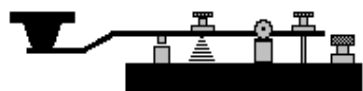


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 211 JANUARY 2016



KEY CLICKS

- **MIDNIGHT OFFERING MADE TO PROPAGATION SPIRITS.** At the stroke of midnight (UTC of course) on December 31 / January 1, some NAQCC members participated in a secret propagation ceremony. The exact details of the ritual cannot be revealed but it is our understanding that it involved vintage spark keys, incantations of secret Q-signals, and the ozone bubbles released from open bottles of champagne. At the conclusion of the ceremony the High-Kahoona, who was wearing a plastic raincoat, fuzzy bunny slippers, and a Porky Pig mask (ham), proclaimed the ritual a success and guaranteed improved propagation for 2016. (Take a look at the December sprint report in this newsletter to see that it at least can't get much worse!) Unfortunately no photography was allowed at the ceremony and all participants took an oath of silence.
- **NEW NAQCC CHAPTER FORMING IN THE TAMPA BAY AREA.** Ron Wright, N9EE, has just organized a new local chapter of the NAQCC, called the "West Florida Chapter." Their first activity was a portable setup at the Tampa Bay Hamfest on December 12 and it generated a lot of interest. You can see some pictures and learn about some future activities in the *Chapter News* section of this newsletter.
- **IT'S NOT TOO EARLY TO START THINKING ABOUT OUR 12TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN 2016.** (Tempus Fugit!) Once again there will be some great prizes given away to participants in our October anniversary sprint, and we will have the same throughout-the-year participation requirement as last year to be eligible for the top prizes. You can see the eligibility details at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_11th_anniv.html but they boil down to simply participating in our sprints and challenges throughout the year. So make one of your New Year's resolutions to get on the air for our club events. You can find complete calendars for our sprints and challenges at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>. Keep watching here in the coming months for more anniversary details.

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Happy New Year!

- **THE NAQCC SPRINT SILVER LOG WINNER FOR 2015 IS AB8FJ.** 18 members submitted logs for all twelve of our regular sprints in 2015 - AB3RU AB8FJ AB9YC AK4NY K1IX K3WWP K9JWV KA2KGP KD3CA KF7WNS N1JI N2ESE N5GW N8XMS W2JEK WB8LZG WG8Y WX4RM. Following our award rules, 5 of these members were chosen through a random drawing to have their sprint logs checked for Silver status (no errors) - AB8FJ AB9YC K9JWV N2ESE WX4RM. Of these five, Ted, AB8FJ, had the largest number of Silver Logs (11) and was declared the winner. His prize, donated by K3WWP, is a copy of the ARRL publication "Even More Wire Antenna Classics - Vol 3." Congratulations to AB8FJ and best of luck to all of our sprinters for the 2016 version of this award.
- **DO YOU HAVE ITEMS TO DONATE?** We often use small donated items (books, station accessories, compilations of QRP journals on CD, etc.) in good condition as part of our various prize programs. So if you are cleaning out space in your shack to make room for some new toy that Santa brought you please consider making a donation to the NAQCC. Email me (Paul, N8XMS) first to confirm that it is something that the club can really use. I should mention that we cannot pay for shipping and there is no tax write-off for your donation.
- **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."



WB8LZG FINGER PIECES

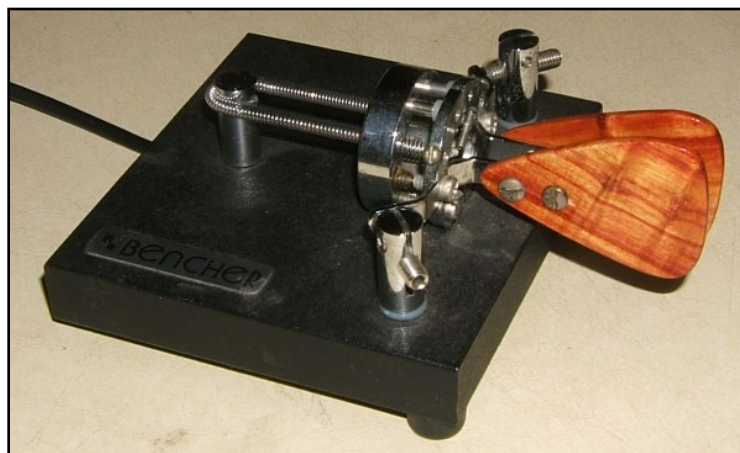
BY JOHN, K3WWP

When I retired as VP of the NAQCC, I became eligible for the club prizes. After about a year, I won the random drawing for the September 2015 challenge. That gave me the choice of paddle handles, earrings, key poker chips, K1 panels, K1/K2 tuning knob covers. All items crafted by master wood worker Gregg WB8LZG. Well, the earrings were immediately out of the question, I don't own a K1, I already have a knob cover on my K2, and I already have a poker chip mounted on my J-38 key thanks to Gregg for those gifts. That left a choice of paddle handles. I didn't want to modify my ARRL Centennial paddle nor my Begali paddle, so I thought of my Bencher paddle and chose the one set of handles that would work with it. Here's a picture of mailman Mike KC2EGL delivering the handles to me.



OK, so that's just a little (inside) joke for the benefit of a few people. Mike really is a mailman, but since I mail out all the NAQCC prizes, we thought it would be cute to do an impromptu quickly set-up picture like that while he was visiting for our Columbus Day parkpedition. At least Paul got a little kick out of it.

Back to being serious now. I knew it would be a bit rougher than the Centennial or Begali paddles to modify. The handles on those are bolted on, the Bencher has them riveted on. Let me lead you through the steps I took to get the Bencher looking like this. (NOTE: Some pictures are reconstructions of the steps since I didn't think of writing this article till after the project was finished. However you'll get the idea from them OK.)



First the little bracket that holds the handles had to be removed by unscrewing one screw here, being careful not to unseat the spring holder in the process.



Now that the bracket has been removed, you need to remove the rivets to free the handles. This is most easily done by selecting a proper sized drill bit just about the size of the body of the rivet, and mounting it in a drill press if you have one. Then while holding the bracket on a piece of wood as shown here, slowly drill through the rivet. If done properly, the handle will now be free when both rivets have been drilled out. Part of the rivet may come off stuck to the drill bit or part of it may remain in the bracket or handle. If it does stick in the bracket, it can be manipulated out with needle nose pliers. Here's a shot of the drilling process although as shown, the rivets have already been removed.



Once the handles have been removed and the rivet holes cleaned in the bracket, the holes can be threaded with a 4-40 tap unless you would have the means to re-rivet the new handles. I used the tap method and chose some appropriate 4-40 bolts from my huge junk box collection. They should be long enough to go through the wood handles and the bracket without sticking out too far.



Some of Gregg's paddle handles are pre-drilled. These were not. I had to carefully align the original handle with a replacement handle, then I taped them together. Do not use rubber tape as it may leave a slight residue on the handles. (I found that out the hard way, but the residue was removed with a little rubbing with a clean lint-free rag) For the second set I used "Scotch" tape which came off nicely. When they are fastened together, set them on a block of wood in the drill press and feed the bit through the old handle holes and drill through the new one.



Remove the tape and proceed. Fasten the new handles to the brackets, making sure that they are symmetrically mounted so one is not slightly higher or lower than the other. I found the best way to keep this straight was to hold the handles together in the proper orientation and put a piece of "Scotch" tape on the outside of the handles, and keep the marked side to the outside as you mount the handles to the brackets with the 4-40 bolts.



Now mount the brackets back onto the paddle and you will have something like that shown in the first picture making an attractive addition to your shack's collection of keys.

Although this article described a Bencher paddle, a similar procedure should cover most any paddle or bug. Of course the ones that originally are mounted with bolts will be much easier and quicker especially if the handles are the pre-drilled kind.

HOTEL ANTENNA

BY GENE, N5GW

How many of you QRPer's have been totally frustrated when trying to operate your station from inside a modern hotel room? Recently my xyl and I were on vacation staying in a very nice hotel room. While she watched TV I planned to operate during a QRP sprint. However I encountered the same old problems: a metal frame building acting as an rf shield; in-room antenna picking up rfi from various appliances; and windows that don't open so that a wire can't be run outside. I hooked up a 25 foot piece of wire to my KX3 which was grounded to a desk lamp frame for low SWR, but could hear NO amateur signals on any band! Then I looked out the window and saw a nice big parking lot behind the hotel, including several small ornamental trees and few vehicles. I immediately pictured myself operating from our truck using a portable antenna attached to a stealth mast and/or nearby tree.

The following is a description of the portable antenna and support I cobbled together using ideas put forth in many previous amateur publications.

Parts needed: a 1' by 2' board, four 3" L brackets, two 4" hose clamps, a 2" by 2" length of pvc pipe, a 25' or 30' telescoping fiberglass pole, 50' of stealth antenna wire, and 25' of TV twin lead.

The first pic shows the base consisting of the pvc pipe attached to the board by the L brackets and hose clamps. In the second pic the base is stabilized by the front tire of the truck.



The antenna is an inverted vee of sorts made by soldering 26' lengths of stealth wire (the 19 strand copper clad steel #26 with black PE insulation works well) to the twin lead - no center insulator is used.



This next pic indicates how an element of strain relief can be devised.



Seal the connections including far ends of the wires with liquid electrical tape. Ends of the wires are attached to thin dark nylon lines. The base cap of the fiberglass pole (Jackite pole or the MFJ pole work well) is unscrewed and the top two or three sections are removed to make the extended length about 20'. This is done because thicker sections at the top make the mast more stable and the height is more manageable. Screw the base cap back on to prevent the telescoping sections from falling out, pull out the top section and use electrical tape to secure the twin lead. Next place the base of the pole into the pvc pipe and fully extend the pole, twisting each section firmly into place. (If the MFJ pole is used, its larger diameter base requires loosening the hose clamps and removing the pvc pipe so it can be placed over the MFJ pole.) Take care that the wires do not become wrapped around the top of the pole. One or both support lines are tied to nearby trees or other supports, although the rear bumper of the truck can be used. Make sure the line is high enough so that no person or vehicle can run into it. Resist the temptation to attach to any electrical device such as a street lamp or lighting fixture. Also stay away from any power lines. Certainly do not attach to anything that could fall down, blow away or drive off! Then pass the twin lead through the vehicle window which can be raised, leaving a little slack outside to cope with any wind or rain.

Using a KX3 and a compact balanced line tuner I was able to get a low SWR on 40-6 meters without any "rf in the truck", except for 15 meters which my tuner couldn't match. However the internal ATU took care of that.

Here is a pic of the finished product. An orange Jackite pole is shown for illustration, but a black pole (picture at the start of the article) is less conspicuous, especially when silhouetted against trees.



This setup can obviously be modified for other applications such as RG-174 coax feed, vertical, OCF, or random wire antennas, or other locations such as portable operation from a park, campsite or field day.

If the hotel management suspects you of being a terrorist or fears you will frighten the other guests, just move your operation to the city park or some hill top location!

72, Gene, N5GW



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.

AGE DE JONG, PA0XAW, #7074



I was born October 1943 and am married to my lovely wife Wil. We have two children, both boys, and six grandchildren.

I got interested in radio at the age of about twelve when I started listening to shortwave stations on my parents' BC radio. All those sounds from far away really intrigued me. Later, in high school, I started building and playing around with receivers, small amplifiers and AM medium wave transmitters. After school I joined the Royal Netherlands Navy as an electronic engineer. Here I discovered ham radio but because of my time at sea and other places, there was not much opportunity to study for the exam.

In 1969, the navy sent me (together with my XYL) to the Island of Curacao in the Netherland Antilles for three years. Here I learned the morse code with the help of PJ2PS (now CT7AGR), and took the exam for my license. I got my license in 1970 and was from then on PJ2AW.

I ordered my first transceiver from Heathkit, the HW-101. After building the kit, I made a quarter-wave vertical for 20-meters from a piece of water pipe and out went my first CQ. That resulted in my first QSO with Al, WB4KZB. I still have the QSL card together with a photo of WB4KZB on the wall in my shack. I went back to Holland in 1972 and I became PA0XAW.

During my first years as a ham, I spent a lot of time chasing DX in SSB mode. After moving the QTH to where we live now, I met Jo, PA0VLA who is a real CW man. He inspired me to pick up my CW again and since then my QSOs are mostly in the good old CW mode.

I like to participate in small contests, enjoy rag chewing and do some homebrewing of antennas, small transmitters or transceivers, ATU's, etc. I also like to take part in the NAQCC challenges so I don't have to sit in the solder smoke all the time when I am in the shack.

In the shack I restore and use Heathkit equipment. At the time the WARC bands were assigned, I modified a HW-101 for these bands. The main Heathkit in use is the SB-102 but the other Heaths are also fired up now and then as well. I have two HW-101s and one HW-100 waiting for restoration and alignment, so I have a lot of time to spend in the shack before all the rigs are in good working order.

All my QSOs for the NAQCC challenges are made with the HW-8 and my homebrew single-band rigs for 80, 40 and 20 meters. The HW-9 is the one Heathkit that I would like to acquire. Antennas in use at the moment are a design from G7FEK and an end-fed wire about 20 meters long. When caravanning there is always my HW-8 on board together with a 2x10 meter dipole for the odd QSO during a rainy day.

To produce the Morse code, there is the Heathkit electronic keyer to help me; when in the mood I use a straight key, hand made by a friend of mine. My other rigs in use are a "modern" IC-706MKII and an older TS-530SP, both from Kenwood.

When there is some spare time left I like to read about offshore radio and the history of radio in all its facets, do some long distance walking, and when the weather is right, go out for a field day or SOTA and play radio.

The pictures show you my line-up of Heathkit equipment in the shack and me operating the HW-8 during a camping holiday during the summer of 2015.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We again have two sprints to enjoy this month. First up is our special annual 160-meter sprint on January 13, from 0130-0330 UTC. (That's the evening of January 12 in North America.) Then a week later we have our regular sprint on the 21st (evening of the 20th) from 0130-0330 UTC. Complete information on these sprints can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201601_160.html and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201601.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>.

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. Alternatively, a logging spreadsheet for Mac OS X computer users is available at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html.

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: One phrase can summarize our regular monthly sprint that was held on December 9 - "Rotten conditions!" Here are just a few quotes from around the country found in the soapbox comments:

K3WWP - "I've been in all 134 of our regular sprints, and tonight had the worst conditions of all 134."
K8RJW - "The most noise I think I've ever heard...on all bands!"
N0DA - "Rough conditions for me tonight."
N7QR - "Skunked - I agree with K3WWP, worst propagation sprint I've ever been in."
W4HH - "Worst condx I've ever seen and I've been on the air since 1958!!!!"

In spite of the horrible conditions that most operators experienced, 148 brave QRPers hit the bands (105 submitted logs), and 1140 QSOs were completed. There is certainly something to be proud of in that! An old Marine Corps recruiting phrase comes to mind... "The few, the proud, the QRPers!"

On December 17th the generally poor conditions continued for our semi-annual milliwatt sprint. You know that conditions are tough when scores of 3 or 4 QSOs were enough to win first-place certificates in some categories! 65 logs were submitted and that's not at all that bad for the conditions that we had.

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201512.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201512mw.html> and summary information can be found in the tables on the following pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters: N4KEZ NN0SS NF1U KC6SSE KM4GRG KB8XG VE4MR. First time submitters in the mW sprint were: W8LU KB3TEL K3JZD N4TMM NN0SS KA8KUF N4MJ VE9BEL KB1M N7QR KD8WA. We hope that you had a great time and will return often.

AB8FJ IS THE WINNER OF THE 2015 SILVER LOG AWARD: See *Key Clicks* on page 2 for the complete details.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	N2CN	KB1WOD
W2	KA2KGP		
W3	KD3CA		
W4	K4BAI	N4KS	WH6LE
W5	W5WIL		
W6	KC6SSE		
W7	KC7DM	K9JWV	
W8	WA8AXF	NF8M	
W9	NN9K		
W0	WB0PYF	NN0SS	
VE	VE3DVC	VE2TH	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1IX		
W2	N2HTT		
W3	AF3Z		
W4	AK4NY		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0			
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1SX		
W2	K2YGM		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	AB4QL	WX4RM	
W5	N5GW		
W6	KG6UBG		
W7	W4OEP		
W8	N8ZYA		
W9	KG9DW		
W0			
VE			
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	N4KEZ		KB8XG
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
WD4OHD			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	105	110	194	2/13
Participants	148	184	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1140	1905	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	607	982	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	533	923	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	7	340	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	322	1499	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	811	66	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	10.9	17.3	19.3	9/11

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+	NA4O N8BB KC2EGL VE5BCS N2ESE K6CSL N8QY WA8SAN N0TA WX4RM WD0K K4KRW NQ2W KB8FE NO2D WY3H AA9L KQ1P W4DUK KE5YUM WB8ENE WA2JSG K1IEE N4FI VE3FUJ KD0V NU7T
75+	K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN K4NVJ N8XMS KD2MX K4BAI KB3AAG
100+	WB8LZG W2SH W9CC W2JEK
125+	KA2KGP K3WWP

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY MW SPRINT			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H		
W2	W2SH	W2JAZ	
W3	KD3CA		
W4	WH6LE	WD4OHD	
W5	N5GW	W5TVW	
W6	WK6L		
W7	KC7DM		
W8	N8XMS	WB8LZG	
W9	N9SE		
W0	NN0SS		
VE	VE2TH		
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY MW SPRINT			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2	N2HTT		
W3	K3WWP		
W4			
W5	N5FU		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	W8LU		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY MW SPRINT			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1QO		
W2	K2JT		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	AB9CA		
W5			
W6			
W7			
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0			
VE			
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY MW SPRINT			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE MW SPRINT			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K3JZD	W8LU	KB3TEL
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER MW SPRINT			
N9SE			



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In January we will celebrate Mardi Gras with an alphabet challenge using words that are all associated with "The Big Easy." The complete list of words along with some interesting information about the Mardi Gras celebration can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201601.html>.

The European challenge for January takes a little bit more "sophisticated" track with an alphabet challenge that works with the names of some famous European symphony orchestras. You can find the complete details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/january-2016-challenge>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In February we will look at some animal weather prognosticators in our challenge. Details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201602.html>.

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>. Detailed general rules for our challenges can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The deadline for submitting entries for the December challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201512.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 European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2015-challenge>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: We have recently been receiving a number of challenge submissions that include various contest QSOs as part of the challenge effort. According to our challenge rules, contest QSOs like sprints and QSO Party contacts cannot be used in challenge submissions. Even if you are not "participating" in the contest, if the other person is getting some points from the contact it still counts as a contest QSO and is not allowed in our challenges. The complete challenge rules can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html.

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.

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H
50+	K1YAN 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: WAVE (Worked All VE) Simple Wire Antenna Award

This award only requires 8 QRP QSOs using "Simple Wire Antennas" with the following regions of Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, Maritimes, Newfoundland, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. Notice that the provinces of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Prince Edward Island have been grouped together into the Maritimes region. Also the really challenging regions in Canada - Yukon, Northwest, and Nunavut Territories - are not required for this award but can be worked for an added endorsement. There are two categories for the award - QRP and 2xQRP. In addition to the Territories endorsement, there are also endorsements for Single Band and QRPp. Only QSOs made since March 1, 2011 can be applied and as with all of our awards, we take your word for it - QSLs are not required. Complete details on the WAVE award and how to apply for it can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_waveswa.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

Friendship Club Award - 2600 points

0001	K3WWP	1281	01/03/16
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QSO-A-DAY Award - Full year (2015)

0001	K3WWP	365	01/03/16
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DXCC Award

0017	N1JI	12/27/15	88' & 163' Doublets @ 25'
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WAC Award - QRPp

0003	K0FNR	ZD8G-JF1IRW-TM5M-ZF1AH-ZM90DX-PS2T	12/27/15
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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. 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 0100 Z	3560 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 5 PM PT	Monday 0100 Z	7065 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 80 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 7 PM PT	Monday 0300 Z	3556 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 80m QRQ Net (FRN)	Monday 8 PM PT	Tuesday 0400 Z	3565 KHz	J.B., NR5NN (in CA)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0300 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2300 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2330 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0300 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes QRS Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0200 Z	3534 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.

From Net Manager Scotty, NU0S

No new news for December please have a wonderful safe and prosperous New Year!!! 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!!!

12-01-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California

What a weird night, propagation wise! Everyone went from S9 to nothing then back to S9, sometimes within one transmission. Seldom had 100% copy on any transmission of more than a couple sentences. Most copy was 50% to 75%. No useful info passed. Terminated net at 08:30. Everyone was NCS tonight! PS: don't read this if you don't like digital! Rick & I QSY'ed to 3580. Started with PSK31. Then went to weak signal modes Olivia 8/500 and DominoEX8. Had pretty solid copy on both but like DomEX8 the better of the two. Real fun when you can't see the other station on the water fall but can still copy them. Oh, and Andrew/n3hlc joined us after a few minutes and we had more of a QSK than a round table. Actually, it is kind of disappointing that a digital mode worked weak signals better, at much lower power, than CW. Thanks guys! 72/3 de JB... NR5NN

12-08-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California (Rick N6IET NCS)

There was only one QNI on the 80m FRN this evening - John, W7SAG. He was in the noise at first, but his signal gradually came up to peak at 589 with considerable slow QSB, and we talked till 7:40. He was using his usual attic 40m dipole but running 200 watts. We talked about the weather and our upcoming ham club Christmas parties, recent activities, and the suddenly poor band conditions. John worked some DX earlier today, I think on the higher bands when conditions were good. Rick N6IET

12-15-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California

Just Mark & I tonight. Had a nice hour long QSO catching up. He noted that part of his antenna was under snow up on his roof - has about two feet, pulled the antenna down. Still could ladder line load the antenna though? Had 9RN net going on 3555, quite strong, some S7 signals from IL & WI, so QSY'ed up to 3556 where Mark found me. He was never more than S7, sometimes fading down to S5, but still 100% copy. As we stopped, he got a call from an aa0, so band was quite long tonight. Rick/n6iet emailed that he heard no one on tonight. Also noted the solar storm, foF2 down to 2 MHZ (?)... Likewise he's getting the strong winds we had yesterday. He's experiencing gust of up to 60 MPH, we had bursts of up to 50 MPH here yesterday. 73/JB.NR5NN

12-22-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California

Good News Tonight! I got on the RIGHT frequency! Thanks to all for checking in and working through mediocre conditions. Everyone had marginal to good copy on all, and we got in three short rounds. Rick has volunteered to NCS the next three Monday nights. I am heading east to "5" land (MS) on the 26th, and plan to return on Sunday 1/17. I will try operating QRPP and maybe QRP on 17/20/30 meters with a Softrock RXTX, on CW and PSK31. Antenna will most likely be an end fed wire thrown up in a tree. Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays and Happy New Year to all. 73 de JB.NR5NN

12-29-2015 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California (Rick N6IET NCS)

This is Rick here, taking the liberty of submitting the Monday FRN QNI Report on behalf of JB, who is enjoying visiting his family in Mississippi. I heard several members in QSO an hour or so prior to the net, including K7KY, WU7F, and N6KIX, but I decided to have my dinner and not join in. Sadly, the conditions for shorter paths were starting to deteriorate by 8pm, and I suspect that if Rob K6KIX had checked in, I wouldn't have been able to hear him. He and I are a mere 360 miles apart. Still, we had great QNI, if not great signals. Charles KW6G was strong most of the time at 332 miles, with QSB toward the end. Doug K7KY was also strong at 636 miles but had another digital net and so checked in and out. John W7SAG was consistently strong at 676 miles until he disappeared only to reappear, reporting a power failure. Mark was a bit weak but copiable at 595 miles, and John WB6UBK was 469 and declined at 354 miles as the net went on. Signal reports were the main topic, and several had trouble copying each other and checked out early, leaving W7SAG and me to resume our 40 meter QSO of the previous evening. We went QRT as our signals finally started to fade at 20h53 PST. Happy New Year to all! 73 de Rick N6IET

12-01-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

Had to move up to 3.561 due to a QSO on 60. Band was noisy but signals were good. N5DRG (Danny) helped with QSP on 2 stations and thanks. Allen KA5TJS

12-08-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

No QRM so we got to use 3.560 tonight. The band was in good shape. 3 of the 4 were QRP. I think Andy (KE5YGA) was QRO but not sure. Allen KA5TJS

12-15-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

Signals were good but the QSB was deep. Good copies on most stations.
Allen KA5TJS

12-29-2015 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

80 meters was noisy and lots of QSB but we got it done. Can't wait for spring and 40 meters again!
Allen KA5TJS

12-03-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

Bad band conditions tonight with QSB a BIG problem. Steve (KB0QQT) checked in from Nebraska but very weak and John (W8GDP) who is just on the other side of town, were both difficult to hear at times. John (W8GDP) and I talked about Thanksgiving briefly and some traveling plans after Christmas. I had a very long drive from New York today. Glad to finally call it a day.
72's John N8ZYA

12-09-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

We had a wonderful breakfast meeting this morning at a local restaurant. We had a new member coming to check out our WV Chapter. He checked in the net tonight. (KD8WA). Dave was difficult to copy but I got him in the logbook. John (W8GDP) and I had a nice QSO about a planned QRP outing on Friday. Not sure of the location yet but will be in the valley somewhere since it's going to be 70 degrees. (Can you believe it)? I worked another club member in Maine soon after closing the net. Ted (N1WPU) was right on the coastline. I'll send an e-mail with the hopes he will check into the net next Wednesday.
72's John N8ZYA

12-23-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

A nice net tonight with talk about a great signal from Frank (KA8SYV) who was using just a few watts (3) with a dipole antenna. He lives on the Elk River near the city limits of Clendenin WV. Amazing to hear NO noise tonight from QRM, QRN or QSB. John (W8GDP) and I talked about Christmas shopping with the temp tonight of 68 degrees. Snow actually fell on the Pyramids in Egypt last week while I was cutting the grass 10 days before Santa arrives. The WV Ski resorts are in terrible shape with the jet stream pushing tons of snow to the western states and a heat wave to the eastern coast. My friend Dave (WV8DH) checked in this evening from St Albans WV. Dave recently received this new call and was just at the noise level. Couldn't tell what rig he was using tonight but I managed to copy his call and send QSL to him. Dave was my helper at the Special Event at the Hurricane Wave Pool a few weeks ago. 72's John N8ZYA

12-30-2015 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

I always enjoy talking to John (W8GDP) and tonight the QSO was about the weather here in WV and in the mid-western states. He has friends skiing in Utah (lots of snow out there). We both have travel plans for New Year's Day. The flooding here in the valley was a topic of discussion on Christmas Day. We were both spared from the brunt on the storm. We're both thankful to be living in a sheltered valley right now. 72's John N8ZYA

12-07-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:28pm): Some explanation is in order. I stopped at a ham buddy's in Venice on my way home from bicycling to the beach, and at 4:10 I suddenly realized that the bewitching hour had already passed, during which I could have made the one-hour trek home by 5pm. I arrived home in time to check into "my" net at 5:14pm. I found JB and Charles both in QSO and both needing to QRT for dinner. That's why I've given JB primary NCS credit. I hardly deserve any NCS credit. My apologies! We were having a bit of geomagnetic disturbance during the day, which caused fairly deep but slow QSB. Charles seemed to remain fairly strong (we gave each other 599) for the few minutes we were in contact, but JB and I were in and out of the noise, as the band started getting long by 5:20. We again discussed the vagaries of the Reverse Beacon Network. 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:38pm): Faithful Charles checked in right away at 489 (he gave me 569). Why 489? Because I was experiencing horrendous line noise tipping the S-meter to just above S9. The noise affected 80 meters but not 40 meters and had been on at least since I closed the 40 meter net and tuned to 3556. It sounded like AC arcing. I've heard it before, usually for hours at a time. I wondered if somebody in my building was doing a Tesla coil experiment! It finally ended suddenly about 25 minutes into our QSO. By that time the band had started to go long. Charles and I talked a bit about RTTY and PSK31. He's about to get his feet wet with AFSK after having once owned a "real" TTY machine. He and I both use a MacBook. We speculated about why AFSK RTTY used LSB by convention when the other digital modes use USB. (It turns out that my IC-761 uses only high-side BFO injection in RTTY mode, which is equivalent to LSB.)
TMI, I know. Sorry! -Rick N6IET

12-14-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:30pm): Mike, KE6EE, and JB, NR5NN, were 599+ at first, while the band was still short (but not quite NVIS). Then about half an hour into the net the skip distance exceeded our 350-mile separation, and we stopped hearing each other. Mike and I discussed riding bicycles in the rain. (Hate it!) He used to enjoy hill climbing for the challenge. Not me. I do my real "work"-outs in the gym, and prefer my bike rides to be casual. Luckily the terrain here in West LA isn't too hilly. Mike, did you say you once owned 20 bikes? At 5:30 I closed the net, and JB and I QSY'ed to 3556 for another half hour during which he took pics of my keying envelope on his scope. My IC-761 had acquired a slight hum on both bands. We concluded that I wasn't causing spurious emissions, just a low-level AC hum modulating my signal. I think one of my power supply caps needs replacing. It affects both Rx and Tx and is intermittent... 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:25pm): Charles, KW6G, checked in with a 599 and reported that he had gotten his Signalink and Fldigi working with his MacBook on PSK31 this past week. Congrats! Then, as happened on 40 meters, the band got long rather suddenly about 20 minutes into the net just as Mike, WU7F, tried to check in. I heard him but never could copy his call, and when I asked Charles if he copied it, I couldn't copy him, either. So I closed the net, but Mark did email me that it was him, so I've included him in this QNI report. I enjoy these nets even if only one or two people check in. I also enjoy learning about 40- and 80-meter NVIS propagation. The sun is setting later and later, now, so we're good for the winter at these times and frequencies, I think.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

12-21-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:22pm) and 80 Meters (5:22 - 6:00pm): The K index was at 6, and the HF bands were all rated Poor according to the QRZ.com solar report, due to a Major Geomagnetic Storm. Polar Bear Rick N7HRK/M was 579 at first then dropped into the noise and checked out. It was great to hear him from 1000 miles away. JB NR5NN and Mike KE6EE were both 599+, but they could barely hear each other (no NVIS propagation). Stewart KE7LKW/QRP checked in and right back out with a rather weak signal. After Stewart and PBR checked out, we moved to 80 meters so that JB and Mike could copy each other, which they certainly could! (Great NVIS on this band!) JB has been monkeying around trying to get his SDR software working smoothly on his laptop with his QRPp Softrock RXTX SDR. He tried various versions of Windows and settled on Windows 7 as being the most reliable. Mike is still working on building the support base and mast for his hex beam, a.k.a. a "spider beam". He's in no hurry to complete the project and has set a date in the spring for final completion. I reported on the new support base I built for my solar panels, which blew down, breaking off the legs, last weekend. The new support utilized some wooden slats I cannibalized for a discarded set of wooden blinds. The "wall" should deflect some of the wind, and I'll add two bags of gravel to weigh down two cables across the bottom (not yet installed) the next time I drive by a hardware store.



80 Meters (7:00 - 8:07pm): This was basically two sessions, one with Rob N6KIX from 7:00 - 7:43, and the 2nd with John W7SAG from 7:43 - 8:07. Both were 479-599 with QSB at my location. Rob met for coffee with John during their journeys to the Boise ham fest (or whatever it was) the previous weekend. Rob and I talked a bit about cooties (sideswiper straight keys). He reminded me that Wyatt KF7YHS owns and sometimes uses cootie keys (see his QRZ.com page). In addition to his "rare edition Bunnell cootie key (Circa 1918)", he has built one using a hacksaw blade. John W7SAG and I talked about solar panels. He is considering buying one (did he mean a single panel or one kit of 3 panels?) from the same place I got mine - Harbor Freight. He'll use it to charge either his old car battery or another battery he has for use with his QRP station. I hope I got that right! He'll put his on the ground, unlike me, so wind won't be as much of a problem. I hope the propagation gods' act in our favor for JB's FRN net this

evening at 8pm PST on 3565 kHz, unlike the last two weeks. The geomagnetic storm seems to have subsided for today.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

12-28-2015 40M, 80M NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:39pm): John and I talked mostly about our families and how we've spent the holidays. We had pretty good copy over our 676-mile path. I think I'm going to start recording the SF and K indexes and the foF2 max for each of these nets, but this time I didn't. These nets make for interesting data for propagation buffs like me. 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:23pm): Rob and Doug checked in, briefly. Doug had trouble even hearing me, and Rob's and my signals faded into the noise pretty quickly. 80 meters has been going long rather quickly after sunset, with the fairly weak solar flux. I hope everybody had – and is having – a great holiday! And may you have great propagation in the New Year!

72/73 de Rick N6IET

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

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California

40M, 7.065 MHz, 80M 3.556 MHz

12-07-2015 40M QNI (3) NCS NR5NN, CO-NCS N6IET, KW6G
12-07-2015 80M QNI (2) NCS N6IET, KW6G
12-14-2015 40M QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KE6EE, NR5NN
12-14-2015 80M QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KW6G WU7F
12-21-2015 40/80M (5), NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, NR5NN, KE6EE, KE7LKW
12-21-2015 80M (3), NCS N6IET, N6KIX, W7SAG
12-28-2015 40M (2), NCS N6IET, W7SAG
12-28-2015 80M (3), NCS N6IET, N6KIX, K7KY

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California

80M, 3.565 MHz

12-01-2015 QNI (5) NCS NR5NN, W7SAG, N6IET, KE6EE, KW6G
12-08-2015 QNI (2) NCS N6IET, W7SAG
12-15-2015 QNI (2) NCS NR5NN, WU7F
12-22-2015 QNI (6) NCS NR5NN, WU7F, N6IET, KE6EE, W7SAG, KW6G
12-29-2015 QNI (6) NCS N6IET, KW6G, K7KY, W7SAG, WU7F, WB6UBK

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas

80M, 3.560 MHz

12-01-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N5DRG, WB0QQT, KG0YR
12-08-2015 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, KG0YR
12-15-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, N5DRG, KE5YGA, KE5YUM, KG0YR
12-29-2015 QNI (6) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N5DRG, KG0YR, KB5RCF

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska

40M, 7.117 MHz

12-01-2015 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, N7ADA, WB0QQT
12-08-2015 QNI (1) NCS NU0S sorry folks no net I had to work late and received no reports...
12-15-2015 QNI (5) NCS NU0S, KC7HCR, KB7KY, WB0QQT, WA7TSD
12-22-2015 QNI (2) NCS NU0S, WB0QQT
12-29-2015 QNI (3) NCS NU0S, W5SCG, KB7KY

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming

20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz (BOTH FREQ SHOWN ON ONE LINE)

12-01-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S W3ATB, NS7E, KA5PVB, W6FCS, W6COW
12-03-2015 QNI (2) NCS WC7S AB3RU
12-08-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S WB2GJD, KS5H, WA6OEF
12-15-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S K6RR, AA7CU, N7GES, N1IX
12-17-2015 QNI (4) NCS WC7S AA7CU, K4QQ, K0EVZ,
12-22-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S
12-24-2015 QNI (1) NCS WC7S
12-29-2015 QNI (5) NCS WC7S W8SDG (2) N6IET, K0EVZ
12-31-2015 QNI (7) NCS WC7S NG9D, KF7WNS, W8SDG (2), W0EP, WB5RYB

NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia

40M, 7.117 MHz

12-03-2015 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA, WB0QQT, W8GDP
12-09-2015 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA, KD8WA, W8GDP
12-23-2015 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, KA8SYV, WV8DH
12-30-2015 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP

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

12-04-2015 QNI (5) NCS WB4SPB, N7BYD, AD7BP, K7EP, KE7LKW/7

12-11-2015 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, W7ANM, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV

12-18-2015 QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, N0DA, WB4SPB, AD7BP

12-24-2015 QNI (2) NCS KE7LKW/7, W7ANM

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

No December reports

NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan**80M, 3.534 MHz**

No December reports

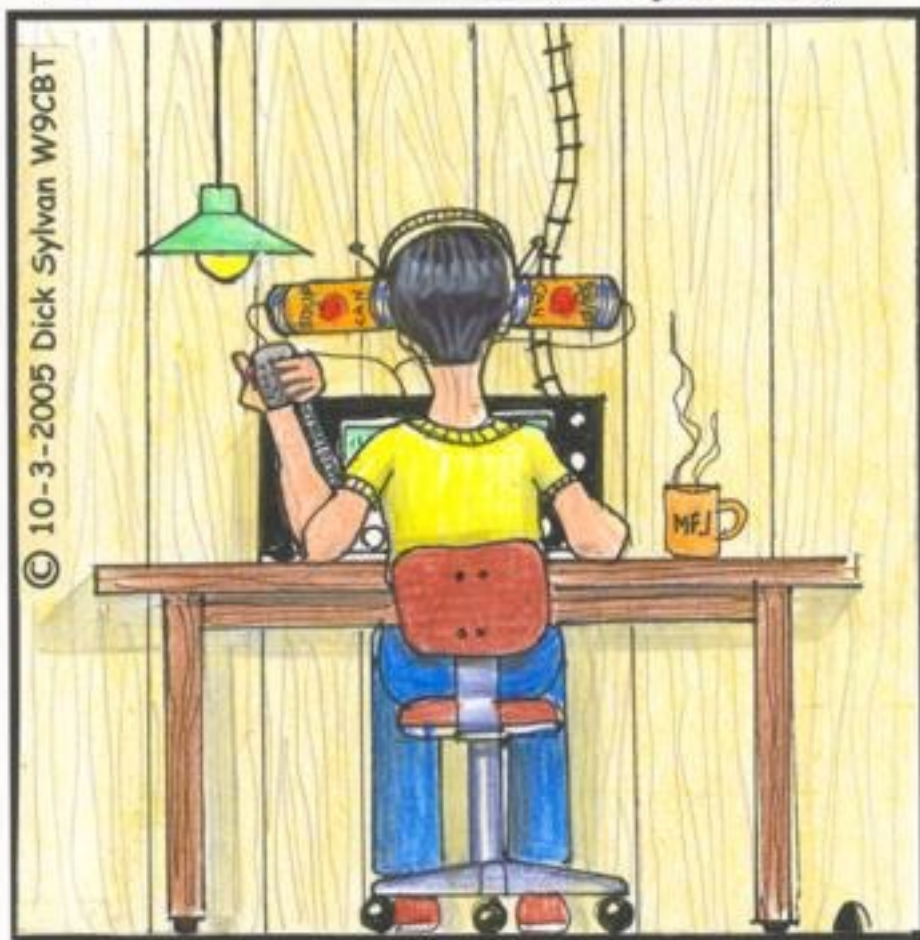


HAM QUIPS



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 "Cans"(Earphones)



These New "Cans" I Just Bought
Sound Sort Of "Tinny" To Me!



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

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

Salutations from the Central Texas Chapter,

The Central Texas Chapter did not plan any events this December, as the Holidays and family matters took precedence over any of the extracurricular Ham Radio activities. But that did not mean that there wasn't anything in the works for the Central Texas Chapter.

The Chapter has been gathering information, and checking our collective calendar to schedule a trip to West Texas the last weekend of January, and part of the first week of February. Nothing like a nice 435 mile, 7 hour drive, one way of course.

The Chapter will be headed out to the Ft. Davis area in in Grid Squares **DM80ao**, Davis Mountains State Park <http://tpwd.texas.gov/state-parks/davis-mountains> for the Winter Field Day 2016, also at **DM70xq** at the McDonald Observatory <http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/> Mount Locke- <http://www.sotawatch.org/summits.php?summit=W5T/DE-003> Apache Mountain, <http://www.sotawatch.org/summits.php?summit=W5T/DW-018> for Summits on the Air, lastly the Ft. Davis Historical Site <http://www.nps.gov/foda/index.htm> for the ARRL National Parks on the Air event. The Historic Site staff has been very good to work out the details for this event. As this is an active archeological site.

We are planning to try to work all three events to some degree, primarily the SOTA, and the NPOTA, with the WFD being the last.

There is even talk of a ARRL VHF contest that weekend so be on the lookout for us on 50.095, <http://www.arrl.org/january-vhf> you just never know with that band. :^) There has been talk of maybe doing a six meter rover station, CW of course, but not while driving, and to think Texting while Driving is unsafe, don't want to think about working CW while driving, scary! There are some rare grid squares in that part of Texas though.

The Chapters SOTA events has been posted to the SOTA Watch2 page <http://www.sotawatch.org/>, for January the 30th activations of the summits mentioned above. You can check who is activating what on the "**Alerts**" tab on the upper left hand side on the SOTA Watch 2 page. The chapter will also post to the N.A.Q.C.C. spotter page with like information. There may be multiple call signs listed on the actual alerts for each summit, and for different bands of operation.

Chapter Member **call signs** to be listening for will be, Larry **WB5BEK**, Max **KD5SFK**, Lester **WD4IFU**, Steve **KF5OYI**, Danny **N5DRG**, and our Host Chuck KA5PVB.

Hope all had a Great Holiday Season, and hope to soon hear you on the air.

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.

December Activity Day

The December activity day was our largest yet: three times as many QSOs were made this time than we've ever seen before! The activity days are based around an informal, friendly competition: RW3AI came in first place by a large margin. PA0XAW, K1IEE, MW0MIE and DL5CL followed with very close scores.

For transmitting, PA0XAW used only his own home-built equipment. DL5CL sent in a picture of his station during the contest, showing his Tentec Argonaut VI and a paddle engraved with his callsign:



Unfortunately conditions from the USA to Europe were very poor on the day. We therefore especially thank Rick WU1V and Dick K1IEE for their efforts, perseverance and log submissions.

Full results are available on the website. We hope to see you in the next Activity Day, next August!

2015 Participation Points

The 2015 table of participation points can be found at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/prizes>

PA0XAW and K1IEE are in joint first place (40 points each): they have both taken part in all 14 chapter events over 2015! Both have won the Kent Straight Key prize for this achievement:



Challenges

Last month's challenge

The premise of the December challenge was to construct the names of six traditional European recipes to prepare a Christmas meal. So far, we have received 7 logs, from DH0DK, EA1KC, K1IEE, K3WWP, PA0XAW, PA9CW, and SM5MEK.

Congratulations to all who completed the challenge! The full results can be found at: <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2015-challenge>

Theme of the 2016 challenges

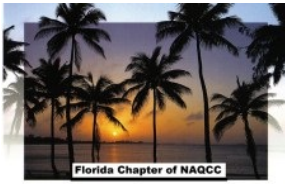
Thank you to all members who voted for the theme that will govern our 2016 challenges in alternate months. The winning theme (with a 3:1 majority) was "Rivers of Europe". We are very grateful to John Smithson, N8ZYA, for originating this suggestion.

The first challenge to draw its premise from this theme will be the February Challenge. It will be published this week.

This month's challenge

The premise of the January challenge is not drawn from the above theme. Instead, participants must construct the names of three famous European Symphony Orchestras and the years in which they were founded. The rules and more information may be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/january-2016-challenge>

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM. The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.



KD4JS WB4MNMK KG4LAL AA4W K3RLL W2EJG NU4C KM4JTE

THERE IS NO DECEMBER FLORIDA CHAPTER PARKPEDITION

Our next adventure is tentatively scheduled for Friday, January 15, 2016 @ Candice Strawn-Lake Dias Park in DeLeon Springs, FL



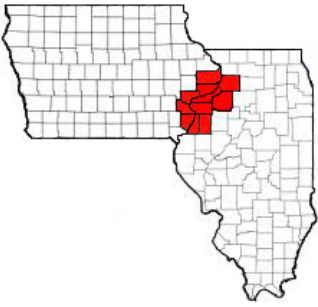
Our Best Wishes for a safe and Merry Christmas, and a Prosperous New Year to all our friends!

Visit our Web Page:

<http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/>

Look for our announcement!

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER

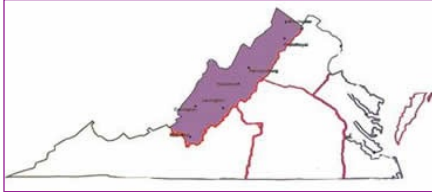


Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Peter, NN9K.

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

No report this month.

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.

The Shenandoah Valley chapter of the NAQCC is closing. Russ has worked very hard to promote CW QRP and we greatly appreciate all that he has done in that regard. He says that he will continue to be active and on the air from the Shenandoah Valley but he will no longer be organizing local portable outings and activities. - Editor

NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>. Questions or comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The new NAQCC-WFL chapter of the NAQCC is located on the west coast of Florida in the Tampa Bay area, and is open to anyone interested in QRP CW operation. We are planning a number of local, informal, QRP events for the fun of it. All are welcome, QRP'er or not, Ham or not. For more information on the NAQCC-WFL see the FaceBook link at the top of this page.

For our first official activity the NAQCC-WFL setup at the Tampa Bay HamFest Dec 12th to promote west Florida QRP CW activity. We only worked 3 stations, 2 CW and 1 SSB with FT817, MFJ tuner and 2 HamSticks as a dipole. We do need a better antenna! 20m was very active most of the day. We were continuously interrupted by HamFest tail gatering (we in Florida have gators, not gater).

We have seen a lot of local interest in QRP, even some CW since announcing our chapter, and we are now seeing more buying of QRP rigs in the Tampa Bay area, like the K1 and FT817. We even had 2 reports of purchases made at the HamFest.

Our next event will be Saturday, Jan 23rd at Cypress Point Park in west Tampa. More later.

73,
Ron - N9EE





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.



XE1RK's dog

The weather has been the focus for radio activities in West Virginia this month. The jet stream has pushed the temperatures to the freezing point in the Midwest and unexpectedly created "spring like conditions" in West Virginia. However it has not been without some unintended consequences.

On Christmas day we had almost two inches of rain fall in less than two hours. Needless to say, there was heavy flooding in the Kanawha Valley. The metro 911 center received 600 calls about high water and the emergency conditions. There were 30 water rescues in the immediate valley. Fortunately there were NO fatalities.

Dave Higley **KD8WA**- (now **WV8DH**) - and I were able to set up and operate at the Hurricane Wave Pool Park during the warm spell before the rain. On this day, I used a slightly different area of the park for our operation. It was easy to get the PAR end fed antenna into the air with the leafless trees and my 31 foot fiberglass pole.

Our outing made me proud to be a CW operator sitting at a picnic table.

We worked 19 stations from about 10:30 am till 2 pm with two of them being DX stations. I heard **XE1RK** in Mexico City barking at about 30 wpm. That speed is difficult for me to copy. However when I responded at around 20 wpm, he dropped his speed accordingly to match me. We had a nice exchange about the "picnic table mode" and the beautiful warm weather in West Virginia.

Hearing **6Y5WJ** in Jamaica produced the same response when I responded at the slower speed. IMHO this is professional operating procedure. The times I've been able to actually have a QSO with a DX station can be counted on my right hand. Hi Hi

As the afternoon progressed I was able to work many (17) club members. I felt fortunate to work our club President **N8XMS**. Paul had a great signal from Michigan. I had anticipated working stations on the east coast during the lunch hour but didn't hear many. The exception was a contact with **N4KGL** in Florida who was using an "Alex Loop" from a portable location.

Surprisingly I worked most of the "lunch crowd" in the mid-west. I had good signal reports from Idaho and Arizona.

I did some testing from the ham shack of Dave Ellis (**WA8WV**) this month. Dave has a true "contest station" with a large beam antenna and all the "bells and whistles" associated with it. I used my Icom 703 at 5 watts and my Vibroplex magnetic racer. However, the band just wasn't open at the time. I anticipate doing this again when propagation is more favorable.

Today (12-27-2015) the temperature is 72 (f) degrees in Charleston. If someone would have told me last year that I'd be cutting the grass a few days before the New Year, I would have thought they needed counseling. But such is the crazy weather now.

I can only imagine what the "real" winter season will be like in the next month. For now, I wish for more dry warm weather as I hop on the bike for a quick ride between the rain drops and the next flash flood warning.

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.

There wasn't a lot of activity in the WPA Chapter in December. Mike KC2EGL and I (K3WWP) did get together a couple times, but the main activities of the get togethers were not ham radio related. We got together on the 20th, supposedly for a trip to the Trolley Museum in Washington PA. However a (fortunate) last minute check by Mike showed that they had closed for the season as of one week earlier. So Mike came up with an alternate project. 43 years ago he built a manger for Christmas and it was in need of repair and cleaning. So we tackled that. It turned out quite well as you can see if you visit the diary on my web site at k3wwp.com. After that we did get on the bands (40 and 30) in search of some DX. The search proved fruitless though, and Mike headed home as he had to work in the morning.

A few days later on Christmas, Mike and I made our 7th annual drive around the area checking out the Christmas decorations. We also did some walking around town. Again it was a work day evening for Mike and he had to head home pretty early. He did stick around until I got my DX streak QSO which took some time as conditions and activity were poor.

Another WPA NAQCC member is getting back into ham radio after a hiatus of several years. He's Eric KB3BFQ who was largely responsible for me resuming my own ham radio activity in the early 90s when he got interested in the hobby and wanted me to show him all about it. We rebuilt my station pretty much from scratch and the rest is history. He was also responsible for my starting the 'streak'. Both of us are sports fans and we talked about what kind of streak there could be with ham radio. He suggested the QSO a day with QRP/CW/simple antennas, and again the rest is history. Although he has a job and family that keep him very busy, he is going to get back into hamming again. I'm going to be loaning him my (now inactive) Kenwood TS-570D until he can get something of his own to replace his old QRP+ rig. We are hoping that next year (well I guess it's this year - 2016 now as you read this) he will be joining us in a parkpedition or two, visiting some hamfests, and operating from the sub Requin.



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 Doug, VE3DVC, #6909 —

Thank you all for the November NAQCC sprint participant random drawing prize. I selected the "poker chip key disk" and applied it to my key - see pics. This is an inexpensive key that I purchased when I was 15 years old from Radio Shack in 1964 for \$14.95. That was a lot of money back then for a kid. It still functions very well and the poker chip gives it extra pizzaz.

A special thank you to Gregg for making and donating your wood, time and woodworking skills.

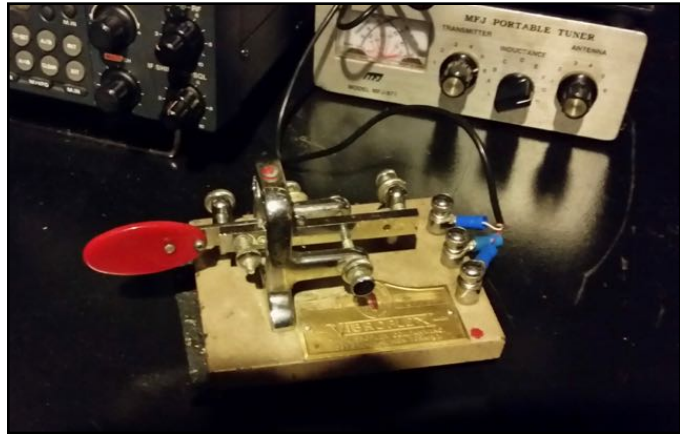
I quite enjoy participating in this group and what makes it great are the efforts of all the people involved. Thanks again.

72, Doug Craig VE3DVC



From Bruce, K3BDQ, #7835 —

I was given this Vibroplex vibrokeyer after my xyl step dad had passed and I just put it away. Well today, the 22 Dec 2015, I was cleaning the shack a bit and ran across it and thought I would wire it up to the K1. So I started to clean it up and clean the contacts on it and make some adjustments to the spring. Now its time to see how it will do so I turned the K1 on and, doing like the instructions on the k1 says for code practice, I lower the rf power to the very lowest 0.1 watts or 100mw. I sent my call and AR/SK a few times making adjustments on spring tension and gap space when to my unsuspected surprise Harold K8JPM gives me a call and RST of 589! I still can't get my head around the fact that he can even hear me with only 100mw of power and a long wire out my attic window. I could not even send a good report back to him I was still in shock that he had even heard me... He is running the big brother to the K1, the K3, and just pounding in to the shack with his 90 watts and rotatable dipole. I would like to give Harold a big thumbs up for being so understanding. I normally would not just send randomly over the air ... So now I am convinced that QRP is the way to go. Over the weekend I'm going to box up this knwd ts-570s and try to find a new home for her... or a trade. Not sure if I did the math right but it works out to be 1,381 miles per watt.



From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

Homebrew dummy loads are useful for testing QRP transmitters. Ideally, they are made using various combinations of noninductive resistors such as the old carbon composition types. But these are becoming hard to find. However, paralleling several slightly inductive resistors not only minimizes overall inductance, but also increases power handling capability.

The picture shows a dummy load made with nine 450-ohm, carbon-film, three-watt resistors in parallel. This one can handle five watts for at least a few minutes. Since the resistors are in parallel, there is only a small amount of inductance, and since the circuit board plates are small and far apart, not much capacitance either. Notice that both male and female connectors are available. Although BNC is more state of the art, I like to use the RCA phono connectors because they are inexpensive, easy to solder and work well at HF.

The SWR is very low at hf using a KX3, and only rises to about 1.5 on six-meters.

Certainly other combinations of resistors will work. Give it a try!



From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

Considering (or perhaps because of) how busy a month it was in general, it was a very quiet month ham radio-wise. I'm just looking through my web site diary (k3wwp.com) to see if I can find something to mention here.

Although it wasn't easy many days, the DX streak is still continuing as of the 30th when I'm writing this. Hopefully I can get some DX the last day of the year also. That will be the second year in a row I'll have earned the NAQCC QSO-a-Day award with DX QSOs each day. And if I make it to February 29th, that will be three years since the streak started on March 1, 2013. You know, it still hasn't gotten old hat working DX each day. The thrill of the hunt and capture still exists each time I do work that DX. If you've never tried chasing DX, you really should. As I've stated (interminably?) you CAN work DX with QRP, CW (especially), simple wire antennas, and a not so good location. Believe me, I've done it, and YOU CAN too (if you wish).

As you know from my sprint soapbox comments and otherwise, I've been plagued by some very high local QRNN (that's lingo for man-made noise), especially on 80 meters where it never drops below S7-8 and often goes over S9. This month, I've been experimenting with a receiving loop for 80 meters (160 and 40 also) to reduce the noise and at least give me a better S/N ratio. It seems to work fairly well so far although it still needs some work and a way to quickly switch between it for receive and my random wire for transmit. If I do get it working the way I want, I'll write it up for the newsletter in case anyone else would like to give it a try.

While experimenting with the loop I also got back into AM BCB (530-1700) DXing. I did a lot of that back in the 60s and 70s mostly and logged something around 1800 stations in 60 countries or so if memory serves. I still have the logs, but I'm too lazy to go look right now. Then I used mostly a homebrew receiver and a homebrew 4 foot loop antenna. That was a lot of fun, and I reminisced a lot more about it in my web site diary.

I'm at the point now where I can work someone with whom I had a first QSO over 50 years ago since I was first licensed as KN3WWP on April 3, 1963. This month on the 13th, I worked W8TY. Our first QSO was on May 23, 1963 when he was WN8ELT. Since I didn't get all that many QSOs before then, that may be the current record time between a first and the most recent QSO. Back then a majority of hams seemed to be in their teens (or younger) so QSOs spanning 50 years or more shouldn't be all that rare. Nowadays with the paucity of teenage hams, it will be very difficult to repeat those QSOs spanning 50 years as time goes on.

Otherwise in ham radio, it looks like I won't complete the NAQCC European Chapter challenge this month. Just too busy otherwise at the only time of day when EU seems workable - morning and early afternoon. I do work some on 40 and 30 in the evenings, but not many. Most all my DX lately has been Caribbean and South American stations. I will have completed about half the words though so I'll at least get a participation point for my meager effort. I did complete our NAQCC 'stateside' challenge getting the last two letters (Os) on the 29th of the month.

Some other things with Mike are in the WPA Chapter news.



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 almost 8000 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
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Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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