

# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 183 SEPTEMBER 2013



## KEY CLICKS

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◆ **HELP WANTED...** Job responsibilities have forced Craig, N4PLK, to step down from both his QRS Net Manager and NQN NCS positions. Craig did an outstanding job with both of these and we thank him for that. Steve, KC4URI, has volunteered to take over the NCS work, so a big “thank you” to him as well. *The Net Manager position has not yet been filled.* Would you consider volunteering for it? Your main duty would be to compile the individual net reports sent in by the different NCS’s for publication in the newsletter. (That’s about a page worth of text.) You would also be involved with the coordinating of net schedules, possible development of additional regional nets, and recruiting additional net control stations as needed. The work is not overwhelming but it is important. If you are interested please contact me. My email address is on the last page. - N8XMS

◆ Periodically I get emails from members about issues involving our email news server. The questions all seem to fall into three different categories and I thought that it would be useful to go ahead and answer them here for all to see.

In the first category, I have had some members report that they are not getting the emails that we send out. One possible cause for this could be filtering that is done by your email provider or by your software. You need to make sure that emails from NAQCC-News@mailman.qth.net are accepted. But a much more likely possibility is that we might not have your correct email address. Some people seem to change their email service almost as often as they change their socks and it is easy to forget to update your records with us. Based on my work with the random Member Spotlight emails that I send out I would estimate that almost 1/4 of the email addresses in our membership database are not correct! *So please update your information!* Send it to Dave, VA3RJ, at [DAVE.VA3RJ@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DAVE.VA3RJ@GMAIL.COM) .

In the second category, I get questions from members who feel that they are getting too many emails from our news server. I really doubt that we send out more than about a dozen emails in a typical month but apparently that’s too many for some. For example, one member wanted to receive the sprint notices but they didn’t want to get things like chapter announcements of portable operations. Unfortunately we currently have no way to be selective in this. I’m afraid that it’s “all or none” from us. It might be possible to set your own personal email filters to block the things that you don’t want, but I really hope that you won’t! Member participation is a big part of what makes the NAQCC such a great club, and that participation must be driven by the knowledge of what is going on.

The final category is a little sad. I sometimes get emails from members requesting that we completely remove them from the email list. Typically these are people who have had changes in their personal schedules or radio interests and are no longer participating in QRP activities. We of course grant these

(Continued on page 2)

requests and wish them 73. But remember that your NAQCC membership number never expires and you will always welcome to “reup”.

- ◆ It’s hard to believe that September is already here and we are now only one month away from our **Ninth Anniversary Celebration which runs from October 6 through the 12th**. We are working on some prizes for the anniversary sprint and special QSLs and certificates will be available for contacts with N#A stations. Members who have volunteered to operate as N#A are shown in the table below with calls in red belonging to those who have volunteered to operate during the sprint. **We could still use more operators - especially sprint operators in districts 1, 3, and 7**. 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. You can find more information on the N#A special event at [http://naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

|     |                                    |
|-----|------------------------------------|
| N1A | W1OH, ND1N                         |
| N2A | N2DVD, NA2AA, <b>WK2T</b>          |
| N3A | K3WWP, WY3H, KC2EGL, WA3HIC        |
| N4A | KI4EBD, KU4GW, AI4SV, <b>K4BAI</b> |
| N5A | W5WIL, <b>WB5UDA</b>               |
| N6A | <b>K6MGO</b>                       |
| N7A | AB7MP                              |
| N8A | <b>N8XMS</b> , N8IUP, AD7TN        |
| N9A | <b>K9EYT</b> , AB9YC               |
| N0A | KC0PMH, <b>W0EJ</b>                |

- ◆ The East Coast QRS Net is making a slight change in it’s schedule. The net is now meeting on Thursdays at 8:30 PM Eastern (Friday, 0030 UTC) on 7.060 MHz. NCS KG4KGL reports that thunderstorm and static conditions have been rough lately but hopefully that will improve as we move into the fall season.
- ◆ A special “thank you” to Skip, WB6VVA, Jim, WA3YLQ, and Jim, K0FNR for their recent contributions to the NAQCC treasury. If others would like to make a donation please send a 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.”
- ◆ Forty new members joined the NAQCC in August. A warm welcome to all of these people. We certainly hope that they will enjoy the many activities that are available - sprints, challenges, awards, and a lot of QRP CW fun! At this rate we will issue membership #7000 before the end of the year!



## FEATURE ARTICLE: 1916 (part 2), BY PAUL HUFF - N8XMS

Last month I introduced you to a magazine called *The Northwest Telegraph and Telephone Review*, published in October 1916. (For the rest of this article I am going to refer to the magazine simply as *The Review*.) As far as I have been able to determine, it is very likely that this is the only issue in existence. Other than a brief reference in the April 1917 issue of *Telegraph and Telephone Age* I have not been able to find any other trace of the magazine. (*Telegraph and Telephone Age* was a very successful trade magazine that was published from 1882 until the 1940's.) With the turmoil created by the US entry into WWI in April 1917 it would not be surprising for a fledgling specialty publication like *The Review* to die a quick death.

Remember that this magazine was published just two years after the founding of the ARRL. Wireless communication was in it's infancy with multi-kilowatt spark transmitters the undisputed rulers of the airwaves. Of course these spark transmitters produced signals that were as wide (in terms of frequency) as the proverbial "barn door". With very little frequency control or filtering ability, commercial, military, and amateur stations were all aggressively competing for available bandwidth. The QRM could be overwhelming and skilled operators learned to use their brains to filter out the one specific signal that they were trying to copy from the dozen or more raspy notes that were filling their earphones.

Finally, enough was enough, and on April 17, 1912, President Taft signed into law the "Radio Act of 1912." This legislation was spearheaded by the US Navy and was clearly intended to remove all of those pesky hams from the QRM. Amateurs now had power limitations and were restricted to wavelengths of 200-meters or less - and everyone "knew" that these short-waves were "virtually useless" for long-distance communication!

Well, the Audion tube was invented, hams kept experimenting, and the ARRL organized for both efficient communication and legislative clout. By 1916, the year that *The Review* was published, hams using a couple hundred dollars worth of largely homemade gear were often matching or even exceeding the accomplishments of government and commercial stations with thousands of dollars worth of equipment. It seems that those short-waves weren't such a wasteland after all!

With the above information as a background we are now going to take a look at the four pages of *The Review* that they called the "Radio Department." The pages will first be shown in their entirety and then I will follow with additional information about many of the items that are found on them. Page numbers will always refer to the original page numbers on the scans from *The Review*.



# RADIO DEPARTMENT

By JAMES A. COLE

## THE MINNEAPOLIS WIRELESS CLUB.

By James A. Cole.

The Minneapolis Wireless Club came into existence approximately five years after Marconi startled the world, in 1901, by announcing that he had signalled across the Atlantic without wires. Details of wireless telegraphy began to be generally known throughout the country about 1906 and 1907, up to this time the art in general remaining somewhat a mystery.

About this time the magazine "Modern Electrics" came into existence, and various manufactories of amateur wireless apparatus made easy the procuring of initial supplies and instruments. The demand for wireless appliances grew to such an extent that a wireless department was established in 1908 by The Minneapolis Electric Motor Company, Mr. C. L. Holtan in charge, who eventually became the "Father" of the Minneapolis Wireless Club.

Mr. Holtan obtained the names of most of the local wireless amateurs by registration at the motor company's booth at the first electric show at the Armory in 1908, and the first meeting was held at this time. A permanent organization was then established, under the name of "The Minneapolis Wireless Club," with Mr. Holtan as president, and meetings were held twice monthly.

The Club grew and prospered under the consecutive leaderships of Mr. Holtan, A. A. Pady, James A. Cole, P. E. Edelman, Wm. Reynolds, Claude Sweeney and A. C. Anderson. While occupying various headquarters, among them being the Public Library and the old Central High School, permanent rooms were finally secured by Mr. Edelman in the Municipal Building,

erected by the Wireless Time Serv- and the use of an excellent aerial, ice Company.

By subscription the Club has obtained means whereby excellent sending and receiving equipment has been purchased, enabling them to send messages as far as Honolulu.

The Club holds one of the few experimental licenses issued by the Government allowing them unlimited wave lengths, and membership to the Radio Relay League. The Court House Station is one of the main links in the western chain of this league. The official call is 9ZE.

Two former presidents of the club are at present in commercial wireless work, Mr. Edelman being employed by the Canadian Government in the erection of Forest Ranger stations, and Mr. Sweeney having been appointed Wireless Engineer of the New Prague Milling Company, New Prague, Minn., who maintains several stations in Minnesota and Iowa.

The present officers are: President, A. C. Anderson; Vice-President, Clarence Alvirstad; Secretary, R. K. Viles, and Roland Shepard, Treasurer.

## UNIVERSITY OF IOWA RADIO NEWS.

The radio station of the University of Iowa or Iowa City, Iowa, sends out a brief QST report every Wednesday and Saturday night at 8:15 central time. The report contains university and wireless news items, results of inter-collegiate contests, etc. Immediately after signing off the operators listen for calls from other stations. They will be pleased to make long distance tests at any time. The station call is 9 YA.



### 250 AMATEURS TAKE REPORTS IN IOWA.

There are now more than 250 amateur wireless stations in the state of Iowa, according to Professor C. A. Wright of Ames. Practically all are receiving the weather and news reports sent out twice daily from the big wireless station at Ames.

"It is our intention to continue the news service right on through the season," says Professor Wright. "The service is to be improved as soon as feasible and blanks furnished those who want them for bulletin news sent out." The idea of adding general news items to the college news furnished is being favorably considered.

### GRACELAND WIRELESS CLUB OF LAMONI, IOWA.

The Graceland Wireless Club has been carrying on active work. The club station is of the most modern type, the transmitter comprising 1 kw. transformer and the receiving set a Navy type tuning apparatus and De Forest Audion with multi-audi-fone amplifier equipment. The 100 foot self-supporting tower for the antenna is under process of erection. Members of the club consist of Graceland College students and high school students. The officers for the present year are as follows: President, Arthur B. Church; Vice-President, Dean Wight; Secretary, Jesse Roth. Address all communications to Arthur B. Church, Lamoni, Iowa.

The largest wireless exhibit ever shown in the middle West was put up by the Hawkeye Radio Association this year at the Iowa state fair. Nearly every type of apparatus known was shown, a display worth nearly \$800. Every day the station sent out news dispatches and press articles.

The third annual convention of the association was held during the

fair on Aug. 28, 29 and 30. Many instructive talks and discussions were given during the meetings.

The American censors at wireless stations are furnished with copies of code books so as to be able to determine that the neutrality of the United States is not violated. The code books as well as messages handled are known only to the censor and to the United States Government.

### FIRST WIRELESS DISTRESS CALL.

The first case on record of "wireless" being employed by a ship in distress occurred on March 3, 1899. On this date the R. F. Matthews ran into the East Goodwin lightship during a heavy fog. The weather conditions would, in the old days, have rendered the work of rescue very difficult, if not impossible. But the R. F. Matthews was equipped with what was then a novelty—Marconi's system of wireless telegraphy. Messages were sent ashore and speedily brought lifeboats to the rescue.

Up in Tana, Alaska, where Jack Shirlock is a government wireless operator, the withering rays of Old Sol do not make much difference in the temperature, but they did make, nevertheless, a big change in Jack's life.

For 14 years he had wooed Miss Pearl Handel of Champaign, Ill., but the girl couldn't see the life in the frozen north.

Recently, however, when the hot wave broke all records, Miss Handel hunted up a telegraph office and wired Jack Shirlock:

"I'm on my way to Bristol Bay"—or words to that effect.

Miss Handel left for Alaska to become Shirlock's bride and keep cool.



### RADIO EQUIPMENT FOR CANADIAN PARKS.

For the purpose of preventing forest fires and game trespassing by affording a means for instantly reporting and calling for aid in a territory of some 7,000 square miles, the Canadian government has engaged Mr. Philip E. Edelman, St. Paul, Minn., as electrical engineer to prepare plans for wireless telegraphy and telephony installations to secure communication in the extensive Dominion Parks of Western Canada. The installation will be the first of its kind and a new application of radio communication. The equipment will be of a new design, specially adapted for the difficult mountain service.

The Union Pacific maintains a wireless station on the roof at their Omaha headquarters, and will install one at Grand Island, Neb., in the near future. Plans are also under way for a similar station at North Platte, Neb. Dr. F. H. Millener is conducting the wireless experiments on this road. A converted diner has been fitted for telegraph, telephone, wire and wireless experiments, being equipped with the Millener system of wireless telegraphy.

### MARCONIGRAMS.

Between 1,100 and 1,200 telegraph stations are owned and worked by the Marconi International Marine Communication Company as public telegraph stations on the high seas, according to the annual report. Two thousand operators are almost continuously on the seas.

It is stated that the German submarine trading ship, "Deutschland," and all German warships and submarines are equipped with a new kind of wireless telegraphy, a German invention. It is stated that the "Deutschland" has a radius of operation enabling her to talk with Heli-

goland, which is in tune with her.

### MUNICIPAL WIRELESS.

In addition to the station at Police Headquarters in New York the department is planning the establishment of fifteen other wireless stations in the inspection districts of the five boroughs and on the police steamer "Patrol." A school of wireless telegraphy for policemen, in charge of Michael R. Brennan, Superintendent of the Police Telegraph Bureau, is maintained by the department. Sergeant Charles E. Pearce is chief instructor of the school, which has a class of twenty-seven policemen, all telegraphers previous to joining the department. Eight of them have already passed the Government test for wireless operators.

### RADIO PATENT.

Burr V. Deitz, radio engineer, Slingerlands, N. Y., has been granted a United States patent on a method of transmitting two or more messages or signals, from one wireless aerial, and this with relatively high efficiency and without interference between the messages or signals. This result is accomplished by the use of apparatus relatively simple and inexpensive in its construction.

### CURIOSITY OF WIRELESS.

The wireless service men with the American punitive expedition into Mexico, it is related, were surprised to discover the conditions in that country were exactly the reverse of those in the United States, says the Wireless Age. In the United States the wireless operators find that the night time is much better for the transmission of dispatches. South of the border the day time is best.

There is so much atmospheric disturbance at night in Mexico that wireless men prefer the day as a time for operating. This is not due to the altitude, which is 7,000 feet,



but to the minerals in the mountains, especially iron ore.

Enormous ore deposits in the mountains have been responsible for much of the trouble experienced with the army wireless apparatus, according to the belief of army operators. They say that ore, acting possibly as a solid sheet of metal, deflects the radio waves, thus weakening the capacity of both the sending and receiving stations.

The field telegraph line, which does not reach the advanced base by about fifty miles, has been practically useless because of the frequency with which it has been cut.

Great Britain has sixty-eight land stations. Literally thousands of ships are provided with wireless outfits and those on board men-of-war usually have a range of 300 miles or more, and are thus equal to a good land station.

#### WIRELESS FROM SPAIN.

It is reported in "El Imparcial," one of the leading dailies of Madrid, that the Minister of Public Works, after examination and report by the Centro Tecnico de Aeronauticos, has approved a radio signal receiver of a type that does away with the usual ear pieces. It is said that the radius of the new apparatus is in excess of 5,000 kilometres (the kilometre being the equivalent of about five-eighths of a mile), and that it is contemplated to institute radiographic service between Spain and the United States.

#### MUSIC BY WIRELESS.

Wireless operators on shipboard in the vicinity of New England, and amateur operators in various parts of New England, have had the interesting experience recently of hearing musical selections come in through their receivers. This music has come from the apparatus of a student at the Massachusetts In-

stitute of Technology, who has been experimenting with wireless telephony. The telephone apparatus has been supplemented by a phonograph, to which a megaphone is attached, the large end being placed against the musical instrument, and a metal band, connected with the electric transmitting device, extending across the smaller end of the horn.

The government of India will extend its wireless system until every army post has a station in the charge of a trained officer.

#### RADIO CLUBS, ATTENTION!

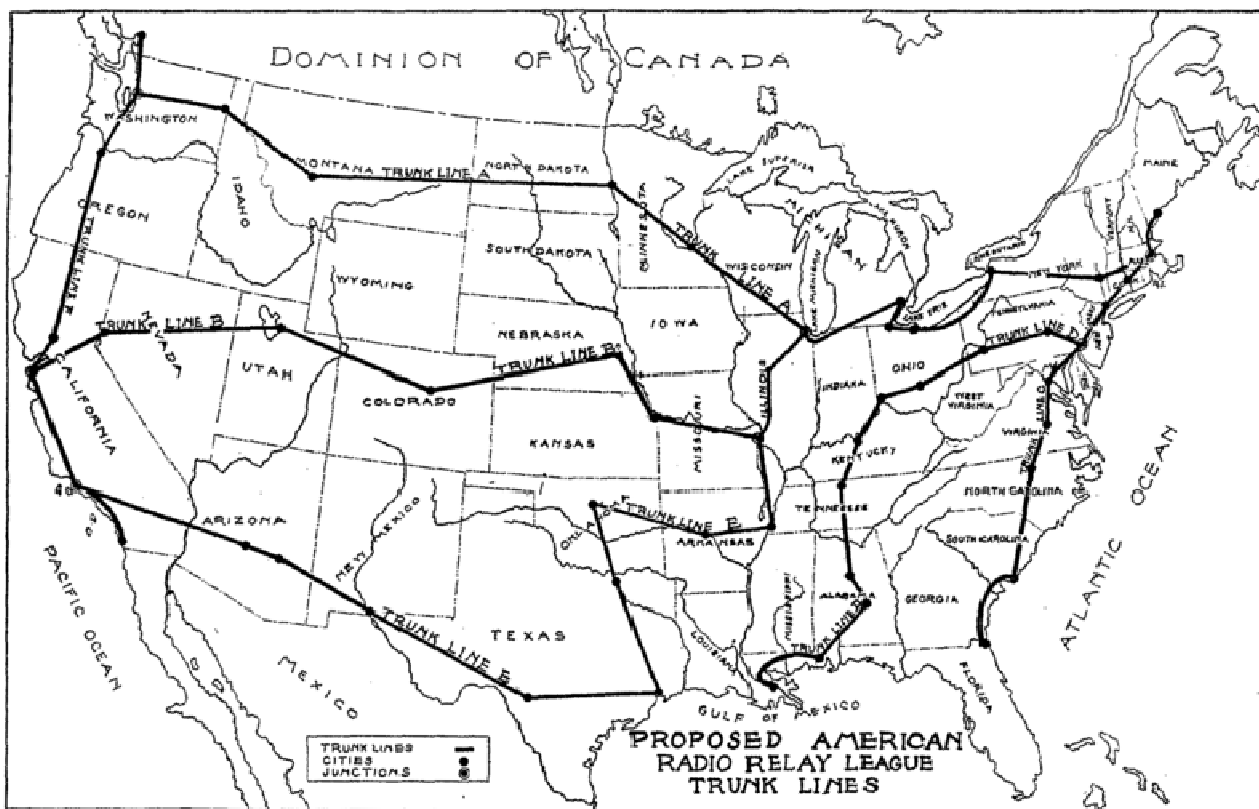
We are always pleased to hear from Radio Clubs. Send a write-up of your Club with photos of members and apparatus today to: Editor Amateur Section.

A British electrical manufacturer has designed an electric lamp for facilitating the inspection of the interior walls of shells in munition works. The equipment may be described as a tubular lamp protected by a wire guard, a long metal rod, a wooden handle in which is a push button switch, and a connecting cord and plug. The equipment is held by the handle while the lamp, supported on the long brass tube, is lowered into the shell to be inspected.

A Lineman's Climber, invented by Claude M. Jones, Carrollton, Mississippi, does not use a shin-shield, but has a novel foot-support or plate conforming with the shape of the sole and heel—it extends over both—of the shoe so that when in use the weight is not concentrated on a narrow strip extending under the sensitive instep, but is distributed over the entire foot.

In normal times about four times as many telegrams are handled daily in London as in Paris.

There are a couple of very interesting things to notice about the Minneapolis Wireless Club on page 21. They hold a special “experimental” license with the callsign of 9ZE. This special license meant that they were exempt from the 200-meter maximum wavelength restriction that I mentioned above. They are also reported to be a member of the “Radio Relay League.” As a matter of fact, 9ZE was an important station in the ARRL network. A map published in the February 1916 issue of QST shows that Minneapolis was on the League’s proposed “trunk line A.” (The dot is a little bit hard to see, but it’s right there in the middle of the line that connects Chicago to Fargo, ND – under the “U” in “TRUNK”.)



Just one year after this network plan was proposed, in February 1917, the ARRL demonstrated the efficiency of its organization by relaying a message from the east coast to the west coast, with an answer returned to the east coast, in just one hour and twenty minutes! In reporting this amazing accomplishment QST even dared to predict that it would soon be possible to trim that round-trip time to just twenty minutes - rivaling anything available from commercial wireless or land-line telegraph services.

Two of the clubs mentioned on pages 21 and 22 of *The Review* are still in existence - The University of Iowa Club, 9YA (now W0IO), and the club at Graceland University in Lamoni, IA which currently holds the callsign of W0YO. I was able to contact representatives for each club and they were very appreciative of the copies of these pages that I sent to them. In the case of the University of Iowa, the scans actually added to their knowledge of their own history. They have records of their club dating back to about 1917 but did not know until seeing these pages that it had existed prior to that.

The little item on page 22 about American censors working to ensure the neutrality of wireless communications in regard to the war in Europe reminded me of a story told by Clinton B. DeSoto in his

(Continued on page 9)



1936 book on the history of amateur radio, *200 Meters and Down*. (This book is still available from the ARRL at <http://www.arrl.org/shop/200-Meters-and-Down/> ) In 1915 the German owned Telefunken station, WSL, on Long Island was suspected of violating United States neutrality laws, and Secret Service agent W. J. Flynn was asked to investigate. Flynn did not know anything about radio and apparently there was no one in the Secret Service who did, so he turned to Radio Inspector L. R. Krumm for help. By pure chance, just the previous evening, Krumm had visited with amateur radio operator Charles Apgar, 2MN, in his home in Westfield, NJ. Krumm was very impressed with Apgar's advanced receiving equipment and with the fact that Apgar had been experimenting with a special interface to record wireless signals on a dictograph. Agent Flynn contacted Apgar and asked him for his help. It turned out that WSL was indeed transmitting allied and neutral shipping information to German U-boats and within three days Apgar had recorded enough incriminating evidence for the government to shut down the station and arrest both its general manager and chief station engineer.

The short account on page 22 about the first wireless distress call raises questions about the accuracy of the reporting in *The Review* because it differs on several key points with other accounts that I have read. The event described might actually have been the second use of wireless for a maritime emergency but the most significant difference is the important detail of which ship actually had the wireless equipment. See <http://www.ramsgatelifeboat.org.uk/first-radio-distress-call.htm> for a more detailed account of this historical event.

The person mentioned in the little item about the Union Pacific railroad on page 23 was electrical engineer Dr. Fredereick H. Millener. A picture of him sitting in front of his equipment in Omaha, along with an interesting article about his work, can be seen in the August 1910 issue of *Popular Mechanics* on page 255. ( [http://books.google.com/books?id=B\\_ZAAAAMAAJ&pg=PP7&lpg=PP7&dq=Popular+Mechanics+August+1910](http://books.google.com/books?id=B_ZAAAAMAAJ&pg=PP7&lpg=PP7&dq=Popular+Mechanics+August+1910) ) Millener did a lot of wide-ranging wireless research including the remote control of trains and trucks by radio – the world's first drones!

On that same page in the “Curiosity of Wireless” article (and continued on page 24) the American punitive expedition refers to General John J. (“Black Jack”) Pershing's pursuit of Poncho Villa between March 14, 1916 and February 7, 1917. Most historians say that this was a completely illegal violation of Mexican sovereignty by a young United States that was just starting to flex its muscle on the international scene. It was during this expedition that a young lieutenant George Patton led the first motorized attack in US military history – using three Dodge touring cars! It was also during this time that Patton started to wear his famous ivory-handled Colt revolver.

On page 24, notice with a smile the 300 mile “range ... of a good land station” mentioned in the little filler about Great Britain. I also wonder if the MIT student mentioned on that same page who was broadcasting music took requests from the audience? Four of *Billboard's* Top-40 hits that year were “Old Kentucky Home”, by Alma Gluck, “O Sole Mio”, by Enrico Caruso, “Yaaka Hula Hickey Dula”, by Al Jolson, and my personal favorite “Oh How She Could Yacki Hacki Wicki Wachi Woo (That's Love in Honolulu)”, by Arthur Collins and Byron Harlan. That last one actually hit #1 in October and stayed there for nine weeks!

Well, this article is about twice as long as it should be to fit the attention span of the average ham so I better QRT. Next time our final installment for *The Northwest Telegraph and Telephone Review* will look at the advertizing that the magazine contains. You might be able to find some real bargains!

73 ES CUL

DE N8XMS



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH SPRINT:** Our September sprint will be on the 19th from 0030 - 0230 UTC. Of course that's the evening of Wednesday the 18th here in the Western hemisphere. We had 140 logs submitted last month and just five more would be good for third place in our all-time records so lets go for it!

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:** This was our 106th sprint and we have both good news and bad news.

First the bad news. A major computer glitch on a GoDaddy server resulted in 64 lost logs - four of these were actually from the July sprint! The logs were finally delivered in a batch on August 22nd (after the filing deadline). Although many of these logs had already been resubmitted, some of them were new so K3WWP and N2CN went to work to reprocess everything and did a remarkable job to quickly update our final results.

Now the good news. A total of 140 logs were submitted for the sprint. This is not a record but it is our fourth highest number and a great result. 112 were perfectly formatted "silver logs." Soapbox comments reported mixed conditions but a lot of fun.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time loggers: N1AOB N0UMP K2EYS K8SZN K0DTJ K5WX WA3YLQ KZ5W N2GDS VE3KLX W1ALI KB1ZMX VE2DDZ (nm) NA6MG K6III (nm). We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

In the gold/silver log competition there is a 7-way tie with eight perfect logs each: KB8FE KB9ILT KU4A N8XMS NQ2W WA2JSG AA7CU.

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!

Complete results are available at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201308.html>. Result summaries are shown in the tables on the following page.

**SPRINT HONOR ROLL:** We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our sprints. Exact counts can be seen at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_dates.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

| Number of Sprints | Members                                                                    |
|-------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 50+               | K4BAI WB8LZG NU7T N8XMS K4JPN KU4A N4FI NF8M WY3H KB3AAG K3RLL KD0V VE3FUJ |
| 75+               | KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W2JEK KA2KGB                                              |
| 100+              | K3WWP                                                                      |
| 125+              |                                                                            |



| <b>CERTIFICATES</b>                      |                       |                       |                       |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>SWA CATEGORY</b>                      |                       |                       |                       |
| <b>Division</b>                          | <b>1<sup>st</sup></b> | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> |
| W1                                       | K1YAN                 |                       |                       |
| W2                                       | W2SH                  | WA2NYY                |                       |
| W3                                       | K3WWP                 | KB3AAG                |                       |
| W4                                       | K2UFT                 | KB4QQJ                | K4ORD                 |
| W5                                       | W5IQS                 | W5ODS                 |                       |
| W6                                       | WK6L                  |                       |                       |
| W7                                       | AA7VW                 | KE7YTE                |                       |
| W8                                       | W3NP                  |                       |                       |
| W9                                       | W9CC                  |                       |                       |
| W0                                       | K9OSC                 | KI0I                  |                       |
| VE                                       | VA2SG                 | VE5BCS                |                       |
| DX                                       | CO8CML                |                       |                       |
| <b>KEY CATEGORIES</b>                    |                       |                       |                       |
| <b>Straight Key (x2)</b>                 | K4BAI                 |                       |                       |
| <b>Bug (x1.5)</b>                        | KM1N                  |                       |                       |
| <b>Keyer (x1)</b>                        | N4BP                  |                       |                       |
| <b>OTHER CATEGORIES</b>                  |                       |                       |                       |
| <b>Gain</b>                              | K4BAI                 |                       |                       |
| <b>First-Time Logger<br/>High Scorer</b> | N1AOB                 |                       |                       |
| <b>Prize Drawing</b>                     | W7GAH                 |                       |                       |

|                           | <b>Current Month</b> | <b>Previous Month</b> | <b>All-Time Record</b> | <b>Record Date</b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Logs</b>               | 140                  | 123                   | 194                    | 2/13               |
| <b>Participants</b>       | 212                  | 193                   | 269                    | 2/13               |
| <b>Total QSOs</b>         | 2466                 | 1881                  | 2804                   | 2/13               |
| <b>Hour 1 QSOs</b>        | 1295                 | 966                   | 1468                   | 2/13               |
| <b>Hour 2 QSOs</b>        | 1171                 | 915                   | 1334                   | 2/13               |
| <b>20m QSOs</b>           | 1232                 | 1120                  | 1232                   | 8/13               |
| <b>40m QSOs</b>           | 1233                 | 756                   | 1534                   | 4/12               |
| <b>80m QSOs</b>           | 1                    | 5                     | 1417                   | 2/13               |
| <b>Avg QSOs / Station</b> | 17.6                 | 15.3                  | 19.3                   | 9/11               |



## NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE:** September's challenge is to make at least 20 CW QSOs at milliwatt power levels. All qualifying QSOs must be initiated and completely carried on at under 1 watt of output power. As always, sprint and contest QSOs do not count. Most QRPers feel that once you are used to working at 5-watts it's not that big of a deal to move down to milliwatts. There is still plenty of time in the month to complete this challenge so please join in on the fun.

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>.

**NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE:** The October challenge will be another one of our alphabet challenges with a Halloween theme. The list of words has not yet been finalized so be sure to check the website as we get closer. In the meantime sharpen your fangs and get ready to take a juicy bite out of this fun activity. (That last sentence was typed in my best Transylvania accent!)

**LAST MONTH CHALLENGE:** Last month we had an alphabet challenge to complete a list of 16 specific wild animal names. Seven people completed the challenge and submitted their reports. Complete results along with "soapbox" comments from participants can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201308.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:

### 1000 MPW Award

|                 |          |                                        |
|-----------------|----------|----------------------------------------|
| 0267 - N3CU     | KX5R     | - 224,808 08/05/13 center-fed Zepp@50' |
| 0268 - N3CU     | VE3CX    | - 171,154 08/05/13 center-fed Zepp@50' |
| 0269 - N3CU     | N6AR     | - 162,308 08/05/13 center-fed Zepp@50' |
| 0270 - N3CU     | K5TR     | - 89,871 08/05/13 center-fed Zepp@50'  |
| 0271 - AB9YC    | UY5ZZ    | - 1,012 08/13/13 fan dipole@25'        |
| 0272 - NP4ZB    | AB5X     | - 1,032 08/17/13 Wire dipole@28'       |
| 0273 - WU1V     | LU7WW/LH | - 1,179 08/18/13 dipole@30'            |
| 0274 - WU1V     | PY3UR    | - 1,020 08/18/13 dipole@30'            |
| 0275 - MW0RSS   | RW9JA    | - 1,376 08/22/13 OCF dipole@10m        |
| 0276 - MW0RSS   | RA6GW    | - 1,078 08/22/13 OCF dipole@10m        |
| 0277 - UR7FM/mm | CX1AA    | - 2,412 08/24/13 8m Longwire           |
| 0278 - K3WWP    | S51WO    | - 5,554 08/26/13 15m vertical dipole   |
| 0279 - K0FNR    | K3Y/KH6  | - 6,400 08/27/13 20m L-Antenna         |

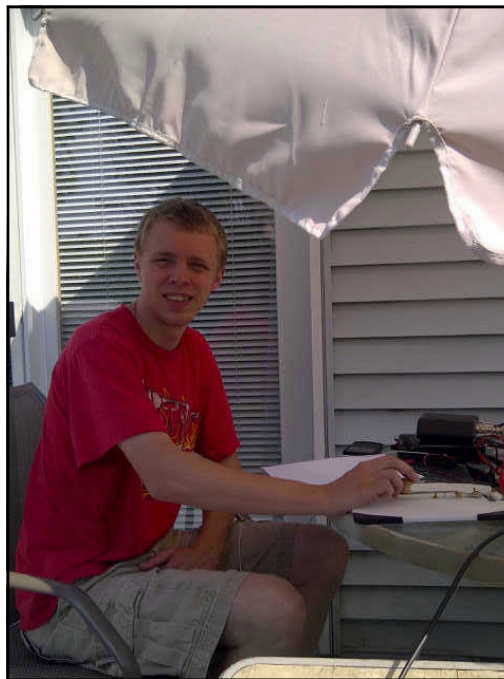


## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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](mailto: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.

### DON DRZEWOSZEWSKI JR., KB3SLA, #4544



Even though I've only been a ham since 2009 and I'm only 25 years of age, ham radio has been a big part of my life. My dad Don (WB2WEO) has been an active ham for a very long time and since the day I was born he dreamed about sharing the hobby with me. Unfortunately throughout my childhood and teenage years I really had no interest in radio at all. He was sad, but always respected the fact that I may not like the same things he did.

I had a change of heart in late 2008 and decided to try to get my Technician license. The next couple months I studied during the short periods of time I wasn't working on school work. On a cold March night while home for spring break, I passed the test with flying colors. From that moment on the hook was set and I was addicted to ham radio.

In a few short months I upgrade to a general class license. My dad had upgraded his mobile setup and gave me his IC-706mkiiig and his mobile antenna so I would have something to operate while at college. The next semester I made dozens of SSB contacts from the parking lot of my dorm building, but soon the winter

*(Continued on page 15)*



weather set in and I found it too much of a chore to go outside and warm up the truck so I could play on the radio.

One night I stumbled upon a website that had information on QRP and building simple gear to use on CW. Before I knew it, I spent a whole night reading up on QRP and CW. It seemed like the only way I could stay active while living in the dorm was to homebrew a QRP station that could be set up at my desk, and to learn morse code. I learned the basic morse code characters rather quickly, but building the station was a bigger challenge. In fact, before I could build my QRP station for my dorm room...I graduated. I suppose graduating wasn't a bad thing, but the homebrew station never happened.

Since then I upgraded my license again to Extra class and spent most of my time on SSB, PSK31, and JT-65. CW is still a bit of a challenge for me. I didn't start becoming active with CW until recently after purchasing a Yaesu FT-817nd. I've enjoyed CW so much with that rig that I unplugged the microphone and threw it in the drawer. I have two keys that I use on air. I have an old J-38 straight key, but the key I enjoy using the most is a straight key I made in college. It's built out of a fork, a cutting board, and a drawer knob. It's simple yet very effective.

My base station consists of an Icom IC-720a connected to either a long wire antenna, or a ground mounted 31' vertical. When I'm mobile I still run the Icom IC-706mkiig into a hustler antenna system. My absolute favorite setup however is my FT-817nd running into a portable dipole that I built out of speaker wire. It's another simple yet effective way to get on the air.

Outside of amateur radio I hold a Bachelor of Science degree in Communication. In my free time I like to listen to music, go hiking and fishing, and work on the landscaping in the yard. I try to be outdoors whenever I can.



## 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 LINGO "LIGHTHOUSE TUBE"



© 7-11-06 DICK SYLVAN W9CBT

LIGHTHOUSE TUBES WERE USED FOR UHF AND VHF APPLICATIONS BACK IN THE 1940'S





## 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](mailto: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](mailto:phuff@mi.rr.com). Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to [kd2mx@arrl.net](mailto: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@naqcc-eu.org](mailto:matt@naqcc-eu.org). The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

#### \*\*\* Sprints \*\*\*

Firstly, a reminder that *\*we are no longer running our sprints\**. Whilst we certainly do not discourage you from getting out on the air and making QRP/CW contacts at any time, we can no longer mark logs or issue certificates in the same way that we did for sprints. Our sprints were seeing so few logs submitted that running them was not really fair to those who did participate and expected to work lots of other QRP/CW stations.

#### \*\*\* Challenges \*\*\*

The September challenge is now underway; the objective is to construct the names and dates of birth of four 18th century European composers from the letters and numbers in the callsigns of stations that you work. Details are available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges>.

The main purpose of the challenges is to increase CW and QRP activity in Europe, whilst having fun at the same time! We aim to help preserve the use of Morse Code on the bands and show that it is still a very viable, useful, and efficient mode of operation.

The August challenge -- whose premise was the names and heights of the three tallest European buildings -- was successfully completed by ND9M, K3WWP, PA7PYR, WU1V and ON6NA. Congratulations to all!

#### \*\*\* 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.

This month we have had successful applications from PA7PYR and ON6NA, in addition to K3WWP's

*(Continued on page 18)*

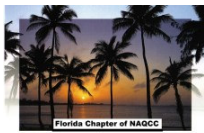
application in July. Congratulations to all three for successfully fulfilling the requirements of the challenge! Completing the challenge is not easy. It is envisaged that this and subsequent WAE chapter challenges will become quite a prestigious testament to the CW/QRP ability of amateur radio operators.

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>. As with all chapter activities, the challenge is open to all NAQCC members, not just those situated within Europe.

\*\*\* Dates for your diary \*\*\*

|              |                                                            |
|--------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| September 30 | Last day to make QSOs eligible for the September challenge |
| October 10   | September challenge submission deadline                    |
| December 19  | December activity day                                      |
| December 31  | Last day to make QSOs eligible for Europe 2013             |
| January 10   | Last day for Europe 2013 submissions                       |

### NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to [naqccfl@yahoo.com](mailto:naqccfl@yahoo.com).

No report available.

### 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](mailto:allen.mathews@att.net). The TX Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcctx.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](mailto:naqcc33@windstream.net).

On Tuesday August 20, NAQCC WPA Chapter members Don K3RLL and John K3WWP did another parkpedition from the Kittanning Community Park. As with all other parkpeditions this year (so far) the weather was absolutely perfect as shown here:



Don arrived at John's house around 9:30AM and they departed for the park. It took a bit of time to set up as it usually does, and the operation started precisely at 10AM after their antennas were raised. Below are first Don's antenna followed by John's antenna:



*(Continued on page 20)*



The pictures show Don's antenna was a 51 foot radiator up to a 20 foot crappie pole on a homebrew tripod with a 16' counterpoise, and John's was a multi-band jumpered inverted vee based on a design by K3RLL suspended from a tree limb about 15-20 feet high.

Here are the intrepid operators showing John's KX3, log, Bencher paddle (behind the KX3), and gel cell battery borrowed from Don (thanks!) with Don standing over John's shoulder:



*(Continued on page 21)*

Here's Don's setup. He used his PFR3 "Yellow Wonder" this time instead of his KX3 because the PFR3 has lower power consumption and his gel cell was a bit aged and not holding a charge as long as it should. Of course he could have used the one he loaned me, and given me that one, but Don is too generous to do anything like that despite the fact I volunteered to use the other battery:



Conditions were above normal, and although we didn't break any records for number of QSOs, we did spread out our activity across the USA and Canada. We stuck strictly to two bands – one for each of us – with John taking 20M and Don 40M. We find that's better than to keep jumping from band to band because it makes it easier for our members to find us. When there are three of us, we'll use 3 bands and so forth. We made 30 QSOs from the following states and provinces: CO TX MN FL AL SD NM TN AB GA CT MD MI NJ NY OH PA VA WV. We could probably have made more, but we didn't operate contest style, instead taking time to chat a bit with each station we worked. We felt that was appropriate for the amount of activity. Had there been more members calling, we would have shortened our exchange. John did have a couple small pileups, and did try to speed things up when that happened.

It was discouraging to have so many of our contacts call us off of zero beat. When stations are zero beat, it makes for a much better situation since only one frequency is being used instead of two. It also leads to less QRM because with two frequencies, one station's frequency can seem to be clear while the other station is transmitting and someone will jump on the clear frequency. Well you get the point. You should learn to zero beat and always use it.

As with all our parkpeditions, the bottom line is we had fun. John especially enjoyed this one because of the widespread activity, and learning that the multi-band dipole seems to be the best of the ones he has used in the park. It's nice to be able to experiment with antennas a bit since he can't do so at home.

As usual we will be sending out picture QSLs to all whom we worked. A return card is appreciated although not an absolute necessity. We thank those who do answer our cards.

Don, Mike (KC2EGL), and John hope to do other parkpeditions before the cold weather comes. There definitely will be one on Columbus Day during our NAQCC Anniversary week with Mike and John. Also another operation from the submarine Requin in Pittsburgh is in the works, and may actually have taken place by the time this article is published.





## NAQCC QRS NETS

Additional information about our slow-speed CW nets can be found at [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_nets.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html) .  
 Send any questions to [phuff@mi.rr.com](mailto:phuff@mi.rr.com) .

| NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE           |                             |                    |             |                            |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|-------------|----------------------------|
| Net                              | Local Time                  | UTC                | Freq        | Primary NCS                |
| Main Net                         | Sunday<br>8 PM Eastern      | Monday<br>0000 Z   | 7060 KHz    | Craig, N4PLK<br>(in VA)    |
| East Texas                       | Monday<br>7 PM Central      | Tuesday<br>0000 Z  | 7060 KHz    | Allen, KA5TJS<br>(in TX)   |
| Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental | Tuesday<br>3 PM Mountain    | Tuesday<br>2100 Z  | 14062.5 KHz | Dale, WC7S<br>(in WY)      |
| Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental | Thursday<br>3 PM Mountain   | Thursday<br>2100 Z | 14062.5 KHz | Dale, WC7S<br>(in WY)      |
| East Coast                       | Thursday<br>8:30 PM Eastern | Friday<br>0030 Z   | 7060 KHz    | Robert, KG4KGL<br>(in SC)  |
| Pacific Northwest                | Thursday<br>7 PM Pacific    | Friday<br>0200 Z   | 3574 KHz    | Stewart, KE7LKW<br>(in WA) |
| Pacific Northwest                | Monday<br>8 PM Pacific      | Tuesday<br>0300 Z  | 7122 KHz    | JB, KR5RR<br>(in CA)       |

As was mentioned in *Key Clicks* on page 1, we are in need of a new QRS Nets Manager. Craig, N4PLK, has done an outstanding job in this position but has now been forced to step aside because of some changes in his personal work situation. Would you consider volunteering for this job? Your main responsibility would be to compile the monthly net reports as shown below. To give you an idea of what this involves, it took me a little bit over an hour to create this month's report from the individual ones that were sent to me by the different NCS's. With a little bit of practice and a standardization of a report format from the NCS's I'm sure that you could significantly cut down on this time. Please contact me if you can help. You can find my email on the last page of the newsletter. Thanks. - Paul, N8XMS

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz

8-4-13 N4PLK (NCS) -12- N4PLK N3FLL KC4URI W3UEC WM4X NK1N AC8JW K9EYT K3VIG  
 N9RLO AB3RU K4LXY  
 8-11-13 N4PLK (NCS) -10- N4PLK WA4VCT N3FLL W3UEC NK1N K3NLT WB8VMW K3VIG  
 K4LXY AB8SA  
 8-18-13 KC4URI (NCS) -8- KC4URI WM4X K3NLT N3FLL N4PLK KG0YR KD4JXT N8ZYA  
 8-25-13 KC4URI (NCS) -11- KC4URI K4LXY W1VVX N9RLO K9EYT W4HH K3NLT AB8SA  
 AC9BQ KG0YR KF5J

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

8-5-13 KA5TJS (NCS) -1- KA5TJS  
 8-13-13 KA5TJS (NCS) -4- KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM K5BRY  
 8-20-13 KA5TJS (NCS) -5- KA5TJS N5GK KE5YGA K5BRY KG0YR

From KA5TJS: I was late due to a dish washer replacement in the house

(Continued on page 23)

and Andy KE5YGA started the net for me. Thanks. Conditions were good and signals were all strong except Dave KG0YR who was about 459.

8-25-13 W5IQS (NCS) -5- W5IQS KE5YGA KF5J N5GK K5GSL  
From KA5TJS: Thanks to Evan W5IQS for picking up the net as I had to work late and did not get home till 07:45.

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

8-1-13 KE7LKW (NCS) -4- KE7LKW AD7BP K7ZNP WB4SPB  
8-8-13 N6KIX (NCS) -2- N6KIX K6DMT  
8-15-13 KE7LKW (NCS) -8- N6KIX K6DMT AD7BP K7ZNP WB4SPB WU7F KR5RR KE7LKW  
8-22-13 KE7LKW (NCS) -6- AD7BP N6KIX N7QR WA6BKD KR5RR KE7LKW  
8-29-13 N6KIX (NCS) -4- K6GMT KR5RR N6KIX K7ZNP

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

8-5-13 KR5RR (NCS) -7- KR5RR KW6G W7MWF WB4SPB K6DMT WB0QQT VA5BRT  
8-12-13 KR5RR (NCS) -5- KR5RR K6DMT W7MWF WB0QQT KW6G  
8-19-13 KR5RR (NCS) -6- KR5RR N6VOH WB0QQT W0XI KA6AIL KG0YR  
8-26-13 KR5RR (NCS) -7- KR5RR W7MWF KR7W WB4SPB WB0QQT KW6G KF7YHB  
From KR5RR: We are not getting the crystal controlled, rock bound rig, check ins that we hoped we would on this frequency, but we are getting LOTS of tune ups, QRLs, V's, and TESTs during each net - wish they'd check in! We are considering moving net frequency to 7123 or 7124 if the QRM continues.

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

8-6-13 WC7S (NCS) -2- WC7S K2UFT  
8-13-13 WC7S (NCS) -7- WC7S AA7CU K2HT W5HNS KK4BNC KK4LPG K0DTJ (2045)  
8-13-13 WC7S (NCS) -3- WC7S KK4LPG AA7CU (second session 2245z)  
8-20-13 WC7S (NCS) -5- WC7S AD7BR K6MGO KF7WNS KE6OIO (2045Z)  
8-20-13 WC7S (NCS) -3- WC7S KF7WNS KE6OIO (second session 2200Z)  
8-27-13 WC7S (NCS) -5- WC7S KE6OIO KF7WNS NE5DL WA0ITP (14.0625 2200Z)  
8-27-13 WC7S (NCS) -3- WC7S AF9W K9JWV (7.0325 2245Z)

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

8-1-13 WC7S (NCS) -7- WC7s K6MGO AA7CU K0DTJ AA7CU W3HZZ KF5J  
8-8-13 WC7S (NCS) -7- WC7S AA7CU KC0PMH NE5DL KE6OIO K6MGO N9RLO  
8-15-13 WC7S (NCS) -4- WC7S W2SH KF5J KUTY (2045Z)  
8-15-13 WC7S (NCS) -4- WC7S N9RLO W5HNS (second session 2245Z)  
8-22-13 WC7S (NCS) -4- WC7S W3HZZ KF7WNS KE6OIO  
8-29-13 WC7S (NCS) -5- WC7S NE5DL, KE6OIO, AF9W, KF7WNS (2200Z)

NAQCC East Coast QRS Net (ECN) - Thursday, 8:30 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz  
From KG4KGL: Thunderstorms and static have closed down the net lately. Starting time is being changed to 8:30 PM.



## 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](mailto:ve3fuj@wrightman.ca). Additional help is also available on our website at <http://naqcc.info/cw.html>.

This month lets talk about the monthly Challenge.

Several different kinds of challenges are offered throughout the year. They include rag-chew challenges which encourage leisurely-paced QSOs, WARC band challenges, milliwatt challenges (one of my favorites), alphabet challenges, and even a version on on-air poker. All of them are more or less designed to get you on the air and make use of our PRECIOUS BANDS. They all promote CW, and encourage low power operating with simple wire antennas. You do them when you feel like it, at a leisurely pace and have a lot of fun.

Let me say that you can find a lot of useful information about calling CQ, making a QSO, common abbreviation's, Q-signals, the RST system etc. on the NAQCC web site at <http://naqcc.info/cw.html>. All of this would be helpful for our monthly challenges.

NAQCC challenges run from 0000Z the first day of the month to 2359Z of the last day of the month and you can operate on any HF band.

Our most common type of challenge is the "Alphabet Challenge" which involves making using the collected call-sign letters from stations that you have worked to spell out posted words. Record keeping is probably the most crucial component in these challenges and there's an alphabet challenge tutorial on NAQCC web-site at [http://naqcc.info/challenge\\_tutorial.html](http://naqcc.info/challenge_tutorial.html) that can help you with this.

If you haven't tried a challenge before you may have missed something FUN! It gets you on the air, gives you some good CW practice, and lets you meet new friends. The competitive aspect also gives you a new must-have, monthly fix. Come on and join in the fun and let the bands come alive with CW signals. While you are at it, you might also qualify for the 30 for 30 award - 30 30-meter QSOs in 30 days, or the 1 QSO a day award. With a bit of luck there is even the WAS, WAC, or Friendship Club certificates ---- all while you are practicing CW and gaining experience. Food for thought?

72 Brion VE3FUJ -30-





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

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

### From Anthony AB9YC #6319 -- Copying CW through the noise --

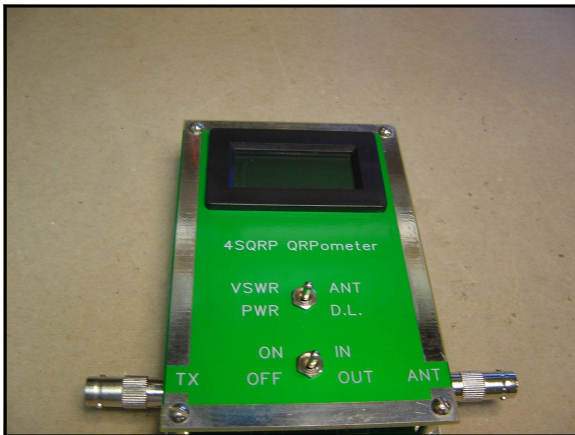
When learning CW, we often listen to nice, clean, pitch-perfect code sent at a reasonable speed. This is nice, and a good, pure learning method for getting comfortable with the code. However, unless you have a really good receiver and the sending station is strong, you will have to listen through some noise. The sooner you become accustomed to listening through noise and even slightly (or maybe not so slightly) off-tune CW, the sooner you will gain comfort in copying, either on paper or in your head. If any software you are using allows pitch variation and random levels of noise, use it. If any audio files you are using are clean, you should listen to them with some other noise in the background. You can add 'noise' by turning the TV or broadcast radio on. Don't listen in a sterile environment, learn to copy as you would expect "in the wild."

I remember when I operated at my first Field Day. The first thing I recognized was my academic level learning was only a start, that I needed to move away from the clean code, and work on listening as I expect to actually hear it - off pitch and in the presence of other noise.

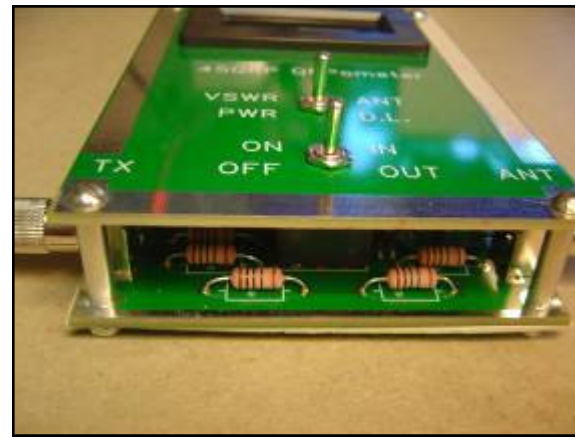
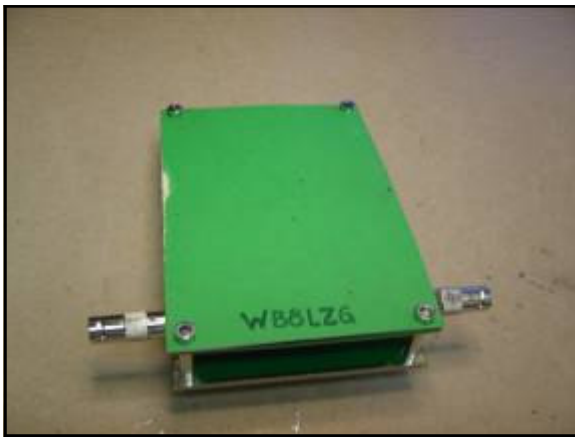
### From Greg WB8LZG #1444 -- Building the Four State QRP O-Meter

I was fortunate to attend Four Days In May at the Dayton Hamvention this year and, while at the Vendor Night, I purchased one of the new kits from the Four State QRP Group. I'd like to share some thoughts on the build. For those among us that haven't seen it yet, you may want to review the web page at: <http://www.4sgrp.com/QRPOmeter.php>. This little kit is a QRP power meter, SWR bridge, and QRP dummy load all in one, with a nice digital readout.

I didn't start my kit until several months after FDIM, but upon unpacking the parts, everything was there. Well everything except an enclosure. The kit directions were clear and easy to follow. The whole kit went together in about two hours. I did get one set of resistors mixed up, but after fixing my error, I fired up the unit and it played great, no smoke! That is always nice on a first time power up. Self calibration seemed simple, and comparing the unit with a couple other SWR/PWR meters, I found the unit to be fairly accurate, although when I find the time I'm going to calibrate it against a high quality LAB HP power meter. However as it is built, it is a nice piece of test equipment for the QRPer.



The two circuit boards make up the front panel as well as the case of the unit. I wanted some more protection from shorting out the circuit, so I cut a piece of posterboard and installed it on the bottom.



It still bothered me that there was no case for an otherwise cute kit. I had some spare scraps of maple in the workshop, so I decided to fabricate my own. This is what I ended up with. It is functional, protective, plus “perty”, and don’t forget FUN!



(Continued on page 27)

It took a bit of cutting, sanding, and a coat of varnish, but the meter now rests in its own wooden box. As a final touch, I personalized the box by wood burning the ports and my call. Now it sits proudly in the shack amongst the QRP gear. The bottom is removable to allow battery access, and with the BNC to RCA adapters removed, it is fairly compact. It is a FB addition to my shack.







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](mailto: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](mailto:phuff@mi.rr.com)

