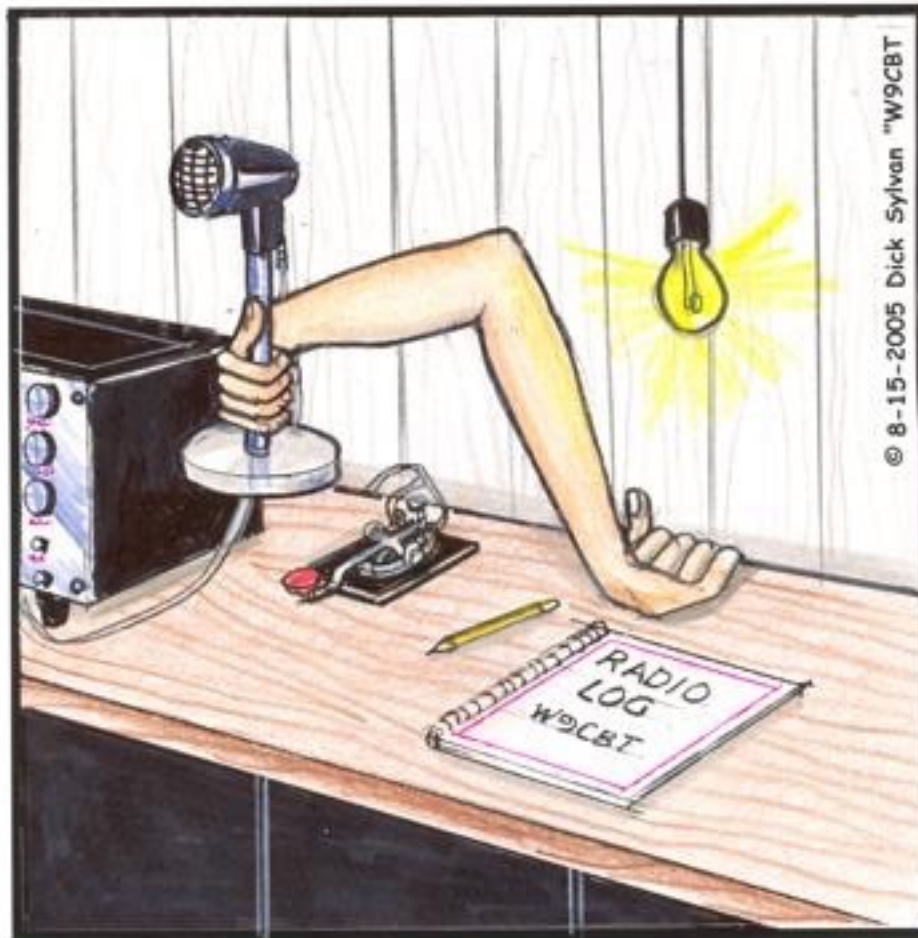


# HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very talented cartoon artist. Dick's cartoons appear monthly in the *KY9A Telegraph*, a free ham radio eZine published by the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club ( <http://www.k9ya.org/> ). We are very pleased and honored to be allowed to reprint his cartoons here. Dick has also authored the book *HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons* available at <http://www.ky9a.org/w9cbt/>.

## HAM LINGO "Adjustable Arm Boom Mic"



Adjustable Arm Boom Microphone- Also Good For Sending Code And Keeping A Paper Log."



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Central Texas, Illowa, and Florida - 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 Paul, N8XMS.

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 Vice President John, N8ZYA, 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 Paul, N8XMS, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from Central Texas Chapter President Danny, N5DRG, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area.

Greetings Y'all!

As the TEXAS Summer bakes on, hovering near or in the triple digits most days making outdoor activities brief. It's either a very early or very late in the day event.

So that being said the Central Texas Chapter was able get in an August QRP in the Park event, but it was short lived due to the two contributing factors. One being the HF Band, 40 meters was very much asleep on Saturday the 29th, plus the temperature was on the rise fast.

But on the upside this upcoming winter will be in the 50's to 60's will be sweet, so we look forward to many trips to the parks for an outdoor QRP In The Park event.

There has even been talk of trying to do a Summits on the Air event, maybe in November, December.

The August QRP in the Park event started right at 14:30 (09:30 AM local) and was finished by 11:30.

The chapter only work a total of (6) stations in that time frame, hard day on the Key.  
Stations worked were, N5XE, AA5KV, WA4RES, WD5BVQ, KD5ALD, and K5HDX/QRP.

Central Texas Chapter Members that were in attendance were, John KN5L, Larry WB5BEK, Lester WD4IFU, and Russ KK5E. Danny N5DRG was a very late and missed the event all together. Other Local Hams who joined in on the fun were John KE5RS, Gregory KB5ZZ, Scott KI5DR & Bob W5EMC.

John KN5L was trying out a new Home Brew 40 Meter Dipole. You can see the match box feeding the ladder line in the photo.

This is what John KN5L said about the build.

*"The 40 Meter inverted Vee uses a "Hairpin Match" for matching to 300 Ohm (280 Ohm) Window Line. The antenna is slightly shortened (62' 10" total length) from resonant frequency to add capacitive reactant at the antenna feed point. A 13T T106-2 toroid inductor (2.28 uH) across the antenna feed point creates an L network which matches the 50 Ohm antenna to the 280 Ohm transmission line. An Elecraft BL2 Balun in 4:1 mode is used to match 280 Ohm to 70 Ohms. The K2 internal ATU is used to match to the 70 Ohm impedance.*

*The "Hairpin Match" is a common beam matching technique for matching a low impedance driven element to 50 Ohms. The required inductance is normally rather low for this application requiring a single turn inductor mounted on the boom, which looks like a hairpin."*



As you can tell the Lush Green Grass of May & June has turned to Brown & Crunchy Straw under our feet in August.



*In Memory of a long time City of Cedar Park Employee*



*Larry WB5BEK*



*John KN5L*



*Lester WD4IFU Dreaming of DX*



*Russ KK5E & John KN5L*



*Gregory KB5ZZT & John KE5RS*

Keep Calm  
&  
QRP On!

## NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just members in EU, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web pages for dates and details.

### Current European alphabet challenge

We have a somewhat novel challenge premise lined up for this month! In a similar vein to last month, its theme is the Tour de France. However, this month you must construct the three most highly-ranked teams, in the order that they were ranked. This means that only callsigns worked after those used for the first team may be used when constructing the second team, and so on. A full, clear explanation of the challenge rules is given at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/september-2015-challenge>

As with all chapter activities, the challenge is open to all NAQCC members, not only those situated in Europe. September promises to be a very interesting month for challenges: the main NAQCC challenge needs to be completed using 1W or less of power, and the European challenge has an exciting restriction on the order in which calls may be worked.

### August challenge

We have so far received 5 successful entries for the August challenge: from K1IEE, K3WWP, PA0XAW, RW3AI, and SM5MEK. Both K1IEE and K3WWP reported poor conditions for working EU contacts from the USA throughout August. The premise of this alphabet challenge was to construct the names of the winners of the Tour de France and their times/time gaps with other riders.

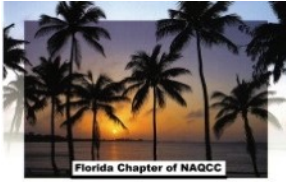
Congratulations to all who completed the challenge! There are still a few days left to submit your entries, if you have not done so already.

### August Activity Day

We have so far received five entries for the August activity day. We're currently processing the logs and hope to send out certificates over the weekend. Many thanks to all who participated! The results will be published shortly on the website, as well as in next month's newsletter.



## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM.

### ***Our next adventure is in just a few days!***

**WHAT:** The Florida Chapter of NAQCC is back!!! We are resuming our monthly Field Event.

**WHEN:** Friday, September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015 starting at 9:00 AM EDT

**WHERE:** Candace Strawn/ Lake Dias Park, DeLeon Springs, FL (5320 State Road 11, De Leon Springs, FL 32130)

**FREQUENCIES:** Please listen for us near 7.061, 10.116, 14.061, 18.080, and 21.061 – Look for posts to [www.qrpspots.com](http://www.qrpspots.com) via the Internet when we QRV and occasionally during the operation to let everyone know who is on and where. We will also post when we go QRT. QSLs via the operator call.

**WHO:** At least Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, and Bob W2EJG (plus whoever else can make it).

**WHY:** TO SATURATE THE ETHER WITH VAGUE AND NEBULOUS CHIRPS, BEEPS, AND OTHER RADIOWAVE NOISE.....AND TO HAVE FUN, OF COURSE!!

**HOW:** By the magic of QRP Ham Radio!

**MORE:** See our web page at: <http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/>

72/73,  
Steve WB4OMM #5913

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Pete, NN9K.

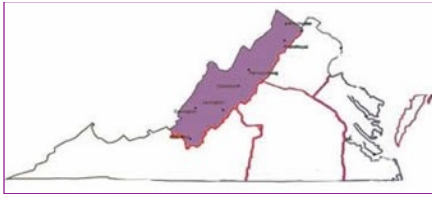
The Illowa Chapter operates in the “Quad Cities” area of Davenport, IA / Moline, IL.

The monthly Illowa chapter meeting was held on 19 August 2015 with three members, Tim, N9BIL, Tony, N9YPN and Peter, NN9K attending. We were joined by Paul, a young man who had just passed his Technician test but had not received his call. Paul is interested in CW and QRP operations and is a potential new NAQCC member. The evening’s conversation revolved around methods of learning Morse code and some of the implements used to generate it.

There was also some discussion about the various QRP radios and what our members had available to help someone staring out in the hobby.

Member attendance for the monthly meetings this summer has been a problem which is to be expected. Vacations, family gatherings and because several of our members are “elderly” health issues. One other obstacle we face having members that live on both sides of the Mississippi River is bridge construction. At various times this summer lanes on three of the bridges have been closed for repair causing large traffic backups. This has made it either difficult to get to a meeting or difficult to get home after a meeting. Hopefully after “barrel season” is over monthly meeting membership will increase.

## NAQCC SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Shenandoah Valley Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Russ, K3NLT.

August report from Shenandoah Chapter of NAQCC:

This has been a hot and humid summer, with most of the members being away, and with poor band conditions, schedules have been difficult to keep.

Several of the members have family responsibilities that imposed on operating time. Personally, the Rockingham County Fair took a good part of the middle week, but the granddaughters had a successful showing of their animals and handcrafts.

David, AC4BN, was in Nova Scotia this summer and made a few contacts when band conditions were there. Howard, K4LXY, was camping and traveling, but managed a few QSOs. Clay, K3NGV, had rig trouble that required his H1-B1 to go to a service facility for repair. However before sending it back, he was successful in making quite a few interesting QSOs and finding that his antenna is working better than at first. We are all looking forward to the cooler and dryer days of September, and the return of better solar influence on our atmosphere so that we can get to making more solid QSOs at QRP levels of power.

I, Russ, K3NLT, was looking for some of the "to the field" operations as announced, but did not hear any of them. Plans here are for a new antenna to go up on my 35 foot fiberglass pole to better favor the North/South directions. East/West coverage is good, but is lacking in the other directions with my current multiband antenna.

Hopefully next month we will have a good report on improved activity.

## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>. Questions or comments should go to John, N8ZYA.



It's nice to feel the coolness of the air in these early mornings and late evenings. I'll be happy when the last days of summer pass and the fall season approaches. A noon time net which I check into most mornings brings words of 100 degree plus temperatures in the Las Vegas areas. Yeah, I know it's a "dry" heat, but anything over 100 degrees, is still much too hot for me. I'm happy to live in this sheltered valley.

Eric (AC8LJ) and I drove to the **Huntington Hamfest** early in the month. I sold a few fleas left over from my earlier years as a ham but passed on buying anything new. I enjoyed seeing and chatting with old friends. The highlight of the Huntington trip was a "Skype" interview" with Bob Heil (**K9EID**). Bob is known for his innovations in sound technology. I never realized it but he is also an accomplished musician.

We had decent skies for the **Perseids** meteor shower this year but the best viewing was early in the morning before sunrise. I didn't drive into the country to see them, but was as able to see a few streaks across the sky even here in town. I don't know if anyone took advantage of the propagation conditions as those "charged particles" fizzled in the atmosphere?

Several of our members are still seriously ill this month. My camping friend Steve Ashcraft (**KC4URI**) is STILL in the hospital. Joe Miller (**KD8SGV**) is not doing well, and Jim Stephens (**NX8Z**) is recovering from his surgery to install a pacemaker. Jim (NX8Z) kindly passed along the hardware to build a magnetic loop to Jeff Imel (K9ESE). Jim also made a large entry in last month's "Swap and Sell" list. He said many of those items sold very quickly.

On a more positive note, Jeff Imel (**K9ESE**) is back in Charleston and bought a house just up the street from me. I'll be sure to hear him easily on the WV QRS net on Wednesday nights. Hi Hi

I always remember a good CW operator when I work one on the air. I have a special place in the log book where I keep those contacts with the hopes of someday meeting them in person. I especially like those who are campers and hikers. Such was the case with a friend from New York this month.

Emmitt Hoops (**K2ADK**) and I have worked many times on the air. I was fortunate to have dinner with Emmitt and his wife Angela as they traveled through West Virginia this month. We talked for several hours about his work with the American chestnut tree. Emmett works with a group who is developing a new tree which is blight resistant. This is a long sought goal of many naturalists and the project is experiencing great results.

My WV QRS net had an unexpected 40 meter check in this month. Sometimes band conditions are “just right” for DX contacts! I was amazed to work **CO8RRM** in Guantanamo Cuba last week. Rafael and I have worked several times before but I was amazed to hear him on the QRS net with a 599 signal.

Last but not least, I was able to work John Shannon as **N3AQC** from the Skyview Radio Society in New Kensington, PA a few days ago. Using the “club call” makes it easier to hear on the air. I immediately spotted him on the web, so hope he had many contacts.

That’s about it for this month from West Virginia. I’m looking forward to cooler weather and the fall season (my favorite).

Happy Trails,  
John N8ZYA

## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

August was a pretty busy month for the WPA Chapter.

Sunday, August 09 - A great day in the Park with Mike KC2EGL and Tom WB3FAE. Mike came just before 10 AM, and we headed up to Ponderosa expecting them to open at 10:30 AM as they did the last time we were there on a Sunday morning. However now they backed up their opening yet another 30 minutes to 11 AM so we had to kill a half hour which we did by going to Dollar General for a couple items Mike had planned to get after we ate. We also went into Radio Shack looking for a coax barrel connector which they didn't have. Then finally to Shop and Save where we found some of our favorite Spam on sale and stocked up on that. By that time it was just past 11 AM and it was back to Ponderosa where we had our lunch or brunch before heading to the Park.

Up there we met Tom and the three of us got started setting up our antennas. Oh but first a surprise for Tom. Mike and I purchased a personalized bezel for his KX3. We had a devious plot set up to affix it to his rig without him knowing, and it worked. We had planned to have Tom help me set up my antenna and Mike would switch bezels while we were doing that. However an even better situation presented itself. Tom had to walk back to his vehicle (about a 100 yard walk) to get some more parts for his antenna mount. We weren't prepared for that, but when a third opportunity came along and he had to go back again. I quickly said we wanted to get a picture of our three KX3s side by side which Mike could take while we walked to Tom's vehicle. While we were gone, Mike made the switch, and when we got back I kiddingly asked how we were going to tell the three KX3s apart. That's when Tom looked at them all in a row and noticed the bezel. He seemed very pleased with it. Here's a picture of the three before and after the change. It is a bit hard to read the bezels, but they have our calls and NAQCC numbers on them. Mike's and my bezels also had a surprise element to them which has been told in previous newsletters.







When we did get to setting up my antenna, I found an SWR of over 20:1 with it. After some testing we found a bad connection on the connector going into my KX3. Simply moving the coax fixed it and we put my battery on the coax to keep it from moving further. Tom and Mike got their antennas going and we all three started rolling along. Twenty meters was my band and it was pretty good. Mike had forty meters and it was fair. Unfortunately Tom had fifteen and ten and other than WAE stations, they were pretty devoid of signals.

Still we wound up with a total of 61 QSOs in 30 SPCs, just about in between our 51 and 69 totals from the past couple Skeeter Hunts. The bottom line though is that we all had a great time with some beautiful weather as icing on the cake. Also we got to watch a youth group of sorts playing some football. The youngsters came up with some pretty good plays along the way.

We stayed with the Hunt till its conclusion and then tore down our setups and headed to my house for a couple hours of fellowship chatting about various things.

Tom and Mike didn't want anything to eat (yes, Mike did not want anything - you read correctly), so I took a walk down to Subway and got myself a foot long Tuna sub which I devoured after bringing it home.

Thursday, August 13 - I checked the ARRL web site today to be sure our N3AQC Field Day log had been received. It had.

Sunday, August 30 - For the second year in a row, we (John K3WWP, Mike KC2EGL, Tom WB3FAE) had a great time at the Skyview Radio Society Swap and Shop. As we did last year with the addition of Don K3RLL who wasn't feeling well this year and couldn't make it, we set up a QRP demonstration for Skyview members and visitors to the S&S. We weren't too optimistic about our success since propagation conditions had been the pits (and that's being kind) for the past several days due to some ionospheric storminess. However today showed almost a 180 degree reversal and gave us some really great conditions.

Mike and I arrived at Skyview shortly before 9AM. Tom was already there, and the three of us set up our KX3s in the Skyview radio room. I (K3WWP) took 40 meters and also did a bit of 30 as well as chasing some DX on 17. Mike pretty much stuck to 20 the whole time. Tom was interested in DX and he took 15 with some action on 10 as well. The antennas were an 80/40 dipole at an estimated 60' or so. A tri-band beam and a 5-band quad at around the same estimated height. Of course the KX3s didn't care what they were connected to and gave us a 1:1 SWR for anything we asked them to do.

Combining our three results we worked the following countries and states during our 4 hours or so of activity:

SM UA1 UR PJ4 XE CT F UA2 SP I CU CE PY KP4 - 14 countries.

ME NJ PA WV MI NC IN CA AL GA CO FL TX AR MN OK LA WA KS - 19 states.

Thanks to all the NAQCC members we worked. N4KGL (3610) K4RHG (6292) K0FNR (6852) NP3K (7358) KA4WJB (7508) KA5TJS (4512) AF5BA (7957) K4GXV (3068) KG5U (0264) N5XE (3811) N5URL (2178) K1IEE (3966) KD2JC (0857) W3BBO (1001) N8ZYA (2279) K8LJG (0308) AA3EJ (0704) W4DUK (0617) K3ZGA (7915) K1AVE (1039) KG9DW (7510) WB8E (5069) N9SE (7425) N3CU (6492) N6EV (2247) - 25 members.

We made a total of 55 QSOs on 6 bands.

All in all a good showing and quite a bit better than last year for a couple reasons. We were more familiar with the set up this year and also last year not all the antennas were functional. I would say conditions were about the same both years. Conditions in the radio room became a little rough at times with all the folks wandering in and out. We enjoyed meeting, talking with them and finding some that were very interested in what we were doing. However it did distract a bit from our operating and we apologize if we missed copying any of you.

I think you can tell from this picture of the three ops that we were having a very good time operating. So good in fact, we never did more than a few minutes of wandering around the S&S and eating.



In case you don't recognize the faces, that's (L-R) Tom, John, and Mike. Our KX3s look a bit dwarfed in front of the big Skyview rigs and amps, but they certainly did the job in showing how well QRP works with CW.

We didn't get a picture of the antenna farm this year, but here's one from last year which is substantially the same set up as this year:



We want to publicly thank all the members for giving us honest signal reports so our comparison between the big antenna farm at Skyview and our own small antennas at home was more meaningful. One strange thing was my (K3WWP) getting a 229 report from Indiana, then just seven minutes later getting a 599 + 10 db report again from Indiana. Most all our reports were very good, even from the DX stations. More meaningful was the DX stations for the most part copying us very easily when we took time to chat a bit beyond the standard exchange of signal reports. Antennas and a good location do make a difference although none of us can complain about the results we get at our home locations.

Speaking of home, when Mike and I did get to my home after a stop for chow (Tom went home by himself), we set up my station right away so we could compare results more closely even though a couple hours had elapsed. We found conditions were very good and it wasn't just the big antenna farm that made the difference. We worked a few DX stations including a couple we had worked at Skyview earlier in the day.

All in all a very enjoyable experience, and we have been invited back to do it again next year. We will look forward to that very much.



# MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our News Editor Paul, KD2MX.

DISCLAIMER: Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

**From Michael, KJ6DRG, #6219 —**

I'd like to mention how much I like the CW practice buddy system. Stewart KE7LKW has been great and we have chatted on 40 meters a couple times, my first CW contacts! After talking with him a bit I even went and activated a SOTA summit this past Sunday, QRP CW only.

The NAQCC is great!!

**From John, K3WWP, #0002 —**

It was a busy month for me. Along with the items mentioned in the WPA Chapter news above, there were also the following happenings:

After the successful CW/QRP presentation at Skyview last month as written up in the August newsletter, I got invitations to do the presentation again at a couple other local clubs. One will be in November, and the other next June at the Butler Breezeshooters Hamfest.

I have felt for some time now that more DX hams use the ARRL LoTW than W/VE hams so I did some research with my own LoTW veries. I only used QSOs/veries from my streak starting in 1994. I found that (as of August 2) I had 21,092 DX QSOs, of which 7,815 are veried in the LoTW for a percentage of 37.1. For W/VE it's 43,805 QSOs, 10,555 veries, 24.1 percent. That seems to bear out my feelings on the matter. I strongly urge all hams to use the LoTW. It is very simple to do, and is very clearly explained on the ARRL web site.

August 4 - When I worked KD5ZLB on 40 meters, that completed 21 years of making at least one CW/QRP/simple wire antennas QSO each day. That's 7,670 days in a row. The next evening August 5 it was a real joy to start my 22nd year with a QSO with good friend Larry W2LJ.

August 9 - See the Skeeter Hunt story in the WPA Chapter news above.

August 12 - As you may know, I've been entering our NAQCC sprints with the goal of making 20 QSOs, then shutting down. August was the 14th straight sprint in which I've done that. I decided to check and see the quickest and the slowest times to reach that 20 total. The quickest to 20 was in June this year at 47 minutes. The slowest in November 2014 at 109 minutes.

August 13 - I applied for the ARRL Centennial QSO Party certificate. I had 5,349 points which was enough for a level 2 certificate. I was happy with that since I honestly did not work toward the award at all seriously.

August 15 - My love of statistics led me to finding out something else besides the LoTW percentages. I wondered which DX countries are at the top of the list in different stations worked. As expected,



Germany was on top with 1,798 QSOs from 577 different stations. Then in order, Italy 1,021/326 - European Russia 592/278 - England 862/267 - France 778/255. More of the list can be found in my diary on my web site at [k3wvp.com](http://k3wvp.com) if that piques your curiosity. I think it proves beyond a doubt that QRP stations do not simply work the same DX stations over and over again.

August 16 - Somewhat of a non-ham day with Mike. He stopped by for a bike ride that started in nearby Ford City. The ride lasted till mid-afternoon. And no, I'm not a rider. When Mike got home we tried out a new watering hole and had a saberburger apiece (hamburg and sausage patties on a bun with lettuce, sauce, etc.), fries and onion rings, and a soft ice cream cone to top it off. Mmmmm. Back home to plan for our astronomy outing later in the week, a bit of ham radio (Mike worked Panama), and a test of his battery pack after which we deemed a replacement was in order since it would no longer charge even though the charger was good.

August 22 - Astronomy night. Summing up briefly here. More info in my web site diary via the link above. We hoped Don K3RLL and Tom WB3FAE could join us, but they couldn't, so it was just me and Mike. We decided to see how many of the Messier objects we could observe. Despite a first quarter moon washing out the sky a bit and a dewing problem on the scope, we managed to log 58 objects of the 66 that were 'up' during the 3 hours we were there. Probably with a truly black sky, we would have gotten all 66. Anyway we are past the half way mark in observing all 110, and hopefully in another session or two we can complete the list. Personally I've logged all 110 from my backyard with M74 completing the list back in the mid 1980s. Incidentally my 7Ah gel cell acted as an admirable replacement to power the scopy till Mike gets the new battery for his power pack.

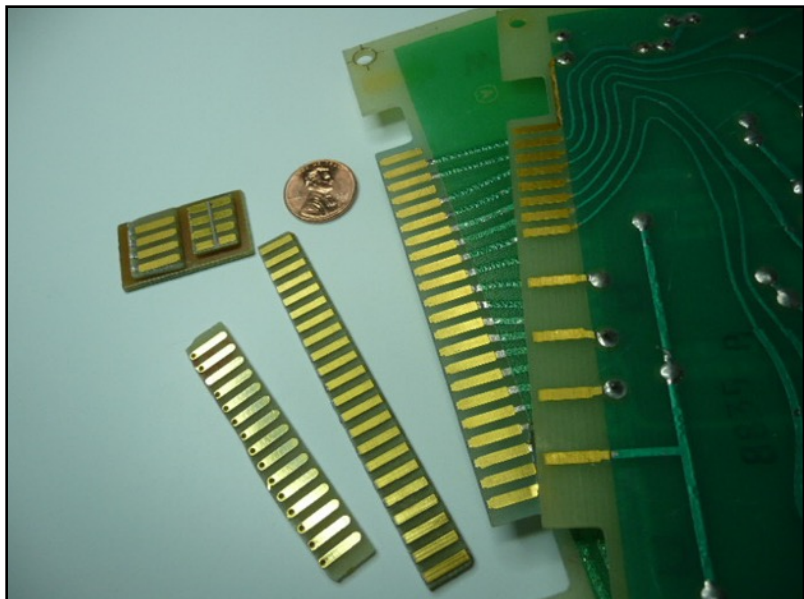
August 26 - Among other days during the month, this was another worrisome one as far as my DX streak goes. Conditions for DX are getting poorer and poorer as the sunspot cycle winds down. Plus the fact that severe geomagnetic storms often accompany a cycle in its decline. The storms are more detrimental to conditions than the decline in spots. However I did persist and got a QSO very late in the day from PJ2/AI5P to continue the streak which is now at 911 days as of this date, and it has continued through the end of the month as I submit this for publication..

August 30 - A great day at Skyview as told in the WPA Chapter News earlier in the newsletter.

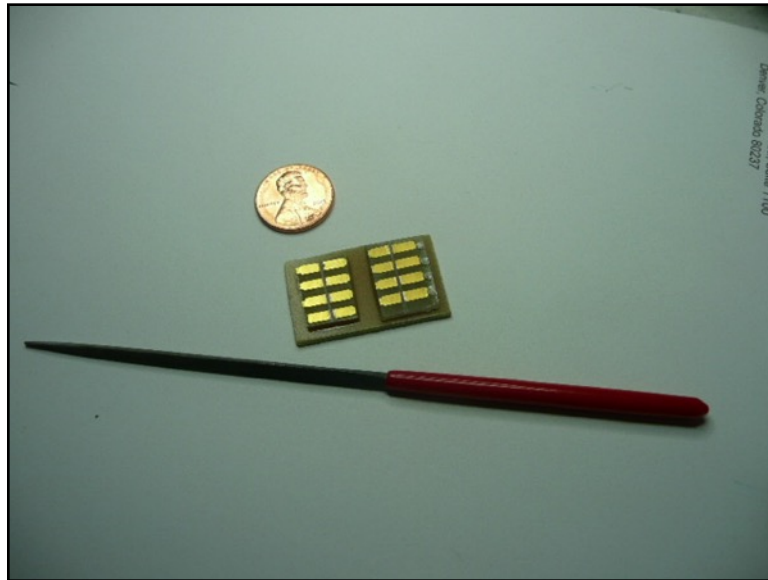
From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

Using circuit board edge connectors as Manhattan pads.

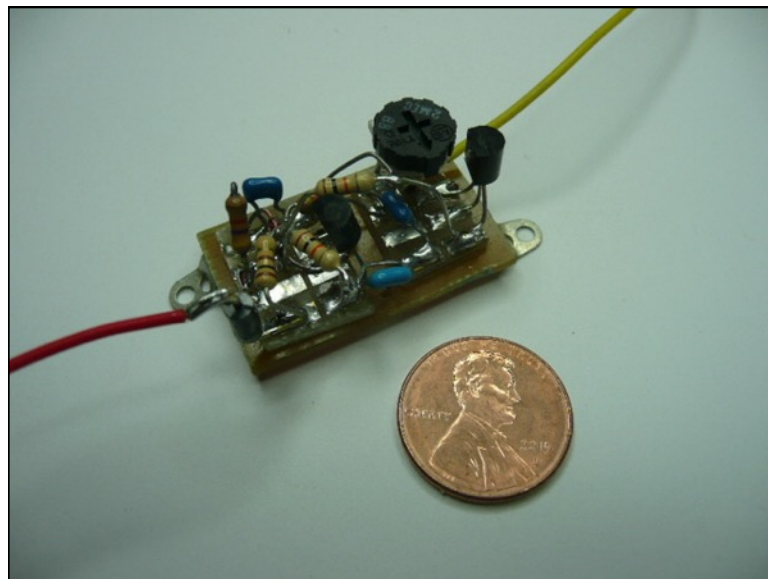
The first photo shows the gold plated edge connectors of two surplus circuit boards on the right. On the left are strips of such connectors which can be cut away using either a hacksaw or straight edge and box cutter.



The second photo reveals two segments of such strips that have been super glued to the non-foil side of a small piece of single sided circuit board. A three-corner file has been employed to cut a groove down the middle of each segment, doubling the number of pads.



The third photo demonstrates a Manhattan-style version of the multivibrator sidetone oscillator described in Solid State Design, p. 174 and in W1FB's QRP Notebook, p. 145 (the latter schematic contains a wiring error). Only two of the 16 pads were not used. Ground connections can be made by drilling small holes through the board to the foil side. The supports at the diagonals are made from solder lugs which are bent into a shallow "Z" shape and soldered to the foil. Number two screws can be used to attach the board, or the feet can be tack soldered to a larger board.





# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

By Founding President Tom Mitchell, WY3H

We realize that QRP and CW operation do not appeal to everyone. We have no "axe to grind" with the QRO (high power) fraternity. We recognize that there are times when QRO operation is invaluable. During disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or terrorist attacks, radio amateurs provide vital, life-saving communications for which QRO operation is often necessary. QRO operators also provide an invaluable public service in health and welfare traffic and routine traffic handling.

Amateur radio has something for everyone, including SSB, other forms of digital communication and AM and FM operation. However, for a small but dedicated group, QRP (and QRPp) CW operation provides the greatest challenge and thrill amateur radio has to offer.

Each month the club will host a different challenge such as the GAW (Get Acquainted Week) or the Turkey challenge (making words relating to Thanksgiving from letters in call signs of stations worked). Also we will have a 2 hour sprint each month alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with a bonus multiplier for using a straight key.

In addition to QRP CW operation, the club encourages (but does not limit operators to) the use of simple wire antennas. The club offers free membership to any licensed radio amateur (or shortwave listener) anywhere in the world who is willing to use and promote QRP (or QRPp) CW for at least part of their operating time.

We don't have all the answers, but we are willing to answer questions concerning QRP and CW operation from newcomers to the hobby and veteran amateurs alike. Let's put the thrill back into amateur radio and work together to encourage everyone to just give it a try.

We welcome all who share our view to join us and become part of an elite amateur radio fraternity.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has more than 7000 members throughout the world. 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 also be sent to

Club President Paul Huff, N8XMS  
9928 Eckles  
Livonia, MI 48150  
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

<b>NAQCC CONTACTS</b>		
<b>NAQCC President</b> Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
<b>NAQCC Vice President</b> West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
Shenandoah Valley Chapter	Russ - K3NLT	k3nlt@comcast.net
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Central Texas Chapter	Danny - N5DRG	n5drg@naqcc-centraltexas.net
Illowa Chapter	Pete - NN9K	nn9k.peter@gmail.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
NAQCC CW Nets	Scotty - NU0S	nu0s@hotmail.com