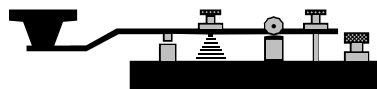
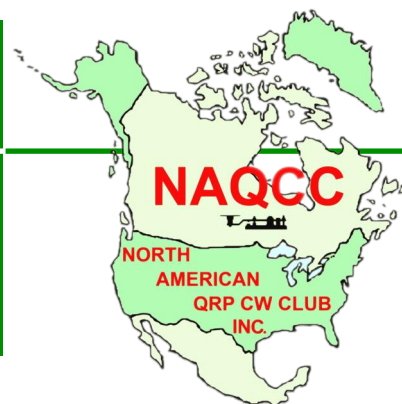


# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 268 • OCTOBER 2020



## KEY CLICKS

### • IN THIS ISSUE

Dusting off the NOGAnaut, throwing things at trees, a Member Spotlight, poll results, nets, a creepy challenge from the deep, Chapter News, and a little-bitty key from a window blind!

### • 16TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

It's finally here. This month's Sprint will be extra special with N3A/ # stations and big prizes. Plus more ways to win even if you don't like to Sprint. See details on page 3.

### • PREZ SEZ

Club President Steve WB4OMM has a progress report on our tax-exempt status, new licence trustee, and more. Page 2.

### • AS SEEN ON FACEBOOK

NAQCC FaceBook activity has picked up with talk about contests, Pixies, CW op vacationing, and more.

### • SPRINT ACTION

If you didn't participate in the September Sprint, you really missed out! The bands—40 & 80 anyway—were hopping and there was a 33% increase in QSOs per operator. Lets hope the propogation trend continues for this month's special events.

### • YOUR STORIES NEEDED

Send your article, project, or ham radio biography to Paul KD2MX [kd2mx@arrl.net](mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net)

### • 3D PRINTERS' ALLEY

Next month we'll look at some handy ham projects and tools for your 3D printer. If you've been melting plastic into something fun for shack or field, drop us a line.

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

## GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS!

It's Our Anniversary Month!

Our Anniversary Celebration is here and we have great prizes for the Sprint and Challenge. Many great vendors generously donated prizes—the prize list is impressive! Please join the fun—the Sprint is low key, low speed and lots of fun—the Challenge is also a lot of fun to work. Our Anniversary stations will be operating all over the US starting on October 11. I am planning on making a lot of QSOs!

Here is the link for information about the Anniversary Celebration:

[http://naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html)—and the link for the Anniversary Sprint Page:

<http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202010.html>

We have a new License Trustee for Club Call N3AQC—Our Vice-President Jerry Pereira KK4ITX; check out the updated QRZ page when you have the chance.

We're still awaiting IRS approval of our tax-exempt status—like many other organizations, COVID -19 has delayed processing of online applications. We are within a week of the current processing date listed in the IRS application web page, so my hope is we will get a response in the next 30–45 days (hope, hope!). All of the other “business” changes are done.

Our Newsletter Editor Brent WT4U is always looking for submissions for the Newsletter—anything related to NAQCC, QRP CW. Send Spotlight Editor Paul K2DMX an e-mail if you have something to submit or need more information:

Stay safe, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER [kd2mx@arri.net](mailto:kd2mx@arri.net) radio-active!

**72/73!**  
**Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913**  
**NAQCC President**



***A little bit of QRP on a wire goes a long way!***



# 16<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

## THE FUN BEGINS

We are now just a few days away from the special week long celebration of our clubs 16th anniversary! **The fun begins at 0000 Z on October 11. That's the evening of the 10th here in North America.**

We have more than 50 volunteer operators who will be putting our special N3A/# call-sign on the air from all over the United States (and Puerto Rico) and you can collect some "wallpaper" certificates for working them.

These operations will generally be found near the standard QRP watering holes on the HF bands and will all be posted on our spotting page at [http://www.naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php). That page will be updated in almost real time throughout the week so you will want to check it often. The complete list of volunteer operators, along with details on how to get your QSL certificate can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

## SPRINT FOR PRIZES

**On October 14th (Tuesday the 13th in North America) we will have our regular monthly sprint** with an anniversary bonus - special prizes valued at almost \$1000 will be given away to 10 lucky member participants!

We have already announced that the grand prize will be a Mountain Topper QRP transceiver donated by Larry Draughn of LNR Precision Inc. We are going to keep the remaining nine prizes secret but they are all great items and will be revealed during the prize drawing.



At long last, someone is going to win this thing. Could be you!

As we have done in past years, there are two different tiers for the prize drawing. The top three prizes will be awarded to member-sprinters who have also accumulated a specific number of participation points in the first 9 months of the year. The eligibility requirement for the remaining 7 prizes is to simply be a member participant in the sprint. Complete details on these eligibility requirements can be seen at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html). Links to both the specific anniversary sprint as well as our general sprint rules can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/contests.html>.

## MORE WAYS TO WIN

So maybe you're not much of a contester (although our sprints are a great place for non-contesters to get their feet wet). Don't worry, because our anniversary celebration has already started and really extends over the entire month through our monthly challenge. Member participants in the October challenge will also have a shot at winning three great anniversary prizes valued at more than \$200. Challenge details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202010.html> and drawing eligibility details are available on that same prize drawing page given in the previous paragraph.

So get ready to have some fun while celebrating the 16th anniversary of the NAQCC - the greatest club specifically dedicated to QRP/CW operating!



# THE NOGANAUT – THEN AND NOW

HARRY BUMP KM3D #2449

What does the year 2001 have to do with the present? Please bear with me and see!

## NOGANAUT CLUB BUILD

In February of 2001 the EPAQRP Club, hosted by our most benevolent dictator, Ron Polytica WB3AAL(SK), held a meeting at the Berkshire Mall near Reading, PA. At that meeting, Denny Voorhees, AD3O, brought a grocery bag full of ziplock bags; each holding all of the parts necessary to build 'The Noganaut,' a single transistor transmitter.

Denny donated them to the membership with instructions that this was a contest: to build the transmitter and then make a contact with it before the September 2001 meeting to be held at French Creek State Park in central Pennsylvania.

## PRIZEWINNER TO PAPERWEIGHT

I built that transmitter and then thought about how I would make a contact, being crystal controlled with VERY low power on 3.546 MHz. I



added a reed relay to my memory keyer so it could key the 9v power line to the transmitter and then waited until ARRL Field Day. Saturday night I set up the transmitter, programmed the keyer for 'CQ' and started. After about an hour a 'big gun' station jumped onto my frequency and began 'CQ'ing.

I called him – and he answered. It was the Mercer County amateur radio club station, some 260 miles from me in the PA Dutch Country. The operator actually gave me a '599' - right !!!?

At the September 2001 EPAQRP meeting, I was the only one who had made a contact, and, yes, I did win the prize (but I do not remember what





that was). Arriving at home I tossed the Noganaut on the operating table, and for all the years since then it sat as a paperweight to hold down the small pile of QSLs I keep at the desk.

**NINETEEN YEARS LATER...**

Fast forward to the present: February 2020 and the pandemic... sitting at the operating console I looked over at the little transmitter and wondered, 'Just how little power did it push?' and 'Would it still work?' After putting a new 9v battery on it and attaching the keyer one Saturday I began to send 'CQ.' Low and behold; someone answered – K3GB, Gary in Carlisle, PA, some forty or fifty miles west of me. After a short QSO he said that I got lost in QSB (no surprise there). So I now had two—yes TWO—contacts with this Altoids box.

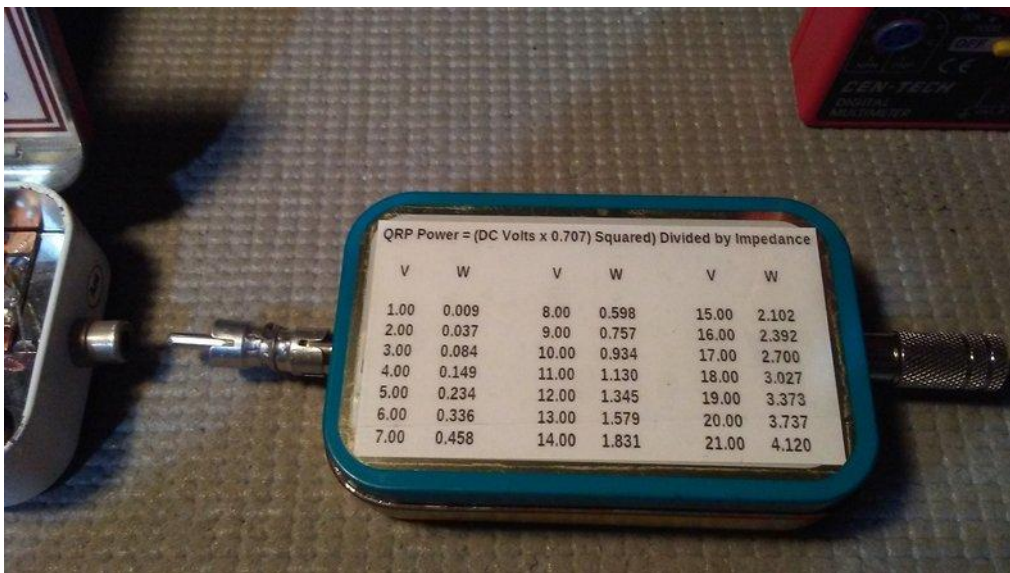
After a little bit of reading and then milling around in my junk box, I found what was needed and built a QRP dummy load with RF



volt meter parts. Using my Harbor Freight \$6 DC voltmeter and the formula and chart, I learned that with a fresh 9v battery, this transmitter puts out a whopping (estimated) 100 milliwatts.

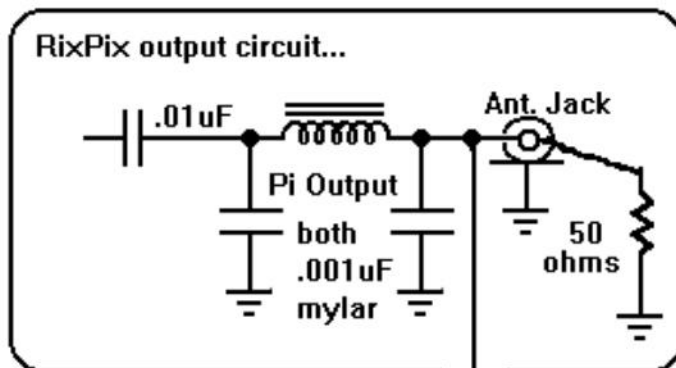
Now I have two Altoids tins to hold down my QRP QSLs !!!

**73, –Harry KM3D, #2449**



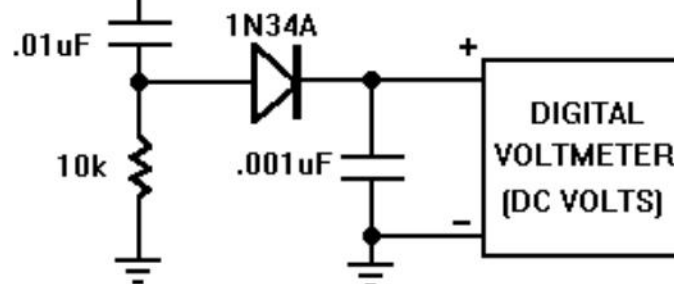
QRP Power = (DC Volts x 0.707) Squared) Divided by Impedance

RMS:	0.707	Imp:	50.000		
V	W	V	W	V	W
1.00	0.010	11.00	1.210	21.00	4.409
2.00	0.040	12.00	1.440	22.00	4.839
3.00	0.090	13.00	1.689	23.00	5.288
4.00	0.160	14.00	1.959	24.00	5.758
5.00	0.250	15.00	2.249	25.00	6.248
6.00	0.360	16.00	2.559	26.00	6.758
7.00	0.490	17.00	2.889	27.00	7.288
8.00	0.640	18.00	3.239	28.00	7.838
9.00	0.810	19.00	3.609	29.00	8.407
10.00	1.000	20.00	3.999	30.00	8.997



To Calculate Output Power:

- 1) Multiply DVM reading by .707
- 2) Square that answer
- 3) Divide by Load Resistance [50]



Enter DC Volts (V): 3.10 0.096 Watts



# 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.

## ANTON VERMAAK N9WAY #2763

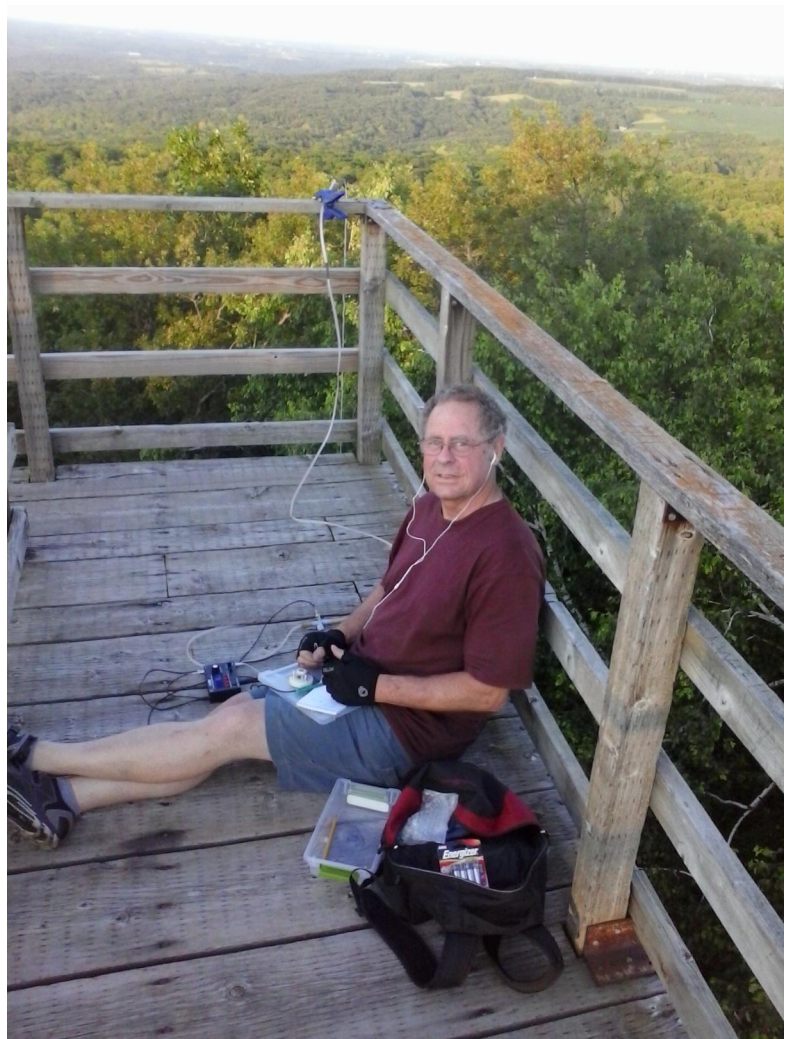
I got started in ham radio because of a high school teacher who latched onto my interest in electronics. His whole station consisted of big glowing homebrew equipment, an awesome sight to my young eyes. I became licensed in 1980 as ZS6BTV. In 1989 I landed in the US, was briefly N5DVF in Texas before moving to Wisconsin and became N9WAY.

My favorite activities in ham radio include QRP portable operation and designing and building antennas (aren't open source USB network analyzers wonderful things!).

My shack radio is an old Kenwood TS-120V (a QRP rig) with a TL-120 linear. For portable operation I use a YouKits HB-1B. Home antenna is a 40m OCF dipole that can be patched to my deck or my shack and portable HF antennas are EFHW radiators with matching sections, aka wire J-poles.

My most memorable QRP QSOs were a pair of unscheduled contacts with Dan, SM5IMO (Sweden) and also a contact with Ewan, N4LMI, who was running 0.2W.

Professionally I am an electronic technician with a background in broadcast TV and R&D. I am not totally one-track minded, after decades of playing only harmonica I am now learning mandolin to play old time and bluegrass music.



N9WAY operating from a fire tower in Blue Mound State Park

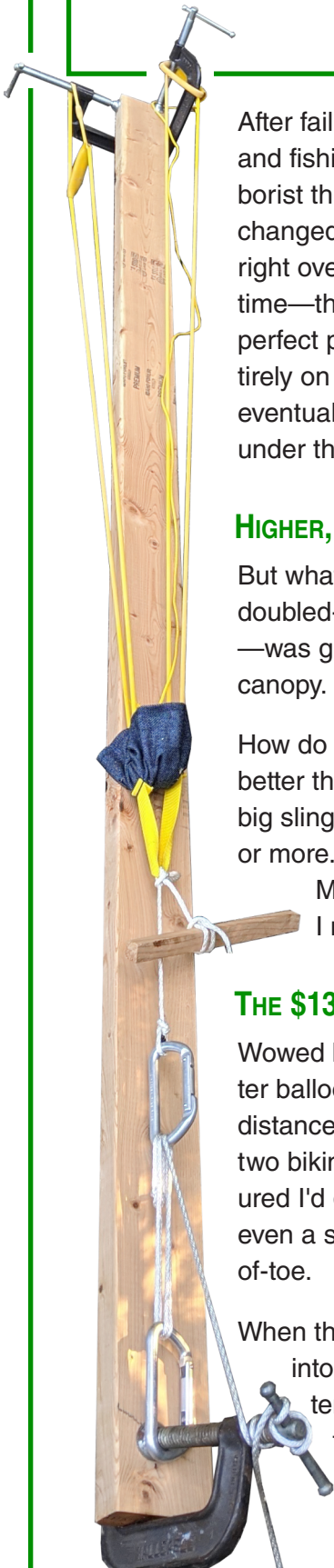
**72, –Anton N9WAY #2763**





# QUICK, CHEAP ANTENNA CATAPULT

BRENT MINCHEY WT4U #9019



After failed experiments with slingshots and fishing sinkers I upgraded to a real arborist throw weight and line. It really changed my tree game. I found I could cast right over my target branch the very first time—then decide that wasn't precisely the perfect placement and miss the tree entirely on the 2nd through 9th attempts, but eventually nail a shot to the branch right under the first one.

## HIGHER, PLEASE

But what I couldn't do—even with that nifty doubled-line cradle trick I saw on YouTube—was get a rope up and over the 70–80' canopy. Not even close.

How do the tree pros do it? Well they throw better than I do, for one, but they also buy big slingshots on collapsible poles for \$130 or more. That's a significant dent in my Mouser parts wish list for something I need to use just occasionally.

## THE \$13 SOLUTION

Wowed by descriptions and photos of water balloon slingshots claiming football field distances for three-man (or one man and two bikini-clad beauties) launches, I figured I'd give one a try for \$13. There was even a solo launch option for the nimble-of-toe.

When the package arrived I marched out into the yard and made a few attempts, never getting any higher than my hand throws. I suspect a lack of bikinied assistants and fear of a lead-weight uppercut to the chin were limiting factors.



An arborist line and weight will cost you a bit more than the rest of the catapult, but they're a great investment for tree work.

## THE MUCH BETTER \$13 SOLUTION

Not wanting to sink any more money into this project, I rummaged around in the *other* workshop—the one littered with sawdust and metal filings instead of component leads and solder blobs—and found what I needed to upgrade to a real catapult.

A few odds and ends and handy knots and I was in business. You'll probably have different junk in your shop, but this should give you enough ideas to make it work.

## WORKSHOP-ING LIST

### 3 C-Clamps

Two big ones at right angles to make a V to hold the down-range ends of the slingshot and whatever's handy for the bottom. Crank them down good because you *really* don't want them coming loose under tension!

### 8-foot 2x4

A 2x2 would probably do as well—or at least have the decency to creak ominously before failing—and be lighter and easier to aim, but the goal was to leave the board



whole so I could put it back in the wood-pile for the next project.

**Water Balloon Slingshot**

\$12–20. Buy now; Prices may go up during water balloon season.

**Stick**

Makes it a lot easier to pull the trigger. A dowel or something with rounded corners would be more comfortable.

**Rope**

Nylon. 3/16" or better is plenty strong.

**Caribiners (optional)**

I had some laying around. If you don't, use steel rings, or leave a bigger loop and just run the turns of rope through the bowline and around the C-clamp instead. A bit of tape on the clamp threads would save wear and tear on your rope.

**NOTES**

Wear eye protection! Heck, a helmet wouldn't be a bad idea.

I left things spaced out for the pictures, but if you need extra power shorten up between the knots and keep pulling until the caribiners touch.

Attach the long rope to the top caribiner then loop it through the lower, and then back up through the top. If there's not enough rope to add extra turns from the start, you can wait until the tail gets longer as you pull.

Tension goes up as the slingshot stretches, but adding turns through the caribiners multiplies your power, so it never gets hard to pull.

Make sure you have at least 2½ times as much rope as the tree is tall. If the arborist line isn't long enough, tie another thin rope to the end.

**KNOTS**

As you may have sussed, the key to making this work is tying a few knots.

**Tumble Hitch**

This is the secret sauce for the whole project. It's a stable hitch that can be released under heavy load with a tug on the tail.

**Clove Hitch**

Make it easier on your fingers by having something to grip when you pull the trigger.

**Bowline**

Rabbit, tree, hole. You know the drill.

**Cleat Hitch**

Which this totally isn't, but it sure would have looked cool.

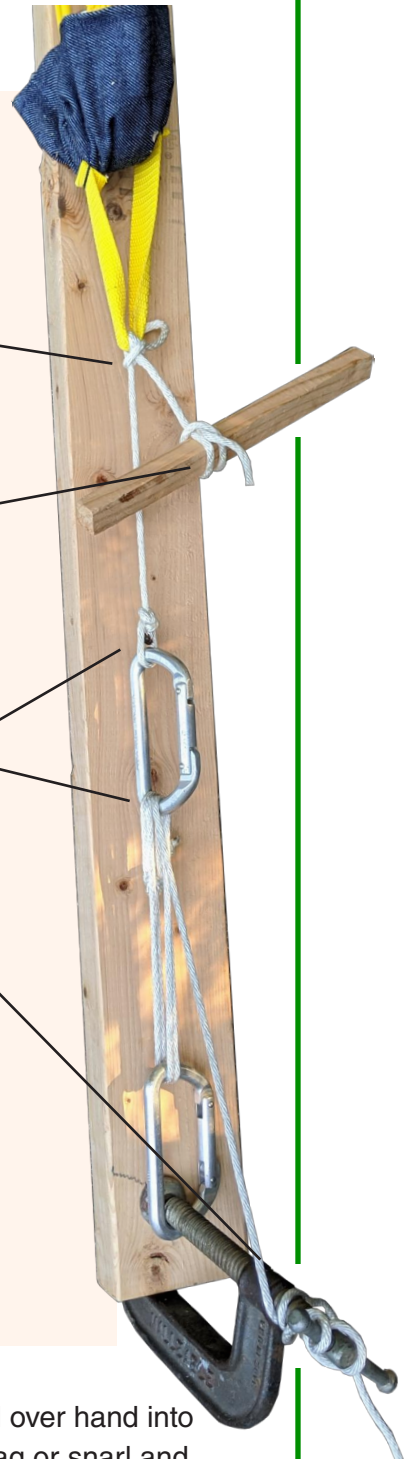
~~Square Knot~~

Subject to capsize under load and extremely hazardous in an application like this. Don't even think about it.

[AnimatedKnots.com](http://AnimatedKnots.com) is a good place to learn how to tie and use these and many other handy knots.

Be sure it's all faked down hand over hand into a box or bucket so it doesn't snag or snarl and leave clumps of rope dangling way up in the air.

When you're done, take it apart and put all the pieces back where they belong. Print out a copy of this article to keep with your balloon launcher so you don't have to remember how it all goes together.



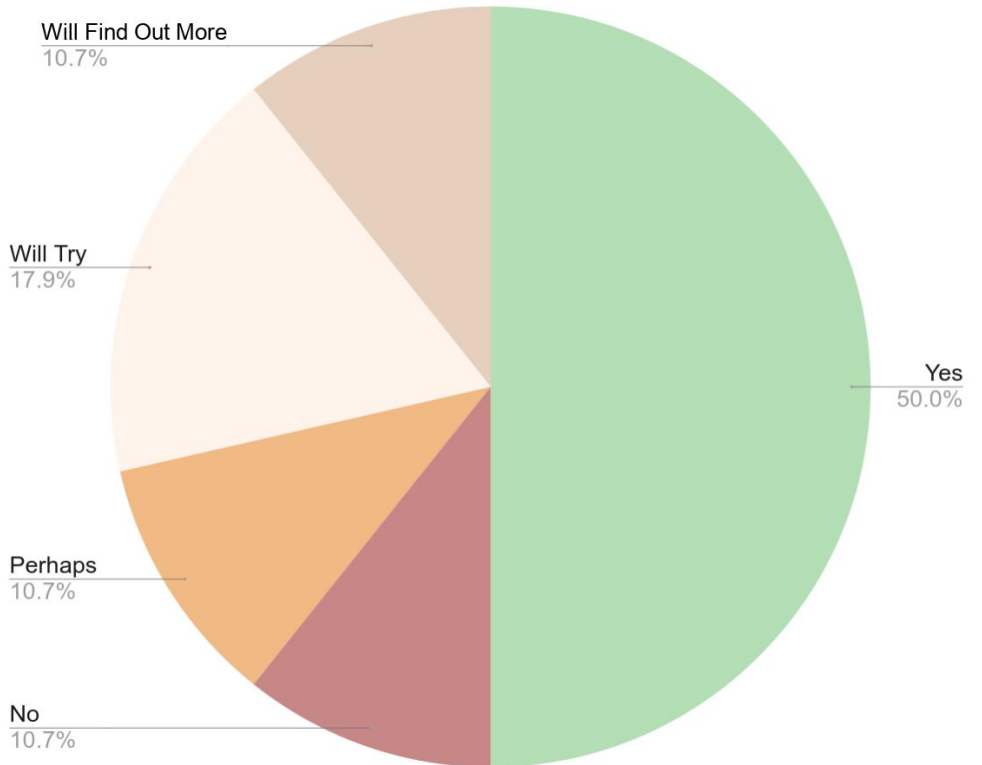
# MEMBER POLLS

## OCTOBER POLL

Have you won any NAQCC awards? Are you working on any? [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html)

## SEPTEMBER POLL

Are you going to participate in the 16th Anniversary N3A events?

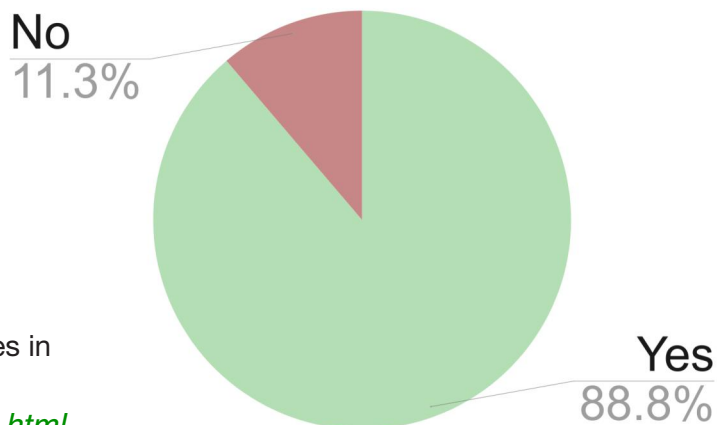


## OLD POLL

Back in 2012 we asked NAQCC members:

*"Have you ever made at least one 1,000 miles per watt CW contact?"*

If you can answer "yes," you're eligible for NAQCC's 1,000-Miles-per-Watt Award. In addition to wallpaper, awards give you participation points that count toward prizes in the anniversary drawings! Details at [http://naqcc.info/awards\\_1000mpwswa.html](http://naqcc.info/awards_1000mpwswa.html)



# NAQCC SPRINTS


## SEPTEMBER SPRINT

Our Sprint this month will be on Thursday, September 17, 2020, 0030-0230 Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, September 16 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202009.html>.

### RULES

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).

 Sprints earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the 16th Anniversary drawing—including the brand new **MTR3b LCD Mountain Topper!** See [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).

## LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202008.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: AE0IB KC5PL (non-member) KG7DC N0IP N5EP (non-member) N8VW N9RRM VA3RSA WB2SMK WN4BIY

September Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	113	132	217	4/17
Participants	171	171	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1808	1583	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	961	910	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	847	670	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	60	75	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1304	1328	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	444	177	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	16	12	19.3	9/11



SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	KN1H	WB1GYZ
W2	WA2NYY	W2SH	KA2KGP
W3	K3EW	KW2A	AK3X
W4	N4ARY	N4OW	WT4U
W5	N5GW	KY5M	KE5YUM
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KF7WNS	KC7DM	AC7FF
W8	NF8M	WB8LZG	W8DXU
W9	WB9HFK	KC9IL	K9QEW
W0	KD0V	W0LGU	N0IP
Canada	VE9BEL	VA3NU	VA3RSA
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	WB2LQF	-
W3	NN3E	-	-
W4	KJ4R	W4EDN	K3RLL
W5	NF5U	K5GQ	-
W6	W6JIM	-	-
W7	N7QR	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	AE0IB	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WY7N	KB1M	N2CN
W2	K2OID	N2JJF	WA1GWH
W3	-	-	-
W4	K4BAI	K4KBL	WB4OMM
W5	WI5H	K5WX	KC5PL
W6	W8KO	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	W8EWH	WI8J	N8VW
W9	AB9CA	NN9K	AB9BZ
W0	N0TA	K9OSC	K0EW
Canada	VE3DQN	VE3GNU	-
DX	-	-	-

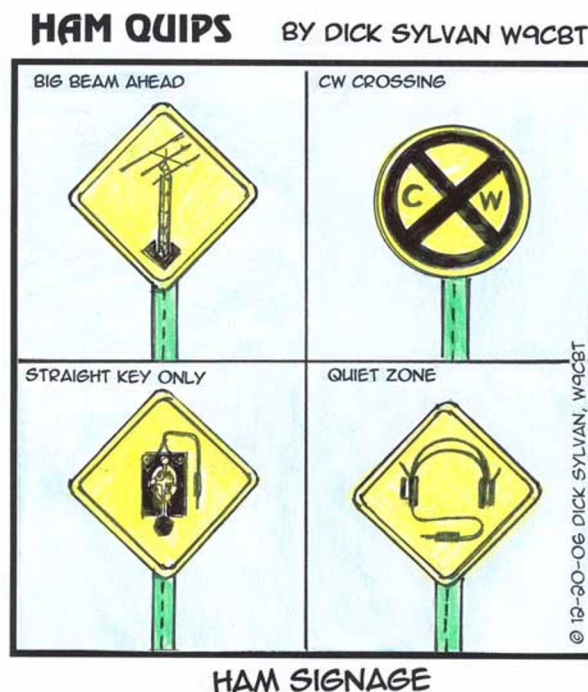
GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	VE3KZ	AA2MX	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	KF6C	-	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	WB2SMK	N0IP	VA3RSA
BUG	AE0IB	-	-
K/K	N8VW	WN4BIY	-
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
KF6C			

## 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) K9EYT KF7WNS KD3CA KB0ETU N2CN K2YGM AA7CU NQ2W KC7DM NF5U N8QY WY3H W15H WA1GWH WB4OMM K6CSL AA0W KB1M WK6L KC2EGL W5UAA WA2FBN VE3DQN K4ORD AB8FJ NN0SS K2HT WB1GYZ VE5BCS(SK) VE3GNU WB9HFK
75+	AA9L K4NVJ NO2D AK3X KB3AAG(SK) KA9FQG VE3FUJ NA4O WD0K N8BB N5GW KQ1P KN1H K6MGO K9OSC N4MJ N8APO <b>N8LA</b>
100+	KE5YUM KD2MX K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI W4DUK N2ESE WB8ENE WX4RM WG8Y W8SAN N0TA K4KRW
125+	N8XMS K4BAI KU4A NF8M K3RLL K4JPN
150+	W2JEK W2SH W9CC WB8LZG
175+	KA2KGP K3WWP



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 CHALLENGE

BY GARY, K1YAN #2365

## THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE:

It is that month where spooky, dangerous and bizarre creatures roam the land, sowing terror and destruction as they go. You think an ocean cruise, to escape all this mayhem, might be just the thing. Perhaps not your best idea. Over the centuries, the sea has spawned a cast of terrors the equal of any found on land. Hailing from around the world and roaming the seas at will, they are the subject of our challenge. For those of strong heart, their stories are told below. So, my fine lads, stay alert and be wary, for there are those things at sea that will do a man and his ship great ill.

### QALUPALIK:

This evil Inuit mermaid has some human-like qualities, but green skin and grotesque fingernails reveal a non-human origin. Using her humming voice to lure them to the edge of the water, she kidnaps children playing near the shore. Some say she feasts on the young, others say she feeds off their youthful energy to preserve her beauty.

### LEVIATHAN:

Using its fiery breath to deal death to sailors by creating a boiling patch of ocean this primordial sea serpent is a creature of nightmares.

### FINFOLK:

This gathering of black magic wielding, Celtic sorcerers make their home beneath the sea. Their shapeshifting powers allow them to roam the land and kidnap unsuspecting victims, some of whom are kept as their spouses.

### HYDRA:

Ancient Greeks believed the Hydra to be the massive guardian of the underworld. Using its razor-sharp teeth and poisonous breath it slaughtered

unfortunate sailors. It is a difficult beast to kill... if one of its multiple heads is cut off, two will grow back in its place.

### CIREIN CROIN:

Immense in size, the Cirein Croin likes to toy with its prey by shrinking down to a fish the size of your palm. When a fisherman catches the non-threatening fish in his net, the Cirein Croin transforms back into its original state, and swallows the fisherman whole. According to legend, the Cirein Croin was so enormous it could feed on several whales for just one meal.

### KRAKEN:

The Kraken has taken on many different shapes over the years from a gargantuan octopus to a squid and even a crab. Whatever its form, it's one of the biggest nightmares ever dreamt up, growing to more than a mile in width. The Kraken has no problem devouring an entire ship and all its crew in one fatal blow.

### IKU-TURSO:

Iku-Turso is the ultimate savage. A gigantic creature resembling an octopus, with long tentacles and suckers, it also sprouts dragon-like wings when provoked. It is said the solitary and ill-tempered monster lived in Pohjola, the home of all evil.

### VODYANOY:

The Vodyanoy, with its green beard, mud-covered body, and frog-like face, likes to take the form of an attractive, young male and lure women to the water. Believed to be the spirit of an unbaptized man, it likes to hold girls prisoner as its bride or drown them.



## EACH UISGE:

The Each Uisge, a supernatural waterhorse, disguises itself as a horse or pony and uses its charm to entice someone to ride. Once the rider touches it, the Each Uisge's skin sticks to the victim, and it dives underwater to seal the victim's fate. The victim's body is violently torn apart, leaving only the liver to float to the water's surface.

## UMIBOZU:

Japanese sailors plying calm, tranquil, waters are on edge because that's when the black phantom



Umibozu, with pitch-black skin and two large eyes, rises from the deep. It's pleasure is to hurl innocent sailors overboard and drown them in the sea.

## NINGEN:

With arms, legs, and hands with five fingers, the Japanese Ningen resembles a human being. In fact, Ningen means "human" in Japanese. However, its noseless face, fins, and tail reveal that it is anything but human. It brings death and terror to the unfortunate sailors it encounters.

## RULES:

Just make all (or at least one for a participation point) of the words from calls of stations you work subject to the General Challenge Rules. (Any spaces in the phrases should be ignored. For example the challenge phrase "INVERTED V ANTENNA" should be treated as if it is the single word "INVERTEDVANTENNA.")

Each letter in a callsign you work during the month can be used twice to complete the challenge words.

Complete rules, information, and a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge along with detailed general rules and submission instructions can be found at [http://naqcc.info/challenges\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html)

## WORDS

- QALUPALIK
- LEVIATHAN
- FINFOLK
- HYDRA
- CIREIN CROIN
- KRAKEN
- IKU-TURSO
- VODYANOY
- EACH UISGE
- UMIBOZU
- NINGEN

## SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The easiest way is to use the great tool hosted by Robby WB5RVZ. Create an account, choose this month's challenge, and paste in all the eligible calls you worked. It will apply the letters, tell you what you're missing, and fill out the email for you.

<http://naqccletters.azurewebsites.net/>

If you want to do it by hand, or got some but not all of the words and want to pick up a participation point, send an email to **K7HAP2@GMAIL.COM**

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month) Challenge

Body:

your call:

word1 - call1 call2 call3

word2 - call1 call2 call3

### OCTOBER CHALLENGE TRACKER:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	Y	Z	

Every time you work a new station this month, mark off the lowest box under each letter of the call to track your progress and see what letters you still need.


### NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

I bet you've participated in a scavenger hunt. You had a list of items or information you needed to collect to complete the hunt and win the prize. Here is the NAQCC version. To spell out the word list you need to "collect" items by making QSOs in which the station contacted uses the band, key, radio, etc. from the list below. If you get stuck trying to find an item don't forget to check out the wildcard list. Good luck, happy hunting and let us know how you did.

### LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our September "Animal Groups" Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202009.html> and final results will be posted on that page shortly after the 10th of the month.

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	W3IQ KU4A K9OSC KD0V WA2FBN W15H WY3H N1JI VE3HUR G3JFS N1LU KJ4R KD2MX AK3X VE3DQN KA5PVB AH6AX WB4OMM KB1M
50+	PA0XAW VE3FUJ NU7T(SK) N9SE PA9CW <b>NF1U</b>
75+	
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	N8XMS
150+	K3WWP W2JEK

 Challenges earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the 16th Anniversary drawing—including the new **MTR3b LCD Mountain Topper!** See [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).



# NAQCC AWARDS

You may already be a winner! NAQCC has an extensive list of awards. Check your log to see if you're close, or just need to submit. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

## FEATURED AWARDS:

### QSO-A-DAY

This award, which is renewed annually, is designed to encourage hams to spend more time on the CW bands thus increasing the CW presence there which is so important in this day and age. The award was initially suggested by K4UK in a QSO with K3WWP late in 2004. It is based on K3WWP's 'streak' of having made (and continuing to make) at least one QRP/CW QSO each day since August 5, 1994.

Note the new additional DX endorsement.

### TIME FRAME FOR QUALIFYING QSO'S:

January 1, 0000Z through December 31, 2400Z of the current year. The award starts over again each year.

## BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Make at least one QSO per day.

## CATEGORIES:

1. FULL YEAR - Make at least one QSO on each of the 365 (366) days during the calendar year.
2. PARTIAL YEAR - Make at least one QSO on each day of the following number of calendar months in the calendar year:
 

2A. 11 MONTHS	2G. 5 MONTHS
2B. 10 MONTHS	2H. 4 MONTHS
2C. 9 MONTHS	2I. 3 MONTHS
2D. 8 MONTHS	2J. 2 MONTHS
2E. 7 MONTHS	2K. 1 MONTH
2F. 6 MONTHS	
- 3A. 30 DAYS - Make at least 1 QSO on each day of a consecutive 30 day period during the year. The 30 days can span months.

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

### 1000 Miles per Watt:

Nr	Call	Stn worked	MPW	Award Date	
0559	K9OSC	N5SJ	10,461	08/05/20	CF Zepp @30'



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the 16th Anniversary drawing—including the brand new **MTR3b LCD Mountain Topper!** See [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_16th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_16th_anniv.html).





# 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	Monday		
	5PM PDT	0000 Z	5332 kHz (ch1) Alt = 5348kHz	60m JB NR5NN (CA)
	8PM PDT	0300 Z	3553 kHz	80m Rick N6IET (CA)
	Tuesday 8PM PDT	Wednesday 0300 Z	7046 kHz	40m Rick N7HRK (MT)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3568 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/ Continental QRS	Tues/Thurs 10:30 AM MDT	Tues/Thurs 1630 Z	7062.5 kHz	Dale WC7S (WY)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
West Coast QRS Net (WCN)	Suspended			
The 1 Land QRS Net (1LND)	2nd & 4th Sundays of the month 8pm EDT	Monday 0000 Z	3560 or 3565 kHz	Ed K1RID (ME)

**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 5:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)  
 Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Monday 0300 UTC, on 3553 kHz +/- **New frequency**  
 Tuesday evenings 8:00 PM PDT, which is Wednesday 0300 UTC on 7046 kHz +/-  
 60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA)  
 40m NCS - Rick N7HRK (MT)

The NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ CW round table nets ...  
 ... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at between 21-25 wpm. We typically go two rounds after check-ins, including signal reports and topical commentary about the weather, the pandemic, recent contests or other CW events, antenna experimentation and/or catastrophes, and HF portable CW operations.

Anybody who can copy and send at least 15 wpm is welcome to participate—you don't have to be a member of NAQCC.

Because of the multiple round-table nature of our net, it's best if we all are able to copy each other, which can require occasionally moving net times to take advantage of seasonal changes to NVIS propagation conditions and times. If conditions are not ideal, some of us sometimes QRO (but never over 100 watts) to facilitate everybody copying each other.

We had a few rough evenings on FRN/60, with marginal NVIS propagation, but conditions have been improving with the shorter daylight hours and the occasional blooming of a new Cycle 25 sunspot.

Polar Bear Rick (N7HRK/M) has been giving us great QRQ practice during FRN/40 (at 25 wpm) and even faster, post-net (up to 35 wpm). Send at whatever speed you're comfortable.

**Below are the lists of stations who checked into each net, each week. Dates are UTC.**

FRN/60 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - JB NR5NN NCS  
 Sunday 5pm PDT (Monday 0000 UTC) on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)

Sep 07 - QNS (11) NR5NN NCS, AI6SL, K0DTJ, K6GVG, K6JJR, KW6G, N6IET, NS3C, KW6G, WI6O, WJ7S

Sep 14 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, W6MK, N6VN, N6IET, KW6G, K6JJR, K6GVG, K0DTJ, AI6SL

Sep 21 - QNS (10) NR5NN NCS, AI6SL, K0DTJ, K6GVG, K6JJR, KW6G, N6IET, NS3C, W6MK, WJ7S

Sep 28 - QNS (8) NR5NN NCS, W6MK, N6VN, N6IET, KW6G, K6GVG, K0DTJ, AI6SL

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS  
 Sunday 8pm PDT (Monday 0300 UTC) on 3556.5 or 3553 kHz ±

Sep 07 - QNS (9) N6IET NCS, N6KIX, K0DTJ, K6GVG, K6JJR, AI6SL, KW6G, NS3C, W6MK

Sep 14 - QNS (10) W6B/N6IET NCS, AI6SL, K6JJR, N6VN, K6GVG, KB7KY, KW6G, W6MK, N6KIX, NR5NN

Sep 21 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G, AI6SL, K6JJR, K6GVG, NS3C, KB7KY

Sep 28 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, K6GVG, AI6SL, W6MK, N6VN

\* Note that we'll meet on 3553 kHz during October.

FRN/40 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - PBRick N7HRK/M NCS

Tuesday 8pm (Wednesday 0300 UTC) on 7046 kHz ±

Sep 02 - QNS (6) N7HRK/M NCS , N6IET, NS6C, KW6G, K6GVG, W7XP

Sep 09 - QNS (4) N7HRK/M NCS, K0DTJ, KW6G, K6GVG

Sep 16 - No report

Sep 23 - QNS (3) N7HRK/M NCS, K0DTJ, K6GVG

Sep 30 - No report

I should point out that conditions on 40 meters in September were pretty bad. There were no sunspots (to speak of), and there were a couple of geomagnetic storms causing absorption and QSB. Signals were weak to uncopyable during most scheduled net times.

Don't forget to participate in the NAQCC 16th Anniversary Event starting next Saturday at 5pm (0000z, Sunday, October 11) for the next seven days, including the monthly NA sprint that Tuesday at 5:30pm (0030-0230z, Wednesday, October 14). I'll be operating QRP as N3A/6, using my KX2 and rooftop fan dipole for the entire event. I'll be signing N3A/6 as NCS of FRN/80 that Sunday night. I might be using a straight key at 14 wpm that night to earn the x2 multiplier. Check-ins who are NAQCC members and running no more than 5 watts can count it as an event QSO.

### NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC, on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3568 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Sept 8 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

I called the net on 7067 kHz due to QRM on 7065.5 kHz and got N4NN in GA. 559. We had a short QSO and I QSYed to 3566 kHz where KE5YUM and KE5YGA were already having a QSO. N4NN also joined us there. Looks like 80 meters is working better than 40 even this early in the year.

Sept 15 - QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS N4NN

Well I heard N4NN on 7066 kHz 229. Very weak so called for a QSY to 3566 kHz and got nothing. Poor conditions last night.

Sept 22 - QNI(5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N4NN WI5H

Pretty good signals last night. KE5YGA 599 QRO. KE5YUM 559 QRP from Mena, AR. N4NN 329 Bad QSB from GA. WI5H 599 Great to hear Mike last night.

Sept 29 - QNI(3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N4NN

Well the band changed about 7:15 and Andy went from a solid 599 to 119. Allen was NIL when I called him but those 2 had a nice QSO after they figured out they could no longer hear me. I went down to 80 meters on the off chance that someone would give it a try but no luck.

---

### NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

New frequency

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0030 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas)

Aug 31 - No Report (Wedding Anniversary to KE0HZG)

Sept 07 - Labor Day - Still had to work

Sept 14 - QNI W0CC

Several stations heard on band during grey zone, no QSO.  
Looking forward to next week!

Sept 21 - QNI(3) - W0CC, KG9HV, N8HWV

Both John and Nate did GREAT jobs pulling out the signal with S-9+ QRN! Excellent OP!

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### NAQCC WEST COAST NET (WCN)

Net suspended until further notice.

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### NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PDT, which is Friday 0200 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Sept 03 - PNW QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW/P, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, NB7M, W7ANM, N0DA

Sept 09 - PNW QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, W7ANM, AD7BP



Sept 18 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, N7IMI, AD7BP, K7JUV, N0DA

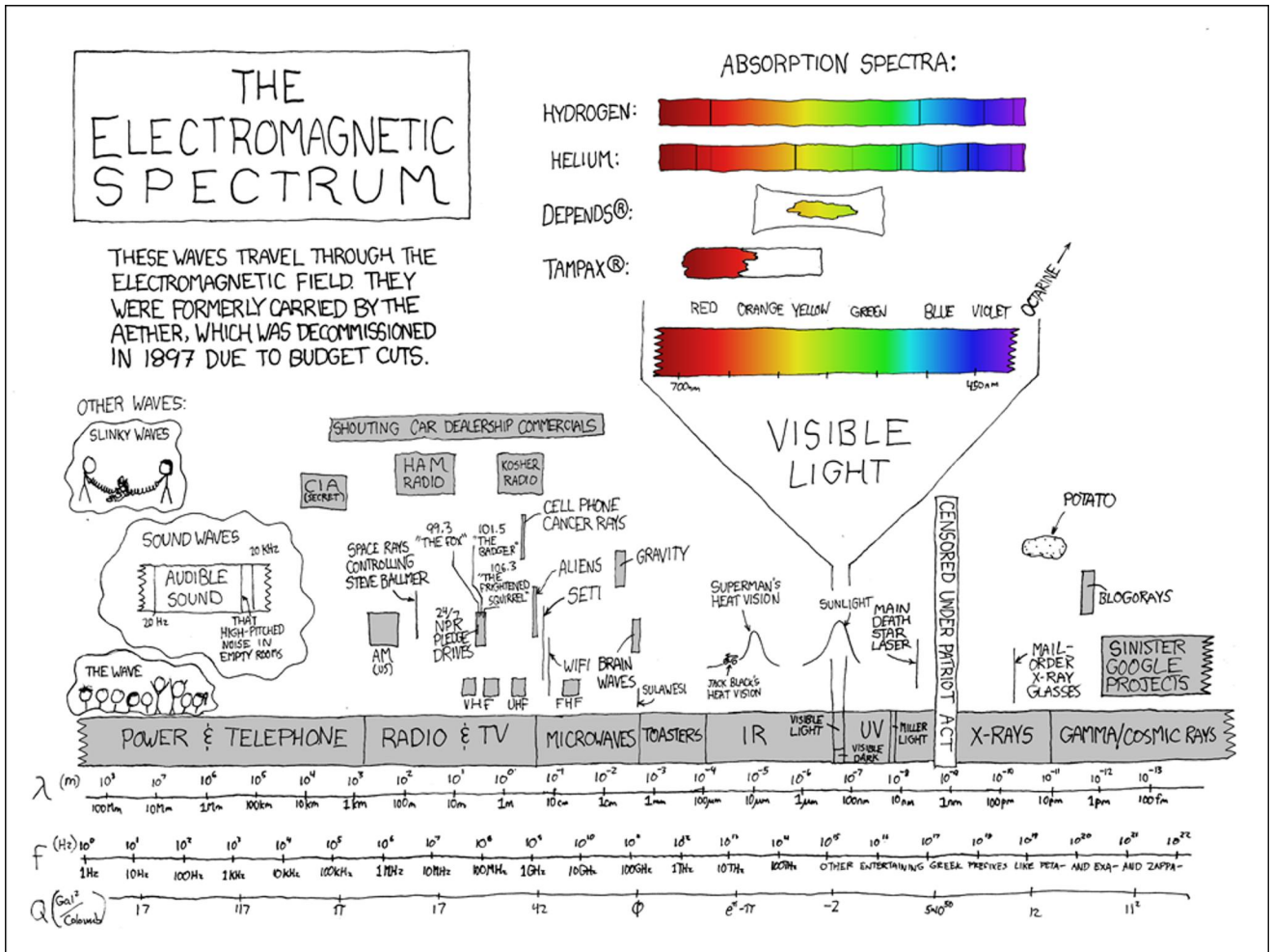
Sept 25 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW/7, WB4SPB, N7IMI, W7ANM/7, N0DA/7, N7TB/7, AD7BP, K7JUV

### NAQCC 1 LAND QRS NET (1LND)

Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month at 8:00 PM EDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC on 3560 or 3565 kHz +/- Main NCS Ed K1RID (Maine)

Sept 13 - QNI (0)

Sept 27 - QNI (0)



# 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.

## NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER

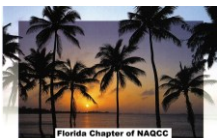


Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited.

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

No Report

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Nikki, KM4SBQ.

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

No Report

## 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 <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

### NAQCC-WFL Event

Aug 1, 2020  
Anclote Park  
Holiday, Florida

Attending  
Ron, N9EE  
Don, KA2KDP  
Frank, KK4DYF  
Jim, N0NL & wife  
Bill, KM4JYL & wife

Operating Ron, N9EE

FT817 w/Z817 tuner on battery, 40m OCFD at 18 ft on portable flag pole.

At around 1030 hrs 20 & 40m were light, few stations. Activity really picked up at 1400 (2PM) due to contest starting. Lots of stations, lots of pile ups. One can see 2/3rds of QSOs were after 1400 hrs.

Anclote Park is located on the Gulf of Mexico west coast of Florida, about 30 miles due north west of downtown Tampa, FL. Had very good weather on the coast with morning breeze, but after noon calm and hot, say in 90s F. But had good time.

The Suncoast ARC of New Port Richey provided hot dogs and sodas marrying this event for their picnic.



Photo credit: Ron, N9EE



**Log (Ron, N9EE)**

TIME	CALL	FREQ	COMMENTS
1108	K4BAI	7.057	GA, John NA644
1124	K0RO	7.057	Ralph, SKCC 14800S
1146	N9ZXL	14.061	IL, Dave
1155	W0ITT	14.061	MO, Gary
1231	KJ4KPW	14.058	MD, John
1300	AG6V	14.054	WA, Donna
1306	K0M	14.052	
1336	KN3A	14.055	POTA
1404	K9WX	14.040	IN, Tim
1406	N2RC	14.043	NY, Ted
1408	N3AL	14.044	PA,
1418	K3AA	14.060	PA, Phil
1425	K2XR	14.057	PA, Dave
1429	W4TR	14.036	VA, Jack
1431	K3UL	14.035	PA, Bob
1433	N1IB	14.032	
1439	K2QMF	14.029	NY, Ted
1442	W8LVN	14.038	IL, Bill
1443	N2LC	14.043	NY, Mike
1446	W2CDO	14.047	MD, Pete
1504	AA2ZW	14.047	NY, Bob
1513	WK9M	14.015	WI, Bill
1515	WB9Z	14.004	IL, Jerry
1519	W3KB	14.016	PA, Keven
1521	K3TW	14.018	NJ, Tom
1525	W8FJ	14.022	PA, John
1530	K5TW	14.033	TX, Kim
1532	N3QE	14.036	MD, Tim
1533	AS2O	14.038	NY, Dennis
1536	K3DMG	14.045	OH, Lee



40m OCFD





## 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

## 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.

The WPA Chapter has suspended all its activities until further notice because of the virus situation.

## NAQCC 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



xkcd.com



# 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. [kd2mx@arrl.net](mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net)

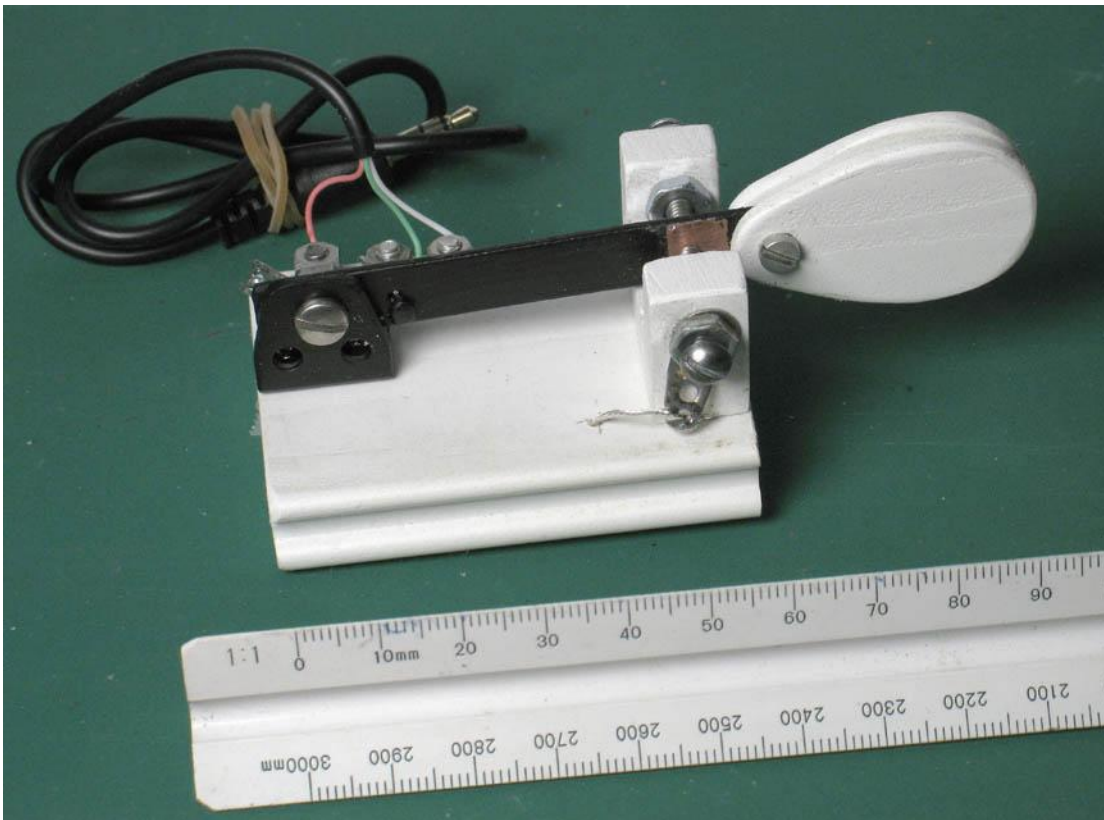
**DISCLAIMER:** Any views expressed in this section are those of the submitting member and may or may not be those of the NAQCC or its officers.

## MINIATURE SINGLE-LEVER PADDLE

**Tom VE4AKI #8145**

"What, you made another key?" my wife said when I showed it to her. "Yes, but this one is different. Remember that window blind we replaced with a new one? Well I recycled some of the plastic material into a single lever paddle for portable operation."

The paddle lever is made from doublesided pc board material and the finger pieces are made from the blind slats. The keyer base is made from the bottom rung of the blind. The bracket supporting the lever is made from the clip that is used to steady the blind and keep it from flopping around. The paddle is easy to use, has a good feel and is very compact.



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Amateur radio has something for everyone. For a growing number of folks, the challenge of "doing the most with the least" makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio. The North American QRP CW Club Inc. exists to promote and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes, an exciting facet of the hobby.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to operate in QRP/CW activities. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace to increase code skills and experiment with different antennas. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp (less than 1W of power) 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, sharing information on low power Morse operations. 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 these web pages and we are more than willing to answer any questions about QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas 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.

## 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.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President	Steve WB4OMM	sszabo1@cfl.rr.com
NAQCC Treasurer	Jerry K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Brent WT4U	wt4u@knoxtour.com
Downeast Maine Chapter	Jeff KA1DBE	j.hanscom@gmail.com
Florida Chapter	Nikki KM4SBQ	nickies1130@aol.com
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Illowa Chapter	Tim N9BIL	n9bil@arri.net
West Florida Chapter	Ron N9EE	n9ee55@gmail.com
Long Island Chapter	Howard WB2UZE	wb2uze@yahoo.com
Help for Beginners	Brion VEFUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul KD2MX	kd2mx@arri.net
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.

The North American QRP CW Club Inc., is organized exclusively for scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code to advance, promote, and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes. No dues or membership fees - open to any licensed radio amateur or shortwave listener (SWL) worldwide with interest in CW/QRP operation. Encouraging the use of CW and helping all hams increase CW speed and proficiency is a top club priority. Club activities are dedicated to QRP/QRPp operation, using CW and emphasize using simple wire antennas.

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 be sent to:

Club President Steve Szabo, WB4OMM  
536 Central Park Blvd  
Port Orange, FL 32127 USA

