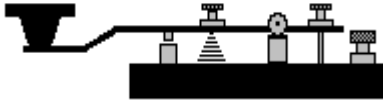


# NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 184 OCTOBER 2013



## KEY CLICKS

- ◆ **ITS OUR NINTH ANNIVERSARY!** And we have a boat load of fun QRP CW activities for you. The celebration runs from 0000z October 6 through 2400z October 12. There will be great sprint prizes and special certificates and QSLs for contacting N#A stations. Check out the Pennsylvania Chapter's plans for kick-starting N3A operations in the *Chapter News*.
- ◆ **N#A OPERATIONS.** A special web page has been created to help you spot the times and frequencies that the different N#A stations will be working. It's at [http://naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php).

When the week is over, if you would like a handsome certificate or QSL, just follow these instructions from our Awards Manager John, KK1X: "For certificates, let me know which stations you worked (e.g. N0A, N4A and N7A), and when. I'll email back an image for you to print. For anyone who works all 10 calls, we'll send a certificate on special paper via regular mail at the expense of the club. For QSL cards, please send me a card and a SASE for up to four cards. If it's more than four cards, please include a dollar, and more than seven, please include two dollars. Contact me at : John Griswold / 34 Cambridge St / Ayer MA 01432 / Awards@kk1x.net"

- ◆ **NINTH ANNIVERSARY SPRINT.** Our sprint this month is a special celebration for our 9th anniversary. All N#A sections will be operating. Nine special prizes will be awarded through a random drawing from submitted member logs. There will be a webcast for the prize drawing on Monday, October 14 at 7PM EDT or 2300Z with Mike, KC2EGL, our prize manager, and John, K3WWP, handling the drawing and web site real time updates. There is a good chance that we can break our old participation record of 194 submitted logs set in our 100th sprint celebration back in February so please plan on joining in on the fun. Details can be found on the *NAQCC Sprints* page.
- ◆ Chuck, KB1ZMX, is our new QRS Nets Manager and is already off to a great start. Please contact him if you have any questions about our nets. You can find his email address on the *QRS Nets* page of this newsletter. THANK YOU CHUCK!
- ◆ Ron, WB1HGA, is the new NCS for our main (NQN) QRS net on Sunday evenings. THANK YOU RON!
- ◆ **NEW EMAIL ADDRESS.** I have a new email address. Actually I still have the old one also but it is shared with my wife. As my club manager duties have expanded, so has the contents of my inbox. So in the interest of "domestic tranquility" I am moving all of my club-related email communications to a different account. You can find my new address on the club website or on the last page of this newsletter.

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Please help keep the harmony in my household by using this new address to communicate with me.  
Thanks and 73 - Paul, N8XMS, NAQCC Club Manager

- ◆ NEW CHAPTER FORMED. Members in and around West Virginia should check out our new NAQCC West Virginia chapter which has just been formed under the leadership of John, N8ZYA. Some great activities are being planned. Read about them in the *Chapter News* section.
- ◆ ZERO-BEATING SIGNALS during a QSO is good amateur radio practice. It saves spectrum, reduces interference, and makes copying much easier. And please understand that using the RIT on your rig is definitely not the same thing! If you have ever had trouble zero-beating your signal to someone else you should check out a simple little circuit that K3WWP describes in this month's *Member Submissions*.
- ◆ HAVE YOU ALWAYS WANTED TO BE A FAMOUS AUTHOR? Well, I can't really help you with the "famous" part, but I would be interested in hearing from anyone that has an idea for a feature article for the newsletter. Anything that features QRP and/or CW would probably be of interest. (But reports of personal operating experiences most likely belong in the *Member Submissions* section.) Please let me know if you have something. - 73, N8XMS



## FEATURE ARTICLE: 1916 (part 3), BY PAUL HUFF - N8XMS

Over the past few months we have been taking a trip back through time to October 1916 by looking at an interesting little magazine that was sent to us by NAQCC members Jack, WA0QZK, and Roy, AC9DN, called *The Northwest Telegraph & Telephone Review*. This is our final installment from this wonderful historical gem.

One of the jobs that I had during college was working in the school's library. Libraries often cooperate with each other by trading surplus items in their collections. My specific job was to catalog our old surplus magazines and to coordinate trades with other libraries to fill in holes in our collection and in their collections as well. I still clearly remember working with a big stack of musty old magazines and seeing an advertisement in a WW2 issue of *Life* for Parker fountain pens. The ad showed a young woman sitting at her desk with a Parker fountain pen in her hand. A thought bubble over her head showed a young GI in a far off battlefield foxhole, and the caption read, "Be a war correspondent with a Parker pen." Historians use advertisements like this as windows that allow them to peak into the world of that time. So let's take a final peak at 1916 through the advertisements that are in *The Review*.

Unlike a modern magazine, *The Review* does not actually contain very many advertisements. I only counted a total of ten of them in the 44 pages of the magazine (including covers). Furthermore, half of these ads are actually for products that are sold by the magazine itself. That's not much outside revenue! Perhaps being a brand new magazine meant that they had some trouble finding companies who were willing to spend their advertizing dollars with them. It's also not likely that the \$1.00 annual subscription price was bringing in very much money yet, so I suspect that they were operating "in the red" from the very beginning.

In any magazine one of the most important advertizing locations is on the back cover, and the publisher is usually able to put a premium price tag on this page. In this position in *The Review* we find a very familiar name to all CW operators – the "oldest name in ham radio", Vibroplex.

**It is estimated over 50,000 Telegraph Operators**

**Use the Famous**

# **Martin Vibroplex**

**The Most Popular Sending Machine Made.**

The Martin Vibroplex is not only the most popular sending machine made, it is the most useful telegraph accessory since the advent of the typewriter. To the sending operator, the Martin Vibroplex is what the mill is to the receiving operator. There are more Vibroplexes in use than all other sending machines combined. The Vibroplex holds all speed records, as well as all long distance sending records. It was the first sending machine ever used for the transmission of Morse characters across the Atlantic cable.

**Why such complete supremacy?**

**Why has the Vibroplex become the most popular Sending Machine?**

**Because**—it is built on the right principle, the principle of perfect transmission of Morse characters, the principle that has revolutionized the telegraph profession, and made it possible for any telegraph operator to become a rapid and perfect sender.

**Because**—of its extreme simplicity it is quickly learned. Easily adjusted for fast or slow sending on any circuit, and in any kind of weather.

**Because**—it is so light to the touch, so smooth in action, so easy to manipulate, only the least effort is required to operate it.

**Because**—it does not require an expert to handle it. The average operator, who never had a good sending arm, can in a short time, and with less than half the labor, become a rapid and perfect sender.

And these are but a few of the reasons why telegraph operators demand the Martin Vibroplex.

**Order a Vibroplex today and get ready for the rush that will soon be on.  
It will get you more money.**

- Old Style Single Lever, Japanned Base . . . \$12—Nickel Plated \$14**
- Model X, Japanned Base . . . . . \$12—Nickel Plated \$14**
- Double Lever, Japanned Base . . . . . \$12—Nickel Plated \$14**
- Blue Racer, No. 4, Blue Base . . . . . \$12—Nickel Plated \$14**

Money order or registered mail.

ADDRESS ALL ORDERS TO

## **THE NORTHWEST TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE REVIEW**

Room 415, Tribune Bldg.

Minneapolis, Minn.

Of course the history of Vibroplex is well documented (for example <http://www.telegraph-history.org/horace-g-martin/index.html>) so let me just mention a couple of pertinent highlights. At the turn of the twentieth century a number of inventors were looking for a solution to the “glass arm” (now called carpal tunnel syndrome) that afflicted so many professional telegraph operators. Also, since telegraph operators were often paid by the word, anything that could be used to send Morse code faster would increase an operator’s paycheck. In 1902 a champion telegrapher named 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 keys became immensely popular and the ad claims more than 50,000 telegraph operators were using Vibroplex bugs by 1916. 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.

That \$12 “Blue Racer” listed in the ad will now set you back \$219.95! But we need to remember that \$12 in 1916, when adjusted for inflation, is the equivalent of about \$257 today. (The \$12 was also close to the average telegraph operator’s weekly salary.) So you could say that the modern key is really a pretty good bargain! It’s no wonder that lockable carrying cases were popular Vibroplex accessories that telegraphers used to protect their personal bugs as they moved from job to job. (I think that it is interesting to note that *The Review* was actually serving as the retailer, or at least the ordering agent, for Vibroplex.)

In the interest of “truth in advertizing” I really feel that I must take exception to some of the claims made in this ad where it states that “*it is quickly learned*” and that “*it does not require an expert to handle it. The average operator, who never had a good sending arm, can in short time, and with less than half the effort, become a rapid and perfect sender.*” I personally have spent many hours both on and off the air using my 1967 Vibroplex “Original” and at best I will claim that my sending is “just OK.” (Wise cracks here about me clearly being a below “average” operator will not be appreciated!)

On the inside of the back cover of *The Review* another “big-name” company advertisement can be seen – J. H. Bunnell. Jesse Bunnell was born in 1843. By age 13 he was working as a telegraph operator and at age 17 he set a telegraphic speed record with an average of 32 wpm over the course of two hours while relaying the text of President Buchanan’s final message to congress! Bunnell also served as a Union telegraph operator during the Civil War. In 1878 he founded J. H. Bunnell and Company which became a major manufacturer of high quality telegraph keys and related equipment. Bunnell died in 1899 but his company lived on well into modern times while significantly diversifying their product line. They were a major supplier to the US military during WW2, the Korean conflict, and the Vietnam War. At one point I believe that they were also in some sort of limited partnership with H. G. Martin’s Vibroplex company. Technically speaking I think that the company still exists today as a division of MNJ Industrials. A few years ago they were selling some historical telegraph miniatures but I do not know of any recent activity by either J. H. Bunnell or the parent company. There are many Bunnell straight keys, side swipers, and bugs still on the air today and some of their models are highly prized by key collectors.

The name "**BUNNELL**," or any other of our Registered Trade Marks, as

**"JOVE," "BEEKO," "MASCOT,"**

on a

**Regular or Radio Telegraph Instrument**

is a guarantee of BEST quality. There is none other equal

**Send 2 Cent Stamp for Our No. 36R Wireless Catalog**

First class dealers generally carry a stock of our apparatus



**THE BEST CRYSTAL DETECTOR**

is our JOVE

Sample sent by mail on receipt of price

**J. H. BUNNELL & CO., Inc.,**  
Electrical Manufacturers

**32 Park Place NEW YORK**

NO. 8804 JOVE CRYSTAL DETECTOR HOLDER  
On Dark Porcelain Base. . . . . \$1.25  
On Handsome Composition Base. . \$1.50

Sharing space with the Bunnell advertisement on the inside of the back cover is a little ad for some additional publications that are available from *The Review* itself. These "handbooks" are clearly aimed at the amateur wireless experimenter. The 25-cent price includes shipping! I wonder how many ham radio operators got their start with books like these.

**PRACTICAL 25-CENT HANDBOOKS**  
for the Student, Experimenter and Practical Worker

**How to Make Wireless Instruments**  
This book contains complete directions for making a Two-Mile Wireless Telegraph Set and also numerous approved wireless apparatus for both high and low power sets. 94 pages, 30 different Instruments, 80 Illustrations. 25c postpaid.

**Construction of Induction Coils and Transformers**  
Tells how to design and build magnetic leakage transformers, high frequency apparatus, low voltage transformers, inductions coils, condensers, gaps, etc., and gives dozens of valuable hints. 96 pages, 72 illustrations. 25c postpaid.

**Simple Wireless Telephones, How to Make, 25c**  
A treatise for the advanced radio amateur on the principles, construction and use of the wireless telephone.

**Wireless Hook-Ups**  
Contains 96 pages, 165 different "hook-ups" and 171 illustrations, is a book which every experimenter should have in his collection. This book contains a full set of diagrams fully illustrating every possible wireless connection. It will enable you to get excellent results. Sent postpaid for 25c.

Orders filled promptly. Address all communications to

**The Northwest Telegraph and Telephone Review**  
Room 415, Tribune Building, Minneapolis, Minn.

(Continued on page 7)

In addition to the back-cover Vibroplex advertisement, *The Review* only contains two other full-page ads. The first one is for a high-tech telephone receiver. When its \$6.50 price is adjusted for inflation it comes very close to what I just paid for my wife's new smart phone!



## One Standard Of Efficiency

We furnish our No. 10 Type Combination Telephones in nine standard equipments, which thoroughly satisfy every telephonic requirement, from long-distance toll service to a short line between house and garage. All types are furnished with apparatus of the same high standard of quality whether designed to talk a thousand miles or a thousand feet.

The three types described below are wired and equipped for subscribers' station service when used with an associated extension bell and for extension telephone service when used without the bell box.

**No. 10-C**

For "Central Energy" systems. This instrument consists of the number of pieces shown in the accompanying illustration. Its equipment includes transmitter, permanent magnet receiver and an induction coil which is mounted in the hookswitch box. Furnished complete with 4½-foot green silk covered cord. Price \$6.50 Net.

**No. 10-X**

For "Central Energy" systems. The equipment of this instrument includes a direct current receiver which is wired directly in series with the transmitter and hookswitch, therefore no induction coil is required or furnished in this set. Furnished complete with 4½-foot green silk covered cord. Price \$6.25 Net.

**No. 10-L**

For local battery (magneto) systems this set is similar in all respects to the No. 10-C "Central Energy" Combination Telephone except that it is wired for local battery service and is equipped with a local battery transmitter and induction coil. Furnished complete with 4½-foot green silk covered cord. Price \$6.50 Net.

All Prices F. O. B. Rochester, N. Y.,  
and Chicago, Ill.

Stromberg-Carlson Telephone Mfg. Co.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.
CHICAGO, ILL

KANSAS CITY, MO.
TORONTO, ONT.

Successors to the Telephone Business of the Garford Manufacturing Co.

(Continued on page 8)

The second full-page ad is for some phonograph recordings that are available from the magazine itself. The featured recording is a comedy routine but Morse code instructional records are also listed. They also have a promise of more recordings to come in the future.

**HAVE YOU HEARD  
THE NEW  
Phonograph--Telegraphic  
RECORDS**

Every telegrapher who is the possessor of a disc machine should have the humorous record.

**“On No. 4 East”**

which depicts a “circuit” comedy . . . . . **Price \$1.00**

A series of eight double-face records for beginner and student of telegraphy beginning with the letters of the alphabet and increasing in difficulty to the more advanced records in commercial and broker work. **Price per record \$1.00**

Send for our descriptive circular and pricelist of records. Other new interesting telegraph records now in course of making. Records shipped everywhere, safe delivery guaranteed.

SEND ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO  
**THE NORTHWEST  
Telegraph and Telephone Review**  
Room 415 Tribune Bldg. Minneapolis, Minn.

(Continued on page 9)



There are several smaller advertisements in *The Review*. I'll show their scans without any significant commentary.


**LEARN TELEGRAPHY**  
MORSE WIRELESS

We teach you to be a railroad station agent.  
We teach you to be manager of a branch office of the Western Union Telegraph Company.  
We teach you to be wireless operator.

Big demand for young ladies as well as young men.

**AMERICAN TELEGRAPH COLLEGE**  
608 FIRST AVENUE NORTH, MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

**Wireless Taught By Mail**



**You May Learn Theory, Code and Laws of Radio Communication in Our School or at Your Home**  
Fitting you for positions paying good salaries with wonderful chance to travel the world over. It's the most interesting profession known and the demand for skilled operators is increasing. Send stamp for catalog giving facts.

NATIONAL RADIO SCHOOL, 140 U. ST. N. W., WASHINGTON D. C.  
WASHINGTON, D. C., Offers special advantages for these courses.  
Residence classes open October 2nd.

(Is it really possible to learn wireless by mail?!?!)

**REMANUFACTURED TYPEWRITERS**  
ALL MAKES ALL PRICES

Looks like new and guaranteed to produce as good work and render the same service as brand new machines.

Sold On Easy Terms Rented 3 Months \$4.00 and Up

**THE OLIVER TYPEWRITER AGENCY**

T. S. Center 463 214 4th St. South, Minneapolis N. W. Main 463

TELEPHONE REVIEW

**THE NIGHT LETTER TELEGRAM**  
--- HAS MADE ---  
**A GOOD WORD COUNTER**

a practical necessity for every telegrapher. One of these devices is now as essential as a part of his equipment as a typewriter. On account of the increased demand for the HUDSON WORD REDGISTER, which is the only counter on the market suitable for this class of work, the manufacturers have been able to reduce the price from \$5.00 to \$3.00 each.

Mailed to any address upon receipt of price. Remit by express or postoffice money order to

**THE NORTHWEST**  
**Telegraph & Telephone Review**  
**Room 415 Tribune Bldg. Minneapolis**

Furnished with attachment for any standard make of typewriter. In ordering be sure to state what typewriter is used, as attachments differ.

---

**THE PREMIUM**  
**WORD COUNTER**

Don't wreck your brain counting checks when the Premium Word Counter will do this work for you.

The Premium Word Counter is the neatest and most substantial word counter ever placed on the market. It is made of heavy spring brass and hard aluminum. The operative parts are made of heavy steel. Hundreds of these counters are already in use and notwithstanding the fact that it counts only fifty words it is absolutely accurate and has been found to meet every requirement of the telegraphers working message circuits. Be sure and mention which make of typewriter the counter is intended to fit. Attachments furnished to fit any make of typewriter. The W. U. Special can be attached or detached in a jiffy!

**Price \$3.50**

Address all orders and send remittance to

**THE NORTHWEST**  
**TELEGRAPH AND TELEPHONE REVIEW**  
ROOM 415 TRIBUNE BLDG. MINNEAPOLIS

I started out this article by talking about a Parker fountain pen advertisement in *Life* magazine so let me come full circle and close it off with another fountain pen ad found in *The Review*. James Laughlin founded the Laughlin Manufacturing Company in Detroit, Michigan in 1896. The company manufactured fountain pens until they closed in the 1920s and I understand that some of their models are very collectable. Even just advertisements for their fountain pens are sometimes sold on the online auctions. OK, I can hear you yawning as you politely say, "Oh, that's interesting" with as much fake enthusiasm as you can muster. But there's more! There's a connection here to our passion with Morse code. It turns out that James Laughlin, starting at the age of fifteen, worked for four or five years as a telegraph operator for the Wabash Railroad! Thirty-four years later did he still have enough of a soft-spot in his heart for Morse code that he was willing to spend his advertizing dollars with an unknown upstart telegraphy magazine?

Well, I better QRT. I hope that you have enjoyed these articles. Perhaps you will even start to feel a little bit of an historical connection to the past as you pound your brass!

73  
DE N8XMS

TELEPHONE REVIEW 39

## LAUGHLIN AUTOMATIC NON--LEAKABLE SELF STARTING PEN FILLING PEN

### 10 Days' Free Trial

You don't have to fuss and shake a Laughlin to start the ink-It's a Self Starter.

You don't have to fill the Laughlin, it's a Self Filler.

You don't have to clean the Laughlin it's a Self Cleaner.

You don't have to monkey with awkward or unsightly locks, extensions, or so-called Safety devices-There are none.

You can't forget to seal a Laughlin against a leaking, it seals itself airtight Automatically.

You can't lose your cap from a Laughlin-it secures itself Automatically.

You can't break your cap or holder on a Laughlin-They are non-breakable.

Holder and cap of scientific reinforced construction throughout, see illustration.

You don't have to wait until a Laughlin is ready. It is ready to write when you are, the air-tight leak-proof construction keeps pen and feed "primed", insuring a free uniform flow of ink instantly-even though not previously used for a year.

It performs these functions with no more hindrance or interruption to your thoughts or writing inspiration than your breathing. These results -or your money back.

These features are peculiar only to this patented construction.

**\$2.50** By insured mail, prepaid to any address

Just enclose \$2.50 with this coupon containing your name and address, we will send the pen by return mail. Delivery guaranteed.


— Fill out and mail today —

**Laughlin Mfg. Co.**  
285 Wayne St., Detroit Mich.

Gentlemen—Here is \$2.50. Send the pen described in this advertisement. If pen is not satisfactory, you refund the money.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_




## NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH SPRINT:** This month our sprint will be on the 9th from 0030-0230z (Tuesday evening in the western hemisphere) and we are **celebrating our ninth anniversary!** N1A, N2A, N3A, N4A, N5A, N6A, N7A, N8A, N9A, and N0A will all be on the air during the sprint. Maybe you can get a section sweep in a single evening and qualify for a special certificate! Some great prizes have been selected and nine lucky winners will be chosen through a random drawing from the member participants. Lets see if we can break some records! HAVE FUN and GOOD LUCK!

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:** Our 107th sprint was a great time with good participation. 190 people participated with 117 logs submitted. (73 of you did not submit a log - Why not? It’s easy!) 100 of the logs were perfectly formatted “Silver Logs.”

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: W4AGT K7RNO K7QAT KM3D N2SO KB3KJS K1SX W4LDA N0CVW AA5XQ AK4JA AC5GG (nm) KF5PFU (nm) KC5NX N2OUV KF5J (nm) We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

There is a six-way tie for Silver Logs on the year with nine each: AA7CU, KB9ILT, KU4A, N8XMS, NQ2W, WA2JSG

Complete results for all of our past sprints are available at <http://naqcc.info/contests.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+	WB8LZG NU7T N8XMS K4JPN KU4A N4FI NF8M WY3H KB3AAG K3RLL KD0V VE3FUJ
75+	KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W2JEK KA2KGB K4BAI
100+	K3WWP
125+	

<b>CERTIFICATES</b>			
<b>SWA CATEGORY</b>			
Division	1 <sup>st</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	3 <sup>rd</sup>
W1	W1SFR		
W2	W2SH	WK2T	
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KB4QQJ	W4AGT	WB4OMM
W5	W5IQS	W5ODS	
W6	KA6AIL NQ6E tie		
W7	KE7YTE		
W8	NF8M	NI8N	
W9	KB9ILT		
W0	KI0I		
VE	VE3KI		
DX	CO8CML		
<b>KEY CATEGORIES</b>			
Straight Key (x2)	KB4QQJ		
Bug (x1.5)	AA9L		
Keyer (x1)	VE3KI		
<b>OTHER CATEGORIES</b>			
Gain	KC5NX		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	W4AGT		
Prize Drawing	KA9FQG		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
<b>Logs</b>	117	140	194	2/13
<b>Participants</b>	190	212	269	2/13
<b>Total QSOs</b>	2014	2466	2804	2/13
<b>Hour 1 QSOs</b>	1078	1295	1468	2/13
<b>Hour 2 QSOs</b>	936	1171	1334	2/13
<b>20m QSOs</b>	943	1232	1232	8/13
<b>40m QSOs</b>	995	1233	1534	4/12
<b>80m QSOs</b>	76	1	1417	2/13
<b>Avg QSOs / Station</b>	17.2	17.6	19.3	9/11



## NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE:** The October challenge is another one of our alphabet challenges with a Halloween theme. The list of words can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201310.html>. So 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!)

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 challenge for November will consist of words that are traditionally associated with Thanksgiving. Hopefully the smell of Turkey roasting in the oven won't distract you too much from making some Q's for this challenge!

**LAST MONTH CHALLENGE:** The September challenge was to make at least 20 QRPp QSOs - that's contacts using less than 1-watt of output from the start to finish. Soapbox comments indicate that everyone had a great time. Lengthy rag-chews and plenty of DX are in the logs, and probably everybody qualified for at least one 1000 miles-per-watt QSO. (ND9M calculated that his *average* was about 8,300 mpw!) As of this writing, which is before the report submission deadline, 16 people had successfully completed the challenge: MW0RSS WH6LE K3WWP N3CU N8ME N8XMS AK4JA N7KM NU7T ND9M AB8KT W2JEK K1IEE KB0ETU GM0DKK AA2VG

Complete results along with "soapbox" comments from participants can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201309.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

0280 - WU1V	A71CM	- 1,296 09/05/13 dipole@30'
0281 - WH6LE	W7CNL	- 1,971 09/05/13 215' horizontal loop at 45'
0282 - NK8O	E77DX	- 1,052 09/05/13 ground mount vertical
0283 - NK8O	S51WO	- 1,025 09/05/13 ground mount vertical
0284 - N3CU	AG4T	- 182,909 09/06/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0285 - N3CU	K8NWD	- 76,727 09/06/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0286 - N3CU	KW7D	- 35,515 09/06/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0287 - K3WWP	KH2L	- 1,549 09/16/13 Vertical dipole on side of house
0288 - N3CU	F5IN	- 7,785 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0289 - N3CU	GM0AV	- 6,965 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0290 - N3CU	HC2A	- 5,899 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0291 - N3CU	W6F	- 4,308 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0292 - N3CU	H70ORO	- 4,157 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0293 - N3CU	K7NJ	- 4,110 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0294 - N3CU	N9RV	- 3,973 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0295 - N3CU	N5FOC	- 3,405 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0296 - N3CU	CO6WD	- 2,525 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0297 - N3CU	W0BH	- 2,372 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0298 - N3CU	K5FOC	- 2,310 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0299 - N3CU	W1SOC	- 2,032 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0300 - N3CU	KM5PS	- 1,977 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0301 - N3CU	N5CW	- 1,942 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0302 - N3CU	K4S	- 1,351 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0303 - N3CU	K3IF/1	- 1,308 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0304 - N3CU	W8IX	- 1,101 09/17/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0305 - N3CU	W4OGZ	- 1,355 09/18/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0306 - N3CU	W9FAM	- 1,138 09/18/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0307 - N3CU	PY2WC	- 2,390 09/20/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0308 - N3CU	N4OW	- 1,818 09/20/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0309 - N3CU	RK9UAH	- 1,178 09/20/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0310 - N3CU	YN2PX	- 4,157 09/20/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0311 - N3CU	W7FB	- 3,833 09/20/13 center-fed Zepp@50'
0312 - N3CU	FG5FR	- 3,824 09/20/13 center-fed Zepp@50'

### KMPW 100 AWARD

0006 - K0FNR 09/09/13  
0007 - NK8O 09/13/13

### KMPW 100 HONOR ROLL

K3WWP 1118 09/14/13

### WAS AWARD

0021 - NK8O 09/05/13



## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

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

### JOHN LEMERY JR., N2DVD, #6291



Hi, my name is John and I live in the Foothills of the Adirondack Mountains. A small little village called Fort Edward just South of Lake George, New York where the motorcycle rally Americade is held each year.

I have been Licensed as a Amateur Radio Operator since 1979. My original call sign was KA2HJE as a Novice with the 5 WPM Code, then Technician and General Class with the 13 WPM Code. As a Novice, my 1<sup>st</sup> and primary radio was the Heathkit HW-8 which I built from the kit, starting right off with QRP. I was excited making contacts with others with higher power who could not believe that I was QRP! Falling in love with QRP, I purchased the Ten Tec Argonaut 515.

Today, I am using the following radios; ICOM IC-718, Uniden HR2600, Ranger Communication RCI 5054DX, Kenwood All Mode 2 Meter TR-9130, Kenwood Dual Bander 2 Meter – 70 CM FM and a Wouxun KG-UV3D. Antenna system consist of simple wires and verticals.

Rag Chewing is one of my favorite activities. Others include Mountain Topping and Portable Operations, VHF SSB,CW and Simplex Operating.

Current memberships include: ARRL, NAQCC #6291, FPQRP #2984, QRP ARCI #5348, FISTS #16320 and SKCC # 9837.

Hope to hear you!

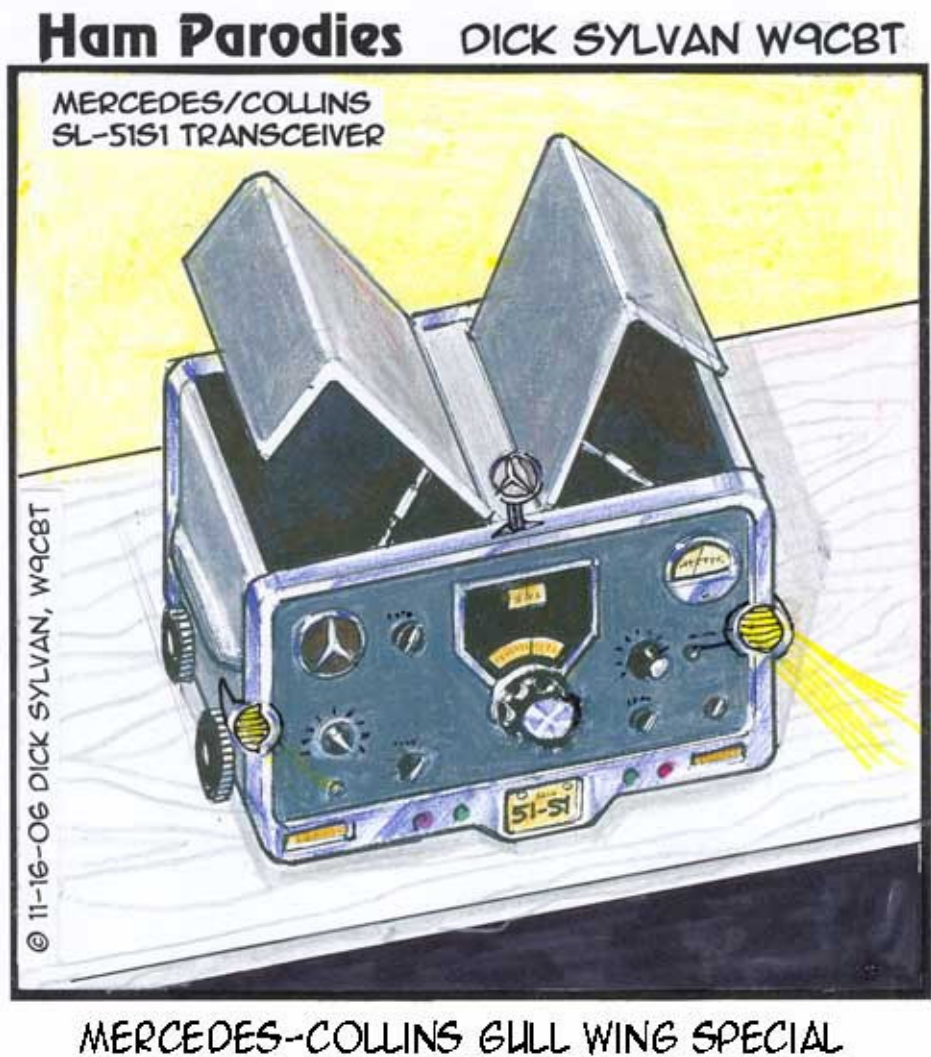
73 John N2DVD



# 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/>.





## NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

We currently have five chapters—European, Texas, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia 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 [Paul142857@gmail.com](mailto:Paul142857@gmail.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 [kd2mx@arrl.net](mailto:kd2mx@arrl.net). Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to [Paul142857@gmail.com](mailto:Paul142857@gmail.com) for posting to this section of the newsletter.

### NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER:

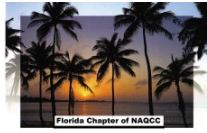


Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to [matt@naqcc-eu.org](mailto:matt@naqcc-eu.org). The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

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.

No additional report is available.

**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).

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its September field event Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, at 9am, at Sunrise Park in Holly Hill, FL. The park is about a mile North of the Daytona Beach City Limits and is directly on the Halifax Intracoastal Waterway (the “official” name of the Halifax River!)

Art WB4MNK (16 QSOs on 20M with his KX-1 at 4 W) and Steve WB4OMM (4 QSOs on 40M with his IC-706MKIIG running 5W out) were able to make contacts including NAQCC members KB0ETU, WA2KSM, W5EST, WA2JSG, KC5NX, N3VXT, KD2JC, N9WAY, K2YGM, W0EJ, N8BB, WD9F, N7EDK, KB8KIK, WA8SAN, N1ZX, WB4DKF, WD4E, and KJ4CIA – the bands were relatively quiet, with some good signals present most of the morning. We worked stations in AL, NY, AR, NJ, TX, PA, WI, SD, MI, IL, AZ, OH, FL, and NC. Antennas included Steve’s Inverted Vee, Wally’s dipole, and Art’s 44 ft doublet.


Once again, Wally KG4LAL searched the 17M airwaves with his old, dependable FT-817 but had no luck in snagging a QSO! Our dependable “assistant”, Darryl AB8GU arrived and helped with the “takedown” and photographs; Paul NU4C, a regular at our local portable ops, also stopped by to say “Hi” too. We quit at 11:15 and ventured to Hampton’s Restaurant in Daytona Beach, where we met several other local hams telling our CW QRP portable “tales” and enjoyed a great, reasonably priced lunch.



**From L-R:** WB4MNK #5274 (squatting – he does it so well!!) KG4LAL #6278, and WB4OMM #5913, with the Holly Hill Sunrise Park Dedication Marker, adjacent to our operating pavilion. Yeah, we three have become the “usual suspects” Hi hi hi.....

*(Continued on page 19)*

We also provided a unique QSL card for this portable operation to all that we contacted (as we usually do!) Photos taken by our capable assistant, Darryl AB8GU.



Wally  
KG4LAL  
6278

Art  
WB4MNK  
5274

Steve  
WB4OMM  
5913



**NAQCC**  
NORTH  
AMERICAN  
QRP CW CLUB

**Volusia County - Grid Locator EL99**

FLORIDA CHAPTER NAQCC

## Portable Operations in the Park Sunrise Park, Holly Hill, FL

QSO WITH	CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	FREQ/MODE	R S T	72/73! T U for the QSO
<b>WB4OMM</b>	<b>N1ZX</b>	<b>20 SEPT 2013</b>	<b>1333Z</b>	<b>40M/CW</b>	<b>599</b>	

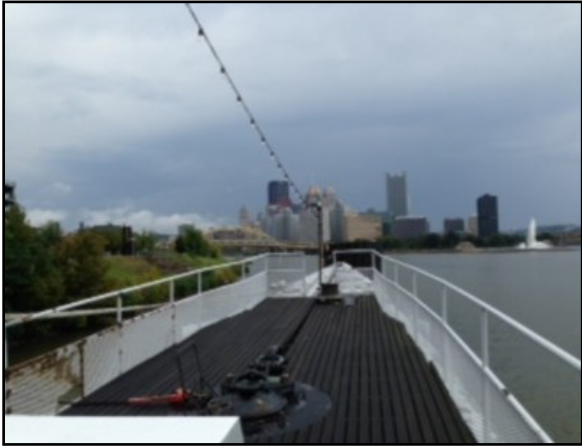
Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC event.  
72/73 to all!...

**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 Thursday, September 12, 2013 NAQCC WPA Chapter members Mike KC2EGL (#1236) and John K3WWP (#0002) conducted an operation from aboard the USS Requin submarine moored near the Carnegie Science Center in downtown Pittsburgh.



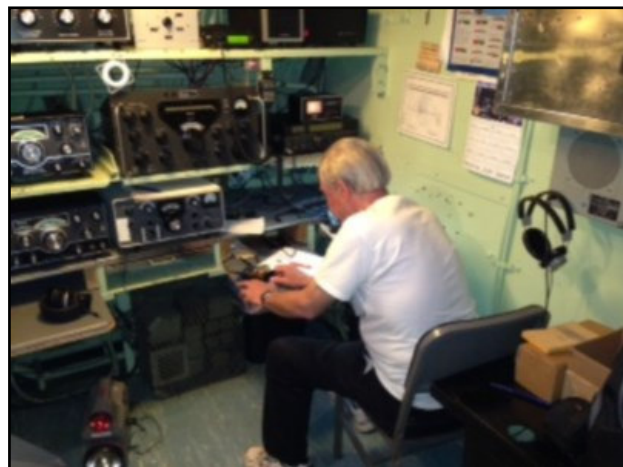
*(Continued on page 21)*

We arrived at the sub shortly before 1400Z and met Art WA3BKD who is caretaker of the sub.



We set up our equipment (KX3s and Begali paddles). Art set up the antenna connection for us. The antenna was a random wire run between the inner and outer hull of the submarine and terminated in a vertical section on the antenna mast of the sub.

Only one band could be used at a time, and as we said in our announcement if that was the case we would start on 7041 for the first hour. Mike's first CQ garnered a small pile up of four or so stations. KD2JC was pulled out of the pile up for the first QSO of the day.



Activity was good for the first 90 minutes of so. We made 12 QSOs in the first half hour. The 12<sup>th</sup> QSO was a sub to sub QSO with WW2DEM – the USS Slater in Albany, NY operated by NAQCC member Stan WB2LQF. John K3WWP was at the key for that QSO.

In the second half hour we made 10 more QSOs. One of the QSOs was with Don K3RLL who unfortunately could not join us today on the Requin. At 1500Z we switched to 14061 and made 7 QSOs in that hour.

A severe thunderstorm with high wind and strong lightning forced us to shut down for just about an hour from 1536 to 1638Z. When we were able to resume, activity slowed down, and we made only eight more

*(Continued on page 22)*

QSOs until we ceased our operation at around 1900Z with a total of 37 QSOs from NY NJ PA CT MI TX MO LA OH CA VA MA WI AR NC AZ.

The next to last QSO was with Jerry K6III in CA who was a sub vet from the USS Rock.

Everyone who worked the sub today will get a NY3EC QSL and the QSO will count as a five point QSO towards the NAQCC Friendship Club award because NY3EC was operated by the NAQCC and its club call N3AQC (#1100).

All in all a very enjoyable day for Mike and John made even better because of the way that Art made us feel very comfortable just like being at home.



We hope to have another subpedition no later than next June, and hopefully Don K3RLL will be able to join us for that one. See you then.

=====

As an afterthought, we decided to have our Awards Manager John KK1X send out an email certificate to each of the 36 ops we worked from the Requin. John K3WWP designed the certificate featuring pictures of the sub, the radio room, the two ops and the Requin and NAQCC logos. Also a brief history of the Requin from its commissioning in April 1945 to present. We got some nice feedback from a couple of those who received the certificates.

Here are excerpts from the feedback:

Bob W9JOP (#0241), "John and Mike, Mni tks for the beautiful certificate. Well illustrated and certainly excellent shots of the radio room, sub, background on the sub from "stem to stern", AND the two ops! .....I printed it out, looks "snazzy"."

Dave W0CH (#0096), "Hello John (and CC to K3WWP): Thank you for sending the Requin certificate. It looks great and the JPEG image is exactly the right size for my desktop computer's wallpaper. After my contact, I discovered that the Requin was previously on display in the Hillsboro river at Tampa. I lived in Florida in the 80's and saw the sub in the river there, however I was not able to board or tour her. I remember seeing on the TV news at the time when she was being towed out (with some difficulty as I recall), but was not aware that she went to Pittsburgh. John S [and Mike], thanks for putting a historical

*(Continued on page 23)*

vessel on the air. I hope you get many more opportunities to activate her in the future with QRP and CW."

Hmmm, maybe we'll do a certificate for our N3A parkpedition on October 6 during anniversary week. KK1X has the certificate system automated so it is not that much of a task. Anyway, be sure to try to work us on the 6th and find out what we decided to do.

=====

To 'kick off' our NAQCC Ninth Anniversary celebration, WPA Chapter members Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP will activate N3A from the Kittanning Community Park in one of our parkpeditions on Sunday October 6. Approximate times will be 1600Z - 2100Z activity and weather permitting. Main frequencies will be 7041 and 14061 with some 10117 if time permits. Should conditions be good enough, perhaps an excursion to 21061 for a check there. Unless there are an extraordinary large number of QSOs, we will send out a picture QSL to all we work as we do with all our parkpeditions.

We will have a second parkpedition with pretty much the same details as above on Columbus Day, October 14 except the call will be our regular club call N3AQC for that one.

Watch for any possible updates on the NAQCC email list closer to the operations.

We hope to have you in the log for both parkpeditions.

### **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 WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER:



Items in this section are from John. N8ZYA. unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John at [jspiker58@gmail.com](mailto:jspiker58@gmail.com). The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>.

My Fellow Club Members,

Several months ago, my good friend Eric (AC8LJ) and I met for “morning coffee” in Charleston, WV to talk about our radio “happenings” and the techniques we use to nab those “hard to catch” DX stations. We enjoyed that morning “chat” so much that we’ve repeated it every month afterwards and will continue to do so for many more months.

Such was the spark for a new Chapter of the NAQCC club!

I’ve been a ham now for nearly 25 years and have always operated QRP from a stealth location. I’ve never regretted that decision to use “portable low power gear” and, as a matter of fact, I cherish the idea that I can operate from a “beautiful outdoor vantage point” and use only a few amps of power.

West Virginia has many beautiful places to transmit with a QRP radio, and we have many good operators in this state. I sent out an e-mail to them and got a good response which encourages me to start a “West Virginia Chapter” of the NAQCC Club.

I quickly learned that some of us:

- Use a fiberglass flag pole to hide their antenna.
- Use a 60 ft copper rain gutter for an antenna.
- Use an indoor random wire for an antenna.
- Use indoor dedicated band dipoles.

Our new Chapter of the NAQCC club in West Virginia is just beginning; but I anticipate a growing group with an enthusiast love for Morse Code and QRP. I hope to meet for coffee, exchange our operating ideas, discuss our favorite keys, and operate outdoors whenever possible.

You can find our web site from a link on my web page, (the easiest way) or Google plus.

<http://n8zyradioblog.blogspot.com/>

<https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>

Should you choose to do so (and I hope you will) keep track of our activities, and join us when we’re on the air, or better yet, drop me a line and join us for coffee when we agree on a schedule for our meetings.

If you’re already a member of the NAQCC club and if you live in West Virginia, please join us for friendship and fellowship as we progress into a larger club.

Happy Trails,

John Smithson N8ZYA , #2279



## 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 Net Manager Chuck, KB1ZMX at [cfytech24x7@gmail.com](mailto:cfytech24x7@gmail.com).

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net	Sunday 8 PM Eastern	Monday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
East Texas	Monday 7 PM Central	Tuesday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net	Monday 9 PM Central	Tuesday 0200 Z	7123.5 KHz	Steve, WB0QQT (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tues/Thurs 4 PM Mountain	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tues/Thurs 4:45 PM Mountain	Tues/Thurs 2245 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
East Coast	Thursday 8:30 PM Eastern	Friday 0030 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	7123.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

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

- 9-01-2013 no report
- 9-08-2013 (6) NCS N4PLK W4HH N9RLO K3NLT N2OH N6TLU
- 9-15-2013 NCS KC4URI no report
- 9-22-2013 (5) NCS WB1HGA N3FLL N8IUP KB1ZMX W4HH  
 VE3PUJ responded to QNI but owing to some confusion was not called in sequence. Sorry Brion!
- 9-29-2013 (4) NCS WB1HGA N8IUP W4HH NI2F KB1ZMX  
 Got weak copy on N6PFK? but could not sustain contact due to noise level.

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

- 09-02-2013 (4) NCS KA5TJS KG0YR K5GSL K5BRY  
 QRN was bad but the signals that made it were very good. Welcome to Greg in AR K5GSL
- 9-9-2013 (4) NCS KA5TJS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA  
 Had to shift up to 7.061kc due to a QSO on 7.060. Signals were good but not much activity
- 9-16-2013 (7) NCS KA5TJS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA KB0ETU N5DRG KF5J  
 The band was in great shape, all signals good. Welcome to John KF5J in Beaumont, TX.
- 9-23-2013 (6) NCS KA5TJS KA5TJS KE5YUM K5BRY N5DRG KB0ETU KG0YR  
 QRN was ruff but everyone came thru very well. Did the net with the new FT-817 at 5w.
- 9-30-2013 (5)NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA K5BRY KB0ETU N5DRG  
 QRN was ruff but everyone made it in very well.

*(Continued on page 26)*

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) - Monday, 9:00 PM Central Time, 7.123.5 Mhz

9-23-13 (15) NCS WB0QQT K9EYT WA9FZP K5BRY N5DRG K0ETU N0AD AC8JW AA0W  
KR5RR KF7YHB NI2F KE9DR N7HRK KG0YR

All signals were good and strong but I am sure I missed a few weak ones. Wow, what a turn out for the first MWN net. My special thanks to all who made this a success. I confess to being nervous and stumbling and hope to smooth things out in the future. May have to shorten up the comments as I ran over into the PNW net by about 15 minutes. Sorry about that JB!

9-30-2013 no net due to NCS illness.

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Tuesday/Thursday 4:00 PM Mountain Time, 14.062.5 Mhz The net times will shift with DST so when DST goes the net will meet at 2100z (5:00 PM)

9-03-2013 (5) NCS WC7S K6OIO KF7WNS KA4RUR N9RLO  
9-05-2013 (8) NCS WC7S KF7WNS W3HZZ K0ZK KA4RUR AF9W KU7Y ND9M  
9-10-2013 (4) NCS WC7S KE6OIO KF7WNS W0BAV  
9-12-2013 (10) NCS WC7S K0DTJ K5HG AA7CU W3HZZ KE6OIO W7MDK KF7WNS AD7BP  
VE1BA  
9-17-2013 (4) NCS WC7S K5HG KE6OIO N9RLO  
9-19-2013 no net  
9-24-2013 (6) NCS WC7S K5HG W2SH W3HZZ KF7WNS K6MGO  
9-26-2013 WC7S 5 KE6OIO NE5DL AB7BP K0DTJ

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMR) - Tuesday/Thursday, 4:45 PM Mountain Time, 7.0652.5 Mhz The net times will shift with DST so when DST goes the net will meet at 2145z (5:45 PM)

9-03-2013 (3) NCS WC7S N9RLO KF7WNS  
9-05-2013 (3) NCS WC7S 3 KV6Z W0CH  
9-10-2013 (3) NCS WC7S N9RLO KF7WNS  
9-12-2013 (1) NCS WC7S  
9-17-2013 (2) NCS WC7S N9RLO  
9-19-2013 no net  
9-24-2013 (3) NCS WC7S KV6Z K9UT  
9-26-2013 (1) NCS WC7S

The bands are changing, and with that the second net will be picking up. Some days the first net runs the second net a bit late for the first net call, but with everyone knowing that is happening, it is not an issue. The second net just waits a bit. I am hoping my tower crew can get here this coming week, and the new antennas can be put up. That should make a bit of an improvement for the NCS signal on both bands. There will be almost a thousand feet of wire to slow the birds down when it is all done.

NAQCC East Coast QRS Net (ECN) - Thursday, 8:30 PM Eastern Time, 7.060 Mhz

9-05-2013 no report  
9-12-2013 no report  
9-19-2013 no report  
9-26-2013 no report

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

9/06/13 (4) NCS WB4SPB K6DMT KR5RR AD7BP  
9/12/13 (5) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX K&ZNP NU7T WB0QQT  
9/19/13 (7) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX AD7BP K7ZNP WB4SPB K7IRA N7HRK  
9/26/13 (5) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP N6KIX W7MWF WB4SPB

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 8:00 PM, Pacific Time, 7.123.5 MHz  
9-02-2013 (4) NCS KR5RR KF7YHB KF7CL KE7LKW

Also one really weak station none of us could copy.

9-09-2013 (3) NCS KR5RR KF7YHB N7HRK W5EIU

9-16-2013 (5) NCS KR5RR K6DMT WB0QQT N7HRK KF7YHB

Also W0UFC? Bob we could not copy call sign. An AC7?? tried to checkin but didn't get him. Interesting propagation tonight. Solid signals until about 8:40 then some fairly deep QSB. Wyatt & I tried a go after the net, started out OK, loud at 10w, but then QSB'd 'til nothing worked. New frequency seems to be free from tune-ups and tests!

9-23-2013 (6) NCS KR5RR K6DMT N7HRK WB4SPB KF&YHB KW6Q

9-30-2013 (5) NCS KR5RR; KE7WPK W7WMWF N7HRK WB4SPB

Good net tonight, if somewhat short. Welcome to Bob KE7WPK. Poor copy here in SF due to deep QSB, 599 down into noise and then back again. Starting to see a trend that around 8:30 or so some serious QSB sets in and the band goes long. KW6G wrote that he checked in around 8:40 but didn't hear anyone.



## 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 we are back to Op mistakes.

Another prevailing Op error is keying at varying speed. The keying goes along well, speed wise until the Op gets in familiar territory, say his own call or some other area of familiarity, then he speeds up perhaps as much as 5-6 wpm or more. That is very confusing to most people on the receiving end and only the most experienced will not get rattled by this severe dither. Also be aware of slowing down when sending something unfamiliar. In either case it is confusing to the other Op and he may ask for a repeat, which would be a waste of, in some cases, precious time. For example, if you were partaking in public assistance like a disaster, the wasted time could have dire consequence. So be consistent in your speed regardless of what you may be sending. The actual speed is not really important, its the precision that counts.

Remember that both good and bad habits are equally hard to break. Record yourself at regular intervals and listen to it, and be unbiased in your judgment. Try to change if you don't like what you are hearing. I recently read an old article about Op's and keying. It seems nothing has changed in the near 90 yrs since this article was first printed. The sloppy Op's are still with us. ----- I wish ----- they would crawl into the wood-work and stay there. A fellow Ham once told me (with some emotion thrown in) that semi-automatic keys, cooties and electronic keyers should never have been invented. I didn't quite agree with him. The use of semis and keyers could save you severe injury like "Glass-arm" or "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome" and in the hands of a good Op, they sound just fine. However, its takes quite a bit more practice with these devises than it does with a straight key. But close attention should be paid to correct keying at all times. It's so very easy to become sloppy with those type of key's.

I recently had a QSO with a ham at about 16 WPM. I had pegged him using a Straight Key - I was about 98% sure. (This is one of my quirks, trying to determine what the other guy is using. Most of the time it's too easy!) Well surprise, he said he was using an old "Vibroplex"! How sweet it sounded, near perfect dots to dashes spacing, dot and dashes (1:3) also were of near perfect length to each other. It really is a rarity to come across someone that good.

If you think that you need a bit of practice sending Code, don't hesitate to contact a "Code Buddy" listed in CW Assistance section of the club website - [http://naqcc.info/cw\\_buddies.html](http://naqcc.info/cw_buddies.html). They will be only to glad to help out. 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 John, K3WWP, #0002 -- Zero-beat Circuit

I have found from our sprints and working other members here and there, that some seem to have trouble with zero beating. It probably is due in part to the use of simple rigs that do not have the excellent zero beat circuitry of say a KX3. Several years ago, I was sent a diagram for a simple circuit that will provide a zero beat indication on just about any rig in which the sidetone monitor audio frequency is the same as the VFO offset frequency.

While I have not built nor used the circuit myself, others have including WB0OEW and G4YVM, two of whom come to mind. WB0OEW has modified the original circuit, and his modifications are included in the description of the circuit. G4YVM recently built the circuit and here is what he had to say about it, "John, It works [like] a treat! Thank you. I've posted a photo on the FISTS UK reflector and credited your design etc."

I pointed out that it is not my design, but that of WI5W who published it originally in the March 1992 QST magazine. It was sent to me by W6OWP (SK), subsequently modified by Elwood WB0OEW, and is posted on my web site at <http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/> in the CW section on the page Zero Beat Ckt. Or you can go directly to [http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/cw\\_ss\\_zerobeat.html](http://home.windstream.net/johnshan/cw_ss_zerobeat.html).

I'll try to answer any questions about it, but as I said, I've never built nor used it myself. I was always good at zero beating by ear, and now with the KX3, augmented by the panadapter, I can zero beat to within a few Hz.

If you do build and use it, you might mention that in an article for the member news section of the NAQCC newsletter.

### From John, K3WWP, #0002 --

As you are perhaps too well aware, I've been bragging on the KX3 ever since I built it about a year ago. Well, Art WB4MNK sent the following to Don K3RLL who relayed it to me. It's a report on virtually every ham radio receiver and receiver section of virtually every ham radio transceiver in existence. It was made by an independent professional testing lab. If you read the report [www.sherweng.com/table.html](http://www.sherweng.com/table.html), I think you'll see my bragging was accurate. Of all the well over 100 listings, the KX3 comes in at #2 when sorted by the very meaningful parameter of "Third-Order Dynamic Range Narrow Spaced". Number 1, you may ask. Something called the Hiberling PT-8000A of which I've never heard. Just scroll down the other non-sorted columns also and you'll see the KX3 is near the top in the majority of them. For example "Filter Ultimate (db)" where it is second to the old Drake R-4C/CF-600/6. It's interesting to see a lot of the older receivers stack up well in some features against the newer rigs. It's hard to scroll through so many listings in columns where the numbers are not neatly aligned, but as far as I can see, the KX3 is the only rig who's

*(Continued on page 30)*

sensitivity comes in under 0.1 microvolt - just barely at 0.09 microvolts, but..... Anyway take a look for yourself. Many of you know about my streak of making a QRP/CW/simple wire antenna QSO every day. On October 3, that streak reached 7,000 consecutive days. Also I have a secondary streak of making a DX QSO every day which on that same day reached 217 consecutive days. Yes indeed, a minimal QRP setup like mine does work despite the many scoffers out there in the ham radio world who think you need a KW, beam, and hilltop location to work even local stations. The European Chapter September challenge did turn out to be a challenge for me. It took a long time to find a European station with an 8 in the call, then an even longer time to find one with a 6, but I made it and have now mastered all but one of their 12 challenges so far. Not sure why I missed that one other than because I was very busy during the Dec 2012/Jan 2013 period for that challenge. Anyway mastering the European challenges from here across the pond is just one more indication of how well CW and QRP works, even with simple wire antennas in a far from optimum location. So if you have doubts, give DX a try no matter your situation. You may be pleasantly surprised.





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  
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## 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.



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