

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 248 FEBRUARY 2019



## KEY CLICKS

- **NEW QRS NET STARTING UP.** A new NAQCC slow speed CW net has been formed with Jeff, K9VEG, serving as the Net Control Station. Jeff is located in Virginia and we expect that this net will have fairly good coverage over the eastern part of the country. The net is meeting every Wednesday at 8:00 PM Eastern Time, on +/-7.035 MHz. Our NAQCC QRS nets are a great place for beginning CW operators to practice sending and receiving Morse code and the NCS will adjust their speed as needed to help out. To see our complete net schedule and to learn about the standard protocol and special Q-signals that are normally used on our nets go to [http://www.naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://www.naqcc.info/cw_nets.html).
- **WB4OMM IS THE 2018 PARTICIPATION AWARD WINNER.** Each year we give the top scoring participants in each call district plus Canada and DX an award certificate for outstanding participation in our club activities. We then put the ones that are tied for high score into a drawing for a chance to win a free membership or renewal in **FISTS**. This year we didn't have to do that because there was only one person on the top of the heap - Steve, WB4OMM. Steve was the only one to accumulated a perfect score of 36 points by participating in every monthly sprint and challenge that we had in 2018! You can see all of the district winners on the *Awards* page of this newsletter.
- **15TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANS UNDERWAY.** Plans are already being made for our NAQCC 15th Anniversary Celebration in October with most of the activities taking place from 0000 Z Oct 6 through 2400Z Oct 12. There will be special event stations operating from all over the country, an exciting anniversary sprint, and great prize drawings for member/participants in both the sprint and our month-long challenge. Additional details will be announced here as they become available.
- **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.

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- **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.”



**The Groundhog might not have seen his shadow but that little girl groundhog certainly caught his eye!  
Happy Valentine's Day!**

# SUNSPOTS, WHAT SUNSPOTS?

By Tom, VE4AKI

As we slide down the sunspot cycle graph towards the bottom of what might be the worst cycle in 100's of years you have probably found the nature of your H.F. activity to be changing. DX is harder to find, there are more days of poor propagation and skeds are less reliable. Well, even though the lack of sunspots is having a significant effect on H.F. propagation all is not lost.

The best approach to surviving a sunspot minimum is to look for a new challenge with a rewarding and attainable goal. This can take many forms. What about trying a new band you have not used much such as 80M or 160M. These bands are likely to be more productive under the present conditions. You may have to be innovative to erect a good antenna as well as become familiar with different patterns of propagation. Your knowledge of these classic ham bands and how to get out on them will promote enthusiasm for ham radio.

Have you constructed any of your station? Why not try some homebrew [ the solder together kind that is ]. Many station accessories such as keyers and antenna tuners make good projects when the bands are poor. There are many new kit suppliers in the market these days. A small investment in tools and supplies will be rewarded with a great deal of satisfaction and an increase in your knowledge of electronics. What about restoring and operating some of that older gear you see at the flea markets or collecting those keys that often turn up?

The NAQCC as well as many others sponsor many sprints and challenges you can get involved in. This is a good way to maintain interest, hone your skills, and promote the use of CW.

Maybe this lull in H.F. activity is a blessing in disguise. It could be your opportunity to become involved in another type of ham radio activity. Maybe you have some skill or knowledge you can put to use in a local club activity. Have you tried to teach a ham class or organize a club activity? How about doing a presentation on your favorite topic at a club meeting? How about setting up a demonstration to promote ham radio to the public? You could offer your experience and knowledge to "elmer" a new ham.

As you struggle with the poor band conditions these days I offer a few tips to help you make your QSO'S more successful. Don't be longwinded ie. keep the exchanges brief as conditions can change rapidly due to QSB. During bad QSB conditions don't be too hasty in assuming contact has been lost. Often the signal will bounce back up quickly and the QSO can continue. Don't assume the band is dead because you don't hear any activity. I have worked many stations including DX when the band appears dead. Call CQ and see if there are others waiting for the band to pick up.

Don't let your spirits sag like the sunspot cycle. You get out of it as much as you put in, so put some effort into something new and you will be rewarded with new experiences and enthusiasm.

73-----Tom



# OUTDOOR WINTER QRP OUTING

BY HAL, WA2AKV

I find it extremely interesting, challenging and enjoyable to combine the technical aspects of CW QRP radio communication with hiking, backpacking and camping, both summer and winter. In addition to my membership in the NAQCC Long Island Chapter, I'm also a member of Summits On The Air (SOTA) as a chaser and activator.

I am a real newbie at this and there are many folks far knowledgeable and experienced than I, but I am eager to learn and to share any bits of information with the amateur radio community in this endeavor. Like any journey, each begins with a first step. So here is my little diary of a recent outdoor winter QRP adventure. I hope it spurs interest and helps those of similar persuasion. Comments and questions are welcome.

## Date and Location

Saturday December 1, 2018 - Big Indian Mountain, NY, altitude 3,700 ft.MSL. Latitude: 42.035 , Longitude: -74.497 - QTH Locator: FN22sa

## Weather

Conditions were excellent, 32 deg. F, bright intermittent sun – little to no wind. Ground conditions consisted of 8-12 inches snow, with an under crust and two inches of fresh powder.

## Summit Route and Hike-In

I entered the Big Indian Wilderness area From Burnham Hollow Rd thence to Huron Trail, then bushwhacked to summit approx. 2.5 miles – 5-6 hrs. round trip. The terrain is very steep and rocky with some stands of old growth hemlock, rushing streams and abundant wild-life, deer, bear, bob-cat and coyote. I saw plentiful tracks of each except bear.

I did NOT make the summit on this trip due to my first-time experience with a heavily loaded internal frame backpack. I also forgot to bring a camera and a watch, a big mistake, no way to determine rendezvous time with my hiking partner and to accurately log contacts. So I erred on the side of caution and did not press for the summit. Instead I setup on a broad flat area within sight but 500-800 feet below summit.

During the morning hike-in, I eventually learned how to adjust the hip-belt of my pack. The hip belt affectively transfers most of the pack weight to the hips. Totally amazing how comfortable the load became once the strain came off my neck and shoulders. The hip-belt really works.

## Antenna

I used the [QRPGuys Multi-Band](#), end fed trapped antenna for 40/30/20 meters. It includes a built-in tuner and SWR indicator!! This eliminates the need to pack a tuner. I arrange the antenna as a sloper. First, the antenna is laid out full length on the ground; this gives an idea of where to setup the radio. The upper end of the antenna is set high in a tree using monofilament and stone throw technique.

## Operating Position

Operating position is on the open ground. Choosing a good operating position requires some careful reconnoitering and consideration with respect to the antenna layout. The antenna setup pretty much dictates where the operating position will be so there is a trade-off that must be considered. Once the antenna was setup, I stomped down and kicked off most of the snow and placed my 6x8 ft. rip-stop poncho as a ground cover near the feed point of the sloper. I use a small insulated foam pad to sit on.

## Rig, Key and Power

Yaesu FT-817ND, Key – Palm Radio micro paddle. Two (2) LiPo Admiral 4000 mAh (40C) RC batteries.

## Contacts

I called CQ for about 20 minutes on or about 7052 with no response. I got pretty discouraged considering the effort to hike in that far. Then I heard N8XI Rick in Michigan around 1630Z and AH6AS Larry in Maryland, ex Hawaii. Both stations were chasing SKCC Triple Play scores and were calling CQ. They gave me 569 and 559 respectively. Later I looked up my call on the Reverse Beacon Network Spot search. I found that my signal had a limited reception from stations in the 1, 2 and 3 call areas. I think this was because the mountain summit was blocking most of the signal.

## Backpack

This was my first experience with a full-sized backpack, I chose an entry level pack to gain experience and serve as a baseline for upgrading. In retrospect, I think the pack I chose is quite good at \$119 considering top line packs go well over \$400! The pack is a Field & Stream Wasatch Internal Frame model with a 3400cu in main compartment.

## Clothing

During the hike-in and equipment setup, I wore a single base layer EMS Bergelene thermals, Cordura outdoor tactical pants and light-weight windbreaker, hat and gloves. I layered up with three additional layers and toe warmers after equipment setup. I learned the minimal clothing and layering trick from Boy Scouts, you never want to sweat in the winter outdoors.

## Nourishment, Food and Water

Platypus 2 Liter water bladder, JetBoil gas cook stove, tea, chocolate, gorp and jerky. Amazing what a cup of hot tea can do to after a few hours hiking and working outdoors.

## Navigation and Safety Equipment

I'm old school and pretty good at orienteering and dead reckoning. I do have a Garmin GPS, but generally operate with a topo map and compass with moveable bezel on a lanyard around my neck. strike

*continued*

1. Whistle
2. Flint stick, water proof matches, candle, fire starter sticks
3. Basic first aid kit
4. Space blanket
5. Buck knife
6. Walkie-Talkie
7. Parachute cord
8. Led flashlight

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# ARE YOU UP FOR THE CHALLENGE?

BY PAUL, N8XMS

I recently had a conversation with one of our club volunteers about the low participation numbers in our monthly challenges. Both of us really enjoy these challenges and we were a little bit puzzled over why it always seems to be the same few calls that show up in the list of participants? Well, perhaps it's partly due to the fact that many of our newer members don't really know what these challenges are all about.

Every year Gary, K1YAN, does a wonderful job creating 12 (actually 13) fun month long challenges for us to tackle. Participating in these challenges is always easy but completing them is usually ... well ... a *challenge*. Of course an easy challenge would be an oxymoron!

There is usually a theme to the challenges and in addition to the basic operating instructions and rules for the month, Gary will also provide some very interesting background information about that theme. It might be some details about a historically significant event, pictures of vintage gear, fun to know trivia, or a tribute to fallen heroes. Sometimes there is a link to some additional information on the internet. *This background information alone is enough to make a visit to the web pages worth while.*

We have many different types of monthly challenges but by far the most popular (and frequent) are our alphabet challenges. In these challenges, Gary gives us a list of words that are related to the theme that month, and we try to form those words by using the letters in the callsigns that we work during the month. Of course all QSOs must be made with QRP CW and no QSOs from contests can be used. (This is true for all of our challenges.) Each letter in a worked callsign can be used twice.

Some people think that the "paperwork" for an alphabet challenge sounds like it would be complicated and too much to bother with. But it's really not bad and we actually have a tutorial on our website that shows you how to keep your work simple and organized if you want to go the pencil & paper route. We also have a spreadsheet available on that same page that will do most of the work for you. But the really cool alphabet challenge tool is an online application that Robby, WB5RVZ, made for us. To use this tool you first must create an account for yourself. After that all you have to do is enter the callsigns that you work. The application knows the list of words for the month, will automatically fill in the letters from your worked callsigns, and will even generate the report that needs to be submitted at the end of the month. It is so automatic that there really is no excuse for not participating in our alphabet challenges. Information on all of this can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/challenge\\_tutorial.html](http://www.naqcc.info/challenge_tutorial.html).

Besides our alphabet challenges we have had ones involving home-brew gear, QRPP output power, poker hands, grid square bingo, field day operations, and many more. Gary's creativity seems to be endless!

So I'm throwing down the gauntlet! Are you up for the challenge?!?! They won't necessarily be "easy" but I can guarantee that they will be **FUN!** A summary of the challenges for 2019 is given on the next page and complete challenge rules and other helpful information can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

(It should also be noted that there is always a "relatively easy" minimal completion level set that will earn you a participation point without actually completing the entire challenge. For example, in an alphabet challenge completing a single word from the list will do it.)

- Jan 2019: *The Whiskey Story Challenge*. An alphabet challenge that is already finished but the information given about the history of whiskey distillation is still worth taking a look at.
- Feb 2019: *Making A Baseball Challenge*. An alphabet challenge to kick off spring training with some interesting information about exactly how a baseball is made.
- Mar 2019: *Homebrew Gear Challenge*. A challenge to reach certain QSO goals using home-brew gear. There is a cool picture of an old ARC-5 rig on the page.
- Apr 2019: *Why Do We Say That Challenge*. An alphabet challenge that teaches us the origin of several common phrases like “paint the town red.”
- May 2019: *The Paraset Radio Challenge*. An alphabet challenge with words that are all related to the famous WW2 spy radio.
- June 2019: *The Molasses Flood Challenge*. An alphabet challenge with words that all relate to a significant but little known disaster where 21 people were killed by a tidal wave of molasses.
- June 2019: *Field Day Challenge*. Our annual challenge that is linked to operating QRP/CW in the ARRL Field Day.
- July 2019: *Uncle Sam Challenge*. An alphabet challenge related to the history of the iconic Uncle Sam image.
- Aug 2019: *Operation Drumbeat Challenge*. An alphabet challenge based on a major WW2 U-boat operation.
- Sep 2019: *Grid Square Arithmetic Challenge*. Adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with grid squares.
- Oct 2019: *The Alexanderson Alternator Challenge*. An alphabet challenge built around some very interesting early radio history.
- Nov 2019: *Anthem Veterans Memorial Challenge*. An alphabet challenge that features a very special veterans memorial located in Anthem, AZ.
- Dec 2019: *QRPP Challenge*. How low can you go in this super-low power challenge? Hopefully a few sunspots will return by then!





# 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.



**PHIL BARSKY, K3EW, #9479**

I am an avid DXer and DXpedition chaser, mainly on CW; very active in SKCC Sprints and contests, and NAQCC Sprints. This May, I will be celebrating 60 years in the best hobby on earth. As a result of a SKCC QRP-themed Weekend Sprint in 2018, I got the QRP bug and joined NAQCC and became active in NAQCC Sprints.

I was originally licensed at age 13 in 1959 as WV2FUL. Living in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn, NY, my Dad, WA2FRW (SK) had an upstairs HF Shack and my Brother-in Law, WA2ARS (SK) had a 6-Meter shack in a downstairs apartment. All three of us got our licenses at the behest of my Uncle Lee, W3FRM.

I upgraded to Technician in 1959 and became WA2FUL. In 1960, I passed the General Class test and the Amateur Extra in 1969 before QSYing to HL Land.

I was an US Army Signal Corps Officer in South Korea, commissioned in 1968 when I graduated from CCNY. I retired as Lt Col in 1995 after 27 years service ( 2 years active duty and 25 years in the US Army Reserves as a Signal Officer with many varied communications and logistics assignments).

I operated as HL9UZ during 1969-70 from 30 miles north of Quijongbu, near the DMZ with ICORPS Artillery using a Swan 350C and 2-Element Triband Mosley Quad.

Since then, I've lived in a few different QTHs. I operated from 1970-73 from Queens NY and 1973-77 from Commack NY, mainly on 10/15 meters as WA2FUL. I changed my call to K3EW in 1977, and operated from 1977-84 while residing in Randallstown, MD. From 1984-2000 I resided in Rockland County, NY from 1000' ASL QTH. Finally I QSYed to Montgomery County MD in 2000, and presently

reside in an unincorporated part of Montgomery County, near Gaithersburg, MD, adjoining Seneca Creek State Park (with many tall trees).

I was off the air from 1998 until 2013 due to travel and full-time client-based assignments from my Engineering Management/Marketing Consulting Business. I had formed my own System Engineering Management/ Marketing Consulting Firm in 1989, which was very successful in guiding and leading clients' program teams to multiple very large US Government Contracts. Prior to that I worked as a System Engineering/Program/Marketing Manager for many Aerospace firms including Grumman (Test Equipment Analog Designer), Chesapeake Instruments (Sonar Analog Designer and Engineering/Project Manager), Diagnostic Retrieval Systems (Shipboard Displays- Engineering/Project Manager and Program Manager). I led many successful multi-\$100M competitive proposal efforts for my employers.

Jim W3NRJ got me back on the air in 2013 by installing my 160-meter loop.

In 2015, I got to operate from Montserrat as VP2MEW as part of a DXpedition with Rick AI5P and Jim W3NRJ at Gingerbread Hill. I've also led a small group of HF enthusiasts in very successful and competitive 3A Field Day entry for many years, and before that was FD coordinator for Montgomery Amateur Radio Club, MD.

My current rig is a TS590S and a steerable 160-meter Horizontal Loop antenna, due to the ability to use of either of two feed points. The loop is 540 feet long and up 65 feet in the trees. I use an old EF Johnson KW Matchbox to effectively match and load antenna on all bands from 10-80 meters. (The antenna was designed and built by Jim Locke W3NRJ, my wire antenna expert and Elmer.)

My Pride and Joy is my Bunnell all-brass straight key. I obtained it at Dayton three years ago for under \$40. It is my main key for NAQCC and SKCC operations. I also have a recently obtained Vibroplex Original Chrome version from another SKCCer who kept it in pristine condition. I'm still trying to get my BUG fist back after not using one for 30 years (Went to keyer in the mid 80's). My collection includes my Uncle's Navy J-38 style key as well as my old Speed-X key.



Besides ham radio, I am still an avid bicyclist and a volunteer docent on the Tow Path of the C&O Canal National Historic Park. I have been married for 50 years to my teenage sweetheart and we have two sons, one a Health Care Lawyer and Senior vested partner at a DC Law Firm, and the other a Board Certified Prosthodontist with his practice in the Miami, FL area. We have three teenage granddaughters and one 10-year-old grandson. I'm an intermediate downhill skier, mainly with the grandkids and two sons and also a three-times-a-week gym rat (gotta keep them joints well oiled). Finally, I am VP of Programs and Treasurer for the City College of NY Alumni Assn, Washington DC Chapter.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be on February 13 from 0130-0330 UTC. That's the evening of Tuesday the 12th here in North America. Complete information about can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201902.html>.

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_rules.html](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](http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** In January we had two sprints to play in. First up was our regular monthly sprint on the evening of January 16th (North America). 91 people submitted logs for that sprint with a total of 131 participants showing up in those logs. *(As an editorial comment, I have never understood why someone would participate in the sprint without submitting a log. The "paperwork" is really minimal and mostly done automatically with a computer. - Editor)* Then, a week later, the Top Band crowd had a chance to play in our annual 160-meter sprint. 36 logs, plus one non-member log, were submitted for that one. Some people reported using some very creative antennas to get on that band and you can read about those in the soapbox comments for the sprint. Complete sprint results can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201901.html> and [http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201901\\_160.html](http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201901_160.html). High scores can be seen in the tables on the next two pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: K1MZM K3CTN K7PTR K8NGW W5BIB

**PLAN YOUR PARTICIPATION:** It's not too early to start your strategic planning for how you can collect enough participation points to qualify for the top-tier prize drawing during our October anniversary celebration. Regular participation in our monthly sprints and challenges will easily get you there. So jump in and get to work this very first month. Besides, it's not like you're going to the dentist. It's a lot of fun!

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1MZM	N1XF
W2	W2SH	W2JEK	KA2KGP
W3	AI4SV	KD3CA	K3JZD
W4	K4KRW	K4KBL	N4OW
W5	WI5H KE5YUM (tie)	-	-
W6	WK6L	K6MGO	-
W7	KC7DM	KF7WNS	-
W8	AB8RL	N8XMS	KB8FE
W9	WB9HFK	KC9IL	N8HWV
W0	N0TA	NN0SS	N8LA
Canada	VA3NU	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	K3WWP	-	-
W4	KJ4R	K3RLL	W4EDN
W5	NF5U	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	K9DRP	N9SE	AA9L
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	N2CN	KB1M	KC1DVT
W2	N2ESE	AA2VG	-
W3	NR3Z	WA3FIR	-
W4	KB9ILT	N4MJ	WB4OMM
W5	K5MBA	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	W8RTJ	K3CTN	WB8LZG
W9	K9CW	-	-
W0	AA0W	WZ0W	NO2D
Canada	VE3DQN	VE3GNU	-
DX	-	-	-

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

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	K1MZM	W5BIB	-
BUG	K8NGW	-	-
K/K	K3CTN	K7PTR	-
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AJ4JA			

160m SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	W2SH	WA2YOW	K2JT
W3	N3HEE	AH6AX	A14SV
W4	WG8Y	WA4ZOF	W4DUK
W5	N5GW	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KC7DM	-	-
W8	AJ8S	NF8M	W8BUD
W9	WB9HFK	-	-
W0	N0AR	AA0W	NN0SS
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

160m SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	N3LPJ	-	-
W4	-	-	-
W5	NF5U	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	AA9L	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

160m SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WA1GWH	N2ESE	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	KB9ILT	K4BAI	WB4OMM
W5	-	-	-
W6	NR5NN	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	NN9K	-	-
W0	K0EW	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

160m GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-

160m SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER
N2ESE

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	131	76	217	4/17
Participants	91	101	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1159	852	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	625	481	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	534	371	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	9	14	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	628	402	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	522	436	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.7	11.2	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+	NU7T(SK) KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN
75+	K4NVJ W4DUK KE5YUM KB3AAG WB8ENE K4KRW N2ESE VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO
100+	K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI
125+	W9CC W2SH WB8LZG N8XMS
150+	W2JEK KA2KGP K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our challenge this month is an alphabet challenge fitting with the start of baseball sprint training and involving words that are related to the manufacturing of baseballs. The complete list of words along with some very interesting baseball information can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201902.html>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The March challenge will be our annual home-brew gear challenge. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201903.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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submissions for our January "Whiskey Story" challenge is still a few days away but preliminary results can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201901.html>. Final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

**PLAN YOUR PARTICIPATION:** It's not too early to start your strategic planning for how you can collect enough participation points to qualify for the top-tier prize drawing during our October anniversary celebration. Regular participation in our monthly sprints and challenges will easily get you there. So jump in and get to work this very first month. Besides, it's not like you're going to the dentist. It's a lot of fun!

**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+	N9SE KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN WI5H PA9CW NF1U WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX
50+	PA0XAW VE3FUJ NU7T(SK)
75+	K1YAN
100+	K1IEE
125+	N8XMS 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: SUFFIX WORDS AWARD

This month we would like to talk about an award that many of you probably already qualify for - the Suffix Words Award. The idea of this award is simple, just use QRP and CW (duh) to work stations with callsigns that spell out words with the letters that are after the number (the suffix). For example K9**IT**, KB5**FOG**, or W1**MOO**. (All of the letters in the suffix must be used - W5ISX would not give the word "IS.") To remove any debate about whether or not something is a real word we use the official list of 2 and 3 letter words from the National Scrabble Association. Collecting 50 such callsigns will earn you a certificate. You can find the complete details about this award, along with the list of accepted words, at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_words.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_words.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 1000 MPW AWARD

0544 LZ2OQV CE2AWW - 1,984 01/29/19 Dipole

### 2018 PARTICIPATION AWARD

W1	K1IEE	34	01/24/19
W2	W2JEK	34	01/24/19
W3	AK3X	34	01/24/19
W4	WB4OMM	36	01/24/19
W5	WI5H	26	01/24/19
W6	K6MGO	8	01/24/19
W7	KC7DM	12	01/24/19
W8	N8XMS	32	01/24/19
W9	N9SE	33	01/24/19
W0	NN0SS	30	01/24/19
VE	VE3DQN	30	01/24/19
DX	G3JFS	12	01/24/19
DX	PA9CW	12	01/24/19

### 2X QRP AWARD - 50 Pt Level

0022 - AJ8S 01/31/19



# 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 Wayne, NQ0RP.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord 60m, and 80m QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 4:00 PM PT 8:30 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z 0430 Z	5348 KHz ch2 3556 KHz	60m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0100 Z	3564 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CT 9:00 PM CT (?)	Tuesday 0130 Z 0300 Z (?)	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2300/2330 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Virginia QRS Net (VAN)	Wednesday 8:00 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	7035 KHz	Jeff, K9VEG (in VA)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 4 PM PT	Friday 0000 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.

## A NOTE FROM OUR NET MANAGER

Hello all, here we are in February already and Montana is at last taking on the persona of the "frozen north"! Snow will stay now until late April probably but it is rather pretty. OK, first a warm welcome to our new NCS Station K9VEG - Jeff who has very kindly stepped up to offer a 40m net from Virginia, thank you Jeff, it's very much appreciated. I know conditions have been a little disappointing but stick with it. To all, not just NCS stations there are a number of propagation tools out there that will help predict likely paths for best results. That said nothing is set in stone. I've worked a few stations on '40 and 80 during the day, all around a 1000 miles distant but nothing closer in (almost everyone is 1K from here in NW Montana). Without further ado here are the reports. Everyone stay safe and warm! Wayne - NQ0RP

**NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS**

**NAQCC FarnsWord 60m and 80m QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)**

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)  
 Sunday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0300 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-  
 60m NCS - JB NR5NN (California); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (California)

No Report

=====

**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)

2019-1-1 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA

The band was in good shape last night. Signals were 589 or better. Great to hear you guys on SKN. Andy asked if I could jump down to 7.041 so he could try his home brew 4 watt rig. We did that and he was 579 in East TX. It sounded good. No chirp, drift and the key tone was good.

2019-1-8 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA. Another good band tonight. 599/589 signals to both AR. and NTX. Lots of rain down here and we talked about hoping to see the sun before to long.

2019-1-18 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA The band was in pretty good shape last night. Terry (YUM) was QRP and 579. Andy was 599 QRO.

QRN levels were low last night but the QSB was very deep.

2019-1-29 No Net

Allen KA5TJS

=====

**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRc)**

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz  
 Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.  
 Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

=====

**NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)**

Monday evenings 9:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0300 UTC, on 7117 kHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Bob W0CC

2018-31-1 QNI (1) NCS W0CC - No Report Happy New Year!

2019-1-7 QNI (1) NCS W0CC - QRN S-8 Only heard one station who was in a QSO. Anxious for next week!

2019-1-14 QNI (1) NCS W0CC - S-8 QRN Plan to rebuild antenna system by next week.

2019-1-21 QNI (1) NCS W0CC - S-8 QRN Could not clearly hear any stations on 40 meters. Dropped down to 80 M and was able to answer the first station calling CQ - K5EDM. Looking forward to next week.

2019-1-28 QNI (1) NCS W0CC - S-6 QSN. Had another station continuously broadcast with a 1.5 KHZ wide signal close to 7.031 MHz. I kept shifting to find a "quite spot" in the hope of reaching out to the net. I have re-worked my antenna and I am hopeful for next week!

Bob W0CC

=====

**NAQCC Virginia QRS Net (VAN)**

Wednesday evenings 8:00 PM EST Which is Thursday 01:00 UTC, 7035 KHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Jeff K9VEG

No Report

Jeff K9VEG

=====

**NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)**

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3556.5 kHz.

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2019-1-10 QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, K7JUV, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, N7TB/7, W7ANM, AD7BP, KB0AA.

2019-1-18 QNI (5) NCS KG7JEB, WB4SPB, N7TB, AD7BP, KE7LKW

2019-1-25 QNI (3) NCS KG7JEB, N7TB, KE7LKW/7

Stewart KE7LKW, Randy WB4SPB, George WB4SPB

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# 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](http://www.lulu.com).

## Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



DO YOU REMEMBER THE HALLICRAFTERS SX-73  
IT WAS ALSO USED BY THE MILITARY IN 1952-53



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has nine local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, Downeast Maine, Long Island, 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

## NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

### **Below please find the RECAP of our chapter's outing this month on Jan 11.**

What a challenging day and my feet are still warming up at 730pm the same evening while writing this recap.

We started the day off at the Atlantis Diner in West Islip and 7 of us had an enjoyable meal with good conversation. We then headed out to Robert Moses State Park Field 5 to meet up with the rest of the gang. Today was a sunny winter day but the temperature only peaked at 30F with wind gusts up to 30mph. This made putting up antennas and visiting other cars by foot a bone chilling experience. Everyone got done with their antennas in about 20 minutes and began operation from their cars.

Here are the set ups for the day:

Rick KF2TP: Ham Stick about 6 feet long, no counterpoise, with FT 817 5W. Rick got there early and already had QSOs as far as France. Interesting that later on his 2014 Hyundai Elantra refused to start until he disconnected his Ham Stick. So it seems the RF from our various transceivers in the area was getting into his car's computer and causing havoc.

Bob W2OSR: Jackite pole 31 ft end fed with 9:1 balun, with FT817 5W on 20m. Bob was receiving good but it seems for some reason his antenna is not radiating well. He will consider changing antennas for the next outing

Hal WA2AKV: Jackite pole 31 ft end fed sloper, with FT817 5W but unfortunately Hal left his power cord home and could not operate. In fact Dave W2DAB forgot his jackite pole and borrowed one from Walt W2TE house. Hal and I agreed for future outings we will encourage and remind everyone to make in advance a packing check list before leaving the house as with so much to remember, it's easy to forget a critical part.

John W2XS: Jackite pole 28 ft Inv. Vee end fed with twin lead, and KX2 5W. John worked California and Caymans but was hampered by QRM from our other nearby ops

Mike N2PPI: Tarheel Screwdriver Antenna on his car with FT891 5W. Mike did great with a lot of stations answering his CQs with contacts on 40m all over the USA and Canada

Nick KF2P: QRP Guys triband vertical on 33ft MFJ pole with KX3 5W. Nick was only able to make one QSO to FL as the KX3 was reacting badly to our Inter -QRM

Bill W2IIT: Whip on car room with FT817 5W

Maury WB2MSB: Whip on car roof with FT857 5W

Peter AA2VG: Buddypole with KX3 5W. Peter did well on 17m and 20m working Seattle Wa, Cayman Islands and as far as Brazil (The famous PV8ADI)

Dave W2DAB: End fed sloper at 30ft with Tentec 4020 5W. Dave drove all the way from Manhattan which we really appreciated. This was his first QRP outing and a learning experience with antenna tuning tips from the crew

Walt KA2CAQ: 102 inch whip and Wolf River Coil with Small Wonders Lab DSW2 5W, 40m only. Walt's rig is interesting as its the size of about 3 cigarette packs and has no visible tuning readout. You press a button and the frequency readout is in CW. Walt did great on 40m and worked as far as FL and KS. He was not bothered by inter- QRM and was receiving stations that Rich's KX3 was not even hearing.

Rich K2UPS: 102 inch whip with Wolf River Coil on his Jeep bumper

Helpful Ops without rigs: Walt W2TE, Bob KD2NFS and Howard WB2UZE

Narrative:

We had a great turnout with 15 members and 11 car-stations on a very cold day...truly impressive. Yes this large turnout brought the issue of Inter - QRM. Since only 40-17m was open, we sometimes had 3 stations on one band and some receivers were overloaded. Some rigs like the FT891 and DSW 2 were least effected. So we have to figure out for the winter outings how we can mitigate Inter- QRM. In the summer we can all sit outside and multiple ops can listen and operate the same rig. But huddling in cars presents this Inter -QRM issue. Some thoughts were to limit calling CQ and encourage hunt and pounce. Another idea would be to physically park the cars by band so that it would be possible to coordinate band planning/operation. We can work this out at the February QRP Zoom meeting

Other tidbits:

Hal WA2AKV had a policeman come over to him during antenna set up asking what he was doing. Hal explained it was amateur radio but the policeman had never heard of it. Some further talking settled the situation politely. Howard WB2UZE encountered a passerby who thought our jackite poles were fishing poles but could not understand our being 1/4 mile from the ocean. That wonderment was quickly clarified.

Around 3pm Peter AA2VG, when finding it difficult to breakdown his Buddypole in the very cold wind, wondered what it must have been like for the Arctic explorers way back in the day.

Final Thoughts:

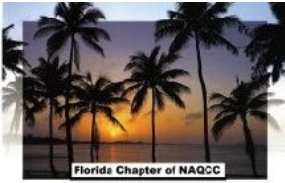
We would like to sincerely thank everyone who came out braving the cold without even one complaint. I frankly felt a bit bad that some ops did not make many QSOs because of the Inter- QRM. Also some ops were hitting the reverse beacons on their CQs but had no takers. I could not get to every car to see if I could have helped with a hunt and pounce, because it took a lot to document and photograph the event...oh well. So for those guys who did not make QSOs today please do come back in February and don't be discouraged. This was a fantastic turnout and we will fine tune the operation.

There are 35 photos and 2 videos in the Club file: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/2sd7b3k25xckdkj/AADPk6YwD6G7p39R6CmZi7ca?dl=0> under QRP outings (file best viewed in Chrome), always thanks to Ron KE2UK who was very patient with my changing the photo titles a few times.

Regards  
Howard, WB2UZE



## 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: January 2018



#### Skunked! (Almost.....)

On Friday, January 18, 2019 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC arrived at a favorite park to start the new year. We held our latest "Parkpedition" at Hontoon Island State Park on the St. John's River in DeLand, Florida.

This island, located in the St. Johns River in Volusia County, welcomes visitors to enjoy nature and history in quiet solitude. The island is accessible only by private boat or park ferry. Evidence of Native American habitation over thousands of years can be witnessed in the park. It boasts an impressive visitor center to learn more about the many inhabitants and uses of Hontoon Island over the years. Boating, canoeing and fishing are popular activities and canoe rentals are available. Picnic areas include tables, grills and a playground.

We arrived, to a temp of 63 degrees and 60% humidity, accompanied by clear skies. It was 69 degrees when we left - Winter in Florida! Yes!!!

This trip we had a total of 8 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274; Don K3RLL #1905; Art WB4MKN #5274; John KD4JS #8019; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749, John KM4JTE #7966, Rick AA4W #1628 and Bob W2EJG. We had the worse radio propagation conditions that anyone could remember. Few signals heard on any band, 2 of our 4 stations got skunked – not a contact! (and a third station only made 1!). *BUT WE STILL HAD FUN!!! We had a wonderful adventure and great weather at beautiful location. We'll be back for more! Sorry if we couldn't work you!*



**Steve WB4OMM #5913 and Bob W2EJG at the WB4OMM Station**

Steve's Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical with a Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr and GenLog.

Steve worked no one - neither did Bob! They were skunked!

**Don K3RLL #1905 and Rick AA4W #1628 at the K3RLL Station**

Don's KX-3 to a was able to work 3 members on 40M:

- KC2DQV SC #1555
- KB1M NH #8058
- WG8Y NC #4405

Don was using a KX3 to 9:1 HB Unun feeding a 17' wire vertical on 17' Chinese fishing pole.

**Don was NOT skunked. Lucky him!**





*The view of the St. John's River from K3RLL's station.....serene and beautiful!*

*One of the nicest weather days we've had in a long time!*



**John KM4JTE #7966**

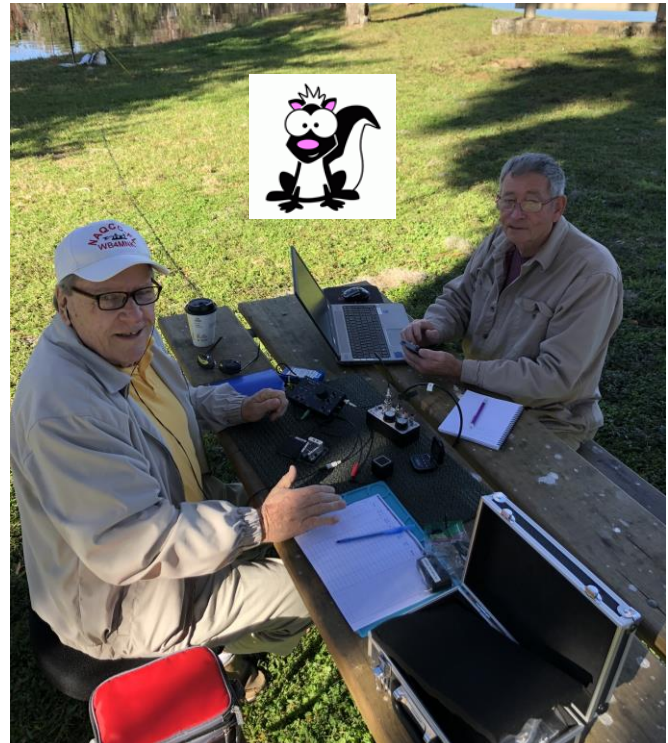
Using his KX-2 with a 35-foot end fed antenna with a 9:1 UNUN, he worked one non-member (K4UX in VA) on 30M.

**He was "almost" skunked!**

**Art WB4MNK #5274 and John KD4JS #8019 at the WB4MNK Station**

Art's station was a KX-1 with a ZM- 2 tuner, 2 watts out to a 29-foot wire vertical.

*They were skunked too!*



**Notice Art's Lion 12VDC powerpack – it's 6.8 ah and weighs almost nothing! Plenty of power for the day! So nice, Steve went home and ordered one! (Steve uses a 7 amp/hour regular sealed battery – similar to the one that Art has in the upper right of the photo - that weighs a bunch!)**

Solar-Terrestrial Data - <a href="http://www.n0nbh.com">http://www.n0nbh.com</a>					
18 Jan 2019 1948 GMT		VHF Conditions		HF Conditions	
SFI 68	SN 0	Item	Status	Band	Day Night
A 7	K 2 / PIntry	Aurora	Band Closed	80m-40m	Fair Good
X-Ray A1.0		6n EsEU	Band Closed	30m-20m	Poor Poor
304A 94.3 @ SEM		4n EsEU	Band Closed	17m-15m	Poor Poor
Pth Flx 0.20		2n EsEU	Band Closed	12m-10m	Poor Poor
Eic Flx 10.60		2n EsNA	Band Closed	Geomag Field	QUIET
Aurora /n=		EHE Deg	Fair	Sig Noise Lvl	S1-S2
Aur Lat No Report		MUF ES - SEASON BREAK		MUF US Boulder	12.21
Bz -1.4 SW 454.2		HS		Solar Flare Prb	1%
					(C) Paul L Herrman 2013

*This is why we got skunked - No spots for the last 6 days. Even with good antennas, high-end radios, and experienced "Parkpeditioners" (is that a word??) - ya' can't work 'em if ya' can't hear 'em! And Mother Nature did not provide us with propagation today. There's always hope for next month!! It was still a beautiful day.*

**The Group Photo!**



**WB4OMM KD4JS AA4W WB4MNK KM4JTE K3RLL W2EJG KM4SBQ**

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

**NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:**

Friday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 starting at 10:00 AM EST (1500Z) Gemini Springs Park  
(37 Dirksen Drive, DeBary, FL 32720)

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

Visit our Web Page:

[\*\*http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/\*\*](http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter/)

***Look for our announcement!***

**72/73 to all – Steve WB4OMM, #5913 - [\*\*NAQCC-FL@cfl.rr.com\*\*](mailto:NAQCC-FL@cfl.rr.com)**



## 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.

Western Pennsylvania is not like Florida or other areas that don't have what we call winter. So the WPA Chapter didn't do much in December or January. We do have a hamfest to attend near the end of February that will kick off our 2019 list of activities.

Otherwise as we do often, Mike KC2EGL and I K3WWP had several get togethers those two months, but not really much in the way of ham radio related things. Let me peruse my diary at [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com) and see what I can find.

December 9 - We went to the Pennsylvania Trolley Museum for their Christmas Trolley ride. When we got home, Mike worked some DX in the form of WP3C. Another thing that cuts down on ham related activities is being at or near the sunspot minimum. When we do get on the bands, there is really not much there to work. That WP3C was one of only a very few DX QSOs in the past 3 or 4 months.

December 25 - Our annual Christmas lights event where we drive around and check the lights. We also visited my shack, but the only QSO was my daily streak QSO. We didn't even hear any DX.

December 28 - A visit to the Western Pennsylvania Model Train Museum. We didn't even visit my shack.

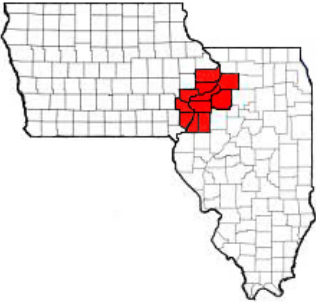
January 5 - Mike delivered some Kielbasa Loaf he gets at a place over in Eastern Pennsylvania. We checked the bands around 2 PM EST and found them just as wanting as they are in the evenings now. No QSOs. Didn't even hear any DX at all.

January 21 - A visit to a model railroad shop in Indiana, PA. Then another afternoon check of the bands. This time we actually heard some DX, but weren't able to work any of it.

January 23 - Pizza night with Mike. Bands had nothing to offer except N800 for my streak QSO.

And that sums up a dismal couple months as far as ham radio goes for the Chapter. A lot of other great stuff with Mike though. If you'd like to see pictures of that along with more info, it's all in my web site diary at [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com). Hope you'll visit.

## 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 January 10th at the Moline Village Inn. In attendance were Tim, N9BIL, Matt, N9MAT, Tony, N9YPN and Peter, NN9K.

We discussed several operating events. First, we had the final discussion about the Illowa NAQCC event on January 19th. QRP Field Day for 2019 was then discussed, with emphasis and questions about the power requirements to get the most point for each QSO as well as the 100 point bonus for each transmitter using emergency power. And finally, NVIS antenna possibilities were also discussed for the upcoming Wisconsin QSO Party.

We also had a chance to discuss equipment. We discussed Navy Knobs, and compared examples showing how various manufactures implement them. Tony, N9YPN brought seven flat discs for the members that he machined to add to existing straight keys to give them a Navy Knob feel. Tim, N9BIL also brought a circuit board he designed and etched for Mark, K0NIA's SotaBeams audio filter. The board was approximately 1.5 inches by 1.5 inches and the detail in the etching was remarkable.

Finally, we decided that Tim, N9BIL will be replacing Mark, K0NIA as the liaison for the Illowa Chapter.

Our next meeting will be held on Thursday, January 14th at 7:00pm at the Bettendorf Village Inn.



## 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/>.

No report available.

## 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>.

No report available.

## 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.

No report available.

# 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 Pete, NO2D, #1625 —

*Pete sent this in after earning a certificate in a recent monthly sprint. - Editor*

Thanks for sending along the nice certificate. Never thought that just 5 contacts would merit a certificate, but it is good looking and I am very happy to get it. I've enjoyed working in the NAQCC sprints for quite some time now. Being a sprint makes it a lot more interesting than some of the more common contacts I am able to make. I guess the competitive nature of this not too competitive sprint make the juices flow a bit more. Thanks to you and all the others that make the sprints possible and keep them going.

And, thanks again for the certificate.

Pete, NO2D  
Parker, Colorado

From Nick KF2P, #0127

Jan 26 I operated from 1900z to 2145z QRP from my portable shack in my car. Photos attached. The WX was great – sunny and about 30 F outdoors. I ran 5W on my KX3 to the QRP-Guys Tri-band vertical, but I stayed on 20M the whole time.

I sent CQ at 1400+ and received my first contact. Then nothing for over ½ hour. The 20M band seemed pretty dead. I was expecting the sky to light up at 1900z, but that didn't happen. Earning QSOs was like pulling teeth for the first hour. Then the band started to open up a bit. By 2030 I started making more QSOs. Some stations were overloading my front end. Fortunately I found my RF gain adjustment after our last Beach QRP endeavor.

My setup was the MFJ 1910 33' telescoping pole on my bicycle mount on the hitch of my car with the tri-band vertical hoisted up. The feed point is about 8-10 feet high. I have the radials draped from there to 4 fiberglass poles anchored by brick with holes drilled in them. It works well unless you're at the beach with 50 MPH winds as we found out. I have the equivalent of RG-178 thin coax as a feedline into the car. The KX3 is sitting on my Shack-In-A-Box case and powered from the car lighter socket. I do have a separate battery just in case or if in the field outside the car. Altogether, I made 14 contacts ranging from Florida, to Ca. to Oregon, to Az, etc. It was a good day.

*Photos on next page.*



From Bill W2IIT, #9700 —

This month I made 10 CW QRP contacts. Two were with other QRP stations. All states side, nothing really note worthy. But fun anyway.

From Neil, W2NDG, #9695 —

What I'm currently building:

- K8TND DC 40 M Receiver Kit from [QRPGuys.com](http://QRPGuys.com) FINISHED (troubleshooting)
- MMM+ 40 M Transmitter from [QRPGuys.com](http://QRPGuys.com) (designed to go with the above receiver) STARTING
- A Weber Tri-Bander from [QRPKits.com](http://QRPKits.com)
- JackAI board for uBITX (Ordering Parts)
- QCX from Hans Summers

Kit building was temporarily delayed due to a small electrical disaster in my shack. All I can say is DO NOT TRUST SPACE HEATERS ON ANYTHING BUT A DEDICATED CIRCUIT! (unless you did the wiring yourself and know what you're doing of course. whoever did the work in my 3 season room did not) I will say though that my temporary rig setup (IC-7100 at 10 Watts and AlexLoop) is a LOT more workable than I ever imagined, as well as the little Xiegu X5105 that continues to impress me.

Upcoming Talks:

I'm looking for some other venues now that I've moved out of the NYC Metro Area. If you are in an organization looking for presentations on: Computers in general, Intro to SDR, Linux, Linux for Ham Radio, Raspberry Pi, Kit Building, Digital Modes, (or suggest a new one), contact me for availability. neil(at)neilgoldstein(dot)com.

New and notable:

- Everyone is patiently (impatiently?) awaiting the arrival of Hans Summers' new QSX radio, which is a SDR transceiver initially offered as a monoband design, but will grow multiband modules soon after it is introduced. Keep an eye on the QRPLABS page as well as Hans' own website. NEW: Hans has been showing a prototype around: <https://miscdotgeek.com/qsx-update-january-2019/>
- The SDR CUBE, which is a standalone multiband rig, based on Tony Parks Softrock will be available for purchase again on or around Jan 15. They have been awaiting new cases, and in the meantime, have found much more economical sources for parts, bringing the price of this neat rig WAY down. The mini kit version is quite a bargain. Check out the listing for Midnight Design Solutions in the guide for more info. (Still waiting for the order link to become active as of this writing)
- New source that I will add to the guide: WA3NRC kits. He seems to have a few nice CW kits ranging from simple rock-bound transceivers to a more advanced 5 Watt model with a nice case.
- JackAI add-on board for the uBitx. This board, now available at [QRPGuys.com](http://QRPGuys.com) is from Jack Purdum and Al Peter. It upgrades the uBITX to a full featured transceiver. Includes: hardware IF AGC, extensive DSP audio functions for receive and send. Lots of CW features like very narrow-band filters, preset messages, and a CPO. Easy initial setup of clocks, user presets for almost everything, stored in EEPROM, 2 VFOs, RIT, on-screen band selection, and rotary encoder tuning with separate fine-tuning and frequency increment selection. All of this with nice large on-screen push buttons with graphical feedback. The board is supplied with all surface mount components pre-populated, and you source the rest based on the BOM. The firmware is open-source.



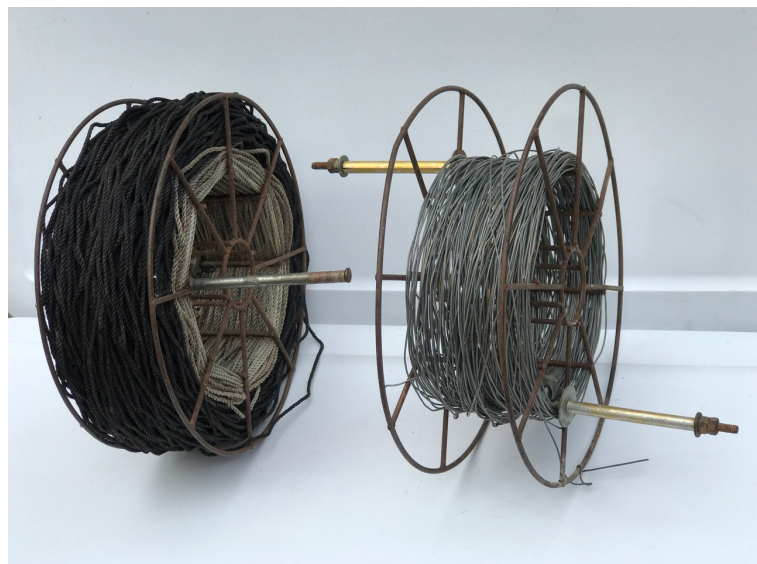
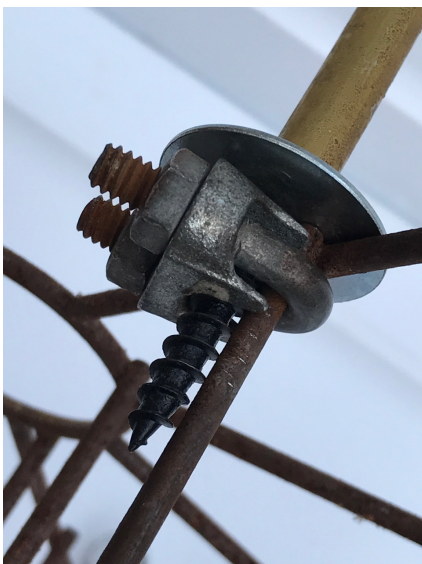
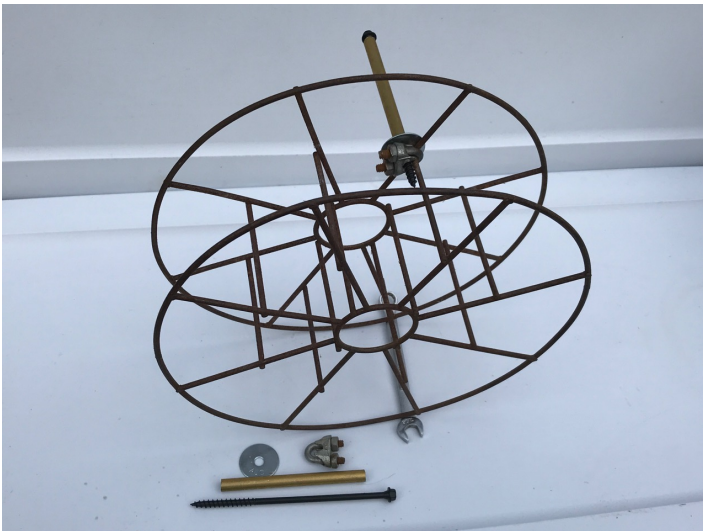
### From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

Here's a useful gadget for managing your antenna ropes & wires. It's made from a metal welding wire spool, available as a throwaway from a local metal-working shop.

The first pic shows the needed parts including the 12 inch spool with one handle already attached. Two 6 inch nails or screws are passed through 4 1/2 inch metal tubing segments and clamped onto the spool using a small cable clamp as illustrated in the closeup pic #3. I used heavy duty deck screws and aluminum tubing from a defunct TV antenna. If needed, an additional fender washer can be installed beneath the head of the screw or nail to prevent the tubing or your hand from sliding off the handle.

The fourth pic reveals two such spools, one containing several hundred feet of weathered tarred nylon line and the other used to store several lengths of electric fence wire ground radials.

Hundreds of feet of rope or wire can be rapidly wound or unwound onto the spool without fear of twists or tangling. It is best to wind the line under slight tension, avoiding slack or kinks.



# 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 9500 members world wide. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

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