

# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 258 DECEMBER 2019



## KEY CLICKS

- **NEW CLUB PRESIDENT.** Before the next months issue of this newsletter comes out our new club President Steve, WB4OMM, will be fully “in the saddle.” Please be sure to read the message on page 3 from our outgoing President and the one on page 4 from Steve.
- **SPEND SOME TIME ON OUR CLUB WEBSITE.** If sometime this winter you find yourself weather bound and facing crummy band conditions, why not spend a little time poking around on our club website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. You will find a wealth of useful and interesting information there. Things like the complete challenge and sprint schedules for the coming year, details about our awards program, past issues of the newsletter, helpful hints for beginning QRP/CW ops, and so much more.
- **PLEASE REMEMBER TO KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP INFO UP TO DATE.** Every month we find ourselves dealing with things like bounced emails, or a new callsign for a sprint participant that doesn’t match the membership number, because someone has forgotten to update their personal information in our database. We have an easy tool for updating your information at [http://www.naqcc.info/member\\_updates.html](http://www.naqcc.info/member_updates.html). Please help all of us out by keeping your information up to date.
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use *PayPal* to electronically send your contribution to Club Vice President John, N8ZYA, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please be sure to check the box that says “*I’m sending money to family or friends.*” Also please add a note indicating that this is a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file, your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a “check and balance.”

### IN THIS ISSUE

<i>Key Clicks</i>	1
<i>CUL es 73</i>	3
<i>Message From President WB4OMM</i>	4
<i>All About Mobile CW</i>	6
<i>Member Spotlight</i>	10
<i>Sprints</i>	12
<i>Challenges</i>	15
<i>Awards</i>	17
<i>CW Nets</i>	18
<i>Ham Quips</i>	22
<i>Chapter News</i>	23
<i>Member Submissions</i>	34
<i>About The NAQCC</i>	38
<i>Contacts</i>	39



# CUL ES 73 DE N8XMS

The beginnings of the NAQCC in October 2004 is documented on our website at [http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter\\_history.html](http://www.naqcc.info/newsletter_history.html). I first heard about the club in December of that year and joined in January 2005. I was issued membership number 675.

For a while I mostly sat back and followed club activities in the newsletter. I entered my first sprint in March 2007 and my first challenge in November of that year. I also started to send in occasional submissions for the newsletter, with my first one appearing in the September 15, 2007 issue. Over the next couple of years I became much more involved with sprint, challenge, and award efforts.

My first step into more active leadership in the club started innocently enough when I emailed a suggestion to John, K3WWP, the Vice President and general work horse of the NAQCC. I told him that I thought it would be nice to have a "Member Spotlight" feature in the newsletter. His reply was in essence, "great idea, go do it." (As Jackie Gleason used to say, "I've got a BIG MOUTH!") So starting in January 2010 I became the editor of the "Member Spotlight" section of the newsletter. (Of course that feature continues to this day through the work of Paul, KD2MX.)

In June 2013 I took over editing the complete newsletter. At that same time Tom, WY3H, the founding President of the NAQCC, asked me to become the "Club Manager" which was really a euphemism for "next President in training." John and Tom's plan was to retire from their positions and have me take over as President after the club's 10th anniversary in October 2014, which is what we did.

So for the past 5 years I have served as the President of the NAQCC. I won't lie to you. It's been a lot of hard work with the occasional frustration, disappointment, or "crisis" to deal with. I certainly haven't been able to make "all the people happy all of the time" but overall I would say that it has been a pretty good run. The club has grown from around 7000 members to over 10,100 today. We have also made enhancements to our sprints, challenges, newsletter, and website, among other things. And I proudly claim that the NAQCC continues to be the premier club dedicated exclusively to QRP/CW operating.

But in all honesty, I don't think that I can claim very much of the credit for all of this. First off, Tom and John built a solid foundation and established a pattern for excellence. Secondly, there are a couple dozen volunteers who have quietly worked behind the scenes in so many important roles. I won't attempt to name all of these fine people here but very literally there would not be an NAQCC without them, and my deepest gratitude and sincere thanks goes out to each and every one of them.

So now Steve, WB4OMM, will take over the reins. I have complete confidence in his ability to lead the NAQCC into even greater things. (I think that he even has some plans for bringing back the sun spots!) But I also know one thing for sure. And that is the fact that Steve can't do it by himself. He will need help and support from all of us. Please give some thought to how you might take on a more active role in the club. Who knows, perhaps you might have a little idea (like my Member Spotlight) that will lead to something even bigger.

Let me close by saying that the "See You Later" title of this piece is a little bit misleading. I'm not really going away. I will continue to edit the newsletter, at least for a while, and I will also be giving backup help to Steve whenever he might need it. I might even find a little more time to actually get on the air and chew the rag with some of you - QRP/CW of course!

73, Paul - N8XMS



# A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW PRESIDENT WB4OMM

## Once upon a time and why, why, why?

Some 50 years ago, this kid on a Boy Scout camping weekend saw some folks unloading “stuff” at a dining hall (aka - Field Day). Given some simple instructions (20M phone), he was allowed to get on the radio for a while.... starting at 6:00 PM he finally quit some 13 hours later at 7:00 AM! He was hooked! That kid was me.

A trip to the Heathkit store on 45<sup>th</sup> Street in New York City with my Dad just before Christmas gave me a HW-16. I built it, it blew up, I got it fixed and got a Novice license.... the rest is history. (You can see that radio - and the tribute to my late Dad on my webpage: <https://wb4omm.com/old-stuff-like-me/> ). Amateur Radio is the greatest hobby in the world (yeah, I’m biased!). There are so many facets to this avocation that it is difficult to do “everything”; believe me, over the years I tried. Find something you like, and do it. I started with low power CW and even after getting better and more powerful radios, I still love the mode today. Why? So, let me ask you to think about the following questions.

- If you want to homebrew or built a kit radio, which are the easiest (simplest and cheapest!) to build?
- How much effort is there in hanging a dipole, end-fed wire, or even mounting a wire vertical antenna? How much real estate is needed, and what can you “hide” if you have restrictions? How much you wanna’ spend?
- If you QSO someone in a foreign country that does not speak your language, how do you do it?
- When propagation is really bad (like now) how can you still communicate (effectively and efficiently) over significant distances?
- Wanna’ go to a park, quickly setup, and operate? Carry your “station” in your pocket?

Yeah. Low Power CW and Simple Wire Antennas. Press the Easy Button. **It’s NAQCC.**

Why NAQCC? I am a member of a gazillion ham organizations, many CW based. They are all great organizations and I fully support their missions and goals. But NAQCC somehow seems to be more fun and fits into my operating times better.

I absolutely LOVE the monthly Sprints! Why? They are weeknights, and don’t compete with family obligations, holidays, hamfests, and all of the other Friday-Saturday-Sunday stuff. They are quick! I can handle an hour or two of S8 noise or bad propagation. THEY ARE FUN. Not just for me. For a lot of us. A few weeks back, Andy N2CN our October Sprint Manager sent me and Paul N8XMS this e-mail he received from one of the participants: *“Thank you, Andy. This sprint was SO much fun! I got a new radio, a 100-watt rig, and I had unplugged my HW-9 for the last couple of weeks. What a thrill to be on it again and to make some QRP contacts. Thank you so much for doing these events. I really had a great time. 73s Ron VE3SIF”*.

I went back to the Soapbox and counted 24 instances of “fun” in the submissions (out of the 101 at the time). If I included synonyms for “fun” you could almost double the number. They said it. Not me.

THEY ARE NICE PEOPLE. And let’s add the “gentleman” (and yes, gentle lady) touch. I get a HUGE number of folks, “GE Steve ur 559 MO NR #####”; after sending my exchange I get, “TU GL 72 dit-dit”. Not the usual contest, “55N MO ##### QRZ?” (I like contests too and participate in many. But ours are just soooooo nice!). Everyone I contact is pleasant and cordial. Never anything negative!

## So why am I telling you all this?

I was absolutely stunned and humbled when solicited to take the leadership position of NAQCC - really BIG shoes to fill. My predecessors have done a great job in bringing us to this level.

Like any other organization, we have grown in size and stature - and also in complexity and workload. Some of our folks have been dutifully working behind the scenes for YEARS as volunteers. And unfortunately, sometime one will need a break, will want to step down, or heaven forbid, leave this mortal coil. We will need dedicated members to take their place.

I have no immediate desire to change anything in our great Club, but I have enough vision to anticipate, “it ain’t gonna’ be like this forever”. And some of our folks will not be, “forever”. As we continue to grow, we will need folks to “step-up” and provide some replacement and/or additional support to our organization. We may need to make “adjustments” to various “things”. I am also acutely aware we offer Nets and other activities that I am not involved in that need support too.

When the time comes, I hope you will consider submitting for a position to help out. The pay is great, vacation and benefits are top-shelf! Yes, we’ll provide you the same compensation as the President (of NAQCC - grin).

I am proud to represent the Ten Thousand plus members, and I hope you would consider representing a part of our truly unique Club as the same honor I feel.

I will also be providing a “survey” in the next few months to see what YOU, the members think. Please reply so we can make this Club responsive to our members needs (and remembering, we’re unique - CW only, QRP or QRPP, and Simple Wire Antennas).

And when you get the chance send a message - an e-mail is fine - to the folks that take care of you and what you do in NAQCC. Tell them thanks! Their e-mail addresses are on the pages they maintain or coordinate. The Net, Sprint, and Challenge folks to name just a few (but EVERYONE is important). And most especially to outgoing President Paul N8XMS for his years of dedicated service.

For myself, and on behalf of the many NAQCC “staffers”, I wish you a safe and wonderful Holiday Season. Enjoy your loved ones, get the spirit of the season, get on the air, and see you in the Sprints!

Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913  
Incoming President NAQCC



# ALL ABOUT MOBILE MORSE BY PAUL WORW



The effectiveness of Morse Code (CW) when propagation is poor is widely known. The effective gain for CW vs. SSB has been calculated at +18 dB, That's 3 'S' units, a huge difference. 5 watts of CW, by this equation, is equivalent to 240 watts of SSB. Another great advantage of CW is the ability to work break-in during a contact. CW is a great mode for low power mobile stations.

I have collected a few notes about mobile CW operation over the years and have listed them in categories below:

## **Vehicular Mobile...**

Many amateurs operate Vehicular Mobile on CW and it is very common to find a mobile station on the air. The County Hunters Net (CHN) use a lot of CW rover mobiles to get to those rare counties.

KC5UN, Tom, stresses the safety aspect of operating CW mobile from a motor vehicle.

### *Rule one:*

Always: DRIVE THE CAR. No matter what happens with the radio, paddles, etc., given the consequences, driving the car comes first. It's best to operate while stopped; however, either light traffic on controlled access highways or traffic jams can be acceptable for some people (not an endorsement of this type of operation).

Vehicular CW operation and driving at the same time is very easy but it is very hazardous. I operated on the LA Freeways for years and was lucky. I used to have Freeway to Freeway QSO's with Don, w6am/m on 20 CW back in 1960's.

Needless to say the old mechanical Vibroplex bugs always send extra dots going over bumps and when making left handed turns. They are not very practical for CW mobile today.

### **Bike Mobile...**

Some people have been able to operate CW Bike Mobile, but I would suggest that CW bike mobile is very dangerous too. I have three friends that were recently injured in bike accidents and they don't even know CW.

I don't think anyone could send "QRX" as they were going over the handle bars. The laws of physics remain in effect for bikers,  $F = MA$  (Morse Accident).

These Bike Mobile guys sign their calls with the suffix /bm, but I call It: Big Mistake.

### **Pedestrian Mobile... Be Peripatetic !**

I have never had any dangerous situations occur when operating pedestrian mobile, (except that night when that Bear snuck up on me,

The main prerequisite for operating CW from a mobile is just the ability to copy the code in your head. The ability to copy 30 wpm (Copying words, not letters) is a very great asset. If you can only copy code sitting at a desk writing the code down letter by letter, you will not have any fun walking down the road trying to copy code, but it will help you learn how.

Obviously you need to be able to know all the operating abbreviations and to be able to send on a bug. Your radio should be able to operate break-in and split.



I use the call suffix w0rw/pm for pedestrian mobile, if I am stationary or my pack is sitting on the ground I sign w0rw/p

Location, Location...or never operate in a valley.

QRP or Pedestrian mobile operation from deep valleys will cause great discouragement because the surrounding mountains eat up the RF energy. Mountain tops are good places to operate from but the hazard from lightning in storms must be avoided.

Actually any spot with a low horizon is good for HF mobile operation.

**Always, Always stay away from power lines...**your receiver noise will tip you off if you get near one.

Propagation, Propagation...It all depends on the Sun.. Nothing goes beyond the horizon without propagation. Check the HF Propagation forecast for favorable conditions before you set out on a long trip.

Logging...You don't have too but... The easiest way to log when operating any pedestrian mobile is to just use a little pocket memo pad (Rite in The Rain is excellent, available from ARRL).

When operating contests, where you need a log and a dupe sheet, the memo pad is a little difficult to use in a contest because you have to pull it out of your pocket, record the information and return it to your pocket.

The log I use for contests is a "Cuff" log, like the NFL QB play sheet. This allows you to have your log/dupe sheet right at your 'operating position'. When my XYL is along with me on hikes I just read out the call signs to her and she adds the time and name, and location, etc.

I usually sign my call, 'w0rw/pm', for US stations but most DX stations don't understand what that means, so I use 'w0rw/m' for DX . KC5UN, Tom, does his mobile logging with a small voice recorder . They can be quite inexpensive and are virtually hands-free.

### **Equipment...**

The best equipment to use is the one with the least number of attachments. Try to get everything built in. Built in memory keyer, built in battery, built in automatic tuner, CW filters are really necessary these days and few of the military backpacks have them. The fewer wires and strings that need to be attached to your backpack, the easier it will be to use.

The Elecraft KX1, KX2 and KX3 are excellent.

### **Counterpoise's (Drag Wires)...**

1/4 wave whip antennae are only half of the antenna, all quarter wave antennae need counterpoise's. The drag wire counterpoise is the other half of a dipole. Many people think the dragwire is a drag. Many have tried to wear a capacity plate or put a downward pointing resonate whip on their backs. I never have too much trouble with my drag wire because it always stays behind me. It has a break away clip. The drag wire keeps your body farther away from the RF energy than a capacity plate would, and is thus safer.

Your whip antenna will have less loss in the direction of the drag wire. If you want to maximum signal to the East, walk West.

The effectiveness of a pedestrian mobile whip and drag wire are very similar to the normal mobile station except pedestrian mobiles usually run lower power. I use a shorted quarter wave stub drag wire to keep my radio from being zapped by static on mountain tops.

Most vehicle and bike mobiles use the frame for a counterpoise.

### **RF Safety.....Be Safe**

You can input your radio's power and antenna into the University of Texas RF Safety calculator.



CW average power is calculated as a function of the sending duty cycle. If I run 50W, with a CW duty cycle of 20%, my average power is 10W. If you use zero dBi on 14 MHz, with no ground reflections you get a safe controlled area distance of 0.5 foot, (4.6mw/cm<sup>2</sup>). That's the safe distance from you to your antenna.

Detrimental effects from RF are mainly internal body parts heating. Any 20W HF radio will be within the RF safety guidelines.

There would be less body exposure from an end fed half wave whip than a quarter wave whip. My RF Calorimeter tests show maximum heating of an HBM occurs at the low impedance area of the antenna.

Make sure you warn nearby observers that your transmitter might upset Pace Makers, and other medical electronic devices.

Radiation from the Sun is worse than the radiation from the radio, remember to protect yourself from the Sun.

Don't forget to use mosquito repellent with DEET. The risk of getting West Nile Virus is high right now.

Take a flashlight and your ID for those midnight hikes.

Don't try to evade the local Police Chopper, if they spot you, just wave.

There is a lot more information about pedestrian mobile operation in the WA3WSJ's Pedestrian Mobile Handbook <<http://www.lulu.com/shop/edward-breneiser/amateur-radio-pedestrian-mobile-handbook/paperback/product-16364181.html>>

/PM Pedestrian Mobile. .

W0RW



# 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.



**MARK YERGIN, W8EWH, #9622**

Thanks for the opportunity to share a little bit about myself! I joined the NAQCC last year after many years away from the hobby. I am not a QRP operator exclusively but do enjoy operating QRP during the monthly Sprints and from my backyard, and would like to start activating parks (POTA) in the not too distant future. By far my favorite QRP / NAQCC activities are the monthly Sprints as I enjoy the relaxed nature of this contest and the chance to evaluate my equipment and skills.

I really enjoy CW and consider it another language. I've always been in awe of those that can speak multiple languages and consider using CW the equivalent of being able to "speak" another language. This year I raised my hand when the club was looking for a new Nets Manager and I took over this roll in October. Glad to give something back.

2019 marks my 35th anniversary as Ham, being first licensed KA8UXM in 1984 when I was a Senior in High School. That was a Novice license, with 5 WPM code and all. Within a few months I upgraded to General. I operated during that spring and summer on CW only using second hand (at least) equipment (Knight Kit transmitter and Heathkit receiver). Then it was off to college and radio took a back seat for a few years.

I got back into the hobby after graduating until the early 2000's (during which time I changed my call to N8IFU and operated using a new TS450SAT and an attic dipole). Then work (currently an Engineering Manager for General Motors at the Milford Proving Grounds) and more significantly family (two boys) became a priority and I was completely away from the hobby.

In the summer of 2018 I received a mailer from ARRL for the Extra class license manual and something clicked. With one son graduated from college and the other nearly so, I had the time, money, and inclination to get back into the hobby. So I studied for a few months and passed the test first try. I like being able to operate anywhere on the bands without having to pay attention to license restrictions.

My HF station currently consists of an ICOM IC-7300, an Elecraft KX3/PX3 for portable operations, an Elecraft K1 which I built, and a QRP Labs QCX40 which I built. I use a Begali Expedition key. I'm current building an Elecraft K2 which I want to finish up this winter. I have a QCX20 in the box waiting to be built, and I plan to order the much anticipated QSX once Hans is ready to sell it. As you can see I also enjoy the kit building aspect of this hobby.



The antenna "farm" consists of a multi band OCF Dipole (inverted V) at about 30 feet (Spiderbeam fiberglass telescoping pole) which is really meant for portable operation so is not left up, and a new EFHW 8010 which is more or less permanently up but not near as high as I'd like it to be (trees not that tall) so on the lower bands it is an NVIS antenna and does not do all that well with DX. But it does do fairly well domestically and gets me on 80M where the OCFD will not.

I operate CW and digital modes (FT8) exclusively. I'd like to get set up for RTTY in 2020. I completed the CWOps CWA Level 1 course in February of 2019, and have taken the Level 2 course but I'm not yet ready for Level 3. I am however proficient enough that I'm able to participate in contests/sprints/QSO parties, and I'm finding that contesting, special events, and hunting POTA and SOTA are a significant part of my on-air activities right now, along with the occasional rag chew.

A few words about my current call - W8EWH. This call was originally issued to my dad, David Yergin, in the mid-1950's when he was around the same age I was when first licensed. I don't think he ever upgraded past Tech. In the mid-70's when I was around 9-10 years old, I discovered that he had been licensed as a kid when I was playing around with a toy walkie-talkie that had a Morse Code sender at the bottom. I remember talking with him about getting into (or in his case back into) the hobby, but tragically he was killed in a car accident in April of 1976.

Around the time I was first licensed I was able to visit with my grandmother and she allowed me to take home all of his ham radio "stuff" that she had been saving in her basement. In this collection was one of his QSL cards, and this is when I first learned of his call sign - W8EWH. After vanity calls became an option in the mid-90's I may have briefly considered taking this call, but I actually thought the call was not available based on a misunderstanding on my part regarding what calls were available. In late 2018 I learned that this call was in fact available, and in December of 2018 I applied for and was granted W8EWH. As far as I can tell, only my Dad and I have ever held this call.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my story and I hope to work you on the air soon.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** We have two sprints to enjoy this month. First up is our regular monthly sprint on December 11, 0130-0330 UTC. That's the evening of Tuesday the 10th here in North America. Then the week after that on December 18, 0130-0330 UTC (Tuesday 12/17 in NA) we have one of our semi-annual QRPp sprints where we crank our power down to 1-watt or less and have at it. Complete information about these sprints can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201912.html> and <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201912mw.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:** Three words describe our November sprint - tough, tough, tough! Nevertheless 103 hardy souls (85 submitted logs) put on their helmets and shoulder pads and bravely tackled the rotten band conditions. Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201911.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: N5AAS N8SOP W1BLU

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	W1PQO	K1IEE
W2	KA2KGP	W2SH	KN2G
W3	KD3CA	KW2A	AK3X
W4	K4JPN	WG8Y	N4OW
W5	K5MBA	W5UAA	KE5YUM
W6	-	-	-
W7	KC7DM	KF7WNS	-
W8	NF8M	N8XMS	-
W9	WB9HFK	KA9FQG	W9CC
W0	N8LA	NN0SS	NO2D
Canada	VA2GLU	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WB2LQF	-	-
W3	K3WWP	-	-
W4	K3RLL	-	-
W5	NF5U	K5TSK	K5GQ
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	W4XX	K8NGW	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	W0KFG	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N1QLL	-
W2	N2ESE	-	-
W3	KC3RN	N8SOP	-
W4	WB4OMM	WB8LZG	WK4WC
W5	N5GW	W8WEU	N5AAS
W6	W6JIM	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	W8EWH	N9CX	WI8J
W9	-	-	-
W0	K0EW	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

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

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	N5AAS	N8SOP	-
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AD0YM			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	85	126	217	4/17
Participants	103	178	269	2/13
Total QSOs	630	1581	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	389	858	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	241	723	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	0	13	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	259	940	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	371	628	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	7.4	12.5	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+	KC7DM WA1GWH NU7T(SK) KB8FE NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ N2CN WI5H NF5U WA2FBN WB4OMM
75+	AK3X K4NVJ KB3AAG K4KRW VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O WD0K K6MGO KA9FQG KQ1P
100+	KE5YUM KD2MX K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK N2ESE WB8ENE
125+	W9CC WB8LZG N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M
150+	W2JEK KA2KGP W2SH
175+	K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** Have you ever wondered where that plastic stuff that protects all of your special Christmas tree ornaments comes from? Well our Bubble Wrap alphabet challenge this month just might help you answer that question. Complete details for the challenge can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201912.html>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** In January we will have a very interesting alphabet challenge that explains the markings that are shown on the sides of big cargo ships. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202001.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 November Anthem Veterans Memorial challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201911.html> and final results will be posted on that page shortly after the 10th of the month.

**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+	W3IQ KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN WI5H PA9CW NF1U WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB AH6AX WB4OMM
50+	PA0XAW VE3FUJ NU7T(SK) N9SE
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: The Participation Award

This is a very special award and it comes with a special prize - a free membership in FISTS, The International Morse Preservation Society. Each year our members earn points by their participation in our monthly sprints and challenges. One point is earned for each sprint or challenge that you participate in, and an extra point is awarded if you participate in both of these activities in a single month. In other words, a maximum of 3 participation points can be earned each month thus producing a total of 36 possible points for the year. At the end of the year the member with the highest number of participation points wins the prize. (Actually the winner is usually determined by a random drawing from the several members who end up in a tie with their points.) You can see the complete details about this award, along with the points that you have individually earned so far this year, at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html)

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

None



# 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 Mark, W8EWH.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 4:00 PM PST 5:00 PM PST	Monday 0000 Z 0100 Z	5348 KHz ch2 3556 KHz	60m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	3567 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CST	Tuesday 0130 Z	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Sunday 8 AM MST	Sunday 1500 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 4 PM PST	Friday 0000 Z	3556.5 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
West Coast QRS Net (WCN) Temporarily suspended.	Friday 8 PM PST	Saturday 0400 Z	7062 KHz	Mike, N6MST (in CA)

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

## NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

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

Sunday evenings 4:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-

60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA)

We welcome participants who can send and copy legibly at least 15 wpm. We usually call the net at about 21 wpm and ramp up from there, but we'll slow down for slower operators.

We try to emphasize proper spacing between letters and especially between words, so as to facilitate head copy. I recommend warming up with a code-sending exercise off the air prior to each net, trying to send as nearly error-free code as possible. My warmup is to send the alphabet and numerals, followed by THE QUICK BROWN FOX JUMPS OVER THE LAZY DOG. Start as slowly and deliberately as you need to for error-free sending, then gradually speed up, consistent with error-free sending, to your final speed.

This is a QRP CW club net, so please try to check in QRP or qQRP (quasi-QRP = 15 watts or less) for signal reports. It's OK to QRO if conditions warrant during subsequent rounds.

Our primary goals are good sending consistent with good head copy.

## FRN Station Reports for November (UTC dates and times)

FRN/60 on 5348 kHz (Ch 2) at 0000z

Nov 04 - QNS (6) NR5NN NCS, K6GVG, KE6EE, AI6SL, N6IET, KW6G  
 Nov 11 - QNS (5) NR5NN NCS, KE6EE, AI6SL, N6IET, K6GVG  
 Nov 18 - QNS (4) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, KW6G, AI6SL  
 Nov 25 - QNS (7) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, K6GVG, KE6EE, WJ7S, KW6G, AI6U

FRN/80 on 3556 kHz at 0100z

Nov 04 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, K6GVG, AI6SL, NR5NN  
 Nov 11 - QNS (5) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, NR5NN, KE6EE, K6GVG  
 Nov 18 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, AI6SL, KE6EE, K0DTJ, KW6G, NR5NN  
 Nov 25 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, K0DTJ, K6GVG, NR5NN, AI6SL

## Commentary

We've actually seen a couple of sunspots from the 11-year Cycle 25. But the sun has mostly been blank and boring. Our nets usually started out with NVIS conditions, which often began to 'go long' about halfway through. We're riding the (solar cycle) wave!

I want to comment how well 60 meters works for a roundtable net! One channel is being well-utilized by typically 7 or 8 CW operators covering the Pacific time zone. We rarely hear any other stations of any mode on Channel 2 Sunday evenings. Sometimes we could probably all copy each other just fine running QRP and/or qQRP.

Well, have you read the ARRL article about the new proposal to open a contiguous segment of 60 meters? The FCC's and ARRL's interpretation of the current regulations is that we may feed our half-wave dipoles or equivalent (over average ground) with up to 100 watts. They call that "100 watts ERP". That seems very reasonable.

The new rule when the FCC approves the WRC-15 changes will allow continuous tuning between 5351.5 and 5356.5 kHz, but with an EIRP limit of 15 watts. EIRP stands for Equivalent Isotropic Radiated Power. Well, that's isotropic in free space! A dipole in free space has a gain of 2.15 dBi. Guess what a dipole's isotropic gain is over average ground? About 8 dBi, which is a power ratio of about 6:1. That means that a dipole over ground could only be fed with 15/6 watts, or 2.5 watts!!! The ARRL article implied that we would be limited to 9.5 watts, but that appears to be based on an erroneous interpretation of what EIRP means in regard to dipoles over real ground. 9.5 watts is 15 watts reduced by the free-space dipole gain 2.15 dBi, not by 8 dBi. Will we soon be relegated to QRP/2 on 60 meters?

=====

**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3567 kHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

11/4/2019 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS N4NN

Very poor band tonight. I heard Allen but lost him in the QSB. Called for a QSY down to 3568 kHz and he heard me and we tried there but still not workable.

11/11/2019 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS N4NN

Allen was again the only station heard on 40 meter. He was solid for about 15 min. running 5 watts on his KX2. Very good QRP signal last night. I tried a call on 3567 kHz due to a QSO on 3568 kHz but NIL.

11/19/2019 QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM

Called on 7068 kHz and NIL. Went down to 3568 kHz and there was a QSO so slide down to 3567 kHz and Andy found me. He was 579 and QRO. We managed a good QSO and I did pull Terry's call out but very weak tonight. Guess we will have to give up on 40 meters for this winter and try 80. Hope to hear you guys on the air next week.

11/26/2019 QNI(34) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N4NN

A good first try on 80 meters last night. All signals were good with some QRM but the QRN was about S5. KE5YUM was using his EF wire and 5 watts and hitting 579. All looking for a great Thanksgiving.

---

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

Sunday mornings 8:00 AM MST, which is 1500 UTC on 7062.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report.

---

**NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)**

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Bob W0CC

11/04/2019 QNI W0CC

S-6 QSN with QSB. A lot of FT-8 activity on 7074 and very few CW stations.  
Great Hope for next week!

11/11/2019 QNI W0CC

QSN S-8 Several wide signals which I kept shifting to avoid. Next week should  
be great!

11/18/2019 QNI W0CC

S-7 QRN. Band relatively quiet. Monday Night Football. Next week will be a good NET.

11/25/2019 No Net tonight.

---

**NAQCC West Coast Net (WCN)**

Friday evenings 8:00 PM PST, which is Saturday 0400 UTC on 7062 KHz  
Main NCS - Mike N6MST (California)

11/29/2019 WCN QNI (2) NCS N6MST KH2EE

(Computer issues prevent the reporting on the other nets in November.)

NET SUSPENDED FOR DECEMBER

---

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

Thursday evenings 4:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0000 UTC on 3556.5 kHz.  
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

11/08/2019 PNW QNI (5) NCS N7KC, WB7WHG, KG7JEB, WB4SPB, AD7BP

Note, good sigs for 35 minutes then the band shut down so terminated net early.  
Finished two rounds. LB

11/14/2019 PNW QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, N7KC, N0DA, WB4SPB

11/22/2019 (0000z) QNI 6, NCS WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, K7JUV, N7KC, KG7JEB

After a successful experiment today, we are changing the PNW80 net start time once again, to 4PM local time (0000z). This change is in effect until further notice.

LEE N7KC AR N  
Stewart KE7LKW, Randy WB4SPB, George WB4SPB

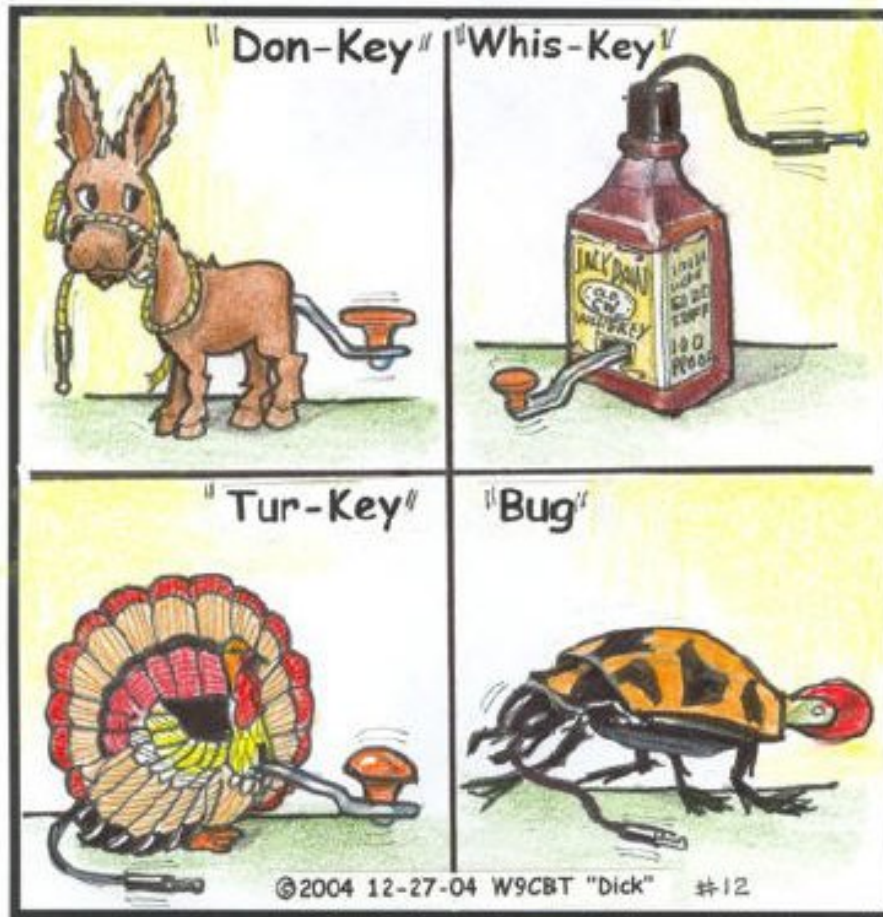


# HAM QUIPS



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).

## MORSE TIPS & QUIPS



" There Are Many Different Types of Keys "

# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, 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.

What a fun and interesting day this was. We started out the day at the diner with 7 of us over good food and conversations and in fact did not stop chatting until noon, and we could have gone longer. We then headed down to Robert Moses State Park at the beach within sight of the Fire Island Lighthouse. The usual photo going over the bridge is attached and the weather was sunny and 49F, which is probably going to be the warmest QRP outing we have until April. It's funny that we usually get the best turnouts the colder the weather.

The following hams came down to the Park:

Walt W2TE who set up a KX3 into a 40m dipole with twin lead. A nice copy of John W2XS antenna.

Bravely sitting outdoors

Russ N2FRB

Jerry K2GV

Howard WB2UZE

John W2XS set up his KX2 on batteries into a 40m dipole fed with twin lead, also sitting outdoors. John really loves these outings even when its cold

Bob W2OSR used FT 817 5W into a hamstick mounted on top of his SUV

Peter AA2VG

Mike N2PPI using his FT891 into a wire vertical on a jackite pole which got out terrific

Bob K2TV

Eric KI2I

Bud W2BUD had a vintage Heathkit HW9 in beautiful condition into a helical wire H vertical

Bob KD2NFS

Conditions were not too bad and we operated on 40, 30, 20. 17m was open and we heard Argentina weakly but no CW activity. We worked as far west as Arizona, north as Ontario and into France and Morocco.

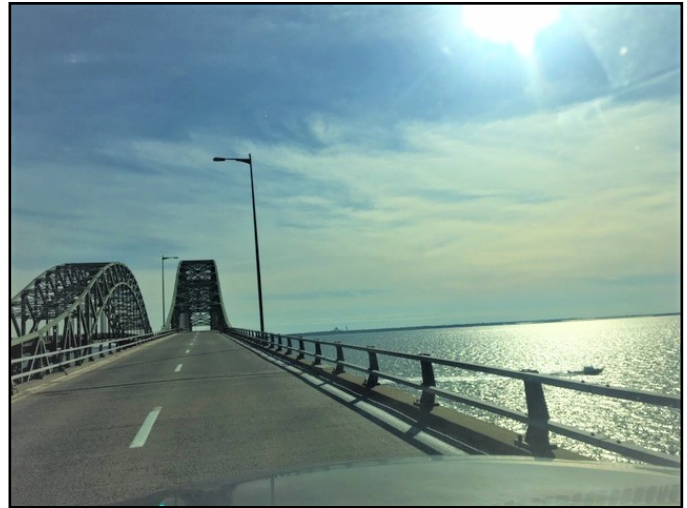
Final photo was of the local 'ham' population (deer) on Fire Island, which is still a rarity to us Long Islanders

Howard WB2UZE





*The Gang*



*Heading over the bridge.*



*K12I, W2XS, AA2VG, W2TE, WB2UZE, K2TV*



*KD2NFS, N2FRB*



*N2PPI, K2GV*



*W2OSR*



*W2XS*



*N2PPI and his antenna.*



*W2BUD and his antenna.*

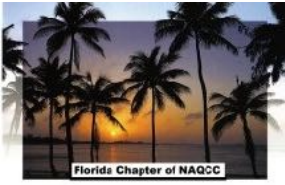




AA2VG, W2TE



## 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://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

No report available.

## 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.

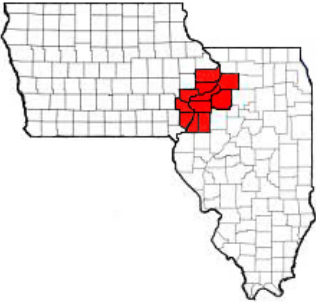
## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



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 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.

# 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 Austin, KA3TTT, #9972—

I enjoyed the article about apartment hamming (*November 2019 newsletter*). I live in an apartment which does not allow outside antennas. For my rig I have an Elecraft KX3, which I love. For my base station I have an Alpha-Beta Loop - a magnetic loop with a remote control. Remember that your entire apartment becomes your radio room. Because of this I use ferrites all over the place. I have them on the cables connected to the radio, wall warts, speaker and Ethernet cables, and probably some others I've forgotten about. I plug all of the long Ethernet cables into a switch so I can turn it off and kill some QRM. I also have a 1:1 balun at the feedpoint.

For portable use I have a Buddistick, and I just got the AX1 with the AXE1 40 meters extender. I got a chance to bring it up to the roof deck and tune it up on 20 meters and 40 meters, but I couldn't stay up there long enough to make a QSO. At least I got both of my portable antennas working while I could.

I would recommend going QRP if you live in an apartment.

- 72, Austin, KA3TTT

From Lee, AA5LH, #5349 —

*Lee was one of the winners in our special 15th Anniversary prize drawing and sent this in after he received his prize. - Editor*

The new MFJ paddle arrived Saturday. Thought I would get this off to you & the gang. The MFJ will replace a 25+ year Bencher paddle. Plan on connecting it this afternoon. Look forward to the pleasure of new stuff.

Thank you for all the work you do.

Lee, AA5LH



From John, KM4JTE, #7966 —

*John was one of the winners in our special 15th Anniversary prize drawing and sent this in after he received his prize. - Editor*

Here is a pic of me with my new MFJ-566M, my prize from the drawing of participants in the NAQCC 15th Anniversary Sprint. It will help me improve my CW sending, and I appreciate the encouragement for new operators, like myself.

72  
KM4JTE  
John



From Walt, KB1M, #8058 —

*Walt was also a prize winner in our 15th Anniversary drawing and sent this in after receiving his prize. - Editor*

Received the Kindle Fire in mail this week. A very nice prize and I am very happy with it . At first I thought, what would I do with the new gadget ? But now find it very useful to to me. Thank You NAQCC.

73, Walt KB1M

From Jerry, VE6CPP, #5697 —

Here's a Cute One I saw on social media.



From Dejan, SA3BOW, #6935 —

*Winter has arrived, at least in Sweden - Editor*



*Followup... Is weather now moving around the world like a computer virus in email attachments? About two days after Dejan sent me this picture we had about 8-inches of the white stuff fall here in SE Michigan! - Editor*

# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From former 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 Steve Szabo, WB4OMM  
536 Central Park Blvd  
Port Orange, FL 32127  
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President	Steve - WB4OMM	sszabo1@cfl.rr.com
NAQCC Vice President	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff - KA1DBE	ka1dbe@arrl.net
Florida Chapter	Steve - WB4OMM	sszabo1@cfl.rr.com
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	jsk3wwp@windstream.net
Illowa Chapter	Tim - N9BIL	n9bil@arrl.net
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	n9ee@tampabay.rr.com
Long Island Chapter	Howard - WB2UZE	wb2uze@yahoo.com
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
Facebook Page Manager	Jerry - K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
NAQCC CW Nets	Mark - W8EWH	mark.yergin@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.