

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 251 MAY 2019



## KEY CLICKS

- **FIRST CALL FOR ANNIVERSARY OPERATORS.** This year we will be celebrating our club's 15th anniversary from October 6 through 12 (UTC) and, as in past years, we need volunteers to put our special event callsign on the air during that week. No special equipment is needed other than your regular gear, your operating schedule is completely flexible, and logging "paperwork" is kept to a minimum.

This year, because of some rule changes made by the 1x1 callsign administrators, we will only be using the N3A call and will add portable designators to indicate locations. The disadvantage to this is that our calls will be a little bit longer to send, but the advantage is that we can now easily include operators in Alaska, Hawaii, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico.

One operator from each district will be exclusively designated to use the special call in the sprint that week and that person should have some previous sprint experience. But other than that there are no other special requirements. If you are a member of the NAQCC and can operate CW QRP (any speed) on one or more HF bands you qualify. There is no limit to the number of people who participate so "the more the merrier."

If you would like to be one of our special ops, or if you just need some questions answered before making a commitment please email me at the address listed on the last page of this newsletter. And if you want to be that one designated special-call sprint operator from your district let me know that as well - first come first served. (Please be sure to include your call district and NAQCC membership number in your email.) - Paul, N8XMS

- **GREAT CW ARTICLE ON EHAM.NET.** NAQCC member Howard, WB2UZE, wrote an excellent article on the advantages and attraction of CW operating that was published on the popular eHam website. You can read his article in this issue of the newsletter or if you would like to see the original, including comments that have been posted about it, go to <https://www.eham.net/articles/42673>.
- **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.

### IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
The Attraction of CW	3
Home-brew Transmitter	6
Portable 10-40m Antenna	9
Member Spotlight	14
Sprints	18
Challenges	21
Awards	25
CW Nets	26
Ham Quips	28
Chapter News	29
Member Submissions	47
About The NAQCC	49
Contacts	50

- **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 ATTRACTION OF CW

BY HOWARD, WB2UZE

*This article was originally published on the popular website [eHamnet.com](http://eHamnet.com). You can read the original, including comments that have been posted about it, at <https://www.eham.net/articles/42673>. - Editor*

## **CW: What's the attraction in today's high tech world and how does one learn it?**

Before I can answer the question why CW would be of interest to any ham in today's high tech world, let's spend some time first on how it all got started back in the day of the telegraph.

The telegraph was developed in the 1830s-1840s by Samuel Morse (1791-1872) and other inventors. It was a revolutionary long distance communication done by transmitting electrical signals over wires between stations. Morse invented a code (Morse Code) that assigned a set of dots and dashes to each letter of the English alphabet, which gave an understandable format to the electrical signals.

The first telegraph transmission in 1844 was between Washington DC and Baltimore and by 1866 an oceanic line had linked the USA and Europe. By the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century telegraph communication became the backbone of our country. Yet with the invention of the telephone, telegraph lines became of less importance in the early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. However Morse Code (CW or continuous wave) continued to be used with newly developed radio transmitters of that era. Even with the advent of AM transmission and later SSB, CW was the preferred mode for ship to shore, commercial and military applications through the 1950s due to its effectiveness to get through in poor atmospheric conditions and with compromised equipment. With the coming of microwave, fax and satellites, CW use waned but maintained its major use amongst the amateur radio community.

So is there value in CW today or is it a lost art of the past? Let's take look back to what it was like when I first got my license in 1965 when CW was still required by the FCC. The FCC required all entry level Novices to be able to copy 5 words per minute. Back then there were no computers, internet or software for learning CW so an aspiring Novice had to seek out a local ham to help with learning CW and theory. That local ham would also give the Novice exam and code test. There were no repeaters so most all hams were HF active and imparted these skills to their eager students. So there was a direct connection between aspiring Novices and established HF operators. Seeing the experienced operators handling CW at high speeds was fascinating and motivating. There was also something very engaging about hearing CW over what we now call Boat Anchor radios. When one tuned one of those vintage radio and saw the glow of tubes, it felt like real solid equipment which we developed admiration and respect for. For some older hams today, the need to own those very rigs is due to this same connection made years ago.

Once we became Novices, we were not allowed to have VFO privileges and we worked off crystals. This meant we were stuck with a handful of individual frequencies. Our first receivers were not the best and we had to learn to receive CW with drifting receivers, poor sensitivity and no selectivity, the very things we take for granted in modern radios. These challenges made us excellent listeners and with that our speeds and CW skills increased as we progressed in the hobby. Back then to get a General license 13 words per minute was required and 20 for the Extra. As we became more proficient to reach these required speeds we developed head copy and CW became a language and not a series of dots and dashes. This is why many of the older hams are still preferring CW to voice and digital as they have developed a strong connection to the CW mode. To me there is nothing more satisfying in the ham radio hobby than having a CW QSO at a rapid speed with the challenge of copying in poor conditions, making few sending mistakes.

So getting back to the original purpose of this article: why should we be interested in CW today? I can list a host of reasons as follows:

- CW can get out better when the ham has a compromised antenna or low power. CW is ideal for QRP and portable operations. With weak signals it's harder to comprehend SSB than it is CW so CW has a clear advantage.
- CW can be copied easier in today's poor atmospheric conditions
- Sometimes it's nice to operate your radio and not have to physically talk
- CW bands are less crowded than the SSB portions so there is less competition to make a contact
- The challenge to send CW well is always there. We call that 'having a good fist'
- CW is like a language and it's no doubt good exercise for one's cognitive health and hearing
- Knowing CW requires a good knowledge of operating techniques and protocols which will challenge the individual ham

So one might ask, why CW if we have FT8 or other digital modes which can also get out in poor conditions. The digital modes leave most of the skill to a computer where CW is 100% the skill of the operator. To me it is truly more rewarding to make a CW QSO than sit idly by a computer and have it done for you, yet this is for any ham a personal choice.

Since CW was eliminated from the FCC license requirements in 1991, exams have been issued by Voluntary Examiners. In many cases after the exam, there is no longer any connection between the examiner and the new licensee. Most new hams think that our hobby all revolves around an HT and repeaters. Some have no idea of the thrill of operating on the HF bands or the attraction of CW. Unfortunately a lot of these new hams become inactive as they are not engaged. And with this deficit of active hams, when it comes to contests like Field Day and other special events, the demand for CW operators far exceeds what is available today.

So what is there to do about this? I myself along with my friend Rich K2UPS decided to make a difference. In 2018 we established the Long Island CW Club ([longislandcwclub.org](http://longislandcwclub.org)). We teach CW via an internet video conference platform at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels. Students get actual QSO training also by video conference for honing technique and increasing skill. We have found the interest very high from the students and everyone is having a lot of fun. The retro-ness of CW is very appealing in today's fast moving world and it's nice to make a connection to the bands with art and skill. It does take some dedication to learn CW and this commitment, like learning any language is not for everyone. So how does one learn CW?

- Using a combination of what is called the Koch and Farnsworth method, we send the CW at 20 words per minute character speed but the spacing between letters is 5 words per minute. This will acclimate the student to higher speeds from the beginning and prevent the counting of the dots and dashes which will only slow the learning curve
- We teach 11 classes of 1 hour per week at various levels. For the beginners, the student is needing to practice 15-20 minutes daily using G4FON cw software and 4 letters and or numbers are taught per week.
- Sending skills are honed along the way
- QSO skills are taught live as soon as a student can send their call sign and 599. We feel it's important to get students on the air quickly to help mitigate any fears and to see the value of their studies.



Like the learning of any language, I must admit there is a dropout rate as some students find out they don't have the time or commitment. However for those who stick it out, they are rewarded by carrying on a skill and tradition that is most enjoyable and unique.

I hope after reading this article, hams that were considering to learn CW or had it on the 'back burner', will now spring into action. See you on the lower part of the HF bands!



# HOME-BREW TRANSMITTER BY HAL, WA2AKV

*Hal, WA2AKV, is working on a project that many of us dream of - A home-brew transmitter based on the information in Wes Howard's book, Experimental Methods in RF Design. He submitted this article describing his initial steps in this project. We anticipate that more will follow in the coming months. - Editor*

I started my career in the early 80s designing combinatorial and sequential logic circuits back when the LS 7400 TTL series ICs were popular. I broke into the software field around 1986 and have been designing and coding software for the last 30 years. I literally had not touched a soldering iron since high school, plus, I was pretty rusty on my AC and RF circuit theory. So, last November 2018, after joining the W2LCW CW Club and the LI Chapter of the NAQCC, I started a Home Brew QRP CW transmitter project. I figured I could build AND learn something in the process!

I came across Wes Hayward's book "Experimental Methods in RF Design". The practical construction and measurement tips caught my eye. However, the book is loaded with in-depth circuit descriptions, theory and best of all, practical "experiments" stressing measurements during the building process. Wow, exactly what I wanted – an Elmer in a book! I started my first transmitter!

I soon realized this was going to be a quite a challenging project. Not only did I need to brush up on RF theory, my mechanical-circuit building skills were pretty rusty if not totally absent and not to mention, I had no parts or even test equipment! Heck, I had more test equipment in high- school!

Collecting parts and building test equipment was my first step. I scrounged some parts then built and tested the RF watt meter described in the first chapter of Hayward's book. I then acquired an oscilloscope, function generator, and a very nice Simpson model 260 VOM donated by an electrician friend. I've also amassed a zillion new and used components from various Internet distributors, ham fests, auctions, friends, flea markets and fire-sales.

Because the builder has a lot of discretion in choosing components, the book stresses periodic measurements and urges the builder to experiment and measure. Therefore, the circuit design, construction and operation can be verified along the way without getting too far down the road where troubleshooting might overwhelm the beginner.

For example, when making the broad-band 4:1 transformer that couples the oscillator-buffer stage to the amplifier – one can choose a range of toroid sizes, core mixes and number of turns of wire. Designing toroidal coils and transformers is a subject in itself! The ARRL Handbook sections on Practical Inductors and the section on Ferrite Toroidal Inductors are most helpful and comprehensive. Just this one aspect of the transmitter has led me on quite a learning adventure, more on this subject later.

I've included some pictures of the transmitter, wattmeter and inductance test circuit. Next steps are to construct a small 2-3 watt power amp, an output low pass filter, and a shaped keying circuit. I can already receive its tiny signal on my Yaesu FT-817 and on my SDR! I can't wait to get this thing on the air.

Figure 1 shows the first few stages. It is built using the “ugly construction” method on a piece of scrap circuit board. The transistors are inexpensive 2N222s. The scope shown above displays a nice clean sine wave. Here I’m measuring the peak-to-peak and rms voltage at the output across a 50 ohm resistor temporarily tack soldered to ground. Using the oscilloscope, measured output power is about 88 mW. This is less than 50% of the 250 mW expected. At this point there are several things I need to check and correct to verify my implementation. Foremost is to find why the output power is low before proceeding with the PA, filter and keying circuit.

To cross-check the output power, I built a simple RF watt meter based on the circuit description (pg 1.16) in Hayward’s book. The readings on the meter compare favorably with the oscilloscope measurements, about 88 mW. Being able to cross reference measurements using two methods has given me confidence to proceed.

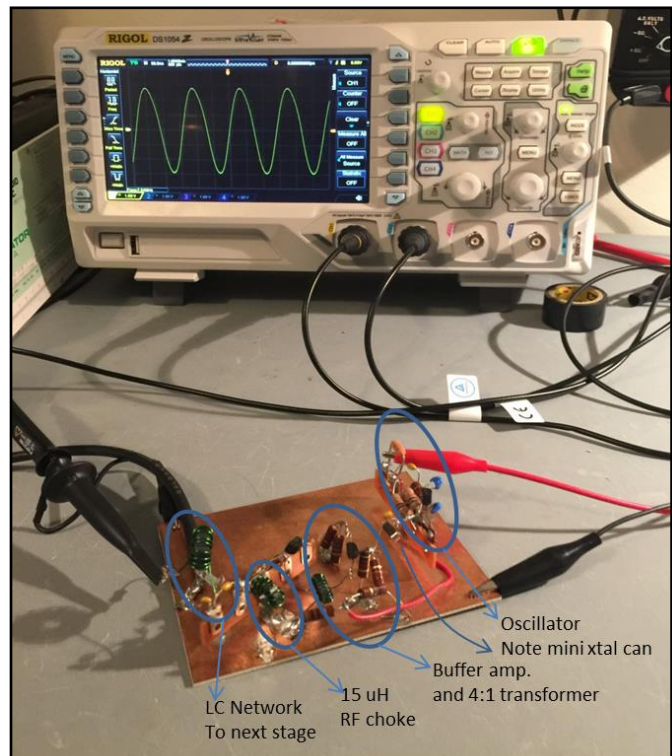


Figure 1: First Few Stages

The watt meter has two ranges (0-4W and 0-4mW) and two input ports respectively. I cross referenced the Watt meter with my Yaesu FT-817 running .5 and 2.5 Watts.

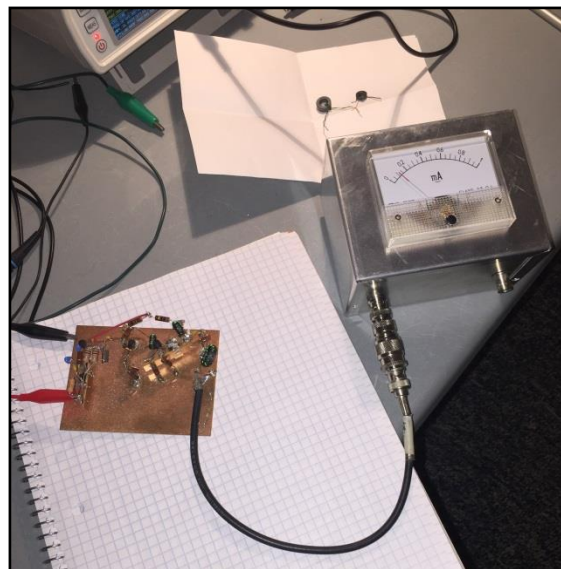


Figure 2: The RF Watt Meter

As I said previously, inductors were a quandary for me. I needed an easy way to measure inductance with the tools at hand. I found a nice video tutorial<sup>1</sup> by N2CUA on the subject at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=01Ebd6eR7Lw>. The test circuit is quite simple. I made a sketch in my note book.

<sup>1</sup> N2CUA, May 27, 2013 [YouTube.com](https://www.youtube.com)

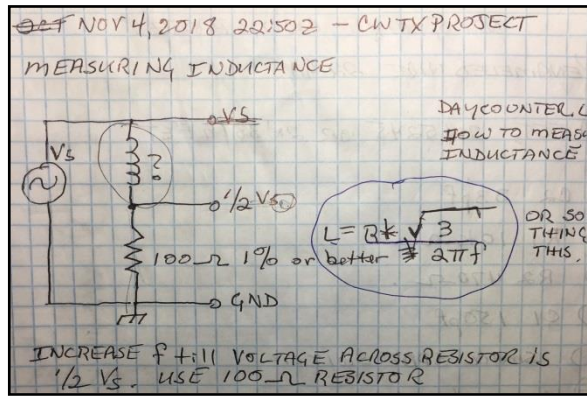


Figure 3: Inductance Test Circuit

The inductance test jig is invaluable. The values obtained on the oscilloscope compared closely with toroid calculators found on the Web and with formulas in the ARRL Handbook. It gave me a lot of confidence knowing that I could measure actual values and compare with calculations.

My next few notes will address the issue of lower than expected output power, the PA, low pass filter and shaped keying circuit. I have already refreshed a ton of radio theory that has lain dormant from 30 years in the virtual world of software development. This is exactly why I choose this project. Hope to catch you on the air and keep learning!

72 Hal/WA2AKV

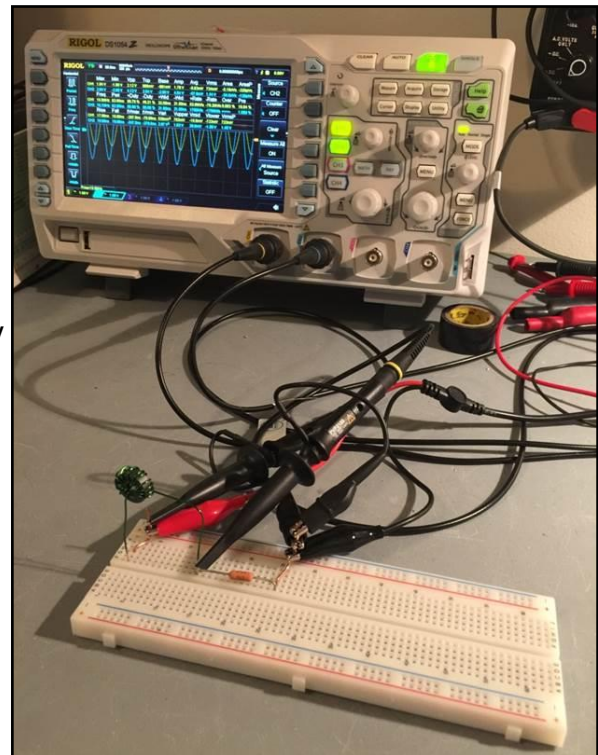


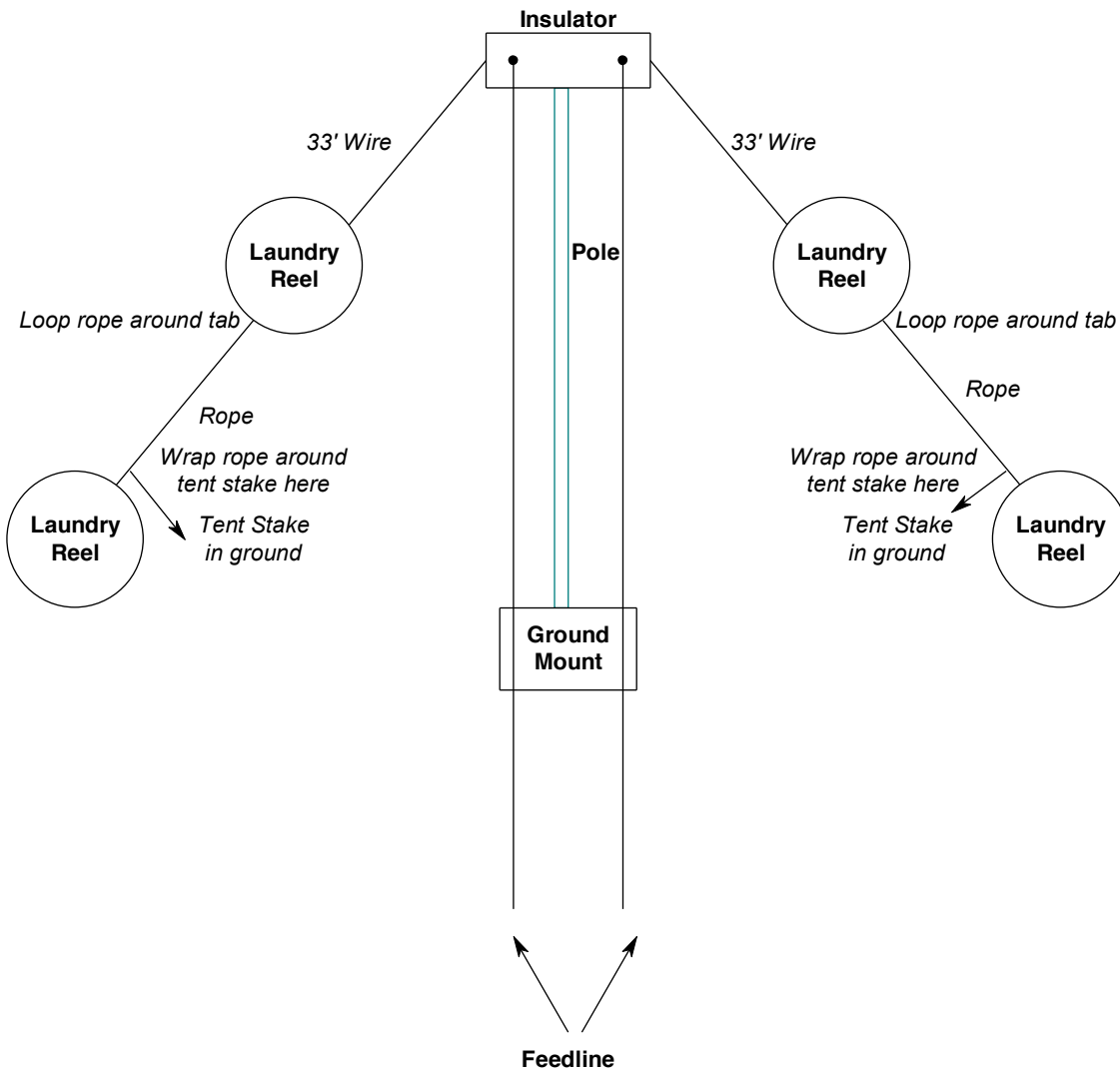
Figure 4: Inductance Test



# PORTABLE 10-40M ANTENNA BY JOHN, W2XS

I have tried many antennas for QRP portable operating: center-fed dipoles, end-fed half wave wires, end-fed “random” length wires, loaded verticals, etc. While many of them worked fine, my favorite is still the center-fed dipole (or, inverted vee) fed with twinlead. It is the best performer overall, takes only a few minutes to set up in the field, and works on all bands from 40m to 10m. It needs a tuner and a balun (or, a “balanced” tuner), but the results have always been good. I have even used it at home a few times when my main antenna succumbed to the high winds of a storm.

The prices that I am listing are “ballpark” prices just for estimating. You can do a search for the items here and find the best prices.



## **The Pole (\$85)**

Several companies are offering the Fiberglas telescopic masts now. I've mainly used the Jackite 27-foot pole but the 31-foot is also a good choice.



<https://www.jackite.com/antenna>

[https://www.bestnest.com/bestnest/RTPProduct.asp?SKU=JAC-FIBPOLE-GRN-31&src=froogle&kw=JAC-FIBPOLE-GRN-31&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIx-3E1Ov83wIVAorlCh0vEwc1EAQYAyABEgJ4SPD\\_BwE](https://www.bestnest.com/bestnest/RTPProduct.asp?SKU=JAC-FIBPOLE-GRN-31&src=froogle&kw=JAC-FIBPOLE-GRN-31&gclid=EA1aIQobChMIx-3E1Ov83wIVAorlCh0vEwc1EAQYAyABEgJ4SPD_BwE)

The MFJ model 1910 33' pole looks interesting, and several people in the club have them and like them.

<https://www.mfjenterprises.com/Product.php?productid=MFJ-1910>

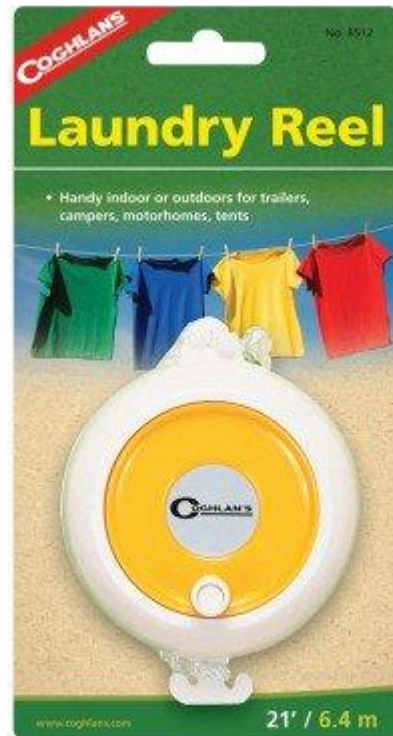
Spiderbeam has a nice 40' pole for \$109:

[http://www.spiderbeam.us/product\\_info.php?info=p3\\_Spiderbeam%20HD%2012m%20fiberglass%20pole.html](http://www.spiderbeam.us/product_info.php?info=p3_Spiderbeam%20HD%2012m%20fiberglass%20pole.html)



### **The Camping Laundry Reel (\$4 each)**

This is my favorite part of this antenna. Buy 4 of them. Use two for the antenna wire by removing the rope (I use 33 feet on each side). Use the other two as they are as ropes to secure the antenna ends to the ground stakes. Walmart, etc., sells these things. The come apart very easily and I clean them once in a while.



<https://www.amazon.com/Coghlan's-Laundry-Reel/dp/B06WVRV53Y>

### **Tent Stakes (\$4)**

Any kind will do. Use 2 of them, one for each leg of the antenna.



### **The Center Insulator (\$2)**

I use a small piece of Plexiglas for the center insulator with 3 small holes drilled in it. I use a twist-tie to secure it to the ring on the top section of the pole. I have also used a small PVC pipe coupling section from the local hardware store.

### **The Feedline (\$6)**

300-ohm TV-type twin lead is getting harder to find. I bought 50 feet from Radio Shack. I see that Fry's Electronics is selling 50 feet for \$6! I intend to buy some while I can.

[https://www.frys.com/product/5231747?source=google&gclid=EAlaIqobChMln8Wj7e\\_83wIVDlvICh1mnwj0EAQYAiABEgJuJ\\_D\\_BwE](https://www.frys.com/product/5231747?source=google&gclid=EAlaIqobChMln8Wj7e_83wIVDlvICh1mnwj0EAQYAiABEgJuJ_D_BwE)

There was a discussion of this very topic on a forum on eHam.net:

<https://www.eham.net/ehamforum/smf/index.php?topic=96625.0>

### **The Pole Ground Mount (\$5 to \$35)**

There are several ways to mount the pole in the ground. Jackite used to have a mount for the 28'/31' poles but I no longer see it on their website.

1. Cut one end of a piece of PVC pipe on a 45 degree angle. Slip the pole inside the other end for mounting.
2. Buy an umbrella mount like the Earthworm. Make sure it's wide enough to accept the pole diameter. <http://theearthworm.com/>
3. Buy a cement-base umbrella stand from Ace hardware. This works well but weighs 35 lbs.
4. Use a modified ACE beach umbrella sand anchor (from W2OSR in May 2018).
5. Bungee-cord the pole to a fence or fence pole.
6. Insert the pole into a slightly larger section of PVC pipe and use U-bolts and a 3' threaded rod into the ground.
7. This guy has some good ideas. Download the manual from his Jackite page. <http://hamsource.com/>

### **The Tuner and Balun (\$40 + \$15)**

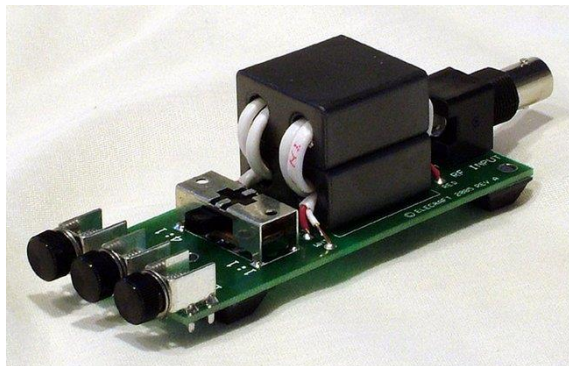
I use the built-in tuners of my Elecraft KX2 and K1 rigs. To connect to the antenna feedline, I use a 4:1 balun. Several companies make the baluns, including Elecraft and QRP Guys. Balanced tuners are available from QRP Guys and also QRP Kits, among others.

<https://elecraft.com/products/bl2-balun>  
<https://qrpguys.com/qrpguys-11-41-voltage-baluns>  
<https://qrpguys.com/multi-tuner>  
[https://www.qrpkits.com/blt\\_plus.html](https://www.qrpkits.com/blt_plus.html)

### **Fun Fact on Elecraft Baluns**

I did not like the angle that the redline wire made when attached to the BL1 or BL2 balun. So I bought the “straight” connectors from Digi Key. The Elecraft (old - right angle) part number is 36-8190-ND. The new (straight) part number is 36-8191-ND. I had to add some washers as shims but it looks much better!

Here’s the old “right angle connectors” picture:



72,

John, W2XS  
Northport, NY

# 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.



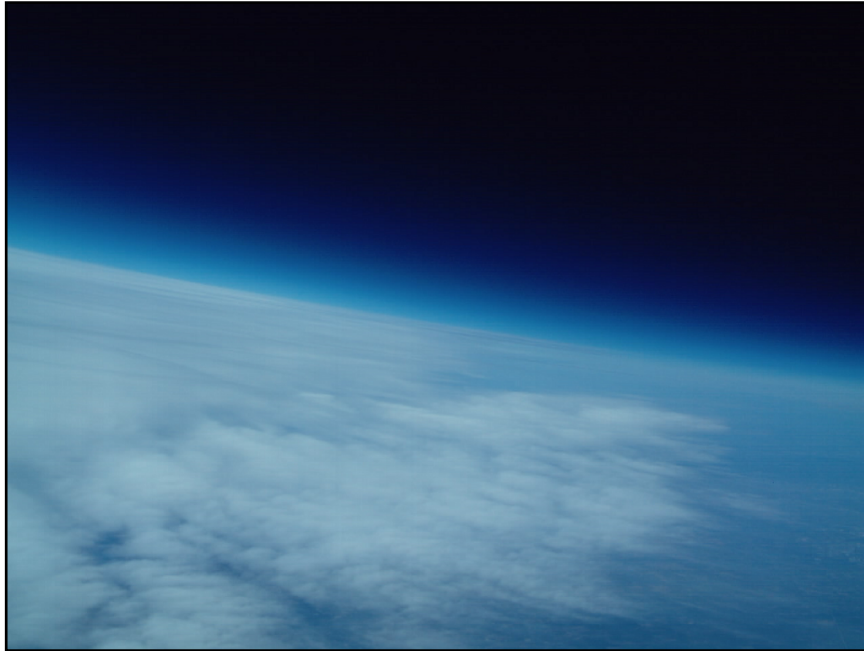
**RICHARD DODD, K4KRW, #1815**

I have been a licensed ham since 2001. I had been intrigued with radio most of my life. At times we had neighbors who were hams. We always had shortwave radios. My grandfather had a nice Zenith Trans-Oceanic that I loved playing with. I participated in the CB craze in the mid 70s.

I finally got my Technician license 2001. But, I was really interested in HF and CW so I didn't initially use it. Finally, in 2005 I buckled down and passed the 5 wpm code test and passed the General test. My Elmer (Dave K8ZK) talked me into buying a Yaesu FT-897D. I built an 80m Carolina Windom and I started having fun. I got my Extra in 2006 and decided to change my call sign to K4KRW as my original call sign (KG4PBG) absolutely had to be said phonetically on the air to be understood.

Early on I really had no idea where ham radio would take me. Initially, I enjoyed playing on the HF bands and I found that my CW skills gradually improved enough that CW became my main operating mode. I did play some with PSK-31 until the macros took over. I did do a small amount voice operating too.

In 2006 my elmer Dave and I decided that we'd launch a weather balloon with ham gear and cameras on board, track it and recover it. We had followed online some other groups doing this and thought it would be fun. Our first balloon went to 72,000 feet and traveled over 100 miles down range. What a blast. It was like running our own little NASA. We used APRS to track the payload. We got some great pictures and the picture from 72,000 feet is on my QSL card. Here is that picture:



After that launch we ended up assisting a professor at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte's Geology department with their 'SkyMiner' remote sensing project. Over the next few years we launched four more balloons.

The biggest coincidence with a flight happened with SkyMiner 3. We launched it into marginal weather because it was our last launch window. The semester was about to end and the students needed to fly their payloads. It took 15 minutes for the balloon to get to 8000 feet. This would normally happen in about 5 minutes but it got caught up in a rain storm. The balloon finally made it to 75000 feet, popped and then crashed right across the state line into South Carolina. The recovery crew knocked on the door of the house on the property where the balloon had landed. It turns out that the homeowner was a retired NASA engineer who had worked on the first weather satellites. He had plaques where he had worked on the Apollo missions. What a day.

This picture was from the Launch of SkyMiner 4.

SkyMiner4 was a perfect flight. It happened on a perfectly clear Carolina blue sky day. I remember looking up and following that tiny white dot. I could see it with my bare eyes when it was at 80,000 feet. I even saw it pop. When it disappeared I looked down and sure enough the APRS telemetry showed it descending. That was amazing.





Since then I have mostly been operating QRP, working on my CW skills and building and collecting radios. My first build was a KD1JV Appalachian Trail Sprint IIIA which is a four-band rig that fits in an Altoid tin. I built that radio in the winter of 2006. It got me hooked on QRP. The following April of 2007 I was welcomed into NAQCC as 1815 by John K3WWP.

My favorite rig that I've built is a Wilderness Radio Sierra. What a sweet little rig. It is just a joy to use. I have all of the band modules. My first ever Alaska contact was when I had just finished aligning the 10 meter band module. I was running a screaming 500 mW and I ran across an Alaska station. I could not believe he heard my little signal.

The picture at the top of this article is me using my Sierra at Sunset Beach, NC in 2012. I am on the beach and the antenna is an end-fed wire running up a kite string. What fun. Nowadays I use my KX3.

My favorite QRP kit that I bought used is an Oak Hills Research OHR-500. It is a very close second to the Sierra. It has a crazy quiet receiver and a good strong audio amp that will drive a speaker well. It is nice not having to change band modules. But it also doesn't have as many bands as the Sierra. I also wish it had the Sierra's bandwidth knob. But everything that is there works very well.

Another special rig that I built is a Software Controlled Radio from the March 2016 QST. It has a VFO made from an Arduino and a DDS. I write software for a living so I decided to write my own software to control the radio. I added a lot of functionality including a menu system, RIT, selectable positive or negative receive offset, automatically varying tuning increment, voltage display and a switchable CW filter. I also integrated some CW keyer logic I found online. It turned out really nice and I ended up winning in the homebrew transceiver category at Four Days in May with it in 2017. I made a video where I demo the rig. Just search for K4KRW on Youtube or click here: <https://youtu.be/cLA14vGqYcE>

My most whimsical rig is a Four States QRP Group Bayou Jumper with the Souper Upper accessory board. It is a 40-meter rig and is rock bound on transmit and has a regenerative receiver. It is surprisingly very usable. It puts out a solid five watts and everything about it is just fun. I have six crystals for it. Here is a picture of my Bayou Jumper.



My best rig is a KX3. What an absolute wonder. The more I use it the more I admire it.



My latest work to improve my station is a new 80-meter doublet. I love making antennas. For my home station I have only ever used 1 antenna that I didn't build myself and I won that one at a hamfest.

My best paddles set is a Begali Pearl that my friends badgered me mercilessly into buying at Dayton in 2017. I later bought a Begali Blade straight key. They are both wonderful. I also have a nice Bencher BY-1 with custom wood finger pieces by Gregg WB8LZG. I won the finger pieces from NAQCC after the 2015 160-meter sprint where I somehow managed two contacts on my 80-meter dipole.

The best thing about ham radio is the friends I have made. My elmer Dave and I are still very close. There is a group of hams that meet pretty regularly on one of the local repeaters in the morning. We are all techie types and love talking about whatever project we are working on at the time.

At hamfests, the thing I enjoy most is seeing friends I don't get to see all of the time. Sometimes I'm lucky enough to get to put a face with a call sign like I did when Charles (W2SH) stopped me at Dayton the first year I went (2017).

I absolutely love operating in the NAQCC sprints. NAQCC is definitely my favorite club and the sprints are the favorite thing I do on the air. I run into many of you regularly and I enjoy every contact. I have even operated the NAQCC sprints from a beach house at Sunset Beach, NC while on vacation. Three times I have used an end fed sloper running from the top of the house down to a palm tree near the ground. It worked great.

As for the rest of the information. I'm 57 years old. My dad was an Air Force pilot who flew KC-135A aircraft (and many others). He passed away last August. I was a boom operator (inflight refueling specialist) on the very same planes my dad flew on except mine were then KC-135R models and had shiny new CFM-56 high bypass fans (86 to 90). I graduated from Campbell University in the metropolis of Buies Creek, NC in 1992 with a degree in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. I live in Charlotte, NC with my wife of 24 years, Emma. I have three wonderful daughters. I have been writing software in one form or another since 1980. I have proudly been a total geek since forever. Thank you for your time and I hope to run into you on the bands.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** Our sprint this month will be from 0030-0230 Z on May 16th. That's the evening of Wednesday the 15th here in North America. Complete information about can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201905.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:** 107 logs were submitted for our April sprint and the exciting news is that 12 of them were from first-time submitters! those 1st timers are listed below. Many participants reported improved conditions over last month although we are also starting to see those QRN reports from spring thunderstorms start to pop up. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201904.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: K2IZ K4INC KA9KOJ KC2DQV KI4IO KQ7L N4NN NR9E VE2VAB W6JIM W6SMF W8EWH

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	W1PQO
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	AA2VG
W3	K3ESE	AH6AX	N3LPJ
W4	K9EZ	K4INC	K4KRW
W5	N5GW	K5MBA	KA5TJS
W6	W6UG	K6MGO	-
W7	KC7DM	-	-
W8	NF8M	N8BB	WB8LZG
W9	WB9HFK	KA9FQG	K9QEW
W0	N0TA	NN0SS	AD0YM
Canada	VA3NU	VE2VAB	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	K3WWP	-	-
W4	K3RLL	-	-
W5	W5ODS	NF5U	K5GQ
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	N8XMS	K8NGW	-
W9	AA9L	K9DRP	N9SE
W0	KD0V W0KFG (TIE)	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N2CN	-
W2	WA1GWH	K2ZD	K2IZ
W3	-	-	-
W4	AC6ZM	K7EK	N4MJ
W5	WD5RS	WI5H	NQ5M
W6	W6JIM	W6SMF	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	N9CX	WA8SAN	K3CTN
W9	NN9K	-	-
W0	AA0W	K0EW	WD0K
Canada	VE3GNU	VE3DQN	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	K4BAI	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	K4INC	KI4IO	KC2DQV
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	K2IZ	W8EWH	W6JIM
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
K4RHG			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	107	95	217	4/17
Participants	146	125	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1585	1331	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	863	713	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	722	618	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	46	6	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1178	798	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	361	527	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	14.8	14.0	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 NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN WI5H
75+	K4NVJ KE5YUM KB3AAG WB8ENE K4KRW N2ESE VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO KA9FQG
100+	KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK
125+	W9CC W2SH WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI
150+	W2JEK KA2KGP K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Our challenge this month is an alphabet challenge with a list of words that are all related to the famous Paraset "spy radio" of WWII. The complete list of words along with some interesting information about this famous radio can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201905.html>.

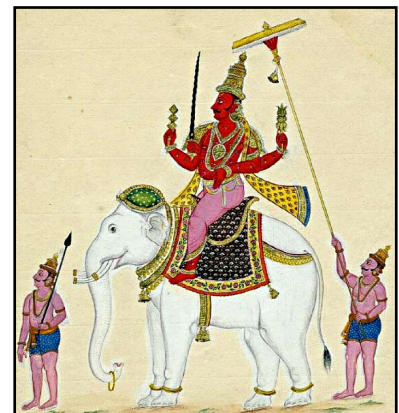
**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The June challenge will also be an alphabet challenge dealing with a rather amazing event in US history - the Molasses Flood of 1919. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201906.html>.

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 April "Why Do We Say That" challenge is still a few days away but preliminary results can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201903.html>. Final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month. Here is some additional information about those curious phrases:

## White Elephant

According to legend, if someone angered a Siamese king, he might receive the gift of a white elephant, which was regarded as a sacred animal and had to be treated accordingly. This was tremendously expensive and often drove the recipient into financial ruin. Today a "white elephant" is anything that is a burden to own.



## Crocodile Tears

A display of false sorrow is described as shedding "crocodile tears". The saying started with a medieval belief that crocodiles shed tears of sadness while they kill and consume their prey. The myth goes back to the 14th century and comes from a book called "The Travels of Sir John Mandeville", which describes the knight's travels through Asia. During his fictional travels he encounters crocodiles and says, "These serpents sley men, and eat them weeping, and they have no tongue."





### Read The Riot Act

Today we threaten to “read the riot act”, a nonexistent document, to those who misbehave. In the 18th-century England, the Riot Act was a real document, often read aloud to angry mobs. It gave the British government the authority to label groups of more than 12 people a threat to the peace. A public official would read a portion of the Riot Act and order the people to “disperse themselves, and peaceably depart to their habitations.” Anyone that remained after one hour was subject to arrest or removal by force.



### Paint The Town Red

The use of “paint the town red” likely began with an out of control bender in the English town of Melton Mowbray. In 1837, the Marquis of Waterford and a group of friends staged a night of drunken pranks and vandalism throughout the town. The crowning glory of their spree was the painting of a tollgate, the doors of several homes and a swan statue with red paint. This began the use of “paint the town red” to describe a wild night out.



### By And Large

As far back as the 16th century, the nautical use of “large” meant a ship was sailing with the wind at its back. The term “by,” or “full and by,” meant the vessel was traveling into a headwind. For mariners, “by and large” referred to trawling the seas in any and all directions relative to the wind. Today we now use this phrase to mean “all things considered” or “for the most part”.





### Mad As A Hatter

Describing someone who's prone to unpredictable behavior as "mad as a hatter" is not a reference to the Lewis Carroll character from Alice in Wonderland. It comes from the 18th and 19th century hat-making industry and mercury poisoning. Industrial workers used mercury nitrate, in the process of turning the fur of small animals into felt for hats. Exposure to mercury caused a variety of physical and mental ailments, including tremors known as "hatter's shakes", speech problems, emotional instability and hallucinations.



### Running Amok

"Running amok" is commonly used to describe wild or erratic behavior, but the phrase actually began as a medical term. In the 18th and 19th centuries, European visitors to Malaysia learned of a peculiar mental affliction that caused otherwise normal tribesmen to go on brutal and seemingly random killing sprees. Amok was derived from the "Amuco," a band of Javanese and Malay warriors known for indiscriminate violence. Writing in 1772, the famed explorer Captain James Cook noted that "to run amok is to ... sally forth from the house, kill the person or persons supposed to have injured the Amock, and any other person that attempts to impede his passage." Once thought to be the result of possession by evil spirits, the phenomenon later found its way into psychiatric manuals. It remains a diagnosable mental condition to this day.



**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 AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB
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: 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](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_2xqrp.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 1000 MPW AWARD

0545 N2GSL DL5YM - 1,333 04/25/19 Buddipole vertical



# 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 QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 5:00 PM PDT 6:00 PM PDT 8:30 PM PT	Monday 0000 Z 0100 Z 0330 Z	5348 KHz ch2 7046 KHz 3556 KHz	60m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	3564 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MD	Tues & Thurs 2200/2230 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	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 manager Wayne, NQ0RP, is visiting his "home digs" in the UK so we had the NCS guys send their reports directly to me this month. If I've left anything off or made a mistake someplace (highly likely) I apologize. - Editor*

## NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

### NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)  
 Sunday evenings 6:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 7046 kHz +/-  
 Sunday evenings 8:30 PM PDT, which is Monday 0330 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 CDT, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

4/2/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KA5YUM

YGA was 579 or better and YUM was up and down so Andy relayed for me to Terry. Good signal from AR. tonight. I was running 5 watts for the whole net.

4/9/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KA5YUM

Good net, YUM was 559 QRP on new random wire antenna. YGA checked in but was gone when I called him.

4/16/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KA5YUM

Still on 80 meters and YUM was 559 just above the noise QRP on his EF random wire antenna. Solid copy most of the time. YGA was QRO and 599 for most of the time.

Major storms Saturday for all of us but no damage at the QTH. Great news.

4/23/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KA5YUM

YUM was hitting 579 QRP, good signal and YGA was 589 QRO. 80 meters is still hanging in there. YUM was using his new EF wire antenna from the QRP guys. It is working very well. He gave me a 579 and I was QRP as well.

Allen KA5TJS

=====

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

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MDT, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MDT, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.

Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

=====

**NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)**

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 01:30 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC

2019/04/15 QNI W0CC, N8HWV

QRN S-8. Several stations on adjacent frequencies. Nate did a GREAT job pulling out my signal!

2019/04/22 QNI W0CC, N8HWV

QRN S-8 More stations out. Had one call that I could not "pull out" of the noise. Hopefully, they will be here next week!

2019/04/29 QNI W0CC

QRN S-8. Several stations around 7.031 with VERY wide signals and need to move up to 7.0328 to find a "space". Next week will be better!

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

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

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

04-12-2019 QNI (6) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, N7TB, AD7BP, WB4SPB, K7JUV

04-19-2019 QNI (5) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV

04-26-2019 QNI PNW NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW/7, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV, N7KC

05-03-2019 PNW QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, N7KC, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG.

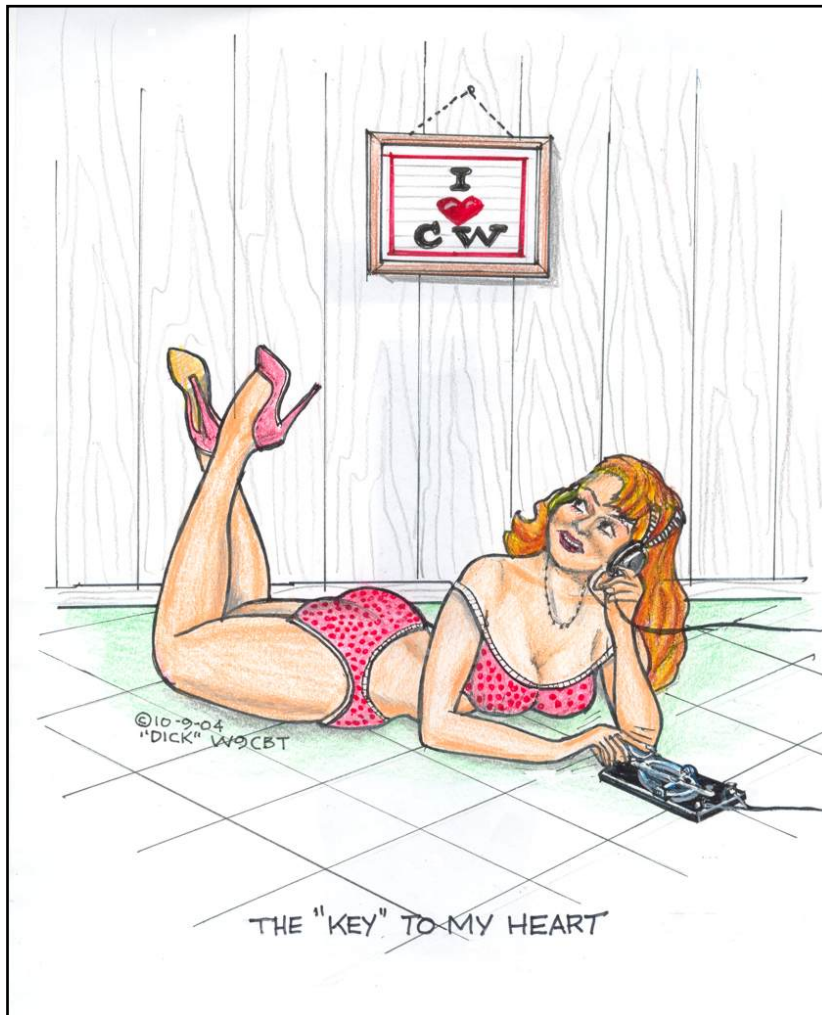
Stewart KE7LKW, Randy WB4SPB, George KG7JEB



# 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).





# 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.

*The NAQCC Long Island chapter joined with the Great South Bay ARC to put special event station W2LCW on the air for Marconi Day, April 27th, from near the location of an original Marconi operator training school. Band conditions were very poor, and as a QRP activity, they struck out, but at 100-watts our beloved CW mode showed itself well and undoubtedly impressed the SSB operators present from the GSB ARC. Here is a summary report about the event along with a few pictures. - Editor*

### **RECAP: International Marconi Day April 27 2019 special event station W2LCW**

What a fun event the NAQCC Long Island chapter had on Marconi Day in partnership with Great South Bay ARC (GSB) who ran the SSB/digital portion. First lets take a moment to review what this was all about:

Purpose:

Marconi had a training school in 1901 at Babylon, Long island NY and the house is still there today. Students would live there while taking radio operation courses and there was an antenna and equipped station in a shack that was on the property. That shack was moved in 1930 from Babylon to Rocky Point, Long Island, NY as a gift from the inventor Armstrong to the then head of RCA David Sarnoff. RCA had the largest transmitting station in the world at Rocky Point. That shack is presently at a the Rocky Point high school but the RCA location was unfortunately totally demolished in the 1970s. The historic shack and the training school photos are included here.

We operated in a beautiful marina, less than a 1/2 mile away from where the Marconi Babylon school was located and in honor of the event the local village made a wonderful and accurate replica of the shack. This was the first time this Marconi site was recognized in amateur radio. Other sites in the US and worldwide were activated and the website for more information is: [gx4crc.com](http://gx4crc.com). You can also visit the Village of Babylon Facebook page for their video and photos of the day.

Background:

We were very lucky there was no rain as the day before brought tremendous thunder storms. We did have to put up with a constant 20 mph wind with 30 mph gusts that made putting up antennas challenging and unfortunately on 2 occasions blew our food and Salli K2RYD amazing cake off our table. That cake was a copy of a vintage Viking Valliant transmitter.

The Village of Babylon placed the Marconi shack replica in an ideal spot and we were allowed to set up a CW station inside of it. The other CW/digital stations 'grew up' near by the shack and the SSB station run by GSB was about 500 feet away. This wound up being a bit too close for 100w stations as we did have some interference even using bandpass filters. But we wanted to set up near each other so the local community could easily see us in action in one spot. Besides the village, many Long Island chapters of the Sons of Italy were invited, being this was in honor of Marconi an Italian-American.

Set up:

We had the following stations with special thanks to each individual for making them available:

Walt W2TE: CW in the shack: IC7600 with jackite inverted vee

Mike N2PPI: CW-FT897D with jackite longwire and Digital FT857D to Magloop

Peter AA2VG: CW- IC7300 to Buddypole

Gary KE2YK: CW TS440AT to vertical

John W2HCB brought down the GSB trailer which is fully outfitted with 3 IC7100 and one was used on SSB by Salli K2RYD. Lou NO2C also brought down his truck mounted vertical but a total of 3 different antennas were tried on SSB to attempt to maximize output in poor 20m conditions. One of these antennas was put up by Bob W2OSR and Mike KD2AMZ

Narrative:

The bands were poor with only 40m open until early afternoon when 20m and 30m cracked open. We tried CW QRP but it was ineffective in the poor conditions so we had to maintain 100w to make our special event productive. 40m had a good CW run and so did the 20m digital station. Due to very poor band conditions, the other CW stations had to hunt. We did reach Europe a few times and all over the USA on CW and digital. SSB did not find much activity on 20m so that was a bit disappointing but everyone tried their best.

The Village politicians and historians visited and were very pleased with our setup and mission. There were some local residents and Sons of Italy folks that came down. We had a good turn out from members of the NAQCC LI chapter and GSB. Everyone who participated had a great time and we could see a lot of camaraderie and smiles during the day.

Our next QRP outing will be in May when we will not have pressure to make QSOs as a special event station.







*Original Marconi Shack*



*Marconi training school, Babylon, NY.*



*KD2NFS in front of Marconi house.*





*Local village officials visited the event.*



*N2PPI and N2GSL*



*KE2YK, W2DAB, and KA2CAQ*



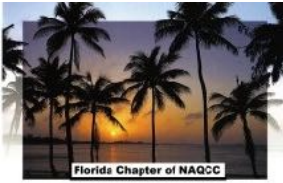
*W2ABK and K2RYD*



*AA2VG*



## 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 2019



#### *A return to a nice one!*

On Friday, April 26, 2019 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned at a “newer” local park - one that’s been “adopted” 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. 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.

Our adventure this morning had us worried - the weather forecast was NOT good. Rain and high winds were predicted with the peak at 10AM EDT. At 8:30 AM the Weather RADAR showed a HUGE front getting ready to pass through the North Central Florida Coast, with us at the “bottom” of the impending front. Nasty stuff too!

It never rained! Well, we got like 6 drops on the way to the site, and maybe another 4 during our operation. And we never got the winds. Seems like we got really lucky today. Being at the “bottom” has advantages!! Hi, hi, hi.

This trip we had a total of 4 members/5 operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274; John KD4JS #8019; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; Wally KG4LAL #6278; and Doug W4DBL “No Number Yet”!



**John KD4JS #8019**

**Steve WB4OMM #5319**

Steve's setup included his Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical for 20 meters with a Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr and GenLog.

Steve worked 6 members in quick succession - Walt KB1M #8058 in NH; Jim AJ8S #6829 in OH; Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ; Glenn K3SWZ #3793 in PA; Art K1ARR #2005 in VT; and Ken WA2FBN #3054 in NY. Signals were from WOW! to “agn agn?”

***Pretty good for 5W to a Hamstick !***



**Doug W4DBL**

Not a member yet! But soon to be.....at least we're sticking to that story!

Doug's station was a Yaesu FT-817ND connected to an Alpha Vertical antenna – he was “checking out the bands” and doing PSK31. He experimented for most of the morning.



**Wally KG4LAL # 6278**

Wally was here - but didn't setup his radio.

Here is Wally and John KD4JS "eyeballing" the computer for spots.



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

**John KD4JS #8019** - As usual, John took care of the and QRPSPOTS postings for Steve. Thanks John!



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

*The WX turned out to be fine. A great park!!*

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

**NEXT MONTH'S SCHEDULED EVENT:**

Friday, May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 starting at 10:00 AM EDT (1 Week Early - Dayton!)

***ANOTHER NEW ONE!***

Riverbreeze Park (250 H. H. Burch Road, Oak Hill, 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](mailto:NAQCCFL@yahoo.com)**

## 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/>.

### April 27, 2019

Arrived at Bayport with Jack, WO2I at 0830 hrs. Started setup on picnic tables next to water.

#### Hams Attending

Ron, N9EE	FT817 w/LDG Z817 tuner and 40m Windom
Jack, KO2I	KX3 w/delta loop
Larry, KR4X	FT817 w/BuddiPole vertical
Don, KA2KDP	
Knight, W8PNS	
Chuck, K9ID	KX2, no operation

#### Ron, N9EE Log

Rig FT817 w/LDG Z817 tuner and 40m Windom up 15 ft on portable flag pole.

CALL	TIME	MY	THEIR	FREQ	MODE	COMMENTS
WB4DBO	0909	579	589	7.055	CW	Ron in AL SK 12183S
N4CD	0930	599	579	7.055	CW	Bob in MI PTOA 0766
AE4GS	1050	449	579	7.048	CW	POTA K3722
KE4COH	1103	559	579	7.017	CW	Bryan, SC 30W HamSticks
N3HE	1114	449	579	7.025	CW	Dave, near Cincinnati, OH, 110W dipole at 120ft
W4E	1201	559	599	7.037	CW	ESC, FL QSO Party
K4PV	1224	599	599	7.037	CW	SAM, FL QSP Party

#### Larry, KR4X, Log

FT817 with BuddiPole vertical.

4/27/19	1425	20m	CW	N7FUL	599	349	STEVE, TUCSON AZ
4/27/19	1435	20m	CW	W3EP	599	599	EMIL, CT. (IN CONTEST)
4/27/19	1440	20m	CW	KW7D	599	549	PAUL, NM. (IN CONTEST)
4/27/19	1450	20m	CW	K2P	599	599	NJ. (IN CONTEST)
4/27/19	1500	20m	CW	XE1XR	599	599	DAVE, MEXICO. (IN CONTEST)
4/27/19	1504	20m	CW	N5CLH	599	579	CLYDE, MCALESTER OK. LENGTHY QSO



COMMENTS

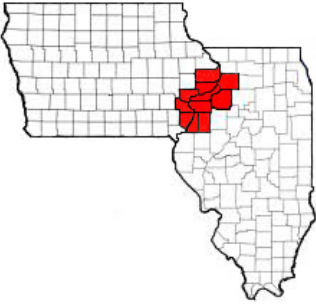
A BEAUTIFUL DAY TO BE OPERATING..... TEMPS IN THE LOWER 70'S AND SUNNY. A BIT BREEZY RIGHT NEXT TO THE WATER. THE MOST MEMORABLE QSO WAS WITH N5CLH IN OKLAHOMA WHICH LASTED NEARLY A HALF AN HOUR. CLYDE IS A RETIRED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER WHO LOVES TO WORK CW ..... MY YAESU FT-817 OPERATED AS NORMAL AT 5 WATTS INTO MY BUDDISTICK VERTICAL WITH A SINGLE RAISED COUNTERPOISE WIRE.....LOOKING FORWARD TO OUR NEXT EVENT







## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Tim, N9BIL.

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/>.

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.

## 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.

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.

# MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



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

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

From Gene, N5GW, #5353 —

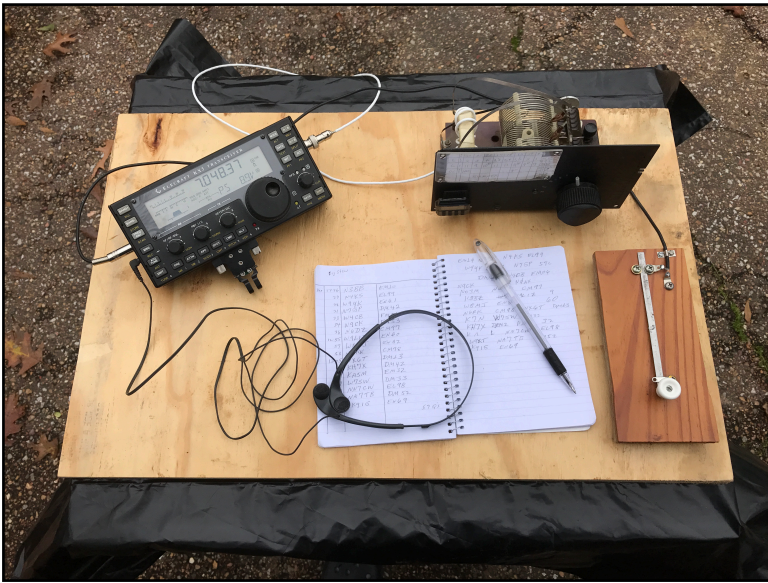
Many of us QRPers living in apartments or on small city lots have two big problems: suboptimal location and compromise antenna. An obvious solution is to have a better location with a better antenna, accessed by the operator at sprint time. You don't have to have a hilltop cabin, club station, or rural friend with an antenna farm - you can operate from an improved remote station while sitting in your family car or other vehicle, even during bad weather!

After locating a satisfactory remote operating location, I use a pneumatic tennis ball antenna launcher to put lines over high tree limbs or other supporting structure. The antenna, a CFZ in this case, is hauled up, tied off and left in place. At sprint time the ladder line is brought in over the top of the almost completely rolled up window.

The first photo shows the portable set-up on a plywood board. The second photo demonstrates the board sitting on the console of a pickup truck. (*Pictures are on the following page.*) A battery is placed on the driver seat floorboard. I sit down in the front passenger seat, rotate the board into my lap, and hook up the antenna. Lighting is provided by a small LiPO headlight. If it's too cold or hot inside the cab, I can reach over and crank the engine to run the heater or AC a few minutes. Also a fan can be used. If the weather is warm and dry, I can go around to the back of the truck with a lawn chair and have a tailgate (QSO) party!

Such a remote setup can allow you to put up a rather large and high SWA, far removed from interfering structures such as power lines, house wiring, metal roofs, tall buildings and such. Not only can transmission be therefore improved, reception may be much better due to absence of RFI from various electronic devices such as switching power supplies, leaky power lines, fluorescent lights and the like.

If you decide to try such an activity in a park, in the woods, from a friend's land or other location, a shakedown operation is a good idea. Since many QRP operating activities begin late in the day, you don't want to be fumbling around in the dark trying to set up your remote station.





# 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 contester 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

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



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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Facebook Page Manager	Jerry - K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
NAQCC CW Nets	Wayne - NQ0RP	wayne.dillon@gmail.com

NOTE: These email address are not automatic links.  
They are given here in graphic form to avoid harvesting by spambots.

#### REPRINT POLICY

Unless otherwise stated in the article, local clubs and other ham radio organizations are free to reprint featured articles from this newsletter, provided appropriate credit is given to the North American QRP CW Club and the author of the article. If at all possible a link to the club website at <http://www.naqcc.info/> should be included.