

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 182 AUGUST 2013



KEY CLICKS

- ◆ I would like to thank everyone who emailed me comments on my inaugural issue of the newsletter last month. They were too numerous to respond to individually but they were all greatly appreciated. I think that we got off to a pretty good start with only a couple of glitches showing up last month. Hopefully we will do even better this month. Please keep sending in your comments and suggestions. My email address is on the last page. 73, Paul - N8XMS
- ◆ Well, it's August and that means that we are only two months away from our ninth anniversary celebration with our week-long N#A operating event. We still need plenty of operators in all of the districts - there's really no limit, so "the more the merrier!" **We especially need operators in the 7th district as well as sprint operators in districts 1 - 5.** It's easy to do and a ton of fun. All you need to do is to commit to operating as N#A in one or more time slots that fit your personal schedule, and to send in your log of contacts when you are done. Our on-line scheduling calendar makes it really simple to pick your times and to coordinate with the other ops in your district. Members who have volunteered thus far are shown below, with the calls in red belonging to the ones who have already committed to operating N#A in our sprint that week. You can find more information on the N#A special event at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

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N1A	W1OH
N2A	N2DVD, NA2AA
N3A	K3WWP, WY3H, KC2EGL, WA3HIC
N4A	KI4EBD, KU4GW, AI4SV
N5A	W5WIL
N6A	K6MGO
N7A	
N8A	N8XMS , N8IUP, AD7TN
N9A	K9EYT
N0A	KC0PMH, W0EJ

- ◆ A special "thank you" goes out to Ray, K9EYT, Garry, WA1GWH, and Ray, KK4BE for the donations that they recently made to the NAQCC treasury. If others would like to make a donation please send a

(Continued on page 2)

check or money order to Paul Huff, 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. Your donation will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to another club officer as a “check and balance.”

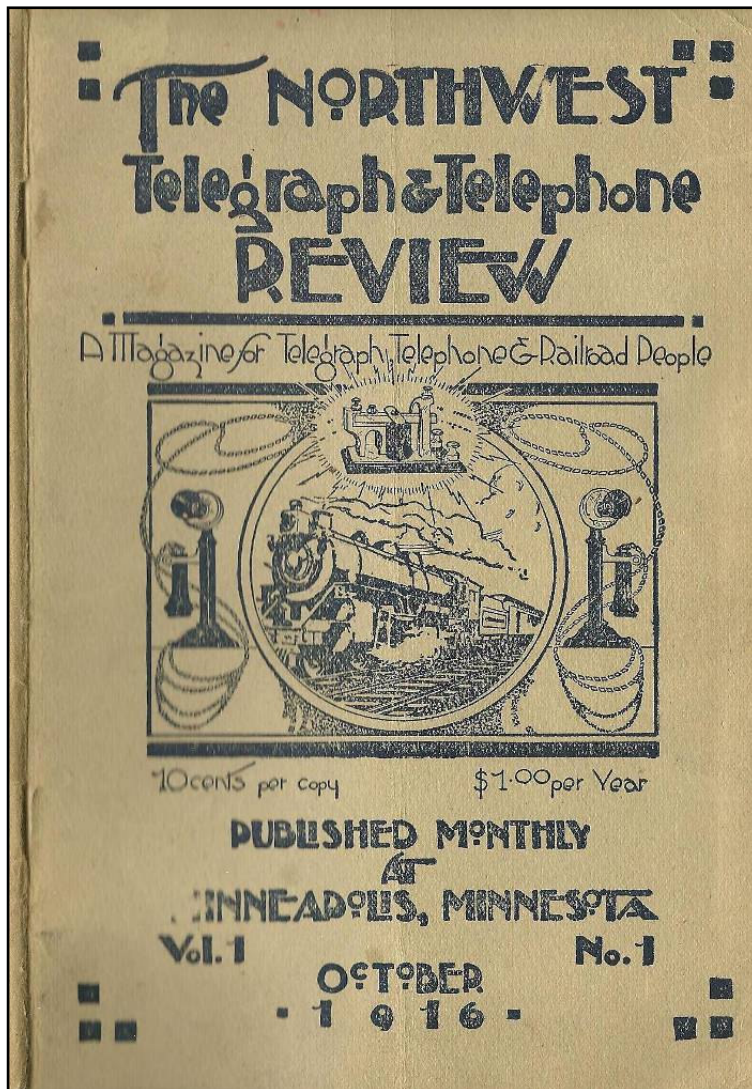
- ◆ We are experiencing a very healthy growth in our membership. Fifty new members joined during the month of July. (The same number joined in June!) We would like to extend a warm welcome to these new members and hope that they will enjoy all of the great activities that are available through the NAQCC.
- ◆ Bruce, ZP5BAB, reports that no one was able to grab his beacon reception challenge last month. He says that conditions were not very favorable in Paraguay and that he will probably try it again sometime in the future. (N8XMS - I heard him here in Michigan but was not able to copy the confirmation word successfully.)



FEATURE ARTICLE: 1916 (part 1), BY PAUL HUFF - N8XMS

Recently two of our members, Jack WA0QZK, and Roy AC9DN, sent us some scans from a very interesting vintage magazine. Jack is a pastor in Warsaw, IN and has a nice collection of bugs and straight keys. A lady from Jack’s congregation spotted the magazine at a flea market and, knowing his interest in vintage telegraphy, plunked a dollar down and picked it up to give to him.

As you can see from the magazine cover, this was the inaugural edition of “*The Northwest Telegraph & Telephone Review*.” “A Magazine for Telegraph, Telephone & Railroad People,” published in Minneapolis in October 1916. It was printed by the Miles Printing Company at 324 Fourth Ave, S. (no longer in business), and the magazine’s office is given as Room 414, Tribune Bldg. That would be the Minneapolis Tribune newspaper building (now called the Star-Tribune), but it appears that this was a rented office and not a publication of the newspaper. The publisher is listed as George H. Miles who was probably the owner of the printing company as well.



(Continued on page 4)

Before we crack open the cover of this magazine let's put it into some historical perspective. Seventy-two years earlier, in 1844, Samuel Morse had sent his famous "What hath God wrought" message on the first telegraph line strung between Washington, D.C. and Baltimore, MD. It had only been forty years since Alexander Graham Bell said "Mr. Watson come here" into his new invention called a "telephone." And a mere fifteen years separated this publication from Marconi's 1901 spanning of the Atlantic with a wireless Morse code "S". Woodrow Wilson was one month away from winning his second term as President of the United States, and the still neutral country was only six months away from entering the bloody war that had been raging in Europe since July of 1914. On the entertainment front, a funny little man named Charles Chaplin was in his third year as a silent film actor and was well on his way to becoming Hollywood's first "super star."

Of more significance to our interests is an event that happened just two years earlier, in March 1914. An amateur radio operator named Hiram P. Maxim, 1WH, who lived in Hartford, CT, learned that a fellow ham 30 miles away in Springfield had an audion tube for sale, and Hiram wanted to purchase it. Normally Maxim's 1 KW station could easily span distances of up to 100 miles but for some reason he could not "raise" the fellow in Springfield. He could however contact another ham in an intermediate town named Windsor Lakes. This fellow then relayed Maxim's purchase offer to the Springfield ham. Maxim thought about this event for a few days and decided that some sort of nation-wide communication network should be established. By September of that year more than 230 hams across 32 states and parts of Canada had joined an organization called "The American Radio Relay League." The ARRL is mentioned in the *Review* but we will save that story for a later date.

It's a little bit difficult to describe this magazine because the content of its 40 pages is really all over the board. There are semi-technical articles, informational reports, both humorous and serious stories, jokes, obituaries, a poem, and even what could be described as office gossip. Here and there you can also see little bits of trivia used as space filler. Excerpts from the magazine are shown on the following pages.

Here is how the magazine introduced itself to the public. Is the "gamut of human passion" just a little bit over the top?

INTRODUCTORY

We believe that there is no profession or business which is more replete with good, interesting stories, in which the gamut of human passion and sentiment has a wider range than in the telegraph and telephone profession, and every man or woman engaged in that pursuit comes in contact with it every day of his or her life. Stories of love, and of hate, courage and cowardice, ambition and sloth, honesty and crime, life and death, pass through his hands daily, yes, hourly.

There is no operator of today or yesterday but who can, if he will, tell a story of drama, tragedy or comedy that has at some time come to his notice in the routine of business that would equal, if not excel, many of the popular stories of fiction. But these tales of heartaches and happiness, the stories of real human interest, because true, are seldom told except by word of mouth between operators.

The Northwest Telegraph and Telephone Review, with this issue, makes its initial appearance in this field, and will endeavor to fill a long-felt need by the fraternity of operators. It will be the purpose of this magazine to gather these stories and incidents from all parts of the American continent and so arrange and produce that all in the profession may read and enjoy them, and that they may become a part of the lore and literature of the nation. It will also keep its readers advised of telegraphic and telephonic progress throughout the world, with particular attention given to personal notices of individuals of the profession of operators and the changes in the officials of the various companies engaged in the telegraph and telephone business. It will carry an interesting budget of telegraph stories contributed by the country's brightest talent.

If you want to hear a good story, get the average operator to tell it. If you want to read one, get him to write it. HE KNOWS HOW. There are hundreds of operators who have within them a natural talent for telling a story, who have never tried to write one, who if he did but make the effort would make a hit as a short-story writer. We offer all in the profession, through the columns of this monthly magazine, an opportunity to develop that talent. We earnestly solicit all stories, and will gladly publish them in the Review. SEND YOUR STORIES IN.

Here is an informational article about a plan to lay a direct telegraph cable between the United States and Germany using U-boat cable layers. Previously laid cables had been cut by the British because of the war. Since the US was neutral there was still a large demand for both business and personal communications with Germany. The United States entered the war six months later, in April of 1917, so I am sure that this cable plan never came to fruition.

U-BOATS TO LAY CABLE FROM GERMANY TO U. S.

If the war lasts another year there will be no further need by that time for sending cable dispatches from Germany to the United States by way of London.

There will, in that event, be a direct cable connection between Germany and America, for Germany is now building a flotilla of cable-laying submarines, which will begin work early next spring, as soon as weather conditions permit. Part of the work is even expected to be done this coming fall.

Plan Long Under Way.

Plans for the re-establishment of direct cable connections have been under consideration ever since the

British, early in the war, cut the German cables. Up to the time of the Deutschland's arrival at the Virginia capes they were looked upon with considerable skepticism, but since the U-liner's successful voyage to the United States the proposition has assumed substantial proportions. A concern similar to the Ocean Rhoderel, which books the trans-Atlantic U-liners, is now being organized. The cable laying will be a private enterprise, but may eventually be subsidized like the big German steamship companies. Government protection is assured.

This protection, it is asserted in quarters close to the men contemplating the materialization of the cable enterprise, will consist in furnishing the cable layers fighting submarines to be "on guard" while the work is being done.

Flotilla to Guard Line.

If the work is successfully completed, the cable will be guarded as long as the war lasts by a flotilla of powerful fighting U-boats of the most modern type.

Plans are also under way to lay a cable between Germany and South America.

Germany now proposes to lay a direct cable to North and South America. Once this is accomplished, it is more than likely that the Germans will set about to try to destroy the British and French cables and thus turn the tables on their enemies. It is known that great pressure has been brought upon the German government by influential groups from time to time with a view to persuading it to cut the allies' cables to the United States.

At the last survey there were 417 ocean cables in the world, representing 235,492 miles.

Standard clocks in the Paris observatory are kept 90 feet underground, where the variations in temperature have been less than one degree for several years.

(Notice the trivial "filler" material at the bottom of the article.)

Here is a funny story about a fellow that asked his office-mate for a chew of tobacco by sending a telegraph message over a 1000-mile circuit. It's fun to see that it mentions the year 2000 as a far-off future time when superfast transportation will be possible. An interesting side-note is the reference to "Maxim guns." These were devastatingly effective machine guns, and versions of them were used by all of the armies of WWI. They were invented by the father of Hiram P. Maxim, the founder of the ARRL who was also mentioned earlier in this article.

GETTING A "CHEW" BY WIRE.

How a Kansas City Telegraph Operator Accomplished This Seemingly Impossible Feat.

"Folks don't chew much tobacco these days," said an old-time telegrapher as he helped himself to a pinch of fine-cut and then offered the pouch to his neighbor in the nearest lobby chair. "But I can remember when some of our best families used to indulge quite freely in Little Willie Reed's weed. When the judge on the bench used to reach over and borrow a 'chaw' from the clerk, the banker, the merchant, yes, and sometimes the preacher used to—but that's neither here nor there. Times change and some of us change with them. What I started out to say was that from Kansas City to Chicago is a long ways to go for a chew of tobacco."

"Yes, some walk—especially in hot weather," assented the neighbor, indulgently.

"But I didn't walk—I sent after it. And I got it in a very few minutes."

"When was that? In the year 2000?"

"Oh, no," said the o. t. t. "Not so awful long ago. You see it happened this way. In the old days, when the Western Union offices were down on Missouri avenue and old man Woodring was day chief and Mark Crain was night chief, and Tilden was running for President, and Dr. Mary Walker was what you might call a sort of a suffragette John-the-Baptist up there in the Washington, D. C., wilderness—well, anyway, we used to take the C. N. D. reports for the Board of Trade over a 'quad.' You see it takes four men to work a 'quad,' two at the Kansas City end, say, and two at the Chicago end. One man from here 'sends' all the time to a man in Chicago who 'receives,' or 'takes' all the time and vice-versa—the quadruplex mechanism keeps 'em all go-

ing at the same time over one wire. Some man, that Edison."

"You said it. But speaking of tobacco—"

"Yes, I'm coming to it—rather, I'm going after it presently. A subject of such importance must be introduced properly and in the regulation way. Well, you know, those market reports came shooting over the wire about the way Maxim guns deliver, and the 'quad' operators were required to be at their keys all the time during their shifts and to keep their keys always 'open'—like-wise their ears. There were no 'calls' on the 'quad.' The sender just fired away every second or so, and you had to be there to get it. And, on this account, the rules were very rigid, not to disturb the 'quad' men nor for them to bother each other. We used to run two 'quads' with a glass shield down the middle of the table separating the teams. I was one of the 'quad' men.

"One fine morning—or was it afternoon? I don't just remember—I think, though, it was a Monday, and you know how a fellow feels—well, anyway, I wanted a chew and my pouch was dry."

"Why didn't you call a messenger?" queried the patient neighbor.

"Nix. I took the easiest way. I first asked my chum, who sat on the same side of the table with me, if he had any. Nothing doing. And then—"

"I touched the key and told my Chicago 'taker' to tell the man there who was 'sending' to the Kansas City man who sat opposite me on the other side of the glass partition, to tell his Kansas City operator—"

"Wait a minute till I get that—go ahead."

"To tell his Kansas City man to slip me over his plug or pouch, as the case might be.

"And in the fraction of a jiffy it came over the garden wall, so to speak, and went back the same route. We used to work it that way quite often after that."

I don't know if that tobacco story is actually true but this next humorous account apparently is. It was reprinted from a 1911 newspaper. Has this ever happened to any of you after some long Field Day hours?

OPERATORS UNSHAVED.

Telegraphers Stick to Keys—Beards Grow and Marshal Takes Them for Crooks.

(From the St. Paul Pioneer-Press, October 8, 1911.)

Black River Falls, Wis., Oct. 8.—Ed Pardis and Fred Burbridge, telegraph operators employed by the Western Union in St. Paul object to being taken for crooks, even when their faces look rather tough because they have not been shaved.

The operators have been "on the key" almost constantly since a few hours after the flood, sending out press copy. They brought no razors with them and the barber shops of this city are not running.

They went to the court house this morning to change linen, having left their valises there when they first arrived. A guard imported from a nearby township stopped them at the front door. He carried a shotgun.

"Halt," he said.

"Why?" asked Pardis.

"No sass my young man," admonished the guard.

Burbridge grinned. The rural protector of the money stored in the building became real "peeved" and pointing the gun in the direction of the operators, yelled: "I don't like your looks. Clear out before I

put you in the lockup."
They did.

To the right is an example of the kind of “office gossip” that was included in *The Review*. Western Union offices apparently had two-letter designations used to identify them. These abbreviations are used throughout the *Review*. I wonder how much money that new Ford cost Mr. Olson?

TWIN CITY NOTES.
Western Union.

Miss Clover Donnelly, operator at the “Gy” branch office, spent a very pleasant month’s vacation the past summer in California.

Manager O. M. Olson of the “Cx” Chamber of Commerce rides to and from work in his new Ford car.

Assistant Manager W. H. Comstock of the Chamber of Commerce office entertained members of “The Review Staff” to luncheon on September 17. Due credit is given Mrs. Comstock by “The Staff,” who were given a rare treat.

Miss E. Johnson has taken up her duties as clerk at the “Gy” branch office. Manager Anthony is to be congratulated, as Miss Johnson is very competent in her work.

D. W. Holtby, operator, was transferred recently from “Gd” office to the “Gy” office.

Miss Dotty Brooks is acting manager at the “Gd” office. Miss Brooks hails from New York City.

Finally, although it’s more than just a little macabre, I just couldn’t resist including this obituary. Since we are looking back at it over almost a century you could probably call this “funny” in a twisted sort of way but I’m sure that was not the original intent!

We regret to chronicle the death of Miss Bertha Reuper, 19 years old, employed at the local Western Union Main Office, who died Friday night, September 15, at the Minneapolis City Hospital. Mistaking a can containing rat poison for soda, Miss Reuper mixed the material in pancakes and died after eating one. The entire “NA” office was deeply shocked at the tragic death and expressed their deep sympathy at her sudden death with a beautiful floral offering.

Well, there is so much more that could be shown but we are way over-budget on our available space. Next time we will take a detailed look at the four pages of the *Review* that make up what it calls the “Radio Department.”

73 ES CUL
DE N8XMS



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: This month's sprint will be on August 14 from 0030-0230 UTC. Of course that's the evening of Tuesday the 13th in the western hemisphere. If you have never operated in one of our sprints before take a look at VE3FUJ's *CW Assistance* article in this issue of the newsletter for some helpful hints on how to have both a successful and fun time.

GENLOG makes all of the sprint logging chores, including formatting and submitting, a breeze. You can find a tutorial on how to use GenLog at http://naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html. The thought occurred to me that some people might be hesitant to use GenLog because they use some other program for their QSO logging. But it's really easy to import the the GenLog ADIF log file into your other log. The only real trick to it is that you need to remember that GenLog does not use the ADIF QTH field in the standard way. GenLog uses this field to record your own state (in my case MI) but the ADIF standard is to use it to record the other person's city. So if you just directly import the GenLog ADIF file into your main logging software all of your QSOs will show your state as the other persons city! A simple work-around for this is to take the GenLog ADIF file and open it in any basic text editor. Then do a universal replacement of all of the QTH fields. For example, I replace `<qth:2>MI` with `<tx_pwr:1>5 <comment:25>(K2. St key) NAQCC Sprint`. This gives me a record of my transmitter power, equipment, and the fact that it was a sprint QSO. I save the file with my changes and then import it into my main log. Let me know if this is confusing to you. Perhaps we can have a future article in the newsletter about how to work with ADIF files.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. There will be a prize at the end of the year for the most GOLDEN/SILVER logs. In case of a tie, the one having the most QSOs will be the winner.

Complete sprint rules and information on log submission can be found at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>.

LAST MONTH SPRINT RESULTS: 123 logs were submitted for our 105th sprint in July. A lot of members reported high QRN on 80 and 40 meters and fairly good conditions on 20. There were 100 perfectly formatted logs which really helps with the cross checking. After that cross checking was completed 23 logs had score adjustments.

Congratulations to the winners and a big "THANK YOU" to all of the participants who submitted a log. Every time that you do so you are casting your vote for CW and QRP!

We would especially like to welcome our first-time loggers: AB8OU, K3EMS, K7EY, K7JFD, KA4GAV, KB3SJQ, KC5NXA, N3GWZ, NG9I, NK8O, NW0M, VA7TZ, W2GN, W4NBF, WA2KSM, WA5J. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and to submit your results.

The following seven members are in a tie for first place in our Golden/Silver log submission competition for 2013. They each have seven perfect logs so far. AA7CU, KB8FE, KB9ILT, KU4A, N8XMS, NQ2W, WA2JSG

Complete results for the sprint are available at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201307.html>. Result summaries are shown in the tables on the following page.

CERTIFICATES			
SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1SFR		
W2	NW2K	K2YGM	
W3	K3WWP	K3RLL	
W4	WB4OMM	WX4RM	W4KRN
W5	W5IQS		
W6	WK6L		
W7	KE7YTE		
W8	W3NP	AB8KT	
W9	KB9ILT	K9EYT	
W0	N0TA		
VE	VE3RCN		
DX			
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	NW2K		
Bug (x1.5)	KMIN		
Keyer (x1)	KC5NXA		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	K4BAI		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	KC5NXA		
Prize Drawing	N5ATM		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	123	125	194	2/13
Participants	193	195	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1881	2322	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	966	1123	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	915	1199	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	1120	1032	1120	7/13
40m QSOs	756	1222	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	5	68	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	15.3	18.6	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: To quote Dorothy, it's "lions and tigers and bears, oh my!" The August challenge is another one of our alphabet challenges, this time featuring the names of various wild animals. A list of the words can be found at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201308.html>. So put on your pith helmet, load up your elephant gun, and bag some wild beast fun! (Actually since its QRP that elephant gun should be a pea-shooter!)

Complete information about our challenges including a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge is available at <http://naqcc.info/challenges.html>.

LAST MONTH CHALLENGE: In July we had an alphabet challenge with words related to "the oldest name in ham radio" - Vibroplex. In 1902 champion telegrapher Horace G. Martin invented an electromechanical sending device that he called the "Martin Autoplex." This key required a couple of clunky dry cell batteries and was not very popular, but two years later, in 1904, he took out another patent for a purely mechanical device that utilized a vibrating pendulum. By 1906 this second semi-automatic key evolved into a third patent for what we know today as the Vibroplex "Original." The company is currently owned by Scott Robbins, W4PA, and continues to produce the highest quality bugs, paddles, and straight keys in Knoxville, TN. They estimate that more than 300,000 Vibroplex keys are in circulation around the world.

Members have until the 10th to submit their logs so our results are not yet final. So far it looks like 10 people went on the hunt for these classic words and 9 of them successfully completed the full list. Everyone reported having a great time. If you have never tried one of our challenges you just don't know what you're missing! Complete results along with "soapbox" comments from participants can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201307.html>.



NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>. Here are the certificates and endorsements earned this past month:

Friendship Club Award 2300 Point Endorsement

0001 - K3WWP 1124 07/05/13

1000 MPW Award

0264 - AB9YC SV2GNC - 1,054 07/04/13 fan dipole@25'

0265 - AB9YC YT9M - 1,006 07/05/13 fan dipole@25'

0266 - WU1V D3AA - 1,345 07/26/13 dipole@30'



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, N8XMS, at phuff@mi.rr.com.

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.

KLAUS GRAEF, DK1AX, #5213



My name is Klaus, my call is DK1AX and I am 56 years old. I live in Germany and I am an enthusiastic DX-er. Made my license long time ago - in 1982 - when I was in Munich for my studies.

My first goal in HAM radio was the DXCC – in CW. Today I am working hard on the magic band for my 10-band-DXCC! Ok, I often use QRO - because in Europe you have less chance to make it to the DX station with 100 watt or with QRP.

But DXing with QRO every day is not all..... I am the owner of an K1 and of an KX3. Travelling a lot, I take my QRP station with me. So I was QRV from different countries. But most of the time, it was frustrating. Calling CQ less stations answered to such a "poor" signal. And answering a CQ-call - using QSK - you can hear after giving 2 letters the other station calling further CQ... by the way, I am doing CW most time.

So I had to reorient myself - searching for a new goal.... I found SOTA! Summit on The Air... And that is great. Having two possibilities – hunting stations being on summits or going on a summit and making QSO's from up there. And that makes fun! So my best QSOs from a summit in Austria where QSOs with a station in Canada and also a station in US! With 5 watts and a simple dipole.

Being a member of the Bavarian Contest Club, I make a lot of contests – I love CW contests but making SSB and RTTY too.

Another dream of mine since I am a HAM was to be part of a “big” DXpedition. So I got the opportunity to join the DXpedition to Sao Tome – S9DX. That was a big thrill to be for a couple of days on the other end

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of the pileup. In the next years I was also member of the DXpeditions to ZK2C – Niue - and this year 5W0M - Samoa. I love such experiences. Plans for new, rare places in the world are in my mind.... We will see...

I am an award hunter too. Looking for “hard” to reach awards like “Tripple Play Award” (reached), 10-Band DXCC (9-band reached), USA-CA-Award (looking for last QSOs for CA500), Japan Century Cities (looking for last QSOs) and so on.

I love my hobby – HAM radio. But I have other interests too. One is: USA! I was several times in America, visiting a lot of beautiful places there. One of my favourite trips was a two-weeks trip by tent through the deserts in south-west, having the opportunity to see the desert in blossom – and to get a special permit for a night with the tent in the dunes of the White Sand NM. In the rest of my free time, I ride my BMW motorcycle.... having much fun with.

Ok, that’s it for now: when you hear me on the frequency, give me a call – I will answer and say: “Hi from Germany”

73
Klaus
dk1ax



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

We currently have four chapters—European, Texas, Western Pennsylvania, and Florida—but we would be very 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 would be interested in starting a chapter in your area email phuff@mi.rr.com and information will be sent to you.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted, send an email with the subject "NAQCC portable operation", and with the exact wording of the announcement to phuff@mi.rr.com. Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to kd2mx@arrl.net for posting to this section of the newsletter.

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to matt@mattireland.co.uk. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly sprints. All are welcome to participate, not just EU members, and we regularly receive log reports of trans-Atlantic QSOs. Here are the upcoming dates for our sprints:

Monday, 19-August-2013
 Wednesday, 11-September-2013
 Monday, 21-October-2013
 Wednesday, 13-November-2013
 Monday, 16-December-2013

*** Prizes ***

This is a reminder about our first prize on offer and the announcement of our second.

Recall that we are giving away a "Limerick Sudden" 40m transmitter kit for the station that collects the most European participation points over the year of 2013. The completed transmitter will be capable of a full 1W out and is great fun to build and use. Although its construction is non-trivial, the kit should be accessible to beginners.

Participation points can be gained by entering any one of the following chapter activities:

Sprint entry (until July)	1 point
Challenge entry	2 points
Activity day entry	4 points (usually, but 8 for the first one)
Europe 2013 entry	6 points

Details of how many participation points each station currently has are available on the chapter website, <http://naqcc-eu.org/prizes>. At the moment, the competition could still be won by anyone. Even if you

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haven't yet entered any European chapter activities, it would still be quite easy for you to catch up and claim the prize!

Our second prize is a receiver kit, which matches the transmitter kit above, and will be awarded to the station who achieves the highest score in our December Activity Day (see below).



*** Challenges ***

The European chapter challenges are stronger than ever! Over the year of 2013, we have had submissions from six different people, most of whom have submitted entries for almost every challenge.

What is the purpose of the challenges? They are very similar to the main club challenges, but specifically aimed at increasing CW/QRP activity in Europe. The European Chapter challenges are great fun and open to all members, whether currently situated in Europe or elsewhere.

The August challenge is an alphabet challenge and involves constructing the names and heights of the three tallest European buildings from the letters and numbers in the callsigns of European stations that you work. You may already have worked all the stations that you need to submit an entry for the challenge; go through your log and check! All stations that submit entries automatically receive a beautiful European Chapter certificate and 2 participation points.

*** Europe 2013 Challenge ***

This is a special challenge, in addition to the normal monthly challenges. The idea is to work at least one station from each of the countries that we specify. It is very similar to the numerous "Worked All Europe (WAE)" style challenges offered by other organizations, but aimed specifically at QRP/CW operators.

Completing the challenge is not easy; it has been running for seven months and we have only had one entry so far. Having said that, you may have already fulfilled the requirements and not yet submitted an entry and claimed your reward! It is envisaged that this and subsequent WAE chapter challenges will become quite a prestigious testament to the CW/QRP ability of amateur radio operators.

All successful applications will result in the issue of a certificate and six participation points. For more information and to submit your entry, visit <http://naqcc-eu.org/europe-2013>.

*** Activity Days & Sprints ***

I hear you cry "What is an Activity Day?" Our sprints have not been attracting many entries recently and the administrative overhead of checking the results is no longer worth it. However, do not despair! We are replacing them with biannual "Activity Days." These will run over 24 hours and the idea will be to work as many European stations as you can in that time period. We appreciate that not everyone will be able to

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operate for the full period over which the contest runs, so our advanced scoring system will take this into account to make the competition fair to everyone.

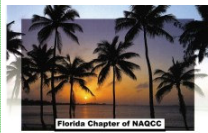
Our first activity day will be held on Thursday, December 19. More details will be released closer to the time.

As mentioned above, we are giving away a 40m receiver kit to the station who achieves the highest score in our December activity day. Everyone who participates will gain 8 participation points, which will contribute towards the possibility of winning the QRP transmitter kit.

*** European country statistics ***

We are currently in the process of designing the Europe 2014 challenge. We want to make it difficult, but possible to complete by stations both inside and outside Europe. As such, we should very much appreciate data that you have on how many European stations you have worked, both in total and over the last year. This should be fairly easy to export, particularly if you use computerized logging techniques, and we should be immensely grateful for any information that you could give us. The most useful form would be in a table with three columns: European country, stations worked in total from that country and stations worked over the last year from that country. If you are willing to help out and make the 2014 challenge more fun, please email matt@naqcc-eu.org.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to naqccfl@yahoo.com.

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its July field event on Friday, July 19th, with a start time of 9am, at Blake Park in Lake Helen, FL. This is a great radio-friendly location about 3 miles southwest of the DeLand City Limits (Volusia County Seat).

We received the usual and generous helpful publicity through NAQCC, with Art WB4MNK (11 QSOs on 20M with his KX-1 at 4 W) and Steve WB4OMM (6 QSOs on 40M with his 3W HB1B) able to make contacts including NAQCC members K1YAN, VE3EDX, K3RLL, W4ISI, KO6R, K3NLT, W9JOP, N8XMS, WB5UDA, WF1S, WD4EXI, WD4E, and K4MTI. The bands were a bit noisy, with a few signals present most of the morning. We worked stations in Ontario, OK, MA, PA, VA, CA, MI, TX, FL, GA, and NC. Antennas included Steve's Inverted Vee, Wally's dipole, and Art's doublet.

Wally KG4LAL patiently worked the airwaves with his old, dependable FT-817 on 10 MHz, but he barely heard a peep, and had no luck in snagging a QSO! It was definitely not because of a lack of effort on his part! All agreed the band conditions were better than last month, except for poor Wally! But he kept his spirits up and made Steve and Art feel better!!! Hi, hi, hi! Look at him in the picture -- he's still all smiles!

Around 10:30 am, the adjacent Youth Center burst out the summer day camp that was there, with about 60-70 kids ranging in age from about 8 or so to about 14. They descended upon the three of us in the covered pavilion, complete with basketballs, scooters, tennis balls, roller skates and the like... THAT was the worst "noise" of the day, and the bands paled in comparison! They were good kids, and pretty much were all

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questions about the “old radio guys”. Wally entertained them with answers and after about 30 minutes or so, almost all of the little harmonics moved to an inflated “slide” about 100’ away. (Whew!).

We quit at 11:30 EDT to enjoy lunch at the park restaurant. This is a unique place, as it supports various community groups in Lake Helen and is staffed by volunteers! The inside displayed various regalia for community plays, dances and youth activities. The food was good and reasonably priced. We all enjoyed another beautiful Florida summer day and each other’s excellent company. We all felt that was, and always will be, the success of our outings!

We provided a unique QSL card for this portable operation to all that we contacted. Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC event.

72/73 to all!



From L-R: WB4MNK #5274, KG4LAL #6278, and WB4OMM #5913, with the Lake Helen Youth Center in the background, adjacent to our operating pavilion.

NAQCC TEXAS CHAPTER:

Items in this section are from TX Chapter Director Allen, KA5TJS, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to allen.mathews@att.net . The TX Chapter website is at <http://www.naqctx.com/>.

No report available.

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from John, K3WWP, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to naqcc33@windstream.net.

On Thursday July 11, Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP staged a parkpedition from the Kittanning, PA Community Park. They set up and started the operation at 1600Z and continued until 2000Z.



The operation was on all 3 frequencies posted in the email announcement of the event – 7040, 10116, 14060. Specific band times were not announced because they were dependent on conditions at the time. 30 meters was pretty much completely dead until around 1920Z, so much of the earlier time was spent on 40 and 20 meters. All in all 23 QSOs were made, thanks to these folks on 40 meters – K2SQS (#6748), KI4IO (#6438), W2GIO (nm), KA2KDJ (#5887), KC4URI (#0535), KC2VBU (#4574), K4NVJ (#0632), WX4RN (#4597). – and these on 30 meters – KB1PBA (#4576), K4ORD (#0904) KG9HV (#0327) – and on 20 meters – WB4MNK (#5274), K4NVJ (#0632), W4RFT (#1336), N4DSP (#0093), KC0CCR (nm), W4QK (nm), KK4BE (#0315), K9JWV (#1974), WA9URF (nm), K9HXO (#5944), VE3EDX (#1951). Overall the following 16 states (including ON) were worked - FL AL NC MO GA TN ME WI MI ON MA VA IN NJ WV NY.

Both Mike and John used their Elecraft KX3 rigs which they consider the best rigs they have ever used or owned. Using an external 7Ah gel cell, John was able to operate the entire 4 hours with the voltage dropping only from 12.5 to 12.2 volts. Mike used the internal battery pack and operated for 3.5 hours. The battery pack started at 12 volts and he switched over to the external battery source for the last half hour when the battery pack dropped to 9.2 volts.

Both used 110' end fed random wires which tuned perfectly on all three bands with the built in KX3



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antenna tuner.



The weather was absolutely gorgeous with partly cloudy skies, temperature in the mid-70s and virtually no humidity. We talked about bottling it and saving it for our October N3A special event work during NAQCC Anniversary Week.

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We missed fellow WPA Chapter member Don K3RLL who had company and couldn't make it this time, but hopefully he will be with us for other parkpeditions this summer.

Most importantly, our lunch consisted of 6-inch turkey subs from Sheetz.

As usual it was a very enjoyable day, and we're looking forward to doing it again soon. In fact by the time you read this, there may be a report from another parkpedition right below this one due to the release dates of our newsletter.

John K3WWP and Don K3RLL got together for a KX3 comparison session as Don recently built his KX3 and is finding out, as John has already, that the KX3 is probably the best QRP/CW rig on the planet at this time. Both Don and John learned some things about the many bells and whistles of the KX3 during the session. One thing that was a bit puzzling though was the roofing filter. John has one, while Don didn't. We couldn't really detect any difference with and without. However there wasn't a lot of strong signal activity when we did the testing, so perhaps the difference only shows up on bands crowded with strong signals. John recently worked the NAQP with its crowded strong signal bands and as at other times, found it easy to separate and copy signals that were crowded into a 500 Hz space. At any rate, Don did subsequently purchase and install the roofing filter just in case.

Also John K3WWP and Mike KC2EGL got together for an impromptu session after the local ham club meeting and had a pizza (of course) and did some DXing after that. Then watched a Danger Man episode on the Internet.

John, Mike, and Don will be doing some more parkpeditions in the next couple months or so, and as usual will announce them a day or so in advance via the NAQCC email list. QSLs from the last parkpedition have been sent out, and we had a good percentage of returns, although we don't really need your cards. We just send a card to everyone we work on these parkpeditions. It is nice to get a return though.



NAQCC QRS NETS



Information in this section is from QRS Net Manager Craig, N4PLK unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to n4plk@verizon.net.

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net	Sunday 8 PM Eastern	Monday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Craig, N4PLK (in VA)
East Texas	Monday 7 PM Central	Tuesday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tuesday 3 PM Mountain	Tuesday 2100 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Thursday 3 PM Mountain	Thursday 2100 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
East Coast	Thursday 8 PM Eastern	Friday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Robert, KG4KGL (in SC)
Pacific Northwest	Thursday 7 PM Pacific	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Pacific Northwest	Monday 8 PM Pacific	Tuesday 0300 Z	7122 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

Thanks to all participants and NCS's for a great job this month. Please remember to dial around the assigned net frequency if you don't hear NCS. Sometimes we must QSY a bit if the net frequency is in use. See below for additional comments.

73, Craig N4PLK
 NAQCC # 5775
 QRS Nets Manager
n4plk@verizon.net

- NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz
- 7-7-13 N4PLK (NCS) 9: N4PLK K4LXY W3UEC KC4URI K3NLT N6TLU K9VON N9RLO VA3PEN
 - 7-14-13 N4PLK (NCS) 19: N4PLK K4LXY W3UEC N3FLL WA4RG KM3D K9VON KC4URI N3IOD N6TLU K3VIG N9RLO K3NLT K9EYT W3TMB N4PGJ AC8JW NI2F KU4GW
 - 7-21-13 N4PLK (NCS) 15: N4PLK K4LXY KC4URI W4HH W3UEC NK1N K2AU KE3HL N3FLL K3NLT KB3YOW N9RLO WB5RLF K9EYT KG0YR
 - 7-28-13 N4PLK (NCS) 12: N4PLK K1IEE WA2KSM KG0YR NK1N K1AVE AC8JW W4HH N6TLU N9RLO VA3PEN AB3RU

Craig N4PLK: 40 meters was open this month. NQN achieved a new record of 19 check-ins on 7-14.

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However, passing summer thunderstorms made conditions challenging on some evenings. Welcome to all OPS that checked into NQN for the first time. Please stop by often.

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM Central Time, 7.060 Mhz

7-1-13 KA5TJS (NCS) 4: KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA KG0YR
 7-8-13 KA5TJS (NCS) 5: KA5TJS N5DRG KE5YGA K5BRY KG0YR
 7-15-13 KA5TJS (NCS) 6: KA5TJS KE5YGA K5BRY N5DRG KG0YR KA5DWI
 7-23-13 KA5TJS (NCS) 5: KA5TJS W5IQS KE5YGA KG0YR N5DRG
 7-29-13 KA5TJS (NCS) 7: KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA W5IQS K5BRY KF5J KG0YR

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) - Thursday, 7:00 PM, Pacific Time, 3.574 Mhz

7-4-13 KE7LKW (NCS) 2: KE7LKW N6KIX
 7-11-13 WB4SPB (NCS) 4: WB4SPB AD7BP K7ZNP W7MWF
 7-18-13 KE7LKW (NCS) 6: KE7LKW AD7BP K7ZNP W7MWF WB4SPB W7MWF
 7-25-13 KE7LKW (NCS) 5: KE7LKW AD7BP K7ZNP WB4SPB N6KIX

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 8:00 PM, Pacific Time, 7.122 Mhz

7-4-13 KR5RR (NCS) 5: KR5RR W7MWF KE7LKW N6KIX VE7FLY
 7-8-13 KR5RR (NCS) 6: KR5RR WK6L KW6G K7JGS AE7TG WB0QQT
 7-15-13 KR5RR (NCS) 7: KR5RR W7MWF KR7W KK7QW WB0QQT WB4SPB K7JGS
 7-23-13 KR5RR (NCS) 5: KR5RR AE7TG W7MWF KR7W KW6G
 7-30-13 W7MWF (NCS) 9: W7MWF KW6G AE7TG KJ6YFD WB4SPB KR7W WB0QQT
 KR5RR/M K6DMT

Congrats to Stewart KE7LKW and J.B. KR5RR and PNW participants for successfully converting PNW to a two-band operation. It sure has paid off!

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Tuesday, 3:00 PM Mountain Time, 14.0625 Mhz

7-2-13 WC7S (NCS) 4: WC7S W3HZZ KE6OIO KF5JK
 7-16-13 WC7S (NCS) 3: WC7S KE6OIO KE7ZCU
 7-23-13 WC7S (NCS) 6: WC7S W3HZZ AA7CU N9RLO W0EA N4ZMP
 7-30-13 WC7S (NCS) 5: WC7S K6OIO W3HZZ K6MGO W6ODF/M

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Thursday, 3:00 PM Mountain Time, 14.0625 Mhz

7-11-13 WC7S (NCS) 2: WC7S AA7CU
 7-18-13 WC7S (NCS) 8: WC7S W3HZZ W5HNS KI6J WB9PQI KG0YR AE7EQ KK4BNC
 7-25-13 WC7S (NCS) 5: WC7S K6MGO K0DTJ N9RLO KF5J

Dale WC7S: We have had good conditions and poor conditions.. yet we are still practicing copy and sending, every day. Sometimes with QRO and sometimes QRP. Come join in, and practice with us Tuesdays and Thursdays. If the time is not a match for you, email me, (daleputnam@hotmail.com), and I'll match your speed, and we may match the time too.

NAQCC East Coast QRS Net (ECN) - Thursday, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz

7-18-13 KG4KGL (NCS) 2: KG4KGL NI2F



NAQCC CW ASSISTANCE PROJECT



Items in this section are from CW Assistance Project Coordinator Brion, VE3FUJ, unless otherwise credited. If you are interested in helping out or need some help yourself please contact VE3FUJ at ve3fuj@wrightman.ca. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://naqcc.info/cw.html>.

A little more about myself: After I got my advanced license in 1966 I got on with SSB. I never developed a liking for it and it didn't take very long before I couldn't be bothered. I helped out at a few events around Burlington-Hamilton area on 2 mtrs, even that didn't have enough pull. In the mid-70's my interest petered out completely and I went off the air but kept paying my yearly fee. Then in 2000 I received a letter from the then governing body, Industry Canada, that I was no longer required to pay a yearly fee. In 2005 we sold our house in Burlington and moved up country to a small farming town, and then in August 2006 I got back on the air QRP and got so bitten by the QRP bug that I stayed with it. In 2008 I saw the NAQCC site and joined up in November but did not partake in any activity until June 2009. When I thought I would try to see if I liked it, I did, and here I am today, still partaking. - This is the end of my personal ravings. Good News for those of you who got bored.

This time I thought I would touch on the NAQCC Monthly Sprint. If you haven't tried it yet due to apprehension, fear not! I have only experienced helpful Op's who will go out of their way to make you feel comfortable by repeating exchanges and/or slowing down to whatever speed you need. Not that the speed is that high to start with. To a newcomer it can be a bit daunting but don't let it bother you. Jump right in with both feet and after a few stabs at it you may get to like it, just like I did!

The sprint happens once a month from 830 - 1030 (Eastern time zone) on either a Tuesday or Wednesday evening. Activity is usually on 3 bands – 80, 40, and 20 meters, depending on band conditions. Stations working the contest always add NA to their CQs. For example, CQ NA DE VE3FUJ K, could be used when the band is good but it could also be a little bit longer, with a couple more CQs and a repeat of the callsign, under poorer conditions. If someone comes back to you then the exchange takes place which is RST - QTH - NAQCC # (or wattage if you don't have a number). A typical complete QSO might go something like this...

CQ NA DE VE3FUJ K

VE3FUJ DE N8XMS (Sometimes the person answering your CQ will skip your call and just give their own.)

N8XMS GE UR 559 ON NR 3011 BK (Many do not send the "NR" and often the number is sent twice.
GE = "Good evening" BK = "Back to you")

RR UR 579 MI NR 675 BK (RR or R = "Roger" or "Received OK")

QSL GL (GL = "Good luck")

TU (TU = "Thank you")

It's relatively simple so don't be apprehensive. Listen in on a few exchanges and you'll quickly get the hang of it. Join in the fun and you'll soon need it as your monthly "fix".

Next month I'll give the NAQCC Monthly Challenge a whirl.

72 VE3FUJ Brion 3011 -30-

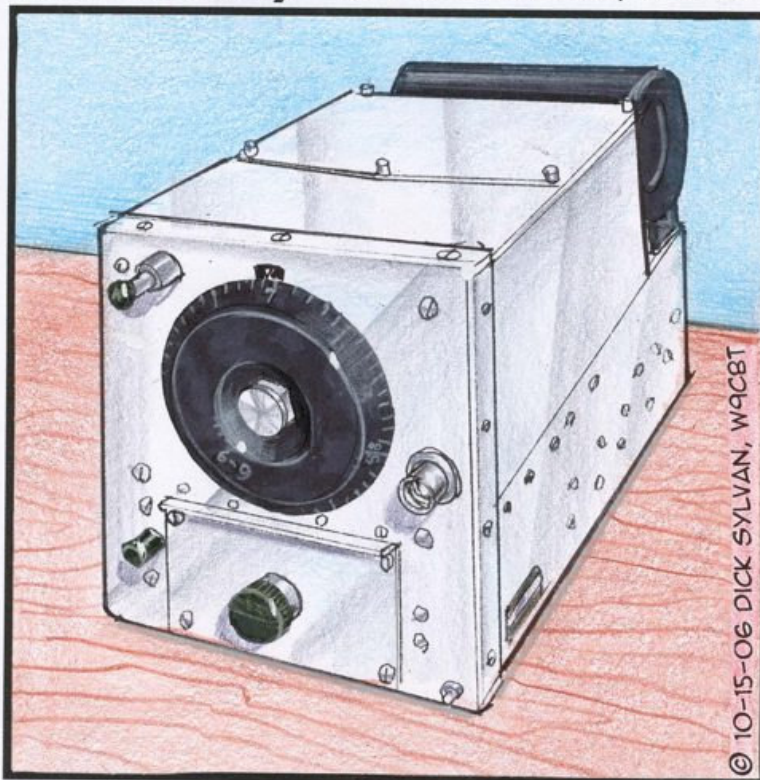


HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, NAQCC #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very talented cartoon artist. Dick's cartoons appear monthly in the K9YA Telegraph, a free ham radio eZine published by the Robert F. Heytow Memorial Radio Club (<http://www.k9ya.org/>). We are very pleased and honored to be allowed to reprint his cartoons here. Dick has also authored the book "HI HI — A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" which is available at <http://www.k9ya.org/w9cbt/>.

Ham History BY DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



DO YOU REMEMBER THE WAR SURPLUS BC-455 (6-9MHZ) WW2 ARC-5 RECEIVER ? IT WAS EASY TO CONVERT OVER TO AC OPERATION.



MEMBER SUBMISSIONS



This section is a forum for you to tell other members what you've been up to on the ham bands or to submit an article dealing with some aspect of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send your items to our news editor Paul, KD2MX, at kd2mx@arrl.net.

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

From Dean NW2K #5407 -- The 2013 CW Open Contest on August 31

The CW Open offers a great opportunity for QRP operators to work the world in a contest environment. It's held on a relatively quiet weekend on the bands and QRP with simple wire antennas can do quite well. In the 2012 CW Open, Lee AA4GA (NAQCC #5415) organized a team of nine QRP operators called Team Limbo, and the team piled up nearly 2,200 QSOs! Team Limbo really got noticed by immensely expanding the use of QRP in The CW Open. Congratulations to our members and Limbo-ers, AA4GA, WC7S, NI0R, K2UFT, WB3AAL, WA4ZOF and AD4S. KS0MO and N8XX were also on the team.

The CW Open contest consists of three 4-hour sessions. Each session is scored and awarded separately. The session times are chosen so that each part of the world gets some good propagation at reasonable local times. Contestants can operate as much as they choose during one or more sessions. The exchange is simple: serial number and first name. It is likely that your favorite contest software is supported (GenLog is on the support list).

Lee AA4GA and I have communicated and he is gearing up to again put QRP teams together for the 2013 CW Open. If you are interested in teamwork, please email Lee at: lee.hiers@gmail.com. Let's try to grow QRP participation even further this year!

The CW Open will be held Saturday, August 31, 2013. Session 1 runs from 0000-0400z; Session 2 from 1200-1600z and Session 3 from 2000-2400z. Electronic logs in Cabrillo format are due on September 21, 2013.

Full rules and last year's results are located at: <http://www.cwops.org/cwopen.html>. ICOM America sponsors the event and the awards are second to none. For questions on the contest itself, please send email to: cwo@cwops.org. Get on and have some fun!

From Anthony AB9YC #6319 -- Increasing Your CW Speed

I recently read the NAQCC website page under CW Assistance on increasing your CW speed and found the advice to be very good.

One thing I would like to add is to push yourself. Don't stay at 15 or 18 WPM. If you want to go faster, you have to push yourself and copy someone who is faster than you. That doesn't mean try 30+, it just means that you have to force yourself to work at it. Once it becomes easier, you must once again raise the bar.

It's kind of like swimming. Sure, you have confidence when you can touch the bottom and can still keep your head above water, but where you really make progress is being in water over your head. That crutch of

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being able to just stop hinders progress beyond a certain level. As a former life guard and swim instructor, this was an important step in teaching swimming confidence.

As someone who has only recently taken up CW, just over a year ago, I can remember the various thresholds and plateaus as I gained skill.

I took up contesting, and like it. But, it was tough in the beginning. Many contesters will slow down to log a contact, but you tend to push them away if you can't "run with them." Speed improvement is a must.

I used several programs to work on my contesting skills, one is MorseRunner. I have some practice logs where I was at about 18WPM/95%, and a year later I can hang in there with 30WPM/87%, and 25WPM/95%. All of this from a conscious effort to improve by elevating the operating level and working to stick it out.

I was working a contest a few months ago and was called by someone going at about 14WPM. This was well below my calling speed of about 25WPM, but I slowed down to help him out. I remember thinking how slow it seemed when that's about where I was just a dozen months earlier. I knew that at that point that I had made significant progress. I continue to work on it and am still improving.

From John K3WWP #0002 -- I became the first NAQCC member to master the 2013 European Chapter Challenge involving working a specific list of 29 European countries in the year 2013. Actually when I noted the rules had been posted on the European Chapter web site, I had worked all those on the list plus 16 others as conditions to Europe this year have been fabulous. Any member should find it very easy to master this challenge, although a couple of the countries are a bit hard to work. Of the 29, Greece was the hardest for me, and wasn't worked till a month or more after the first 28. Here's a picture of my award:



I had a great time in the North American QSO Party (NAQP) on August 3/4. I had planned to just get in it and fool around for an hour or so, but I got hooked, and while I didn't spend the full 10 hours, I did put in probably between 7 and 8 hours. I stuck strictly to 15 and 20 meters as both bands were in great shape. I made 222 QSOs when I decided to quit as finding new stations became harder and harder as I was working just about everyone I heard. Had I done other bands, especially 40 and 80, I would probably have shot past 281 QSOs which is my previous record for an August NAQP. (In the January ones, I've done much better, going over 500 QSOs a couple times.) The NAQPs are great contests. If you haven't tried one, you should. Most of the top contesters, especially W/VE ones are in these contests, and they will easily copy your QRP

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signals with their great receiving setups. I heard several of our members in the contest, and worked some of them. All contacts here were via S&P, none via CQ.

As I type this, it's August 4 and that means my streak of making at least one QRP/CW/simple wire antenna QSO each day has now reached a full 19 years since I started on August 5, 1994. Also my DX streak is now at 157 straight days breaking my previous streak of 154 days.

All the above info is not to brag, but to try to convince anyone reading this that they have the ability and probably the setup to match and probably better what I have done. Remember I'm nothing special nor do I have any kind of special setup. I only have the knowledge that such feats CAN be done by anyone, and then I do it. End of pep talk, now go and do it. Win one for the Gipper - oh wait, that's another story.





Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and extensive contact list is available on our website at

<http://naqcc.info/index.html>.

Questions can also be sent to Vice President John Shannon
478 E. High Street
Kittanning, PA 16201

naqcc33@windstream.net

CLUB INFORMATION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

by Founding President Tom Mitchell, WY3H

We realize that QRP and CW operation do not appeal to everyone. We have no "axe to grind" with the QRO (high power) fraternity. We recognize that there are times when QRO operation is invaluable. During disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes or terrorist attacks, radio amateurs provide vital, life-saving communications for which QRO operation is often necessary. QRO operators also provide an invaluable public service in health and welfare traffic and routine traffic handling.

Amateur radio has something for everyone, including SSB, other forms of digital communication and AM and FM operation. However, for a small but dedicated group, QRP (and QRPP) CW operation provides the greatest challenge and thrill amateur radio has to offer.

Each month the club will host a different challenge such as the GAW (Get Acquainted Week) or the Turkey challenge (making words relating to Thanksgiving from letters in callsigns of stations worked). Also we will have a 2 hour sprint each month alternating between Tuesday and Wednesday evenings with a bonus multiplier for using a straight key.

In addition to QRP CW operation, the club encourages (but does not limit operators to) the use of simple wire antennas. The club offers free membership to any licensed radio amateur (or shortwave listener) anywhere in the world who is willing to use and promote QRP (or QRPP) CW for at least part of their operating time.

We don't have all the answers, but we are willing to answer questions concerning QRP and CW operation from newcomers to the hobby and veteran amateurs alike. Let's put the thrill back into amateur radio and work together to encourage everyone to just give it a try.

We welcome all who share our view to join us and become part of an elite amateur radio fraternity.



The NAQCC Newsletter is edited by Paul Huff, N8XMS. You may contact him at

phuff@mi.rr.com

