

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 213 MARCH 2016



## KEY CLICKS

- **NEW NAQCC PROMOTIONAL VIDEO NOW AVAILABLE.** Jock, N1JI, has produced a wonderful promotional video for the NAQCC (with John, N8ZYA, composing and performing the background music on his ukulele). You can view the video on our club webpage at <http://www.naqcc.info/> or directly on YouTube at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPRPJEGpw9w>. We believe that this video will be a great way to promote the club and we encourage you to include links to it on your personal web pages and to share it in any other appropriate way.

A big THANK YOU goes to Jock and John for all of the work that they put into making this outstanding video!

- **OUR TWELFTH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS IN THE WORKS.** Plans are already under way for our club's 12th anniversary celebration in October of this year. Special callsigns have been reserved and we will be recruiting operators from all over the country to put those calls on the air. Details will be announced here and on our webpage at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html) as they become available. *For now, be sure to make yourself eligible for the great prizes that will be given away by regularly participating in our monthly challenges and sprints.*
- **WE COULD USE MORE ARTICLES FOR THE NEWSLETTER.** We have a couple of months worth of feature articles queued up for the newsletter but we could always use more. Do you have a new piece of gear that you could write a review about? Or some "how to" information to share? Or a report on a portable outing that you did? Perhaps even an interesting story about how you elmered someone into QRP/CW? We would love to receive your submission. You don't need to worry about fancy formatting or pro-style writing - we can take care of the details. Even a simple text file and a couple of digital pictures would be great. So go ahead and write something up and become a "world famous author!"
- **TRAVEL PLANS RESULT IN NEWSLETTER DELAYS.** My personal travel plans have meant that much of the contents of this newsletter was actually put together in early February and then the publication was also delayed about a week. So some of the items in this issue might be slightly dated but we should be back to normal for next month.
- **THE BUGS KEEP CRAWLING.** The first item in the Member Submissions section of the February newsletter was incorrectly listed as being from W2EDN. The correct call is WA2EDN and the archived copy of the file has been fixed. Our apology to Ed, WA2EDN.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
A Pair of Paddles	3
Liquid Electrical Tape	5
Member Spotlight	7
Sprints	9
Challenges	12
Awards	14
CW Nets	15
Ham Quips	21
Chapter News	22
Member Submissions	40
About The NAQCC	45
Contacts	46

- **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.”



# A PAIR OF PADDLES

BY TOM, VE4AKI

One of the wonderful aspects of ham radio is the variety of individual pursuits within the hobby that can be followed. I have been licensed for over 30 years and have been active in QRP CW for the last 25 years.

The other area of ham radio that appeals to me is the building of equipment to use in my station. Together these make a perfect combination. There is great satisfaction in building all types of equipment and antennas and then using your "homebrew" projects to make contacts. Whether the projects are simple ones or more complex, satisfaction is almost guaranteed.

Recently I decided to try my hand at making some keyer paddles. The following is a brief description of two paddles that I constructed. I will only give general details as you will likely not have the exact materials that I used. Improve with similar materials that are available to you, the results will be much the same.

Although I prefer a single-lever paddle, I decided to construct both a single-lever and a dual-lever paddle. Both are made from readily available materials that can be found in the junkbox of most hams or at the local hardware store. No special construction techniques are required.

The bases of both keyer paddles are made from a 5"x3"x3/4" hardwood block salvaged from an old piece of furniture. Any type and size will be suitable. The paddle lever is made from double-sided P.C. board and is approximately 3/4" wide x 2 1/2" long. This material provides the conductivity required and has just the right amount of flexibility for this application.

The finger pieces are 1/8" wood salvaged from paint stir sticks. The contacts for dot and dash are fabricated from small "L" brackets salvaged from some kind of switches or relays [I don't remember where I got them]. The hardware is standard screws and nuts from the junkbox or hardware store.

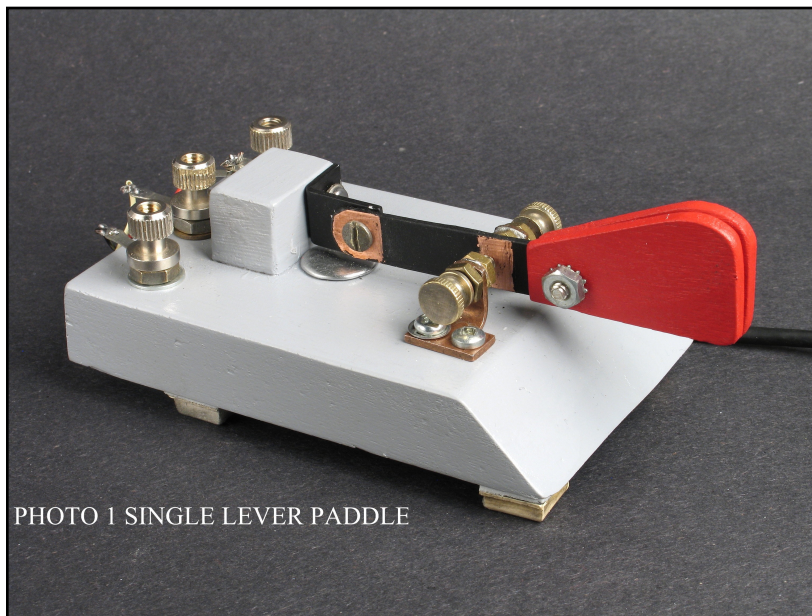


PHOTO 1 SINGLE LEVER PADDLE

Photo 1 shows the basic configuration of the single-lever paddle. The dimensions are not critical with one exception. The location of the contacts affects the "feel" of the action. When they are close to the finger pieces, the action is stiffer and when further away the action is "softer", i.e. more flexible



Photo 2 shows the dual-lever paddle. It uses similar materials and dimensions. The center contact [or ground contact ] is an aluminum hex-shaped standoff 1 1/8" long. The terminal strip is made of the same material as the finger pieces and uses machine screws and nuts. The bases of both paddles are painted with grey primer and the levers and finger pieces with acrylic craft paint. All painted pieces are given a final coat of clear acrylic spray for protection.

Both of these paddles cost little or nothing to make [depending on your junkbox], didn't require any special tools or techniques, and work well. They are in daily use with various rigs and keyers. I can be found most days around the popular QRP watering holes so perhaps you will get a chance to hear them in action. Give me a call if you hear me.

# LIQUID ELECTRICAL TAPE BY GENE, N5GW

Liquid electrical tape (LET) is marketed as an insulator but it can also serve as a glue. The first photo illustrates a bottle of LET and a few ways it can be used.

In the foreground are two pieces of wire to be joined. A piece of "spaghetti" insulation has been placed over one wire.

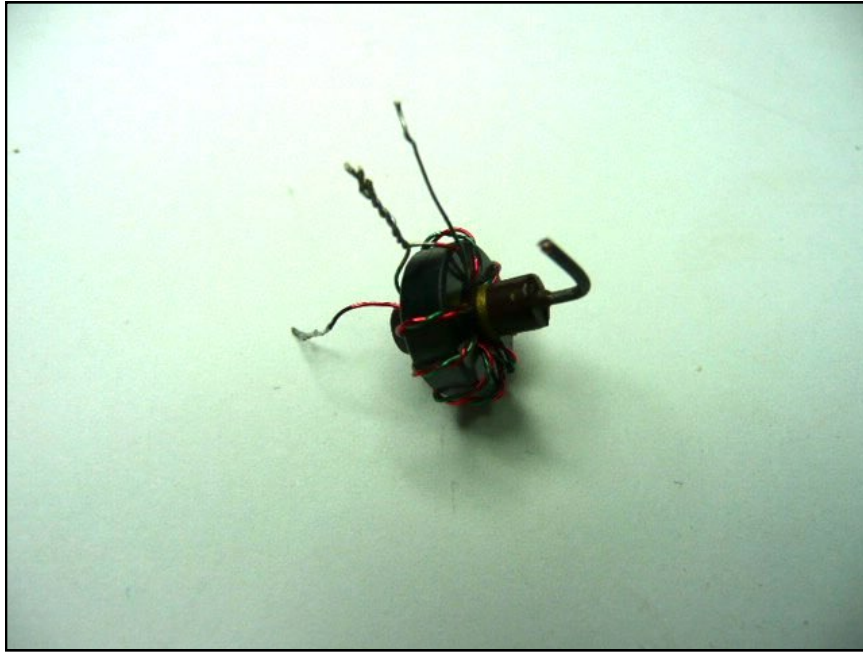
1. The wires are wrapped together, the ends are clipped with flush cutters and filed or sanded smooth.
2. The joined wires are soldered
3. The LET is brushed on to the soldered connection and adjacent yellow insulation
4. The spaghetti is pushed over the connection
5. Additional LET is brushed into the ends of the spaghetti which is then rotated and moved back and forth to spread the LET.



This results in a good, weatherproof connection which is useful for things such as splicing insulated antenna wire.

Also in the above photo are two discs representing stick-on rubber feet which have migrated or fallen off an appliance. A simple cure would be to just stick on another foot. However if you don't have such with the correct height, diameter or shape, the foot can be easily reattached using a drop of LET.

The small component in the left side of the photo is better seen in a magnified view show below in the second photo.



This is a 1:4 bifilar ferrite transformer using #30 wire on an FT-37-43 core. It is mounted over a high resistance 1/2 watt carbon composite resistor and fixed in place using a drop of LET. One lead of the resistor has been clipped off and the other has been bent into a foot for soldering to a ground plain circuit board.

In many situations, LET is superior to epoxy or other adhesives because glued down items can be removed and the adhesive scraped away.

If you decide to use LET, it is a good idea to use gloves and don't inhale the fumes. Also be aware the stuff has a shelf life. If it sits around a few years the solvent tends to evaporate, causing the contents to solidify.

# 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.

## BOB OLSEN, WD4OHD, #0522



I built my first radio (a Knight Kit Star Roamer) at age 17, and I've been interested in radio electronics ever since. A few years ago, I bought another Star Roamer on eBay, tore it down completely, and rebuilt it from an original manual, just to relive the experience. After that radio, I moved up to a Hammurlund HQ-100AC and began listening to amateur radio transmissions as well as shortwave and medium wave broadcasts. I also have an HQ-100AC in near mint condition today.

When I was teaching school in Georgia in 1978, the local club wanted to use our facilities to teach an amateur radio class. I agreed to be the club's contact person since I was interested in getting an amateur radio license anyway. Getting my Novice ticket was easy but I wanted to upgrade soon, so a few months later I attended a hamfest in South Carolina and upgraded to Advanced Class in one morning. Just before the FCC dropped the morse code requirement, I upgraded to Extra Class. I guess I was one of the last ones to take the 20 wpm code test.

My first rig was a Ten-Tec Century 21. I've learned a lot from studying its design over the years, duplicating some of its circuits, and repairing ailing ones. It's still a fun rig to own and operate. I've converted a digital Century 21 to exclusive QRP use. Removal of the AC power supply saves a lot of weight and opens up the interior for accessory circuits. I've used the Ten-Tec rig several times during QRP Sprints, but usually I use a Kenwood TS-570SG dialed back to 5 watts output. For Milliwatt Sprints I add a homebrew power attenuator between the Kenwood rig and antenna for an RF output of about 750 mW.

I enjoy designing, building, testing, and using homebrew electronic devices. After settling on a design, I like to fabricate my own circuit boards from scratch, using an above-the-board surface-mount technique. It makes repairs and modifications quick and easy, and it holds up well over time. I usually have some kind of project on the workbench. The current project is an 80/40 meter vertical antenna, which I plan to use during future Sprints. I also have a couple of Heathkit HW-7 rigs that need work, a Conar 500 receiver and 400 transmitter to rebuild, and a vintage ARRL Handbook rig that's in the planning stage. All of my antennas are on homebuilt electronic switching circuits which connect them directly to an extensive earth ground system when not in use.

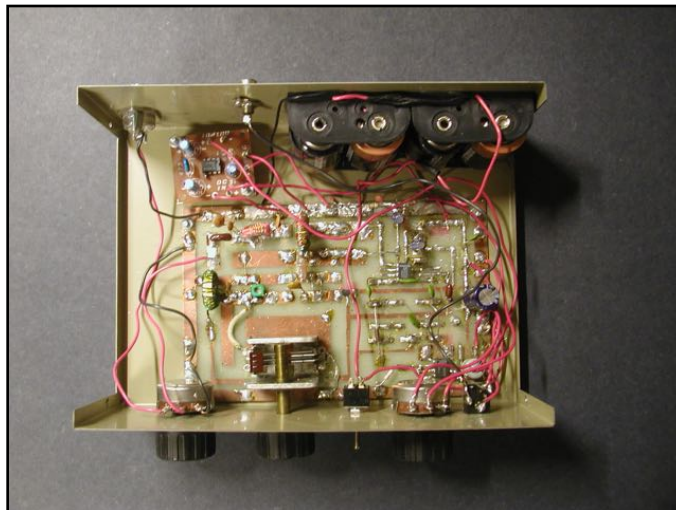
In addition to my QRP activity, I also chase DX on SSB, CW, and RTTY at power levels ranging from 5W to 400W. I only lack 80m for 5BDXCC and am now closing in on it. I don't have towers or a yagi at the home QTH, so I make do with verticals and dipoles. Progress has been somewhat slow but steady over the years, with 200+ countries now confirmed. I've long since had WAS on SSB, CW, and RTTY, so I'm now concentrating on confirming all 50 states on the various frequency bands. I am a member of ARRL, QRP ARCI, and the G QRP Club, and I have had a couple of minor publications in QST and Sprat.

My day job is teaching high school history (40+ years experience), although I also teach astronomy and electronics. For most of my teaching career I have had an amateur radio station in my classroom, and I've helped a number of students obtain their licenses during that time. The current school rig is a Kenwood TS-570D and a Cushcraft A3 triband yagi. I try to squeeze in a few QSOs between classes whenever I can and let students listen in whenever anything particularly interesting is happening on the bands.

Another of my hobbies is building scale model aircraft from the WWI and WWII eras. I have a number of them at home and some at school for use in my course on World War II. I build both plastic and balsa models and always have several on the workbench. I can only claim repairs and TLC for the black Fokker triplane in the photo of my home station. It was built more than 50 years ago from scratch by an uncle who helped launch me on my own path to building model aircraft and studying electronics.

It is an ongoing pleasure meeting many of you during Sprints. Although my schedule does not allow me to participate every month, I certainly try to do so as often as possible. I look forward to seeing you on the bands in 2016 and beyond. Best regards to all.

The second photo is a homebrew direct-conversion receiver.





# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be March 17, 0030-0230 UTC. Of course that's the evening of Wednesday the 16th here in North America. Complete details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201603.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](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](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_macs.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** We bounced back up from our low submission count last month with 118 submitted logs in the February sprint. I personally experienced horrible conditions but fortunately that didn't hold for everyone and plenty of QSOs were enjoyed by our members. And never forget that "even the worst day of fishing is better than the best day of working!"

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201602.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: KC3RN K9QV KJ4R KJ3V KB1WXC K5MBA KC1DVT AI6O (nm)

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** It doesn't happen very often but we sometimes have members operate in a sprint using a different callsign than one that they have used before in our sprints. When this happens we need to know about it so that our cross checking and participation records will be accurate. If you will be operating in a sprint with a different (new) callsign please email the person in charge of that sprint and let us know about it. You can find the correct email address to use at the top of the page for the specific monthly sprint. Thank you.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1IEE	
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	
W3	KQ3Z		
W4	WG8Y	WX4RM	W4UX
W5	N5GW	KE9DR	
W6	K6MGO		
W7	KF7WNS	KC7DM	
W8	KE8DI	NF8M	
W9	AA9L		
W0	WB0PYF	KA8HDE	
VE	VE2TH	VE3EDX	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N1DN		
W2	N2HTT		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8			
W9			
W0			
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN		
W2	AA2VG		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	N4MJ	AB4QL	K2YGM
W5	N5RWK		
W6	KC6SSE		
W7	AA7CU		
W8	AC8JW		
W9	K9QV		
W0	K9OSC	N0AR	
VE	VE7YU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI	AA4NN	KG6UBG

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	KB1WXC		KC3RN
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
WA2JSG			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	118	92	194	2/13
Participants	178	135	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1549	1082	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	826	571	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	723	511	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	45	41	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	814	559	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	690	482	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	13.1	11.8	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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	K6MGO 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+	KA2KGB K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** This month we are being challenged to put a little variety in our operating by making at least 20 QSOs using two different keying devices (10 contacts with each device). See <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201603.html> for a list of possible keys and all of the other details.

The European challenge works with the names and areas of some famous European gardens. Details can be seen at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/march-2016-challenge>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** So how much do you know about wire? Our alphabet challenge in April just might add to your personal knowledge on the subject: <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201604.html>.

The European challenge for April has not yet been published as of this writing.

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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submitting entries for the February Animal Prognosticators challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201602.html> to see what has been posted so far, and the final results will also be posted there soon. Also take a look at the next page to see how those animals do their weather forecasting.

The European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/february-2016-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](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](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
100+	W2JEK
125+	K3WWP

**MORE ABOUT OUR FEBRUARY CHALLENGE:** Here is some information about how those animal prognosticators do their job.

**Frogs**

They are said to croak even longer and louder than usual when bad weather is on the horizon. When you hear their volume increase, you can assume a storm is brewing.<br>

**Birds**

Depending on how low our feathered friends are flying, we can gauge how bad the weather is going to be. It's been said that if birds are flying high, the weather is clear. But if they're flying closer to the ground, the air pressure of a storm system is causing them pain at higher altitudes.

**Cows**

According to legend, when cows sense bad weather, they become restless and antsy and begin to swat flies with their tails or lie down in the pasture to save a dry spot.

**Bees and Butterflies**

When bees and butterflies disappear from the flower beds, you can expect some heavy weather coming your way. The folklore goes that if they're not in their usual spots, something is up.

**Sheep**

"When sheep gather in a huddle, tomorrow will have a puddle." It's believed that you can expect a storm when these animals crowd together and shield each other.

**Ladybugs**

These insects around give us a hint about the day's temperature : "When they swarm, expect a day that's warm." On the other hand, if you notice the black and red bugs looking for shelter, then cold weather is on the way.

**Ants**

In preparation for bad weather, red and black ants sometimes build up their mounds for extra protection or to cover the mounds' holes. So if you notice higher mounds than usual in your yard, it's probably best to close the windows.

**Woolly Bear Caterpillar**

These shaggy caterpillars are black on either end with a reddish-brown band in the middle. According to folklore, a wider brown band indicates a warm winter is on the way, while Woolly Bears that are predominantly black are harbingers of a colder, harsher winter.

**Moles**

If the mole digs its hole 2½ feet deep, expect severe weather; if two feet deep, not so severe; if one foot deep, a mild winter.

**Cicada**

When cicadas are heard, dry weather will follow, and frost will come in six weeks.

**Groundhogs**

If he sees his shadow, it means there will be six more weeks of winter; if not, we can look forward to an early spring.



# 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: 30-30 AWARD

Our 30-30 award is designed to promote the possibly underused 30-meter band. To qualify for this award you need to make 30 QRP/CW 30-meter QSOs during a single calendar month. You can find complete details about this award at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_magnum.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_magnum.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### FRIENDSHIP CLUB

0021 - K1DN 200 02/14/16 first submission - 200 points

### 1000 MPW AWARD

0498	N5DRG	OK1FFU	-	1,133	02/14/16	EF Vertical
0497	UT4FJ	ZL1TM	-	2,094	02/13/16	Inverted V
0496	AC8JW	ZF2EZ	-	1,599	02/13/16	EFHW @50'
0495	AC8JW	K6JEB	-	1,948	02/13/16	EFHW @50'

### 2X QRP AWARD (50 point level)

0020 - W4DUK 02/21/16



# 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
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Sunday 7:30 PM PT	Monday 0230 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
Farnsworth 40 m QRQ Net (FRN)	Monday 7:30 PM PT	Tuesday 0230 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
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	14060 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2230 Z	7062.5 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, KE8DI (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

Just quick note this is my one year anniversary, if I can count correctly... as the NAQCC net control manager and coordinator time sure does fly; this has been a lot of fun and a great pleasure. Daylight Savings Time is coming soon so keep an eye out on the nets schedule page for any updates... 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!!!**

### **02-01-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:53 p.m. PST) Welcome to newcomer Oscar, XE2IF! He and I have worked each other a couple of times in the past. His NAQCC number is 5925. Oscar, you could have stuck around for one or two more rounds, if you had wanted to. We often go as many as 3 or 4 rounds. JB, NR5NN, heard your 10 watt signal 1200 miles away. Polar Bear Rick, N7HRK/M, took his usual 37° sauna in the creek today. He hoped to check into the 80 meter session, as well, but we never heard him on 80. He wanted to try his new setup for plugging his mobile rig into a permanent antenna when he's parked at home. JB, NR5NN, said the wind broke one of the twin lead connections at his antenna's feed point, so he checked in using his mobile Ham Stick connected from the rig in his garage to his car. It sounded good! And then his signal dropped like a stone a few words into his second round - from S7 to nil in about 2 seconds. Mark, WU7F, and John, W7SAG, had good signals into SoCal. John helped relay my 73s to JB and vice versa. 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:42 p.m. PST) Doug, K7KY, was In and Out with a great signal running 5 watts. Mark, WU7F, and John, W7SAG, weren't quite as strong on 80 as they were on 40 but all started out R5. Speaking of "R5", etc., I like JB's new practice of replying to each station with their Readability (1-5). I hope to get into that same habit from now on. Another station using a straight key tried to check in, but none of us could ever quite get his call. When someone has trouble copying your call, be sure to put extra space between the last and first letter when repeating it. Just as I was closing the net, Rob, N6KIX, checked in with a 589 signal, the best of the bunch (because he's the closest to me). Rob and I talked this morning, and I think he said his vertical was down for a few days having to do with something going on next door. He was using his end-fed sloper, which seems to work quite well. He reported 40 mph gusts of wind today. K index was 4 this evening, and the bands were unstable.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

### **02-08-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:54 p.m. PST) foF2 > 7 MHz (NVIS) We had NVIS conditions the whole hour this evening with continuous coverage from 0 to 6000 miles and low absorption, which means everyone could hear each other. Amazingly, Polar Bear Rick and Oscar at over 1900 miles apart were hearing each other, once PBR switched to his stationary dipole connected to his parked car, with Oscar running only 10 watts. Everyone but me thought PBR's dipole was louder; with my vertical I was hearing his mobile vertical whip better than I was his dipole. Generally, it was the closer you were, the stronger the signals this evening. 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:59 p.m. PST) foF2 > 4 MHz (NVIS) With the foF2 starting out at about 5 MHz, I was hearing my signal bouncing back to me between my code elements on 80 meters, just as I was on 40 meters earlier, this evening. But absorption (path loss) and lower antenna efficiency on 80m made PBR and John much weaker to me on 80 than on 40 meters. I was the only one not copying everybody well. JB and Charles were pounding in. JB stepped in to relay PBR's 73s and excuse him from the net. But it's nice to have PBR on 80 meters for a change. He has much better ears than I do, thanks to a much lower noise floor. Oscar, if you did try to check in with your 80-meter long wire, we couldn't hear you. I'm not finding much correlation between the Solar Flux or K indexes or the MUF and our 40- or 80-meter propagation conditions. The foF2 is very important, though. And conditions seem to be improving as the angle of the sun increases here in the northern hemisphere.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

### **02-15-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

40 Meters (5:00 - 5:52 p.m. PST) foF2 > 7 MHz (NVIS) we had NVIS propagation the entire hour. JB was quite strong the whole time at 10dB/S9. He reported warm, dry north winds in Benicia (345 mi). Polar Bear Rick was having rain, with temperatures in the 40s in Libby, MT (1000 mi). The temperature of the water for his polar bear dip today was a toasty 39°, so polar bear season is almost over. Once the water temperature reaches 40°, what's the point, eh, Rick? :-). Mark was busy preparing for his upcoming trip to Chicago. He was also having rain at 40° in Centerville, UT (595 mi). John was operating QRP portable in his back yard using his KX3 with a 599 signal, at first. He got good reports from the rest, as well. I didn't catch what antenna he was using in his back yard, but I think it too was portable/temporary. He also reported rain at 48° in Eagle, ID (676 mi). Rob was suffering from a "bug". He was 589 here. He reported a strong north wind at 72° in Davis (359 mi). PBR and John began fading here toward the end of the hour. We here in Los Angeles were in a transition between a low and a high pressure system with winds shifting from on-shore to off-shore/'Santa Ana' during the day. It got up to nearly 80° here in Westwood but only up to about 65° along the beaches, where it remained foggy and overcast until about 1:30 pm. 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:15 p.m. PST) foF2 > 4 MHz (NVIS) I could hear my own signal bouncing back down from F2 during both the 40- and 80-meter nets this evening. Doug checked in and out with a strong 599 signal from Brookings, OR (636 mi). I was hoping for strong signals from PBR and John, but they were each quite weak here. I think John said he could copy PBRick just fine. I couldn't reliably copy either of them. With no more check-ins after 15 minutes, I closed the net. Our Santa Ana winds picked up during the net, and the temperature actually started to rise again. So tomorrow will be toasty here peaking in the mid-80s. I hope everybody and their spouses or significant others had a great Valentine's Day!

72/73 de Rick N6IET



**02-22-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

40 Meters (5:00 - 6:14 p.m. PST) foF2 = 7.5 MHz (NVIS), K = 2 John was once again in his back yard using his KX3 and end-fed half-wave up in the trees. That combo seems to always be louder than his 100 watts to his attic trap dipole. We had NVIS conditions for most of the first hour, after which JB at 345 miles quickly faded into oblivion, although John and JB could still hear each other quite well. John was sounding pretty strong toward the end at 676 miles - peaking at S8 with JB at S9 until the band got long. Doug K7KY checked in and out, and his 469 signal at 636 miles seemed to suffer from the worst QSB. The conditions were mutual. I am awaiting a new BFO crystal for my Weber QRP kit. If that doesn't fix the problem, then I'm stumped. 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:31 p.m. PST) foF2 = 4.0 MHz (NVIS) Mike was QRP at first with a 579, which quickly deteriorated. So he added his amp. He says his background noise is only S2. I'm jealous! So he was able to copy John pretty well, even though his signal using his attic antenna was quite weak to both of us. Mike was able to relay some information from John about his attic antennas. He actually has two that he uses on various bands. I was curious about the traps on one of them. I'll look it up. Note: Our two Sunday nets will continue to meet at the same times and frequencies for the next two Sundays. On Sunday, March 13, Daylight Savings begins, and we'll go back to a single net on 40 meters only. Sunday's FRN will then be at 7pm PDT (0200z) on 7065, and JB's Monday FRN will be at 8pm PDT (0300z) on the same frequency.

72/73 de Rick N6IET

**02-29-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) Richard (Rick) Stutsman N6IET, California**

40 Meters (5:00 - 6:11 p.m. PST) foF2 = 5.5 MHz (no NVIS), K = 1 Lack of NVIS didn't seem to be a problem for anybody, as everybody could hear each other. Polar Bear Rick (N7HRK/M in Libby, MT) and Oscar (XE2IF at the southern tip of Baja) set an FRN distance record at about 1900 miles. PBR could usually copy Oscar, but Oscar was plagued with SSB QRM and didn't copy PBR so well. PBR was parked by a River and using his mobile whip with that High-Q coil that really works great! He had an amazing 579 signal for 1000 miles at 55-70 watts (depending on whether his engine was running). Oscar (928 miles) and John (W7SAG at 676 miles) were running 10 watts most of the time, with John in his back yard using his portable end-fed half-wave sloper. They each averaged 579 when it gets dark or cold, John brings his KX3 into his kitchen. Oscar was using his K2 until conditions deteriorated and he switched to a QRO rig. JB checked in QRP at first but for the sake of good copy went QRO with his usual great signal into LA. Ray (N6UG) made a late appearance our round table has become so informal and friendly that each operator - during his turn - feels free to have brief exchanges with other stations without the NCS having to intercede. JB encourages this style, and I really enjoy it. Always feel free to address others directly during your "turn". 80 Meters (7:00 - 7:49 p.m. PST) foF2 = 4.5 MHz (NVIS), K = 1 I was definitely hearing my own signal bounce off of F2 this evening - during the entire net! In fact the inter-element echo (QSK) was so strong it was annoying. My background noise was S9 with frequent bouts of 10db/S9 elevator hash. Each elevator trip entails about 20 seconds of QRN that pretty much covers up all other signals. I've been inside the elevator room above the roof. I don't see an easy way to filter out that noise from the motor's brushes. As you can imagine, it's a beefy motor and very old. The elevator room is stucco with a metal door and no windows - almost a Faraday shield - but that doesn't seem to help. Probably 7-8pm Sunday experiences the most frequent use of the elevator as UCLA students return from their weekend holidays.

Mark (WU7F) attended a hamfest on Saturday but didn't buy much. He had a nice visit with his son Mike last week that he described as "too short". His signal was pretty steady at 479. Rob (N6KIX) is preparing to attend a hamfest near Sacramento in a couple weeks. He's got some vintage stuff to sell and is always in the market for keys, bugs, and parts. Despite that I use a vertical, Rob always sounds stronger to me on his sloper than he does on his vertical. He was 589 some of the time. I think John (W7SAG) switched to his "base rig" and his attic dipole. He had a good 579 here. Polar Bear Rick (N7HRK/M) had hooked up his mobile rig to his fixed 80-meter wire. We didn't hear him till near the end of the net. JB had good copy, but between my high band noise and the elevator hash I was unable to copy him at all. A good time was had by all. We have one more week on this schedule, after which the Sunday net will move to 7:30pm on 40 meters only. I'm considering moving FRN to a different frequency than 7065 because we always seem to have both foreign SSB and occasional digital squawks (sounds like HF Winlink traffic) there, not to mention a few unidentified tuners. I'm considering 7056 kHz. Any nearby SKCC sprints are usually over by that time of a Sunday. Any comments?

72/73 de Rick N6IET

**02-02-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California**

Band conditions were really tough tonight! Not around table night, just a hello/goodbye when one could be heard. Rick said the F something was 2MHz, and the K Index was zero. Whatever, poor conditions. Could hardly copy Ray or Doug, both of whom are less than 300 miles. Rick at slightly greater than 300 miles was very quickly up and down between 339 and a 599. Doug did peak for just a few very short seconds at 599 but was mostly in the noise. Ray only got out of the noise a couple of times. 66' doublet still down, need to get it fixed before Friday, but rain forecast next two days. Other than that, ya'll have a great week and maybe Friday at 06h30PST we might make 40m sing.

72/3 de JB. NR5NN

**02-09-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California**

Thanks Everyone! Without your participation there would be no net! Well, John sure got us going with his 160m long wire antenna! Great conversation! Then the band dumped on us at 08h45 or so. Great while it lasted. Forgot to mention tomorrow night's NAQCC sprint. It's BARC meeting night for me so I will miss it this month. But planning on next month for sure. 72/73 to all de JB. NR5NN

**02-16-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California**

Oh WOW what a fun night! Band conditions were great! Very low noise here, about S5 or so, able to copy everyone R5. Glad PBR has made it onto 80m. Good to hear Stewart operating QRP from a deep canyon campground in Dechutes NF. Doug continues to have an astoundingly loud 5W QRP signal -- 20/9 at one point! The locals, Chas & Mike were also loud. PBR and Stewart are competing to see who can work NVIS with the lowest antenna, I think Stewart wins tonight at six feet, compared to PBR's eight to ten feet. After net, John, Stewart & I QSY'ed to 160m, John using his 160m inverted "L", Stewart his 80m end fed long wire (6' high BTW) and I used my 135' doublet. I had John at a solid 559, I think he gave me a 449. I heard Stewart, very weak, 329 maybe? Fun exercise with at least two poor antennas! If anyone else QSY'ed with us and we didn't hear you or if any of you SWL'd us, please report.

Thanks everyone for your participation!

72/3 de JB. NR5NN

**02-23-2016 NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still NR5NN, California**

And we had three, WB6UBK, KE6EE and NR5NN on 160m, 1,812. I believe it was Mike's first 160m contact! Good net tonight, we moved through rounds quickly anticipating the band to change on us, and while it did wane, still had pretty good copy. Next week is LEAP YEAR day, so will have five Monday nights in February. However Scotty keeps time in UTC, so technically it is March 1st. I'll let him figure it out. Wow is that MOON full! Beautiful. Rick watched it from his (70f) balcony, PBR from his (39f) car, and me through my (59f) garage window. Stewart will be back camping in Dechutes next week so listen carefully for his QRP signal. Monday FSE plans on staying on 80 meters through March, depending on conditions after DST. But also thinking about moving to Thursday or Friday night. I will put up a query a little later. Thanks to all for your participation.

72/3 de JB. NR5NN

**02-02-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

Only 1 check in tonight so we had a nice QSO for about 20 min.

Allen KA5TJS (Retired)

**02-09-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

The QRN was very bad tonight, the wind may have had something to do with that. Blew up to 35 mph. most of the day. Was wondering if I would have an antenna by net time! Signals were ruff copy on my end but we got it done. Terry was QRP (KE5YUM) and he had the best signal of the night!

Allen KA5TJS

**02-16-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

I was in a bad spot last night I guess. The QRN and QSB was very bad here. Had a rough time coping the other stations. Terry was QRP and Andy was QRO and I don't know about Bert but I just got pieces of the QSO's. Hope this is not an indications the winter band is going away early. 40 meters is still too long at that time of night. Guess we will see how next week goes.

Allen KA5TJS

**02-23-2016 NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas**

Signals were good but the noise was ruff with a front coming thru west of us. Can't wait till summer and better band conditions on 40 meters.

Allen KA5TJS

**02-03-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

I was barely able to copy WV8DH who lives about 15 miles from me in a straight line. Dave bumped his signal to 100 watts and we exchanged the basics. However, he could barely pull me out of the noise. I tried "double sending" each word but still no cigar. I have a good friend in New York who was listening but the band seemed to go west this evening towards Texas.

John N8ZYA

**02-09-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

Horrible band conditions and hearing only on station on the entire 40 meter band, I called for 15 minutes and went QRT.

72's John N8ZYA

**02-18-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

Dave (WV8DH) and I were able to hear each other a little better than normal but still right at the noise level. John (W8GDP) and I talked about his visit to Florida and the long drive home. He likes the new video and will be listening for Dave and me from the Huntington Radio Museum this coming Saturday. Always a nice chat.

72's John N8ZYA

**02-25-2016 NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia**

I had an interesting QRS net tonight. There were good band conditions into and out of WV. The signals went South 750 miles into Florida. **N7EDK** sent me a nice e-mail; he was using an America Morse MS2 Straight Key. I sent him a picture of my Vibroplex Code Mite Straight Key. The signal also went north into Ottawa Canada; **VE3DTI** was at a distance of 570 miles. I got a nice e-mail from **KF5DNI** in New Mexico. Evans is at a distance of 1466 miles. He hopes to check in soon.

QRM was a factor tonight as it seemed everyone in the US was near the 7.117 frequency.

72's John N8ZYA

**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss KE8DI, Michigan**

Also, I would like to put out a plea for a backup/assistant NCS. I was elected president of my local club which meets on Thursday nights. So there is at least 1 week per month that it will be hard for me to get home in time for the net. I used to just sneak out early but that's hard to do when you're prez.

Dave KE8DI

**NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations  
February/2016 Please note: Dates are in UTC**

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

**40M, 7.065 MHz, 80M 3.556 MHz**

02-01-2016 40M QNI (6) NCS N6IET, XE2IF, N7HRK/M, NR5NN, WU7F, W7SAG  
 02-01-2016 80M QNI (6) NCS N6IET, K7KY, WU7F, VE6ADM, W7SAG, N6KIX  
 02-08-2016 40M QNI (6) NCS N6IET, NR5NN, N7HRK/M, KE6EE, W7SAG, XE2FI  
 02-08-2016 80M QNI (5) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, W7SAG, KW6G, NR5NN  
 02-15-2016 40M QNI (6) NCS N6IET, NR5NN, N7HRK/M, WU7F, W7SAG, N6KIX  
 02-15-2016 80M QNI (4) NCS N6IET, K7KY, N7HRK/M, W7SAG  
 02-22-2016 40M QNI (4) NCS N6IET, W7SAG, K7KY, NR7NN  
 02-22-2016 80M QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KE6EE, W7SAG  
 02-29-2016 40M QNI (6) NCS N6IET, N7HRK/M, NR5NN, XE2IF, W7SAG, N6UG  
 02-29-2016 80M QNI (5) NCS N6IET, K7KY, WU7F, W7SAG, N6KIX

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

**80M, 3.565 MHz**

02-02-2016 QNI (4) NCS NR5NN, N6IET, N6UG, K7KY  
 02-09-2016 QNI (7) NCS NR5NN, WB6UBK, N7HRK/M, KW6G, KE7LKW, N6IET, KE6EE  
 02-16-2016 QNI (8) NCS NR5NN, N7HRK/M, KE6EE, N6IET, K7KY, WB6UBK, KE7LKW/7, KW6G  
 02-23-2016 QNI (7) NCS NR5NN, N7HRK/M, KE7LKW, WB6UBK, N6IET, KE6EE, WU7F

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

**80M, 3.560 MHz**

02-02-2016 QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA  
 02-09-2016 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, WB0QQT  
 02-16-2016 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, KE9DR  
 02-23-2016 QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA

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

**40M, 7.117 MHz**

02-02-2016 QNI (4) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, K0KUZ, N2ICZ  
 02-09-2016 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, WB0QQT, KB7KY, K7EP, N7ADA, K0JFJ/7  
 02-16-2016 QNI (6) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, KD5OHW, K0JFJ, KC7HCR, KE4RG  
 02-23-2016 QNI (3) NCS NU0S, KB7KY, KM4LT

**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)***Dale's computer is on the fritz we will include his February QNI next month. Thank you for your patience...***NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia****40M, 7.117 MHz**

02-03-2016 QNI (2) NCS N8ZYA, WV8DH

02-09-2016 QNI (1) NCS N8ZYA

02-18-2016 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA, WV8DH, W8GDP

02-25-2016 QNI (4) NCS N8ZYA, N7EDK, VE3DTI, W8GDP

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

02-05-2016 QNI (6) NCS W7ANM, N6UG, K7JUV, WB4SPB, KE7LKW, AD7BP

02-12-2016 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, N7BYD, WB4SPB, W7ANM, K7JUV, N7QR, N6KIX

02-19-2016 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, K7JUV, AD7BP, W7ANM, WB4SPB, N6UG

02-26-2016 QNI (6) NCS W7ANM, N6KIX, K7JUV, WB4SPB, N6NUG, KE7LKW/6

**NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss KE8DI, Michigan****80M, 3.534 MHz**

02-05-2016 QNI (1) NCS KE8DI

02-12-2016 QNI (8) NCS KE8DI, KG0YR, WE8UPJ, K4WZN\*, K3CKO\*, WV8DH\*, VE3DTI, KA2KGP 02-19-2016 QNI (1) NCS KE8DI

02-26-2016 QNI (3) NCS KE8DI, WV8DH, AB8DY\*

\*FIRST TIME CHECK-IN



# 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 QUIPS



© 7-31-06 DICK SYLVAN W9CBT

EVER DESIGNING DISTINCTIVE, USEFUL NEW HAM RADIO PRODUCTS, DICK, W9CBT INTRODUCES HIS NEW AWARD WINNING COMBINATION KEYS AND CANOE PADDLE!



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

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

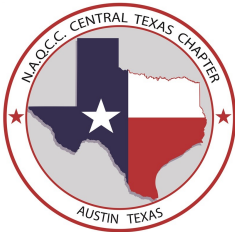
If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted on the club email list or in the newsletter, send an email with the subject "NAQCC Portable Operation" and with the exact wording of the announcement to Vice President John, N8ZYA, at the email address listed 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.

No report available.

## NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER



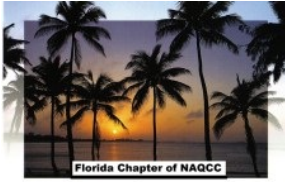
Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

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.

No report available.



## 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>.

The report from the Florida chapter begins on the next page.



On Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2015, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to another one of our favorite local parks for our monthly adventure. We held our latest “Operation in the Park” at Gemini Springs Park in DeBary, Florida.

The 210-acre Gemini Springs was purchased in 1994 through the combined efforts of Volusia County, the Trust for Public Lands, the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Florida Communities Trust. Approximately 6.5 million gallons of sparkling fresh water bubble up from the two springs each day.

Gemini Springs is between the town of Enterprise, which was a busy center of commerce and government in the early days of the Florida frontier, and the city of DeBary. Farming operations at Gemini Springs in the 1800s included timber, citrus and tapping longleaf pine trees for turpentine, cattle and sugar cane, a cane press and selling sugar juice to passengers on the trains as they passed by on the railroad to Enterprise.

This trip, we had 5 operators and 7 members in our group. Today we arrived to our site with bright blue skies and a temp of 70 degrees with 40% humidity, accompanied by a light, cool breeze. It was very comfortable for us to operate. The weather was a Florida “Chamber of Commerce” day and absolutely beautiful!

The signals were just “pretty good” on 20M today, with some QSB. 30M and 17M had a few signals. 40M was again pretty horrible (few weak signals and lotsa’ noise) just like the last several months.

**Steve WB4OMM #5913** - Elecraft KX-3, Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr paddle, 5W to a 20M Hamstick on a ground mounted tripod. Steve worked 6 Qs/5 members in 4 states on 20M including regulars Karen W4KRN #3392-VA & NAQCC VP John N8ZYA #2279-WV; three other member stations K1IEE #3966-ME, K14IO #6438-VA, W4DUK #617-VA, non-member K5EDM in AR. That’s Charlie WX4CB - background.





Art WB4MNK #5274 used a KX-1 at 4 watts with a “dirt cheap” paddle to a homebrew magnetic loop.

Art brought along some “help” too...John KD4JS #8019. John was our photographer for this activity (thank you John!)

Art made 4 Qs on 20M, including regular Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ; K1IEE Dick, NF1U Glenn in total of 4 Qs with 4 members.



Wally KG4LAL #6278 brought his Yaesu FT- 817 running 5W with an LDG tuner to a “vertical canoe” antenna! (Yep, you just can’t make this stuff up.....). Really – a canoe antenna!

More canoe photos and “technical details” to follow.....



**Rick AA4W #1628** brought his Elecraft KX-3 too.

Running 5W, he fed a wire End Fed Sloper and worked 30M & 17M.

He made 3 QSOs, W9UK Jack in PA; NR8M Bob in OH; and W3FF Bud in CA



**Don K3RLL #1905** brought his trusty Elecraft KX-3 – but never got to get it up and running. He set his equipment on the table and helped out the others....but as usual it was great to have him there with us!



Steve brought his newly purchased coaxial magnetic loop (no, he did not build it like the loop that Art has). Steve brought his 1Watter 20M transceiver to the site and used the mag loop to try it out. He got it to tune and could hear on 20M, but couldn't make a QSO with the .9 Watt signal.

This antenna is made by Alpha Antennas – Steve just about “stole” it for \$250 at the Orlando Hamcation last week – it retails for \$299. Easy to set up and goes into a small tote bag for travel. Will be trying it on his next trip!! (Hotel windows that don't open).



“Yeah Steve, ya’ gotta’ put the whozeewatsis there in that round thingy. Then zoot the flute, and haberdash the radius. Whiffersnickle the ozone an yer good to go”.

Anything you say Art.....(does it look like Steve is buying any of this???)

“See Art, it works!”

Charlie WX4CB, Steve WB4OMM, Art WB4MNK – See all the junk Steve brings with him. Most important – lotsa’ coffee. (See previous Member News reports for that “success factor”).



Rick AA4W brought his 1Watter 20M transceiver too, here he is showing it off to Don K3RLL (left) and John KM4JTE (right).

These 1Watter transceivers are FB!

John KM4JTE is really happy, ‘cause he got his lunch box back from Steve – John forgot it at an outing last September and Steve has been carrying it in his car ever since. But then maybe Steve is happier than John for not having to lug it around anymore!! Hi hi hi.....

## OK.....so now about the “Canoe Vertical” antenna.....



Wally KG4LAL and John KM4MTE transporting their “antenna” to the operating site.....Don K3RLL prepares to “supervise”.

Rig= Yaesu 817 all mode, running 5 watts off a 7 AH 12 Volt Battery. Output through an LDG Tuner and coax feed to a 13' Grumman aluminum canoe. The canoe was set up as a vertical tied to some trees and isolated from the ground. A 13' wire counterpoise ran at 90 degrees about a foot off the ground. In theory this would be close to the 17- meter band and the tuner would handle any lack of precise length. With an alligator clip attached close to the bottom of the canoe and paired with the counterpoise the LDG tuned right in on the 17-meter band. Reception was fine with stations from Germany, Italy, Spain, and California very strong and easy to hear on SSB. Efforts to make a contact with those stations were not successful, as was the case with calling CQ for a short period. The question remains why reception was great, but effective transmission was lacking. (Note that a 13' canoe standing on end may be viewed as a safety hazard in a public area.) This in no way pretending to be a stealth antenna, just lots of fun.

Here the fellas look at an “optimal” position to install the canoe, er, I mean antenna.



After installing his “slightly off the beaten path” antenna.....Don (left) & Wally evaluate the installation - pictures are worth a thousand words.....



***Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this another successful NAQCC-FL event!***

***NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:***

Friday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2016 starting at 9:30 AM EDT (NOTE START TIME!)  
Hontoon Island State Park, DeLand, FL (2309 River Ridge Road, DeLand, FL) – Park

webpage with directions: [DIRECTIONS TO PARK AND INFO](#)

WHO: “The Usual Suspects” – Art WB4MNK, Steve WB4OMM, Rick AA4W, Don K3RLL, Wally KG4LAL, Bob W2EJG, John KM4JTE, John KD4JS, Paul NU4C & Charlie WX4CB  
(and whoever else can make it).

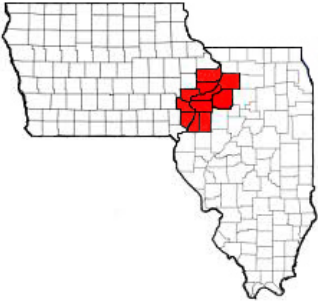
Visit our Web Page:

<http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/>

***Look for our announcement!***

72/73 to all – Steve WB4OMM, #5913 - [NAQCCFL@yahoo.com](mailto:NAQCCFL@yahoo.com)

## 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.

The Illowa February meeting took place on Wednesday the 17th with four people attending. A general discussion about ham radio, health, the weather and other topics with no major decisions made.

Our planned operating get together that was supposed to take place on Saturday the 13th never materialized since no one wanted to go out into the 7 degree weather. The cold is tough on old folks.

One of our members, Ann W0ANN is getting serious about working on her code practice and plans to attend a local radio club's code practice sessions as well as studying at home.

Our next meeting is scheduled for March 16th.



## 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.

We did not have an event due to weather, I know you are laughing, hi. But we set up at the Brooksville, Florida HamFest to promote NAQCC. We had QRP rig with indoor antenna, but no QSOs. Too much HamFest activity.

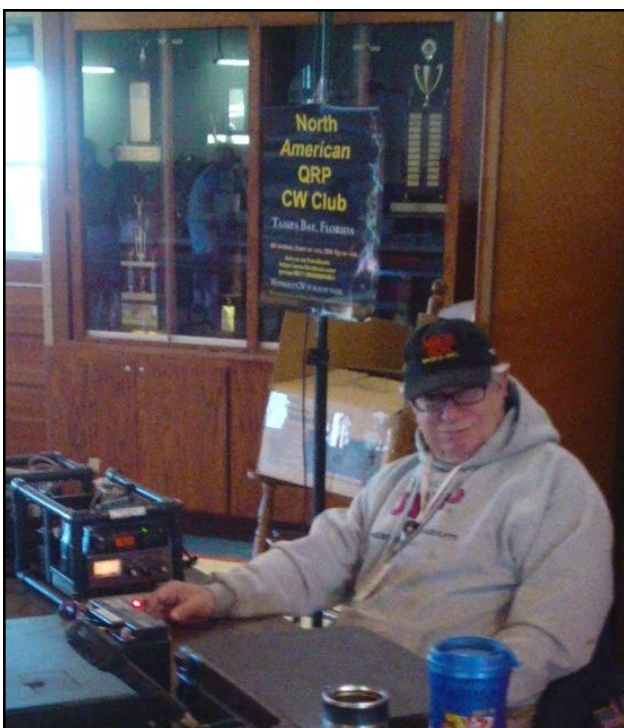
We will be setting up at Lettuce-Lake-Regional- Park off Fletcher just west of I75 for our March 19th QRP event. By then the weather should be nice and warm, would not have to worry about wind, and is centrally located for many.

Setup 8AM. Start operating around 10AM.

Bring your rig and antenna, I think no electric so must have power/battery/etc.

See HamFest pictures. Ant, me and the rig with hat from ad on NAQCC board.

73, ron, n9ee/r a know code Extra



## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>. Questions or comments should go to John, N8ZYA.



The WV Chapter had our annual **Special Event** at the Museum of Radio and Technology in Huntington WV this month. We had a beautiful warm sunny day with temperatures in the upper 60's. Two new members of the WV Chapter met me at the **Museum** for a short activity. We used their ham shack and the NAQCC Club call of **N3AQC**. BTW/ this call is available to any club member wishing to use it with a special event. Just contact Paul **N8XMS** for permission and to list on the website.

I had expectations of working many NAQCC stations but we soon found ourselves confronted with an enormous amount of DX stations. Trying to work club stations during the **ARRL DX Contest** made this nearly impossible. We worked only close stations in Pennsylvania, New York, Virginia and West Virginia.

Our best DX contacts on the bands were **FY5KE** in French Guiana, **CR3W** on Madeira Island, and an *unusual* station **T48RR** in Cuba. I've worked a lot of Cuban stations but never one with a **T48** prefix.

Dave Higley (**WV8DH**) brought along his new YouKit multiband QRP radio. I was impressed with how "solid" this radio felt and it's good receiver. Fed with 12v, it packs a true five watts of output power.



**Dave Higley WV8DH**

Dave has been to our morning breakfast meeting and has been checking into the WV QRS net. Dave's friend Rodney Dillon came along to see the museum and help decipher some of those 30+ and 40+ wpm call signs we were hearing during the DX contest. I can't copy CW at those speeds without writing it out on paper. The three of us managed to work 14 stations in a short time. We were forced to use the "search and pounce" method.



**Rodney Dillon WB8PMD**

The [NAQCC Club Video](#) turned out very nicely. **Jock Irvin N1JI** did a wonderful job arranging the pictures and the text to describe our club! I had a small part writing and playing the background music with my Ukulele. I recorded two different "mono" tracks with a little 6 track portable recorder. I blended them together for the master track. I still haven't mastered this device but was able to produce my "first" recording with it. This video was also a special segment on the Ham Nation program. (They had to strip the music because of FCC regulations).

Steve Ashcraft **KC4URI** continues to improve although he still has some bad days. He and his father managed to attend the Richmond hamfest this month.

I'm looking forward to the Charleston Hamfest this month and looking forward to [Dayton](#) this year. Eric **AC8LJ** and I will drive up and back on the opening day. I plan to spend most of my time in Dayton at the **WV DX Association** tent this year. They are always next to the beer stand and food. Hi Hi - I'm not looking to purchase anything this year but one never knows what my CW addiction might create.

Drop me a line if you're going to be at Dayton on the opening day on Friday.

John Lancaster **W8GDP** visited his son in Florida this month. We always have a nice chat on Wednesday nights on the WV QRS net. The band appears to be opening a bit as spring arrives. Last week I had a station from Florida and Ontario check in and I received a nice e-mail from a club member in New Mexico.

I'm still going to breakfast some Saturday mornings with friends of the local ham club.

## 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.

A somewhat busy month for WPA Chapter activities despite it only being 29 days long.

As we did a few weeks ago Mike (KC2EGL) and I got together on Friday the 12th and went to a local fire hall for an all you can eat fish dinner. We both had a couple of well filled plates of food. I wound up filled and Mike said he may have overdone it. That's unusual for both of us. HI There wasn't a whole lot of time after the dinner to do much as Mike had to head home as he had to work the next day.

On Sunday the 14th Eric KB3BFQ, my former neighbor and the one who got me started on my streak came up from Forest Hills, PA to pick up the TS-570D I'm loaning him so he can get back on the air. He arrived a little after 10AM with all his accessory gear. Almost right away we went up to my shack and started putting his station together so all he would have to do would be to take it home and connect it to his antenna. It went pretty well with a couple hitches. We couldn't get my random wire to tune on 40 and 80 which as a Novice would be the bands he would mainly be using. We tried different combinations using just the 570 tuner, using just his external tuner, using a combination of both, but all we would get was the SWR in Morse that the rig sends if the antenna can't be matched properly. Along the way Eric became familiar with the controls on the 570, but no matter what we did with the antenna, it just wouldn't load. I finally thought about trying my old homebrew tuner. Eric had to leave to take care of a couple chores, so I ate and checked on Roscoe before hooking up my tuner. When I did - bingo - it tuned like a charm right down to 1:1 SWR. So when Eric returned I told him it looks like we're in business. After I showed him a couple little things about the tuner, I wanted to make a QSO with the setup just to be sure with no doubt that all was working. We called one station who never answered us, then tried some CQs with no results. Finally we did work NM1I in a solid QSO. After a little more chatting and packing up things, Eric left. We set up a sked for Monday to see if his setup at home works as well as it did here..

Monday the 15th, Eric and I tried to make a QSO a couple times - around noon and around 7PM. No luck either time. We both have pretty high noise levels plus the distance between us is not that good for 40 meters. I think we might make it on 80 if we didn't have the noise there. We'll try again some time. At least I'm glad he got his station going again there near Pittsburgh. I hope he can make some QSOs. He admits he's gotten rusty with his CW after several years of not being active. He was copying some code yesterday when he was here so I think with a little practice he'll pick right up again. I referred him to the program Just Learn Morse Code ([www.justlearnmorsecode.com](http://www.justlearnmorsecode.com)) for some off air practice.

Next activity was on Tuesday the 16th, the annual President's day visit from Mike postponed a day this year. Soon after Mike arrived we headed off for a great breakfast at a local diner called Myrt's. Back home again for a bit of DXing. We didn't find any DX, but did find and work Tom WY3H down in GA. Neither of our QSOs with him were all that solid with QSB and QRN but it was nice to work him again. One project we decided on was trying to build a crystal radio set.

Just as we got started on that, my phone rang. It was Tom, and we continued our QSO with him via landline for a while before getting back to our project. It took some time to wind the coil for the set, but it turned out fruitless as we never did get it working this time around. We'll try again sometime. Then it was back to DXing again. Mike worked PJ2/HB9BJL whom I had worked last night and also IT9SSI, both on 20 meters. I didn't need either station so I didn't work them or anyone else. After about an hour of DXing, it was time for some hidden object games on the computer. An hour or so of that, and Mike had to head on home as it was back to work for him tomorrow. All in all as usual we had a great time together.

On Saturday the 20th, Ken N3CU came to visit. I really enjoyed the visit. We have a lot of interests in common among ham radio activities and otherwise. I always get a kick out of seeing how visiting hams react to seeing my 'antenna victory garden' and my location down here in the valley. It's always pretty much the same being surprised with my results with such a setup. Often I don't get to share the results with visitors but today with the ARRL DX Contest in full swing, I worked many DX QSOs while we were discussing and looking at other things. I made around 45 QSOs while Ken was here. More on the contest in my personal news later in the newsletter.

Ken has had some remarkable QRPp QSOs. Take a look at the award winners page here on the NAQCC web site to see what I mean. Especially the 1,000 MPW listing. He has 4 there over 1,000,000 MPW with his best being 1,548,214 MPW. Also many others over 100,000 MPW. He was telling me that those 1,000,000 MPW QSOs were very rough and took a long time to complete. He said the ops on the other end were very patient and stuck with him. Although his antennas are better than mine, they are not big beams on tall towers or anything like that. Simply a center-fed Zepp @ 50 ft. Impressive.

We hope to get Ken to do some parkpeditions this summer along with maybe some hamfests, and he especially is interested in operating from the Requin. He's not as close to here as are Mike and Tom, but we'll work something out, I'm sure.

Sunday the 28th was the South Hills hamfest a few miles south of Pittsburgh. I got an email flyer about it last month and thought it would be nice to visit it for the first time, and to take in a hamfest near the end of winter. So I asked Mike and Tom WB3FAE if they were interested in attending and both said yes.

Mike arrived just before 9AM, and after a few minutes we headed south. It only took us a couple miles to 'get lost' or actually make a wrong turn. I said at the time at least we got that out of the way early this trip. Wrong! The South Hills of Pittsburgh was not familiar to either of us, and it is laid out in a rather confusing way. The turns come up suddenly just a few seconds sometimes after the GPS indicates them. So we made some U turns and circles to get back on track a couple times, but we got there. We waited around for Tom WB3FAE outside, but it turns out he had already arrived and was inside. So the three of us roamed around looking at the items on the vendor tables. It was mainly a hamfest for vendors. We met up with the omnipresent Bob WC3O, and one of our newer NAQCC members Bob KC3DOF and had a good time chatting with them. We also ran into Art WA3BKD from the submarine Requin and one of the first things he asked me was when we'd be coming down to the sub again. He said they were just getting the Requin back on schedule and to wait a couple weeks to call to see when the radio room would be available for us. It looks like it will have to be some Sunday as that's the only day Mike and Tom would be available. Also N2CU who I mentioned had visited a week or so ago would

like to join us for a subpedition. So when the four of us can settle on a date, we'll go for it. Maybe Eric can join us as well. I invited both Ken and Eric to join us at the hamfest, but both had other commitments that day.

Also KC3DOF was asking about our parkpeditions and perhaps he'll be able to join us this year on one of them. Another thing was settled today. The Breezeshooters Club was represented there and Mike signed up for a NAQCC table at their hamfest on June 5th.

Mike was lucky and won one of the prize drawings - a 'grab bag' of several nice little items. Here are a couple pictures of us at the hamfest.



*L-R through both pictures: Tom WB3FAE, Me, Bob WC3O, Mike KC2EGL - Mike, Tom, Bob KC3DOF, Bob.*

I'm so glad our WPA chapter offers so many opportunities to get together with other members for such great activities as mentioned above. I think more areas of the country should form local chapters for local activities and to meet other local hams who share a common interest in QRP and CW.

# 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 Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

Cat lovers should like this, others maybe not. It's a paper logging glitch that occasionally arises during QRP sprints. The problem is even worse with computer logging if she walks across the keyboard!





From Joe, K8MP, #8246 —

“Dot-Dash” (Bobby Darin style)

Dot-dash I was takin’ a bath,  
Long about a Saturday night... Yeah !  
Rub-a-dub-dub just relaxin’ in the tub,  
Thinkin’ everything was all right.

Well I stepped out the tub,  
Put my feet on the floor.  
I wrapped a towel around me,  
And I opened the door.

And then-a... dot-dash,  
I jumped back in the bath,  
Well how was I to know  
A QSO Party’s goin’ on?

They was a dottin’ and a dashin’  
Dittin’ and a dahin’,  
Searchin’ and a-pouncin’,  
Parkin’ and a-runnin’- Yeah !!!!

Bing bang I heard the whole gang,  
Comin’ through my living room rig.  
Flip flop, they were goin’ non-stop,  
All the ops had the party bug.

There was-a KNC and-a AUG,  
Jim Dandy, Miss Sandy was-a even heard too.  
A-well-a dot-dash, I forgot about the bath,  
I went and turned my testin’ rig on !!!

I started dottin’ and a dashin’  
Dittin’ and a dahin’,  
Searchin’ and a-pouncin’,  
Parkin’ and a-runnin’- Yeah !!!!

Yes I was dottin’ and a-dashin’,  
I was a-dittin’ and a-dahin’,  
Yeah... I was searchin’ and a-pouncin’,  
I was a-parkin’ and CQ’n.

We all were dottin’ and a-dashin’,  
We all were dittin’ and a-dahin’.....

## From Dejan, SA3BOW, #6935 —

*Although the NAQCC is a CW club many of our members operate other modes as well and may find this information useful. - Editor*

### Modification(s) for the Yaesu MH-31 Microphone

I'm very skeptical of modifications advocated on the web. I don't always trust they can be done and if they can be done, I don't trust that they should be done. Reason: I think the engineering staff of the maker is smarter than I am. Sure they can go astray already when they start to specify a transceiver and sure they are prone to add solutions/options/features to non-existing problems. And when they stoop to following design trends they might even drop good engineering practices. So all things considered, I think the maker should make modifications when there is a need for them.

I like the MH-31 stock microphone that came with my 5W Yaesu FT-817ND. It fits my hand nicely. The up/down and fast stepping features are often used. I get good reports. I see no need to do any of the mods I read about, like drilling a hole in the front or replacing/adding electronic stuff.

This year I was out in the rain and got a terrible suspicion that I might have gotten water trapped in the microphone. So I opened it and found it dry. But I found a metallic object inside it, apparently a weight. Why would clever engineers add a weight to a mic?

Complying to a regulation about centre of gravity guarantee? Or was it a bean-counter who demanded that weight should be added to bring a false sense of quality? I did not like it anyway. So I started to rip it out but the weight did not comply.

It was glued in with the most persistent sticky glue! So I negotiated with it, with a 500W soldering iron in hand. That was a good argument. Even if 22 grams (25/32oz) is not a huge weight it is, in my hand, not needed.



Two old add-ons:

- 1: The leather strap. It is a no noise, non-abrasive, not cold in winter, stylish replacement for the original metallic one.
- 2: A tiny "catch" of plastic insulator wedging the tone switch in second position (suiting western lingo).

From Bob, K9OSC, #3894 —

### You Just Never Know

Every so often I remind myself that having some real fun on the ham bands starts with attempting to do something challenging. The solar indices on February 17<sup>th</sup> revealed a Solar Flux of 104 with an A-Index of 38. The high A-Index revealed that a solar warning was out and that conditions would be spotty. The warning was at the G2 level which meant that HF radio propagation can fade at higher latitudes, and aurora has been seen as low as New York and Idaho (typically 55° geomagnetic lat.). The forecast also said that the next day would be affected to a lesser amount but the warning was still active.

Mid morning I listened on 20 meters but found only one station active and he was a mobile on the County Hunter's Net. Stations he was working I could not hear well enough to even copy a call sign. So, I dropped down to the 40 meter CW band and listened. Some decent signals were there but most of them had lots of QSB. After checking around I found K8CIT just finishing up a QSO on 7.028 MHz. Art is located in Hillman, MI and we had chatted before. He was a solid 599 plus so he was a good target.

I adjusted the power output on my KX3 down to 100 milliwatts which is the lowest it will go. With my CF Zepp up 30 feet hooked up I called him when he signed with the other station. He answered right away with a 539 signal report. I sure felt good about that. Usually when a solar storm is in progress signals are thread up here and QRP operation is limited because of extreme fading.

We exchanged greetings and preliminary dialogue until in a subsequent exchange I told him I was running 100 mw. He told me that I was solid copy and he had not missed a thing. At that point he advised that he was going to turn off his amplifier and come back to me with his K3 set for just 50 watts. He was still 599. In fact, I could not tell he had done anything from our initial contact. I stayed at the 100 mw. level and he then started to turn down the power on his end. First to 5 watts, he was 589. At 1 watt he was 569 and at 100 mw. he was 449. Readability was a "4" due to increasing QSB on my end. But, he was still fully readable.

We continued our QSO for some time after that before signing. Our QSO turned out to be a good one at QRPp levels of 100 mw. and was 4,544 miles per watt. Not only had we gone as low as we could at our collective stations in terms of power output, but we had a chance to renew a friendship.

For those who have not dabbled in power of less than a watt this is a prime example of how well QRP CW does even when conditions are far less than desirable. Art is one of those amateurs who takes the time to answer those who call him even when signals are not strikingly strong. Our collective experience was both a challenge and a reward all rolled up into a single fun QSO. So, next time you want to challenge yourself, just turn the power down and see what you can do. You just never know!

### From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

My wife and I just returned from a wonderful two weeks visiting our daughter and her husband in the Phoenix area. Although our Michigan winter has been unusually mild this year, the 80+ degree days in Arizona were certainly welcome.

I took my little Elecraft KX1 and was able to enjoy some portable operating from the third-floor balcony of their apartment. I tossed a 28-ft antenna wire into a nearby tree (something that is rather rare in AZ) and ran a couple of 16-ft counterpoise wires around the edge of the balcony. Yes, that is a mop handle in the picture that the antenna is taped to to keep it from touching the metal balcony railing - we call that ham radio ingenuity! The internal antenna tuner in the KX1 gave me a perfect 1:1 match on 30-meters but the best that I could get on 20-meters was about 2.6:1. 40-meters wouldn't go below 3:1 and there seemed to be a lot of man-made noise from the apartment complex so I didn't even try to operate on that band. With the 6 internal AA batteries the rig produced about 1.5 watts and over the course of several days I managed to get in 12 QSOs, 9 on 30-meters and 3 on 20-meters. I worked CA, OK, NJ, TX, OR, PA, GA, and an XE2 which is not exactly DX from AZ. My little QRP signal didn't exactly heat up the ozone and most of my reports ranged from 339 to 559. The NJ QSO was a little special because it was 2xQRP with N3BHM who recently joined the NAQCC. Conditions were rough and the band died on us but I think that he said that he was on the beach - but I bet he wasn't wearing shorts and t-shirt like me!

In addition to the great weather, outdoor operating, and wonderful desert hiking, a real highlight of the trip for me was being able to enjoy a couple of eyeball QSOs with two of our NAQCC team volunteers. First up was Hap, K7HAP, who processes all of our monthly challenge submissions and keeps track of our participation scores. Hap and his wife winter in Tucson and I was able to stop in for a short visit with him during an outing that we took down in that direction. Unfortunately a "senior moment" on my part caused me to forget to take a picture so you will just need to believe me when I say that he looks much better in person than the picture that we have of him on our club website!

My 2nd visit was with Lyle, AF7OS. (He's the one with the beard standing next to that good looking fellow.). Lyle recently took over the management of our member picture gallery. He works as a webpage developer at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix and he gave my wife and I a great tour of the campus as we chatted about all sorts of things - including a little ham radio, of course!

Let me close this report by apologizing for the late newsletter publication. But I have to say that from my perspective the benefits were worth the delay!



# 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  
9928 Eckles  
Livonia, MI 48150  
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
NAQCC Vice President West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Central Texas Chapter	Danny - N5DRG	n5drg@naqcc-centraltexas.net
Illowa Chapter	Peter - NN9K	nn9k.peter@gmail.com
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	mccrpt@tampabay.rr.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