

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 185 NOVEMBER 2013



KEY CLICKS

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- ◆ **OUR 9TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION** was a tremendous success. A record number of N#A QSOs were made during the week and the special sprint prize drawing generated a lot of interest as well, resulting in several new records. You can find complete reports on the *N#A Wrapup* and *NAQCC Sprints* pages of this newsletter.
- ◆ **CW WAS COMPLETED WITH NAQCC ASSISTANCE.** On October 23 NAQCC member Jim, NX8Z, posted on the NAQCC guestbook page (http://naqcc.info/guestbook_view.html) a request for help in completing his CW WAS. He still needed SD and NE. John, K3WWP, read the posting and got in touch with members W0EJ (SD) and WB0QQT (NE) to see if they could help. To make a long story short, later that same day NX8Z worked W0EJ who then referred him a NE friend of his. NX8Z then worked the NE friend even before he had the chance to schedule with WB0QQT. Congratulations to Jim on his fine accomplishment and kudos to John, Bill, and Steve for helping out their fellow NAQCC member.
- ◆ **COMPUTER ADVICE REQUESTED.** At first I didn't think that this was an appropriate item for the newsletter but on second thought there is an important connection. My wife and I are starting to shop for a new computer. We have always been *Windows* people but recent experience with an iPad and iPhone are causing us to include Apple products in our considerations. Here is my NAQCC question... Is the "Pages" software that is included on Apple computers powerful enough to produce a product like this newsletter? Or would some other software package (at extra cost) be needed? I would appreciate hearing from anyone that has experience with *Pages* and/or other Mac publishing software. My email address is Paul142857@gmail.com . Thanks and 73, Paul - N8XMS
- ◆ **DONATIONS NEEDED.** We recently received the renewal notice for our web hosting and domain name. Once we pay this bill our treasury will actually be about \$30 in the red with one small additional obligation coming at the end of the year. If you have never made a donation to the NAQCC, or have not done so in a long time, please consider what you might do to help. As you know, there are no dues for the NAQCC so all of our financial obligations must be met by donations from our members. If you would like to make a donation please send a check or money order made out to Paul Huff, 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. Your donation will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to another officer as a "check-and-balance." Thank you.
- ◆ **QRS NETS QSY.** Recent band conditions along with some propagation predictions have caused some of our QRS nets to QSY to 80-meters. See the *QRS Nets* page in this newsletter for details.

(Continued on page 2)

- ◆ **HAMCALL NOW INCLUDING NAQCC NUMBERS.** HamCall, also known as Buckmaster (<http://hamcall.net/call>), is now including a field in their database for NAQCC membership numbers. About once a month we will send them an update with our new membership numbers. Eventually you will be able to update/edit your own record with them as well but as of this writing that has not yet been implemented. (A HamCall membership will be needed for that option but it's free.) Don't forget to include a mention of the NAQCC in your <http://www.qrz.com/> bio as well.
- ◆ **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** I would like to wish all of you a very happy Thanksgiving. I hope that you will be able to enjoy some wonderful time with family and friends, plenty of turkey, and the opportunity to count your blessings. 73, Paul - N8XMS

N#A WRAPUP, BY PAUL HUFF - N8XMS

Our ninth anniversary celebration with special event stations operating all over the country was a tremendous success. Forty-two operators put the N#A call on the air from all ten US districts and combined for a total of 1318 QSOs. This shattered the old record of 948 QSOs made in 2012. Almost 85% of the contacts were made on 20 and 40 meters. A complete band breakdown is shown in the table below.

BAND	QSOs
160	1
80	91
40	585
30	40
20	530
17	3
15	30
12	8
10	29
6	1

We almost made Worked All States with 48 in the log (Maybe next year?). Only North Dakota and Hawaii were missed. The most frequently worked states were North Carolina (23), Missouri (21), and Pennsylvania (20). In Canada we worked British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario, Quebec, and Saskatchewan. DX was well represented with 29 different countries worked: Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cuba, Czech Republic, Djibouti, France, Germany, Great Britain, Guernsey, Hungary, Italy, Japan, Lithuania, Mariana Islands, Mexico, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Northern Ireland, Poland, Puerto Rico, Sable Island, Saint Kitts, Saint Vincent, San Marino, Sardinia, Slovak Republic, and Switzerland. That’s a pretty impressive list!

As of this writing results have not been completely tabulated but at least one person managed to work all ten US districts. We will have a complete report on that once the analysis has been completed.

258 self-spots were posted on our NAQCC real-time scheduler page so finding N#A stations to work was fairly easy. The web page also gave the operators a simple way to keep things legal and avoid conflicts with each other.

Sixteen two-way N#A/N#A QSOs were made. There could have been a lot more but many of the operators were kept too busy meeting the demand for their special call to go hunting for the other special calls.

Nine sections had N#A stations on during our sprint. Collectively they accounted for 12.4% (387) of the total QSOs that were made. I can say that the N8A special call clearly “added” several dBs to my signal and I set an all-time personal record for myself. Several other N#A ops reported similar situations and many of us actually experienced pile-ups – in a domestic QRP contest!

If you take the time to read the N#A soapbox comments below you will see a reoccurring theme – FUN!

(Continued on page 4)

We had a blast and I would encourage you to consider participating next year. There is plenty of room for more operators. It doesn't require special equipment, high skill levels, or excessive time. So watch for the announcement about our 10th anniversary N#A operations next year and sign-up for the fun.

A big THANK YOU to our N#A operators: N1QLL, W1OH, N1DN, WB1HGA, N1IMW, WA2NYY, WK2T, KQ2RP, NA2AA, N2DVD, K3WWP, K2DEP, WB3T, WA3HIC, AF3Z, KC2EGL, WY3H, K4BAI, KB4QQJ, KI4EBD, KU4GW, AI4SV, ND9M, WB5UDA, W5WIL, K6MGO, NA6MG, N7RCS, AB7MP, WU7F, N8XMS, AC8AP, W8RTJ, AD7TN, N8IUP, AI9IN, K9EYT, AB9YC, W9XC, W0EJ, AA0W, KC0PMH.

SOAPBOX (in no particular order):

N9A/K9EYT... Working the sprint as one of the N/A stations has been one of my bucket list goals HI HI. 53 years as a ham and never really did much contesting. Learned a few things had a good time, put in some hours calling and working stations and trying to keep the log in order. I would like to thank all those who manage the club and keep things running so well.

N3A/K3WWP... Another week of fun and excitement in an NAQCC anniversary celebration. Didn't have all that much time to put in as N3A, but what time there was turned out to be a lot of fun. The parkpedition on Sunday with Mike KC2EGL was a highlight. It's always fun to do those parkpeditions with Mike and/or Don K3RLL, and using our special event call added to the excitement and the action considerably. It was also nice to put N3A in the FISTS sprint on Saturday. FISTS has always been great to us ever since the inception of the NAQCC back in 2004. We hope the presence of N3A (and N4A) in their sprint helped out. Then right after the FISTS sprint ended, I had fun giving out Armstrong county via N3A in the PA QSO Party for three hours until our special event call expired at 2400Z Saturday.

N7A/WU7F... I had fun operating as N7A at various times during the anniversary week. This was my second year doing so. Thanks so much to every operator who hung in there and was able to make contact with me (George, K3EMS - deserves an award for really sticking with it even though my signal was so weak - I think we had six attempts at exchange/verify to complete the contact!)

I didn't plan ahead as well as I should have. I tried using a logging program's CW interface. I wasn't used to it, and ran into problems where it wouldn't relinquish control to the paddle as expected. The next day, I switched back to my stand-alone keyer, and in middle of contacts, discovered that my batteries needed replacement (I've only had to replace the batteries once before during the three years I have owned that keyer). I am reminded of the advice we have all heard before: "Get familiar with the operation of your station and tools PRIOR to going on-the-air!" Another lesson I learned during the event is rather than spend a full hour (or more) on a single band, it is more productive to only spend 30 minutes, then move to another band.

Each contact was fun and very much appreciated. I'd have to say that the most noteworthy contact was with Taun, KD7GWL. Taun earned his Extra ticket when he was 12 years old (and passed the 5 wpm test that was required at that time); but he had only made a CW contact with his Elmer present. Other interests competed for his attention while growing-up and he hasn't been active in Ham radio for over ten years. Now in his mid-twenties, he is just getting back into it. I was honored to be his first CW contact while flying 'solo' this week when he gave 'N7A' a call on 30 meters (I believe this was also his first 30-meter QSO). I hope we will hear him often on the CW bands!

I encourage others to participate as Special Event stations for NAQCC. There are so many open time slots available, it would be great to have additional coverage. I'm looking forward to signing-up again next year. I'll make sure to have fresh batteries in my keyer before I start (and put a straight-key in-line as a backup!) 72 - Mark, WU7F

N2A/WA2NYY... Operating N2A was a ton of fun. I had an all time high number of QSOs for the Sprint. John WK2T and I operated our own Parkpedition on 40m yesterday at a local park here in ENY. We worked the PA QSO Party for an hour or so with a KX3 and 40m inverted vee fed with ladder line. Great day and beautiful weather.

N1A/N1QLL... extremely discouraging.

N3A/WA3HIC... Competing full power stations, a multiplicity of full power contest stations, and nasty QRN made our 9th Anniversary Special Event...once again, a challenge. But, all the more worth putting a special personal effort into our event. Sorry John for the poor results. Wish the bands & the Qrn would have co-operated giving us better results.

N3A/WB3T... What a blast to operate on behalf of the club! Just to do this small part took some doing, I can't imagine all the time NAQCC facilitators put in to organize regular club matters, and then events every month on top of that. It was great to work some of the regulars I usually meet in the Sprint and also some new calls as well, and it was fun to work mostly one frequency all evening with enough passers-by to keep me busy. I was able to get into Colorado (NO2D) with a little extra effort on both parts, a bit beyond what I can usually do from my antenna-restricted neighborhood using QRP so thanks Peter for the great work. At times I scanned through the 40 meter band and was pleasantly surprised to hear "CQ NA" calls every 500 Hz or so from 7030 up well beyond 7040. (I squeezed in at 7039.5 for almost the whole two hours.) You couldn't fit another QSO in that sub-band with a shoehorn! Based on that and member numbers approaching the 7,000's, the club seems to be mushrooming and filling the airwaves with CW QRP. Music to my ears! 73, WB3T

N3A/K2DEP... I enjoyed being N3A and wished that I had more time to devote to the event. Thanks to those that answered my calls. Hope to see you on the bands. Rig was an ICOM IC-703 with a 102' G5RV at 40' above sea level. 73 Steve K2DEP NAQCC# 6205

N8A/W8RTJ... My first time trying this, great fun wish I had more time and the bands had been better. Look forward to next one. 72 JIM W8RTJ

N0A/W0EJ... The weather and conditions favored operations during the week overall. At times the band segments were a bit crowded but I would update the spotting page and keep calling. It was a lot of fun doing something for the club and in retrospect I wish I would have had more time to work additional time slots. My thanks to you all that pulled my signal out and apologies to all those I could not copy, primarily during the Sprint when things got hectic at times. I switched the 250 Hz filter on and off and kept trying all the adjustments my rig has but still I am sure there were many more stations that did not get through. Looking forward to working N0A again next year....Maybe a protable trip to ND?? 72 Bill

N4A/K4BAI... Soapbox: Great conditions, great activity, much fun with the anniversary calls. Thanks for all QSOs. I am sure that the score is the highest I have ever made in a NAQCC Sprint and it was helped greatly by use of the N4A call. 73, John, K4BAI, NAQCC #644.

N4A/AI4SV... In the wee morning hours of Oct 12th, only made one contact in two hours of calling CQ, but very glad to have taken part in some small way in the club's anniversary.

N5A/WB5UDA... I can only speak for myself but the NAQCC sprints and this last week of anniversary contacts was really something special for me... Really enjoyed it.. Thanks for letting me operate as N5A. Jay Stanfield WB5UDA

N1A/W1OH... Didn't have enough time available in the evenings unfortunately; only able to operate one mid-day session due to family obligations. Tried 17M and 30M on a dipole, and 20M using the tri-band yagi at the Falmouth ARA club station (K1AIR). Only success was on 20M.

N8A/N8IUP... Had lots o fun... TNX, Michael - N8IUP

N9A/AB9YC... My operating time was a bit less than I anticipated when I joined the fray, and a few times I operated for more than 45 minutes with no results. So it goes. I did get some contacts and was happy to represent the anniversary operations

N1A/WB1HGA... I was plagued with antenna issues but finally had it repaired prior to FISTS SPRINT (logged 22 QSO's as N1A with 4 watts. 72 Ron, wb1hga

N7A/N7RCS... See you next year! Jim N7RCS



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: The November sprint will be on Thursday, November 21 from 0130-0330 Z. (That’s Wednesday evening in the western hemisphere and has been adjusted for the time change that took place this month.) Sometimes sports teams will experience a slump after a record breaking performance in the previous game. Let’s not let that happen to us! Sure, we set some records in October - so what? Let’s set some more records this time around!

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 108th sprint was a special celebration for the ninth anniversary of the NAQCC and included a drawing for nine special prizes. A complete report on the prize drawing starts on page 8. 156 logs were submitted. Although this is not a record (2nd place), six other records were broken! You can see those records in the table on the next page. Perhaps the most significant new record is the average of 20 QSOs per log. This implies that conditions were good and operators were very successful - and soapbox comments bear that out.

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: K0ZK, N4RAY, K4RHG, N2CX, NC5G, K0FNR, KE3O, AL7V, KC4FLT, N4LCD. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

With just two months to go there is a very tight race for submitted Silver Logs.

- 10: N8XMS, NQ2W, WA2JSG
- 9: N2ESE, N9RLO, W4DUK

Complete results, including all of the interesting soapbox comments can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201310.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 .

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN N8XMS NU7T WB8LZG
75+	K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC W2JEK KA2KGP
100+	K3WWP
125+	

CERTIFICATES			
SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K0ZK	N2CN	
W2	W2SH	K2GLS	
W3	K3WWP	KB3AAG	
W4	N3LL	K2UFT	W4AGT
W5	W5IQS	AE5KA	
W6	WA6OEF		
W7	KE7YTE	N0DA	
W8	N8IUP	W3NP	
W9	KB9ILT	AB9YC	
W0	N0TA	K0ALN	
VE	VE7KBN		
DX	CO8CML		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	N4A (K4BAI)		
Bug (x1.5)	K0ZK		
Keyer (x1)	N4BP		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	N4BP		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	K0ZK		
Prize Drawing	N3A (WB3T)		
N#A	N4A (K4BAI)		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	156	117	194	2/13
Participants	223	190	269	2/13
Total QSOs	3121	2014	3121	10/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1514	1078	1514	10/13
Hour 2 QSOs	1607	936	1607	10/13
20m QSOs	1321	943	1321	10/13
40m QSOs	1693	995	1693	10/13
80m QSOs	107	76	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	20	17.2	20	10/13

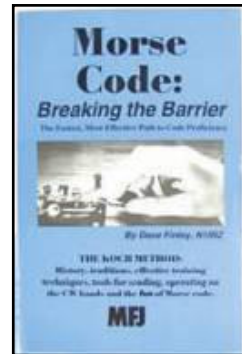
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING: The ninth anniversary sprint prize drawing generated a lot of interest. The almost-in-real-time web page had over 3000 hits during the drawing. With a little over 150 members in the drawing pool, that means that some people were very excited to see if they won! And of course nine of them did win.

Our sprint prize drawings are always based on participation and not on scoring. NAQCC VP John, K3WWP, and Prize Manager Mike, KC2EGL, first assigned a number to each of the members who had submitted a sprint log. A random number generator was then used to select the winners. As each winner was drawn the web page was updated with the result.



Prizes all had a CW theme and came from American Morse Equipment (<http://www.americanmorse.com/>) and MFJ Enterprises (<http://www.mfjenterprises.com/index.php>). MFJ generously donated some of the prizes. Here is a rundown of the prizes and drawing winners...

The fourth-place prize (from MFJ) was the book *Morse Code: Breaking the Barrier*, By Dave Finley, N1IRZ. It was won by John, K4BAI.



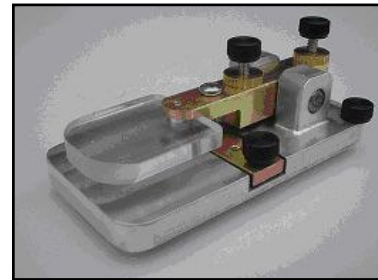
There were three third-place prizes of MFJ-108B digital clocks. They were won by Bob, WB3T, Evan, W5IQS, and Bill, KE3O.



Three MFJ-561 Mini-paddles were offered as second-place prizes. These were won by Ken, N3FZX, James, N1RU, and Lynn, AC5T.



Two American Morse KK1 Straight Key Kits were offered as first-place prizes. They were won by Werner, N8BB, and Bill, K6MGO.



Congratulations to all of the winners! We trust that those keys and paddles will be heard in many future NAQCC sprints and challenges.

Here is some feedback from the winners (In no particular order.):

W5IQS: Thanks NAQCC, it is always pleasant to get a new Ham gadget and this one arrived very near my 80th birthday in November too. My first license was as KA2EA in Japan in 1954-55, I received W5IQS when I returned to the US. In trying to raise a family and complete my degree I dropped out of Ham Radio from 1968 until 2000 when my wife encouraged me to study and get my license. W5IQS is now a vanity call but it is my first US call and was still available. There is more to the story but that's for another time. 73 / 72 de Evan, W5IQS



N3FZX: Very cool. Thanks. :^) - Ken N3FZX

WB3T: Thanks Guys! Bob, WB3T (N3A)

AC5T: Thank you very much. What a surprise. I didn't know about any prizes. I was just listening that night on the radio and happen to see in the contest calendar the NAQCC sprint was starting in 10 minutes so I thought I would have a little fun for a while. I had a great time and this is just icing on the cake. Thanks again. 73 Lynn AC5T

(Continued on page 10)

N3FZX: I guess it is fitting that my prize was a paddle since mine got stuck while working K3WWP. I had a good time doing the sprint. It was fun getting back on the air with QRP CW. Less is more.



KE3O: Thanks so much for the notification. Not only was I surprised to have won a prize, I was (and I am) equally happy to be part of the NAQCC fraternity. Although my code speed is not so fast anymore (see my QRZ.com page), I really enjoy the mode and the challenge of QRP operation. It has been many years since I sat for code tests at the Baltimore office of the FCC, but the years have not diminished the pleasure I still get from 'making a contact' in CW mode. Thanks and 72/73, Bill (KE3O)

WB3T: I just received my MFJ UTC clock, and I have to tell you, the QRP gods knew who to send this to. I am forever doing mental subtraction to figure UTC for my log. Now I have both local time and UTC at a glance. I really enjoyed the Sprint this month, and I can see from the entries that CW continues to grow. Being a 95% CW op for 38 years, I am happy to see all the CW activity associated with NAQCC, and QRP makes it even better. I started out in 1975 as a CW QRP op with an MFJ-40T 5-Watt transmitter primarily due to the budgetary constraints of a young dad and novice ham. But as the years go by and the hobby budget increases, I still am hooked on QRP. Kudos to NAQCC members and officers who pull together to keep CW and QRP very much visible in the ham radio community. And thanks to the club and MFJ for the clock! Bet I can make more contacts with the time I'll save scratching my head over, "Let's see... it's 2:17 PM EDT so that's 5 hours and change before 0000... so 24-6=18 so it's 1817 Z. Forget all that, from now on I'll be sending CW QRP instead! 72, Bob, WB3T.



K6MGO: Got my KK1 Kit yesterday and built it up today. Haven't attached it to the rig yet, but just playing with it, I am impressed with how nice it feels. Will be using it in the next Sprint for sure. Attached are a couple of pictures. Thank you and the club very much for this great prize. I don't usually win anything, so to win something that is not only unusual for me, but to win something that I can use is really sweet. 72, Bill K6MGO



N8BB: Here is a picture of me and my new KK1 straight key I just received in the mail. I want to thank everyone involved including the sponsors of the prizes. It is really a nice and rewarding feeling to be part of a group that encourages and helps so many new hams get into qrp hamming. I am truly blessed having so many old and new friends all over to chat with and brighten up my life. I know I will take this new key out in the field next summer and have a whole lot of good contacts. Thank you all again. Werner N8BB
NAQCC 1692



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: The November challenge is our traditional alphabet challenge involving words that are associated with Thanksgiving. The list of words is not too long so even if you haven't yet started you can still complete the challenge. What else would you want to do for all those hours that it takes that turkey to roast? You can find the word list at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201311.html>.

NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE: The December challenge will give you a chance to take a break from the hectic pace of the holiday season, and to slow down for some pleasant conversation - CW of course. You can complete this one by making at least 10 "rag chew" QSOs of 20 minutes or longer.

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

LAST MONTH CHALLENGE: 14 people participated in last months Halloween challenge and 11 of them were able to complete all of the required words. Let me quote the soapbox comment of Joan, N1NUA, "This challenge was so much fun. It was my first one and I can't wait to start the November challenge." If you have never tried one of our challenges please consider doing so. You just might agree with Joan!

Complete results along with "soapbox" comments from participants can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201310.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

0313 - DL7UXA	KZ1H	-	6,283	10/01/13	vertical dipole @15m
0314 - N3CU	YN2PX	-	7,738	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0315 - N3CU	T47RG	-	2,508	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0316 - N3CU	OH2K	-	2,668	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0317 - N3CU	PV8ADI	-	1,732	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0318 - N3CU	SE5E	-	1,636	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0319 - N3CU	RK3ER	-	289,455	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0320 - N3CU	F6CEL	-	73,942	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0321 - N3CU	N3A	-	34,727	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0322 - N3CU	N3A	-	191,000	10/07/13	center-fed Zepp@50'
0323 - K3WWP	HB9CVQ	-	41,473	10/31/13	10m sloping dipole
0324 - K3WWP	HA8DM	-	46,556	10/31/13	10m sloping dipole

WORKED ALL 10 SECTIONS OF N#A

Results are not yet finalized but at least two people worked all 10 US sections of N#A. Stay tuned for the final report.

N#A OPERATOR CERTIFICATES

The 42 operators who participated as N#A stations were sent certificates of appreciation for their efforts in our 9th anniversary celebration.



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.

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.

BOB HADJDAK, N8QE, #1928



I was first licensed as WN3FNT in Greenville, WPA in 1966 as a 15 year old freshman in high school. I have also held the following calls over the years: WA3JDT, WB8FAR, WD8BRF, N8CMZ [27 years], and now N8QE. I have held Extra Class since August 2007.

My first love in ham radio is operating 6 & 10 Meter QRP SSB/CW because antennas are minimal, and those bands are lots of fun to operate low power. I am also very active on PSK31 on 10 & 20 meters with a Tigertronics USB Interface. Current station features Yaesu FT-2000 and Yaesu FT-817 Transceivers with an Alpha Delta DX-EE 40M - 10M fan dipole in the backyard on my small city lot, and stacked KU4AB Square Horizontals on 6M and 2M. I also have the EF-10/20/40 EndFedz Dipole and Outbacker Joey Vertical for QRP portable operations. I have qualified for WAS & DXCC, and have about 209 countries worked.

Currently, I am the 2nd Year Trustee for the Portage County Amateur Radio Service in Ravenna, Ohio which is a very active ham radio club in my area with their main goal is to have fun with amateur radio. The current picture is Myself - N8QE in the forefront, and Ed - K8IV in the background having fun, and operating the "Freeze Your Acorns Off" QRP contest last February in Kent, Ohio. I also belong to the following Ham Radio Groups: QRP-ARCI #3014, 10-10 International #55415, SMIRK #6760, QCWA #33362, Flying Pigs QRP #1795, and EPC #3048 plus the ARRL and Portage County Ohio ARES in addition to the NAQCC. I am an active Volunteer Examiner, and Technician / General Class Instructor for PCARS.

I hold an Electrical Engineering degree from Youngstown State University. I retired after 33 years with the General Electric Company in March 2007 from their Lighting Business Group where I finished my career as

Manager - Manufacturing Engineering & Product Quality HID. I returned from my early retirement a couple years later to work for DX Engineering in a Technical / Sales Support role in Tallmadge, Ohio since March 2009 working at a great job in the ham radio hobby I have loved for the past 47 years.

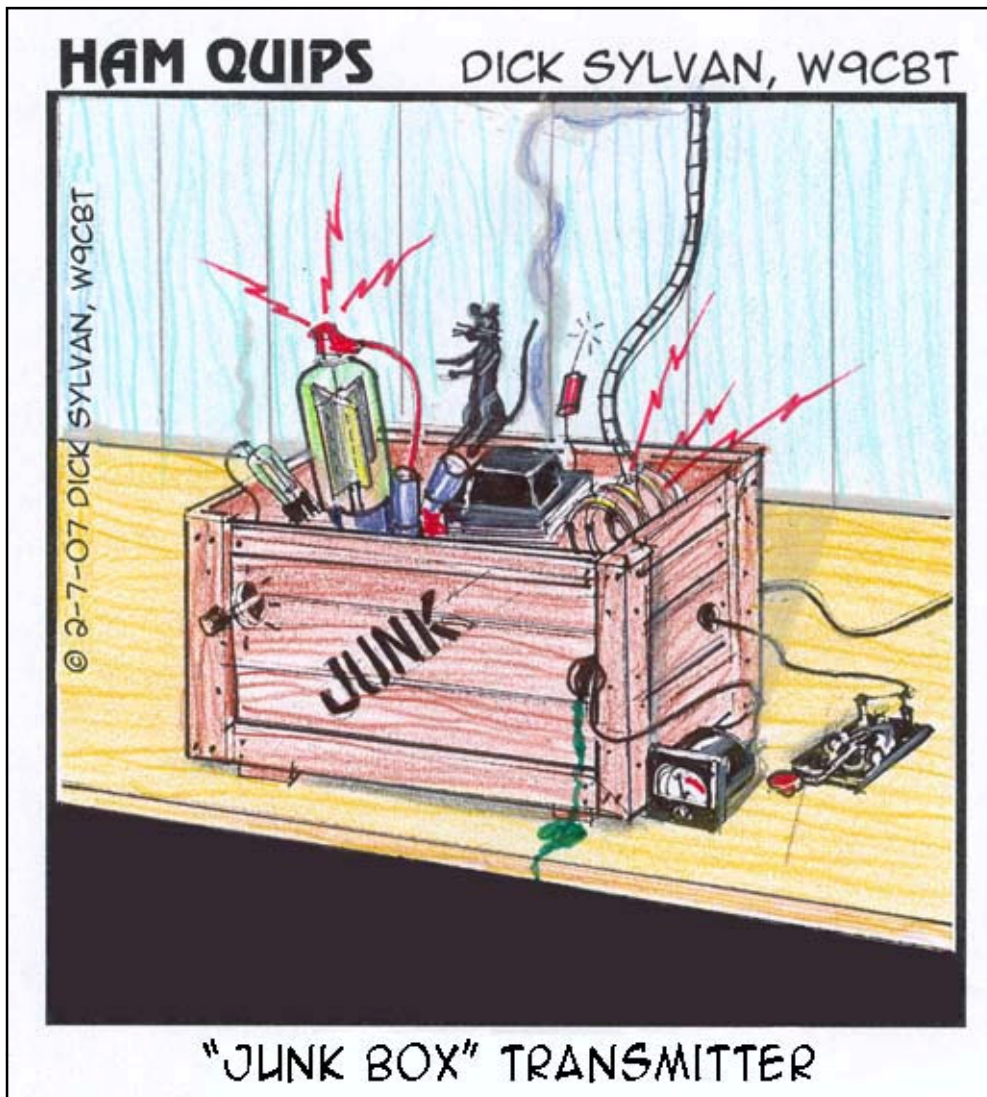
My wife, Tina, and I have been married for 36 years with two great kids, Joe who now lives and works in Orlando, FL after graduating with a Marketing Degree from Kent State University, and Helen who is a Senior at The University of Akron majoring in Mathematics and Education, and has been accepted into their Masters Degree program. We currently live in Tallmadge, Ohio which is a suburb of Akron, Ohio.



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—Europe, 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 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. Please be sure to submit a summary write-up of the activity, including pictures, to 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. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

*** Activity Days ***

Our activity days will run biannually over a 24 hour period; the idea will be to work as many European stations as you can in that time. We appreciate that not everyone will be able to operate for the full period over which the contest runs, so our advanced scoring system will take this into account to make the competition fair to everyone.

Our first activity day will be held on Thursday, December 19. More details will be released in the next newsletter.

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

*** Challenges ***

The November challenge is now well under way. It involves constructing the names of the five planets closest to the sun, together with their distance to the sun in Mkm, from the letters and numbers in the callsigns of the stations in Europe that you work. We've had two entries so far: keep them coming!

*** Europe 2013 Challenge ***

We have recently received several entries for the Europe 2013 challenge and will be sending out certificates for these over the next few days. If you haven't yet submitted an entry, you still have over a month to complete the challenge! More details are available on the website.

(Continued on page 18)

*** Dates for your diary ***

December 10	November 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

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NAQCC TEXAS CHAPTER:

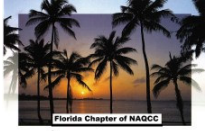


Items in this section are from TX Chapter Director Ron, K5DUZ, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to webmaster7388@naqcctx.com. The TX Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcctx.com/>.

Due to a long string of circumstances Texas chapter director Ron, K5DUZ, has been unavailable for the past several months. He is now back and up to speed so feel free to contact him about anything involving the chapter at the email address shown above.

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NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER:



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

The Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its October field event Friday, October 18th, at 9am, at the Port Orange West Causeway Park in Port Orange, FL. The park is about 5 miles South of the Daytona Beach City Limits and is directly on the Halifax Intracoastal Waterway (the “official” name of the Halifax River!)

Art WB4MNK (Elecraft KX-1 @ 4W), Don K3RLL (Elecraft K1 @ 5W), and Steve WB4OMM (YouKits HB-1B @ 3W) made a total of 18 QSO's and worked these states: ME, OH, TX, MA, VA, NJ, IL, MI, NY, PA, MO, LA and NC. Antennas included Steve's 53' End Fed Wire, Don's 17/30 meter jumper dipole as an inverted Vee on 20' fishing pole, and Art's 51 x 16 foot end fed wire.

We quit at 11:15 and ventured to Wendy's Restaurant in the West end of Port Orange and enjoyed a great, reasonably priced lunch. Art and Don were then treated to a visit to Steve's “Dog House” (his 12'x14' Ham Shack) at his home. With a lot of “old stuff” there to talk about, we three traded some of our personal ham history with each other. It was another fun day!



From L-R: WB4OMM #5913, WB4MNK #5274, and K3RLL #1905, with the spoil islands and the Halifax River adjacent to our operating area. Not quite the “usual suspects” from the last few months!! Hi hi hi..... note all three are wearing our Official “NAQCC FL” Operating Shirts, and Art and Don sport official “NAQCC FL” caps.....Steve was slow in the hat department!

Many thanks to those who listened for us and helped make this yet another successful NAQCC event.

72/73 to all!... NAQCCFL@Yahoo.com

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NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER:



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

On October 14, 2013 Mike KC2EGL and John K3WWP staged their best ever WPA Chapter Parkpedition. Conditions were fabulous and perhaps the activity was increased by a couple of last minute emails on our NAQCC email list and posting of our schedule on the web site spotter/scheduler. Now some stats and comments from the ops:



20M (Op K3WWP):

50 QSOs

4 Countries - W VE I DL

20 States - AL AZ CO FL GA IL KS MA MI MO NC NE NY PA RI TN TX UT WA WI

1 Province - QC

Member QSOs - 45

Non-member QSOs - 5

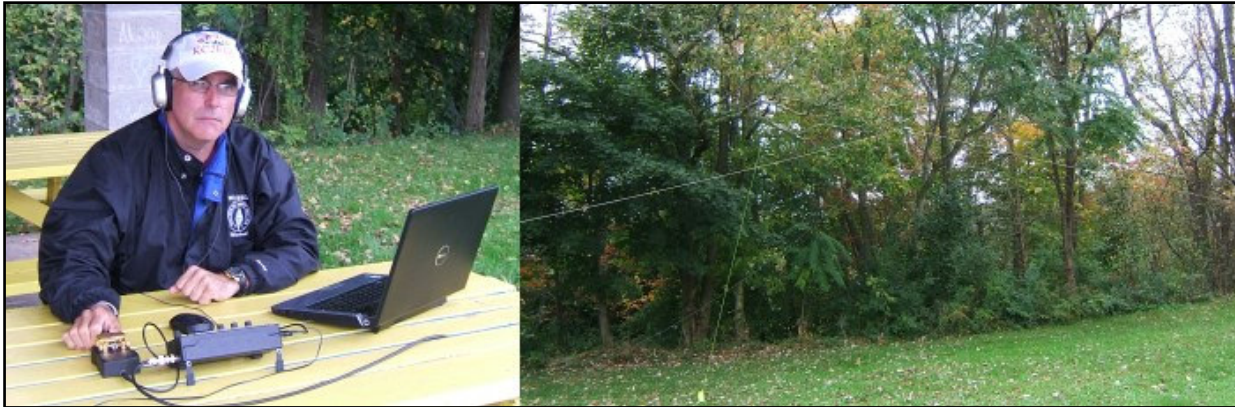
USA call areas - All but W6

John's comments: By far the best conditions I've heard on one of our parkpeditions and possibly the best I've ever experienced on 20 meters - period. It was open to all corners of the USA evidenced by working all call areas but W6 with QSOs from all 4 corners of the USA - MA FL WA AZ. My very first CQ netted a small pileup and the action virtually never slowed for the next 4 hours and 1 minute. In looking through my log, I see one gap of 7 minutes with no QSOs and one of 4 minutes. The rest of the time shows no gaps of more than a minute or two. Most of the time it was straight runs of QSOs with no gaps. Just tailend calls after each QSO would finish. That was a lot of fun.

My antenna was my K3RLL multi-band jumper dipole which I set for 20M when setting up. The last parkpedition I had 40 meters and all the action while 20 was not of much use for Mike. So I suggested this time he take 40 meters and all the action, and I would just "take it easy" this time on 20M. I was wrong! Of course I used my KX3 powered by my 7AH Gel Cell. The battery dropped only to 12.1 volts after 4 solid hours with about half and half transmitting and receiving. It usually starts out at 12.8 volts although I forgot to check this time. If so, that's only a drop of 0.7 volts which is great. My Begali paddle did the job of activating the built-in keyer in the KX3. I didn't use any memory keying the whole four hours, as we wanted to see if that would give the battery longer life. Without anything to compare it to, I would still say it probably helped.

(Continued on page 21)

The weather was not too kind, forcing us to delay the start of our operation for an hour from what we first planned. But that sure didn't hurt the results any. It was a chilly and damp session though, but not as bad as a few years ago when we actually had to shut down early because our fingers were getting too numb to use our key or keyer.



40M (Op KC2EGL)

26 QSOs

13 States AL, CT, IL, MD, ME, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, WV

Member QSOs - 24

Non-member QSOs - 2

USA call areas - W1 W2 W3 W4 W8 W9

Mike's comments: After our last Parkpedition (N3A operation) John said I can take 40 meters since he was very busy on 40 and I was just passing time on 20 meters. Take 40 meters he said. You will be busy he said. Turns out John did not get the restful operating experience he was looking forward to. Hi-Hi!!!! I had a blast operating on 40 meters for the day. I had 26 log entries from 13 states (AL, CT, IL, MD, ME, MI, NC, NJ, NY, OH, PA, VA, and WV). Unfortunately no DX for me. I had a later start than John did due to not being able to set up my antenna as fast as John. I had shoulder surgery back in January so trying to throw a line over a tree branch is a major chore for me at the moment. I used the same type of antenna that John used. It is based on a design that Don K3RLL gave us. It is amazing how well you can operate with your antenna center only 15 feet off of the ground.

Like John I operated a KX3. I have the internal battery pack installed with the charger option. I operated off the internal batteries for just over 2 hours before connecting to my Orion Dynamo Pro 12. It is a 12V/12AMP hour rechargeable battery. It has the umph to jump your car battery if needed. Fortunately I have only needed it for field radio operations and for powering my 9.25" telescope (that is another activity for a later time). As John stated above, this was our most successful parkpedition. Thankfully it was not as cold as our first Columbus Day parkpedition a few years ago. It was cool enough where I had to warm up my hands from time to time. Yes it did affect my sending. My hands have trouble with very damp and cool conditions. The rest of me kept warm. I was wearing shorts and flipflops. I hope you can forgive my erratic keying.

Hopefully our paths cross again over the airwaves.

73

Mike KC2EGL NAQCC 1236

After the parkpedition, we got to thinking that designing a QSL, getting them printed, and the postage involved in sending them out would be quite expensive for doing 76 cards. So we came up with an alternative plan. We sent out a QSL image via email that the recipient could print out. We also included a message in the email, that a printed card via regular mail would still be available by sending us an SASE. So far, we have gotten about a dozen comments that the email QSL was just fine. One person even said they were going to use the card image as the desktop picture on their computer. So we think that will be our regular MO from now on with our parkpeditions.

Mike and John got together again on November 10 and 11 to do this and that which included tech support work for Don K3RLL who is having issues with his panadapter communicating properly with his KX3. We decided not to tell him how we fixed the problem. HI HI And as usual we hunted some DX which included Mike getting an overall new country in the form of San Andres Island – 5J0R. That was DXCC country (entity) # 101 for Mike.

We also made a shopping and eating trip to Pittsburgh Mills. We got some printer ink, a 32G thumb drive, label maker tape, work shoes, gloves, external cell phone power supply. To eat we had sirloin steak and chicken tenders at Applebees. They offered a free meal to veterans, which was Mike's second free meal of the day and he'll have a third one in a couple hours (from the time this is being typed).

We are also imitating the FL Chapter and getting our own WPA Chapter hats, the design of which will remain a closely guarded secret until we supply pictures for the newsletter.

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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. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>.

My Fellow NAQCC Members,

First of all, let me offer a warm welcome to the following new members and those who have expressed an interest in the **WV Chapter** of the NAQCC club. I'm looking forward to your participation in the club activities and thank you for your membership. .

WA8SIE- Joe from South Charleston WV
NK8Y- Bill from Winfield, WV
KD8EVS- Kevin from Morgantown WV
KB8AOB- Richard from Buckhannon WV
KC8SBK- Carroll from Harmony WV
W8GDP- John from Charleston WV
KA8SYV- Frank from Charleston, WV
N8NH- Jeff from Princeton, WV
K8SX- Pat from Follansbee, WV
K9ESE- Jeff from Charleston, WV

I've been networking this month and since the beginning of October I've added several friends to our e-mail and membership lists. I hope other members in West Virginia will do the same with their friends and acquaintances who enjoy Morse Code as their primary operating mode at 5 watts or less of power. If you have WV CW QRP friends; let them know about our club.



Several things happened this month in West Virginia. I drove to Mineral Wells WV early this month on October 12th and attended the Parkersburg Hamfest. I had the intention of meeting Steven (**KC4URI**) and we had a wonderful talk about the radio hobby. I look forward to many more of the same.

While at the Hamfest, I also met **WA8WV** and **W8IW** (from the Charleston area) who were checking cards for the ARRL DX and WAS award program. I might also add that they both offered me the use of some really good "beam antennas" for my QRP work and I intend to be knocking on those doors soon. Thank

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You!

A few days later, a small group of us had a breakfast meeting on October 16th at a local restaurant which was attended (left to right) by myself (N8ZYA), Eric (AC8LJ), John (W8GDP) and Jim (NX8Z). I've been gathering information from these club members, and as a result, we had lots to talk about while we ate breakfast.



I like my new hat.

We've made a decision to have a weekly **NAQCC WV Chapter** net on **Tuesday** evenings at **8:00 PM** (local time) on the frequency of **7060 MHz**. I hope to hear more of the folks up in the Northern part of the state at that time.

Be sure to follow our activity on the link from my radio blog at:

<http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>

Please feel free to drop your comments and suggestions here too. This site is a great place to coordinate our future activities or just to keep in touch with each other as we expand our West Virginia Chapter of the club.

I met up with Steve (KC4URI) at the **Cedar Lakes Conference Center** on Friday Oct 18th for our first "outing".



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Steve (KC4URI)

I found the Cedar Lakes Conference Center to be a great place to operate QRP radio because of the low noise level and it's inherent scenic beauty. It's ideally situated about equal distance between Charleston and Mineral Wells and about a half hour drive from both locations.



I'll try to do more of this with out future outings to get others involved from different parts of the state. I realize we have many members in the northern part of the state which is a bit too long of a drive to attend a gathering near Charleston.

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We operated for around three hours at Cedar Lakes, and afterwards, the log book on **40** and **20** meters looked like this:

W8ICN, **K8LJG**, and **KG8YT** in Michigan, **N8IUP** in Ohio, **WA2JSG** in New Jersey, **W8GDP** and **AC8LJ** in Charleston, **W0CC** in Kansas, **KC5NX** and **NE5DL** in Texas, **W9UX** in Wisconsin, **K4RHG**, **K1YAN**, and **N1AN** in Massachusetts, **K1IEE** in Maine, **K3MD** in Pennsylvania, and **W2LG** in Florida.

John (N8ZYA)



I was amazed at the difference between a dipole antenna at 20 feet and 40 feet. I was also astounded at the difference between the noise level in the country verses the city. The noise level at Cedar Lakes was nearly “zero”. My first shot over the cedar trees left the 40 meter contacts at the mercy of some low hanging 20 foot limbs. Switching over to 20 meters, I put another line over the 40 ft crest of another section of the tree.

Although I concentrated on the agreed 40 and 20 meter frequencies, I could have easily worked DX on 20 meters with about 3 watts. I kept hearing a distinct **PA3** (14.060) station in the Netherlands. There were also several **IK** stations on the lower CW section of the band.

My last “official duty” of the month was the “first” WV Chapter NAQCC net on October 22, 2013 which was Tuesday night at 8 pm. As noted above, I’ve decided to do this weekly net on 7060. (plus or minus) My location in the center of town, with the eleven story apartment building next door, leaves much to be desired for a net control operator, but I was surprised to hear seven stations. I must admit that operating from Cedar Lakes, where the noise was practically zero, spoiled me.

Checking into our net were **K8SX** from Follansbee, WV (148 miles) , **K9ESE**- mobile from a parking lot North of Charleston , **K3NLT**- Broadway, Virginia (153 miles) , **N4OLN**- near Atlanta Georgia (351 miles) , **KA8SYV**- Charleston, WV, **W3TTT**- Baltimore, MD (274 miles) , and **AC8LJ**- Charleston, WV.

My congratulations to all of the stations who had the patience to work me. Propagation is a strange thing at times**N4OLN** in Atlanta Georgia was the winner with the best signal, and amazingly, the longest distance this evening.

I’m looking forward to next month but until then, this month has been a good one for us. My thanks go out to all those who encourage and support me in this new WV Chapter of the NAQCC club.

Happy Trails,
John Smithson N8ZYA

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On November the 1st, I drove around 30 miles westward from Charleston to meet Jim (NX8Z) at the “Wave Pool Park” in Hurricane, WV. On November the 1st, I drove around 30 miles westward from Charleston to meet Jim (NX8Z) at the “Wave Pool Park” in Hurricane, WV.



The weather was perfect for our second “West Virginia Chapter” field event. It was a great day to work lots of NAQCC members all over the United States.

This is an interesting “water park”, and in the summer months, is used by hundreds of people to cool off from the hot sun as they spend a day with their families. The swimming pool produces large “waves” and while laying on a raft or inner tube, makes you feel like you’re in the ocean.



(Continued on page 28)

Our event was scheduled to begin at noon. I arrived early, and was pleasantly surprised to see Jim (NX8Z) “itching to go” with an assortment of radio and computer gear. His Buddipole antenna was in place at the rear of his truck. I will have to leave to him the explanation of his gear and the operation of his computer generated equipment. It’s a bit over my head.



I was able to set up near an adjoining picnic shelter but had trouble getting my **PAR** “end fed” antenna between a pair of properly spaced trees. I found it necessary to place my folding table just outside the “shelter” in the warm sun.



I like this multi-band antenna for the **West Virginia Chapter** events because it’s cut for 40-20- and 10 meters. Although not *optimal* for 40 meters, it’s very good on 20 and 10 meters. The antenna was up only about 30 feet.

We had two visitors while at the park. A friend of Jim’s from his church dropped by and was mesmerized by his radio gear. Jim also conversed with a few people who were enjoying the sunny day in the park. His salesmanship of the hobby was excellent.

My brother Mark also dropped by and I talked to him about my QRP station and all those “dits and dots” going through the ether. I deliberately tuned to the voice segment of the 10 meter band so he could listen to

(Continued on page 29)

operators in Italy, Brazil, and England. Before my brother arrived this afternoon, I had worked a CW station in France (**F5PHY**) on 10 meters. The band was open, and I did it “just because I could” with about 3 watts of power. At 4,104 miles with this power, we all know what this means!



Before the afternoon was over, I worked 17 stations and enjoyed every minute of this event. The NAQCC members I worked were from all parts of the United States and Canada. The farthest North, at **792** miles, was **VE3EDX** who was running 5 watts QRP. The farthest South, at **563** miles was **KK4BOB** in Florida, who was running 5 watts QRP, and in the Westward direction I worked **W7GB** in the state of Washington. Although the initial contact was QRO, I could tell no difference when he dropped to 5 watts!

My thanks go out to Paul (**N8XMS**) for the late posting of our November event because I inadvertently sent the announcement to the wrong person. Fortunately, he caught my mistake, and sent out an additional club mailing which alerted our 7,000 members to our location and frequencies in Hurricane, WV.

Here's my logbook:

F5PHY in France-**KC4URI**- in WV- **K1AVE** in North Carolina- **W4DUK** in Bedford, VA- **W8ICN** in Michigan- **KM3D** in Pennsylvania- **WA2JSG** in New Jersey-**WA2KSM** in New York-**W7GB** in Washington state-**KF5J** in Texas-**KK4BOB** in Florida-**VE3EDX** in Canada- **W2LG** in Florida- **NZ1D** in Florida-**W1WYN** in Massachusetts-and **KB0ETU** in Alabama and **HC2IMP** in Ecuador.

I deliberately spent most of my time today working **NAQCC** stations on the 40 and 20 meter bands, according to the announcement in the mass mailing from Paul (**N8XMS**) but couldn't help but take a “last parting 10 meter shot” at a station in South America.

I've heard few “growlers” over the last 25 years with this distinctive and unusual “chirp”. His signal was almost as if there was no “chirp” at all and mostly just a carrier; it was one of the few I was hearing just before I dropped my antenna. I couldn't resist the temptation to work him before the drive back to Charleston and after a few attempts, I was successful.



I worked all these stations this afternoon with about 3 watts of power. At the end of the day, I had a reserve of 75% in my Sears battery booster, which I use for DC power. It's a brute for outdoor events and I like the built in charger and the light.

Our West Virginia Chapter continues to grow. I'm getting regular "check-ins" on our 40 meter weekly net on Tuesday nights. I'm still fishing for new members on the Sunday evening 2 meter nets from the Kanawha Amateur Radio Club in the valley. I'm seeing a renewed interest in QRP portable radio every day.

Yes...outdoor QRP operations are a blast!

Happy Trails,
John Smithson NAQCC # 2279



NAQCC QRS NETS

Additional information about our slow-speed CW nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html .
 Send any questions to Net Manager Chuck, KB1ZMX at cfytech24x7@gmail.com.

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net	Sunday 8 PM Eastern	Monday 0100 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
East Texas	Monday 7 PM Central	Tuesday 0100 Z	3561 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net	Monday 9 PM Central	Tuesday 0300 Z	7123.5 KHz	Steve, WB0QQT (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tues/Thurs 4 PM Mountain	Tues/Thurs 2300 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tues/Thurs 4:45 PM Mountain	Tues/Thurs 2345 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
East Coast	Thursday 8:30 PM Eastern	Friday 0130 Z	3560 KHz	Robert, KG4KGL (in SC)
Pacific Northwest	Thursday 7 PM Pacific	Friday 0300 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Pacific Northwest	Monday 8 PM Pacific	Tuesday 0400 Z	7123.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

QRL? *de* KB1ZMX

Our NCSs made some nice frequency and/or time adjustments this month to accommodate changing seasonal band conditions and the shift back to standard times in the USA. Be sure to check the online QRS net schedule often as there may be more changes in the near future.

PNW NCS J.B. Still has brought to my attention that when going up or down from a published QRS Net frequency we need to be mindful of others that might be operating according to the published ARRL band plan or other established plans peculiar to the HF mode. Most notably on 80 meters be careful not to cause QRM on the following frequencies:

- 3576 - JT65-HF national calling frequency
- 3577.75 - Olivia (also 3578)
- 3580 - PSK31 and PSK63
- 3582 - MFSK16 and MT63 500Hz
- 3583 - JT65-HF
- 3585 - MT63 1000Hz

Note that some modes such as JT65-HF are not likely to be heard even when you listen carefully as they are by design *extremely weak signal modes* and not usually detectable to the human ear under the best of conditions. Here are some links that may interest you as they have tables of frequency assignments:

http://www.nfarl.org/pdf/Digital_Mode_Frequencies.pdf
<http://hflink.com/olivia/>
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Olivia_MFSK

NCSs J.B Still, Stewart Fletcher and Steve Sellmeyer and their regular check-ins are testing propagation to dial-in the best QRS Net frequency(s) using information from the VOACAP propagation tool you can find at: <http://www.voacap.com/prediction.html>. So far there seems to be good correlation between predicted MUF and actual conditons during their tests. It's a pretty easy-to-use tool so why not use it to set up a practice sked with a code buddy?

72, KB1ZMX Chuck Yahrling
 NAQCC QRS Nets Manager

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

10-05-2013 No net, no report.

10-12-2013 (14) NCS WB1HGA N3FLL N8IUP KB1ZT W4HH N12F kB1ZMX KA2PJO
 K3NLT N6TLU KB1WOD KG0YR WI8Q W8GDP

10-19-2013 No net, no report.

10-26-2013 No net, no report.

NCS Ron WB1HGA is back at full strength after a brief hospital episode and antenna problems.

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

10-7-2013 (7) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N5DRG N5BRY N7NET KG0YR
 The band was good with some QRN. Joe N5BRY was portable from Rockport, TX with a 439. Great net and tks to all.

10-14-2013 No net, no report.

10-21-2013 (6) NCS KA5TJS KA5TJS KE5YGA KE5YUM N5DRG K5GSL

Good signals tonight. Ran the net with the FT817 at 5 watts. We had OK, AR and TX. Had good signal reports.

10-28-2013 (4)NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA K5GSL K5BRY

QRM on 7.060 so slide down 1 and got Andy. Called again and nothing so went back up to 60 and picked up Greg and Joe. Had a fun night!

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

10-07-2013 (7) NCS WB0QQT N5DRG NI2F AB8SA KE7LKW KF7YHB AA0W

Conditions were a bit rough last night but was still able to pull them thru. Thanks to all for the QNI's and sorry for those I may have missed.

10-14-2013 (3) NCS WB0QQT NI2F KF7YHB

Wasn't sure I could do the net due to thunderstorms moving thru the area. Managed to squeeze it in for 30 minutes. Lots of static so am sure I missed a few. Thanks for all QNI's.

10-21-2013 (7) NCS WB0QQT N5DRG KU4GW K5BRY NI2F KF7YHB KE7LKW

QSB continues to plague all of us from week to week but thanks to all the persistent operators we manage to have a net and hear most stations checking in. GOOD JOB guys. For those who ould like to receive an "after net report" please drop me an e-mail and I will be glad to add your name. Also thanks for the encouraging e-mails after the net. Much appreciated !

10-28-2013 (5) NCS WB0QQT K9EYT KF7YHB NI2F KC0GXX.

Lots of static crashes with storms in the area tonight. Band still seems to go long but will keep trying 7.1235 for a while. Thanks to all for the QNI's.

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

10-01-2013 (4) NCS WC7S KGYR W3HZZ KE6OIO (14.062)
 10-03-2013 (2) NCS WC7S AA7CU (14.0625)
 10-08-2013 (7) NCS WC7S K0DTJ AE7CG KF7WNS7 KG0YR KE6OIO KA4RUR (14.0625)
 10-10-2013 (4) NCS WC7S N0EVH N6MY AA7CU (14.0625)
 10-15-2013 (11) NCS WC7S KE6OIO NE5DL AE7CG KV6Z K0DTJ W9JDH KA4RUR K6MGO
 W3HZZ KF7WNS (14.0625)
 10-17-2013 (1) NCS WC7S No net.
 10-22-2013 (8) NCS WC7S K8RJW KE6OIO KB1ZMX N6MY AE7CG K7BFL K1IEE (14.0625)
 10-24-2013 (7) NCS WC7S KE6OIO N6MY K0DTJ KA4RUR AA7CU AE7CG (14.0625)
 10-29-2013 (5) NCS WC7S N6MY K0MZN KF7WNS KA5QQA (14.0625)
 10-31-2013 (7) NCS WC7S AA7CU N6MY NE5DL W3UEC K6MGO KF7WNS

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)

10-01-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.062)
 10-03-2013 (2) NCS WC7S WC7S WX2S (7.0625)
 10-08-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)
 10-10-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)
 10-15-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)
 10-17-2013 (1) NCS WC7S No net.
 10-22-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)
 10-24-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)
 10-29-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)
 10-31-2013 (1) NCS WC7S (7.0625)

NAQCC East Coast QRS Net (ECN) - Thursday, 8:30 PM Eastern Time, 3.560 Mhz

10-03-2013 No net
 10-10-2013 (3) NCS KG4KGL KB2SN N2SO
 10-17-2013 No report
 10-24-2013 No report
 10-31-2013 No report

NCS Robert KG4KGL has completed his K1 and is enjoying better receive filtering. He has also moved the frequency to 3.560 +/- 10 MHz. to counter 40M band fade.

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

10-03-2013 (8) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX AD7BP KR5RR N0DA K7ZNP WB4SPB N7QR
 10-10-2013 (5) NCS KE7LKW N0DA AD7BP K7ZNP WB4SPB
 10-17-2013t (7) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB N0DA W7ANM VE7FLY N7QR
 10-24-2013t (9) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP N6KIX W7MWF WB4SPB K6DMT KR5RR K7ZNP
 N7QR
 10-31-2013t (6) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX KR5RR K7ZNP AD7BP WB4SPB

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 8:00 PM, Pacific Time, 7.123.5 MHz

10-07-2013 (5) NCS KR5RR KF7YHB KE7LKW WB0QQT N0DA (2w QRP!)
 10-14-2013 (6) NCS KR5RR WB0QQT WB4SPB N7HRK KF7YHB KF7WNS
 10-21-2013 (7) NCS KR5RR W7MWF KW6G KF7YHB N7HRK W7ZXL WB0QQT
 10-28-2013 (5) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK KF7WNS K6DMT (early Ckin)



NAQCC CW ASSISTANCE PROJECT



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

This month I decided to write about the use of -- CQ CQ de VE3FUJ/Qrp. Calling CQ.

Its not really a good idea as some stations frown on Qrp Ops. They think they are doing all the work and will not answer a CQ from a QRP station.

When I first got back into ham radio in 2006 I would sign VE3FUJ/QRP. I didn't do it for long. I felt I should have had more answers to my CQs on a relatively crowded band than I got. So I stopped the practice and had a noticeable increase in answers to my CQs - not a great increase, but nevertheless noticeable.

So things went on from there. One time I had a QSO with one 500W station who, after I sent my wattage on a repeat request, proceeded to cut the QSO short. I thought perhaps he may have heard wrong when I sent 500mW as my output. He may have thought I was running 50 or even 500W. I will never know, but the QSO was cut short rather abruptly. But that's the exception, not the rule. Most Op's are courteous, and some are genuinely amazed at what low power can do. The thing is, if he gives you a nice RST 449 or better, what difference does it make what power you are running?

These days I delay sending my power output until the second or even the third exchange. Or if the other station is really strong I won't give it at all unless he requests it. Then, if they decide to cut the QSO short it's fairly obvious what's going on - for whatever reason they just don't want to work a QRPer.

I look at it this way, why waste a lot of power running 100W+ when 5W or less will do the job? In some situations conserving power can be important. I run my "Sierra" transceiver (3W or less) on solar charged battery power. The set-up consists of two 1r5W solar panels in parallel, purchased on sale for about \$10 each, and a 12 Ahr gel-cell. I've been doing this now for about 3 years and I haven't run it down -- yet. I came close once after about 8hrs running my K2 at 5W. That was during the April 11-12, 2013 power blackout that lasted about 18 hours which was caused by a severe ice-storm. Power was restored and then went out again for a shorter time about an hour later. At QRP I had good communications but running QRO would have quickly left me isolated.

There is a lot of very helpful information on CW operating on the NAQCC website at <http://naqcc.info/cw.html>. "Calling CQ" and "Making a QSO" by John, K3WWP, are especially good for beginners. We also have "Practice Buddies", listed on the same site, who would be very happy to assist you in gaining experience. 72 Brion -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.

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 Paul, N8XMS, #0675 --

There have been some nice DX openings on the higher bands lately and on October 21 I found myself in a nice ragchew on 17 meters with Ian, G4MLW. We quickly discovered that we are both NAQCC and FISTS members but there is much more. Ian and I were born in the same year***, and we are both recently retired high school math teachers! We did have a little bit of QRM during our contact - Someone was playing the music to "It's A Small World After All" on frequency.

***As a math teacher I can't resist! The year of our birth = $1.9 \times 10^3 \sin\left(\frac{\pi}{2}\right) - e^{i\pi} (\ln e^{55})$ *No calculator allowed!*

From Rick, AA4W, #1628 --

A team of eight operators, including three NAQCC members, will be participating in the fifth "Buddies in the Caribbean" (BIC) mini-DXpedition to St. Lucia (J6) from December 1st through the 9th. The operators are Jerry-N9AW, Craig-NM4T (*NAQCC member*), John-W5EXJ, Joe-K3JDB, Rick-AA4W (*NAQCC member*), Jim-W4QO (*NAQCC member*), Chris-W6HFP, and Budd-W3FF(J68FF). They will operate from Chateau Devaux on the NE side of St. Lucia and they also have plans for both beach-side and mountain-top portable operations. This is a "suitcase" DXpedition with no amps involved and power levels will range from 100 watts down to QRP. Each operator will sign *J6/home-call* and QSL information can be found on each persons QRZ.com page.

From Gene, N5GW, #5353 --

I thought members might get a kick out of seeing this paddle that I made using rake tines.



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I cut a stick-on pad in half for use with the paddles. Tension is controlled by a combination of the proper choice of length for the rake tine plus the position of the middle screws. Contact spacing is adjusted by the two screws and their jam nuts nearest the paddles. A fine pitch screw works best. The keyer is mounted on a thick sheet of bakelite which in turn is epoxy glued to a heavy piece of steel flat bar with rubber feet on the underside.

These are two sets of paddles I made for my K1.



The micropaddles keep the weight down for use in the Spartan Sprints. The larger paddles attached to the tilt stand are Paddlettes and can be swiveled. The rubber pads don't match, because that's all I had on hand. Notice the black rubber band on the outside of the K1 tuning knob. It works like centrifugal instead of centripetal, as the K1 tuning knob is really too small for a finger dimple.

From Allen, AE7TG, #3947 --

I built the zero beat circuit referenced in the last newsletter and decided to write an article about it for my local Radio Club. Here's a link if anyone is interested: <http://goo.gl/7luyyV>

From John, K3WWP, #0002 --

I'm finding that I am having more and more time to myself as my NAQCC duties continue to wind down. Thanks Paul and all our NAQCC Staff members. Now I'm able to get on the bands more during the morning and afternoon hours and am finding them to be almost, but not quite, as good for DX as they were during the last sunspot maximum in the late 90s/early 00s. On ten meters it is easy to work DX with the power turned down to 100 mW on the KX3. In fact if it would go lower in power, it would still be fairly easy. Twelve meters is also very good and I've picked up some new band countries there recently. Of course the old standby 15 and 17 meters are also very good. 20 always remains pretty good at all stages of a sunspot cycle.

Some specific good catches of late have included these new band countries: KH2L on 17 and 10, 9L1BTB on 20, JT5DX on 17, 5J0R on 12. Getting some of those involved breaking some pretty good sized pile-ups. That's not all that hard with QRP/CW using a good rig like the KX3 and some knowledge of just how to work DX in a pile-up. With the KX3, it's a simple matter of tapping a button twice to store the VFO A info into VFO B, then holding a button to set up split, another to set up split listening in the headphones. All that can be stored in a macro so only one button tap or hold is required. Once it's ready to go, just tune VFO B until you find the pile-up and then (listening to the DX in your left ear and the pile in the right) hopefully the last station the DX is working. Setting VFO B up 1 (the standard split operation) can also be added to the

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macro. When you find where the DX is listening, simply send your call once, and if propagation is favorable and the KWs don't murder your QRP, you'll have your QSO. I also worked 5J0R through his pile-ups on 30, 20, and 17 meters. The 17M QSO took but a single call. The others less than a dozen or so calls. There's no real magic in breaking a pile-up. Often it is luck - catching a station just starting his stint on a band, sometimes before he even goes split or gets posted on some spotter (as you know, I never use spotting, just tune the bands). I've done that recently with ZD8O as an example. Also you can catch a station on a pause in his pile-up. Something rarer is when the pile-up actually pays attention to what the DX says. One of my 5J0R QSOs came when a moderately sized pile-up actually paused en-masse when 5J0R said K3? and I sent my call again and got him. There are things you can do to help out. First and most important is to send as close to absolutely perfect CW as possible. DX stations will often say a weaker station with perfect CW is easier to pull out of a pile-up than a high power sloppy sender. The same with signal quality. Clean crisp tones beat out stronger chirpy, clicky, drifty signals. Of course perfect quality is a trademark of the KX3.

In addition to DX, I've had fun doing our WPA Chapter parkpeditions with Mike as described in more detail in the WPA Chapter news section of the newsletter.

After our parkpeditions, it's more fun designing our special picture QSLs and sending them out to all we work. Lately since we've been making over 50-60 QSOs each time, to save money on postage, we've been emailing the QSLs. We've gotten a lot of positive response to that and some email QSLs in return, so we will continue to do it that way, but with the alternative of sending a regular printed card to those who may want one and send us an SASE.

Don K3RLL suggested a tutorial on making our cards, so I will attempt one here.

1. Obviously get some good digital photos of the parkpedition operation. Operators, rigs, antennas, site, weather, etc. Too many is better than not enough, then you can narrow them down to the number you want on the QSL. We find three is just about the right number so they are big enough to show details clearly but small enough to fit on the card.

Example photo: *(Pictures in this article are not original size. - editor)*



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2. In addition to the three pictures, a block is needed for QSO info - date, time, band, RST, etc. We find dividing the card into quarters works well with the info in the lower right quadrant and the pictures in the other three quadrants.

Example template that is 3600x2400 pixels in size:

3. After selecting the three pictures, using a good graphics editor like the marvelous FREE Paint.NET program (<http://www.getpaint.net/>), the photos are cropped to remove unnecessary details around the edges and to make or keep a 4:3 aspect ratio (1800x1200 pixels to fit precisely the 3600x2400 pixels template) at the same time.

Example of picture above after cropping and resizing:

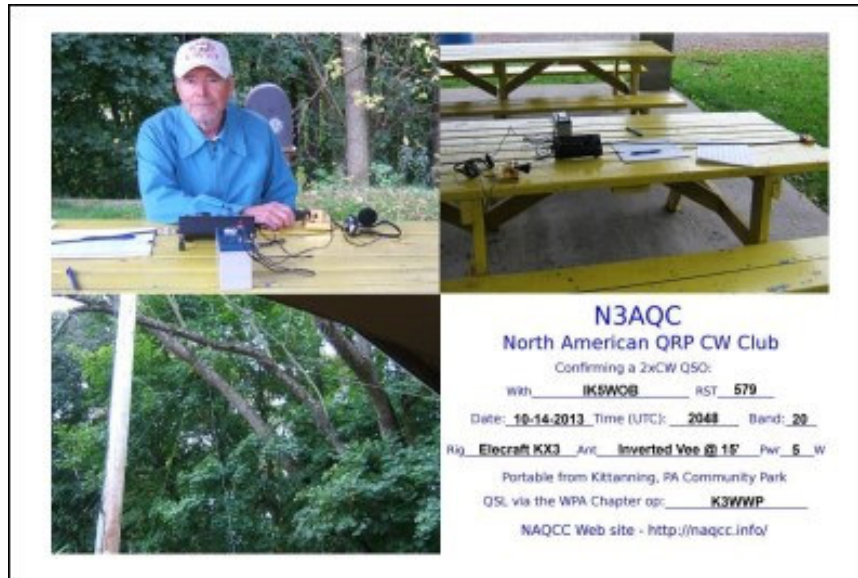


4. Then the pictures are copied and pasted onto the blank master QSL template to produce the finished project below after adding a white border around the edge by expanding the canvas size by 200 (or whatever

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number is preferred) pixels. If you get the cards printed commercially, that border ensures that the company won't crop out any edge details.

Example of one of our finished cards (in this case, one I emailed to IK5WOB):



I pretty much glossed over the procedure to save space in the newsletter. If you have any specific questions about the procedure, email me via the email address on the 'contact us' page on the web site.

FROM HARRY, KM3D, #2449 --

Hi Paul,

This is Harry, KM3D - member #2449 . . . been a friend of Tom's (WY3H) since before NAQCC got started. I had gotten away from QRP CW over quite a few years, but last winter build a K1.

It seems that most of the NAQCC folks are retired and have time to do 'Parkpeditions' - but some of us are still in the workforce <g>. I've been watching the 'Expeditions' to find one that at least 'sort of' fits my work schedule (being on 40m between 9am and noon is NOT an option here).

When John announced the WV Parkpedition to work from noon to three, I was excited, to say the least! I threw the Norcal antenna tuner and the K1 in the car and screwed the (untuned) 40m hamstick on the trunk lip mount - yes, in the rain.

Then on my lunch break I managed to work N8ZYA in West Virginia (339-339). I was so excited that when I got home I mis-logged the QSO as a 'SSB' contact (John has since straightened me out - grin).

One of my co-workers 'happened by' -WB3CBI -who took this picture with his smartphone. Aiee, what would we have done without these gadgets? If you have any use for the picture; have at it. I am just glad to be on the air! *(Picture is shown on the next page.)*

Harry, KM3D
 portable in Lebanon, PA
 NAQCC #2449

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KM3D working the NAQCC WV Chapter Parkpedition.



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

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

Questions can also be sent to Vice President John Shannon
478 E. High Street
Kittanning, PA 16201
naqcc33@windstream.net

CLUB INFORMATION AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

by Founding President Tom Mitchell, WY3H

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

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

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

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

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

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



The NAQCC Newsletter is edited by Paul Huff, N8XMS. You may contact him at Paul142857@gmail.com

