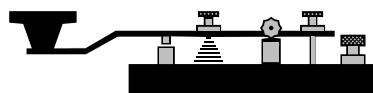


NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 271 • JANUARY 2021



KEY CLICKS

- **THIS ISSUE: PACKED FULL O' QRP GOODNESS!**

VA4RSA's QRP story, a Challenge that's all wet, portable op action, 3D-printed custom enclosures, QSLs remind us of favorite QSOs, Net reports, Some fun outdoor chapter trip reports, and more!

- **SPRINT DATABASES UPDATED**

Sprint manager Andy N2CN reports: The monthly Sprint and special Sprint databases have been brought up to date with sprint data since December 2017. All past and present results are available for searching at our search page: <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>. New sprint results will be added on an ongoing basis as they become available.

- **NET LISTINGS PARED DOWN**

Polar Bear Rick N7HRK/m has decided to discontinue his formal FRN/40 Tuesday evening nets. But he still calls CQ nearly every morning starting around 1515z and every evening after sunset looking for QRQ individual or roundtable QSOs on 7046 kHz.

We've also removed any nets that didn't submit a report in 2020. If you'd like to try ressurecting on of those nets, or starting a new one, get it touch with net manager, Mark W8EWH mark.yergin@gmail.com

- **YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS NEEDED**

Are you getting your radio outside, or sitting in the shack melting solder? Stringing up a new antenna or replacing the one the snowstorm took down?

Drop us a line, and maybe a few pictures, to let us know what you're doing: kd2mx@arrl.net

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THE PREZ SEZ...

GREETINGS NAQCC MEMBERS—HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The holidays are over, and we begin a new year.

Our group continues to grow, with new members joining our ranks every month—and more exciting, many are participating in several of our activities! How can I tell? Pretty easy.....in any of the Sprints, a member number that is over 10,000 is a reasonably new member—and I've worked a number of them these last few months. In the Soapbox comments I see quite a few, "this is my first Sprint"—followed by, "I had fun," "it was great," and most importantly, "I'll be back." We had 99 entries in the regular sprint and 80 entries in the mW sprint last month; both really good numbers (particularly with the crummy propagation). And lots of positive comments in the Soapbox! (positive about the Sprint, not the crummy band conditions! Hi Hi).

Every month our member total increases. And that's a great sign that we are doing something right.

If you've not joined in any of our activities, maybe this is the year to try out one—you might just find it challenging, educational, interesting, or just plain fun!

My sincere thanks to all of those members that work behind the scenes tirelessly providing a great environment for our members to participate in.

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 - kd2mx@arri.net

To all of our members, a heartfelt wish for a safe, HEALTHY and prosperous 2021!

Stay safe, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active!

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913
NAQCC President



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

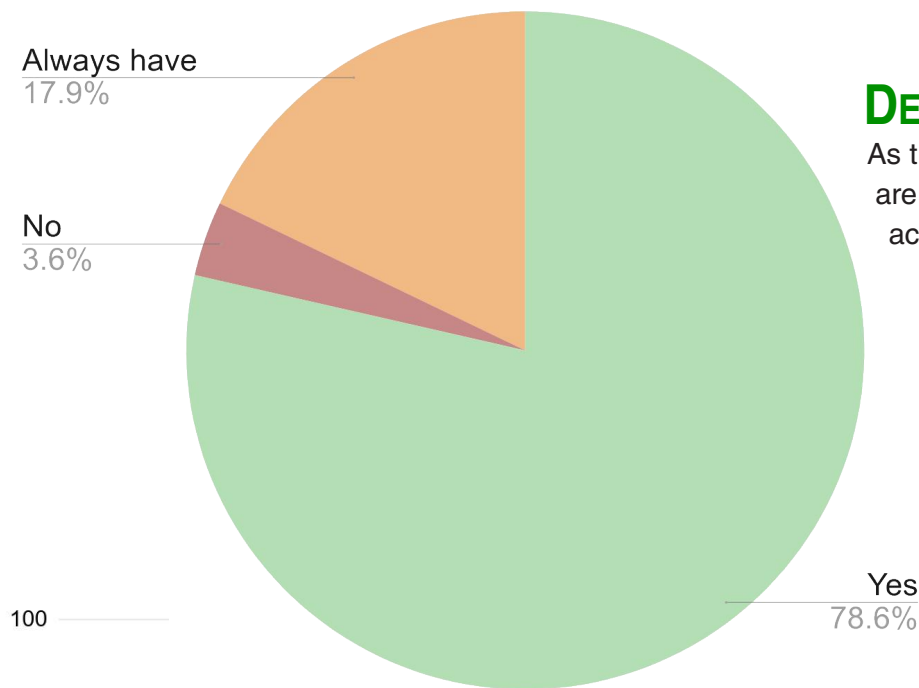


MEMBER POLLS

JANUARY POLL

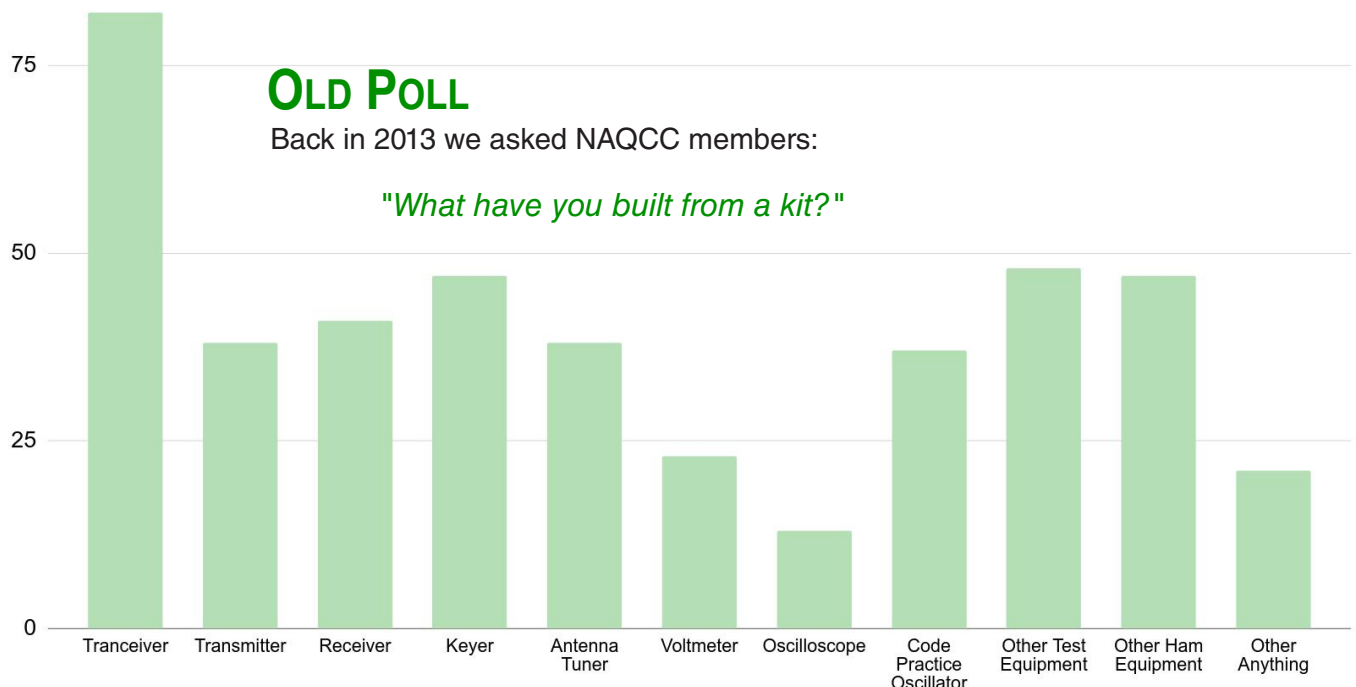
How do you read the NAQCC Newsletter? Phone, computer, print it out?

Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html



DECEMBER POLL

As the Next Solar Cycle gears up, are you planning on getting more active with NAQCC?



MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Each month one of our members is randomly selected and asked to share their ham radio biography with all of us. Questions or comments should go to Paul, KD2MX.

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

RICHARD BUDNY VA3RSA #10427

Hello, my name is Richard VA3RSA and I was licensed in 1995. I've included two photos. The first one is me in my tent with my first boat anchor station during FD 2002 with the Scarborough Amateur Radio Club. The second photo is my portable FT-818 QRP station in August of 2020. When it comes to QRP operating activity, I'm a "rookie" and in 2020 I decided to do something about it. With the solar cycle on the upswing, I decided that this was the time to get ready for QRP—something which I've always wanted to do in a meaningful way.



THE ADVENTURE BEGINS

At 10 years of age I got my first crystal radio set and my love for radio grew over the years so much so that I wanted to be an electrical/electronics engineer. I learned about ham radio and Morse code through our Boy Scout leader. What wonderful tours of his late 60's ham shack we had, and what a shack it was because it occupied several rooms throughout his attic. In early high school I built my own tube regenerative receiver. It was truly magical when I first powered it up and suddenly heard through the headphones the characteristic and dramatic "Yankee Doodle Dandy" sign-on music by the Voice of America as it rose and fell through the QSB, something that I will always remember. In grade 10, I had the good fortune to obtain a war surplus No. 19 set which I used to listen to ARRL CW broadcasts on 40 and 80 meters. Somehow the CW was more genuine, more meaningful, when heard through the No. 19 set, at least I thought so.

GETTING LICENSED

I got my ham license in 1995 after surviving the busy years of university, getting married, and helping raise two kids. I ended up as a mechanical engineer and ham radio was a way to get back to my radio roots. Initially I spent too much time at hamfests buying up old boat anchors and other vintage radio gear. One night, when tuning a vintage tube radio, I heard 1920's music. This was too good to be true—it was "magic." I had discovered Rich Conaty's "Big Broadcast" show on 1560 WQEW. After getting serious about ham radio, I fi-

nally got on the air in Feb. 2001 with my CW station—a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter and HR-1680 receiver (see tent photo). And yes I raised an antenna during a raging snow storm just to get on the air—I had to fix RFI issues. Around 2003 I passed my 10 wpm "Advanced" CW test before CW testing was completely eliminated.

EARLY QRP DAYS

My first QRP rig, circa 2002, was a homebrew one-tube 1929 style Hartley transmitter built for the Antique Wireless Association's Bruce Kelly contest. Input power was about 5W DC at 500 V plate voltage and I made QSOs with it on 80 meters. But I was interested in QRP earlier than that. I started collecting QRP internet articles in the late '90s and one of the posters at that time was Peter Parker VK3YE who still runs a QRP YouTube channel. A big influence on me was the release of Yaesu's FT-817 in 2001 and all the articles related to it. I always wanted to get an FT-817 but instead got the FT-897 in 2003. I met the Rev. George Dobbs G3RJV (SK), founder of GQRP Club, for an eyeball QSO at Dayton Hamvention about 2003. Over time I collected numerous QRP publications by the GQRP, by Doug DeMaw W1FB (SK), Wes Hayward W7ZOI, and Dave Ingram K4TJWJ (SK)—I really enjoyed his CQ magazine articles about vintage QRP tube gear.

RETIREMENT AND CW RADIO SPARKS REIGNITED

I retired at the end of Summer 2018 and at first was too busy having fun with my other hobbies like R/C airplanes. Then in late December, I watched some YouTube videos on FT8 and the Icom IC-7300. I was curious about FT8 and wanted to give it a try. I was running FT8 by Feb. of 2019 and I worked DX in spite of my modest antennas. My main antenna is an inverted vee fan dipole up 25 feet—a homebrew clone of the Alpha Delta DX-CC antenna. And then I happened upon a YouTube video called "Why You Should Join the



SKCC” on the QRP School channel. I brushed up on my CW and joined SKCC in Nov. 2019.

THE YEAR 2020—A GAME CHANGER

It was Jan. 2020 and Covid-19 was in the news. For about two months I was glued to the news channels and disregarded everything else. By mid-March I had enough with the news, the lockdowns were coming, my other activities would soon be curtailed, so I restarted ham radio activities in a big way because I could do that from home. I watched a lot of YouTube videos on portable QRP and decided that I wanted to try that. Once things opened up again in the Summer I bought an FT-818 because I always wanted to have one (the little brother of my FT-897). I built some portable QRP antennas and started doing QRP park portable (see photo 2 for my FT-818 setup) and was amazed at the low QRN levels on the bands and that I could hear weak signals. I can't wait to do more portable work when the weather improves. I joined NAQCC and other QRP organizations and bought the Icom IC-705 when it became available (little brother to my IC-7300) and used it for genuine QRP QSOs.

WHERE AM I NOW?

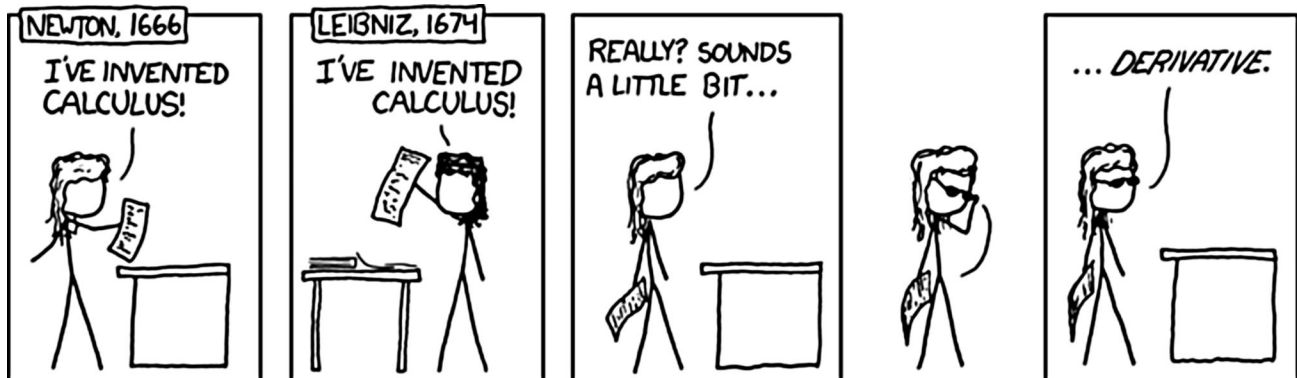
Now I'm doing CW mostly since it is more interactive than FT8 and there seems to be a lot of camaraderie between CW hams and especially so with the QRP folks. QRP is an evolving activity for me as I learn to deal with high QRN levels at my

QTH (surrounded by typical consumer electronics QRN). I have a hard time receiving weak QRP signals. Also I'm learning that I need better transmit antennas because the QRP stations don't always hear me or maybe they are struggling with high QRN levels like me? I also learned that you should never leave two CW keys side-by-side for any length of time because they multiply, hi, hi. I now have an additional two Vibroplex bugs, two CW paddles, and a cootie key in the mail. I'm starting to really enjoy CW with my slowed-way-down Vibroplex bug at a blistering speed of about 10-12 wpm.

THE MAGIC OF QRP

I am still amazed by QRP as a radio activity and that communications can work at low power. I recently tuned up my IC-705 at 1W and forgot to switch back to 5W but I still made a QSO during one of the NAQCC sprints! Recently I received an email from a 2W QRP operator thanking me for the great RST 559 report and that I was his first Canadian contact. He was using a rain gutter antenna to boot! I had to tell him I was not known for my honest RST reports and 559 was just easy to log. But I listened again to the QSO recording and told him that yes he had a good signal and I could not tell he was QRP. The coming solar maximum promises to be an exciting time for QRP. Let the adventure continue!

72, Richard VA3RSA.



PORTABLE FLORIDA Ops 2020

BY GREGG, WB8LZG #1444

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES OF A WANDERING QRP OPERATOR

This year will undoubtedly go down as one of the most disruptive years ever. For everyone. Unable to reliably plan anything, the XYL and I finally decided to spend some time out of the cold so at the end of November we rented a place in Florida, and packed up the car. I had intended to bring along a 'big rig,' but we were loaded to the hilt by the time all was packed, and there was only room left for my QRP "go pack."

Having never seen the place we were renting, I threw in a variety of antenna items. My mobile whip setup was first. Then a bunch of pre-cut radials for 20 and 40, and a 40 meter dipole. At the last minute, I removed the 40M dipole, as it took up lots of space with all the coax, insulators, rope, etc. This turned out to be a big mistake. Our lot had a very nice tall pine tree that would do nicely for a center support. I still have a small spool of wire, and I'm contemplating an EFHW wire for 40 or 80.



Go Bag contents: FT817, T1, QRP gear, coax, adapters, wire, etc.

Upon arrival and unpacking the car, I began scouting a good spot for my vertical. I did not ask permission from the HOA police, so I wanted to keep it hidden if possible. I found a good spot near the corner of the porch that had several short palm trees to hide it from the street view. I mounted the base to a 2 by 2 and guyed it to the nearby palms with thin 'invisible' nylon guys. Then I attached the eight radials in my radial kit and



strung them out to the palms and down the edge of the porch. I lifted the radials up into the palm branches to hide them even better.

The antenna was fairly well hidden, but some of the radials stuck out pretty good. Fortunately many of the other neighbors were stringing up Christmas decorations, so my antenna stuff went mostly unnoticed. I did tell the next door neighbor I was a ham and what I was doing, and he had no objection to the temporary setup. I ran the coax into the porch, and was ready to set up the radio shack. So far, so good.

ENTER MY OLD FRIEND, MURPHY!

I unpacked the go bag and set up the trusty FT-817 on the operating table, connected the key, T1 tuner, and Yaesu power supply to the rig. Power up showed signals and the rig was doing fine. However the Yaesu wall wart power supply was not. A quick check with a VOM confirmed my fear. DEAD. This meant that I had to power everything from my folding solar panel, and small gel-cel. The sun was shining so I patched in the panel, and soon was charging my battery while listening to the band activity on 40 meters. I answered a CQ SKCC and was quickly rewarded with a nice QSO with W2SKY, Peter in Rochester, NY. My RST was only 339, but I was elated that I grabbed a cross country QSO on my first attempt. Several more QSOs with MI, OH, PA, NC, GA, FL, and IL over Thanksgiving week confirmed that my little vertical was performing as I expected.

ENTER MURPHY'S LITTLE BROTHER, MARVIN

I was not able to hold a good charge on my small gel-cell battery. It's seven or eight years old now, (maybe more) and looks as though it has degraded quite a bit since last year when I used it on my Key West operations. Right now, I was getting about one hour of operating time before the old gel-cel goes down below 11 volts. Usable, but it really needs a replacement. Thanks Marvin!

I was also noticing that I would have to choose my operating times to best take advantage of my 'peanut whistle' signal in a world of high power and better antennas than my own. My best signals were early in the morning and early in the evening. Right in the gray line and early evening being tops. Also calling CQ in the QRP/SKCC part of the band, (7.050-7.060 Mc/s) proved to get a better return on my calls. Still only a week in and I'm having good luck and lots of fun on the air.



Here's the /4 QRP shack

I'm setting my sights on the tall pine tree on the other side of the house. I brought along a slingshot and some sinkers and will soon have a wire up there. First things first. I'll be scouting out some other source of xcvr power here right away. Perhaps I'll get lucky and find an electronics supply store nearby. There's always the possibility of using a 12-volt battery from a car or golf cart, or a boat battery, which may be the best solution. A 12-volt marine battery will charge nicely from my solar panel, and will supply enough reserve juice for many hours of evening operating. I may even go 'hog wild' and order up a brand new gel-cel from one of the online suppliers. I'll use that plan as a last resort. A QRP die hard never gives up! There are ALWAYS alternatives!

Persevere, Overcome, Adapt, Win!

AIMING FOR THE SKY

I still have many other QRP plans ahead. I brought along my homebrew 'hockey stick' satellite antenna for some handheld operations. I carefully bent all of the 'coathanger' elements flat against the boom to pack it in the car's spare tire compartment. I did a little research and found out that there is a small corner of a semi-rare grid square, EL88, (the rest is water) just a short

bicycle ride from here. Part of the Myaka State Forest and Englewood. I'll be planning some QRP satellite operations very soon.

Stay tuned! More stories of QRP fun coming next month.

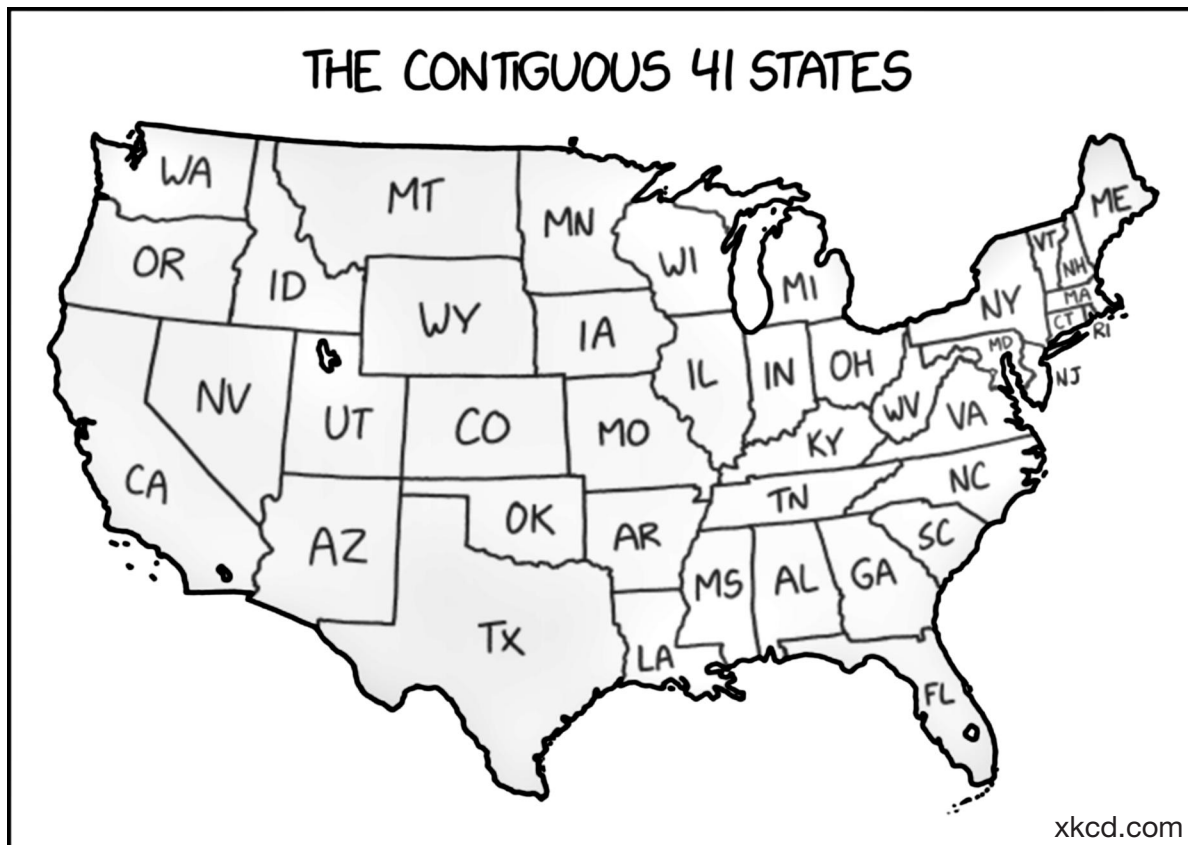
73, Gregg WB8LZG



Enjoying QRP CW on the porch



THIS WILL MAKE QRP WAS A BIT EASIER:



TIRED OF BEING LEFT OFF MAPS OF THE US, ALASKA AND HAWAII BEGIN PRODUCING MAPS WITH OTHER STATES MISSING, TOO.

NAQCC SPRINTS

JANUARY SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, January 21, 2021, 0130-033Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, January 20 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202101.html>.

RULES

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

DECEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202012.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: AI6ZV, K3FA, KF5WJ, KG5SSB, N8GZ, & VE3CMM

| December Sprint | | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------|
| | Current Month | Previous Month | All-Time Record | Record Date |
| Logs | 99 | 95 | 217 | 4/17 |
| Participants | 137 | 145 | 269 | 2/13 |
| Total QSOs | 966 | 1005 | 3154 | 4/17 |
| Hour 1 QSOs | 536 | 557 | 1704 | 4/17 |
| Hour 2 QSOs | 430 | 448 | 1450 | 4/17 |
| 20m QSOs | 1 | 0 | 1232 | 8/13 |
| 40m QSOs | 124 | 341 | 2203 | 4/17 |
| 80m QSOs | 841 | 664 | 1417 | 2/13 |
| Avg QSOs/Station | 9.8 | 10.6 | 19.3 | 9/11 |

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | K1MZM | KN1H | WB1GYZ |
| W2 | WA2NYY | W2SH | KA2KGP |
| W3 | K3EW | KD3CA | KC3MIO |
| W4 | K4JPN | KB4QQJ | WG8Y |
| W5 | N5GW | KE9DR | AC5BX |
| W6 | AI6SL | WU6P | AI6ZV |
| W7 | WB7GR | KC7DM | K9QEW |
| W8 | W8CDC | N8GZ | - |
| W9 | KA9FQG | WB9HFK | W9CC |
| W0 | N0TA | N0AR | NN0SS |
| Canada | VE3KZ | VA3RSA | VE3SIF |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------|--------|--------|-----|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | - | - | - |
| W2 | WA2FBN | WB2LQF | - |
| W3 | NN3E | K3WWP | - |
| W4 | KJ4R | K3RLL | - |
| W5 | NA5N | NF5U | - |
| W6 | - | - | - |
| W7 | N7QR | - | - |
| W8 | K8NGW | - | - |
| W9 | K9DRP | - | - |
| W0 | - | - | - |
| Canada | - | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | K1IX | KB1M | - |
| W2 | WA1GWH | K2OID | N2ESE |
| W3 | - | - | - |
| W4 | K4BAI | WB4OMM | AA2MX |
| W5 | WI5H | KG5SSB | K5WX |
| W6 | KI6M | N6HDV | - |
| W7 | WY7N | - | - |
| W8 | WI8J | WA8SAN | - |
| W9 | NN9K | - | - |
| 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 | AI6ZV K3F (TIE) | KF5WJ N8GZ VE3CMM (TIE) | - |
| BUG | - | - | - |
| K/K | KG5SSB | - | - |

SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER

K3EW

MILLIWATT SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202012mw.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

| SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------------------|--------|-------|-------|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | K1MZM | - | - |
| W2 | KA2KGP | - | - |
| W3 | KC3MIO | KD3CA | - |
| W4 | WG8Y | N4ARY | N4PIR |
| W5 | N5GW | - | - |
| W6 | WU6P | - | - |
| W7 | KC7DM | - | - |
| W8 | N8AP | - | - |
| W9 | KC9IL | - | - |
| W0 | W0ITT | - | - |
| Canada | VE3DQN | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA BUG CATEGORY | | | |
|------------------|-------|-----|-----|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | KQ1P | - | - |
| W2 | - | - | - |
| W3 | - | - | - |
| W4 | KJ4R | - | - |
| W5 | - | - | - |
| W6 | N6HDV | - | - |
| W7 | N7QR | - | - |
| W8 | K8NGW | - | - |
| W9 | K9DRP | - | - |
| W0 | KD0V | - | - |
| Canada | - | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY | | | |
|-----------------------------|--------|------|-----|
| Division | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| W1 | KB1M | - | - |
| W2 | WA1GWH | - | - |
| W3 | KM3D | - | - |
| W4 | NW2Z | AD4N | - |
| W5 | - | - | - |
| W6 | KI6M | - | - |
| W7 | - | - | - |
| W8 | WI8J | - | - |
| W9 | AB9BZ | - | - |
| W0 | W0PWE | - | - |
| Canada | - | - | - |
| DX | - | - | - |

| GAIN CATEGORY | | | |
|---------------|------|-----|-----|
| KEY | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
| SK | KN2G | - | - |
| BUG | - | - | - |
| K/K | KF6C | - | - |

| SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER |
|-----------------------------|
| KQ1P |

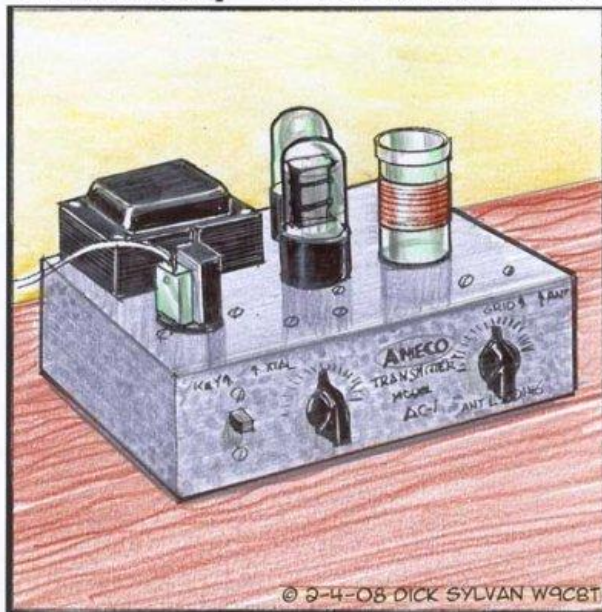
SPRINT HONOR ROLL

We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our regular sprints. Exact counts can be seen at http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html.

| Number of Sprints | Members |
|-------------------|--|
| 50+ | NU7T (SK) KF7WNS KD3CA N2CN KB0ETU NF5U K2YGM AA7CU KC7DM NQ2W WI5H WA1GWH WB4OMM KB1M AA0W N8QY WY3H WA2FBN VE3DQN NN0SS K6CSL W5UAA WB1GYZ WB9HFK WK6L KC2EGL VE3GNU K4ORD AB8FJ K2HT VE5BCS (SK) KJ4R KB4QQJ N7QR |
| 75+ | AA9L K4NVJ NO2D AK3X NA4O KA9FQG N5GW KB3AAG (SK) VE3FUJ KN1H WD0K KQ1P N8BB N4MJ K9OSC K6MGO N8LA N8APO K9EYT |
| 100+ | N4FI KD0V K1IEE W4DUK KE5YUM N2ESE WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y KD2MX N0TA K4KRW WB8ENE |
| 125+ | KU4A K4BAI NF8M K3RLL K4JPN K2CWM |
| 150+ | W2JEK W2SH WB8LZG W9CC N8XMS |
| 175+ | K3WWP KA2KGP |



Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



REMEMBER THE OLD AMECO AC-1 TRANSMITTER? IT COULD RUN 15W OF POWER ON 80 & 40 MTRS CW. IT WAS ONE OF MY FIRST NEW RIGS IN 1947

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.

NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY, K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: SCALE MODEL SUPERTANKER

You are a deck hand on an ocean going cargo ship or a supertanker, and want to become an officer. Perhaps, you are a harbor pilot or a ships officer in charge of a navigational watch and want to hone your skills. The ships you are trying to master handling can be over 900 feet in length and cost many millions of dollars. This is not the kind of vessel someone is going to hand over to you and say, "Take her for a spin and see how you do."

A solution to your problem is offered by the Center for Maritime and Professional Training at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy. Sign up for their Advanced Ship Handling in Manned Models Course and head for Great Herring Pond in Plymouth, MA. There you will board a 37 foot long, 1/25th scale supertanker or an oceangoing cargo ship. They are scale models, from actual ships plans, accurate in every detail that affects how they handle.



As a result of the 1/25th scaling, effects on the vessel are either 1/5 or 5 times that experienced by a full size ship... for example a 3-knot wind affects the vessel as if it were blowing at 15 knots. With these scaled effects, the models teach how the full size vessel responds. You can navigate through various real world scenarios and get a painless and inexpensive "do over" after a failed attempt. It is a US Coast Guard-approved course,

attended by harbor pilots and ships' officers and required by a number of maritime companies. The program is into its second decade at Mass Maritime and is one of three offered in the US and one of seven worldwide.



Serious training, but the scale model R/C tugboats are adorable!

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

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month) Challenge
 Body:
 your call:
 word1 - call1 call2 call3
 word2 - call1 call2 call3

RULES:

Just make ALL 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


WORDS

- MANNED MODELS COURSE
- 37 FOOT 1 25TH SCALE MODEL
- SUPERTANKER
- OCEAN GOING CARGO SHIP
- GREAT HERRING POND

JANUARY CHALLENGE TRACKER:

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 5 | 7 | A | C | D | E | F | G | H | I | K | L | M | N | O | P | R | S | T | U |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

X 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.


Entering the Challenges earns you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.



NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

It is a rainy day but the game goes on. The snap... the QB falls back... the receiver cuts around the chair... past the couch and makes the catch. Nerf football at its finest. Thank Fred Cox, former Minnesota Vikings kicker, for the game ball. Parker Brothers introduced the Nerf ball in 1969.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202102.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our December *Great QRP Scavenger Hunt* Challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202012.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://naqcc.info/challenges_sdchedule.html.

| Number of Challenges | Members |
|----------------------|--|
| 25+ | G3JFS WA2FBN AK3X KJ4R W3IQ KU4A VE3DQN KD0V K9OSC AH6AX WB4OMM N1JI KA5PVB WY3H VE3HUR KI4IO N1LU KD2MX KB1M N4OW |
| 50+ | PA0XAW VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U NU7T(SK) N9SE |
| 75+ | |
| 100+ | K1IEE K1YAN |
| 125+ | N8XMS |
| 150+ | K3WWP W2JEK |



3D PRINTERS' ALLEY

CUSTOMIZABLE REVISED ULTIMATE BOX MAKER

Sometimes you can go online and find exactly the thing you want to print. Sometimes you have to design it from scratch. This is about the in-between cases.

OPENS CAD AND PARAMETRIC DESIGN

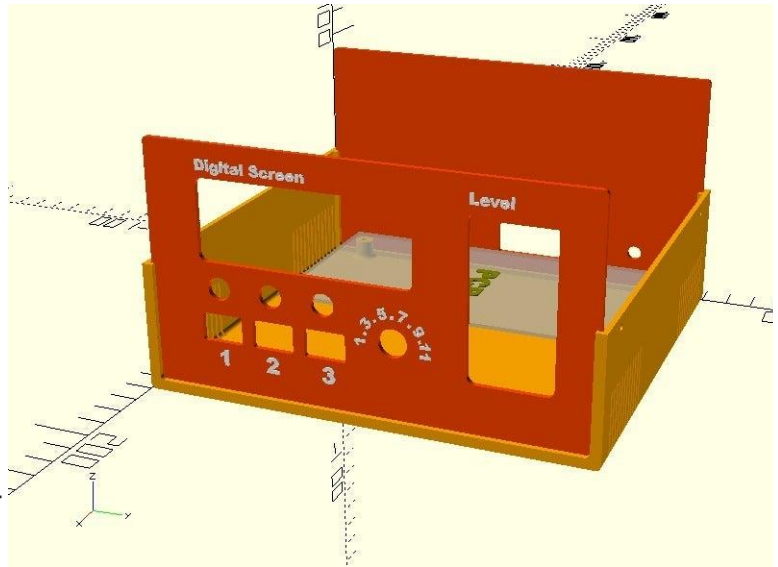
OpenSCAD ("open-ess-cad") is an open-source, multi-platform tool that treats CAD more like programming than drawing. It's optimized for making STL files for 3D-printing and it's hard to recommend it for anything else. Like other CAD software, there's graphical render of what you're working on, which you can mouse around and look at from all angles, but the editing is all text!

Parametric, in this usage, means that the most of the decisions about constructing the box are calculated from basic numbers you adjust. If the PCB is 1.6mm thick, on 10mm stands, and needs 25mm clearance, it can calculate how tall each part of the enclosure needs to be and where to put the vents and holes without help.

OK, BUT I JUST WANTED TO MAKE A BOX

An OpenSCAD how-to is beyond the scope of this month's item, but you can use the Box Maker without learning a new CAD system. The design is already done and all you have to do is fill in the size of your PCB, clearances, and where you want the holes. There are a lot more options, but you can keep the defaults for most of them.

It *could* be even easier. The new versions of OpenSCAD have a GUI for parametric designs so the parameters can be chosen from menus. That would make it a little bit friendlier to non-programmers, but the box maker was created before that feature. Anyway, lines like:



```
PCBLength = 80;
```

are fairly self-explanatory. Instructions for editing are right in the code comments.

SHIELDING

For some things a plastic box is just what you need, but for a lot of projects you'll want to keep the good magnetic fields in and the bad ones out. The *best* solution seems to be MG Chemicals 843AR Super Shield Silver Coated Copper Conductive Paint. Just spray the inside. But it's \$68 for a 12oz can! A 2" x 33' role of copper foil tape is about \$11.

Don't count on the adhesive to make an electrical bond. We've found that quick solder spots connecting the strips after taping up won't hurt even PLA boxes.



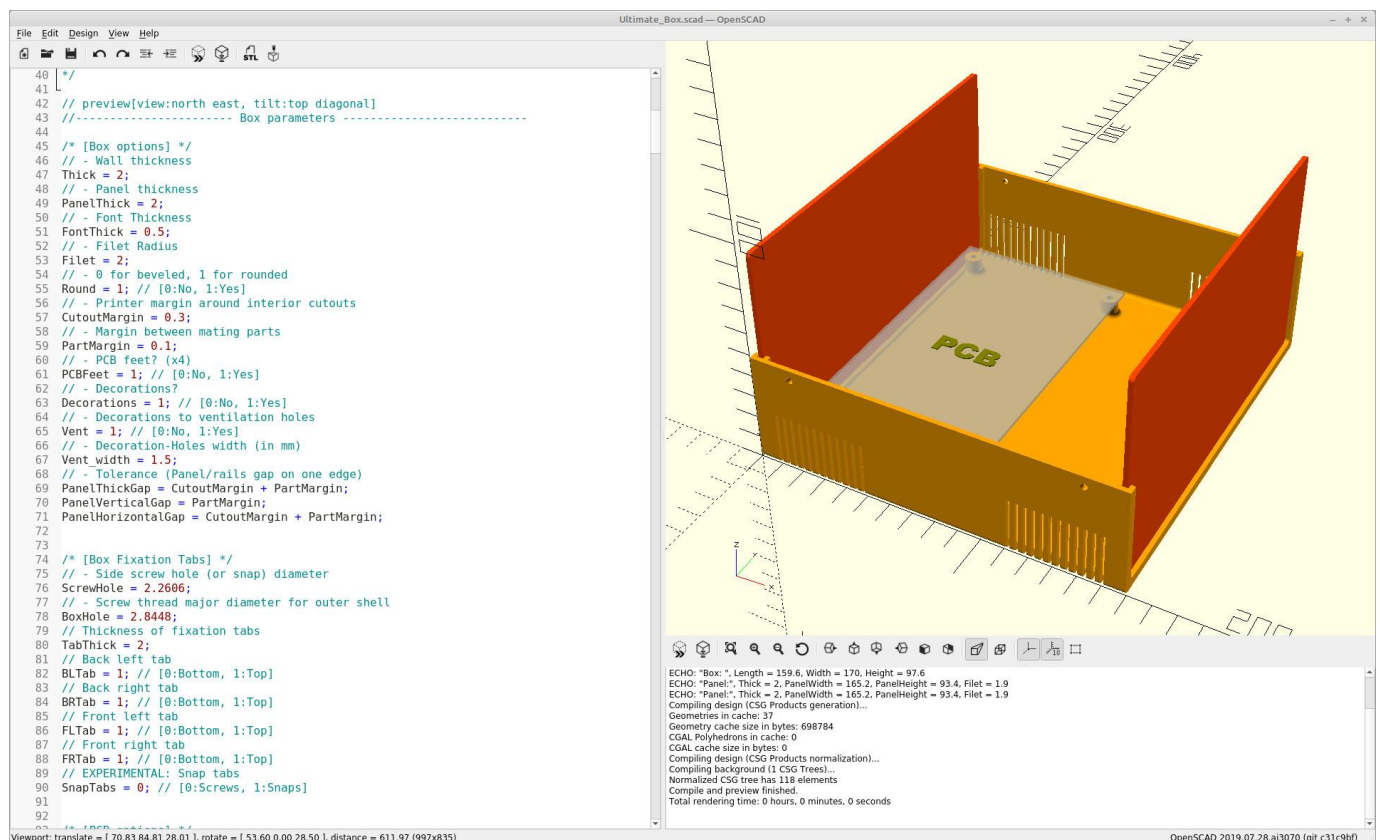
LINKS

There are some variations on this box maker available, but the one most suited for hams is the remix by "jbebel" at: <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:2938921>

You'll also need OpenSCAD. It is free software and available for Linux/UNIX, Windows and Mac at: <https://www.openscad.org/>



An attractive enclosure for your homebrew station accessories (custom low-tension mounting band sold separately)



The Box Maker in OpenSCAD. All the action takes place in the text editor on the left, while the right side shows the result. F5 to update, F6 to render, and F7 to save an STL. Now you're good to go!

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:

WAVE

This award is one suggested by Gary K1YAN. All questions about it go to him at pix_email_k1yan (1K).

It's just the classic WAS type award but focused on working the Canadian Provinces with QRP/ CW.

Time Frame For Qualifying QSO's:

March 1, 2011 0000Z through the present

BASIC AWARD PREMISE:

Work All VE Provinces within the time frame using QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas.

Categories:

A - 8 Canadian Provinces

B - 8 Canadian Provinces 2X QRP http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

2xQRP Award

| Nr | Call | Points | Award Date |
|------|-------|--------|------------|
| 0567 | LZ2OQ | 250 | 12/01/20 |

ON A QSO-A-DAY STREAK?

NOW'S THE TIME TO SEND IN YOUR LOG!

There's an NAQCC award for keeping up that QRP CW QSO-a-day habit. Full year, run of months, or just 30-days in a row—all qualify for awards.

Submit a log with one line for each QSO containing at least the following info sorted in ascending order by date:

Date, Time, Call, Band. For mW QSO's add the power used. Also include the total number of QSO's made in the time frame.

details:

http://naqcc.info/awards_qsoaday.html

NAQCC Co-Founder, John K3WWP, #002, is on a QRP CW streak of 26 years and counting!

Streak stats as of December 31, 2020:

Days - 9,615 = 26 years, 4 month(s), 27 day(s)
 DX streak - 1,980 days from March 1, 2013 through August 1, 2018
 Total QSO's - 71,267
 mW QSO's - 1,512
 DX QSO's - 23,896
 Different hams - 19,836
 Hams worked first time last month - 9



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.



NAQCC QRS/QRQ NETS

We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html. Questions should be directed to Net Manager Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule

| Net | Local Time | UTC | Freq +/- | Primary NCS |
|--|--|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|
| FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN) | Sunday | Monday | | |
| | 4PM PST | 0000 Z | 5332 kHz (ch1) Alt = 5348kHz) | 60m JB NR5NN (CA) |
| | 5PM PST | 0100 Z | 3553 kHz | 80m Rick N6IET (CA) |
| East Texas QRS Net (ETN) | Monday 7pm CST | Tuesday 0100 Z | 7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter | Allen KA5TJS (TX) |
| Midwest QRS Net (MWN) | Monday 7:30 CST | Tuesday 0130 Z | 7031 kHz | Bob W0CC (KS) |
| Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80) | Thursday 4 PM PST | Friday 0000 Z | 3556.5 kHz | Stewart KE7LKW (WA) |
| The 1 Land QRS Net (1LND) | 2nd & 4th Sundays of the month 7pm EST | 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 4:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)

Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 3553 kHz +/-

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

The NAQCC FarnsWord QRQ CW round table nets ...

... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at 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 QRP and 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.

We want to emphasize the importance of "warming up" off the air prior to each net or CW session on the air to reduce errors, which tend to severely interfere with head copy. I use my sidetone and keyer set to my anticipated speed (or slower, at first) to send the alphabet followed by a pangram (sentence using every Morse alpha character at least once), error-free, if possible, by being especially mindful during the exercise, and that really helps me.

After solar cycle 25 started with a bang two months ago, it has settled down to produce mostly Solar Flux Indices in the 80s, which is still better than the previous few years. With the seasonal lengthening days and later sunsets, our two nets should stop suffering from loss of NVIS halfway through.

Polar Bear Rick N7HRK/m has decided to discontinue his formal FRN/40 Tuesday evening nets. But he still calls CQ nearly every morning starting around 1515z and every evening after sunset looking for QRQ individual or roundtable QSOs on 7046 kHz. He has several loyal followers, including several FRN netizens.

I wanted to share a YouTube video I saw recently by a SOTA activator running under one watt on 40 meter CW. I know three of the chasers and activators he worked during the outing. One of them was our FRN visitor Ted W6TED who checked into FRN/80 this past month at 22 wpm after only learning the code about 18 months ago. See it at <https://youtu.be/6rKpxAWZ7uM>

SOTA and POTA are two of the activities spurring new hams to learn code and use portable, often QRP, gear during their summit and park activations.

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 4pm PST (Monday 0000 UTC) on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)

Dec 07 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, K0DTJ, N6IET, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6VN, KW6G, WJ7S

Dec 14 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, K6JJR, AI6SL, W6MK, N6VN, N6IET, WJ7S

Dec 21 - QNS (10) NR5NN NCS, WJ7S, K6JJR, W6MK, K6GVG, N6VN, AI6SL, AI6U, KW6G, N6IET

Dec 28 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, N6VN, AI6SL, N6IET, K6JJR, K6GVG, WJ7S, WI6O

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS

Sunday 5pm PDT (Monday 0100 UTC) on 3553 kHz±

Dec 07 - QNS (5) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, K6GVG, N6VN, AI6SL

Dec 14 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, AI6SL, KW6G, NR5NN, K6GVG, N6KIX

Dec 21 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, AI6SL, N6VN, K6GVG, W6TED

Dec 28 - QNS (10) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, WI6O, NR5NN, N6VN, K6GVG, AI6SL, KW6G, KB6FPW, WJ7S

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

DEC 08 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

Signals were good on 3566khz tonight. Terry and Allen were 599 and Andy was 579. The QRN was about S6 so fairly noisy but good copy on all.

DEC 15 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

Conditions were pretty good to AR and TX. GA was a little light. Had some QRN but no QRM tonight.

DEC 22 - QNI(5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN KG5CMS

80 meters was pretty good tonight. Good copy on all and welcome to Don who checked in for the first time tonight.

DEC 29 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N4NN

Well a great final net for 2020! All signals were 599 on 80 meters and everyone commented on the conditions for the last net of the year. Everyone have a great New Year and see you in 2021.

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

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

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas)

DEC 07 - QNI W0CC

Band conditions so poor that I couldn't even receive W1AW!

DEC 14 - QNI (2) W0CC, N8HWV

Nate had a good, clean signal at 519 using his dipole Great QSO!

DEC 21 - QNI W0CC

Most 40 meter stations were working digital, probably because of the band conditions. Next week will be better!

DEC 28 - QNI (2) W0CC, W2IW

Michael did a GREAT JOB in pulling out my signal with all of the QRN and intermittent QSB!

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)

DEC 04 - PNW QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW/7, WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, W7ANM, N0DA

DEC 11 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, W7ANM, K7JUV, N7TB,
N0DA

DEC 18 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, W7ANM, K7JUV, N0DA

DEC 25 - PNW QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, AD7BP, WB7WHG, W7ANM, N7TB

NAQCC 1 LAND QRS NET (1LND)

Second and Fourth Sundays of the Month at 7:00 PM EST, which is Monday 0000 UTC on 3560 or 3565 kHz +/-

Main NCS Ed K1RID (Maine)

Dec 13 - None

Dec 27 - None



NAQCC NETS: GREAT CW PRACTICE

The Nets are a good adjunct to other means of code practice in that they let stations practice under actual band conditions with the attendant QSB, QRN, and QRM. Practice under fire, so to speak.

Because becoming proficient in CW is a main goal of the NAQCC, we do permit stations to run more than 5 watts for the net IF NECESSARY. However that is the ONLY NAQCC activity for which that is true.

It is suggested that as much as possible, the nets should be run using the Farnsworth method of sending Morse Code. That is, the individual letters should be sent at a higher speed but spaced out so overall the words and sentences are actually sent at a lower speed. This is the best method of learning CW and increasing CW speed. It eliminates the wasteful system of converting dots and dashes to letters. You immediately hear didah as an 'A' rather than thinking, "well that was one dot and one dash, that's let's see, oh an 'A'". You will never increase speed by taking time to convert dots and dashes to letters.

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.

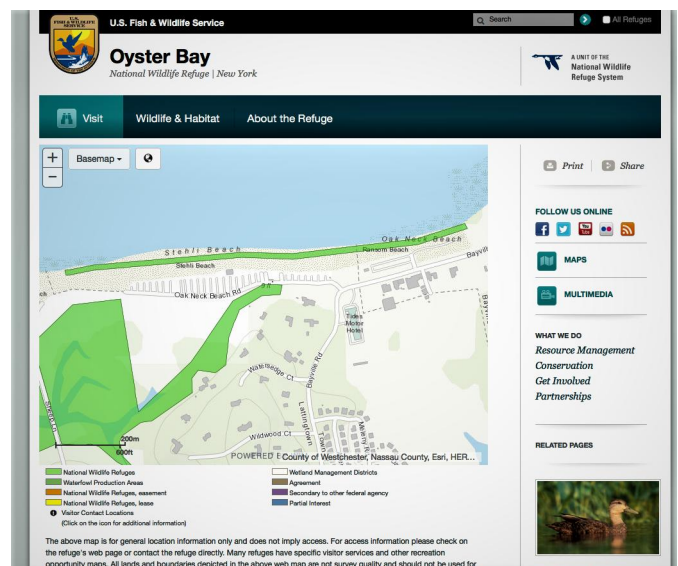
NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

This was a very different type of outing and the first time we went out to the Northshore of Long Island. The weather was challenging. We were on the beach in a place called Stehli Beach, Bayville NY, which is part of the Oyster Bay National Wildlife Refuge POTA K0477, looking North and East towards Connecticut, which we could clearly see. The thermometer read 51F and it was comfortable in the parking lot but 200 feet way on the beach the wind was blowing right through my clothing. I should have brought my full winter coat so I was under dressed. Peter AA2VG the CW op on the beach and Bob



K2YGM watching were comfortable and held up stoically for about 1 1/2hrs.

Here is an excerpt about the site and rig Peter set up into his Sotabeam 3 band linked dipole:

This POTA K-0477 has previously been activated by only two people: first Rob W2ITT and then me. It has a nice large parking lot for members to operate from their cars. As you can see from the map, the parking lot is not included in the Park. In order to activate the park you need to be almost at the water's edge. It was cool to honor the clandestine operators of WW2 by running a World War II Paraset replica on 40 meters..... my Bayou Jumper. It has a separate TX and RX, 5 watts out and the RX is a regenerative receiver just like the original paraset radios. It is crystal controlled and has a built in straight key.

I must say the Bayou Jumper which Peter built is a cute little rig and it sounds similar to boat anchor receivers with a very pleasant tone. It drifts a little too so you have to chase the signals a bit making it even more fun. But Peter really got out well and worked 26 stations on 40m as POTA

Due to the wind which started to pick up, we then shut down and set up Peter's IC7300 with the same dipole antenna in the parking lot, but that was not a qualified POTA location. (Only the green on the map is the park and you can see the parking lot is excluded). Bob K2YGM decided to try 15m which was open and we worked:

- HC5AI in Ecuador
- TZ1CE in Mali, Africa and was a pileup, split frequency, which Bob got through on the second call
- CX5FK in Uruguay
- RX6CB/mm in a ship off the coast of West Africa

So 15m was in great shape and we got a good bounce off the salt water to Africa



N2GSL



W2OSR



Bayou Jumper

2 other members came down:

Bob W2OSR: FT450 to a homebrew vertical with a base tapped coil, worked as far as Iowa

Ed N2GSL had his Mountaintopper 5w to the EFHW Club Buildathon antenna and got out as far as Georgia

A successful day for a very cold one. We will come back another time and operate from our cars.

DE Howard WB2UZE



AA2VG & K2YGM



Beach setup



Beach setup



N2GSL

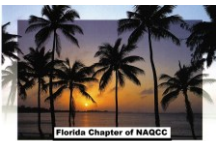


W2OSR



AA2VG,
K2YGM, &
N2GSL

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>.

On Friday, December 18th, 2020, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held our latest “Operation in the Park” at the Candace R. Strawn/Lake Dias Park in DeLeon Springs, Florida. This is one of our favorite parks of the year. This 20-acre park includes a boat launch, RV camping, playground, pavilions, grills, picnic tables and restrooms. It’s quiet (usually), serene, and not heavily populated. A great ham radio location!

We had an EXCELLENT time while at Lake Dias today. When the group arrived at 9:30AM, we had some chilly weather, it was 48 degrees. Yeah, it does get chilly in Florida. Luckily, we didn’t have any wind. When we left at 1:00PM, it was a brisk 54 degrees. The bands were not all that good to us, only 20M was open with some deep QSB and limited activity. All together we made 14 QSOs –



1 DX, 10 States. It appears that the Propagation Princess was out doing some Christmas Shopping!

This trip we had a total of 5 members/ 4 operators on 3 radios in our group to include:

Steve WB4OMM #5913; Nikki KM4SBQ #8749; Rick AA4W #1628, Steve K8SR #10527 and John KM4JTE #7966. We also had 2 visitors from out of town! Earl N4JER #8320, he is a temporary

snowbird from South Dakota, he is currently in Crescent City, FL at this time. Lu KA4EPS, he is not currently an NAQCC member, but we think we convinced him to consider joining! Lu is from Deerfield Beach, FL but also has a home in Colorado.



Steve WB4OMM #5913

Elecraft KX-3, American Morse Equipment paddle, 5W to a 20M Hamstick Vertical.

Steve worked 4 members in 4 states including NM1I #5705 MA; K2CWM #3457 NJ; KB1M #8058 NH; K8NS #8597 FL.

The WB4OMM Station – Steve WB4OMM, Steve K8SR and Earl N4JER



Rick AA4W #1628

Elecraft KX-3 to a Buddipole Vertical on 5W. Rick worked 2 non members, 1 DX and 3

members on 20M including: DJ0SP (Germany); KG5WAW TX; KI4TI #4280 FL; KB1M #8058 NH; K9OSC #3894 MN.

The AA4W Station – Rick AA4W and John KM4JTE

**Steve K8SR #10527 –**

Steve WB4OMM let Steve K8SR take the reins and use his Elecraft KX-3, 5W to a 20M Hamstick Vertical and American Morse Paddle. Steve made 4 Qs with 4

members including:
WB9HFK #8381 IL;
K9OSC #3894 MN;
WA2FB #3054 NY;
K2CWM #3457 NJ.

**John KM4JE #7966**

John used his Elecraft KX-2 to a 35ft End Fed Wire Antenna. John worked 1 non member on 20M including KD3NS PA.

Lu KA4EPS took a few photos also and here they are! Nice pictures Lu! Thanks for sharing them with us.



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 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/>.

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



SOME MEMORABLE CONTACTS

BY STAN LEVANDOWSKI WB2LQF #4740

Every so often, I take out my shoebox full of QSL cards and head down memory lane. The cards represent 58 years of armchair adventures - old friends who are now SK, new friends made, interesting places visited, lessons learned and evidence of ham radio's ability to challenge us and add so much to our lives.

railroad telegrapher for Norfolk and Western. It was Grif who gave me two priceless gifts. First he introduced me to the real joy of conquering Morse code. He helped me get my first bug, a Vibroplex Champion, and he taught me how to adjust it and use it properly. He urged me to qualify for the ARRL Code Proficiency certificate at 20 wpm

which I did on June 15, 1965.

The other great gift I received was Grif's constant admonition to "Get your foot in the door first and then worry about proving yourself later." He would constantly say this to me whenever I complained about reaching a plateau in Morse, or when I'd spend time building a project and it wouldn't work. What Grif's advice really did was convince this young

teenager, at a very early and impressionable age, that I could do anything I wanted in my life as long as I worked at it and believed in myself. I owe much of the success I've enjoyed throughout my life to Grif Griffin W2LOR.

SAM, WA1BVN

Then there is this card from WA1BVN (SK). It's dated May 28, 1966. Sam Nash lived in Beverly, MA. It was 175 miles from my home in Middletown, NY. He was running 90 watts from an EICO 720K into a 40M dipole and his receiver was a Hammarlund HQ-110A. What makes this QSO so

W2LOR

Francis E. Griffin, RD 1, New Hamp on, N. Y.

Confirming QSO
of August 18 19 64
at 10:15 AM-PM EDT st
ur 145.8 MC CW Phone
Xmtr: BC 640
Recvr: RBO Nuvistor Conv
Ant: 10 Element Yagi
PSE QSL TKS QSL

Remarks: Thanks
for QSO Stan
Hope we can
get together again
soon

73's
Grif

GRIF, W2LOR

The most valuable card I have is from W2LOR (SK). It is dated August 18, 1964. "Grif" Griffin and I met at 10:15 p.m. EDT on 145.8 megacycles, AM. I had a Heathkit "Twoer" loading a 3 element Hy-gain beam suspended from the ceiling of my bedroom. The Heathkit "Twoer" was a 5 watt AM transceiver. I was 15 years old. Grif had a surplus BC-640 transmitter and a surplus Navy RBO superregenerative receiver with a nuvistor converter. His antenna was a 10 element yagi.

You see, "Grif" was my Elmer. He had been a Navy radioman during World War II and then a

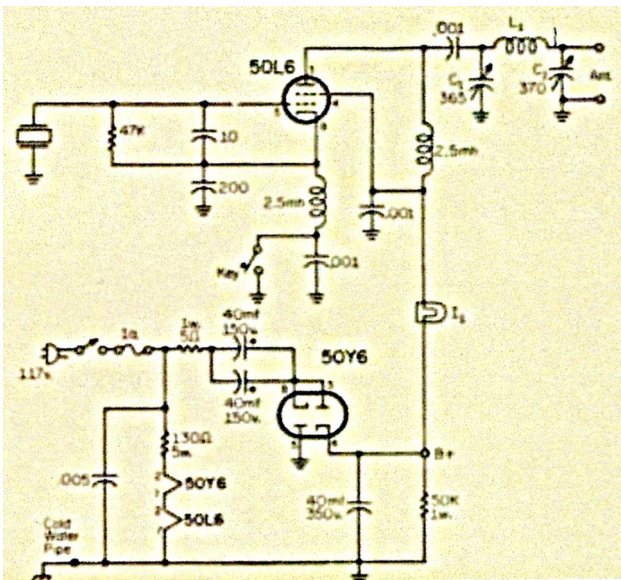
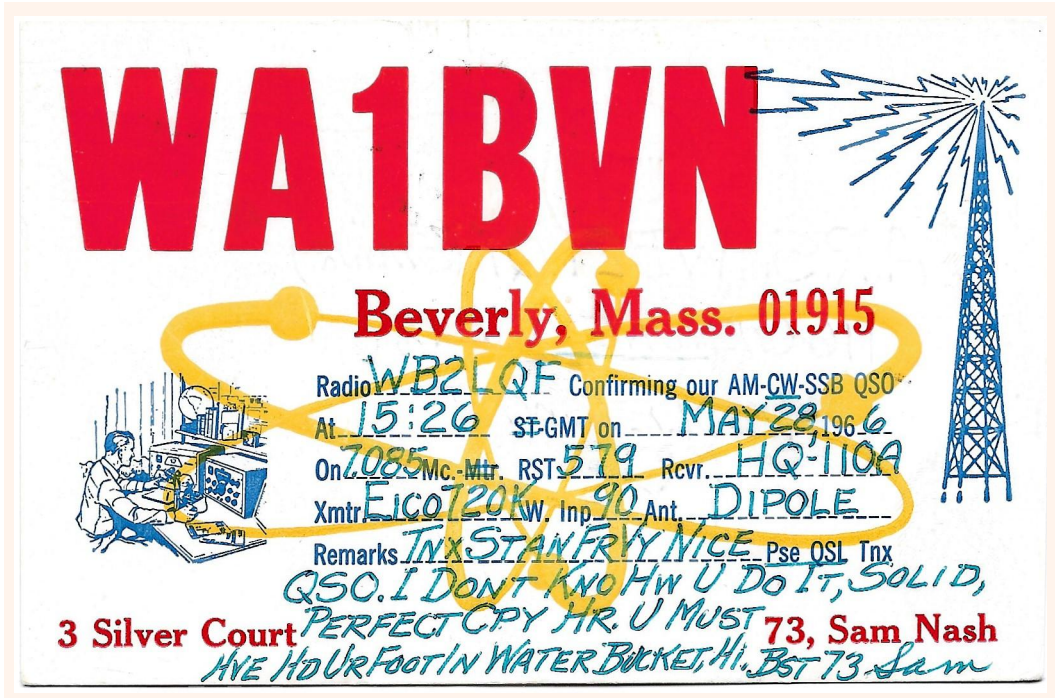
special to me is what Sam wrote on the QSL card: "TNX Stan fer VY nice QSO. Please QSL. I don't know how you do it, solid perfect copy HR. U must HV HD UR foot in a water bucket HI. 579. BST 73, Sam."

To appreciate this, you have to know that my transmitter was a homebrew rig with 22 watts DC input and it barely lit a 10 watt refrigerator light bulb. I built it from a scrapped AM/FM radio using plans from a November, 1963 CQ magazine article called, "The 22 Watt Monster." The rig used a 50Y6 rectifier in a voltage doubler to power a 50L6 self-excited oscillator. It had no power transformer. The chassis was supposed to be grounded to a cold water pipe and only the "hot" side of the AC cord was plugged in. I was too young and inexperienced to realize how dangerous this was!

My antenna was my bedspring. Yes, I loaded up my bed spring! We lived in a low income housing project and I couldn't have an outside antenna. I had heard about "...a bedspring for an antenna..." but never realized it was actually just a deroga-

tory comment. At my young age it sailed right over my head! So I figured I'd try it.

Way back then, I did not know what an SWR was. Coax cable was just some expensive fancy stuff



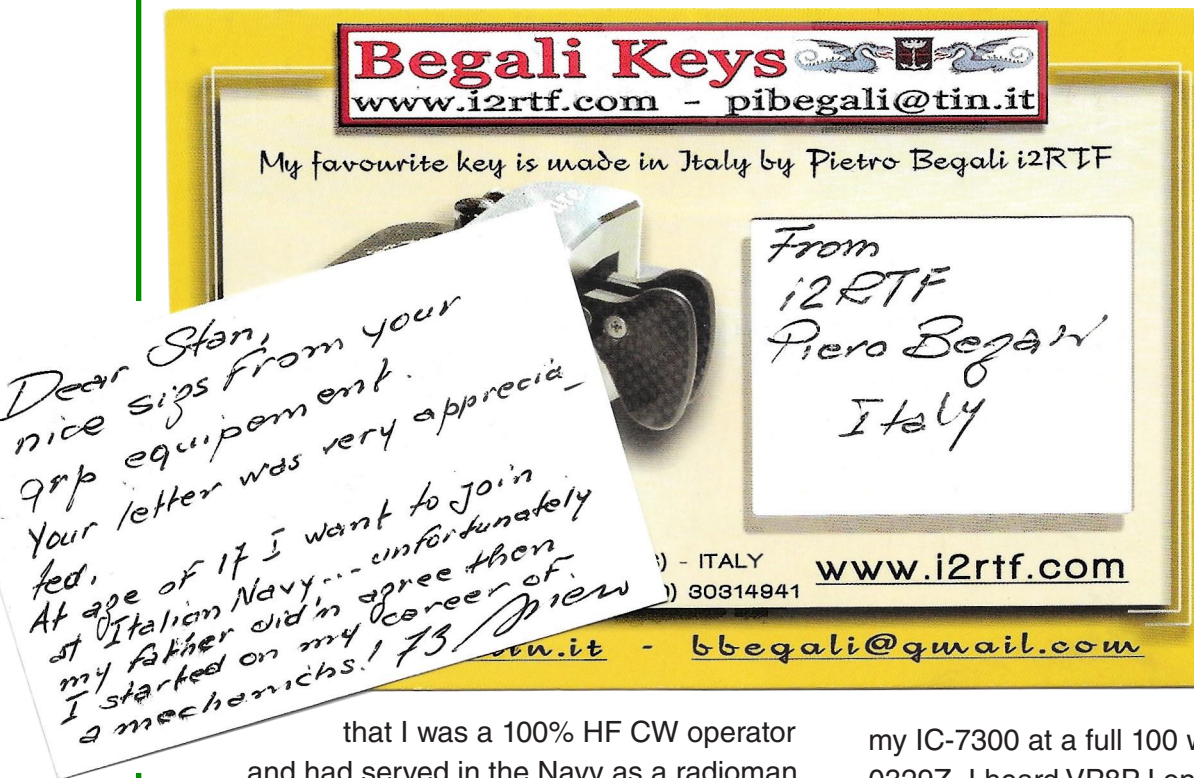
with weird, hard-to-solder connectors on the ends. I just ran a piece of wire from the tank circuit to the bedspring and grounded the chassis to the screw holding the wall plate onto the outlet. The cold water pipe in the bathroom was too far away from my bedroom! Thank God for Pi-Net-work and vacuum tubes!

PIERO, I2RTF

Eventually I grew up. On April 4 of 2011, at 2024Z on 20M, I called CQ. A station in Italy, I2RTF, comes back to me with an RST 579. Back then I had an Elecraft K2/10 - that's the 10 watt QRP version - and my antenna was a 44 foot doublet loaded through an SGC-234 autocooupler (which sucked up about half my power in loss). So a 579 from Italy was pretty good although I have to admit the other guy was doing most of the heavy lifting. He had a Yaesu FT1000MP and a 2 element Quad. We had a nice long CW conversation. I happened to mention that I was half Italian and once spoke the language fluently. I added

SNAGGING SOUTH ORKNEY ISLAND

I could fill a book with my interesting contacts! But let me leave you with one more example of why I am so attracted to QRP and CW. It was this year, March 5, 2020. VP8PJ was a big DXpedition down on South Orkney Island (IOTA AN-008). That's the Antarctic. The pileups were fierce and I had been trying for days using



that I was a 100% HF CW operator and had served in the Navy as a radioman. The guy on the other end told me that at the age of 17 he had wanted to join the Italian Navy but unfortunately his father did not agree and that's why he started on his career of mechanics. The guy turned out to be Piero Begali.

CW AT SEA

On January 4th, 2020, I was listening up and down 20M and heard nothing at all. I have a policy that when "the band is dead" I always call CQ anyway! G0HUZ/MM came back to me with a 559 and I gave him the same report. Turns out Tony was on a cruise ship, 2 days out of NY where he and his wife had been vacationing during the New Year's Eve celebrations. He was talking to me (CW of course) on his battery operated, hand held Elecraft KX3 with attached whip antenna while standing near the railing on the port (i.e., "left") side of an ocean liner. He gave me his GPS coordinates as 39N and 41W and I was able to locate him on the globe I have on my operating desk. Kind of neat, eh?

my IC-7300 at a full 100 watts with no joy. At 0329Z, I heard VP8PJ on 30M at about S5 on my 63' long inverted L up 30 feet in the backyard pine trees. Not a bad signal strength but not that great either. They were working split which is more difficult on the IC-7300 than on a KX2 or KX3, both of which have dual watch capability. I listened and waited for a chance to drop in my call. WB2LQF is my original call; I never considered changing it. But at times like these.....I sure could have used a shorter call!

I listened and listened and finally got a break. VP8PJ came back with "QR?" Heck, an R is part of an F so I took a chance, assumed it was me that he heard and sent my call again. South Orkney came back with "WB2L??" so I knew this was going somewhere. Eventually VP8PJ got it right. After a nervous few days, I saw my call confirmed in their online Clublog. What makes this notable is that I had been trying for days at 100 watts to reach this DXpedition. When I made this contact, I thought I was operating QRO but I had actually turned the power down on the IC-7300 earlier that day to 15 watts. So while not truly QRP, I did manage to pull off this contact with much less power.

Digital goes further with less power. Yes, it certainly does! BUT... it takes more equipment, software, and more wires to connect things. If any part of this puzzle blows up or stops working, that's the end of the game! With CW, I'm just turning a carrier wave on and off, on and off, on and off. I may be using batteries. My antenna may just be a 26 foot wire tossed into a tree and another 16 foot wire laying on the ground. The radio itself may be palm-sized and there's a good chance that I built it myself. It may be as simple as it can be but it's also as powerful as it can be because those 8 "AA" batteries, that simple piece of wire and those push-pull BS170s sitting in the palm of my hand are producing a radio signal that can go around the earth seven and a half times in one second and who knows where it will end up.

I've been all over the world in the last 58 years, always on CW and always on 100 watts or less. Frequently QRP at 5 watts or less. From my armchair, I've traveled to the islands of the South Pacific, to Australia and New Zealand and to the Antarctic. I've visited the Russians at the North Pole and I've been to Africa and Europe and the Middle East. To me, CW represents a connection with the past. It's a rich history that I take pride in sharing with others. For me, it's romantic to sit at my radio, tap my key, and exercise a great power – to blanket the world in my RF and see who comes out to play!

ZUT! (That's Z code for "CW Forever")



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Paul N8XMS #675 - I have been researching, through the Internet and other sources, the ham radio life of Emory Cox, ex-W9CGZ, W5KNN, W0CGZ, and W0MA. He was both my Elmer and my grandfather. First licensed in 1939, he passed away in 1992. Unfortunately all of his logs and records were lost. Recently I found a real treasure on a website dedicated to antique QSL cards that is maintained by W8JYZ. It's a QSL card for a contact that he made in December 1940. Here is a scan of the card:

| | | | | | | |
|---|--------------|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| RADIO <i>W9TPF</i> CONFIRMING <i>CW</i> QSO OF <i>12-15 19 40</i> | | | | | | |
| TIME | QRG | RST | QRM | QRN | QSO NO. | WX. |
| <i>1520</i> | <i>80</i> | <i>599X</i> | <i>no</i> | <i>no</i> | <i>202</i> | <i>Snow</i> |
| ORS | W9CGZ | | | | AEC | |
| RCC | | | | | AARS | |
| XMTR. <i>6V6 - RK 39 - 65 watts</i> | | | RCVR. <i>3 tubes super gain</i> | | ANT. <i>center fed 1/2 wave</i> | |
| RAG CHEW <i>Pleased to work you, Bob. by 73 - Emory</i> | | | | | | |
| EMORY A. COX, 235 N. KNOX AVE., TOPEKA, KANSAS, U.S.A. | | | | | | |

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.

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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:

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