

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 198 DECEMBER 2014



KEY CLICKS

- **WE WANT TO WISH ALL OF YOU THE VERY BEST OF THIS WONDERFUL HOLIDAY SEASON. HOPEFULLY YOU HAVE ALL BEEN GOOD LITTLE QRPERS AND WILL FIND LOTS OF GREAT RADIO GOODIES STUFFED INTO YOUR STOCKINGS ON CHRISTMAS MORNING!**



- **MEMBERSHIP DRIVE STARTING IN JANUARY.** We want to encourage all of you to “talk up” the NAQCC and as an incentive we will be offering a prize each quarter of 2015 to the person responsible for the most new membership applications during that quarter. (The application form includes a field where the person can indicate how they heard about the NAQCC.) The prize will be a gift certificate for 100 free QSL cards from http://cheapqsls.com/club_naqcc.htm.
- **TWO NEW LOCAL CHAPTERS FORMING.** Two new local NAQCC chapters have recently been formed. The “Central Texas Chapter” is located in the Austin area under the leadership of Danny, N5DRG. The “Illowa Chapter” is in the “Quad Cities” area of Davenport, IA / Moline, IL and Bob, W9PZ is heading it up. You can read about these new chapters in the *Chapter News* section of this newsletter.
- **CHECK OUT OUR MONTHLY POLLS.** Jerry, VE6CPP, puts up an interesting poll on our club website each month. You can cast your vote in the current poll and see past poll results using the links on the main club page <http://www.naqcc.info/>. The more people that cast a vote, the more interesting the results.
- **THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!** A big “THANK YOU” goes out to everyone who has made a recent donation to the NAQCC treasury. The NAQCC has no membership dues and we depend on your generous donations to cover our operating expenses. If others would like to help out with a donation there are two ways that you can do it. The first way is to use *PayPal* to electronically send your contribution to Club Vice President John, N8ZYA, using the email found on the last page of this newsletter. To avoid any additional fees please 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 a donation to the NAQCC and include your call sign. The second way to make a donation is to mail a check or money order made out to *The North American QRP CW Club* and send it to *John Smithson, 1529 Virginia St E, Charleston, WV 25311*. 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.”

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PRIZE DRAWING REPORT

On November 2 we capped off our 10th anniversary celebration with an exciting drawing for some great prizes. It was combined with the prize drawing for our month-long September activities that honored the memory of Nancy, WZ8C. Once again John, K3WWP, and Mike, KC2EGL, did a great job setting up and doing these random drawings. The results were actually revealed in almost real-time on a special webpage while the drawing was taking place. You can see the complete results at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_10th_anniv.html but here are some of the highlights...

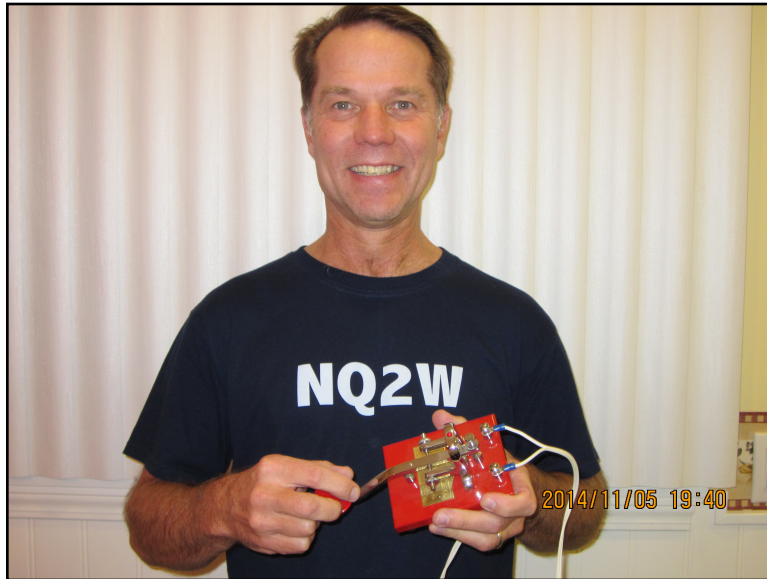
Eligibility to win one of the top three prizes required participation in the anniversary sprint as well as participation in a number of other challenges and sprints throughout the year. Our first place anniversary prize was a YouKits HB1B 4-band QRP transceiver. It was won by Anthony, AB9YC.



The second place prize was a Vibroplex paddle with jeweled movement. It was won by Dick, K1IEE.



The third place anniversary prize was a Vibroplex straight key won by Will, NQ2W.



After the top three prizes were awarded we still had another 7 prizes to go - various books and DVDs. Eligibility for these prizes only required participation in the October anniversary sprint. Here is a picture of Dave, W4DUK, with the DVD that he won.



Once the 10 anniversary prizes were awarded John and Mike moved on to the drawing for a second YouKits HB1B transceiver to be given to one of the participants in the special September activities that honored the memory of Nancy, WZ8C. The eligibility pool for this drawing included FISTS members who participated. The winner of this drawing was Marty, N9SE.

Some of the prizes that were awarded were purchased with club funds but many of them were donated and we certainly want to thank the donors for their generosity. A complete list of all of the prizes, the winners, and the donors can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_10th_anniv.html.



KEY RESTORATION II

BY GREGG, WB8LZG

I had quite a few people comment about my short article on key restoration. Many of you wanted some more information on the process. I still had a couple of old keys to restore, so here's a step-by-step to refurbishing your key.

The first step is to disassemble the entire key. I put all the pieces in a small box so as not to lose anything. Each piece will need to be cleaned and polished with rubbing compound (Flitz also works well). I take the screws and knurled parts to the sink and scrub them with an old toothbrush in dish detergent and water. Dry them off immediately, then store in the box to await assembly later.

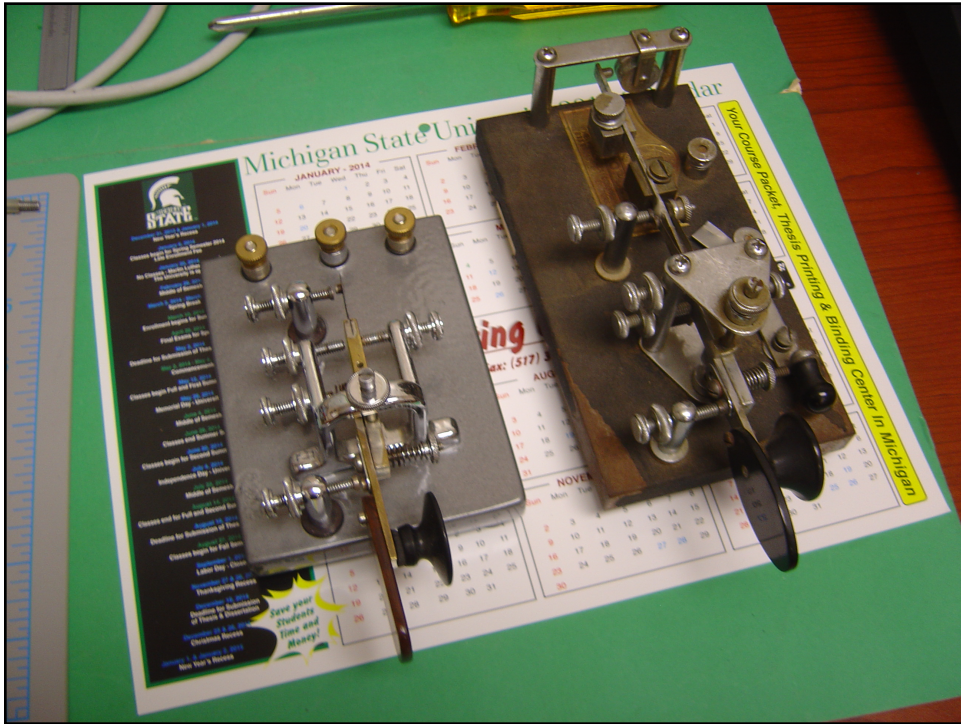
The base will be more work to make it nice and new again. The first step is to remove the serial # plate. Get two small pieces of metal and put the base on it upside down, straddling the plate. Take a small punch or other small diameter tool (a small Allen wrench works) and carefully pound out the rivets that hold the plate on.

With the plate removed you can now sand the base. If it is REALLY rusty or the paint is looking terrible, you may wish to have it sand blasted. Otherwise a good sanding with #80 then #120 grit emery cloth will do it. All the paint does NOT have to come off. Be sure and sand the corners. Wipe the base clean and it is ready to be painted.

I've had very good results with "Rustolium" brand Hammered Finish spray paint. It's a bit pricy, but it works well. Wrinkle finish paints are available, but I have not tried any of these products. Set the base upside down on a small block and paint the bottom with one thin coat. Let dry 24 hours. Turn over and paint the top with a good even coat, start on the sides, finish on the top. Let dry for 24 hours, repeat one or two more coats. Here's where I get too antsy and want to quickly assemble the key. Resist this temptation and let the painted base "cure" and dry. Let the final paint dry for at least two weeks before trying to assemble the key again. (It may look dry but the paint is soft for several days.)

Reassembly is the easy part. . Mount the plate first. Carefully center it and line up the rivets with a small needle-nose pliers. With a small hammer and punch, slowly drive the rivets back in. Don't go too far, you'll bend the brass. Once this is complete the rest of the parts can be assembled on the base. I put a small amount of oil on some of the screws to ensure they last into the next century.

Here are the results of my latest refurbishes. A 1950 "lightning bug", and a 1963 "vibrokeyer". The "bug" on the right is what I started with.



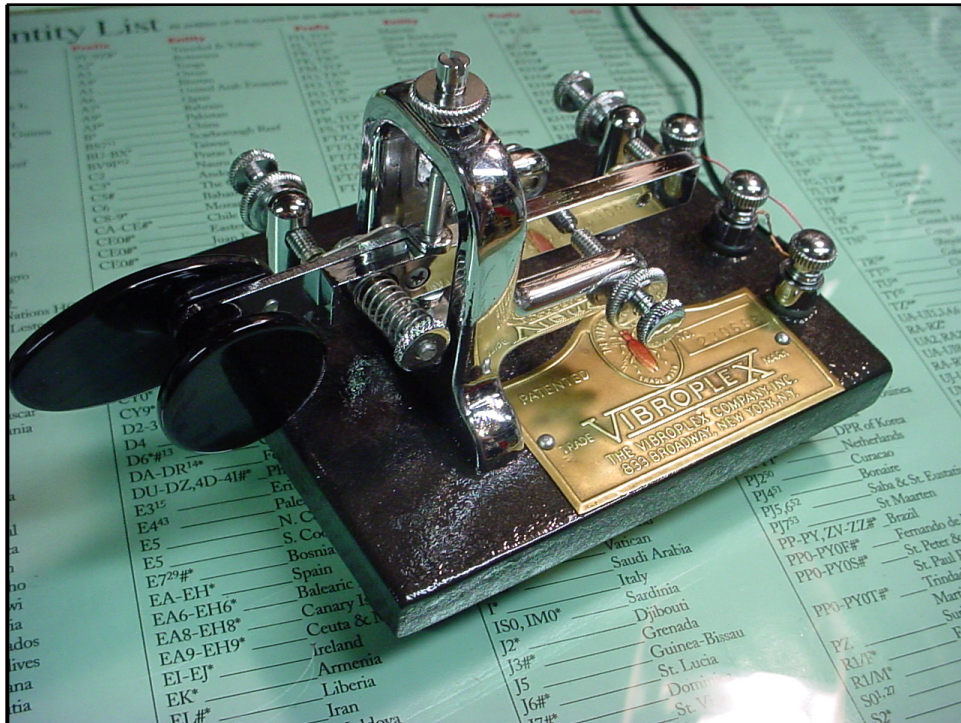
It was purchased at a swap many years ago, waiting patiently for this moment!

This is the end result. I affectionately call this one "Ol Red".



The look is outstanding, and the "feel" SUPERB!!!

Not to be left out, the 1963 “Vibrokeyer” also has something to cheer about. I call this one “Black Beauty”



Yes she is a beauty too. Sends Morse like it was “sung by angels” !

I hope this inspires some of you to try your own key restoration. It is very satisfying to take an old tarnished chunk of metal, and turn it into a thing of both beauty and function. Here’s to “pounding some brass”.



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.

BILL ROSS, K6MGO, #0259



I have always been interested in radio and electronics, from my high school days in Electric Shop and being on the Sound Crew, and throughout my Air Force service as an instructor at the Airborne Radio Mechanic School at Scott AFB. Then I had a short stint as a Radio Mechanic on the flight line for Western Air Lines followed by my jobs in aerospace after going to school on the G.I. Bill. But it wasn't until my second job in aerospace, at Hughes Aircraft Company where I worked in a group that must have been 50% Hams, that I met and knew any Hams. They quickly convinced me that I should become a Ham, and my boss and another fellow, administered the Technician test to me, and I became K6MGO in 1957 or 1958.

For several years I was content to work 6-meter AM both from home where I had a 70-foot high ground-plane antenna and mobile with a Black Widow rig. I built several homebrew rigs using 5763 and 2E26 type tubes and AM Broadcast radio converters, first with tubes and then nuvistors and later transistors. Then the guys at work "urged" me to upgrade to General, and the boss provided me with the Ryder Sight and Sound Code Course on the old 78 RPM records. Had to go to downtown Los Angeles and take the FCC exam. My first HF rig was a Heathkit DX-100, but it caused so much TVI that my neighbors were ready to lynch me so I upgraded to the Heathkit Apache. That was a sweet rig. I used that rig with a Hammarlund HQ-110 receiver for several years on AM, never liking CW and never having made a CW contact after passing the 13 wpm to get my license.

Fast forward through my career at Hughs, working on Fire Control Systems, and the Surveyor

Spacecraft, to the Flight Simulators for the F-14 and F-18 Aircraft for the Navy and finally retirement, where I felt bad about never having used CW. So, with lots of time on my hands, I decided to relearn my CW and after a short “refresher” was back up to about 15 wpm. I made my first CW contact on the air, about 40-plus years after getting my General license. I was terrified when I sent that first CW CQ, but afterwards I was so elated that I was hooked. I started operating CW almost exclusively from then on. In a short time, I upgraded to Advanced and then to a 20-wpm Extra. I joined FISTS, #9253, and achieved first my Century Award, and later my Platinum Award.

I met a fellow at a convention who was building miniature CW-QRP rigs and I was fascinated by them. I had always been drawn to miniature rigs and the amazing things they could do, So I started building some of the kits that were available, and found out about NAQCC, which I joined and became #259.

I never was too interested in the “wham-bam, thank you mam” type of QSO, preferring to rag chew instead, but a couple of years ago, I dipped a toe into the NAQCC Sprints and found them easy going and enjoyable, not hectic like most other contests, and so now I try to make every Sprint. It is still the only contest that I participate in.

I have built many rigs, from my first Heathkit AR3 Receiver, to single band QRP rigs to my current PFR3A rig and have had a K1, a K2 and now a K3/100 and FT-857D. I also like to build antennas, from dipoles and doublets to verticals using fishing poles and Jackite poles to mag loops.

I haven't been able to get too excited about the digital modes, too much like email as far as I'm concerned. So I am content to use “finger music” as long as my fingers will still work for me. Recently I joined SKCC, #11373, and have been enjoying getting back to “basics” with several straight keys.

One of the most memorable QRP QSO's that I have had was several years ago. I was tuning the upper QRP part of the 40m CW band, and heard a CQ. It was sent rather hesitantly and slow, so I figured it to be someone just starting out, and thought I would help them out. So I answered the CQ and was amazed to find out that the person sending the CQ was not a newbie but a ham who had been in a bad accident and suffered severe brain damage, and could neither walk, talk nor see. His only communications with others was his Morse Code. He carried on a very interesting QSO, remembering in his head what you had told him even days later, when I worked him again. Over about a years time, I must have worked him 3-4 times, but haven't heard him for a while. I will never forget those QSOs nor what this ham's knowledge of Morse Code has done for him.

I would like to thank my XYL for putting up with me and my hobby for over 57 years, and I would also like to thank the Officers and Members of NAQCC for their tireless devotion and efforts so that I might have some fun and enjoy so much this wonderful hobby of ours.

CU on the air and in the Sprints.

73/72



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: We have two different sprints to enjoy this month. First up is our regular sprint on December 10, 0130-0330 UTC (Tuesday evening the 9th in North America). Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201412.html>.

Our second opportunity comes on Dec 18, 0130-0330 UTC (Wednesday evening the 17th in North America). This is a milliwatt sprint where we get to explore "how low you can go." Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201412mw.html>.

(Participating in both sprints does not result in an extra participation point.)

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: Conditions throughout the country for our sprint on November 20 were less than ideal - well, to be honest, they were absolutely awful! Nevertheless 114 logs were submitted by operators who braved the conditions to pound some brass. And, according to their soapbox comments, they still managed to have a lot of fun. Complete sprint results and soapbox comments can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201411.html>.

We would especially like to welcome out first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: KG9DW, WB3FAE, NA3V, CT1BWW, KC9CS, K4THL, F6EAZ

In the year-long race for perfectly formatted Silver Logs we have a 10-way tie with 11 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+	NO2D 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	KN1H		
W2	WA2NYY	W2SH	
W3	KD3CA		
W4	KB4QQJ	K4ZGB	K4JPN
W5	N5GW		
W6	KG6UGB		
W7	KF7TDF		
W8	K8TJ	WA8AXF	
W9	AA9L		
W0	WB0PYF	N0FN	
VE	VE3DVC		
DX	CT1BWW		
KEY CATEGORIES			
Straight Key (x2)	K4BAI		
Bug (x1.5)	N3HEE		
Keyer (x1)	K8TJ		
OTHER CATEGORIES			
Gain	K4BAI		
First-Time Logger High Score	KG9DW		
Prize Drawing	N3PDT		

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	114	117	194	2/13
Participants	165	182	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1393	2160	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	721	1120	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	672	1041	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	81	800	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	690	1286	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	622	75	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	12.2	18.5	19.3	9/11



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: Our North American Challenge for December is an alphabet challenge that commemorates the first wireless spanning of the Atlantic ocean by Marconi technicians on December 12, 1901. The complete list of words, along with the rules, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201412.html>.

The European Chapter Challenge for December takes a seasonal approach with alphabet challenge involving Christmas trees in different languages. Details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2014-challenge>.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: In January the North American Challenge will wish you a "Happy New Year" with an alphabet challenge in seven different languages. Go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201501.html> for details.

For the European Challenge you will be skiing some of the most famous European ski resorts with an alphabet challenge. Details can be found at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/january-2015-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: We won't ask you how many pounds you gained from your Thanksgiving feast but we know for sure that our traditional Thanksgiving challenge had you at least thinking about the food! As of this writing results are not final but you will be able to see them, along with interesting soapbox comments at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201411.html> sometime after the 10th of the month.

European challenge results will be available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/november-2014-challenge>.

BREAKING NEWS: If you are a fan of our alphabet challenges take a look at the item in the "Member Submissions" section from VE6CPP.



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:

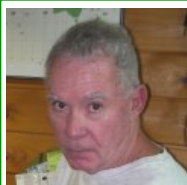
1000 MPW AWARD

0446 - N1JI HB0/DL2SBY - 1,257 11/02/14 88'Doublet @25'

0445 - N1JI IK3VUU - 1,303 11/02/14 Random Wire



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)	Sun/Mon 7 PM PST	Mon/Tues 0300 Z	3527.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Midwest Net (MWN)	Monday 8 PM CST	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
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)

QRS Net interest has picked up substantially this fall; again I have the pleasure of announcing two new NAQCC QRS nets are on the air. FRN NCS JB Still has started a new FRN net Sunday nights 7:00 PST on 3527.5 +/- . Note that JB has also changed the operating frequency of the regular Monday FRN Net to 3527.5 +/- as well. JB did so in an effort to work around unreliable 40M band conditions experienced by the Monday FRN. His clientele was somewhat split on day and frequency choices so JB did the next right thing: he went with TWO nets so those with scheduling problems could continue to participate in the FRN experience! The FRN philosophy is to key at a 20 wpm rate, but with extra word spacing to allow more time to copy. If you are looking for a good way to work on your copy speed, try the FRN nets.

But wait, there's more! NU0S Scotty Long in Lincoln, NE has restarted the MWN Monday nights, 8:00PM CST 7.117MHz +/- . Scotty's first net was 11/24/14 and he bagged 12 check-ins for a great restart to the net. Pretty FB for a net that competes with Monday Night football during playoff season! Keep up the good work, Scotty!

Looking over the net reports, not only do I see generally more QNI for our nets, but also many long distance check-ins to/from both coasts and the midwest, as well as north/south contacts. So it seems that so far this winter is proving to be better than last winter, at least for long distance propagation. Let's keep our fingers crossed it continues. keep our fingers crossed it continues.

From our NCSes:

11/24/2014 KA5TJS:

"Well we had 2 new check ins from Joe and Jim in TN and LA last night. All signals were very good and the QRM levels were much better than last week. I guess we will hang out on this frequency a little longer and see how it goes."

11/25/2014 KR5RR

"The end of Daylight Saving time and changing band conditions required both a frequency and time change. 80m seems to be working better in the west for the out to 1,100 mile contact. Just to see if I could, I checked into Ron's (wb1hga) NQN 40m net and was surprised at how many check ins I could copy east coast to west coast. Likewise, also checked into Scotty's (nu0s) revival of the MWN 40m net - WOW! There was a void just waiting to be filled - I quit counting after more than ten check ins! Nice going guys!"

11/14/2014 WB4PSB:

"Stewart KE7LKW is "in the wild" for a few weeks, so here is tonight's net report: PNW80 directed 11/14/2014 0300z until 0357z, checkins: N6KIX, AI6U, KE7LKW/7, KR5RR, AD7BP, N7QR, W7DK (NCS) 73, Randy WB4SPB (op at W7DK for this net)"

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

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

11-09-2014 (5) NCS WB1HGA KD2FVG N7NDN WM4X N3TS W8GDP

11-23-2014 (9) NCS WB1HGA W3UEC K9EYT KB3CFQ NG2H KW4JS KG0YR K5LN N5KR

11-30-2014 (7) NCS WB1HGA KG0YR W3UEC W4HH KW4JS K9EYT WB0QQT

NAQCC Farnsword Net 80 Meter Net (FRN) - Sunday, 7:00 PM, PST, 3.527.5 MHz +/-

11-16-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR WB6AAJ KW6G N7HRK WU7F

11-23-2014 (3) NCS KR5RR N7HRK WU7F

11-30-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR KE7LKW/7 K7KY N6KIX WU7F

NAQCC Farnsword Net 80 Meter Net (FRN) - Monday, 7:00 PM, PST, 3.527.5 MHz +/-

11-03-2014 (4) NCS KR5RR N7HRK W7SOM KE7LKW (7.122)
 11-10-2014 (4) NCS KR5RR N7HRK N7NLN KE7LKW
 11-17-2014 (2) NCS KR5RR WU7F (7.122)
 11-17-2014 (3) NCS KR5RR WU7F N7HRK (3527.5)
 11-24-2014 (5) NCS KR5RR N7HRK KW6G W7SOM K7KY

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) - Monday, 7:00 PM CDT, 3.527.5MHz +/-

11-03-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N5DRG W9HJW KD5SFK
 11-10-2014 (5) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N5DRG WB0QQT KG0YR
 11-17-2014 (3) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA
 11-24-2014 (6) NCS KA5TJS KE5YUM KE5YGA N5DRG KA0ENU N5NVP

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) - Monday, 8:00 PM CST 7.117 MHz +/-

11-24-2014 (13) NCS NU0S KR5RR WB0QQT WA8DOF K0JFJ KU4ZU WN0I K9EYT KG0LD
 K0NG WB0JTM KA0ENU N5NVP

NAQCC Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) - Tue/Th 4:00 PM MST 14.062.5 MHz 4:45
 MST 7.032.5

11-06-2014 14.062.5 (8) NCS WC7S KA4RUR AA7CUW5HNS K6OIO AL7VK0DTJ KF7WNS/6
 7.0362.5 (5) NCS WC7S VA3SZ,K4EAY KD9DW KU7Y
 11-11-2014 14.062.5 (9) NCS WC7S AA7CU KE6OIO W5HNS KA0ENF KG9DN KG9DW KK5IB
 W0UFO
 11-18-2014 14.062.5 (8) NCS WC7S AB1VL AA7CU W8HOG W0EA KD9DW KD7SU KA4RUR
 7.048 NO QNI
 11-20-2014 14.062.5 (6) NCS WC7S AA7CU K0DTJ NE5DL KE6OIO KF7WNS
 7.03625 (2) NCS WC7S AA7CU
 11-25-2014 14.062.5 (9) NCS WC7S K9JWV KR5RR,KF7WNS AA7CU K0DTJ W3HZZ K4EAY
 KA0ENU
 7.032.5 NO QNI

NAQCC North New England 40 Meter QRS Net (NNN) - Tuesday, 7:00 PM EST 7.117 MHz +/-

11-04-2014 (4) NCS AB1VL K1IEE KG9DW W3UEC
 11-11-2014 (5) NCS AB1VL KA0ENU KC9UNL AC8JW NI2F
 11-18-2014 (4) NCS AB1VL W3UEC VA3KOT NI2F
 11-25-2014 (3) NCS AB1VL KA0ENU NI2F

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

11-06-2014 (7) NCS KE7LKW WB4SPB AD7BP K7ZNP K7EX W7SWB N7QR
 11-13-2014 (7) NCS W7DK N6KIX AI6U KE7LKW/7 KR5RR AD7BP N7QR
 11-20-2014 (8) NCS W7DK AD7BP K7JUV KE7LKW/7 N6KIX N7NLN W7SOM K7ZNP
 11-27-2014 (2) NCS WB4SPB AD7BP

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

11-06-2014 (3) NCS WA8AXF WB0QQT VA3KOT
 11-13-2014 (5) NCS WA8AXF WE8UPJ WB0QQT KU4GW K1IEE
 11-20-2014 (6) NCS WA8AXF WE8UPJ NI2F KU4GW K01E K1GKE



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. Additional help is also available on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/cw.html>.

Here is an excellent article with some good information submitted by David, N0WKZ, #6828.

QRP - Discoveries and Experiences. By David, N0WKZ

As of late, I have been accumulating more experiences, not just with CW, but also with QRP operations. Indeed, a number of recent portable operations were quite instructive for me. What I hope is that by sharing these perhaps, minor details, I might be able to save some other operators the trouble of so much frustration.

Voices of Experience

First, and as always, I think the number one thing I am continuing to find is that the best source of advice and help is Elmer's. Operators with years of experience. This is a source of knowledge that can never be underestimated. Oh, and don't be like me. Don't selectively take advice from Elmer's while ignoring some things in favor of stubborn personal ideas. The object really is to operate. These guys usually know how to help you get up and going. If you need help; ask for it.

Antenna Mania

If I had to guess, Antenna devices are likely one of the bigger sources of frustration and problems for many operators. Being a new operator, and attempting to participate by operating QRP, can potentially compound the issue. It did for me. My experience in this same situation, almost without exception, has been that the more simple you keep things, the better your results will be. For QRP and QRP portable operations, I tend to believe that the simple Antenna forms are the best: the venerable Dipole, ¼ Wave Verticals, and basic forms of the Long Wire.

It is very easy to get caught up in the Antenna game. There are countless blogs, articles, and web sites devoted just to this topic; most of which contain basic true Antenna principals. Many are littered with confusing information that is not always true. Further, there is a lot of contention and disagreement about various Antenna topics. If you look at all of this long enough and do the math in your head, you will probably see the futility in it. For me, the main focus was simply to operate. What is the best way to do that? Put up a simple antenna and get on the air. Everything else is really going to eat up your time and take away from the fun of HAM radio. Find your local Elmer and get some basic advice on using one of the simple Antenna types.

BIG Waves SMALL space

If with your license level, you are able to operate on some of the higher frequency HF bands, chances are probably good that you might be able to operate from home without too much trouble, even if your location is restricted. Antenna's for some of the HF bands are not huge. If however you are like me, interested in operating on the lower bands, you may find yourself struggling for Antenna space. If this is

the case, do yourself a favor. Build a simple wire Antenna and the lightest pack you can, and get out to a local park or some other suitable location and operate. Parks and other such locations can be wonderful for erecting Antenna's for the lower bands. Moreover, creating the most efficient pack for portable operation is quite a challenge and can be an enjoyable part of operations. My own experience has generally been that portable operations are a breath of fresh air; literally. QRM/QRN is generally much lower when operating portable which makes searching for QRP contacts far less frustrating. Overall it has been an enjoyable experience for myself and one I would recommend trying if your own circumstances permit. Again, your local Elmer can help you here as well.

Learn to play the Propagation game

Many crafts and hobbies require the learning of multiple skills. Some even demand it. HAM radio is no exception. Working the lower bands, at QRP power levels, during the day, as I often attempt to do, demands an operator understand at least a little about propagation. However, understanding propagation is not limited to my own situation. A fair understanding of propagation is important to almost all the bands and modes used by HAM operators. Here is my experience. Not paying attention to Solar conditions has caused me to make more than a few portable trips that resulted in entire days of hearing few operators and making no contacts. It would be wise, no matter what your power levels, mode of operation, or bands, to at least make an effort to understand when conditions are good for operating and when they are not. There are many well maintained web sites that contain this information along with general information about how to use it. It takes time and effort to gain some understanding of propagation, but by doing so, a lot of frustration can be avoided. Again, consult your Elmer's as well.

Professionalism

In my estimation, HAM radio is not truly a hobby. It seems, at least to me, to be more of a vocation or craft. A field of science combined with the potential & privilege of serving others. It can be fun, frustrating, rewarding, irritating, and even bothersome at times. Nevertheless, above all, I esteem HAM radio as being an entity that should be attended with professionalism. I suppose that this is a matter of subjective interpretation, however, my own experience has been that when I have focused on deliberately being organized well, exercising good ethics and accuracy in my operations, and in trying to follow good practices, that things have generally gone better. More contacts get made. My equipments stays in good order and a host of other positive things. Attending HAM operations with the same level of professionalism we do in our employment could lead to better outcomes overall.

Specific to QRP Ops

Most, if not all of the QRP operators I have communicated with have shown me one thing above all; an extreme level of sophistication and expertise. QRP really is a different animal so to speak. It requires not just patience, but a dedication to becoming refined enough in all aspects of operating and to a such a fine degree that no stone of efficiency has been left unturned. Most of these operators have stations that are far more capable than are those of higher power simply because QRP requires it. This includes all physical parts of a station and operator techniques. It is a challenge to be sure and not to be taken casually. But, as I have found, the rewards of QRP are unique. QRP is equivalent in definition with the word efficiency. QRP does work and QRP is not a cute toy in the world of Amateur radio. It is a precise and high level of operating. Personally, I have had no feeling quite like making a contact on almost no power when compared with a high power station. So, if you are new to HAM Radio & QRP and perhaps feeling frustrated, hang in there. Learn, read, ask questions, and then get out there and operate. Experience is probably your best instructor, even when the experience is an irritating string of successive failures. It will pay off...

72, David Keath, N0WKZ



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 FABLES

DICK SYLVAN, W9CBT



MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL
WHO'S THE FAIREST HAM YL OF ALL?



NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Europe, Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Shenandoah Valley, Central Texas, Illowa, 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 President 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

CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



Items in this section are from Central Texas Chapter President Danny, N5DRG, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him.

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area.

My name is Danny Goodrum, call sign N5DRG, and I wanted to give the membership a little information on the Newly Formed Chapter of the N.A.Q.C.C., **The Central Texas Chapter.**

Currently the chapter consists of Hams in the Greater Austin, Texas area. Mostly from the North Austin, and Cedar Park, Texas area. Travis and Williamson Counties.

The Chapter first started as a local group of Hams that are part of the Central Texas Ham-Buds Amateur Radio Club. It was decided to hold a weekly informal CW net on Thursdays at 8 PM local time, 02:00 UTC. It was a spin off from the N.A.Q.C.C. East Texas Net hosted by Allen Matthews KA5TJS.

Some of this group is also involved in the operation of QRP events such as Summits on the Air, The Texas State Parks on the Air, and trying to go out into the local parks for CW operations whenever schedules permit. There are a few people that come up and ask "What in the World are you doing?" or after we tell them what we are attempting do, they smile & walk away, or say "Ham Radio? I thought that was dead".

Not Yet. Dah-Di-Dah

Currently the chapter has eight confirmed members, with a one still pending; he is waiting on the NAQCC for his membership number.

Larry WB5BEK-NAQCC # 7534, Joe K5BRY-NAQCC # 6666, Scott W5TS-NAQCC # 7535, Kenny K5KGK-NAQCC # 5615, Gerry K5TXG-NAQCC # 5865, Max KD5SFK-NAQCC # 7536, Allen KA5TJS NAQCC # 4512 Russ KK5E (Pending) and myself Danny N5DRG-NAQCC # 5861

We hope to be able to add to the continuing growth of the Ham Radio Community, and actively promote CW and QRP activities whenever possible.

=====

On November 23, I met with Joe K5BRY NAQCC # 6666 in the Williamson County Regional Park to have a QRP in The Park afternoon.

Joe was able to work several stations, most were in New Mexico & Arkansas, a very short hop on 20 meters from Texas, 40 meters was dead this afternoon, called for a good while and no returns.

The QRP Station was an Elecraft KX-3, Buddipole set in the back of Joe's Chevrolet Silverado Mobil Tower Platform. Ha! The weather was perfect as the blue skies reflect in the photos. I was there for moral support as if any was required.



(Editor - That doesn't look like late November weather where I live! Does the jealousy on my face show through my ski mask?)

Regards,
Danny Goodrum
N5DRG

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.

December activity day

The chapter's next activity day is coming up on Monday, 15th December. The activity days are an excellent opportunity for members to meet each other on the air, and are based around a friendly competition. Their ultimate goal is to increase QRP/CW activity in Europe, and the awareness of it. As with all chapter activities, the activity days are open to every NAQCC member, so stations outside of Europe are most welcome to participate and make contacts with those in Europe!

The activity days are a proposed a 24 hour period (0000Z-2359Z on 15th December), in which members can spend as much or as little time operating as is convenient and enjoyable. We award points for QSOs based on the distance between the two stations, and normalise scores based on how much time in that 24 hour period you have spent operating. The idea is to facilitate a convenient opportunity for member-member contacts whilst being flexible to allow for the many commitments that members have outside of the hobby.

The results of the activity day will be published immediately after the two week deadline for submitting entries has passed, just before the New Year.

Please join us on the 15th, no matter where you are located, to help keep our chapter activity days growing!

Europe 2014 challenge

We've had a further two submissions for the Europe 2014 challenge! Both Laurent, F5MNK, and Peter, G3JFS, are now successful recipients of the award. This brings the total number of recipients to five.

The Europe 2014 challenge is a special challenge, which involves working at least 42 countries across Europe during the year of 2014. More details are available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/europe-2014>. The main reward for completing the challenge is a beautiful certificate, with each of the countries that you have worked highlighted on a map of Europe.

There is just over a month left to submit entries for the challenge! Now is the time to work those final few countries needed to meet the requirement of 42!

Next month, we'll be announcing our new annual challenge for 2015.

Monthly challenges

We have an exciting seasonal challenge this month! The premise is to construct five non-English phrases for 'Christmas tree' from the letters in the callsigns of stations that you work. The full details are available at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/december-2014-challenge>

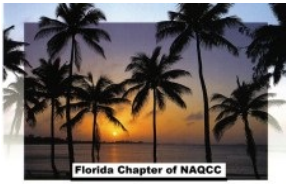
There are still a few days left to submit entries for the November challenge. We've had eight so far, and the final results will be announced next month.

The premise of the October challenge was to construct the names and year of construction of two beautiful churches in Europe. There were nine successful applications, from F5MNK, G3JFS, I5SKK, K1EEE, K1YAN, K3WWP, N9SE, PA0XAW, and RW3AI. Congratulations to all!

Happy Christmas!

The European chapter team would like to wish all members of the NAQCC a very happy Christmas, and a most successful QRP/CW 2015.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

On November 21st, 2014 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC held its latest “Operation in the Park” event at Candace Strawn Park, located between Deland and Pierson in Volusia County. This County Park is “sandwiched” on a small sliver of land between Florida State Road 11 and Lake Dias. The park has a nice covered pavilion, restrooms, and a water fountain – a boat ramp too! Adjacent pavilion parking and several large picnic tables next to the lake make for easy setup. We’ve been to this park before and we had the pavilion and picnic tables to ourselves. The weather was perfect! Our Florida “winter” arrived, with a temp of 58 degrees and 30% humidity when we arrived, accompanied by crystal clear blue skies and a light breeze. You can tell from the pictures who is used to cooler weather.....!



Don K3RLL #1905 used his KX3 to 9:1 Unun 31' vertical.

Don made four Qs - 1QSO with NAQCC member W0RW in CO; plus non-members in NY, Belarus and Switzerland! Nice DX!



Art WB4MNK #5274 used his KX1, Dirt Cheap paddle, ZM-2 tuner and a 28'x16' End Fed Wire at 20'.

He made 6 QSOs in FL, VA, and SC..... NAQCC members including N1ZX, W2WW, W4KRN, K4UPG, K4VSV and W4MCX.

Steve beat him for once. Steve had coffee. Art was out. Where's Darryl when you need him OM???? Have we discovered your "strength"??



Rick AA4W #1628, used a K1 to a NorCal Doublet.

He also worked the Belarus and Switzerland fellas.

Just an aside, Rick is the ARRL Northern Florida Section Official Observer Coordinator.



Steve WB4OMM #5913 (KX-3 running 5W out to a Hamstick mounted on a small tripod with 4 radials). Steve is smiling – he "cleaned up big time" in this outing - 17 contacts total in just 90 minutes (13 were members) – NC, PA, NJ, NY, MS, CO, TN, FL, SC, MO, and Canada! Most 559-599!

He brought his thermos and had coffee long after Art ran out. Steve thinks that's the secret to Art beating him out every outing in the past. Steve kept mumbling something about "grinding beans"....."unfair caffeine advantage".....and "I'll fix him"!! - it also helps to be on 20M CW!

**WB4OMM WORKING THE BANDS -
LOOK - HE HAS COFFEE LEFT!**

Darryl AB8GU #6913, and another Daytona local, Paul NU4C roamed the small park, visiting each of the four radio sites and kept us "informed" on the other's progress.

The bands were good with some QSB. There were a few signals on the air and what we heard we worked.



We quit just before noon and enjoyed our “brown bag” lunch in the pavilion, as the closest eatery was some 5 miles away! In minutes, the overpowering aroma of chicken sausage soup, mustard, peanut butter, tuna fish and pickles wafted through the area. Not a human in sight other than us! With the CW sounds, wires, strange gear and funny smells, it’s a wonder anyone would be in that area! Hi Hi!

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

NEXT MONTH: We will not have an outing in December due to the Holidays. The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is scheduled for Friday, January 16th, 2015 at 9:00 am.

Look for our announcement!

All of the members of the NAQCC-FL Chapter wish you all a safe and Happy Holiday season!

72/73 to all!
 SteveWB4OMM, #5913
NAQCCFL@yahoo.com



NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Bob, W9PZ.

The Illowa Chapter operates in the "Quad Cities" area of Davenport, IA / Moline, IL.

From Bob, W9PZ:

We had an initial meeting last night (November 13) with 5 people, all NAQCC members, deciding that we should have a go at it. Here is a list of the 5 of us:

John W0BIZ # 2523
Tim N9BIL # 4882
Tony N9YPN # 2982
Pete NN9K # 6887
Bob W9PZ # 7387

Our area is Eastern Iowa/Northwestern Illinois centered around the "Quad Cities" area (Davenport, Iowa; Moline, Illinois).

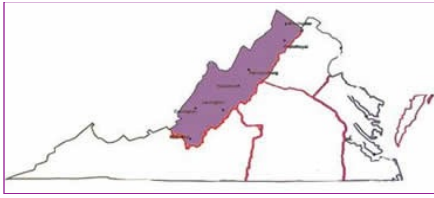
We do have a few activities planned when it warms up (spring?) as it is 25 degrees right now with an early winter surge.

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On November 26, Bob sent in the following update...

Thanks to NAQCC's emails, we now have three new Illowa Chapter members: Keith Kerchner KC9IH #6165, Dave Hewitt N3BXY #7063, and Kevin Anderson K9IUA #0249. All new members are welcome. We are currently waiting for Spring and have been in discussion about what events to do first. Our first goal is to operate from nearby historic sites and to branch out from there.

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.

No report available.

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.



The month of November has been a very busy month for our West Virginia Chapter. We had a field event on November 11th, and in addition to our monthly Wednesday morning breakfast on November 12th, we had a "special" breakfast meeting on Saturday the 22nd.

I had publicized this Saturday breakfast meeting on both the local two meter repeater and also the West Virginia HF phone net. When I arrived at the restaurant, much to my surprise, I found five members of the Kanawha Valley Amateur Radio Club (KARC) already at the table. It seems this place is a regular meeting spot for this very small group on Saturday mornings. I've got that down in my "personal calendar" now.

I knew several of these hams (N8BS and W8SBH) previously and it was nice to talk about HF radio and the latest happenings in the valley. It was also nice to meet W8KRA, N8KMS and KC8YDH. I consider every ham I meet to be a future enthusiast for the CW mode, and did all I could to encourage them in this direction. I think our club member John (W8GDP) did the same at the upper end of the table.

I'll look forward to seeing these folks at future events. I was asked to do a club presentation (about the NAQCC club) at one of their future club meetings. I'm waiting for a phone call to set up a date.

I was happy to see NAQCC Club member KA8SYV and his wife, Paula, join me a few moments later. Frank (KA8AYV) has been checking into the Wednesday night QRS net. A few moments later, I was greeted by two younger hams. Derek (KD8ZEN) and Nathan (KD8ZSS) are high school students. It's especially rewarding to see young people enter this hobby! Eric (AC8LJ) had an interesting conversation with them about fine tuning a vintage Heath-Kit rig.

I was very happy to see "ten" radio operators talking about and sharing their hobby with each other at this breakfast table. I'm sure our chapter we will have more of these Saturday breakfasts in the future.

Now on to our field event on November 11th at the Hurricane Wave Pool Park:



I've little doubt that when my fellow NAQCC club member Jim Stephens (NX8Z) and I (N8ZYA) decided to set up and operate from Hurricane WV on November 11, 2014, we might have caught the last day of warm sunshine in West Virginia; it was a good decision. Today, as I type this newsletter entry, it's 18 degrees Fahrenheit(7.7 Celsius) in the Kanawha Valley.

Our West Virginia Chapter of the club operated from this nice park last year. This year, we both set up around the same shelter with the same antennas. Jim uses a Buddipole and I used my end fed Par antenna cut for 40-20- and 10 meters. We both used Icom 703's and we both were dressed appropriately for the warm sunshine with temperatures in the mid 70's. (23.8 Celsius)



Living in the Kanawha Valley, even in Hurricane season, seldom brings us the harsh weather that runs along the eastern coast. Those bad storms simply take the appropriate interstate exit and we're left in the clear here in the valley.



Don't believe it? ... Let me just say "look at the photos". Jim and I were both wearing short sleeve shirts and Jim was looking like a Florida resident sitting in the shade and wearing shorts under an umbrella.

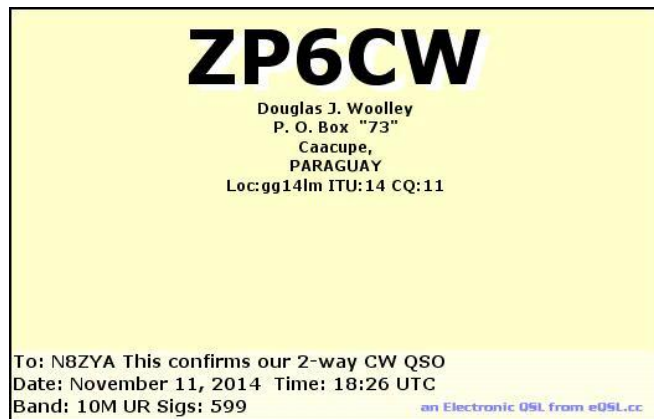
All kidding aside, we had a beautiful day at this park and worked seventeen stations while sitting in the warm sun. We plan to use the Hurricane Wave Pool Park in the future for more of our radio outings.



I had planned on using a new 31' fiberglass pole for an antenna mount on this trip but didn't want to take the chance of driving a steel stake in the ground to support the pole. There's lots of "night lighting" in this area. I decided to err on the side of safety and use the existing trees. Driving a steel support pole in the ground around buried electric lines isn't a good idea. Perhaps on the next trip, I can shift shelters and use this one.



Before leaving the site we worked more than a dozen stations from Canada to Florida and I even managed to hear and work a couple of DX stations in Spain and Paraguay. Oscar (**EA1DR**) sent me his confirmation card from Spain. The second card is from the station in Paraguay. I love making contacts like this while sitting at a picnic table.



The stations we worked were **W8NNC** in Ohio, **W8GDP** in Charleston WV (a member of our core WV Chapter group), **VE3ED** in Canada, **WM3X** in North Carolina, **W2JEK** in New Jersey, **N4LTS** in Florida, **WA4WHV** in North Carolina, **KA0ENU** in Tennessee, **WA8ULB** in West Virginia, **K8SX** in West Virginia (member of the WV Chapter core group) **EA1DR** in Spain, **WD4UK** in Virginia, **WB3T** in Pennsylvania, **WA8REI** in Michigan and **W2LJ/P** in New Jersey.

It was a real pleasure to work Larry (**W2LJ/P**) as my last contact. Larry (W2LJ) is the Assistant Publicity Manager for the North American QRP CW Club and was operating "portable" from Warren New Jersey.



There were several Special Event Stations commemorating Veterans Day on the air. I did something I rarely do and made a SSB contact with **WW2COS** in Georgia. This radio club is among a group that is slowly restoring a B-17G bomber.



We've had snow in the mountains since operating at this park and look for an accumulation this coming week, even here in the valley. The weather up North has been shockingly cold with temps well below freezing. My guess is it's going to be a brutal winter but this also means "good times" for being on the radio.

On a personal level, I completed my first "Challenge" this month and am happy to say that I enjoyed this very much! As I found the Thanksgiving words, about different foods, in the call letters of the stations I worked this month, I found myself drooling several times. I highly recommend this fun club activity to everyone.

I did, however, hike several extra miles in the woods to burn off those calories. It made me very hungry.

Happy Trails!

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 three events in November and a planned one that didn't come off.

First was the prize drawing on November 2 when Mike KC2EGL and I got together to award the prizes in conjunction with our 10th anniversary celebration and the Honor Nancy month prize. We also snuck in a surprise retirement gift for Mike as he retires from the Prize Manager job. That was a bezel for his KX3 engraved with his call and NAQCC number. I won't dwell on this more as much has been written in the newsletter about it and a special page on the NAQCC website is devoted to it http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_10th_anniv.html. You can get a similar bezel for your KX3 (or other Elecraft rigs) http://www.naqcc.info/main_bezels.html.

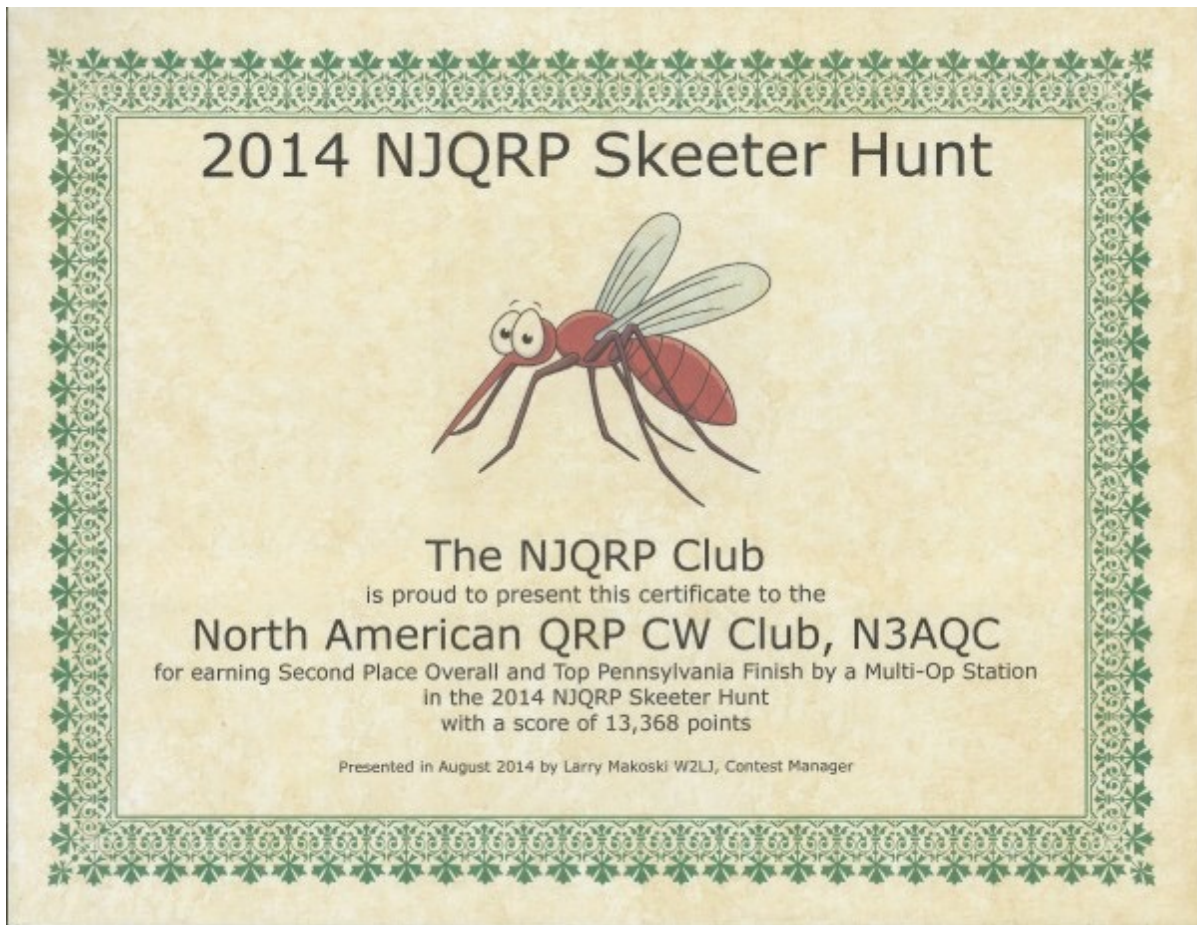
We also had our customary eats that day. Brunch at Ponderosa before, and pepperoni and mushroom pizzas after the drawings. A check of the bands for DX showed only a lot of SS activity, so we killed some time with some computer games. Then before Mike had to leave, we labelled all the prize packages and got them ready for me to take to the PO in the morning, which I did.

Next up was a get together on Veterans Day November 11. Not a lot of ham activity that day but we did a bit of cleaning up of the NAQCC prizes as we both retire from our NAQCC positions. Then a trip to the Pittsburgh Mills for some shopping and a meal at Applebee's. I bought a 4GB memory module to increase the memory to 8GB in my laptop. Mike got a few things here and there also.

Back home, I installed the memory module which was a bit tricky, but after one failed attempt, it seated nicely in the socket. Next we went off to my shack in search of DX. No DX, but we both worked W100AW for the first time this year. We also worked W1AW/7 and W1AW/0. However a chase of 7X3FG which would have given Mike an overall new country proved unsuccessful. Computer games and a dinner buffet at Ponderosa closed out a great day.

We had planned to do a subpedition from the Requin followed by a visit to the Skyview club on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving. That didn't pan out though as Mike had to work that day. So we adjusted the plan to a subpedition on Wednesday, but that didn't work out either as when we contacted Art WA3BKD about a sub visit, he said the sub hours had been changed and it wouldn't be available that day. OK, next adjustment now. Just a regular get together on Wednesday to build Mike's PX3 which he ordered the week before and which had arrived in just two days. Well, that didn't totally work either. Mike got called in to work at 6AM that day, so another adjustment. He'd come over after work for the PX3 build. That did work out. The build was successful and Mike and I now both have the very best possible QRP rig setup in the world with the KX3/PX3 combo showing off our calls and NAQCC numbers on the KX3 bezels.

We also received our certificates shown below for our second place overall finish in the NJQRP Skeeter Hunt back in August.



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 Arnold, KA0TPZ, #7347 —

One hundred years rushed on by,
Its technology there in tow;
Tesla? "Alternating current" guy,
Lit our lights you know!

Armstrong kit receiving means,
As a boy of 12 and death;
RCA -- not a hill of beans,
Until they took his breath!

Edison incandescent lamp,
Burned brightly in repute;
Stolen property -- patent stamp,
Tesla equations proof!

When Edwin modulated freqs,
And Deforest tubes took off;
Entertained ourselves 4 weeks,
In corporate combat loft!

Wireless let us fight a war,
It alerted troops and planes;
Ships at sea were saved an Ore,
With electric powered Mains!

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

November was a great month for me. In addition to the items mentioned in the WPA Chapter news section of this newsletter, there were other things also that were a joy.

Of course, as always, the NAQCC alphabet challenges were a lot of fun. The 'USA' Turkey challenge went rather quickly. I completed it on the 17th, and set to work on the European Chapter airport challenge. A dedicated effort on the 23rd with only a week left netted me all but one of the last 8 or 9 letters I needed then. That last letter (actually number as the European Chapter challenges usually always include numbers) was a 6 which is pretty common in European calls, but not for me this month. To make a long story shorter, I finally got 9A6R on the 26th. That means I've mastered all but one of the European Chapter challenges since they debuted in June 2012. I missed the combo

Dec 2012/Jan 2013 challenge for whatever reason. I think the alphabet challenges are my favorite NAQCC activity along with our monthly sprints.

Speaking of sprints, conditions were horrible for our sprint this month. I didn't think I'd even come close to my standard of late 20 QSOs, but I struggled along and hit 20 about 15 minutes before the end of the sprint and as I have been doing, when I reach 20, I QRT and give my ears a break from my much too loud local man-made QRN.

My first ARRL bureau mailing in a couple months now gave me 24 new QSL cards, most of which were cards requesting my card for whatever reason. However there also were several new prefixes verified in the batch as well. Chasing prefixes is one of the ham activities I really enjoy. While it becomes hard to get overall new countries with QRP after reaching 220+, there are always new special event prefixes available to work. Of course there are band countries also, but they are becoming scarce also after over 1,000 of them.

There are other minor things I could dwell on, but I want to get to my favorite activity of the month, the CQWW DX contest. Ahhh, I love those big DX contests with the high speed fast paced CW action. I wish there were more of them. I don't get in them to make big scores, but just to have fun. For example, in this one, I could have worked a ton of W/VE stations, but instead of that, I worked only DX stations and came up with 381 QSOs. Far short of the 633 I made in the ARRL DX contest in (I believe) 2002, but still tons of fun. I probably could have hit 500 or even 600 had I worked W/VE stations, but that wouldn't have given me as much satisfaction as just working the DX. My country total was 77, short of my record of 90+ in one of the DX contests a few years ago, but probably in the top ten or so. I am going to analyze the data more thoroughly as I write a contest report for my web site here <http://k3wwp.com>. One of the main things I wanted to do in the contest was increase my mW country total. Going into the contest, my total stood at 73. I wondered if I could get 27 new ones to reach 100. Every time (well, almost - I forgot some times in the excitement - HI) I heard a country I had never worked with mW power, I'd crank the KX3 down from 5 watts to 900 mW and go for it. Sometimes it was easy, sometimes it failed, and I 'only' got 17 new ones for a new total now of 90. Maybe best of all though was getting two new overall countries (with 5 watts) in 3B8MU and AH0K to bring my countries worked with QRP total to 221 now. Next I'm looking forward to the ARRL 10 meters contest in a couple weeks. I hope conditions are as great then as they were for this contest. Actually I almost think they were too great. There was just too much available to work in too short a time. It was kind of like the kid in a candy store with just enough money to buy one or two things. Should I chase this station with his pileup or look for someone without a pileup. Should I be on this band or that band, and so forth. It was interesting to see 20M open well into the night with good signals, but I wasn't able to work them as easily as during the day. Also the last couple hours on Sunday were a lot slower than usual as I was having trouble then working stations. Disappointments? Sure, there always are in these big contests. I wish I'd remembered to turn the power down to 900 mW at times and gotten a few more mW countries. It was disappointing to not be able to work things like E5 KH8 and others including especially some station in zone 26 which I need as one of the 4 CQ zones I've never worked. He was so weak though, I couldn't even get his call. I only heard him giving out 59926.

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

Well, I did it! I managed to complete my W1AW CW QRP WAS in the ARRL Centennial QSO Party using my Elecraft K2 running 5 watts (or less) into my derelict Cushcraft R7 vertical. And everything has already been confirmed on LOTW. I know that K3WWP also completed this sometime ago and I am sure that there are many other NAQCC members who managed to do so as well. As a matter of fact, our planned poll question in January will ask how you did with the ARRL Centennial so please let us hear from you about that next month.

From Jerry, VE6CPP, #5697 —

Jerry has been working on an Excel spreadsheet that will automate all of the work that goes into the record keeping for our NAQCC alphabet challenges. The project is not really 100% yet but if you are interested in trying out his spreadsheet and/or if you would be interested in helping him polish it up into a final version please get in touch with him. His email address is good on QRZ.com.



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

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Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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