

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 239 MAY 2018



KEY CLICKS

- 14TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN THE WORKS.** The plans are already being made for our 14th anniversary celebration that will run from 0000Z Oct 8 (the evening of the 7th in North America) through 2400Z Oct 14. Our special N#A callsigns have been reserved for all 10 US call districts and we will soon start to ask for volunteers to put those calls on the air. Of course there will be a great prize drawing connected with our special sprint that week and, as in previous years, there is a throughout-the-year participation eligibility requirement for the top-tier of prizes. You can see those requirements, along with the kinds of prizes that we will be giving away by looking at last year's prize drawing page at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.
- HELP WANTED.** Our West Virginia QRS CW net is in need of a new NCS (Net Control Station). The NCS calls the net, keeps track of check-ins, and generally controls the flow of the exchanges. If you live in the area and would like to volunteer for this job please contact our nets manager Wayne, NQ0RP. (See the last page for his email address.) See the *CW Nets* page in this issue for more information.
- 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."

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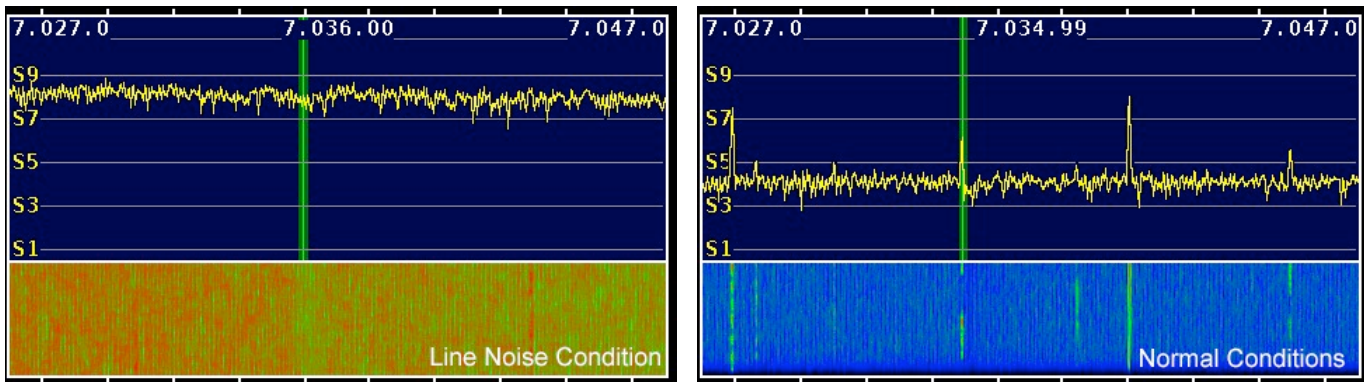
LINE NOISE - THE RADIO AMATEURS SCOURGE

BY BOB, K9OSC

Most radio amateurs employ radio equipment that is extremely sensitive to noise. Considering today's band conditions, being able to hear signals clearly is essential to good radio communication. When line noise becomes an issue it inhibits solid contacts and indeed may prevent any communication. Line noise exhibits itself with many different footprints. Some are frequency sensitive, intermittent while others occur only when the weather or some other element causes them to occur. All kinds of noise are problematic to radio amateurs and it often makes communications very difficult.

Today noise is as problematic as ever and the bigger the city you may live in the more sources of noise there are. Last November I began hearing some severe line noise. The noise was S8 to S9 and was almost constant as long as the temperature was below 50F. When it warmed up the noise mysteriously disappeared. Up here in Minneapolis there isn't any small amount of cold this time of year, so the noise became persistent. It ran 24/7 and I found it to be prevalent on 80 and 40 meters to the point that I could not copy any stations at all on those bands. It was somewhat cyclical in that 30 meters was quiet but there was a lesser amount noise on 20 meters although only at about an S5 level.

There are two screen captures taken from my P3 scope. One shows what the line noise looked like before the noise source was found and the other after the noise was removed.



My search for a source started right in my own home. I disconnected power to the house at the breaker box while putting a battery on my K3 and P3. The noise remained. I unplugged and disconnected my router provided by my cable provider and the noise never dissipated at all. Across the street a house went up for sale about the time the noise started and they had an AM transmitter operating there on 1600 KHz. describing the home to those driving in front of it. I contacted the realtor and explained the problem and asked if they could stop at the house, call me and then turn the system off and then back on. They willingly did so and I found it was not the problem. Further searching around the neighborhood yielded no tangible results.

Finally, just before New Year's Day I called Xcel Energy, our local power company. This is a huge company that operates all kinds of power systems including nuclear, wind and solar facilities. I explained my situation to the person answering the phone and she took all the information. I also provided the name of the person with an address who last responded some nine years ago to a similar problem. She told me she would pass the information on and that I would be contacted some time later.

I planned to wait for a week or two for a call from them. Much to my surprise I received a telephone call in an hour from the trouble shooter himself, Brad Paulson a Radio/TV Interference Specialist. I gave him all the information I could along with some history of the noise in the neighborhood and he explained to me procedures that he used to look for noise. He was not a ham but to my surprise he was well informed on amateur bands and had worked successfully with other amateurs in the area as well.

That same afternoon he came out with his big truck and spent some time in the neighborhood carefully listening for noise before stopping at my home. He listened carefully to the noise I had, frequencies that it affected and other particulars. He wanted to learn as much as he could about the noise signature. When he left later that afternoon he thought he might be back on New Year's Day as he would be working, but since he was the only one on duty at his home facility he said he would definitely be back on Tuesday.

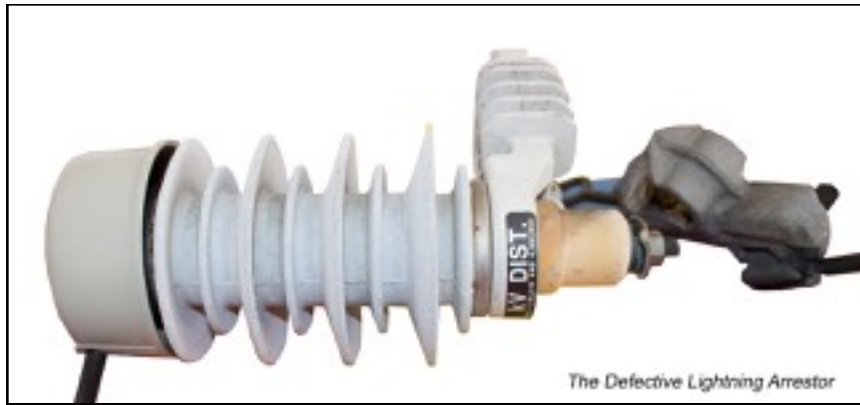


Brad and the DF Truck

Tuesday he was back in force. He looked all over the neighborhood along with a second worker. Searching, they found an insulator that had burned half of it severely along with the steel peg holding it to the wooden cross arms. It was noisy and they replaced the insulator. Good find, but the noise was still there. Undaunted, he continued to look. Ironically, this was the same pole where I had interference problems nine years ago.

Thursday he came out alone early in the morning. He drove around the neighborhood for a while and then came into my radio room and hooked his radio up to my antenna to listen and look at the noise I was hearing. After getting more data and the two of us talking about possible noise source locations he went back out again. He visited my neighbor and found some loud noise over there. He only found a furnace that was running in the garage and making quite a bit of noise, but that was not the source. Even pulling the meter to do a complete disconnect at that house made no difference. Back on the road again.

Finally, about two blocks from our home he found the noise again, only extremely loud. It was a lightning arrester. Up the pole he went and disconnected it and the noise disappeared. He called me on his cell phone and verified that the noise had stopped. A short time later he stopped back at the house with the offending unit in hand.



He took the time to explain to me how the lightning arrester worked and some of the issues they have had with them. He showed me the discoloration at the base of the assembly and explained how they can become defective without showing any problem physically. Ironically, in the base of the insulator is a 22 caliber shell that is supposed to detonate when a strike occurs. This disconnects the arrester from the line completely and any power issues have to be addressed back at the substation. This did not occur so this unit must have been gradually degrading out for some time.

The relief from the noise is wonderful and I have to say that Brad worked with me better than I could have ever expected. This time of year it was well below zero outside and he was out there on foot much of the time. He didn't find an easy fix for anything as he truly wanted to find the problem for me.

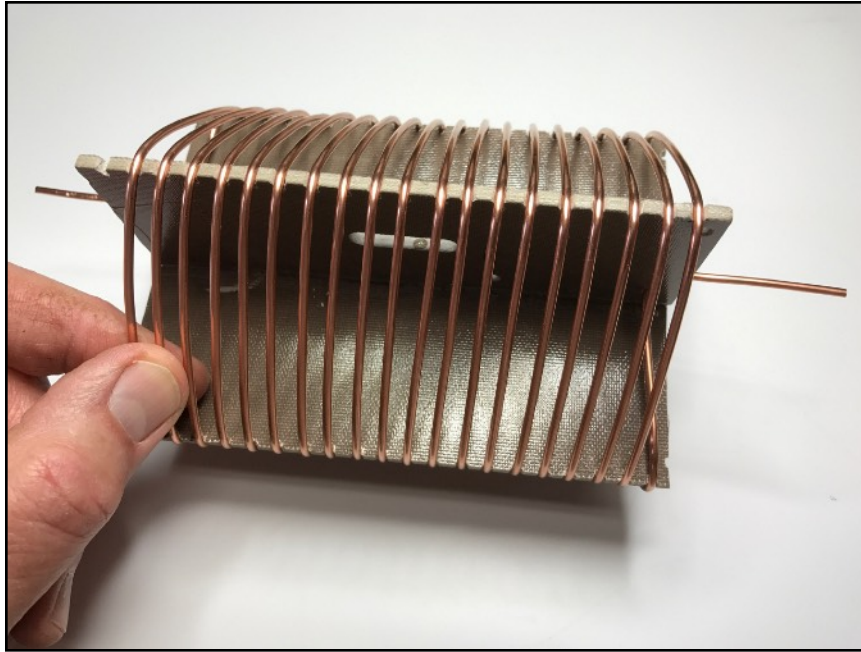
I know that every electric company doesn't have trouble shooters or even those that are well educated in the field of interference. But working with them in a friendly and open manner is everything. It helps them and you. All the time that he was out in the field I was glued to my radio gear watching for any change and calling him when something occurred.

I can't thank Brad enough for his expertise and his friendship. What a fabulous conclusion to a difficult two months of constant noise and no signals. Noise that kept me out of two successive Sprints and one Challenge is gleefully gone. A great way to start the year.



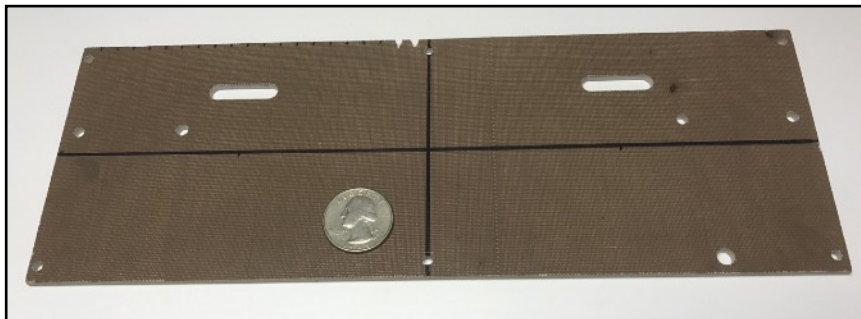
HOME BREW

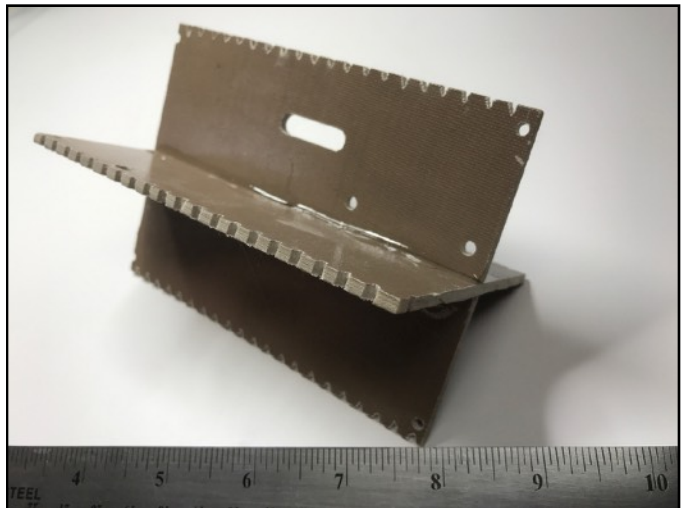
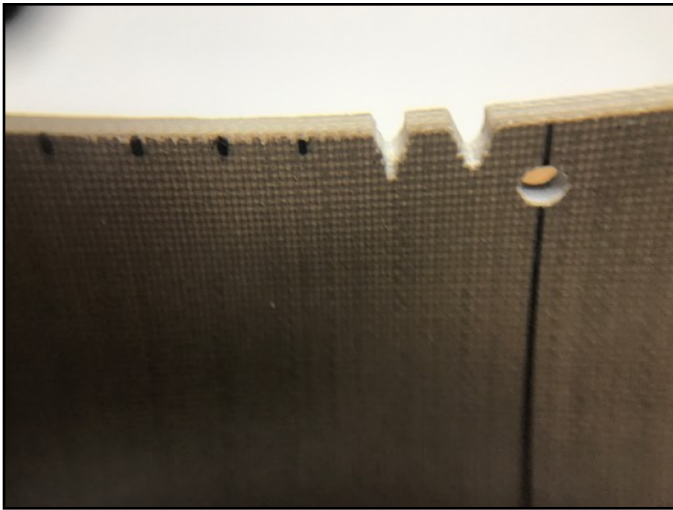
AIR WOUND COILS BY GENE, N5GW



High quality air wound inductors used in antenna tuners, as MOPA tank coils, as antenna traps and such are becoming more expensive and hard to find. There are a number of articles describing ways to construct such coils. The following is a method I like because the components are inexpensive and easy to find. I use a hobby rotary power tool to speed up construction, although ordinary hand tools work well.

The supporting form for the inductor is made using flat, rectangular insulating material such as plastic or wood, and the wire is ordinary copper wire such as that used by electrical contractors. The first pic shows an approximately 1/8 inch thick, 4 X 10 inch rectangular epoxy board from my junk box. Grooves were cut at 1/4 inch intervals along the sides as shown in the close up (second pic). The midline mark across the width is where the board will be cut in two equal halves; the midline mark across the length is where slots will be cut half way across each of the two halves. The slots can then be pushed together at right angles to create the form which is stabilized using clear epoxy glue (third pic).





12 gauge copper wire is prepared by stretching the desired length between two supports. Insulation is removed by sliding a sharp knife along the wire at the appropriate angle. The coil is then wound by keeping the wire under tension as the form is walked toward the far support, carefully fitting the wire into each groove as you go (fourth pic). The final pic shows the finished product.

I measured its inductance at 17 microhenries which agrees with the handbook formula for air wound coils. This is plenty for 80 meters. It is a bit bulky but is quite sturdy and should be able to handle at least a few hundred watts. The copper will darken over time due to oxidation, but I expect losses to remain negligible.

I have constructed other such inductors using plastic strips and even faux wood venetian blind pieces. Beware of using PVC plastic, as some is not rf compatible. I have read that the form material you use can be tested by placing in a microwave oven along with a protective cup of water to see if the material will heat up. The copper wire you use must be stiff enough to resist deformation; smaller diameter wire will require a smaller diameter form. Wire with a steel core is probably a bad idea due to the ferromagnetic effect which may degrade performance. Also avoid using epoxy glue that contains steel.



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.

PETER DELUCA, AA2VG, #6563



My Journey From CB Addiction to CW Addiction

I would like to share my story in hopes that it will guide other innocent people from going down the CB to CW addiction path.

Born in 1950, I grew up in a small town on Long Island NY. I had no idea that amateur radio existed in the '60s (sad but true). It was off to college at Rutgers, then to medical school, and finally to start a family and open my pulmonary practice.

In 1992 I was introduced to the “entry drug” called CB radio! My XYL and I purchased a van (Chevy conversion) to travel the country with our three young children. The vehicle came complete with a television, VHS player and yes.... a built-in CB radio. Our first major trip was a three-week journey out west to Yellowstone National Park. During our long stretches on the road we called “breaker 19” and had some interesting conversations with the truckers. My XYL seemed to get most of the attention and perhaps that was because her handle was “Hot Stuff”! Mine, on the other hand, was “Van Man”.

The week we returned I had a case in the operating room along with my anesthesiologist Dick Sepowich (KA2HOM). While waiting for the case to begin I mentioned to Dick that I had come back from a cross-country trip. I told him about our use of the CB radio during our travels. That’s when it happened... He told me that I should move on to “real radio”. He explained that he was an amateur radio operator.

He also went on to tell me that since he was a man of few words, CW (which he explained was Morse code) was his favorite mode of communication.

In June of 1993 I obtained my Novice ticket with the call N2UYX. By January 1995 I had my Amateur Extra class license, having passed the 18 wpm code test. My call became AA2VG .

Addictive behavior is often characterized as demonstrating compulsive and impulsive acts. I had this urge to have a fantastic home station. The G5RV and the Kenwood TS-850 worked out very well at first. I started reading QST and one day I noted that US Tower had just put their fifty-foot tower on sale. I also found out that Alpha Amplifiers was marketing a reasonably priced amplifier made in Bulgaria (91b). I NEEDED to have BOTH.... I couldn't help myself!! I got permission from the XYL to buy the tower but she really didn't know exactly what I was buying. When she finally saw the tower erected she uttered words that still are etched into my brain...."You Owe Me".

Addicted individuals often use poor judgment. Here I was with a 600-pound steel tower in my driveway. First I needed to dig a 3 foot x 3 foot x 6 foot deep hole for the tower base. As a busy physician I did not have lots of free time so I needed to make the time. For one week I rose in the morning at 5 AM and was digging in the backyard by 5:15. I would dig for about 45 minutes, return to the house and get ready for work.

Luckily for me, my next-door neighbor Vinny didn't follow his instincts and call the police. He noticed the digging from his window and hadn't seen my XYL or the kids out in the backyard for several days!! He finally approached me one morning. I convinced him that I was digging a base for my amateur radio tower and the family was just fine.... Close call!!

Addicts often have no consideration for others. During the years that followed I was hell bent on collecting CW DX. It didn't bother me that my 1500 watts was probably doing damage to the ionosphere or even perhaps contributing to climate change. I would not worry about possibly causing interference to my neighbor's television reception. Alarming the XYL and kids was a more difficult problem as the house speakers sometimes made strange noises when the high power CW electromagnetic signals jumped off my Mosley Pro 67b antenna atop the fifty-foot tower.

Addicts are known to spread their addiction. This became quite evident to me just last year. My grandson, then three-years-old, loved to visit my shack. He spent time on my lap as we tried to raise another club member on our 2-meter repeater. A week later I got a call from my daughter. She found our grandson in the corner of his room with the TV remote up to his mouth yelling something. At first she couldn't understand him but finally she heard "AA2V Listening".

After a number of years being relatively inactive (2005-2012), I returned to ham radio with a new sense of purpose. I discovered that there are hams that communicate with low power on CW. I discover the NAQCC and have enjoyed all the club has to offer. Still there is one more addiction trait I must talk about, grandiose thinking.

After I took first place in an NAQCC sprint I felt I was ready to take on any CW pileup. Perhaps on a far away Dxpedition or in the ARRL centennial celebration as W1AW/2. Since there were no Dxpeditons willing to take me, I signed up to operate as W1AW/2. About three weeks before I was to operate a sense of fear set in. Was I really ready to control a pileup? ?

I decided I needed to practice during the few weeks I had before my assigned centennial spot. I downloaded "Morse Runner" <http://www.dxatlas.com/morserunner> to my office computer. Since I forgot to bring my headphones to the office I ran the program on the computer speakers during my lunch breaks. When the office staff heard the 600Hz tones emanating from my consult room they inquired.... "What the he** are you doing?" I explained that I was practicing CW pileup techniques for my W1AW/2 operation!!! They turned and walked away appearing very puzzled!

I may indeed be addicted but I am having fun in this wonderful hobby we call ham radio. My station now consists of an Icom 7300 and an Elecraft KX3. My most prized possession though is my Bayou Jumper. Long gone is my fifty-foot tower, sold to a ham in Pennsylvania in 2004 and replaced with a Carolina Windom. Although I will occasionally turn on the old Alpha 91b to get that rare DX, having a qrp ragchew with my Bayou Jumper is what I enjoy the most. I am semi-retired now and have more time for radio. I enjoy participating with my local radio club and being an Elmer to younger hams.

I have decided to keep my four-year-old grandson away from the 2-meter microphone and I have already picked out his birthday gift, an MFJ-557 deluxe code practice oscillator. Don't tell him, it's a surprise!



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our sprint this month will be May 17, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Wednesday the 16th here in North America. Complete information about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201805.html>.

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

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: We had 177 total participants showing up in 121 submitted logs. For a change band conditions were surprisingly good over most of the country. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201804.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables at the end of this section.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: AC2FV K3MD K4ZEB K9VEG N1XF VE1AHX W1PQO W4AFB W6UG

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: Remember that participating in a combination of sprints and challenges will make you eligible for the top-tier prizes in our anniversary drawing in October. Eligibility details can be seen on the page for last year's drawing at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.html.

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H		
W2	W2JAZ	AA2VG	KA2KGP
W3	AF3Z	AK3X	
W4	K4BAI	K4KBL	N4OW
W5	N5GW		
W6	A16SL		
W7	KC7DM		
W8	W3NP	W8ES	
W9	WB9HFK	N9EEN	
W0	N0TA	NN0SS	
VE	VE3DQN	VE9VIC	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KJ4R		
W5	NF5U		
W6			
W7			
W8	N8XMS		
W9	AA9L		
W0	KD0V		
VE	VE3IDS		
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	KB1M	
W2	K2YGM	K2ZD	
W3	W3PNM		
W4	WB4OMM	WX4RM	WK4WC
W5	KE5YUM		
W6			
W7			
W8	WB8LZG		
W9	K9CW		
W0	WZ0W		
VE	VE3GNU		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	KF6C		N4EEV

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY==>	SK	BUG	K/K
	W4AFB		K3MD
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
KC3RN			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	121	108	217	4/17
Participants	177	159	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1965	1524	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	1022	856	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	943	668	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	89	20	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1458	805	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	418	699	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	16.2	14.1	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+	NU7T(SK) NA4O AA9L WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ
75+	K1IEE K4NVJ N4FI KD0V WA2JSG KB3AAG(SK) W4DUK WB8ENE VE3FUJ KE5YUM K4KRW N2ESE WX4RM NO2D WA8SAN N0TA WG8Y N8BB
100+	N8XMS K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL
125+	W2JEK W9CC W2SH WB8LZG
150+	KA2KGP K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our challenge this month is a combination of an alphabet challenge and our popular home-brew get challenge. As with all of our alphabet challenges there is a list of words that you need to complete using the letters from the callsigns that you work. But this time there is the added twist that your QSOs must be made using at least one piece of home-brew gear. The full list of words and the details about the kinds of home-brew gear that can be used can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201805.html>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our Wee have two different challenges for you in June. The first one is our annual Field Day Challenge and the other one is an alphabet challenge based on the famous Black Tom explosion of 1916. Details on these challenges can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201806.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201806fd.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 submissions for our April "Keyer On A Chip" alphabet challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been posted so far at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201804.html>. Final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

PARTICIPATION ELIGIBILITY: Remember that participating in a combination of sprints and challenges will make you eligible for the top-tier prizes in our anniversary drawing in October. Eligibility details can be seen on the page for last year's drawing at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_13th_anniv.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+	PA9CW NF1U WI5H KU4A K9OSC KD0V PA0XAW WY3H N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU KD2MX WA2FBN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T(SK)
75+	K1YAN K1IEE
100+	N8XMS
125+	W2JEK
150+	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: 2X QRP AWARD

I have often thought that a great deal of the credit for a successful QRP QSO should actually go to the operator on the receiving end of those radiated QRP watts, and our 2X QRP Award gives you the chance to see what you can do on that end of the QSO. To earn this award you not only need to transmit at QRP power levels, but the person on the other end must be doing so as well. Any kind of QSOs are allowed for this award, including contest QSOs, so our NAQCC sprints can be a fertile place to earn your points. QSO points vary based on whether or not the other person is DX and whether or not they are an NAQCC member. Certificates are issued at several different point levels and numerous endorsements for things like single band, home-brew gear, or straight key use are also available. Complete details for the 2X QRP Award can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_2xqrp.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

30-30 AWARD

0043 - G3JFS Mar 2018 04/13/18 All DX Contacts

WAC Award Category A(QRP)

0035 - NV1W CN2AA - C4HQ - OE0HQ - W4NA - KH7XX - PV8ADI 04/24/18



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 Wayne, NQ0RP.

NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord 40 m QRQ Round Table Net (FRN)	Sunday 5:00 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z	7056 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 80 m QRQ Round Table Net (FRN)	Sunday 7:00 PM PT	Monday 0200 Z	3556 KHz	Rick, N6IET (in CA)
FarnsWord 60 m QRQ Net (53N) (Starts immediately after the FRN 40m net.)	Sunday +/-6:00 PM PT	Monday +/-0100 Z	5348 KHz (Ch 2)	JB, NR5NN (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 7:30 PM CT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7061 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2200/2230 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN) Operations currently suspended.	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	3556 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)

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

NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

First an important message from our WVN NCS.

It's been fun running the slow code WV net but family obligations don't allow me the time to continue this net. I hope there will be another WV member to take this responsibility. (hint)

One of my grand kids passed away at five months and one has been diagnosed with Cerebral Palsy. My father is in a nursing home with failing health.

There simply isn't enough time to be at all places at all times. I need extra time to think clearly and plan ahead for both my grand kids and my father.

Sincerely Yours,

John N8ZYA

FRN/40m on 7056 ± 0.5 kHz at 5PM PDT Sunday (0000 UTC Monday)
53N/60m on 5348 kHz at 6PM PDT (or earlier) Sunday (0100 UTC Monday)*
FRN/80m on 7056 ± 0.5 kHz at 7PM PDT Sunday (0200 UTC Monday)

* 53N will start as soon as FRN/40 has closed (QNF) or the band went long on us and may start as early as 20 minutes before this scheduled time.

NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ 40/60/80-meter Round Table Net QNS

Rick N6IET

=====

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

4/2/18 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA NM5S

4/10/18 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

Signals were good tonight. Both check ins solid thru the net. 2 out of 3 ops were QRP.

4/17/18 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

Band was long tonight. No check ins heard. Last 2 weeks have been good so hope next week will be better.

4/24/18 QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA K5BRY

Band was in outstanding shape last night. YUM was 579 QRP, YGA was 599 QRO and BRY from Austin was 599 QRP.

No QRM for a change last night. I was QRP and got good reports from all.

Allen KA5TJS

=====

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 7061 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Bob Tenny W0CC (Kansas)

2018/04/02 QNI (2) W0CC, WW8A

Bands more quiet. Very clean signal from Wayne, WW8A.

2018/04/09 No Report.

2018/04/16 QNI (2) W0CC, KC9TYA

Mark, KC9TYA, is becoming a great Fist!

2018/04/23 QNI (1) W0CC

QSN 8. Intermittant superimposed digit signals +/- 2 kc. The only open portion of CW Band 7.015 - 7.028. Looking toward next week.

2018/04/30 QNI (1) W0CC

S-8 QRN. More operators out tonight on different frequencies.

Next week, some QSO's.

=====

NAQCC West Virginia QRS NET (WVN)

Wednesday evenings 9:00 EST, which is Thursday 0200 UTC on 7117 kHz.
Main NCS - John N8ZYA (West Virginia)

Net Control Station John, N8ZYA, has some priority family issues to deal with and will not be able to run the West Virginia QRS Net for the foreseeable future. Effective immediately the net will suspend it's operations until a new NCS is found.

If you live in the WV area and would be interested in taking over the NCS duties please contact our net manager Wayne, NQ0RP. If necessary the net's schedule can be adjusted to better fit your personal schedule.

=====

NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3574 kHz.

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2018/04/06 QNI (6) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM

2018/04/13 QNI (8) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM, VE7PJR, W7OTT.

2018/04/20 QNI (7) KE7LKW NCS, KG7JEB, K7JUV, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM, W7OTT.



HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at www.lulu.com.

HAM LINGO

"RICE BOX"



© 4-14-06 DICK SYLVAN W9CBT

"RICE BOX"- A TRANSCEIVER MADE IN JAPAN



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, 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 the Central Texas Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Danny, N5DRG.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area and maintains a website at <http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/index.html>.

Greetings from the Capitol of Texas,

Just one event of mention this past month.

Danny, N5DRG made a trek out to West Texas to activate one of the Summits On The Air as listed in Texas W5T/DE-003 Mount Locke.

Mount Locke also happens to be the summit that two of the Domes that are used at the McDonald Observatory in Jeff Davis County

Danny's trek took him about 440 miles one way to the west of his home QTH of Cedar Park, Texas, just a nice easy stroll across Texas as he put it. ☺

The weather was much better than what had been forecasted. What was forecasted was the chance of severe storms, and winds in excess of 50 MPH with gusts to 60 + MPH. And as with the Texas weather just wait and it will change. The winds were gusty, but nowhere close to the MPH forecasted, so Chuck KA5PVB and Danny nestled in on the leeward side of the summit the temp and the winds were very manageable. Temps in the mid 80's and Lows in the upper 30's, skies mostly clear, Stars & more Stars.



Danny N5DRG working 20 meters on his FT-817, J-38 Key, and 20 M dipole.



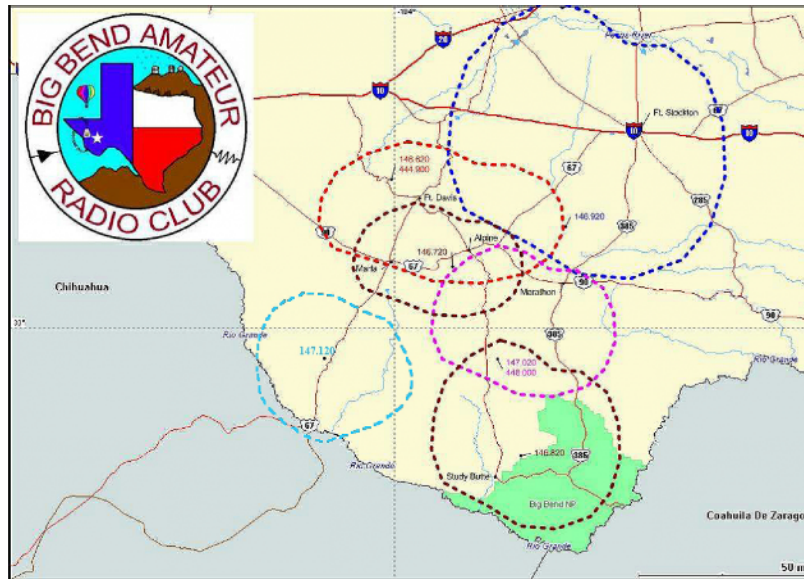
*Looking South East from Atop Mount Locke elevation of 6780 ASL + or- a few inches ha!
Antennas used End- Fed vertical for 10 through 40 Meters, standalone 20 meter dipole.*



Looking southwest back towards Mexico and the Chihuahuan Desert way off in the far distance.



Danny's stroll across Texas starting in EM10 ending in DM80.



*Big Bend A.R.C. was a great asset, their coverage is HUGE!
Thanks to those Hams!
<http://www.bigbendarc.com/>*

Danny was able to work the following NAQCC Members in his short two hour activation.

40 METERS					
Call	Sent	Received	UTC	NAQCC #	State
KK5E	559	559	1531	7540	TX
WB5BEK	229	559	1532	7534	TX
W5ODS	549	579	1535	1985	OK
KN5L	229	339	1550	4831	TX
20 METERS					
Call	Sent	Received	UTC	NAQCC #	State
KK5E	599	599	1605	7540	TX
WB5BEK	559	559	1607	7534	TX
W5MSQ	559	589	1609	0518	TX
KC7DM	569	559	1610	7606	OR
KG3W	449	569	1613	3758	PA
N2ESE	449	579	1620	5555	NJ
NA5N	569	579	1637	0713	NM
W7KFI/5	569	579	1703	4633	MS
K4MF	579	599	1718	2578	FL
WA4ZOF	549	589	1725	5748	GA
N4KGL	579	579	1730	3610	FL
W4MPS	559	539	1735	6259	NC

Also a great big thank you goes to Chuck Dobbins KA5PVB NAQCC # 8060 for his efforts in getting touch with the McDonald Observatory staff to facilitate this activation, and for the University of Texas System at McDonald Observatory to allow us to operate in this great location.

**KEEP CALM
&
QRP ON
de
NAQCC-CENTRALTEXAS.NET**

DELMARVA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Delmarva Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Bill, N3IOD.

The chapter is located in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area.

No report available.

DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

The chapter is located in the Hancock and Washington counties area of Maine.

Spring has FINALLY arrived in Downeast Maine! It has been a very long winter for us and we have not had much to contribute to the newsletter. The snow disappeared just in time for the QRP to the Field contest. The theme this year was a duplicate of last year so we set up in the same spot along the Union River in Ellsworth, ME. And duplication was taken to the extreme because it was cold and windy like last year and the propagation was not great. On the plus side, it wasn't raining and we had more than one station operating!

Joan, W1DLC operated the sideband station which consisted of her IC-703 and horizontal endfed half wave antenna. She also schooled us on how to get a wire up into a tree! Yours truly operated the cw station which consisted of a Yaesu FT-817 and a QRPguys Tri-band Vertical.



**Joan, W1DLC and Andrew, N1MWR
at the sideband table.**



Jeff, KA1DBE in the hunt.

The antennas performed well and there was very little interaction between the two. We tried to stay on separate bands but once the Ontario QSO Party started, they pretty much camped out on 7030 so I moved back to 20 meters. We did manage 2 SSB contacts on 40 though.



Joan, W1DLC putting her wire into the air.



QRPguys Tri-Band vertical with tape measure radials.

PhotoGrid

With the temperature hanging around 40f and an almost constant 10-15 knot wind coming down the river, we decided to call it a day. We did make some QSO's and a majority of them were with other river stations.

Our QSO log:

QSO: 14060 CW 2018-04-21 1647 W5BM	229 OK DAN
QSO: 14060 CW 2018-04-21 1700 WA5BDU	569 AR BIG PINEY R
QSO: 14059 CW 2018-04-21 1725 N4KN	569 TN DUCK R
QSO: 14061 CW 2018-04-21 1751 W4MPS/P	579 NC HAW R
QSO: 14060 CW 2018-04-21 1801 KC9RH/P	449 GA TOWN CREEK
QSO: 14000 SSB 2018-04-21 1837 W1KRP	59 ME Dick
QSO: 7000 SSB 2018-04-21 1923 KC2WI	56 NY Black R
QSO: 14061 CW 2018-04-21 1950 KONIA	559 IL GREEN R
QSO: 7000 SSB 2018-04-21 2006 VE3SCN	59 ONE Robert

Prior to packing up, we did have one small ceremony. When I joined the Navy in 1982, I loaned my first key to my friend Matt, W1MRH. We had gotten our tickets at the same time and use to get on 80 meters after school and have CW speed contests (he usually won). I really had no idea that he still had it and he thought it would be fitting to return it to me now that I am back in the state of Maine. I plan on using it during the next NAQCC Sprint!

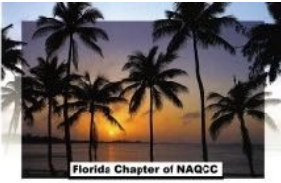


My key comes home.

I would like to thank Joan, W1DLC, Andrew, N1WMR, Matt, W1MRH, and Dick, W1KRP (Who took all the photos), for braving the weather to help set up, operate, and break down all the gear. Already looking forward to next year.

Very 73,
Jeff, KA1DBE

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS: April 2018



A new site – and it's a great one!

On Friday, April 20, 2018 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC arrived at a new local park - one that's destined to be a favorite for our monthly adventures. We held our latest "Operation in the Park" at Mill Lake Park in Orange City, Florida.

Orange City's newest park features picnic pavilions, park benches, restrooms, splash pad, lighting and an entry feature with beautiful landscaping. Additional improvements are now underway. In December 2016, Orange City began to clean out and reshape Mill Lake to improve lake water quality and reduce flooding risks. Park improvements include a mile-long multi-use trail around the perimeter of the lake with educational displays along the path, picnic pavilions, park benches and a lakeshore overlook.

It's "radio quiet", and very "radio friendly". On our arrival to the park it was a beautiful 73 degrees, blue skies and a light breeze. It was ideal for a Parkpedition.

This trip we had a total of 8 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274; Don K3RLL #1905; KD4JS #8019; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; Wally KG4LAL #6278; Rick AA4W #1628; and John KM4JTE #7966; and Doug W4DBL "No Number" yet!



Steve WB4OMM #5319

Steve's setup included his Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical for 30 meters with a Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr and GenLog.

Steve worked Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ; Glenn K3SWZ #3793 in PA; and Gene N5GW #5353 in TN.

Rick AA4W, Steve WB4OMM and Nikki KM4SBQ at the WB4OMM Station



Doug W4DBL

Not a member yet! But soon to be.....

Doug's station was a Yaesu FT-817ND connected to an Alpha Vertical antenna – that he worked on to get operational.

He experimented for most of the morning.

No Qs, but now it works!

**Wally KG4LAL # 6278**

Wally also had a Yaesu FT-817, using an off center-fed dipole wire antenna.

Wally made 2 Qs on QRP SSB on 20M (non-members).

Here is Wally and John KM4JTE “eyeballing” the site for prime antenna supports for the KG4LAL station!

Rick AA4W #1628 brought his Elecraft K1-2 and worked on his 3-band experimental antenna - he said it was a successful endeavor.

John KM4JTE #7966 used his KX2 to a 35 ft end fed to a 9:1 UNUM – he only made one QSO on 20M...with Don K3RLL!

Nikki KM4SBQ #8749 helped Steve with his setup/take down.

John KD4JS #8019 - As usual, John took care of the photos and QRPSPTS postings for all the operators. Thanks John!

John’s dog “K9FL” protected us!!

More Pics!

Doug and Rick – figuring “something” out. Hope there were pictures.....



John's Best Friend – keeping vigilant guard over us and making sure none of the “wildlife” get to us!



A view of our pavilions across the lake – this was one pretty park!



Our Group Photo!

***The WX turned out to be a beautiful day. A great park!!
We had a bunch of fun and enjoyed the outing very much.***

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

NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:

Friday, May 11th, 2018 starting at 9:30 AM EDT

ANOTHER NEW ONE!

**Port Orange Riverwalk Park (3459 S Ridgewood Avenue, Port Orange, 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, Phil NW4X, Nikki KM4SBQ, John W2IV, Doug W4DBL (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

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Mark, K0NIA.

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

The Illowa Chapter website is at <https://sites.google.com/site/naqccillowa2/>.

The Illowa group had a monthly chapter meeting on April 12th at the Bettendorf Village Inn. In attendance were Mark, K0NIA, Matt, N9MAT, Tony, N9YPN, Tim, N9BIL, and Peter, NN9K.

We had a great discussion of the ongoing building of uBitx transceivers that many of us are engaged in. We also devoted much of the meeting to our plans to operate a QRP Field Day as an Illowa NAQCC operation. At this point, we hope to operate with 3 stations with wire antennas.

We also discussed the possibility of having one of upcoming meetings at a remote location so we can operate together as a group, giving members a chance to see the various pieces of equipment that we are each using and building.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10th at 7:00pm in the Moline Village Inn location.

NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

No report available.

NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>.



The West Virginia Chapter almost had an outing this month. We had good intentions but mother nature had other plans for us.

Steve KC4URI and I decided to meet at the Cedar Lakes Conference Center near Ripley WV. We've operated from this location several times over the years. The weather was clear, warm, but with gusty winds.

I had no problems getting one end of the antenna high over a tall cedar tree. It was a perfect "first shot". I drove a steel fence post into the ground near a picnic shelter we've always used and got my long telescopic fiberglass kite pole out of the trunk of the car and attached it to the post.

It seemed we would be on the air in only a few minutes.

The far end of the antenna was a good 50 high over the cedar tree so I anticipated a good day of radio. I attached the other end to the end of the long fiberglass pole and extended it to the full 30 feet. I thought this was going to be an easy day.

Just as I tightened the wire, I heard the always dreaded sound of fiberglass splitting. The second section of the pole broke in half.

That was a real bummer but being an optimist, I was ready to execute plan B.

Plan B was to find another tall tree in the immediate area.

I was able to "slingshot" another tree without much difficulty and drew the tension out of the wire. I was now looking forward to some operating time.

The forecast for that day was for unpredictable gusty winds but I had not thought much about it. I use 110 lb kite string to keep my antennas in the air.

Soon afterwards there was a tremendous gust of wind that pushed its way into the conference center area. The white blooms on the adjacent trees gave the illusion of a heavy snowfall. I heard a loud “crack” and the loud sound of limbs falling on the tin roof of an adjacent shelter. The antenna immediately dropped on the ground.....

The kite string never broke but the limb holding the antenna, which must have been four inches in diameter, was now laying in several pieces on the tin roof.

I decided this just wasn't the day for radio and began disassembling the station.

Sure hope for better weather next time.

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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

Here is a verbatim copy of the story of one of last month's chapter activities as found in my K3WWP web site diary at k3wwp.com/home_ss_diary.html:

Sun Apr 22 2018 4:58PM - Here's the story of today's Requin subpedition. By the way do you know that Requin is French for shark.

Mike arrived around 8:00AM, and we chatted for a while before heading to Pittsburgh around 8:15. All went smoothly and we didn't even get lost till we got within a couple blocks of the Requin. What a madhouse we encountered then. It looked like there was going to be a Pirate game coming up with all the traffic and filled parking lots. After making a couple of U turns looking for a policeman to see what was going on, we did find one who was very friendly, professional, and helpful. He gave clear instructions on how to get to the submarine parking lot. He also said the madhouse situation was being caused by a March of Dimes event which was just about to start.

After following his instructions and getting a parking place, it was on to step 2. We started to walk from the lot to the sub, and ran into a dead end because of barricades set up for construction work being done on the Science Center. So we had to loop back again (definitely got out exercise for the day) to find another way to the sub. Although it wasn't supposed to be open yet, there was a narrow opening in the Science Center doors and we went in that way. The inside of the Science also had construction work going on, and we needed an individual from security to help us through the center and finally get to the sub. Whew!

We met Art at the sub entrance and made our way to the radio room. Next came step 3 in our quest. We hooked up the KX3, PX3, paddle, antenna, etc. We then turned on the rig and --- nothing happened. The three of us were puzzled, but Art of course knew more about the sub setup so we let him check into the problem. After a few minutes he found one plug amid the jumble of wiring from the power supply that had come lose. Once that was fixed, we were in business.

Step 4 was getting on the air. As always, there was a surge of activity at first on 40 meters and we worked 6 stations in 26 minutes before moving on to 30 meters where we added 2 more stations. Then as noted in our email promo we moved to 20 meters at 1500Z only to find some wide band noise that was at least 30 kHz wide and centered on our announced frequency. So that right away put any activity out of the question on that band. After that we jumped around between 40 and 30 with only 4 stations on 40 and none on 30.

It became pretty frustrating calling CQ after CQ with not a single answer. After a while we set up a CQ in the KX3 memory and figured out it was calling 3 sets of CQ per minute or about 180 CQs per hour. So the lack of contacts was definitely not due to a lack of effort on our part. It was also very frustrating to say the least to have one of our NAQCC members jump right on top of our frequency and call repeated CQs. There was also some QRM from other sources as well.

Finally with the lack of response we decided to go and hunt some DX instead. The lower portion of 20 was free of the wide band noise so we settled on operating there in the CQMM contest. We made 4 DX contacts on 3 continents. XE2S, F5IN, CO2JD, KH7M. We also almost worked Bert F6HKA.

All in all, kind of an up and down day. It was good to interact with the visitors to the sub as always, many of whom recognized Morse Code as we were sending it. Also as always it was great great to fellowship with Art WA3BKD the caretaker of the Requin. He has an identical sense of humor to ours (Mike is sitting here as I write, and he adds that could be dangerous).

That was quite a bit of writing and it took some time. We also got some good pictures as you can see here.



Stories of other chapter activities including pictures and future chapter plans can be found in the diary items for April 2, 10, 11, 22, 24, 25. Leave any questions and/or comments there. I would appreciate them. I answer all emails usually within a few days.



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 Dave, KC2ICA, #9257 —

Last month we had an article about my portable operation from Arizona where I managed to work F6HKA. Dave sent this in regarding that article. - Editor

I got a special kick out of your Arizona story. The first QRPP DX QSO I had was with Bert, F6HKA. I've since worked him close to a dozen times, but the first time, I was portable in Prospect Park, Brooklyn. I couldn't believe he could copy my sig, and it did take about four tries on my part to get my complete call and skcc number over to him. He really does have great ears, thanks for writing that story.

73,
Dave White KC2ICA

From Andy, N2CN, #6028 —

Andy sent this in after reading the spoof article in last month's newsletter. - Editor

Your parallel processing slide rule was classic!

From Glen, N1XF, #9353 —

Glen made 12 QSOs in his first ever NAQCC sprint in April. He sent this in with his sprint report. - Editor

Be sure to pass on my thanks to all involved on putting this Sprint (and the organization and website) on. I made my first CW QSO on 1 April (last week) and have been on the air ever since. This Sprint was perfect for me. I'm already practicing my SK skills to attempt Straight Key next month.

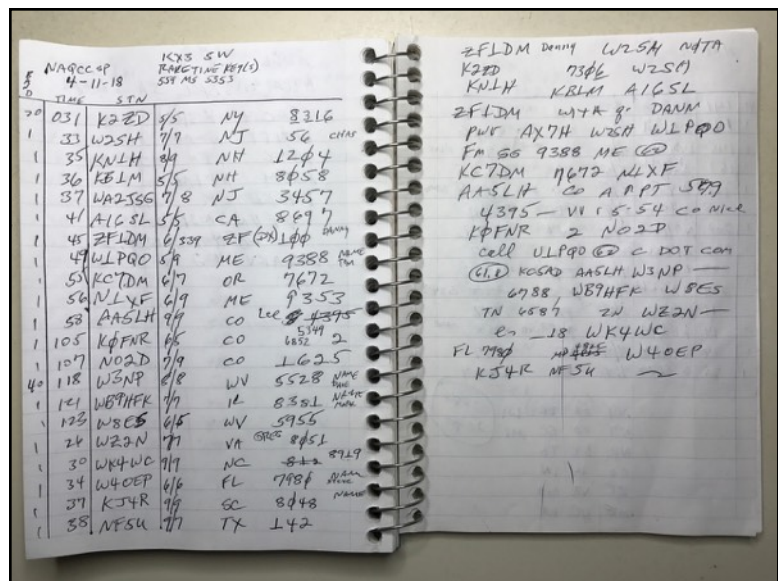
Another CW convert...

73s

From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

For real time logging during QRP sprints I like to use paper instead of a computer. The two photos show a typical layout using a 5 1/2 X 7 inch spiral notebook. This takes up less space than a laptop, it lies flat, pages are easy to turn and I can log faster. I use the sheet on the left for the log; the sheet on the right is for jotting down notes such as call signs, numbers, spots, names and such. The latter is helpful because I can refer back to it to for needed info during or after the sprint. Dupes are avoided mainly because of the limited number of entries; also it is easy to quickly scan the log. When the sprint is over I go back and make any needed corrections. Then I snap a few pix of the log with my cell phone camera to preserve it. Since I can touch type, transfer to the autologger or other computer log can be done fairly quickly.

Another thing I have started doing is keeping a list of names in the back of the notebook; some sprinters like to call the other op by name and are frequently getting the drop on me.



From Peter, AK3X, #4825 —

Peter won the random drawing for one of our recent monthly challenges and chose a straight key poker chip finger rest for his prize. (http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html) He sent this in after receiving it. - Editor

Thanks guys. It looks really good on my Navy flameproof key. As an aside, some years ago I won a random drawing for participating in a NAQCC sprint. Chose a set of mahogany paddle finger pieces. Never got around to mounting them on my Benchers, and no longer have those paddles. I was now motivated to slightly trim and drill the paddle finger pieces to fit my Vibroplex Champion where they look great!

Thanks again
Peter AK3X

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

Please see my K3WWP web site diary for my activities during the previous month plus other general info of interest. My site is at k3wwp.com and the diary at k3wwp.com/home_ss_diary.html. Leave your questions and/or comments there. I would appreciate them. I answer all emails usually within a few days. One of the featured items is how to tame a too fast bug easily.



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

Amateur radio has something for everyone. SSB, FM, AM, the digital modes, and QRO power levels all have their place in this great hobby and we certainly recognize the importance of these modes as well as the enjoyment that they give to many. But for a growing number of hams the challenge of *“doing the most with the least”* makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio, and the North American QRP CW Club exists to promote this exciting facet of the hobby. As part of our focus we also encourage, but do not limit operators to, the use of simple wire antennas.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to enjoy QRP/CW operating. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

We also serve as a resource for people who are just getting started in QRP and/or CW. Our slow-speed CW nets are a great place for beginners to practice Morse code under real on-air conditions. Beginners will also find a wealth of helpful information on our club website and we are more than willing to try to answer any questions about QRP and CW that you might have. An extensive monthly newsletter is filled with useful projects and news from fellow QRPers.

A number of local NAQCC Chapters offer opportunities to get together for in person socializing and QRP/CW activities. Portable operations are especially popular with the local chapters.

Whether you are a veteran ham radio operator who is looking for a new challenge in the hobby, or a beginner who is intrigued by the possibilities of QRP/CW communication, we cordially invite you to join us. Membership is free and the benefits and fun are significant.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 9000 members world wide. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can 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
Delmarva Chapter	Bill - N3IOD	william.hammond@mchsi.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff - KA1DBE	ka1dbe@arrl.net
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	wb4omm@arrl.org
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	jsk3wwp@windstream.net
Central Texas Chapter	Danny - N5DRG	n5drg@naqcc-centraltexas.net
Illowa Chapter	Mark - K0NIA	iowamv@gmail.com
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	n9ee@tampabay.rr.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
NAQCC CW Nets	Wayne - NQ0RP	wayne.dillon@gmail.com

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