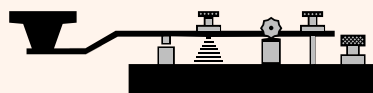


# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 306 • DECEMBER 2023

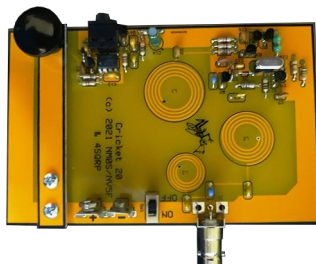


## KEY CLICKS

### • IN THIS ISSUE

The Prez Sez... we have prizes, and could use a few bucks; Prize winners announced; A Pole Barn Inverted-L; Member Polls; A Challenge under fire; Awards: Novice Memories; A WFL Chapter field report; Sprint reports; Soapboxes; Nets; and more.

### • THIS MONTH'S MW SPRINT HAS A PRIZE!



A sweet one, too. The top scorer will win the op's choice of a 4SQRP 20m or 30m Cricket kit. It's simple through-hole assembly with the straight key and inductors built into the board, but with much better receive & transmit than more complex kits. See page 2 for details.

### • VACUUM TUBE TRANSMITTER IN AN ALTOIDS TIN?

Mike AA9IL #7949 wrote in to the guys at Solder Smoke to show off his 20m "Sputnik" transmitter based on a pair of little Soviet-era "rod" tubes. It's fixed on 14.060 and puts out 200mA. Check out the post at <https://soldersmoke.blogspot.com/2023/11> for links to other projects with these tiny tubes.



### • YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS NEEDED

Please take a few minutes to tell us about your latest excursion, that thing you built, your favorite rig, or something funny. As long as it relates to QRP CW. Send it to Paul KD2MX: [kd2mx@arri.net](mailto:kd2mx@arri.net)

### • UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO

Any time you change your QTH, email, or callsign, you can update your member info with a simple on-line form. First, check your information at <http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: [http://naqcc.info/member\\_updates.html](http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html)

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# THE PREZ SEZ...

## Our 19th Anniversary is behind us!

We hope that you had a chance to participate in at least one of the activities during our anniversary month. We needed to wait until mid November to allow for the Monthly Challenge folks to get their scores in and checked before the drawings for nearly \$1,000 in prizes.

Selecting the winners was a somewhat involved process that required, collection of participants and sorting, and resorting many checks to be sure it was correct and we are pleased to have come through it all with just a few bruises.

## Anniversary Prizes

The drawings were held without fanfare, live TV crews or a multitude of witnesses except for a few rescue kitties. The winners and prizes are listed below. I think that the majority of winners will have been notified via email by the time you read this.

Remember that all of the prizes have either been donated by a few great vendors or we purchased them with donations from YOU.

Thank you Jerry (K4KBL) Pereira for your help in managing the prize shipments.

## December Monthly Sprint #230

Tue Dec 12 8:30-10:30P EST which is also Wed  
Dec 13 0130-0330Z

## mW Sprint

Tue Dec 19 8:30-10:30P EST which is also Wed  
Dec 20 0130-0330Z

Get your sunspots lined up because this year there is a **prize of a 4S 20m or 30m Cricket kit (your choice) awarded to the top dawg in the December mW.** Ties will be broken via a random

drawing. Thanks to a special donor for making this possible.

## Other QRP Events

I had an email conversation with a NAQCC member last month and he was looking for a project. I have enlisted him to detail for us the upcoming general QRP events on a monthly basis. There is so much going on that it really is not easy to be aware of all of them all, I thought it would be a benefit to our members to find them on our website or in the newsletter, we'll see how that goes.

## Speaking of Kitties..... ours is pretty low!

Donations, please mail your check to:  
North American QRP CW Club, Inc  
35 Heather Circle  
Cave Spring, GA 30124

Usually the cost of the check and postage is much less than a PayPal charge. I set up an account in my bank using (Bill Pay) with the above info and they will send a check at no charge (for me or the payee) to NAQCC as they do for other bills I pay that way. Try it with a \$5.00 donation and smile!

Don't forget the **poll question** each month on the home page of our website. Please give us your 2 cents worth. November had 29 votes (up 10) with 4 days yet to go, let's beat that!

My sincere thanks to the website team for their dedicated efforts and support of the NAQCC website. They also serve as a resource for me so that I don't overlook anything of importance and that is not an easy task!

Until next time,

**72/73!**

**John KK4ITX #7249**

**NAQCC President**



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

# 19TH ANNIVERSARY PRIZE WINNERS

## 1ST TIER - 18TH ANNIVERSARY SPRINT PRIZES

- 1st Prize - QRP Labs QCX Mini 20 winner is Kevin NN3E #9851
- 2nd Prize - MFJ Cub 17m winner is Daryl K9QEW #8973
- 3rd Prize - Emtech VM-2 Tuner winner is Eddie KJ4R #8048



## 2ND TIER - 18TH ANNIVERSARY SPRINT PRIZES

- 4th Prize - MFJ 566M Key winner is Glenn N4MJ #6587
- 5th Prize - MFJ 566P Key winner is Frank K1IX #7116
- 6th Prize - CW Morse Key, MFJ CW Book winner is Brian N1BRI #11181
- 7th Prize - Green Swamp EFRW 9:1 Trans, 4S Dummy Load winner is Steve K9NUD #10575
- 8th Prize - Green Swamp EFRW 9:1 Transformer winner is Duane WI8J #10084
- 9th Prize - CW Morse Key, MFJ Book winner is Dean N2TNN #11052
- 10th Prize - KB3IFH QSL Cards winner is David VE6BIR #6306



## 1ST TIER - 18TH ANNIVERSARY SPRINT PRIZES

- 1st Prize - 4S Tuner, ARRL \$50 Gift Certificate winner is Edward K8ETA #11378
- 2nd Prize - CW Morse Key, RandL \$25 Gift Cert winner is David W4JL #10660
- 3rd Prize - Green Swamp EFRW 9:1 Transformer winner is Jim ND9M #6103

## PRIZE DONORS

•4States QRP \* ARRL \* Green Swamp QRP \* KB3IFH \* MFJ \* NAQCC Mbrs \* R&L





# POLE BARN INVERTED-L ANTENNA

BY GENE N5GW #5353

Since my low HF doublet does not work very well on 160 meters, I decided to erect a better top band antenna. According to my antenna books, this meant something vertical with a good ground system. Being too lazy to fool with ground radials, I wondered if the metal roof of my 30 X 50 foot pole barn would suffice as a ground return. Fortunately there were tall pine trees directly adjacent to the PB, some almost 100 feet tall, that could support a vertical wire. Also one of the pines about 70 feet tall was located about 80 feet away, and could serve as support for the far end of an inverted-L antenna.

## RUNNING THE NUMBERS

After reading up on 160 meters in my antenna books, I realized there were some necessary measurements to be performed. A good length for the 14-gauge stranded THHN wire I had on hand was around 150 feet, a bit over a quarter wavelength. With this length, a series capacitor could be used to tune out the reactance, and the resulting resistive feed point impedance should be close to 50 ohms.

Another necessary measurement was to insure that all of the metal panels of the roof were in good electrical contact. I confirmed this using an ohmmeter and a 70 foot length of wire clamped to opposite sides of the roof.

## FIRE ONE!

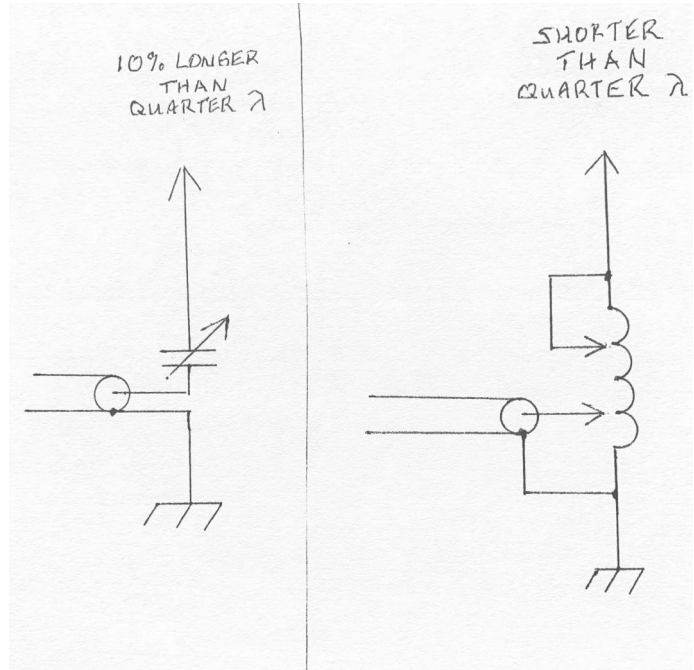
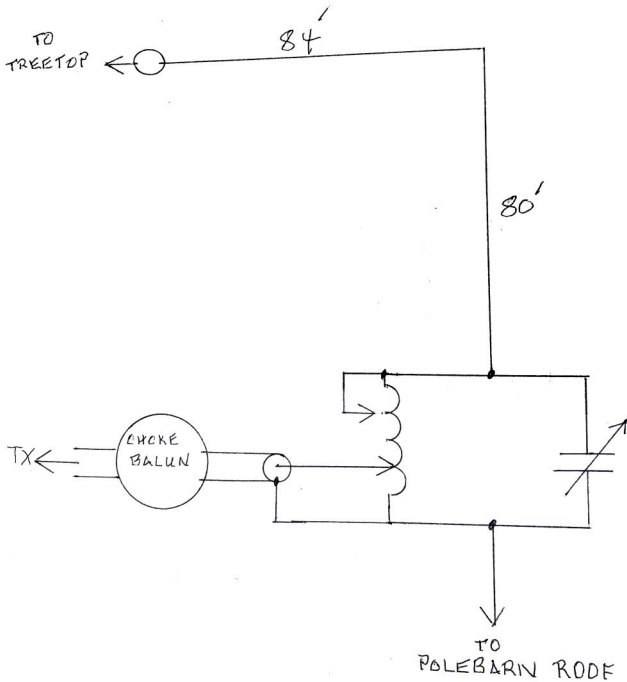
The next step was to use my pneumatic antenna launcher ("spud gun") to put a weighted tennis ball and kite string over the top of a nearby tall pine, and pulling over first a nylon cord and then the wire.



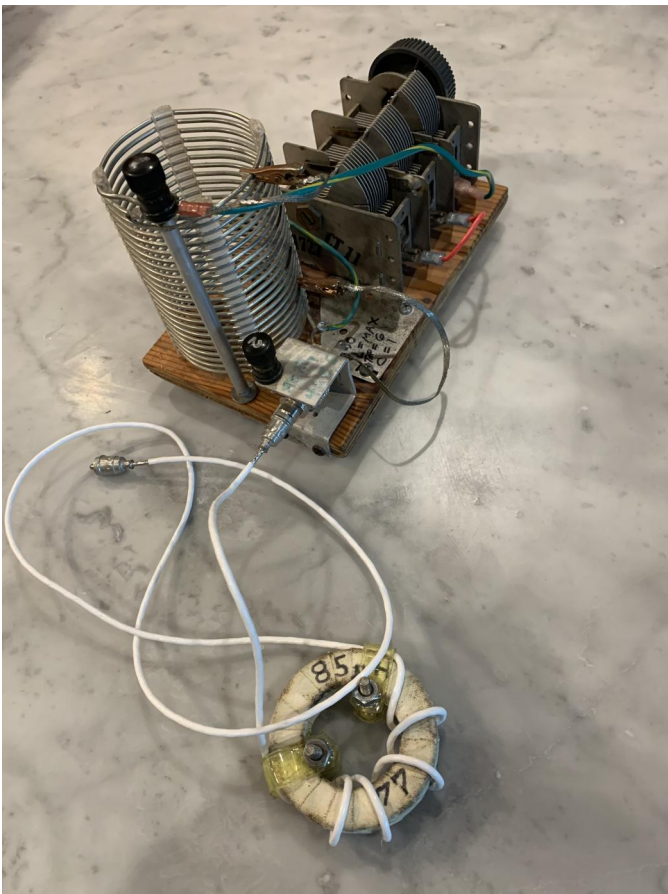
## MORE MATH

Although the vertical part of the wire wound up being about 80 feet tall, the antenna book said I had to subtract the height of the PB roof (20 feet) to obtain the effective height. So adding the 60 foot vertical part to the measured 80-foot horizontal part gave a length of about 140 feet. But then I had to add the length of the semi-vertical lead-in plus the ground wire attached to the roof. Although the total antenna length of 160 feet seemed to have been dictated by the available space, the value sounded about right.

Indeed when I tried to tune this wire/PB roof ground combo with a series capacitor, the SWR was very low (1.1). I was initially thrilled, but a few days later it rained and the wetting of the



tree ruined the match. However I was able to load the inverted -L satisfactorily on both 160 and 80 meters using a homebrew antenna tuner (first diagram).



### FLEXIBLE TUNER

As a matter of fact the tuner allows operation on all of the HF bands since it can be configured for parallel tuning or either inductive or capacitive series tuning as shown by the hand-drawn schematics (second and third pics). The choke balun helps to isolate the radio from the antenna in case a high common mode voltage is present at the feed point.

The first pic shows the PB under the pine trees. Part of the horizontal portion of the wire is visible as a Photoshop enhancement, necessary because the thin wire would otherwise be invisible at this distance.

### ON THE AIR

So how well does it work? I found that most 160M stations with moderate to strong signals can hear the 5 watt signal from my KX3. I was able to work several stations during the ARRL 160M contest. Also using 100 watts on top band during the SKCC's January celebration, I worked 15 stations in one hour as K3Y/5. Certainly the inverted L works much better than my low doublet.

What's the downside? This antenna is a bit noisy on receive, representing an expected finding, said to be due to the fact that most man-made and atmospheric noise is vertically polarized. However such is really not a problem if you are operating QRP, because most weak signals you hear are not going to be able to hear you! In practice I can get around this limitation by using a separate shielded loop receiving antenna. Finally the tree itself is said

to be somewhat coupled to the antenna, but this is probably of limited significance at frequency as low as 1.8 MHz.

If you want to try one of these on 160M but have limited space, the books say even a shortened inverted-L may be better than a horizontal antenna. But to paraphrase the words of W1BB, the better the ground system and the taller the inverted-L, the better it works!



## MEMBER POLLS

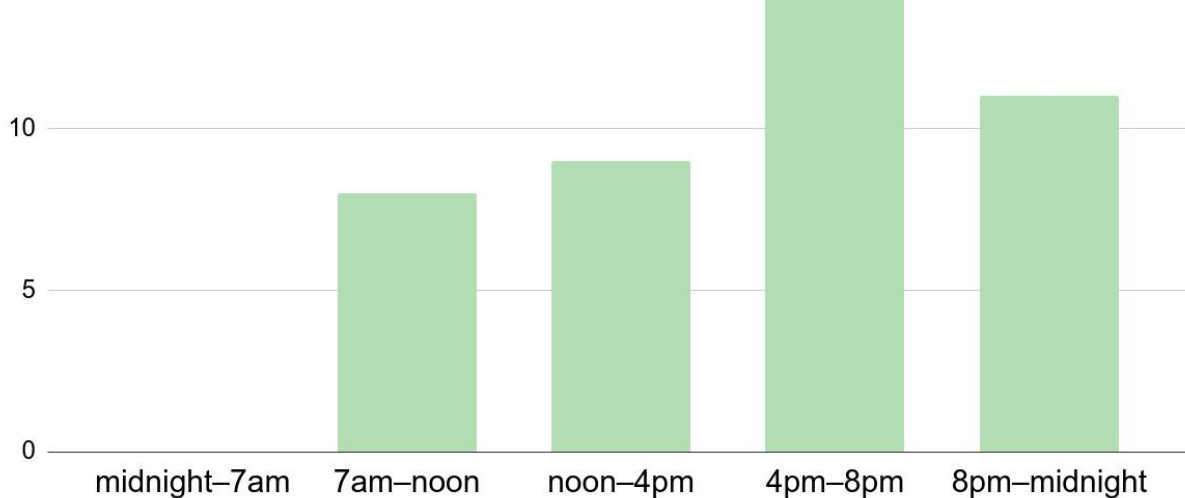
### DECEMBER POLL

What is the Lowest Power you have used to complete a QRP CW contact? Let us know at [http://naqcc.info/poll\\_new.html](http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html) Comments are open.

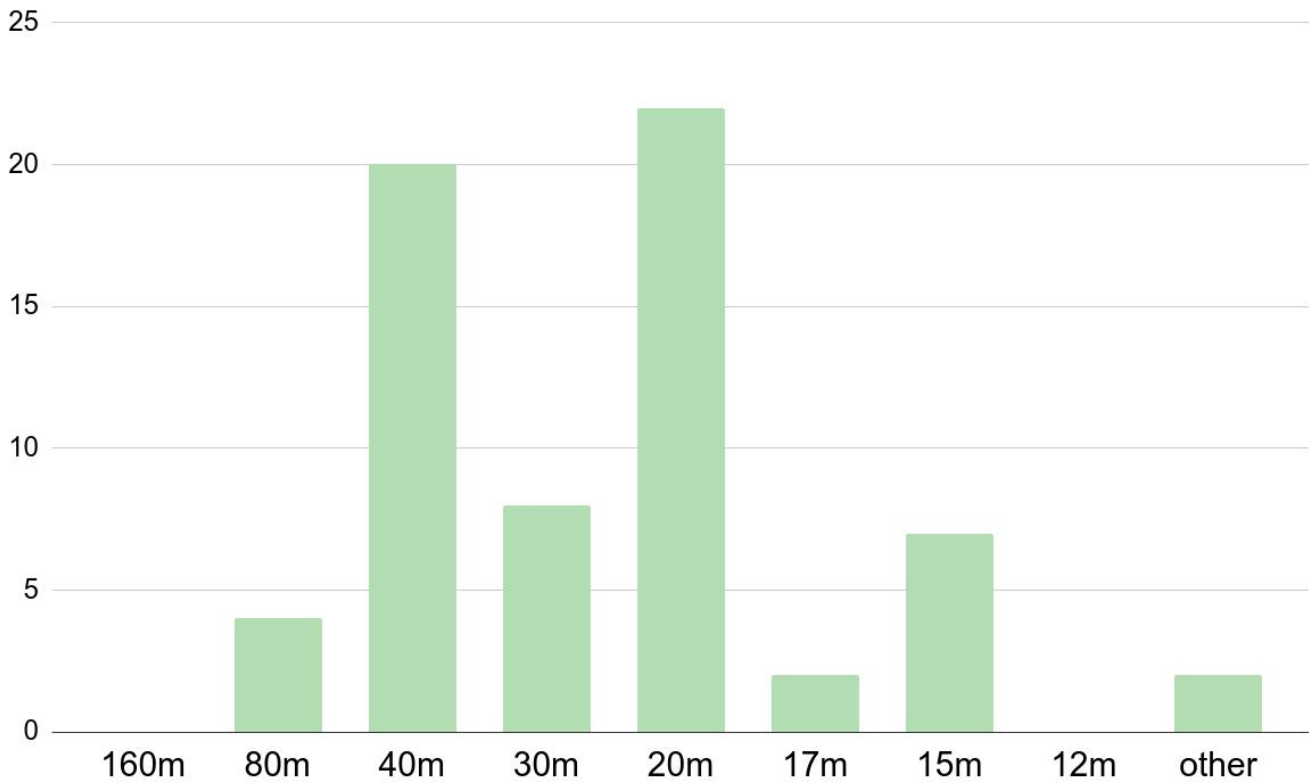
### NOVEMBER POLL

What Times / Bands are you Most Active with QRP CW?

[http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_past\\_polls.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_past_polls.html)







**HAM FABLES**

DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



THERE WAS A YL WHO LIVED IN A SHOE...

**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: FOX HOLE RADIO

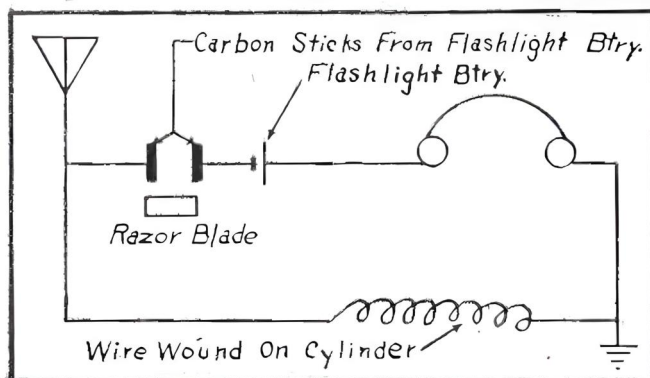
Creature comforts for the WW II GI were few and far between. Entertainment was very limited, so any diversion was welcome. Having a radio to listen to would be a great thing, but parts to make a normal radio were just not available.

Someone did, however, come up with a simple receiver that could be made with parts that were possible to get in the field. Known as the foxhole radio, it required a coil, headphones, an antenna wire, a razor blade and a safety pin.

Wind your coil with 120 turns or so of wire that could be salvaged from old motors or electronic equipment. Tack a razor blade to a piece of wood. Bend the end of a safety pin where it clips together so that it can be mounted on the board with the sharp end touching the razor blade. This is your detector. Wire the coil, detector and phones in series. Tie the coil / razor blade junction to an antenna and the coil / earphone junction to ground and you are done.

You will need to move the pin point around on the razor blade to find a spot that exhibits diode action and fiddle with the coil to find your station of choice. Some would wire a pencil lead to the pin point to help with the diode action.

Many of these sets were made and they provided the troops with a temporary escape from the war.






**WORDS**

- WW II GI FOXHOLE RADIO
- FIELD AVAILABLE PARTS
- SCRAP WOOD CHASSIS
- RAZOR BLADE
- BENT SAFETY PIN
- 120 TURN COIL

**CHALLENGE TRACKER:**

0	1	2	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	L	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z

**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. You can download a printable version of this month's tracker at: [http://naqcc.info/challenge\\_tracker.pdf](http://naqcc.info/challenge_tracker.pdf)



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

**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://naqcc.wb5rvz.org>

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 [charlie.wilber@gmail.com](mailto:charlie.wilber@gmail.com)

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month year) 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](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html)

## NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

Tune in for next month's Mayflower 400 Challenge.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202401.html>

## LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the World Series Scandle letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202311.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\\_schedule.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	AC2C DK1VD KU4A N1JI K9OSC KA5PVB KC5F KD0V WT4U W2ITT AB9BZ NN9K WY3H KI4IO N2EIM WY7N KI8I VE3HUR ND9M NN3E W1BLU N1LU KD2MX K4KBL
50+	AK3X AH6AX KJ4R VE3DQN VE3FUJ NF1U WB4OMM KB1M N4OW G3JFS N9SE
75+	PA9CW PA0XAW WI5H WA2FBN W3IQ
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	N8XMS W2JEK K3WWP

### CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**W1BLU:** Solar wind, solar flares & CME's be danged... QRP prevailed! Thanks for the fun.

**ON7DQ:** I started with the wrong challenge, but luckily I could reuse many of the callsigns for the correct one. Took me a few days more to get the remaining I's ,N's, and T's.

I worked on this month's challenge with paper and pencil. It became a challenge within the challenge as I am spoiled by usually having the application do the heavy lifting. I did my best to get it right. I will be looking forward to next month. 72, Mike

**N8XMS:** These challenges are always a lot of fun! Somewhat unusual weather allowed me to get outside on several different days and make some of my QSOs portable with my KX1 at 1-3 watts into a random wire tossed up into a tree. Have a blessed Thanksgiving!

**K3ES:** Great challenge, as usual! It encouraged me to keep the power turned down, and get those extra contacts.



# NAQCC AWARDS

## FEATURED AWARDS:

### PARTICIPATION

This award is renewed annually. To encourage participation in club activities, points are awarded each time someone enters and submits a log for a challenge or a regular monthly sprint (In months where there is also a mW/160M Sprint, a member earns a point for one or the other, but not both).

At the end of the year, the member in each division with the highest point total is awarded a beautiful color certificate. In case of ties, duplicate certificates will be awarded. Non-members can earn points, but must become a member before the end of the year to be eligible for the award.

There are 12 divisions, one each for the 10 USA call areas, one for Canada, and one for the rest of the world. KH6 is part of the 6th call area and KL7 part of the 7th for purposes of this award.

The member with the highest overall score from the twelve divisions will receive a free

one-year membership in FISTS or, if the winner is already a FISTS member, a free one-year renewal of their membership. FISTS is donating this to the NAQCC. Thanks to all the FISTS officers and members for their kindness and generosity. It is wonderful our two clubs can work so well together in the common cause of preserving CW on the ham bands.

So make plans to be active in and report your results from as many of our monthly sprints and challenges as you can. Say thanks to FISTS by participating in their events also. No points for that, but it will be a nice gesture on our part to help them get more participation in their events.

All previous winning members are eliminated since the prize can now only be won once by a member. If there are still more than one member left, a random computer drawing will be made among the remaining members.

Complete details on this award can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html).

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>.





# NOVICE MEMORIES

BY GREGG W8GG # 1444

Every so often a song comes on the radio and a smile comes on your face as the tune brings you back to a special moment or place in time. I heard such a tune the other day and I was recently reminded of my Novice days. Remember your Novice days?

I was 15, a sophomore in high school, and Ham radio was an aspiration that seemed far away. Lots of study and time commitment to learn the basics. *Plus* we had to learn Morse code. These were fairly large hurdles to a teenager with interests in girls, cars, motorcycles, radios, and friends. (Not necessarily in that order.) Remember your first car?

I found a friend in school electronics class with the same interests, and soon we began to study Morse code together. We finally took and passed our exams with Ian Ebert (SK), a professor and ham at Michigan State University. My how things have changed since then. The technicians of today don't know how good they have it as new hams.

## THE TEST

Back then there was no published question pool. You either knew the material or you flunked. Period. No memorizing the questions (and answers). The tests were a closely guarded FCC secret. Nobody knew until you opened the exam what was on the test. Nobody! Remember? Then you had to receive Morse code for five minutes and have "solid copy" for at least one minute.

Having passed that hurdle, you got the sending test. Where upon you were handed a page from a book and told to start sending. You knew you passed when he said OK and told you to stop. All done right? Not so fast!

Then your approved paperwork was "sent off" in a post to Gettysburg, PA. with no idea of how long it would be until your "ticket" came in the mail. Remember? Unlike today when you can find out your call on the Internet in about 2 or 3 days. My ticket finally did arrive seven agonizing weeks later. Hoorah! I was issued WN8LZG and my pal Jim got WN8KXZ a few days before me.



## ASSEMBLING THE STATION

Meanwhile I was putting together a modest station. My dad gave me permission to string a 40-meter dipole from the TV tripod on the roof and run the coax to a cellar window into the shack. We measured and cut antenna length following ARRL Handbook dimensions, and never really knew if it was a good match or not. No fancy antenna analyzers and VNA's back then. I got a loaner Knight-kit R-100 receiver and I built an Ameco AC-1 kit, one valve (tube) transmitter.

Remember Knight-kit, Heathkit, Lafayette, Allied, Gonset, Viking, Hallicrafters, and others who made kits available for the ham? Many of us "cut our teeth" on Heathkits, and the smell of solder was always wafting in the basement! Remember the wonderful pungent smell? I was fortunate to



have a side job washing mugs at the root beer stand to help finance my new hobby. Money was still pretty tight with kits being the logical choice over commercial built gear.

Hams at the local club furnished me with a couple of crystals to get me going. No VFO back then, all crystal control. We were all “rockbound.” Remember? Maximum power input was 75 watts. I didn’t have to worry about exceeding that with the AC-1, cuz even with a good tail wind she would only put out about 10-12 watts. We were QRP and didn’t even know it! Hee Hee.

We also tuned em up with a 25-watt incandescent lamp. Tuned for max brilliance across the antenna terminals, then the lamp removed and the antenna connected. Not exactly perfect, but who cared? It worked, and it did get me on the air.

## UNCLE CHARLIE

Back then we also had to log every transmission. Even CQ’s that went unanswered had to go into the log. In those days the “fear” of the FCC was drilled into us. Each ham believed that the FCC was listening in on everything, and the slightest transgression in the rules would be met with a “pink slip” from the Official Observers Corps. or worse, the Feds coming to your home, revoking

your license, and seizing all your precious ham gear! Yes, we were careful to obey the rules. Remember?

## FIRST QSO!

After many unanswered CQ’s I got my first QSO with a ham in Wisconsin. I was shakin’ all over, but the operator on the other end was patient, and soon I had him in the log! With the initial “stage fright” over, the log began to fill up, and each QSO added to my speed and knowledge of radio. Remember your first QSO?

## ROCKBOUND

It was also common to work the same hams over and over again because you only had one or two crystals. So you ended up talking to others who had a crystal close to yours. I made several local friends on 40-meters after school that way. I remember running home from school on Monday and Tuesday to catch a “sked” with Jim across town.

I finally went to a Hamfest and purchased a few more “rocks” so I could move around the band a bit. Because all of us Novices were rockbound, we had to call CQ on the frequency of the crystal, then slowly tune the receiver up and down the Novice segment, listening for an answer. Most times the answering party was only a few kc’s away, but some were 20-30 kilocycles away. KILOCYCLES, not kilohertz. Remember?

Many of you also remember “doping” the crystal to change the frequency. You removed the crystal from its holder and either drew on it with pencil lead to raise the freq, or sanded it carefully with fine emery paper to lower the freq, and putting it back in the can. The change in frequency was trial and error. If it didn’t change enough, you took it back out of the case and repeated the process until the crystal oscillated at the spot desired. Remember?

## LINGO

Then there was the Ham Lingo. Yes, a whole new set of cool abbreviations and shorthand just for radio. My pal Jim and I jokingly referred to each other as *lids*. He was *Liddy* and I was *Lid Boy!* Stupid, I know, but lots of fun back then.

I also recall how everyone on the air was polite. Not only polite, but many also asked about the well being of you and your family. Remember?



## IN HOT WATER

I soon graduated to the Cadillac of Novice rigs, the Heathkit HW-16. The Hot Water 16 was one of the first Novice transceivers, and ran a “full novice gallon” 75 watts of power. Weee Doggies! The logbook was filling up fast now.

## DX

I managed a trade for crystals to get some third overtone rocks to run 15 meters, and I soon discovered DX. The thrill of “hoping the pond” for the first time can only be experienced.

Remember your first DX?

Those operators from far away were polite and cordial. Always referring to me as “DR Greg.” I also used the term “dear” in front of names during on the air conversations. Remember?

## LEARNING THE ROPES

I was soon learning operating wisdom and savvy, like when the best times to work DX according to where the signals were coming in, and on the best bands for the day or night. Most of this knowledge was gleaned at the “school of hard knocks.” Stuff I now take for granted, but back then it was all a new experience. Remember?

There were other cool things about being a Novice. We had our own categories for competition in contests, and we even had our own station at Field Day. Remember?

## TIME TO UPGRADE

After about eight months as a Novice, I finally decided it was time for the upgrade. My speed was up to about 15 wpm and I’d studied hard for the General.

Back then it was a two-hour trip to the Federal Building in Detroit. Tests were administered by white shirt, black tie wearing, “Gestapo like” FCC men who never smiled. Exams promptly started at 9 am. If you were two minutes late, it was tough luck. Their “X-Ray” vision eyes could see right into your soul. Very intimidating for a high school kid.

I failed the code test on the first try. Back then you had to wait a whole month to retest. Remember? But I studied harder and I did return the next month and upgraded to General. Funny thing, I thought upon earning those new voice privileges that I would rush to get on SSB. Not so. My time spent as a Novice really solidified my love for CW. My favorite mode now for over 50 years.

Hope you enjoyed my trip down memory lane. Those novice days were among the happiest days in my life. Remember?

73, Gregg W8GG



# NAQCC SPRINTS

## DECEMBER SPRINTS

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, Dec 13, 2023 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, December 12th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202312.html>.

## MILLIWATT SPRINT — 1 WATT OR LESS

Our bonus Sprint is on Wednesday, Dec 20, 2023 0130-0330Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, December 19th in North America. Complete information at: <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202312mw.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).

## NOVEMBER SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202311.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

November Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	81	102	217	4/17
Participants	101	136	269	2/13
Total QSOs	861	1,397	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	526	742	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	335	655	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	35	393	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	564	953	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	262	51	1,417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	10.6	13.7	19.3	9/11

**SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY**

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>W1</b>	K1MZM	AC1KV KN1H (TIE)	-
<b>W2</b>	KA2KGP	W2SH	KN2G
<b>W3</b>	KC3MIO	K3JZD	AK3X
<b>W4</b>	KC5F	N2TNN	W4NLT
<b>W5</b>	N5GW	AC5BX	KE5YUM KQ7L (TIE)
<b>W6</b>	K6GPB	-	-
<b>W7</b>	N7KM	KJ7KDB	-
<b>W8</b>	KD8RGJ	NF8M	N8DD
<b>W9</b>	WB9HFK	KA9FQG	N8HWV
<b>W0</b>	N8LA	NN0SS	W1TM
<b>Canada</b>	VE3IIM	-	-
<b>DX</b>	-	-	-

**SWA BUG CATEGORY**

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>W1</b>	WB1GYZ	-	-
<b>W2</b>	-	-	-
<b>W3</b>	NN3E	-	-
<b>W4</b>	AA2MX	K3RLL	-
<b>W5</b>	-	-	-
<b>W6</b>	-	-	-
<b>W7</b>	N7QR	-	-
<b>W8</b>	K8NGW	-	-
<b>W9</b>	K9DRP	-	-
<b>W0</b>	KD0V	-	-
<b>Canada</b>	VE3HUR	-	-
<b>DX</b>	-	-	-

**SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY**

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>W1</b>	KB1M	-	-
<b>W2</b>	K2OID	N2ESE	WA1GWH
<b>W3</b>	-	-	-
<b>W4</b>	K4BAI	AF4PX	K4KBL
<b>W5</b>	KA6J	-	-
<b>W6</b>	-	-	-
<b>W7</b>	-	-	-
<b>W8</b>	WI8J	WA8SAN	WB8ENE
<b>W9</b>	KY0Q	N9EEE	AB9BZ
<b>W0</b>	NO2D	KC2MJT	-
<b>Canada</b>	VE3DQN	-	-
<b>DX</b>	-	-	-

**GAIN CATEGORY**

KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
<b>SK</b>	NQ2W	-	-
<b>BUG</b>	-	-	-
<b>K/K</b>	-	-	-

## 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+	K4KBL KF7WNS KC7DM VE3GNU WD4OHD KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU K1IX AA5LH N8HWV N8QY WY3H KC2MJT K6CSL W5UAA KC2EGL KE9DR AB8FJ NN9K VE3HUR W4HH WK6L K2HT KD9EBS KC3RN K4ORD K5GQ N1JI KD0DK K3JZD WT4U AB9BZ WA2NYY KB4QQJ KB9ILT VA3NU K8NGW
75+	KQ1P K9EYT KB1M K4NVJ WA1GWH VE3DQN WB9HFK WA2FBN WB1GYZ WB4OMM VE3FUJ K9OSC N2CN WD0K N8BB NQ2W AA0W NN0SS K6MGO KJ4R NF5U WI5H N7QR N8APO
100+	KL7IEE AK3X N5GW NA4O KN1H W4DUK KA9FQG NO2D AA9L N4MJ WB8ENE N8LA KD2MX KD3CA
125+	KE5YUM WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N4FI N0TA K4KRW
150+	K3RLL NF8M K4BAI W9CC N8XMS K2CWM KD0V K4JPN KU4A N2ESE
175+	W2SH W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

### SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

**K3RLL** - 20M: Lots of signals at the opening gate, but someone must have yelled "FIRE!" as they all disappeared faster than my last SS check. 40M: More signals and some very strong. I wonder what it means when so many of these good ops were 599 and I was just the opposite? Hmmm...? Lots of fun on a rainy Florida evening. 72/73 ... Don

**KK4ITX** - I worked the whole Sprint tormenting Ops with my Covid recovering joints, probably should have just rested! It was great to finally hear K4BAI a real 599, it pays to wait until the end.

**NA4O** - I usually search and pounce but after hearing only one station (the very reliable WB9HFK) calling tonight, I tried calling CQ. Many thanks to those stations that did respond. There may have been some others, but everything was right at noise level at best. Sorry if I missed some. Very tough night here tonight. KX3@5W, Vibroplex Straight key.

**KC5F** - When I started on 20m, I thought my EFHW had come down! 40m and 80m were much better, but not as much activity as some months. Still ended up alright, but tougher than usual. I hope conditions are better for my POTA activation tomorrow afternoon!

**KN2G** - Tonight I unplugged the power supply and ran lights and radio by battery. I got in plenty of eavesdropping across the bands. 20 was dead to me... 40 was very good and 80 somewhere near excellent in my humble subjective opinion. As always, amazing how a little wire and a bitty electronic doodad can launch a signal into the wilds of the atmosphere and receive an understandable reply nearly instantly!





# NAQCC 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
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7pm CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	7067 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 5 PM PST	Friday 0100 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
Wyoming Daily QRS 80 Meter Net (WY80)	Off the air			Steve KE7UUJ (WY)

**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 PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 5 PM PST, which is Friday 0100 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Nov 03 – QNI (10) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, KI7SJE, KB7DYP, WB7WHG, AB7BP,  
KC7CW, K7JUV, N7TB, N7QR

Nov 10 – QNI (5) NCS WB7WHG, WB4SPB, AD7BP, N7TB, KJ7KDB

Nov 17 – QNI (6) NCS WB4SPB, KC7CW, AD7BP, WB7WHG, K7JUV, KJ7KDB

Nov 24 – QNI (1) NCS AD7BP

## NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-  
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

Nov 06 – QNI (3) NCS W0CC, KI4MZY, WB9HFK

Good conditions with several DX stations on the band. It seemed that everyone wanted to transmit near and bleed over into 7.031. Had a hard time making a good connection with Brad in NC; however, had a great connection with Mark in IL.

Nov 13 – QNI (3) NCS W0CC, W1TM, N8VCL

The Band was not very stable; however, both Tim and Scott did GREAT Jobs riding it out!

Nov 20 – No Net Tonight

Nov 27 – No Net Tonight

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## NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC,  
on 7067 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)  
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

Nov 07 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM

Wow, only had one last night. He was 599 on 80 meters for the first try this fall. Another said he was on 40 looking and forgot about the freq. change. Another said he does not have an antenna for 80 but is working on it. Hoping for good conditions on the lower band after the time change.

Nov 14 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YUM, KA6J

Much better luck on 80 meters this week. Both AR stations were 589/599 and so was Jim in TX. No QRM again which is wonderful! Still not hearing anything out of GA. Next week, I hope.

Nov 21 – QNI (2) NCS KA5TJS, N4NN

Pretty noisy tonight from the storm over in LA. Only one who made it in was Allen in GA. We got an inch of rain out of it!

Nov 28 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KA6J

YUM was 599 and J was 579. Some QSB but not bad. Solar conditions kicking up this week. Glade Jim got an antenna working on 80 meters now from Kyle, TX. All had a good Thanksgiving.



# NAQCC CHAPTERS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—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 John KK4ITX.

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 Steve, 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 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 Please contact call sign trustee, Club President John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

## 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/>.

### EAGLE POINT PARK - NOVEMBER 18, 2023

Had a great time this Saturday, Nov 18, at Eagle Point Park in NPR with Suncoast ARC members.

I had my IC705 and Rick, KQ4JQN had his G90 with a 40m End Fed Wire in a tree. Matt, KO4WRY, a new comer to our events, just received one of the small uSDX transceivers and wanted to try it out using my 20m End Fed Wire. Chuck, KQ4JQN had his G90 with 40m End Fed Wire in a tree.





**ATTENDING**

- Tim WD8MVU
- Ron N9EE IC705 with MC750
- Rick KQ4JQN G90 with 40m End Fed Wire
- Frank KK4DYF
- Don KA2KDP
- Don KO4WRY uSDX QRP transceiver using 20m OCF dipole
- Dan AB4LN
- Chuck KQ4AEE

From last few NAQCC-WFL events have realized 20m and above does not open until after 1000 hrs. Band was good around 1030 hours and due to SST contest there



was lots of good activity. The hot dogs were good, all had a good time.



## 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.

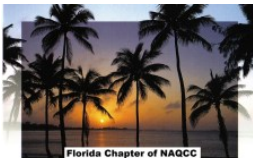
## NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

## 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.

## NAQCC GREEN SWAMP WCF



Items in this section are from the Green Swamp WCF Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Gary N3OS.

The chapter's website is <https://www.zaarc.org>.



# NAQCC PRIZE SPONSORS



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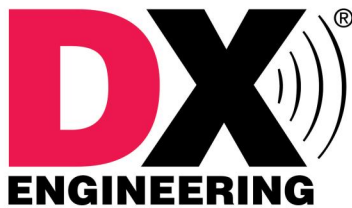





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# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## 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		
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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:

Club President John Leahy KK4ITX  
3513 Aquamarine Way  
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 USA

