

NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 190 APRIL 2014



KEY CLICKS

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- ◆ **NANCY KOTT, WZ8C, MONTH.** As was announced last month, the ham radio community recently lost one of our leading CW advocates with the passing of Nancy Kott, WZ8C, the head of the North American branch of FISTS. Although Nancy was never a member of the NAQCC she was very supportive of our club. (See the tribute to Nancy by K3WWP in the March newsletter.) We are planning on honoring Nancy’s legacy this September with special sprint and challenge activities. The details are still being worked out but there will be opportunities for FISTS members as well as NAQCC members to participate in these tributes. More information will be available soon.

- ◆ **N#A OPERATORS NEEDED.** Operators are needed for our special event N#A callsigns during our 10th anniversary celebration October 13-19. It’s a lot of fun and it’s simple to do. All that’s required is to spend some time putting the N#A callsign on the air and to send in a log report once the operation is completed. Your actual operating time and frequencies are completely up to you and the only stipulation is that everything is done with CW and QRP. We currently have no volunteers in districts 1, 2, 4, and 9, but there is plenty of room for operators in all of the districts. If you would like to be an N#A operator please send me an email with you name, callsign, and US call district. If you are interested in using the special event call during the sprint that week indicate that as well (first come, first served). Additional instructions will be given when we get closer to the time. You can find my email address on the last page of this newsletter. An up-to-date list of operators and additional information is available at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html . - Paul, N8XMS

- ◆ **NAQCC MEMBER MAKES “QRP QSO OF A LIFETIME.”** The Morse Code message left in the dust on the surface of Mars by NASA’s Curiosity rover has been well documented (see <http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/news.php?release=2012-266>) but now a previously unrevealed “Easter Egg” hidden in Curiosity’s software has given NAQCC member Tom Piltdown, KA4FUN, the “QRP QSO of a lifetime!” Through a ham radio friend who works at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in California, Tom learned that if a secret sequence of numbers was received by Curiosity on 28.06051 MHz it would trigger the transmission of a special Morse Code reply. Tom carefully dialed-in the frequency on his KX3 and sent the sequence. Eleven minutes later he was rewarded with the message- -- at about 28 wpm. Tom reported that due to the Doppler Effect caused by the relative motions of both the Earth and Mars, the signal was a little bit raspy and he gave it an RST of 436. Tom will not reveal the name of the JPL ham who gave him this information because “it could cost him his job,” but he did share the sequence -- 010414. We would welcome reports from any other NAQCC members who are able to confirm Tom’s results. By the way, if Tom’s name and callsign sound familiar it’s because he was featured a few years ago in a “Member Spotlight” in our newsletter (http://naqcc.info/newsletter_139.html).

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- ◆ **AWARDS PROCESSING DELAY.** Awards Manager John, KK1X, reports that due to his vacation schedule there may be a small delay with processing awards and certificates. Enjoy your time off, John!
- ◆ **CAN YOU GIVE THE NAQCC SOME HAMFEST PUBLICITY?** A banner promoting the NAQCC, and membership applications, are available for any member who would like to promote our club at a local hamfest. (The banner is a loaner via mail.) Take a look at John, N8ZYA's, report about his experience at the Charleston, WV hamfest later in this newsletter. If you would be interested in doing something similar, or even just displaying some membership applications on a corner of your hamfest table, please contact VP John, K3WWP. His email address can be found on the last page of this newsletter.
- ◆ **W1AW/# QSOs GOOD FOR NAQCC CHALLENGES.** For those of you who are chasing all of the W1AW stations around the country remember that, with some minor restrictions, they can be used in our NAQCC challenges. See the challenge report page for details.
- ◆ **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big "THANK YOU" goes out everyone who has made recent donations to the NAQCC treasury. If others would like to help out with a contribution there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use PayPal to electronically send your contribution to Paul142857@gmail.com . To avoid any additional fees be sure to check the box that says "*I'm sending money to family or friends.*" Also please add a note indicating that this is an NAQCC donation. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to Paul Huff (*not NAQCC!*) at 9928 Eckles, Livonia, MI 48150. Assuming that we have your correct email address on file your contribution will be acknowledged by email with a carbon copy sent to a second club officer as a "check and balance."

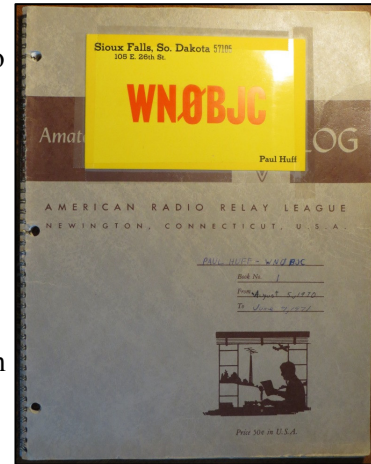


EXPANDED QSO LOGGING, BY PAUL HUFF - N8XMS

Note: A version of this article was originally published on eHam.net on May 9, 2003.

When I was first licensed in 1970 as novice WN0BJC, the FCC still had a very stringent logging requirement for all transmissions that were made by a ham. Even an unanswered CQ or a series of CW test “V’s” were supposed to be listed in the station log.

I still have my first logbook and every now and then I enjoy the memories that are refreshed in my mind by leafing through its pages. The writing is obviously adolescent, the spelling is poor, and most of the entries are listed with an incorrect date and time because as a kid I didn’t really understand that a GMT time (now called UTC) also required a matching GMT date! With my ancient borrowed equipment, low random-wire antenna, and the limitation of only two 40-meter crystals, most of the lines in that log end with the comment “no contact made.” But every now and then a successful QSO would be made and a new call sign from some “exotic” location like Cheyenne, Wyoming would find it’s way onto the page.



Of course the FCC requirement for keeping a log was removed from the rules many years ago, but many of us still like to keep track of our QSO’s with either a written logbook or one of the many commercial or freeware logging programs that are now available. Electronic logging just can’t be beat for things like awards tracking, contest operating, and quick reviews of previous contacts with someone you are currently talking to. But the warm “humanity” of those old written logbooks is somehow lost in the computerized efficiency of the software.

I have always included little anecdotal comments in the pages of my logs, but an article in the Feb. 1996 issue of QST entitled “The W6VX Logs – An Autobiography,” by Harvey Laidman, N6HL, inspired me to significantly expand my log’s contents. In that article Harvey describes reading through the old logbooks of W6VX who, if I remember correctly, was an old-time operator and a silent key. Of course the logs are filled with QSO information, but W6VL also included things like schematic sketches of experimental circuits, weather and propagation reports, names of visitors to the shack, brief accounts of some of the events in his personal life, newspaper clippings, etc. This is exactly the sort of human-interest content that cannot be easily included in a computerized log.

So is it possible to have the best of both worlds? Is there some way to have the wonderful efficiency of the computer log and still keep the special features of a written log? Well, yes, and here is how I do it...

First, I do all of my initial logging on my computer during, and immediately after, the actual QSO. The computer is right at my operating position so all of the great tools that are a part of the logging software are just a few mouse-clicks away. Checking for a needed country on a particular band, or getting a quick reminder of a person’s name from a previous QSO are thus almost instantaneous. Since there is an old saying in computers which says that “there are just two kinds of computer users – those who backup and those who wish that they had backed up,” I frequently make a backup of my log files on an external drive.

Then at the end of each month I print out a report of all of the QSO’s for that month. Most logging programs have several different printed report formats and I use one that looks a lot like my old hand-written logs – except it’s legible!

(Continued on page 4)

17 Jan 13	02:35	80M	CW	N2ESE	Gary	Stanhope, NJ	USA	s=339	r=559	pwr=5
<small>(K2. SKCC St Key) NAQCC Sprint. QRP. NAQCC #5555. Prev QSO 20-09-12.</small>										
18 Jan 13	18:52	30M	CW	W2BPI	George	Williamson, NY	USA	s=599	r=589	pwr=5
<small>(K2. LH Paddle) Elecraft KX3. 10 w. Doublet @ 45 ft. Prev QSO 01-10-12. 73 yrs old. Ham for 60 yrs. Retired from a machine shop for 7 yrs. Loves to build QRP kits.</small>										
18 Jan 13	20:19	20M	CW	K3Y/5	Dave	, TX	USA	s=579	r=559	pwr=5
<small>(K2. SKCC St Key) SKCC 7th Anniversary Sp Event. NE5DL. SKCC #5081T.</small>										
18 Jan 13	20:42	30M	CW	WB9MII	Greg	Park Forest, IL	USA	s=559	r=449	pwr=5
<small>(K2. LH Paddle) Icom 703. 10 w. Indoor dipole.</small>										

This report is then hole-punched and put into a three-ring binder. But that’s not all that goes into the binder. With the printed report serving as a heading for the month, I also put into the binder all of those “extra’s” that can make a logbook something special. Here are a few examples of what can be found in between the QSO reports:

- ◆ 30 – Apr. – 2001: A clipping from our local newspaper about a 7.29 billion mile contact with the Pioneer 10 spacecraft using an 8 watt transmitter.
- ◆ 23 – June – 2001: Some photographs taken on a visit to the Ten-Tec plant in Sevierville, TN during a vacation in the Smokey mountains with my wife.
- ◆ 14 – Dec. – 2001: A certificate for a contact with special event station N1S.
- ◆ 31 – Jan. – 2002: A written note which says “There was a major ice storm last night ... The QSO’s for the 31st were with my R7 antenna coated with ice! The SWR was jumpy but my QRP signal still got out.”
- ◆ 13 – June – 2002: A copy of the certificate where the Governor declared Jun 17 – 23 “Amateur Radio Awareness Week” in the state of Michigan.
- ◆ 20 – Oct. – 2002: An exchange of emails with N3CEO after a nice 2xQRP QSO and including some good-natured joking about the upcoming U of M vs. Penn State football game.
- ◆ 30 – Nov. – 2002: A written note which in part reads, “Not a single HF QSO was made during the month of November ... [because] of the work that has been done getting Jenny’s [daughter] new bedroom ready for her and getting her old bedroom ready as my new office. Walls have been painted, carpet laid, desks assembled, shelves built, and the work is finally nearing completion. ... The equipment is all hooked up and the transmission line and ground have been run but a snowstorm has prevented me from making the final connection out at the antenna. I should be able to do that in a day or so and hopefully be back on the air without further complications.”
- ◆ 20 – Dec. – 2002: A Christmas card and family photo from long-time ham friend KE0Z.

Perhaps the word “logbook” is not really a very good description for all of this. It might be more accurate to call it my “radio journal” Typically more than a hundred pages like the ones listed above find their way into my log over the course of a year. For me, a 1½" binder is just the right size for holding a years worth of records. Completed binders are labeled with the year and placed on a shelf for easy access.



I don’t think that anyone will ever write a QST article entitled “The N8XMS Logs – An Autobiography,” but the enjoyment that they have brought to me when I occasionally flip through their pages is well worth the very minimal effort that it takes to make them.

73 and see you down the log.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH SPRINT: Our next sprint is scheduled for April 9, 0030-0230Z. (That’s the evening of the 8th here in the Western hemisphere.) Remember that there is now a minimal sprint participation requirement for eligibility in our anniversary prize drawing in October. You can see the details about that at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.

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 SILVER logs.

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

LAST MONTH SPRINT RESULTS: Our 113th sprint in March was a great time. Band conditions were pretty good and participation was also very good with 125 submitted logs. We had a special treat with WB5UDA operating in the sprint as K5C, a special event station commemorating the 100th anniversary of the commissioning of the Battle Ship Texas. If you worked him he does have a special QSL card available.

82 participants submitted Silver Logs. On the year, 31 members have submitted Silver Logs for all three of our sprints so far.

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: W4UX, K1RA, WA1PKV, WA5PQL, KE4WKH, KB8J, KG2LO, W6FPS, OZ8A, KG4MTN, W1ZU, K1EDG, AC2HJ, WI5H, VE7AUL, KE4QCM, KK4UGD, K8LJG. We trust that you had a fun time and hope that you will continue to participate and submit your results.

Complete results for the sprint can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/sprint201403.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+	N8QY K1IEE WA2JSG WB8ENE AA9L VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A K4JPN N8XMS NU7T
75+	WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC W2JEK
100+	KA2KGP K3WWP
125+	

CERTIFICATES			
SWA CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W11B	K1IEE	
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	
W3	K3WWP		
W4	W4UX	WH6LE	WX4RM
W5	N5GW	NC5G	
W6	WK6L		
W7	AA7VW		
W8	W3NP	N8IUP	
W9	W9CC		
W0	K9OSC	N0TA	
VE	VE2TH		
DX	CO8CML		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	W4UX		
Bug (x1.5)	NN4K		
Keyer (x1)	KB9ILT		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	NQ2W		
First-Time Logger High Scorer	W4UX		
Prize Drawing	CO8CML		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	125	111	194	2/13
Participants	189	162	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2199	1868	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1038	990	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	1161	878	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	686	317	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1409	948	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	104	603	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs / Station	17.6	16.8	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH CHALLENGE: Our April Challenge is an alphabet challenge with words that are all associated with the famous “Midnight Ride” of Paul Revere, which took place on the night of April 18, 1775. A complete list of words along with the challenge rules is available at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201404.html> . You history buffs will also find a link there to some very interesting facts and myths about Paul Revere and his life before, during, and after the American Revolution.

The question was recently raised about using various W1AW/# QSOs to meet the challenges. Since these stations are special events and not contest stations they can be used in any of our challenges. However, only one per district can be used. In other words W1AW/4 in TN and W1AW/4 in GA count as the same call even though they are in different locations.

Remember that there is now a minimal challenge participation requirement for eligibility in our anniversary prize drawing in October. You can see the details about that at http://naqcc.info/main_n3a.html .

NEXT MONTH CHALLENGE: In May we will have our Homebrew Challenge where the goal will be to make 10 CW/QRP QSOs using a piece of homebrew (or kit built) gear. You can see the details at <http://naqcc.info/challenges201405.html> .

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: As of this writing, the deadline for the submission of challenge reports for March is still a week away and very few have been received. The goal of our Block Party Challenge was to enjoy 10 non-sprint CW/QRP QSOs with other members during the month. My personal experience in this challenge was that it was perhaps the most difficult one that I have participated in so far and I came up very short on the number of needed QSOs. Although I spotted myself numerous times on our spotting page, finding other members to work was much more difficult than finding and working DX! That’s OK because if it was easy we wouldn’t be able to call it a “challenge.”

Complete results along with “soapbox” comments will be reported on <http://naqcc.info/challenges201403.html> as soon as they are available.



NAQCC AWARDS

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

FRIENDSHIP CLUB AWARD

0019 - K9OSC	200 point certificate	03/13/14
0019 - K9OSC	300 point certificate	03/13/14
0019 - K9OSC	400 point certificate	03/13/14
0015 - KU4A	500 point certificate	03/16/14

1000 MPW AWARD

0412 - KC0PMH	DK1MAX	-	1,283	03/26/14	40m attic G5RV
0411 - N3IJA	SP6NIC	-	1,340	03/18/14	Folded dipole@40'
0410 - N3CU	YU/S52GP	-	844,000	03/16/14	center-fed Zepp@50'
0409 - KT1K	UZ1AA	-	4,666	03/16/14	HyGain 18AVT vertical
0408 - KQ3Z	LY7M	-	1,247	03/13/14	35' long wire
0407 - K4ARQ	RA22AA	-	1,034	03/08/14	EFHA@50'
0406 - K4ARQ	S57WJ	-	1,024	03/06/14	EFHA@50'
0405 - DJ6ZC	W40C	-	4,397	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0404 - DJ6ZC	W2BC	-	3,699	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0403 - DJ6ZC	W7SW	-	5,502	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0402 - DJ6ZC	AF6O	-	5,607	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0401 - DJ6ZC	W5RU	-	4,971	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0400 - DJ6ZC	K3CR	-	3,951	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0399 - DJ6ZC	W2FU	-	3,820	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0398 - DJ6ZC	N1EU	-	3,715	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0397 - DJ6ZC	K9MA	-	4,249	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0396 - DJ6ZC	N1BA	-	3,624	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0395 - DJ6ZC	K1TO	-	4,808	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0394 - DJ6ZC	WE3C	-	3,894	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0393 - DJ6ZC	W1UE	-	3,639	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0392 - DJ6ZC	AA2A	-	3,801	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0391 - DJ6ZC	W4BQF	-	4,655	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0390 - DJ6ZC	N9NC	-	3,584	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0389 - DJ6ZC	K1KI	-	3,700	03/04/14	2x12.5m dipole@9m
0388 - LZ1NIM	W5TZC	-	1,154	03/04/14	delta loop

KMPW 100 AWARD

0010 - N3CU 03/23/14

WAS AWARD

0022 - N8ZYA 02/07/14



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.

DICK MAYRAND, K1IEE, #3966



My name is Dick Mayrand and my call is K1IEE. I got started in Ham radio in 1958 at the age of 15. My school friend and his Dad were Hams. Their station was a 6M Gonset Communicator III AM rig. I was invited over and would watch him talk to many Hams across the U.S.

Soon after, I learned CW by listening to W1AW code practice and passed the Novice test along with the mandatory 5 wpm cw send and receive. I'll always remember the day I received the envelope from FCC with my new license and call sign KN1IEE. My goal, now, was to get the General Class for full ham privileges. My friend had a General class and we would talk on 10M AM just about every night after school. AM was fun but CW was my favorite mode and has remained so for 55 years.

Now I am retired and many life experiences have happened between the teen years and the present. Thanks to Ham radio, all my working years were spent in electronics, mostly with aircraft communication and navigation systems. I have a degree in Avionics Systems and hold FCC General Telephone License with Radar Endorsement, FAA Airframe, Powerplant and Pilot Certificates.

My XYL, Marie (WA1OUS), and I have 4 sons: Jeff, Jason(KL7/KW1W), Justin(KB1TFH) and Jaime, along with 7 grandchildren, and 2 great grandsons. All but I son and grandson live in Alaska.

Currently, my radio gear consists of all Heathkit. The primary station that I use daily, is the HW-9 at 4 watts. I operate 100% QRP CW and the little HW-9 works very well for me. The Heath active audio filter HD-1418 helps a great deal for QRM and QRN.

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During NAQCC MW sprints, I use a Heath HW-8. This rig is a challenge to use on a good day. With the direct conversion receiver, it's hard to separate signals that are close in frequency. Other radios include: HW-99 and HW-100 with all matching accessories. These rigs are all restored and operational. They are on the operating bench ready to go if I ever feel the urge. They remind me of the early years when Heathkit was in business and many of us built several kits. These are now my "comfort" radios.

My QTH works really well. Something about the ground I am on makes the antennas perform exceptionally well. I operate QRP at 4 watts just like any other station of higher power. Many times RST exchange is the same, yet the other station is 500watts. When power info is exchanged most stations are amazed what QRP can do. I use the search and pounce method about 90% of the time.

Several years ago, I had a QSO with John K3WWP and found NAQCC. The low power and wire antennas fit my operating preference, so I joined. NAQCC has provided a great deal of operating pleasure and when needed, a good reason to get on the air. Being retired allows me to get on the air every day. The Sprints and challenges are the greatest of fun for me. Chasing DX, rag chewing, contacting QRP CQ's and trying to contact weak signals.

So that is a little about me from the rural woods of Southern Maine. Hope to meet more NAQCC members. I may soon be calling you. 73's Dick K1IEE



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.

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NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER:



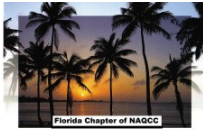
Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to matt@naqcc-eu.org. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just EU members, and we regularly receive challenge and sprint logs with trans-Atlantic QSOs. Please see the chapter web page for dates and details.

No report available.

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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 March field event Friday, March 21st, at 9am, at Blake Park in Lake Helen, FL. While we were initially planning to work from the “Pony Park” adjacent to this location, we found only one set of picnic tables out in the open (no cover – and that could be a big deal in the Florida sun even in March!) So we returned to Blake Park across the street. There were not so many kids at the Youth Center this time of the year, even though it was Spring Break!

Art WB4MNK (20M with his KX-1 at 4W) trumped us all, with 17 contacts in NJ, ME, PA, MO, NY, KS, MI, TX, VA, WA, IN, and AZ plus VE1BA in NS. Steve WB4OMM (40M with his brand new, first trip to the field, KX-3 running 5W out) made five contacts in FL and NC. Don K3RLL (another KX-3 with 5W) only got one on 30M, but it was a beauty!! He worked a VP2/SP2 (portable) from a rent-a-station in BWI! Our antennas included Steve’s Buddipole Vertical, Wally’s dipole, Don’s 32' 9:1 UNUN-fed 80-10m portable vertical and Art’s ground mounted wire vertical.

Wally KG4LAL searched the 17M airwaves with his old, dependable FT-817 but had no luck in snagging a QSO. Ron KI4TI #4280 stopped by and made two QSOs, but had to leave before our mandatory photo and lunch! Ron’s rig was an FT-817ND, random wire with a Hendrix SLT+ tuner. He made two Qs, NC and FL. The FL QSO was with that “Notorious QRP in the Field from Florida Guy”, Kelly K4UPG #3042!

Our dependable “assistant”, Darryl AB8GU helped with the “put up and take down” and moral support. No contacts, but he did call some DX stations on the KX3. He generously brings his wonderful Bose noise-cancelling headphones for Don, and Don brings the KX3 microphone for him!



From L-R: Wally KG4LAL #6278, Darryl AB8GU #6913, Don K3RLL #1905, Steve WB4OMM #5913, and Art WB4MNK #5274 with the “Lake Helen Blake Park Tree” adjacent to our operating pavilion. Yeah, Steve and Darryl ordered their NAQCC-FL hats the same day!!! Ya’ gotta’ be fashionable!!!

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For the lucky few that got through, another unique collectable QSL card will be available.



Wally Darryl Don Steve Art
 KG4LAL AB8GU K3RLL WB4OMM WB4MNK

FLORIDA CHAPTER NAQCC
 Volusia County - Grid Locator EL98jx

Portable Operations in the Park

Blake Park Lake Helen, Florida

QSO WITH	CALLSIGN	DATE	TIME	FREQ/MODE	R S T	72/73!
WB4OMM		21 Mar 2014				

We quit at 11:30 and had a picnic lunch, punctuated by our CW QRP portable tales and ideas. It was another great day!! The weather was perfect (clear, light breeze, 75F) and the bands were “Fair”.

On a more humorous note, Don made an “FM contact” to Antiqua, Guatemala with Melissa, WB3IAK, who was standing high on a mountain peak, two hours distant from Guatemala City. The only problem was his FM contact was out-of-band....he was using his cell phone!!!

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

NOTE FOR NEXT MONTH: Due to the Easter Holiday and the Florida QSO Party, our monthly field operation will be held a week early on Friday, April 11th. Watch your e-mails for more information!! 72/73 to all!

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NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER:



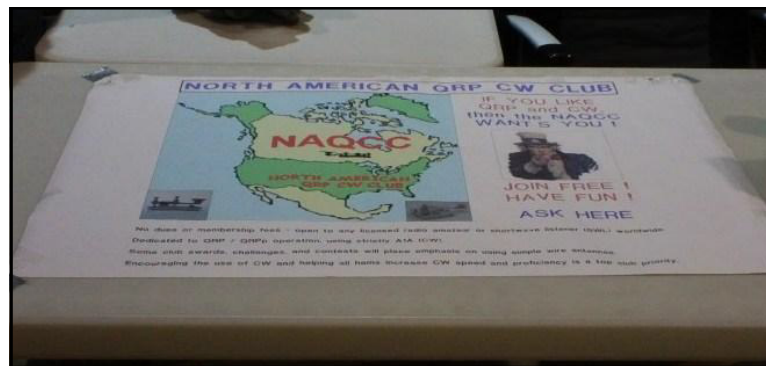
Items in this section are from John, N8ZYA, unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John at jspiker58@gmail.com. The chapter's web site is at <https://plus.google.com/communities/102627005227155262259?hl=en&partnerid=gplp0>.

Last year, in 2013, before the **WV Chapter** of the **NAQCC Club** was established, I set up my QRP station at the Charleston Hamfest and worked several DX stations in Eastern Europe. It drew a lot of interest from many people.



I was invited back, this year, to do a special QRP forum on March 15th. I saw this opportunity, as a way for our new West Virginia Chapter to share our enthusiasm for QRP CW radio and especially the **NAQCC** club.

I'm very grateful to John Shannon (**K3WWP**) for the use of his banner. I'm also very grateful to the staff of the Charleston Hamfest for allowing us this opportunity to highlight our **NAQCC** club.



The hamfest committee actually provided me with a small dual band HT to give away at the end of my presentation! I had a captive audience.....

Our club members Eric (**AC8LJ**) and Steven (**KC4URI**) helped me with both the presentation and the "club table" at the event. We were also joined by Jeff (**K9ESE**) and Jim (**NX8Z**). In addition to these members of the "core group"- I met a few more members of the **NAQCC** club. It was nice to see Lonnie (**KY8B**) # 5043 and Bill (**WR8S**) #6608.



Bill (**K3QEQ**) # 1426 introduced himself to me. We were having a nice conversation about QRP, and the new chapter, and when he offered me his QSL card, I immediately realized we had previously worked many years ago. I remembered the exact CW conversation, which by the way, lasted nearly an hour at the time. We're both Navy vets, and as old sailors, we exchanged several sea stories.

The longer I continue CW operations, the more I realize how many of us served our country when asked, and are still very proud, not only our own efforts, but of all those who served in difficult times.

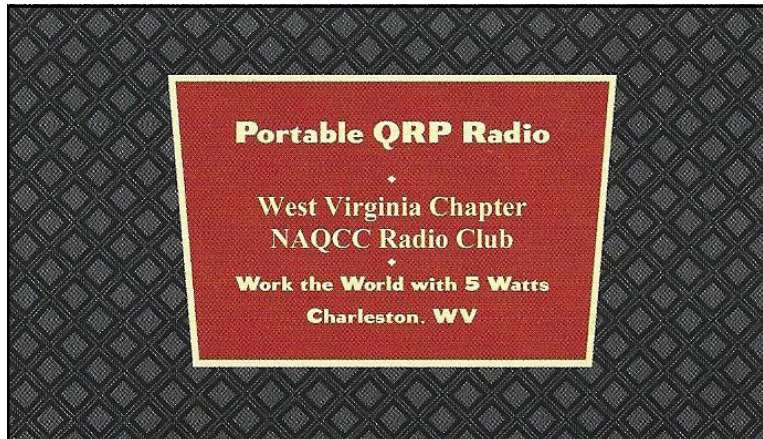
Just a few weeks earlier, I had some new "business cards" printed for myself (radio is now my second career) and I exchanged mine for his.



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By the way, for those who may choose to do so, you can get 250 of these for \$14.95 from an internet site. E-mail me and I will send you the link. I altered the card a bit for internet display but you can get the jest of it.

I especially like the “back side” of the card.



My presentation emphasized the fun of operating radio in the field and our preference for simple wire antennas. I made sure the NAQCC club was portrayed as an enthusiastic group dedicated to the art of Morse Code.

I also had a great conversation with Geoff Boorne who is the curator of the Huntington Museum of Radio and Technology where we used that great nine element beam last month. I’m looking forward to receiving their next newsletter since I applied for membership in that organization.

At the end of the day, I had the names and e-mails of 20 people who attended my power point presentation. I *personally* had a good time, and with the help of the “core” group of our members, it was a successful event.



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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.

Mike showed up for a quick visit after the local ham club meeting the evening of the 26th. It was while he was here that I worked a new overall entity in the Austral Islands which brought my country (entity) total to 219 worked now. I credit that to Mike since I might not have gone back to 10M to check on TX6G had he not come. I heard and tried TX6G several times before Mike came, then gave up. Soon after he came and brought some luck with him apparently, I went back to 10M and this time got him on my second try. Unfortunately Mike couldn't follow suit. Methinks I lucked out during a brief pause in the TX6G pileup which ended after I worked him. After trying for maybe 15 minutes or so, TX6G kind of faded away, and Mike gave up trying. We then played a computer bowling game for a bit, after which we ordered a pair of Li' Squall tuna tin type transceivers which we plan to build when we get together for the weekend of April 12/13. We'll also be doing a 'tag team' contest effort that weekend in 3 or 4 different contests including the always active GA QSO Party and the Japanese JIDX contest. I'm hoping (and he is too) that Mike can get his first JA QSO in that one.

Another Chapter member and club president Tom WY3H had his best effort ever in our sprints with 42 QSOs in 23 multipliers. Congrats Tom.

It was nice to work our Chapter snowbird Don K3RLL in the sprint. Too bad he couldn't transmit some of that FL weather up here during our contact. We're looking forward to some eyeball QSOs when Don heads up here in June for the summer.

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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/>.

No report available.



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 EDT	Monday 0000 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
East Texas	Monday 7 PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7063 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest Net	Monday 9 PM CDT	Tuesday 0200 Z	7123.5 KHz	Steve, WB0QQT (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional / Continental	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MDT	Tues/Thurs 2200 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
East Coast	Thursday 8:30 PM EDT	Friday 0030 Z	3560 KHz	Robert, KG4KGL (in SC)
Pacific Northwest 80	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Pacific Northwest 40	Monday 7:30 PM PDT	Tuesday 0230 Z	7122 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)

QRX?

Propagation is picking up for most of the QRS nets: NCS Dale Putnam W7CS reports a DX from Cuba checking in on 20M. John Smithson N8ZYA of the West Virginia Chapter recently completed DXCC on QRP. Yours truly worked C08CML on 20M (5W both ops) from my Midcoast Maine QTH, as did many others in the March NAQCC Sprint. Old Sol is now presenting us with his spotty side which has created some nice openings for DX. So things are on the bright for QRP CW these days.

Looking over the QRS net activity reports, though, our East coast nets are down substantially from last year's activity at this time. And for all our nets, new check-ins are relatively scarce, as are non-member check-ins. With that in mind I'm asking each of you to make a regular effort to check-in to your regional QRS net, and to recruit another member or prospective member to join you.

Our QRS nets are maintained as a training vehicle for operators who want more on-air QRP CW experience and innovation is encouraged. For example, last month we highlighted the West Coast PNW40, PNW80 and MWN experiments with Farnsworth keying and common word practice. If simply checking-in has become old hat, you can work with your NCS to try a different format when conditions permit. And although we traditionally stay on 40M and 80M, there's no reason a net should not convene on a higher band, such as 20M, or even on the WARC bands 30M and 17M, if conditions there are more favorable. Note that our NCS operators routinely adjust call frequencies to move away from QRM or to a more favorable band for the season. Last minute notices are posted by the NCS on the NAQCC spotter page, so it's a good idea to check there right before net time.

I'd like to hear from any of you who have ideas on how we can boost QRS net attendance, especially in the

(Continued on page 20)

Eastern half of the country. Everything legal is on the table, including schedule changes and new nets to be convened on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays or even Fridays if there is enough interest. RSVP to cfytech24x7@gmail.com, and feel free to be candid with your comments. We need to know what you want the QRS nets to provide for the membership.

I'm looking forward to hearing from you!

72, chuck KB1ZMX/AE

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

03-03-2014 No QNI
 03-10-2014 No QNI
 03-17-2014 No QNI
 03-24-2014 (2) No Log info.
 03-31-2014 No QNI

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM Central Time, 7.063MHz +/-

03-03-2014 (4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N5DRG K5BRY
 03-10-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N5DRG K5BRY N7NET
 03-17-2014 (4) NCS KA5TJS N7NET KE5YGA KG0YR
 03-24-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS K5BRY KE5YGA KE5YUM N7NET N5DRG
 03-31-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS N7NET KE5YUM KG0YR

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

03-03-2014 No net
 03-10-2014 No net
 03-17-2014 I gave the MWN a go but SSB splatter was horrific. I think Wyatt was there but am not sure so didn't try return the call since I wasn't sure it was him. Will give it a try next Monday.
 03-24-2014 (4) NCS WB0QQT KE7LYW NI2F W0WWY W1UL
 03-31-2014 (3) NCS WB0QQT KE7LKW KR5RR

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRC) - Tuesday/Thursday 5:00 PM Mountain Time, 14.062.5 MHz

03-04-2014 (7) NCS WC7S W0XI AA7CU KU7Y KE6OIO KI4FD KF7WNS
 03-06-2014 (7) NCS WC7S AA7CU N6MY K0DTJ KI4FD KF7WNS WB6FBB
 03-11-2014 (6) NCS WC7S K4FD KE6OIO W5SNS K0DTJ NE5DL
 03-13-2014 (6) NCS WC7S AA7CU K6MGO KE6OIO KF7WNS NE5DL
 03-18-2014 (5) NCS WC7S N6MY WB4SPB CU2BV KF7WNS
 03-20-2014 (4) NCS WC7S KE6OIO AA7CU KF7WNS
 03-25-2014 (5) NCS WC7S AA7CU N6MY WA9S K0DTJ
 03-27-2014 (4) NCS WC7S AA7CU KE6OIO K6MGO

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

03-06-2014 NCS KG4KGL No QNI
 03-13-2014 NCS KG4KGL No QNI
 03-20-2014 NCS KG4KGL No net
 03-27-2014 NCS KG4KGL No QNI

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

03-06-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW K7ZNP VE7DWG WBOQQT

03-13-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB K7EX

03-20-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW K7NZN KE7WPK VE7DWG

03-27-2014 (6) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB K7ZNP K7EX WN0WWY

NAQCC Pacific NorthWest QRS 40 Meter Net (PNW40) - Monday, 7:30 PM, PacificTime, 7.122 MHz

03-03-2014 No report

03-10-2014 No report

03-17-2014 (3) NCS KR5RR N7HRK KF7YHB

03-24-2014 (4) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX WB4SPB N7HRK

03-31-2014 (4) KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK KF7YHB WB4SPB



HELP FOR BEGINNERS



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>.

Note: This column used to be called "CW Assistance Project" but the fact is that beginners often need help with things other than CW. In renaming this section we are "loosening up the reins" on Brion so that he can address a wider range of topics.

Don't get discouraged by a little flak from a station! I read a comment a while back, from someone that got some flak from a station, because he did not take part in the running contest, and was literally told to move. He got discouraged to the point of giving up on Ham Radio. Not good!

Ham Radio is a wonderful hobby but sometimes a fly like this might appear in the ointment. Usually it's more subtle than this. You might run across a station where after a few exchanges you get the feeling you are being humored and the QSO maybe end up a bit short. You are operating low power with minimal and/or relatively inexpensive equipment. The other station may be a super-duper station with telescoping towers and topped with several beams all costing perhaps in the mid 5 or even 6 figures. If he wants to spend that kind of money, that's fine. But I'll bet you get more satisfaction out of your set up!

But what do you do if the other guy is actually rude enough to say something like what I described in the first paragraph? Being in a contest doesn't give anyone a special privilege; the bands are for everyone to enjoy operating on, contest or no contest. But with that said, it's not likely that you can win a battle to hold the frequency with your QRP power. Don't let it bother you and don't "stoop to their level." Just find another spot to operate on. Needless to say when you find another spot --- listen, listen, listen, call QRL?, and then listen some more lest you interrupt someone else.

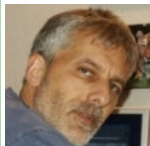
Some people would like to see QRP outlawed, ---- well ---- that's just not going to happen. Period. What is more likely to happen, is actually the other way around - a power restriction to a maximum 200W or even 100 W, like they have in some Countries. But I'm getting away from the main point. DO NOT let yourself get intimidated by someone. Just "consider the source" and find another spot.

Operating QRP or QRPP is a great challenge in itself, and doing it with minimal gear is even more of a fun challenge. (Doing it with Home-Brew gear is an even more satisfying challenge. Even putting together one of the small CW kit transceivers gives you a certain satisfaction of accomplishment.) I would think that operating a KW Station would get boring after a while from the lack of challenge. Have Fun!

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 Anthony, AB9YC, #6319 --

One evening, while trying to work the W1AW/7 operation in AZ on 80M CW, I received one AB? AB?, a pause, then NIL NIL. The operator didn't even try to pull my signal out. For this contact, I had the power turned up above QRP levels. But my 80M capabilities are pretty limited and the losses rendered my output power in the QRP range anyway, but I gave it a go.

I was disappointed with the NIL, but that got me to thinking.

Working QRP in general, and the monthly NAQCC sprints in particular, are valuable teachers in the art of lower power communication. The important skills include understanding how to operate with limited power output, how to optimize your efforts (speed, timing, etc.) to meet the conditions, and most importantly how to pull a weak signal from the noise. It seems that others could use some help in mastering these skills.

I am thankful for all the participants in the monthly sprints who go to great lengths to pull out the signals of fellow operators. Keep up the great work! I look forward to my turn when the W1AW merry-go-round lands on IL in late June to put my skills into action. See you then.

From Paul, N8XMS, #675 --

As the old saying goes, "I have good news and bad news." The bad news is that I was not able to complete our NAQCC "Block Party" challenge in March. Despite the fact that I spotted myself numerous times on our spotting page, I only worked 4 other NAQCC members (not counting the sprint) over the month. Where were all of you?! The good news is that working DX was much easier than finding NAQCC members! Without really actively hunting for DX I managed to work Sweden, European Russia, Croatia, Norway, Madeira Island, Japan, Asiatic Russia, Guam, and the Austral Islands. I think that this was only my third QRP QSO with Japan (it was even a rag-chew!), and Guam and the Austral Islands were all-time new ones for me. I also managed to work all of the W1AW states this month, although Vermont was a little tough. This ARRL Centennial QSO Party is turning out to be a lot of fun and I'm starting to get excited about the prospect of working QRP WAS with all W1AW stations.

(Continued on page 24)

From John, K3WWP, #2 --

March was an interesting month here. After almost not completing the European Chapter challenge in February, I made sure to finish up the March one quickly and did so by the 9th of the month. DX conditions were very good those 9 days and continued good almost uninterrupted throughout the whole month or at least until the 27th on which date I am writing this. On this date my DX streak reached 392 consecutive days as further proof of how good DX conditions have been for at least the past 13 months now.

I've also kept my W1AW states record perfect, and am now past the half way mark to my goal of a W1AW WAS with 28 of 28 worked. I got the last pair (IA VT) within 9 minutes of their startup at 0000Z on the 26th. In fact, I'm pretty sure I was the first QSO from Iowa at 0000Z (at least on 20M).

I guess my three biggest thrills during the month were two rag chew type QSOs with Japanese hams and a new overall country worked. It's always nice when DX QSOs go past just TU 599 although don't get me wrong, I enjoy those also. The chats were with Suke JM7OLW and Shin JA1NUT, both on 10M. Shin especially made it a point to say he enjoyed my web site and liked my way of doing ham radio with QRP/CW/simple antennas. The overall new country was Austral Islands worked on 10M at 0028Z on the 27th. That's 219 entities worked now with QRP/CW/simple wire antennas. A little more about that in the WPA Chapter news above.

For the first time in months now, conditions were good for our NAQCC sprint and my 46 QSOs and 22 multipliers were the best I've done since our anniversary sprint back in October when I had 50/21. What really helped was an easing in my always strong local noise level. It was only S2 on 20M and S6 to S7 on 40 and 80. Usually it is right around S9.





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

