

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 197 NOVEMBER 2014



KEY CLICKS

- **THE TRANSITION HAPPENED.** And I am now the President of the NAQCC. I am both honored and terrified! WY3H and K3WWP have done an absolutely amazing job over the past 10 years and they are leaving some very big shoes to fill. Fortunately they are both still available and I have them programmed in on my speed dial. I would also be remiss if I didn't mention the outstanding help that more than two dozen volunteers provide every day. Some of these people you know about but many of them work quietly behind the scenes to make the NAQCC the great organization that it is. This club would literally not exist without them - THANK YOU! So here we go. Please be patient with me as I continue to learn the ropes - hopefully I won't hang myself with them! 73, Paul, N8XMS
- **JOHN SMITHSON, N8ZYA, NEW NAQCC VICE PRESIDENT.** We are pleased to announce that John Smithson, N8ZYA, has agreed to be our new club Vice President. John is an enthusiastic QRP'er and for quite some time now you have known him as the President of the local West Virginia Chapter of the NAQCC. You can learn a little bit more about John in his biographical sketch elsewhere in this newsletter.
- **ANNIVERSARY PRIZES AWARDED.** By the time that you read this newsletter the prize drawings for both our anniversary celebration and our WZ8C memorial month have been held (Nov. 2), but we don't have the time to get a full report ready for this issue. Prizes included two HB1B QRP Transceivers, a Vibroplex Jeweled-Movement Paddle, A Vibroplex "Know Code" Straight Key, and much more. The complete results can be seen at www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_10th_anniv.html.
- **HELP WANTED - PUBLICITY ASSISTANT.** We need assistance with publicizing our monthly activities - primarily the sprints. Each month, the weekend prior to our sprint, we post announcements to a number of different email lists (currently about 29). These announcements have generated both sprint participation as well as new memberships. To do this job you would need to join each of these lists so that, as a member, you can post messages. (I would suggest creating a special email address to just do this work.) There is actually a free program called "PIMEX" that runs on Windows systems that makes the posting to all of the email lists automatic with just a few mouse clicks. If you would be interested in filling this position please contact Paul, N8XMS. Our current publicity manager, VA3RJ, will help you to get up and running with this.

IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
Message from WY3H	3
Key Restoration	4
Meet N8ZYA	7
WZ8C Memorial	9
10th Anniversary Report	10
Member Spotlight	12
Sprints	14
Challenges	16
Awards	17
QRS Nets	18
Ham Quips	21
Chapter News	22
Member Submissions	37
About The NAQCC	42
Contacts	43

- **HELP WANTED - PRIZE MANAGER.** After many years of great service our Prize Manager, Mike, KC2EGL, is stepping down and we need someone to take over that job. The primary duties are to...
 - Store and manage the inventory of items that are donated to the club for use as prizes.
 - Maintain records for our different prizes.
 - Edit the prize page on the club web site. (This could be phased into.)
 - Conduct random prize drawings. (Monthly for sprints/challenges and a few other times as well.)
 - Contact prize winners.
 - Mail out prizes to the winners. (Postage reimbursed from the club treasury.)If you would be interested in filling this position please contact Paul, N8XMS. (plenty of help will be available to get you started.)
- **VOLUNTEERS?!?!** The two “help wanted” items above were also in last month’s newsletter but did not generate any responses. Please remember that we are an organization of volunteers. Is there something that you can do to help?
- **HEY, CHECK YOUR RESULTS!** Every month we conduct a random prize drawing for the participants in both our sprints and challenges. Recently we were trying to clean up some old records, and as we contacted prize winners going back several months we frequently heard expressions of surprise that they had won something. So here is a reminder that after you participate in a sprint or challenge please remember to check your results! Actual scores and results can be found on the challenge and sprint pages, and the lists of prize winners can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html. If you find that you are a winner please contact us to receive your prize.
- **DO YOU KNOW ABOUT OUR PRIZES?** Related to the previous item, we have a rather extensive list of prizes that are given out for various operating achievements and activities, but I think that a lot of members don’t even know about them. Go to http://www.naqcc.info/main_giveaways.html to see the possibilities. Maybe there’s a “goody” there for you!
- **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE IN 2015.** Plans are being made for a membership drive during 2015 that will include prizes given out to the current members who manage to recruit the most new members. Complete details will be available soon.
- **91 YEAR OLD ROCKMITE BUILDER MAKES FIRST QSOs.** Recently Bob, WB3T, asked me if I could help publicize a yardpedition that he and his 91-year old friend, K3CHR, were going to do later in the day. (See Bob’s *Member Submission* in this newsletter.) Normally we don’t use our club email list to announce individual outings like this but this one was a little bit special. So I sent out an announcement and I am proud to say that our great NAQCC membership stepped up to the task and made the outing a complete success for K3CHR. THANK YOU!
- **NEW QRS NET STARTING UP.** We are happy to announce that a new NAQCC QRS net is starting up from West Virginia. The NCS will be John, N8ZYA, and all are welcomed to check in. For those of you who do not know about our QRS nets, they are a place to get some quality CW practice at slow speeds and to gain some proficiency at CW net operations. We have numerous nets located throughout the country. See the *QRS Nets* section of this newsletter for more information.
- **MINOR CHANGE IN ELIGIBILITY FOR NAQCC PRIZES.** After consulting with both K3WWP and a major prize donor we have made a small policy change to our prize eligibility rules. From now on all club officers and volunteers will also be eligible to win any prizes that they otherwise meet the qualifications for.



MESSAGE FROM WY3H

WOW! I should be used to it by now, but I'm still caught up by just how fast time goes by. It seems like only a few weeks ago that John, K3WWP and Mike, KC2EGL stopped by our place in Pennsylvania to present me with the wonderful KX3 -- that was, however, last May. What makes the KX3 really special is that it was a gift from all the NAQCC members, a token of appreciation for the past 10 years.

It's difficult to believe that it has now been a full 10 years since John and I came up with the idea to start a truly unique QRP CW club, thus the NAQCC was born. As was stated several times before neither one of us, at that time, really expected to have more than 100 members, covering perhaps a dozen or so states. The rest is history.

I must say the much of the explosive growth of the NAQCC is due, in no small part, to the efforts of John, K3WWP. John's skills with HTML enabled him to develop a first class Website. That Website, naqcc.info, has been the primary tool for attracting new members and keeping members apprised of club activities and events.

In all honesty, my contributions to the NAQCC have been minimal, other than to suggest ideas for challenges and announce club activities in the amateur radio media, and so on. I want to make it clear that K3WWP's efforts and dedication are the main reason for the NAQCC's success.

During these past 10 years, John and I have developed a close personal friendship, one that goes beyond the confines of radio. John was our Thanksgiving dinner guest several times and for several years, John accompanied me while delivering Thanksgiving meals to the Mechling Shakley Veterans Center. So you see, friendships developed in the NAQCC can go beyond amateur radio activities.

But I also have to thank each and every NAQCC member. It goes without saying, without you guys and gals there would be no NAQCC. Most of you I've never met, and probably never will. But I have worked many of you in sprints and challenges. More over, it really is heartwarming, when just operating at random times on various frequencies to hear an answer to my CQ "WY3H de ##X##, HI TOM...! To get to know someone on a personal basis through the medium of CW is incomprehensible to the non-CW op. This is true camaraderie.

So, the first decade of the NAQCC has ended. Where do we go from here? It's really anyone's guess but I believe, judging from participation in the sprints and monthly challenges our unique, now world wide club, has a long life ahead of it. And again, thanks for that is due to our members.

So, down here in Georgia, JoAnne and I are looking forward to starting a new chapter in our lives. We love the people here, some we have known for a long time and some are new friends. We love the climate. Most of our time is now devoted to serving our Congregation. However, I still manage to find time several days a week to work HF with my KX3. I do hope to work as many of you as I can for as long as I am permitted the gift of life. Thank you, NAQCC members, not only for that wonderful KX3, but for your sincere friendship and many enjoyable QSOs over the years.

I think I can also speak for John when I say that we have full confidence in the continued leadership of the NAQCC by our new president, Paul Huff, N8XMS and John Smithson, N8ZYA, vice president.

Both JoAnne and I wish the very best 73/72 to all. Take care and.....KEEP POUNDING BRASS!

Tom WY3H NAQCC 0001

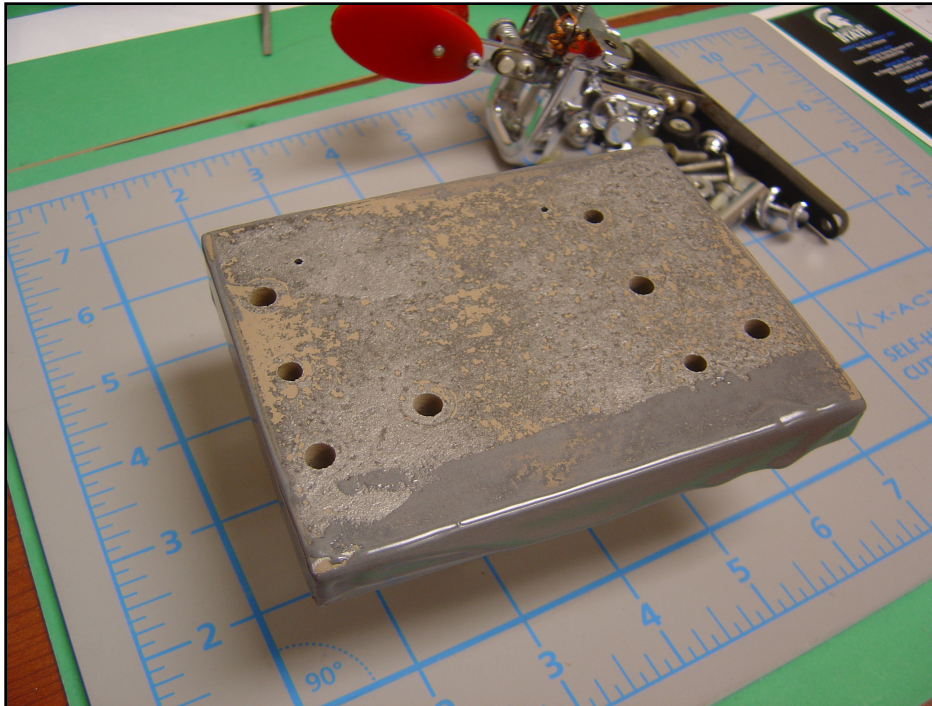


KEY RESTORATION

BY GREGG MULDER, WB8LZG

I opened the drawer to the operating desk a while back and got a glimpse of an old key in need. I had purchased it at a swap meet a dozen or so years back, fully intending to give it a once over and putting it on the air. But one thing after another took priority over the key.

I picked up the dirty Vibroplex keyer and looked at the serial number. A 1964, fifty years old! Time to get that refurb job!



This is what it looked like before repainting the base.

There were several big scratches and a cut out of the left side. It was in need of some TLC for sure. I sanded most of the old paint off and “filled” the cut on the side with some JB weld. Then after it dried, the base was sanded and made ready for paint. I had painted a key for the CMARC club earlier in the year in gold and I was pleased with the results so I decided to try it again. The hardest part was the preparation of the base to get that perfect finish.



Here is the key with a coat of "hammered finish" gold paint.



Now the left side looks as new as the right! Beautiful!

After using a little "elbow grease" on the chrome, she shined like new. It sends beautiful morse code too!

I got so “keyed up”, I tried doing another oldie but goody while I was at it. This one was a Vibroplex “look alike” knock-off. I had painted the base many years before but never really took to it. So I wondered, what color ?



I had my doubts about the color when I first sprayed it on, but it came out very FB! It matches the walnut finger pieces nicely. I wonder what color to paint the next key in need ?

MEET JOHN SMITHSON, N8ZYA



I've been licensed for 25 years now and my favorite mode of operation has been portable "CW" QRP radio. I don't like sitting in a windowless room on a beautiful day. I operate outdoors as much as possible.

I have both my QRP **DXCC** and QRP **WAS** awards and have worked numerous stations at more than a thousand miles per watt. I also hold the **Friendship Award**.

You can "literally" work the world with 5 watts of power and a simple wire antenna. My favorite antenna is a dipole or a random wire. At home, I'm forced to use stealth antennas because of living in a historic district near the state capital building. I worked the lower 48 states, and many DX stations, with 40 and 20 meter Isotron antennas. They're controversial, but I like a challenge.



I can stretch a 15 and 10 meter dipole inside the house but most of my DX contacts are done with a 50 ft length of "radio shack speaker wire" fed into a small MFJ tuner. It's a true "random wire" which zig zags over much of the upstairs living space and it's tied off to the downstairs stair railing. I like keeping things simple, and above all else, portable when the need arises.



I'm the manager of the **West Virginia Chapter** of the NAQCC club and always enjoy meeting new CW operators. I'll chase DX when the opportunity presents itself, but don't go out of my way, ever since earning the QRP DXCC award. I'm not a big contester. My favorite contact is a long CW QSO.

I've done a lot of different stuff in my lifetime. I'm 66 years old and retired from a major paint company. I worked as a heavy equipment mechanic in the southern coal fields for about 10 years. My specialty was air conditioning. I held over 20 different jobs before I retired from the paint company. I'm a former Navy signalman and an official member of the Tonkin Gulf Yatch Club. I'm a graduate of West Virginia State University.

I play the guitar, piano, ukulele, and recorder- none professionally- but enjoy playing for friends and small groups. I day hike, bike, and geocache. I have two children and five grandkids. I'm married to the best wife a man could ever hope for. We met while hiking with a local trail club. We have one small dog and four cats. The dog rules.....

I blog about QRP radio on the web at : [The N8ZYA Radio Blog](#)

The North American QRP CW Club has always been my favorite radio club. I'm now proud to serve as it's current Vice President.

Happy Trails,

John Smithson N8ZYA

NAQCC # 2279



WZ8C MEMORIAL REPORT BY JOHN, K3WWP

On March 2, 2014 the CW and ham radio world lost one of its greatest advocates when Nancy Kott WZ8C passed away after lingering health problems. Although her life encompassed far more, she will best be remembered by hams as the North American leader of the World's most prominent CW club - FISTS.

Perhaps not so well known is her role in helping the NAQCC despite the fact she never became a member. She permitted John K3WWP, former writer of the QRP column for the FISTS newsletter KeyNote to write about the club in his column and would often ask how the club was doing. To honor her memory, the NAQCC and FISTS combined for a special "Honor Nancy Month" in September 2014. The month featured a special sprint on the six month's anniversary of her passing, September 2 plus a month-long NAQCC alphabet style challenge featuring words related to her and FISTS.

The sprint was a three hour affair for which 53 reports from NAQCC and FISTS members were received despite poor propagation conditions around the country that evening. Those 53 reports contained a total of 667 QSOs.

The challenge was mastered by 9 members who made all the words plus 5 others who couldn't get all the words but reported in with the words they did make.

The NAQCC was proud to have done this tribute to Nancy. All of us miss her greatly. Our only regret is that we couldn't have done this for another reason besides her passing while she was still alive to see the outpouring of love.

Finally to close this brief report, here is a picture of the certificate that is going out to all who participated in the sprint and challenge. It was designed by John KK1X.



10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

Our NAQCC 10th Anniversary celebration is now in the books. Participation in both the sprint and in terms of N#A QSOs was down from last year, but only by a little bit. Forty-four N#A operators all over the country combined to make a total of 1,148 QSOs. (Last year we made 1,318.) In those eleven hundred plus QSOs can be found 45 US states, 4 Canadian provinces, and a remarkable 40 different DX entities, once again showing the efficiency of QRP CW.

We would like to thank the following N#A operators for making this anniversary celebration such a success: AB1VL, K1IX, KQ1P, N1JI, W1OH, WB1HGA, K2YGM, W2LJ, WA2NYY, WK2T, AB3RU, K2DEP, K3WWP, KC2EGL, W3TTT, WA3HIC, K4BAI, KI4EBD, KU4GW, N4MJ, NY4G, W1TEF, WY3H, AF5Q, KA5TJS, WB5UDA, WB9PIF, AC6YY, K6MGO, AB7MP, WB7BTR, WU7F, AC8JW, AD7TN, N8XMS, WA8AXF, AB9YC, K9EYT, K9NRW, KC9EE, K0CW, KD0V, W0EJ, WB0PYF

Here are a few interesting statistics from our operations. Those will be followed by some soapbox comments from a few of our operators. Next month we will have a report on the anniversary prize drawing held on November 2nd.

- Every US state was worked except AK, DE, HI, ND, and RI. I suspect that those states are also among the last to be worked by operators trying to complete their WAS awards. Not surprisingly the centrally located N9A operators worked more states than any of the other callsign districts.
- Canadian provinces worked were BC, ON, QC, SK.
- N2A operators, with their proximity to the Atlantic Ocean, managed to find some good 10 and 15 meter openings to Europe and worked more DX than any of the other callsign districts. The DX entities worked by the entire N#A team were: Algeria, Aruba, Asiatic Russia, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Corsica, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Estonia, European Russia, France, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Lithuania, Lord Howe Island, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Romania, Saint Kitts & Nevis, San Marino, Scotland, Serbia, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Ukraine, Columbia
- 40-meters is apparently our favorite QRP band with 20-meters coming in second place. Here is the breakdown of QSOs made per band: 160 m = 1, 80 m = 34, 40 m = 525, 30 m = 85, 20 m = 348, 17 m = 9, 15 m = 74, 12 m = 1, 10 m = 71.
- 30% of our 1148 QSOs were made during our NAQCC sprint and 70% were made during operating times that were posted on the club spotting page.

Soapbox comments from N#A operators (in no particular order):

- This was fun. It was my second year operating as N7A. I am grateful to the stations that I was able to work. I had some challenges with QRM - especially digital, and 20 meters closing earlier than I had expected; so every contact was valued even more! Thanks to all who organized the event, and to all who participated. Now I'm looking forward to the 11th year celebration of NAQCC! 72/73 de - Mark, WU7F
- Thanks for letting me have the call for the occasion. - WB5UDA
- It was an interesting event to work. Had several nice chats. Only had one brief pile up on 30M. - AC8JW

- With preparing for retirement plus a lot of other irons on the fire this week, I didn't have much time to activate N3A. I was going to take it for the sprint if no one else did. It wound up I was glad someone did because my local noise that evening was as bad as it ever gets, and it took me almost the full two hours to eke out 22 QSOs as K3WWP. Mike KC2EGL and I had fun using N3A in our annual Columbus Day parkpedition each yearly anniversary week. We made 76 QSOs between us that day in very good conditions and pretty good weather. Then I made a couple QSOs in a half hour session filling in for K2DEP who had bad thunderstorms in his area. I finished with an hour session and 11 more QSOs. I made 52 QSOs (my second lowest anniversary total) from 24 states, NS, and from a surprise answer to my CQ at the park, Belgium from Peter ON4AGP. All in all a fun if limited time again this year. My last official act as NAQCC VP, also. - K3WWP
- It was a lot of fun. Thanks to all who took the time to work me. Wish there was more activity in the evenings. - W2LJ
- On Saturday Jarts RTTY occupied most of 40m the rest was WAG and QSO partys. Hard to find a clear CQ spot so most time was S&P but did have several long rag chews. The 1X1 call thru a lot of operators off looking for a suffix but it was a ton of fun! Thanks Paul & John for your hard work in putting this together. - K1IX
- QRN / numerous contests / State QSO parties had to be negotiated during our Anniversary Event. QRN was a big winner! Even though contacts were infrequent... Those few contacts made - - were enjoyed! - WA3HIC
- Despite the fact that from the first full day of the Special Event, I have had a full blown cold and cough, I had fun and enjoyed the event. I think it improves ones ability to send and receive Morse Code while your nose is dripping and your eyes are running and you are coughing like crazy. Something like separating the boys from the men, I think. Band openings were not great, but not terrible either, so contacts were made each session I sat down at the rig. I used my K3 at 5 watts to a 31' wire, end-fed from a 9:1 UnUn, hung on a Jackite Pole on my narrow patio, between two, 2 story buildings. It was a struggle pulling some of you out of the S-8 noise, but worth it in the end. CU next year, 72, Bill, K6MGO
- I was one of the operators foe the 10th call area (N0A). The sprint was a lot of fun. I would encourage others to operate the special event calls next year. The directions were clear and easy to follow. Thanks Paul and John and others for putting this together. Rig KX3, 5W 160m dipole at 55'. 72, Ray Myers, WB0PYF
- It was an honor to operate as N1A for the NAQCC's tenth anniversary. I didn't have much time to devote to the operation, but I'm glad I signed up and spent some time on the air. Thanks for organizing this event! - N1JI
- This was the first time I'd ever done an event like this, and I had a great time. There were times where I'd call for an hour and nobody would hear me, and other times there would be several stations in a row. The sprint was great fun, and for the first time I had more than one station calling me. Not quite a pileup, but more than one, and it was great. Thanks to all the great ops who answered my CQ! - AB3RU
- Didn't have a lot of time to op the event. Managed to slip in an hour though. Contacts were slow until I spotted myself on the cluster. Did get in two good ragchew QSOs and introduced on contact to NAQCC. Hopefully, he will join.
Equipment: Yaesu FT-920 @ 5w or less
Antennas: Extended Double Zepp & 3 element yagi tribander
Fun event. Amazed that I worked six states in one hour with 5w or less. Thanks for sponsoring the event. 73 de N4MJ



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.

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.

DANNY WILSON, KF7TDF, 6300



My interest in radio all started when I was about 13 years old and my friends and I found an old radio receiver in the attic of an old garage. Well we had to immediately plug it in and see if it worked. I remember the tubes inside because they glowed, but the thing I found most interesting was all the stations I could hear were sending what sounded like Morse code and the people talking sounded like Donald Duck. Where that old radio ever wound up I don't know, I have gone searching for it many times.

I enjoyed the radio on an intermittent basis, not understanding much except that it was short wave and stations could be heard over very long distances. The Morse code was always a hook for me though. I just couldn't understand how somebody could understand it that fast. Then CB radio came along and boy did that light me up. I could talk back to people and there was an abundance of other CBers just waiting to hear you call, but that fad got to be such a hindrance to itself that I soon lost interest in talking to anybody. Then I mostly just enjoyed listening to the different operators and especially the coming of evening when I could hear far off stations bouncing signals off the atmosphere. I never really understood how they were doing it at the time but it sounded cool and I sure didn't want to be a kid asking dumb questions about such simple matters.

Then as with everybody, life kinda got in the way and I had to focus on raising my kids and providing for our family. Looking back, I could have found the time to get my ticket and begin learning the craft, but

for no good reason I just never did. I still enjoyed listening to shortwave on a little portable radio that I had bought. Then as my kids grew and left to follow their own paths I suddenly had lots of time to read and begin to really study the why and how radio worked, especially short wave radio. All that talk from years ago about bouncing waves off the atmosphere was now understandable. It was a foregone conclusion that I would have my ticket shortly after that. So I went and took my Technician test in 2011, then my General in 2012. I now hold a General ticket with my sights set on the Extra soon.

I've had some very good Elmering from some local hams. John Colson (KC7BJY), runs the local radio club and was more than happy to show me the ropes. He lent me some equipment and I got a little 2-meter rig on the air so I could start getting comfortable talking on a repeater. I remember him telling me that this was not CB and not to use any of the jargon that I had used so many years back. Looking back I am glad that shortwave has guided itself away from that jargon because I think that was the problem with CB back then. Shortwave needs to stay just as "grounded" as it is.

John (KC7BJY) guided me to another great elmer, Dale (WB7DJ). Dale and I became fast friends as he was planting the bug to become proficient at Morse code. I was immediately transported back to that dusty attic, but this time it was even better because I could make out a letter here and there, then another, and boy was I ever excited. I study every day for at least a few minutes and am getting pretty proficient at copying and I'm also working to make my sending as good as it can be. I have found I am most interested in CW. I will occasionally listen to SSB to get info when there is a hurricane bearing down or something like that, but 99 percent of my radio time is spent either listening to or sending Morse code.

I find that I enjoy listening to all the different stations the most, just as I had in days gone by. I occasionally run one of my radios (Kenwood) at 100 watts but mostly run my QRP rigs and study the way the propagation is working. I find it absolutely amazing that I can transmit to another ham thousands of miles away with just 5 or less watts. I am thankful that there are hams out there that will pull those little signals out of the mud and work me, so I try to return the favor by tuning and listening for the faintest of signals, then the fun starts, adjusting filters and RF gain and sometimes standing on your head to just get that little bit of improvement so you can get that QSO.

I really enjoy and would like to endorse to everyone several QRP events. First is NAQCC, their monthly sprints are a great place for a beginner to practice working contests in a non-contest environment, very friendly and helpful operators too. Next is the QRP foxhunt. If you have never done one of these you are missing a fun event. The great thing about this event is it will teach you how to get through a pileup. That may be old hat to a lot of you but trust me, working the fox in a 60 or 70 person pileup with QRP is a ball. The last event I really enjoy is a 100 watt affair, it is the CW fun events. A person preregisters and then is assigned a group of words, the contest starts and your goal is to exchange as many words as accurately as possible with other hams trying to get you their word. All three of these events have helped me to become a more capable CW operator. I imagine I will always be a CW man, but to everyone their own. I don't think any one mode is any better than the other, I just think you should be the best at the mode you choose as you can be.

Outside of radio I own a small grocery store in our town of 1500 people. We are located 100 miles from the nearest Walmart or McDonalds and still know most everybody in town. Winters here are cold, but not as bad as you would think. The biggest problem living here is the isolation. Those people that are more comfortable and self reliant enjoy this corner of the world very much. Walking and fishing tend to be where you will find me when not at work or on the radio. So far I have met very helpful and courteous people in the hobby and try to return the same. I think the thing I like the most about the hobby is it lets you find your level of comfort and doesn't force you any farther than you want to take it.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: The sprint this month will be on November 20, 0130 - 0330 UTC. That's the evening of 19th in North America. Please notice the UTC time change for the sprint due to most locations changing from daylight savings time to standard time. In other words, the sprint will still be at the same local time for most of you. Full details can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201411.html>.

Please remember to strive for that perfectly formatted "SILVER LOG" submission. It really helps our log processing. Everything that you need to know about how to have a Silver Log can be found at <http://naqcc.info/GLCheckList.txt>.

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

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: 117 logs were submitted for our October sprint with 97 of them being perfectly formatted Silver Logs. This was certainly lower than what we were anticipating for our 10th anniversary sprint but the good news is that with 10 prizes being given out in the prize drawing, each of the 117 participants has almost a 9% chance of winning something. That's a lot better than the lottery! As of this writing the prize drawing has not been held but will be by the time that you are reading this newsletter. Complete prize drawing results can be seen at www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_10th_anniv.html. Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201410.html> and results are summarized in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome out first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: KA9BHD, KD2FVG, VA2SNL, K4WY, W9JDH, K2HRS, AC6YY

In the year-long race for perfectly formatted Silver Logs we have a 10-way tie with 10 Silver Logs submitted by each one so far this year: AA7CU, K4KRW, KU4A, N2ESE, N8XMS, NQ2W, W2JEK, W4DUK, WA2JSG, WG8Y

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+	KC2EGL KB8FE K6CSL KE5YUM KQ1P N8QY K1IEE WA2JSG WB8ENE AA9L VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG WY3H N4FI K3RLL NF8M KU4A NU7T
75+	K4JPN N8XMS WB8LZG K4BAI KD2MX K4NVJ W2SH W9CC
100+	W2JEK KA2KGP K3WWP
125+	

SWA CATEGORY				
Division	1st	2nd	3rd	
W1	W1SFR	N2CN		
W2	W2SH	WB2LQF		
W3	KB3AAG	K3WWP		
W4	K4KRW	WH6LE	NA4O	
W5	N5GW			
W6	WK6L			
W7	WD7Y			
W8	NF8M	WA8AXF		
W9	N9SE			
W0	N0TA	N8LA		
VE	VE7KBN			
DX				
KEY CATEGORIES				
Straight Key (x2)	N4A/K4BAI			
Bug (x1.5)	WD0K			
Keyer (x1)	N9A/AB9YC			
OTHER CATEGORIES				
Gain	W7WHY			
N#A	N9A/AB9YC			
First-Time Logger High Score	AC6YY			
Prize Drawing	K9JWV			
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	117	124	194	2/13
Participants	182	176	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2160	2143	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1120	1152	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	1041	991	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	800	791	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1286	1322	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	75	30	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	18.5	17.3	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The November challenge for North America is our traditional Thanksgiving alphabet challenge with words that are all associated with our turkey day feast. The complete list of words is available at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201411.html>.

The November European challenge is also an alphabet challenge working with the names of major European airports and their annual passenger counts. You can see the complete details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/november-2014-challenge>. Remember you do not need to have European QTH in order to participate and enjoy this challenge.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In December the North American challenge is another alphabet challenge commemorating Marconi's first spanning of the Atlantic Ocean with a wireless signal on December 12, 1901. The list of words can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201412.html>.

In the European challenge we take a holiday theme with "Christmas Tree" translated into five different languages. Details at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2014-challenge>.

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

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The October challenge was a frighteningly fun time with the names of some famous spooks. As of this writing the submission deadline has not yet passed so we don't have any final results to post. Results will be available at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201410.html> shortly after the November 10th submission deadline. Along with the challenge of completing the word list, a trivia questions was also asked of where do these famous spooks appear in literature or the movies? The answers are shown below.

Headless Horseman - The Legend of Sleepy Hollow by Washington Irving
Nearly Headless Nick - Harry Potter, movie
Slimer - Ghostbusters, movie
Freddy Krueger - A Nightmare on Elm Street, movie
George and Marion Kerby - Topper, 1950s TV series
Captain Gregg - The Ghost and Mrs. Muir, 1968 TV series

October European challenge results will be posted at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/october-2014-challenge>.



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 awards and certificates that were issued last month:

1000 MPW AWARD

0444 - K4ARQ	JA7VND	-	1,417	10/25/14	EF Zepp @50'
0443 - W4DUK	UX1HW	-	1,040	10/25/14	EF Zepp @20'
0442 - WH6LE	K9FO	-	1,136	10/01/14	Horiz Loop@45'
0441 - K4ARQ	E51AND	-	1,229	10/01/14	EF Zepp @50'

QSO-A-DAY AWARD (ONE MONTH)

0002 G3JFS 30 10/11/14 Month of September 2014

30-30 AWARD

0030 - G3JFS	Aug 2014	10/01/14
0031 - G3JFS	Sep 2014	10/06/14
0032 - G3JFS	Oct 2014	10/25/14

30-30 AWARD (MAGNUM - 3 months)

0010 - G3JFS Jul, Aug, Sep 2014 10/06/14

ALPHABET PREFIX AWARD (USA - 50 prefixes)

AD0IV 50 10/01/14

WAC AWARD

0028 - AB9YC EA8/DL5JAN - UA0BA - 9A282EU - AA3DV - KH7Y - HC1MD 10/11/14



NAQCC QRS NETS



We have a number of QRS (slow speed) nets designed to help people build up their CW operating skills. Complete information about these nets can be found at http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html. Questions should be directed to Chuck, AB1VL.

NAQCC QRS NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq	Primary NCS
Main Net (NQN)	Sunday 8:00 PM EST	Monday 0100 Z	7060 KHz	Ron, WB1HGA (in MA)
East Texas (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CST	Tuesday 0100 Z	3561 KHz +/-	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsword (FRN)	Monday 8 PM PST	Tuesday 0400 Z	7122 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Northern New England (NNN)	Tuesday 7PM EST	Wednesday 0000 Z	7117 KHz	Chuck, AB1VL (in ME)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4 PM MST	Tues/Thurs 2300 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 4:45 PM MST	Tues/Thurs 2345 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM EST	Thursday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PST	Friday 0300 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM EST	Friday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

The bands are deifnately improving and there has never been a better time to get on one of our QRS nets for practice and fun. October saw the introduction of two new QRS Nets: North New England Net (NNN) on Tuesday nights, 7PM Eastern Time on 7.117 MHz, and West Virginia Net (WVN) on Wednesday nights on 7.117 MHz at 9PM Eastern Time. NCS for NNN is myself, AB1VL, out of mid-coast Maine. WVN NCS is our new club Vice President, John Smithson, out of Charleston, WV.

The addition of these two nets now gives NAQCC Sunday through Thursday QRS Net coverage, with at least one net each day and sometimes two. This is by far the greatest number of weekly member participation events offered by any CW club, and along with our monthly Sprints makes us a very attractive organization for any level of CW operator. I think the recent additions and attendance at the latest nets - GLN, NNN and WVN - shows that there are some geographic areas that have been under-served, and that there may be room for even more nets in other areas. If you suspect your QTH could use better access to a QRS net, please contact me about organizing one.

Some other news: RMRc NCS Dale Putnam is resuming by popular demand a 40M net after the usual Tuesday/Thursday 20M Nets. ETN NCS Allen Mathews will be QSY to 3.561 +/- after the time change.

Please see the QRS Nets schedule for the latest info then.

Please note that all our nets will stay with regular local times after the Time shift 2AM Sunday morning, 11/2/14. A new schedule with adjusted UTC times will be posted that Sunday.

From our NCSes:

10/27/2014 ETN NCS KA5TJS "Danny and I were QRP and both over S9. Andy was QRO and +20. Good conditions. After the time change we will switch to 3.561kc +/- and hope for the best."

10/27/2014 FRN NCS KR5RR "Good group tonight! Glad to have Mark back from CW Ops Academy. Great round table discussion on sending, head copy, and writing things down - and guessing what the next word is. also single lever, double lever and iambic modes. Finished with a 25 wpm round - almost solid copy with a LOT of space between words.

10/22/2014 RMRc NCS WC7S "After the time change... RMRc will call a net at 7.0625 at 4:45pm Tues and Thurs MST (2345z)"

72, Chuck AB1VL
QRS Nets Manager
cfytech24x7@gmail.com

=====

NAQCC Main QRS Net (NQN) - Sunday, 8:00 PM ET 7.060Mhz +/-

10-05-2014 (0) NCS WB1HGA no report
10-12-2014 (3) NCS WB1HGA KD2FVG AB1VL
10-19-2014 (0) NCS WB1HGA No report
10-26-2014 (3) NCS WB1HGA No report

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CDT, 7.065MHz +/-

10-06-2014 (0) No net.
10-13-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGS
10-20-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM N5DRG K5AVJ KG0YR
10-27-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N5DRG

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) - Tues/Thur 5:00 PM MDT 14.062.5 MHz

10-02-2014 (3) NCS WC7S K0DTJ NE5DL
10-07-2014 (0) No net
10-09-2014 (6) NCS WC7S A7CU K0DTJ KX3M K4EAY W8WL/0
10-09-2014 (2) NCS WC7S WA8AXF (7.117 MHz)
10-14-2014 (7) NCS WC7S KR5RR/M KC2EE W2SH KK5IB KD7SU K4EAY
10-16-2014 (12) NCS WC7S NK6A AK4NY N4API NE5DL KK5IB W3TOS KB0PPQ KE4KE
NU4M W4NJK KK6JOL
10-21-2014 (10) NCS W7CS AB1VL N6MY KEE6OIO KA4RUR NX8Z W5HNS KC2EE KR5RR
KK5IB
10-23-2014 (6) NCS WC7S AK4K KR5RR NE5DL KA4RUR KF7WNS
10-28-2014 (7) NCS W7CS AA7CU KF7WNS W5HNS K5GQ/M KF7WNS WA4FAT
10-30-2014 (0) No net

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

10-02-2014 (6) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB K7JUV KA7ZUR K7ZNP
10-09-2014 (6) NCS WB4SPB N6KIX W7ANM KE7LKW/7 K7IRA N7QR
10-16-2014 (?) No report
10-23-2014 (6) NCS KE7LKW N6KIX W7SOM WB4SPB K7JUV N7QR
10-30-2014 (3) NCS KE7LKW AD7BP WB4SPB

NAQCC Farnsword Net 40 Meter Net (FRN) - Monday, 8:00 PM, PDT, 7.122 MHz

10-06-2014 (3) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK
10-13-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW W7SOM N7HRK NG7IL
10-20-2014 (7) NCS N7REP KE7LKW WB4SPB W7SOM KW6G K2GMY N7HRK
10-27-2014 (4) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW N7HRK WU7F

NAQCC Great Lakes Net 40 Meter Net (GLN) - Thursday, 9:00 PM ET 7.117 MHz

10-02-2014 (6) NCS WA8AXF VE3AB VA3KOT K9EYT NI2F K1IEE
10-09-2014 (11) NCS WA8AXF VA3KOT K1IEE WD0K KD0UKC NV9X KU4GW ND0CW
WB0QTT WC7S W3KC
10-16-2014 (11) NCS (N8A) WA8AXF W0EJ WD0K VA3KOT K9A (K9EYT) NI2F N8ZYA KD3CA
KDOUKC AK3X W5EIU
10-23-2014 (8) NCS N9EYT K1IEE VA3KOT WE8UPJ AF4LB WB0QQT KB0PGQ KG9DW
10-23-2014 (6) NCS WA8AXF VA3KOT WE8UPJ KD2FVG

NAQCC North New England 40 Meter Net (NNN) - Tuesday, 7:00 PM ET

10-21-2014 (19) NCS AB1VL W3VEC VE3NWN K1IEE N5WVR KM1N VE3DQN K1NAJ
KG9DW KD2FVG NI2F KB1UOH WA8AXF N1HQZ K8SX K2DEP N1JTX
VE3NWC KA0ENU
10-28-2014 (9) NCS AB1VL W3UEC KG9DW KG1Q KM1N AC8JW KM1N K1IEE N1JTB



HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #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 *KY9A 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* available at <http://www.ky9a.org/w9cvt/>.

HAM QUIPS "Dummy Antenna Load"



"Duhhh... Will Someone Open The Window
It's Getting Kind Of Warm In Here. "

© 7-18-2005 Dick Sylvan "W9CBT"



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has five local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, and Florida - but we would be more than 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 are interested in forming a local chapter please contact Club Manager Paul, N8XMS.

If your chapter is planning a portable operation activity and would like to have it promoted on the club email list or in the newsletter, send an email with the subject "NAQCC Portable Operation" and with the exact wording of the announcement to Paul, KD2MX, about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

NAQCC chapters located in the United States are welcome to use the NAQCC Club call, N3AQC for their special operations. Please contact call sign trustee Paul, N8XMS, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER

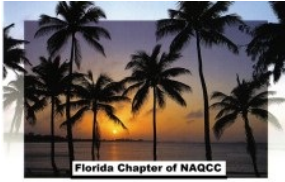


Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

The European Chapter has its own monthly challenges to compensate for the Atlantic Ocean. However all are welcome to participate, not just members in EU, and we regularly receive challenge logs from North American participants. Please see the chapter web pages for dates and details.

No report available. Please standby for next month.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Steve, WB4OMM.

On October 17th, 2014 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its latest “Operation in the Park” event at Spruce Creek Park, located at the Rose Bay/Spruce Creek Preserve in Port Orange. This Municipal Park Complex is “sandwiched” between US Highway 1 and Spruce Creek.



This park has a nice covered pavilion, with AC power (we didn’t need it!), restrooms, a water fountain and Coke machine! Adjacent pavilion parking, and several large picnic tables are in the pavilion, making for easy setup. We’ve been to this park a few times, as it is kinda’ “off the beaten path” and as has been in the past, devoid of any other human activity!! We had the pavilion to ourselves, and the weather was perfect! Our Florida “fall” arrived, with a temp of 68 degrees and 40% humidity, accompanied by crystal clear blue skies and a light breeze.



Art WB4MKN #5274 used his KX1, Dirt Cheap paddle, ZM-2 tuner and a 44 foot doublet.

He made 8 QSOs in GA, FL, PA, MO, AL, TX, and TN..... 5 were NAQCC members. He always beats Steve!!

(Notice Art has coffee....Steve is out! Maybe a new job for Darryl???? ☺)

ART WB4MKN MAKES ONE OF HIS 8 FB QSOs



**WB4OMM WORKING THE BANDS -
NO MORE WILD HAIR!!
AB8GU MAKES SURE STEVE'S HAT STAYS
ON!!**

Steve WB4OMM #5913 (KX-3 running 5W out) made 6 contacts (four were members) – NC, PA, NJ, NY, MS, and Hungary! As usual, another antenna to try. This one a homebrew End Fed Wire – 53 feet long to a 9:1 balun. It seemed to work OK!

Darryl AB8GU #6913 our now famous “fixture” in our outings, spotted us on the internet, helped with our antennas and take down, and kept us “informed” on the other’s progress.

The bands were OK, but the QSB deep. There were not many signals on the air.

We quit just before noon and enjoyed lunch at a new local restaurant....the food was great! (But not as great as our friendship and outing!)

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

NEXT MONTH: The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is scheduled for Friday, November 21st, 2014 at 9:00 am.

Look for our announcement!

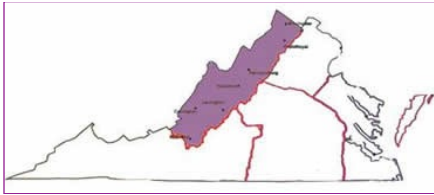
**72/73 to all!
Steve WB4OMM, #5913**

NAQCCFL@yahoo.com



**WB4OMM's PORTABLE SETUP - (from L to R) –
Bose Headphones, KX- 3 Transceiver, Acer Laptop (Win 8.1), Vibroplex Code
Warrior Iambic Key, Wireless Mouse, iPhone (Hot Spot).
This entire station, along with 50' of RG-58 coax, SuperAntenna, and EFW
Antenna/Balun all fit into a standard backpack, along with writing pads, pens,
Leatherman multi-tool, cables, a spare 12VDC gel cell battery.
With 5W out, and interfaced to the laptop, all modes from 40M to 6M with
about a 3 hour operating period with logging and internet.**

NAQCC SHENANDOAH VALLEY CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Shenandoah Valley Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Russ, K3NLT.

It was a busy month for most of us with activities that did not include QRP operations. Our net operations were limited to two times, and one was shortened due to interference from Canadian SSB coming on.

We had one member, Howard, K4LXY, make a trip to "down under", to New Zealand, and he was able to take his KX1 along, but reported poor results. He reported a he had a good location high over the city of Wellington, but heard very little activity. Later he was communicating with a local, and learned that 40 meters is not used much. He heard very little on 30 and 20 meter bands. He has returned to Broadway, VA, and after he recovers from a severe cold, hopes to be active again at home.

Russ, K3NLT, has been trying to build and tune an "LNR" type multiband antenna. After discovering that he had the wrong type of toroid, another set up is ready for testing and tuning.

Hopefully November will find us on a slower schedule of events and we will be having our regular twice a month QRS QRP net. We will probably be trying another frequency than 7.061 MHz as that seems to have an SSB net at the same time Tuesday nights, Also with the time change it will maybe have better propagation for our purposes.

Russell Mumaw K3NLT

NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



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

It's been a year since the West Virginia Chapter was started and it's passed quickly. There's some new stuff happening now. This month we will re- start a slow CW net on Wednesday nights at 9:00 PM (see specific info in this month's newsletter)

Steve (KC4URI) and I (N8ZYA) decided to continue our camping trips to the mountains and as true QRP'ers, we've both decided to "minimize" our camping gear. Radio is much more fun with less gear to carry and you have much more spare time to be on the air.

We went camping twice this month. On the first day of the month we both met in the Monongahela National Forest near the town of Elkins. About a three hour drive for both of us; this primitive campground is located at an elevation a little bit above 4,000 feet.



At the Elkins campsite, I was able to place a dipole antenna about 40 feet into the trees. We used Steve's Elecraft K-1 rig which worked flawlessly. On this trip Steve used a fairly large "umbrella" type tent and I used my Sierra Designs "clip flashlight". That has changed now to much lighter gear.



Although the campground was known as “Bear Haven”, we saw none. We enjoyed our radio time very much. Before leaving this campground, we worked several stations and got excellent signal reports from them. Sunset brought a clear sky. We anticipated a cold night but it didn’t materialize. We had a nice fire going in my favorite wood stove.



My tent is about 20 year's old and showing a lot of wear and tear. Steve's tent is in good shape but fairly large. For those reasons, we both decided to change dwellings on the next trip.

There were only 4 possible days left in the month for another camping trip. On October 23rd, we camped again in Grantsville because of that beautiful night sky. It's the darkest place in the state and the Milky Way is visible from horizon to horizon.

We both arrived at about the same time and quickly discovered a strong brisk cold wind. With temperatures predicted to drop near freezing that night, camping on the hilltop was not an option.



This second trip was an experiment to test our new camping gear. In the spirit of simplicity (a perfect example for QRP operators) we both brought only a small "bivy sack" and a simple tarpaulin.



That's Steve in the background checking the wind direction.

We deliberately set up on the side of a small hill which sheltered us from the cold windy weather. This turned out to be a good decision. The next morning, the car looked like this:



Yep....it looks like an ice cube.

It's difficult to believe, but we both stayed "warm as toast" in our camping shelters. I see no need for anything more and I love the quick easy set up of a "simple" campsite.

As before, we had a wonderful time on the radio. It was especially rewarding to work two members of our "core group" from Charleston. Both Eric (AC8L J) and John (W8GDP) were 599.

We worked 15 stations, of which 13 were club members!

A true novelty was talking about "bow hunting" with WA9JTU in Wisconsin. Ken was loading up the metal roof of his cabin and using it for his antenna.

The QSO's were very interesting. Lots of stations had questions about the campsite and commented on "deer season". We saw several but most were scared off by wailing coyotes exchanging territorial challenges with country farm dogs. A good dog is the world's best burglar alarm whether you live in the city or the country!

As usual, Steve fixed a great breakfast of biscuits and gravy. I love resourcefulness and his ability to cook just about anything in the outdoors is truly remarkable.



He cooked stew with biscuits on the Elkins trip.



The stations we've worked on these last two trips have been:

NN9K-N3PBF-KB3ENU-WB3T-KD3CA-W8GDP-W4MBW-W8NNC-AC8LJ-K8SX- N1AOB-WA9JTU-
NA3V-K3PXC-KB8FE-K2XN-WA8KOQ-KC4KNN-and N2ANL

I'm sure November will be cooler as we move towards Thanksgiving and Christmas. Minus a great snow accumulation, we plan to do more of the same with our new gear. Modern day fabrics and insulation make for a comfortable dwelling in most any kind of weather.

NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER

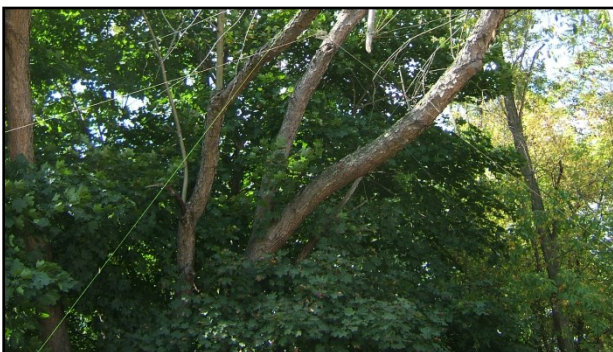


Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to John, K3WWP.

The WPA Chapter had a couple of activities this month – both parkpeditions. On October 2, Don K3RLL and John K3WWP headed to the Kittanning Community Park for a fun outing. The weather was good although perhaps a bit chilly for Don who is used to the FL weather. HI Here’s a view looking out from our operating position.



A total of 36 QSOs were made from all around the country. We operated only on 20 and 40 since the stream of activity on both bands was pretty steady. Don used his PFR-3 rig and John used his KX3. The antennas were as shown here: (John’s left, Don’s right)



Of course, here's the almost obligatory picture of the two operators: (Don left, John right)



After just under two hours of operating when things slowed down, we packed up and headed home where Don checked out my new (as of the day before) PX3 panadapter.

Then all too soon, Don had to head on back to New Bethlehem. Hopefully we can get together more often next year when Don returns from Florida.

The second parkpedition was the traditional one with Mike KC2EGL and John on Columbus Day to activate our NAQCC special event anniversary call of N3A.

For I think the first ever of our parkpeditions the weather didn't look all that good with showers scheduled, but we decided to go ahead anyway. The showers did come, but the shelter was dry and other than a mist blowing in that caused me to shift tables, we made out OK. Here's the contrast to our normal sunny bright weather:



We took our antennas, laptops, KX3s, and paddles up to the park and got set up shortly after our scheduled 1400Z start time. The action commenced immediately. My first CQ on 20 netted a response from K4ARQ followed by a mini-pileup of 5 other stations which was cleared quickly. Then the action slowed down a bit but remained steady for the next 3 1/2 hours. We chatted a bit with the stations we worked rather than just giving out TU 599 type QSOs or we might have made even more QSOs than we did. How many? I made 39 on 20 meters and Mike made 37 on 40 meters. It was nice to have a steady stream of action for both of us for a change. Usually one band or the other will be stubborn and produce few QSOs. Not today.

Here are a couple pictures of the ops at work followed by a picture of my setup and a picture of the "CW Crow sitting on a streetlight post". I could swear the crow was cawing in Morse code. I know I picked out several letters he was making with the pattern of his cawing, although it wasn't completely scary as he (she?) didn't send any recognizable words. HI.



Note John's concession to aging wearing the cheaters.



All too soon our laptops gave us the signal that they were running low on battery power, and since activity also had slowed, we decided to just tear down around 1730Z and call it a day (and go get something to eat, of course).

After we got home from eating, we did some computer work, chased a bit of DX while showing Mike my PX3, and worked on some NAQCC prizes. Following that, back to the shack for my DX streak QSO provided by P40JR on 30 meters with a single call. I had heard him on 17 earlier, but didn't want to work him there since we had a QSO on that band just a couple days ago. 30 meters was a new band for us though. Then Mike had to head home for another work day following the Columbus Day holiday.

Of course a few days ago on November 2, Mike and John got together for the big 10th anniversary prize drawings and 'almost live' associated web cast. More about that elsewhere in the newsletter.



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 a short article dealing with some aspects of CW and QRP operation or equipment. Just about anything that would be of interest to our members would be welcomed. Send you items to our News Editor Paul, KD2MX.

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 DAVID, N0WKZ, #6828 —
Loaded Whips and Portable Trips

Because of my very restricted location, I recently purchased the one of the few antenna's I have ever paid money for. It is a coil loaded MFJ 1840T telescopic whip for 40 meters. Granted, I knew it would be a compromise but it turned out to be quite a nice little device. I have no complaints as it does exactly what it should for what it is. Nevertheless, time and time again, I continue to find that there is only one true remedy for a bad location. Portable Trips. Despite the colder autumn temperatures, I decided to pack up and head out in order to try and get in at least one more trip before mother nature starts pooping all manner of nasty stuff upon us. As well, I usually get at least one contact out of a trip which is often far more than I get at home.

Portable trips have come to mean more to me now than I previously suspected they would. For me, they are not just about the magic of QRP and CW anymore. They have become an adventure and exercise in distraction. The main distraction of course is the weather but that is only one aspect. During many of these trips, I have had all manner of wild life visitors: ants, hungry squirrels who love doughnut holes, butterflies, inch worms on my power cord, curious daddy long legs, spiders and other assorted park creatures, apparently anxious to observe first hand the workings of a wireless telegraph station. Ha! Then there are the people who are no less curious. Some seem quite friendly & interested and stop to ask questions. Others seem to dawn a look of disbelief at the prospect of anyone using Morse code in this dire age of Ipads and Smart Phones. Others trudge by with assorted looks ranging from solid disregard to sheer contempt. Finally there are those awesome children. Children are great because for them, everything is still new and magic. They are full of wonderful questions and the very little ones can transmit a light that would make any QRO operator envious. Indeed, one morning a mother with a tiny two year old walked by my pic-nic table and that little one shot me an unexpected and cheerful "good morning" that a heat sink could not dissipate. Today was no different.

Towards the end of my trip today, about six of those big old yellow Bluebird school buses pulled up and offloaded a herd of school kids. Wow! Suddenly, I could hardly hear the fella I was working CW with. Soccer and Basket balls were being kicked all over creation. Then, some boys, just being boys of course, came over and started heaving big wet nasty walnuts at a squirrel that was very near me. I figured that was my cue to pack up for the day. But, as I was doing so, I could hear a teacher asking a rather large group of squirmy younger kids if they wanted to walk over to the play area, to which they all answered in unison, "YES." "Are we going to walk," she asked? "YES," again in unison they replied. When she gave the signal to go, in unison, they all RAN! I could suddenly hear the Mutual of Omaha Wild Kingdom theme in in my mind as I watched this unbridled and colorful stampede of happy little faces. I almost busted out laughing at the faces of the poor teachers who sauntered by flinging words of frustration at one another. Standing there in all my forty nine year old aching glory, it brought back a flood of memories, and reminded me that I am getting old. GEESH!

Portable trips are great for CW and QRP, but also for seeing our great countryside, nature, and the landscape of human living... Think about it

Best, NOWKZ

FROM PAUL, N8XMS, #0675 —

Well, I'm really coming down to the wire on my attempt to earn QRP CW W1AW WAS and this past month I had one of my toughest - my home state of Michigan! Most of the stations operating as W1AW/8 were just too close to me. I could sometimes hear their faint ground wave signals but for the most part the skip kept me out of the game. Compounding the situation was the impression that they didn't seem to have that many CW operators on during the week. I finally worked a W1AW/8 on 40-meters that was located across the state from me and I got an "insurance" contact on 20-meters with a station about 3 miles from me. As you read this newsletter I am probably in the process of hunting for my final W1AW state - Washington. If you hear a loud "WOO HOO!" coming from the direction of SE Michigan you will know what it means! 73, N8XMS

FROM CHUCK, N8NK, #7519 —

This evening I joined the NAQCC. I'm *really* looking forward to receiving my number! This I'll add to my paper QSL cards of course. I joined because of a QSO I had this afternoon with Mark, WU7F on 30 meters. He came back to a CQ of mine- and we had a wonderful QSO. A real QSO: we chewed the rag until QSB had its way with us. I told Mark that I was running a homebrew transceiver that I designed- and I told him that I was running 5 watts and an indoor 40' long non-resonant dipole fed with homebrew open wire feedline. My antenna height is 22 feet- in a 2nd story apartment in Seattle.

Mark asked if I was a member of the NAQCC. I said that I was not- and he told me that he'd send me an e-mail with a link to the club's site. As soon as QSB killed our QSO, I logged on to the club's web site- and right then and there I knew I had found what I have always been looking for! I immediately joined- and gave Mark (by name and call) as my source of referral. I downloaded the current newsletter for reading offline- and am just now doing so.

This newsletter has moved me to near tears. I love CW, QRP and homebrewing with all of my heart and soul. Other than my kids, grand kids and sisters- there is nothing that I love more. I must confess though: I own (and use) a lovingly restored 1970 Heathkit SB-101. The rest of my station is homebrewed. I've been a ham since 1974. In the early 1990s, I began only running QRP and began my hobby of homebrewing. Back then I also owned a Heathkit SB-1400 (a rebranded Yaesu FT-747GX). I never ran it above 5 watts output- and I never operated SSB. I didn't own a microphone- and didn't need one. If I've worried you with mention of my 'new' SB-101... not to worry... I've never operated it above 5 watts output and I sure as heck haven't operated it with the mode switch turned to the USB or the LSB position! I still don't own a microphone... and I still don't need one. There is one digital mode that I love: CW. My carrier is on at times, and off most of the time. Its a digital binary mode of communication- and control of my carrier is via my fist which grasps my key (actually, homebrew acrylic paddles that are a copy of the classic Bencher design).

FROM JOHN, K3WWP, #0002 —

A couple of big news items this month. First the arrival of the Elecraft PX3 panadapter early in the month. That combined with the KX3 means I am now equipped with perhaps the best station setup on the planet. Now if only I lived where I could put up some decent antennas, I'd have everything. Still I guess I don't do too badly with what I have. My DX streak passed the 600 straight day mark in October and continues to roll on although it has been tricky a couple of days. I needed some luck one day when all the high latitude DX paths were pretty much dead, but with the aid of the panadapter scanning the bands, I found a strong peak on 10 meters that turned out to be ZD8X for an easy QSO on a path nowhere near the aurora disturbed high latitudes. I worked my first Antarctica station in a few years when I got RI1ANC. While the massive sunspot group that caused all the disturbances made it bad for some things, it made it good for others. Besides Antarctica, I also worked a few more JA stations including some chat type of QSOs.

The second big news item of course is my official retirement as NAQCC VP on October 20. It is now great to have the bulk of all the work I've done over the past 10 years for the NAQCC in someone else's hands. It sure has freed up a lot of time, and after the transition is totally complete by the end of the year, I hope to have even more free time on my hands.

I've also joined the Windows Insider Program, and am now helping evaluate the Technical Preview version of the next great Windows O/S - Windows 10. That's a lot of fun and exciting also. Let's close out this news with a picture of my station now with the KX3/PX3:



FROM BOB, WB3T, #5365 —

Saturday October 27 was a fun day here in Eastern PA, with two new kit rigs taking to the air. Jack, K3CHR and I had just finished building a 20-meter Rockmite and 20-meter SW Plus respectively. Jack lives in a ground floor apartment in Philadelphia where electrical interference reigns supreme, so it's difficult for him to get any RF signals in or out. Still he works DX using an FT-817 and indoor dipole, but wanted to try out the half-watt Rockmite.

The weather gods smiled on us with 70-degree weather and sunny skies. We deployed a temporary sloping dipole in my yard (15 feet up at the center) and power was supplied by a 7 Amp-hour 12-volt lead acid battery and solar charger.

Earlier in the day I contacted Paul, N8XMS and asked him to alert club members that we'd be looking for contacts on the 20-meter QRP calling frequency, 14.060. I got a few emails from ops who would be listening. Jack made three contacts to Tennessee, Ohio, and Western PA. Using my new 2-Watt SW Plus I got Tennessee, Michigan, Indiana, New Hampshire, and Spain. Later I got a few more emails from NAQCC'ers who had either copied Jack faintly or could not get through. I was surprised at the response we got from the club. Thanks to everyone who provided SWL reports and also those who listened for us.

Jack is a 91-year old veteran QRPer with a renewed interest in kit building after several decades and he hasn't lost a step in his soldering technique. It was great to see his creation produce results! We are planning to continue with more QRP construction projects and will use the spotter when we get together to put those new kits on the air. If anyone is interested in joining in, please let me know via radiowb3t@aol.com.



FROM RICHARD, K4KRW, #1815 —

Thank you for everything you do. NAQCC is by far my favorite ham organization. I absolutely love the sprints. The newsletter is always a great read too. I love reading about what others are doing.

NAQCC and Fists have been so helpful to me. A year and a half ago I was stuck at 12 WPM on a good day. I had been stuck there for years. From Fists I got the K7QO code course. I had the pleasure of corresponding with Nancy in the process. Between the course and my operating (of which the sprints were a big part), I finally broke through.

I was really pleased and surprised when I had the high score for the 4 region and a SWA for the October sprint. I held a frequency and copied almost every call sign the first time. I could have never dreamed it possible a couple of years ago.



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

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 call signs 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 North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has more than 7000 members throughout the world. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

Club President Paul Huff, N8XMS
9928 Eckles
Livonia, MI 48150
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

NAQCC CONTACTS		
NAQCC President Newsletter Editor	Paul - N8XMS	paul142857@gmail.com
NAQCC Vice President West Virginia Chapter	John - N8ZYA	jspiker58@gmail.com
European Chapter	Matt - MW0MIE	matt@naqcc-eu.org
Florida Chapter	Art - WB4MNK	naqccfl@yahoo.com
Shenandoah Valley Chapter	Russ - K3NLT	k3nlt@comcast.net
Western Pennsylvania Chapter	John - K3WWP	naqcc33@windstream.net
Help For Beginners	Brion - VE3FUJ	ve3fuj@wightman.ca
Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
QRS Nets	Chuck - AB1VL	cfytech24x7@gmail.com