

NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 203 MAY 2015



KEY CLICKS

- **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR N#A OPERATIONS.** Yes, it's early, but you know what they say about the "early bird." We need volunteers to put our N#A special event callsigns on the air during our anniversary celebration October 12-18. It's a lot of fun, no special equipment or skills are needed, and your operating schedule is completely flexible. If you are interested in being an N#A operator please contact club President Paul, N8XMS (email on last page). There is no limit to the number of operators that we can have so "the more the merrier." If you would like to be the one from your district that uses the special call during the sprint please indicate that as well (first come first served). *If you have already signed up to be an operator but find that your schedule has changed and you now need to opt out please let us know.* (Having someone on the operator list who doesn't actually operate complicates our record keeping and wrap-up work at the end of the week.) Detailed instructions for special event operators will be sent out by the end of September but if you have any questions just ask.
- **SPRINT DISTRICT CATEGORIES CLARIFIED.** We were recently asked to clarify the status of sprint participants who are located in Alaska and Hawaii. Although these areas are considered to be "DX" for DXCC awards, for the purposes of our sprints, participants in Hawaii will be listed in the W6 district and participants in Alaska will be listed in W7.
- **PRIZE ELIGIBILITY REQUIRES PARTICIPATION THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.** Once again some great prizes will be given away to members participating in our 11th anniversary sprint in October, and just like last year there is a throughout-the-year participation requirement to be eligible for the top tier of prizes. The requirements are not excessive, just a few sprints and/or challenges through the year will do it. Complete details can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html.
- **2015 MEMBERSHIP DRIVE.** 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/naqcc.html>.

Our winner for the first quarter is John, K3WWP. Of the 116 membership applications that included information about where they had learned about the NAQCC, 5 of them said it was through K3WWP.

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- **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.”



HIGH SPEED MORSE

BY PAUL SIGNORELLI, WORW

Most people who learn the Morse code seem to hit an upper speed limit as they progress. Here is the reason and how to overcome it.

Receiving High Speed Morse

Here is what I have found during my short Morse life time and you have probably heard it before...

It is best to copy words not letters. Receiving HSM or QRQ in your head is like playing an anticipation game in your brain. You have already learned how to do that at slower speeds and your Google Search engine does it all the time. It is called Auto Completion. When you Google Search 'Indianap...' Google brings up Indianapolis before you can finish typing the word. 'Moorest..' brings up Moorestown, 'Camd..' brings up Camden, 'Jeo..' brings up Jeopardy. When you copy 'Missi..', you say to yourself, I know he is going to send Mississippi, why can't he just send MS.

Your brain does this when you are receiving Morse. This is not cheating, it is just how your brain completes the missing elements. Remember the old FCC "Fill in the Blank" Morse code tests? It had partial sentences like "My _____ is in a tree". The answer was "Antenna".

HSM requires that the anticipation game extend from just words to common phrases. The phrases are common sayings or Clichés frequently used in the game Wheel of Fortune. You already intuitively know all these phrases, you only need to practice them on HSM. Like "The XYL has...." The anticipated phrase is going to be: "called me to dinner", "come home and I have to QRT," etc.

When you begin copying HSM in your head you will immediately hear the words like: "and", "the", "good", "you", plus your call, name, QTH, etc. It may surprise you that you already know a lot of words and that should encourage you to listen more. This process has been taking shape ever since you started using Morse.

HSM can be like the 'Butterfly of Love' that will gently land on your shoulder after you quit pursuing it. HSM begins differently for each person but it should begin at a speed that is more than you can type or write. You have to learn to copy words and phrases in your head. It is not just the task of memorizing 26 letters and 10 numbers, you will need to recognize a few thousand words, it is just like learning a new language.

Obviously, the Morse word sounds can not be deciphered this way if they are sent letter by letter with big spaces in between. The Farnsworth method which uses fast letter speed and wide letter spacing is not helpful in word recognition. You quickly learn the common words, but there will always be some that will not be in your HSM vocabulary yet, like "Poughkeepsie", unless you practice it. (If you live in Poughkeepsie please send your QTH as NY.)

See QST for the W1AW Fast Code Practice operating schedule.

After you become more proficient at HSM, slower speeds and Farnsworth reception will be like teaching a teenager how to drive a stick shift automobile.

Sending HSM

Your manual dexterity or typing skills will probably be the limit to your manual sending speeds. You can't send 40 WPM on a CW keyboard for very long if your typing speed is only 20 WPM. If you know how to "Touch Type", you probably know that the typing becomes a hand movement pattern routine.

The hand typing patterns are hard wired into our body after we practice them enough. A CW keyboard will allow you to send great CW, but the outgoing CW speed is limited by your typing skills. Using a Bug or Paddle will also have manual dexterity limits but you don't have to send as fast as you can receive. Don't forget to send complete words without spaces. Send 'Now' not 'No w'. Send 'Solid Copy' not 'So Lid Copy'. That might look good on paper but not in my decoder mind.

I use a single lever paddle and find it better for HSM. I have also noticed that if I forget what I am sending my words can be completed automatically by the repetitive hand motion pattern I have learned. When I start to send my call sign, it has a definite pattern and that pattern is never broken. If my brain sends a priority interrupt message (Like: "BALANCE!", "BALANCE!") as I am loosing my balance on a rock, I re-balance my body and my hand keeps sending what ever word I am sending without me thinking about it.

Why Operate HSM?

It is easier and more conversational.
It allows you to send more information or make more QSO's.
It saves energy.
It is your destiny, I know you can do it.

Paul w0rw

SCRATCH STATION 3

BY KEITH FORD, KF4TAP

Editor - This is the third installment in a series of articles KF4TAP is sharing with us about his efforts to build a QRP station completely from recycled parts and without any cash outlay. (He calls it a "spy station" - something that a spy could throw together from readily available parts without drawing any attention to himself.) Don't look for silk-screened circuit boards here - it won't be "pretty." But many would call this "real ham radio," harkening back to the days when a kid would "borrow" his mother's breadboard to build on and would cut up her cookie sheet for a front panel. It's all a "little rough" but I'm sure that you will enjoy it.

February has been brutal this year, so I am a bit behind in my segment. Hopefully spring will be upon us soon! But on to the rig.

This month I have been considering both the PA for my QRPp TX and also working on a block diagram of a receiver. Just a bit of a recap, I have the crystal checker and RF probe, and the 2 stage transmitter that has been built in the last 2 months.

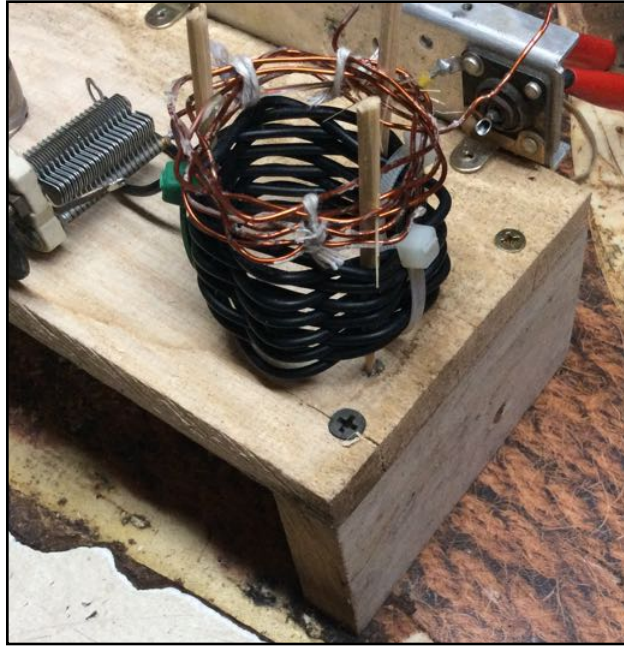
In digging in my box of "treasures" I have found several tubes, so I decided that the PA would be tube final. Mainly a tube final is simpler to get more power than solid state devices. They are a 6AQ5, a couple of 6V6's, a 6AG7, and a 6L6GB. All are good tubes and none of them I gave more than a dollar for. After studying schematics I decided to go with the 6AQ5, this tube goes back to the 50's and has been used in all sorts of applications, besides I found 3 here in the shop from when it was a TV repair shop! Projects using this tube is as common as 6V6 projects. But it seems to be able to run at full power on less voltage than the big Octals that I mentioned earlier.

This segment is really a 2 project in one. The PA would work as a stand along QRP TX also. The general schematic is the one in the 1968 Tab Book "104 projects for the novice and technician", by the way if any one has a copy of this book email me, I would like to see the other 103 projects!

Yet again I find that I have to work around a part not available anymore. The circuit uses a slug tune inductor. This was a road block for a couple of days, then I remember reading of an earlier TX, "The simplest Transmitter" from about 1954. The tank coil is a basket weave coil that is easily made. I believe it will work in place of the slug tune inductor.

I gathered up parts and materials. The chassis is a bottom panel and end from an old CB, stand offs support the front. There is even the SO 239 already mounted on the end piece. I have a used socket for the tube, the parts count is quite low as you can see from the circuit (*see end of article*). I reread my old hand book and thought that the coil info from the slat board TX would work. A piece of pine and 7 nails later I'm ready to wind the coils.

I used my divider to make a 2 inch circle on the board. I drill the seven holes for the nails so they would be a snug fit. Then I ground the heads off the nails, so I have seven pegs to wrap the wire through for the coil. The instructions from the older article is easy to read and follow. Once you have the jig made and finished the TX coils set it to the side. We may use this to make RX coils. The coil for 40 meters went together faster than making the jig. The link was even faster. Next problem to over come was securing the coils to the metal chassis. I don't want the coils inductively loading the chassis and metal supports may affect the coils. I thought of pencils, then I remember reading of exploding coils. It's not happen to me but I'm not willing to risk it today.



The metal chassis was scrapped, I could not think of a way to keep the tank coil from coupling to the chassis. Nothing may not happen, but why risk it? I decided to use a piece of pallet scrap instead, I have a lot of small pieces and I'll save the metal for a panel or something else. The coil support problem is also solved. I have a bag of bamboo skewers for kabobs, I have seen them used for other things like knitting so I thought that some thing as mundane as a coil support should be fine.



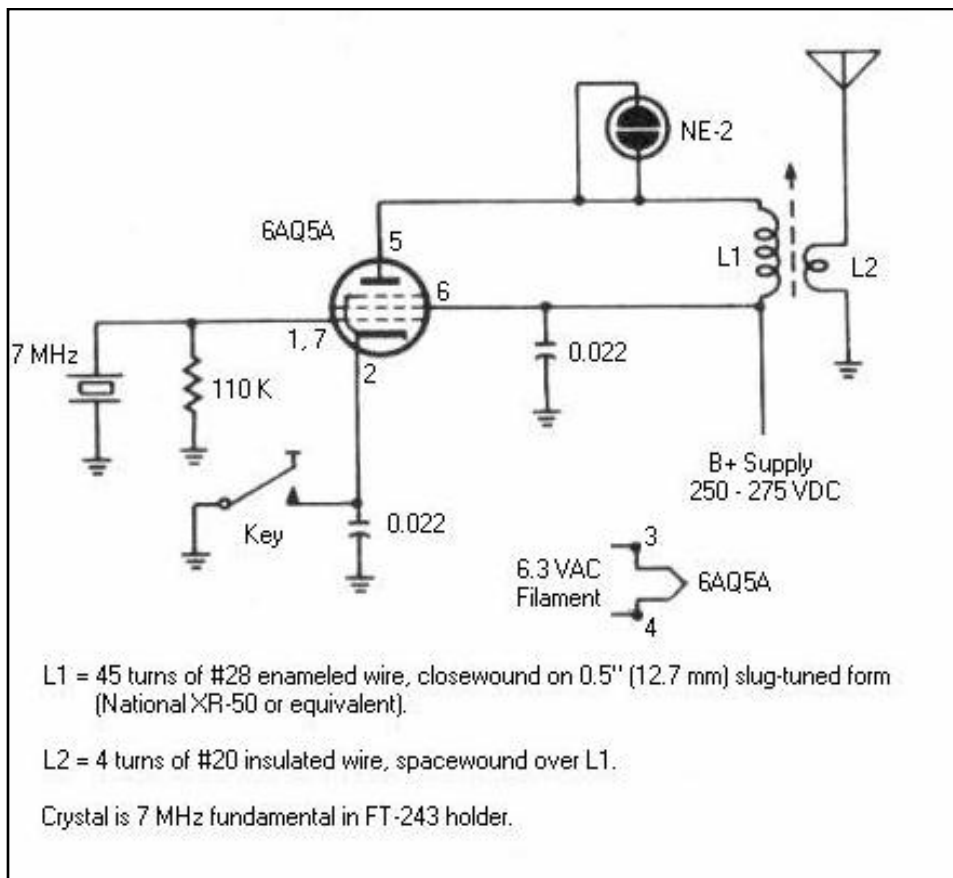
I have turned this almost into a slat board TX/PA. With the two stage QRPp transmitter the final has practically no chirp. The 6AQ5 is humming along on 255 regulated volts from my medium voltage power supply. I dropped the bulb per the notes. Since it does not make a good power indicator. I had to add a variable cap to tune the tank coil. I will add an extra SO239 next to the crystal socket to connect the SS driver to the PA. I have a bit of tweaking to do still, I'm seeing just under 5 watts into the dummy

antenna. So, now I have a homebrewed 5 watt transmitter, there are a few other things I want to add to it like a PTO, and possibly a crystal switch for a bank of Crystals. I have thought of a tapped oscillator coil for band changing. Of course I want to rebuild and clean up the messy looking board! I think the complete TX will fit on a 8X8 cake pan! So happy hamming!, and I'll seriously start on the RX next week, it will also be modular.

The PS is also made from reclaimed components, I used two step down transformers with the secondaries back to back and a voltage doubler. I did scrounge a couple of VR tubes to have a regulated 255 volts. The filament voltage and power for the solid state devices were tapped from the secondaries.

I am happy with this TX, for the cost of a bit of solder I have a solid performing Tx, a kit would start at about a hundred dollars and go up. I can repair this myself, using any number of components.

Any one that builds a similar rig I would like to hear from. Enjoy, Keith, Kf4tap.



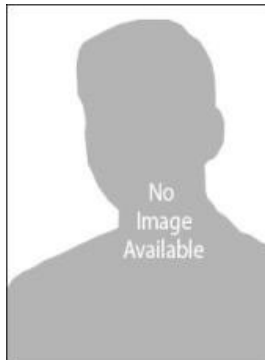
MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



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.

DON ZANK, AA9WP, #1104



I got started, like many others, by listening to shortwave radio with a Hallicrafters S-120. Occasionally I would wander over to the ham bands to listen to what was going on there. The Hallicrafters is still on the shelf, but with a new power supply filter capacitor.

In the summer of 1972 I was just out of high school. The local paper had an article advertising an amateur radio licensing class. The class covered rules, very little theory and CW. For the final exam, I passed the test and 5WPM CW and received my novice license with the call WN9NZH. I wish I could remember that teacher's name and call but both are lost somewhere in the gray memory banks.

Following the typical Novice path I built the Heathkit HW-16 transceiver and accompanying VFO. I did not have much success on the bands with that radio as I suffered from antenna and operator induced issues. Nevertheless, it was the start of my favorite part of amateur radio, home building. That radio is still sitting on the shelf here too.



Not too long after that, there came that period of time where ham activity was nonexistent because of school, and a job that had me traveling every week. After a job switch, I had more time and was able to acquire a General Class license in the early 90s. My new call was N9FGS and the Heathkit was back on the air. Of course, this was not QRP but it was CW. This time my success rate on making contacts was much better.

When the FCC announcement was made in 2000 that the code requirements were going to be reduced, I decided I wanted the Extra Class license with 20 WPM. Thanks to W1AW, I was able to copy 20 WPM and achieved the Extra Class license receiving the AA9WP call sign.

In 2001, I was not really into much QRP activity, but this was one of those great fun times in this hobby. Radio Shack was clearing out their 10-meter mobile rigs, and I picked one up and installed it in my pickup truck. I built a hand-wound helical 10-meter vertical antenna and installed that on the bed of the truck. I was traveling back and forth between college and work at night and the 10-meter band was hot. European stations could be worked easily in the morning, South American stations in the afternoon, and out to the west in the early evening. While not CW, and 25 watts, it was a fun time. Accomplishments include working South Korea and Japan. One morning I had an Italian operator who was also interested in County hunting. When I should have been headed into work, I was sitting in the parking lot slowly spelling Oscar-Zulu-Alpha-Uniform-Kilo-Echo -Echo for my new friend. A nice discovery useful for breaking pileups was to use the phonetics America-America Niner Whiskey Papa.

After I saw (heard?) what could be accomplished with 25 watts and SSB, and not being able to justify spending thousands of dollars on a rig, my interest in QRP and CW grew. To test the waters, and because I enjoy building equipment, I assembled a Ten-Tec 2015 rig. That rig was also used in my pickup truck, when parked of course. I followed that with the Elecraft K1 which has been in service for a number of years. The K1 rig was so great that this past winter I took on the Elecraft K2 Classic Transceiver. Now I finally feel like I have a real amateur radio. Of course, this also means I need to improve my antennas, but until then, the multi-band vertical is doing a great job.

I really enjoy working the NAQCC Sprints and the SKCC sprints. Unfortunately, I do not get to work as many as like because of other weekly commitments. I am also involved with local emergency services with the Ozaukee Amateur Radio Emergency Services (OZARES).

I have been employed at the local industrial automation manufacturer for the past 35 years. The job involves providing telephone and field technical support on their products. I learn something new every day in this position and it has been tremendous for developing troubleshooting skills.

Summers are short around here, and sitting in the basement during nice weather does not make much sense so I enjoyed getting back on this winter and working everyone on the bands.



NAQCC SPRINTS

CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT: Our next sprint will be May 21, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of the 20th in North America. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201505.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>.

We occasionally get questions from sprint participants about how to use the GenLog software to log and report their contacts. Most of the time the answers to these questions can be found in the excellent illustrated tutorial written by KB8FE and found at http://www.naqcc.info/sprint_genlog_tutorial.html.

LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS: We had excellent participation for the April sprint with 138 submitted logs and a total of 211 participants found in those logs. Conditions were reported as being good in most locations except for the southwest and logs averaged a little more than 17 contacts each so people generally enjoyed good success.

Complete sprint results, including soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint201504.html> and summary information can be seen in the tables on the following pages.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time log reporters. We hope that you had a great time and will return often: KE7EW VE3DXK W3JAR W0YZZ K5IX KC7DM WB5BEK KC2NYU N5RWK N0WKZ K3BAB

PARTICIPATION REMINDER: *Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html for the details.*

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1IEE	
W2	K2YGM	W2SH	KA2KGP
W3	N3HEE	AB3RU	
W4	WH6LE	WB4OMM	K2UFT
W5	NF5U	W5IQS	
W6	W6FPS		
W7	KF7WNS	WD7Y	K7EW
W8	WB8LZG	AC8AP	K8RJW
W9	AA9L		
W0	N0TA	K0ALN	
VE	VE2TH	VE5BCS	
DX	CO8CML		

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1IX		
W2	W3JAR		
W3	K3WWP		
W4	AK4NY		
W5			
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	NR1D		
W2	N2ESE		
W3	KB3AAG		
W4	N5GW	WB4MNK	
W5	WB5BEK		
W6	K6CSL		
W7			
W8	AC8JW		
W9	AB9YC		
W0	N0WKZ		
VE	VE3DXK		
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY=>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K4BAI		NN9K

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY=>	SK	BUG	K/K
	K7EW	W3JAR	VE3DXK
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N1JI			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	138	121	194	2/13
Participants	211	188	269	2/13
Total QSOs	2379	1792	2804	2/13
Hour 1 QSOs	1304	942	1468	2/13
Hour 2 QSOs	1075	851	1334	2/13
20m QSOs	1074	490	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1229	1191	1534	4/12
80m QSOs	76	112	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	17.2	14.8	19.3	9/11

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+	WX4RM WA8SAN WD0K KC2EGL K4KRW N0TA VE5BCS K6CSL NQ2W N8QY W4DUK KB8FE NO2D KE5YUM AA9L KQ1P WY3H WB8ENE K1IEE WA2JSG N4FI VE3FUJ KD0V KB3AAG NU7T K3RLL
75+	NF8M KU4A K4JPN N8XMS K4NVJ KD2MX K4BAI WB8LZG
100+	W2SH W9CC W2JEK KA2KGP
125+	K3WWP



NAQCC CHALLENGES

CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The North American challenge for May is to make at least 10 CW QRP QSOs using a piece of home-brew gear. For the purpose of this challenge we do include most kit rigs in the home-brew category. Keys, tuners, and even antennas might also qualify. See <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201505.html> for the complete details on what constitutes "home-brew."

The European challenge this month is an alphabet challenge that involves the names of three famous European train trips. (No, the "Orient Express" is not one of them.) So "hop aboard" by going to <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/may-2015-challenge> for all of the details.

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE: The North American challenge in June is an historical alphabet challenge working with the names of people and ships involved with the vitally important Battle of Midway that was fought from June 4-7, 1942. Complete details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201506.html>.

The European challenge for June has not yet been posted.

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 deadline for submitting entries for the April "Night of Nights" challenge is still a few days away so final results are not yet available. You can go to <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges201504.html> to see what has been posted so far and the final results will also be posted there shortly after the 10th of the month.

Details for the European April challenge are at <http://naqcc-eu.org/eu-challenges/april-2015-challenge>.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Recently we have been receiving entries to our alphabet challenges in non-standard formats that complicate the processing of the submission. Please use a simple text report (the actual email or an attached file) where each word is listed on a separate line with the callsigns that form that word listed horizontally across that same line. For example...

WORD - K3WWP CO8CL W3WMR KD9QS

NEXT - N8XMS K1EIR N8XMS N5PHT

etc.

PARTICIPATION REMINDER: Please remember that there is a sprint/challenge participation requirement to be eligible for the top-tier prizes that will be given away during our anniversary celebration in October. See http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html for the details.

CHALLENGE HONOR ROLL: We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our monthly challenges. Exact counts can be seen at http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html.

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	KD2MX N1LU KD0V K9OSC VE3HUR KU4A WY3H K1YAN VE3FUJ
50+	NU7T K1IEE
75+	N8XMS W2JEK
100+	
125+	K3WWP



NAQCC AWARDS

We have an extensive list of awards that you can earn. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

FEATURED AWARD: 2X QRP AWARD

I have often thought that a great deal of the credit for a successful QRP QSO should actually go to the operator on the receiving end of those radiated QRP watts, and our 2X QRP Award gives you the chance to see what you can do on that end of the QSO. To earn this award you not only need to transmit at QRP power levels, but the person on the other end must be doing so as well. Any kind of QSOs are allowed for this award, including contest QSOs, so our NAQCC sprints can be a fertile place to earn your points. QSO points vary based on whether or not the other person is DX and whether or not they are an NAQCC member. Certificates are issued at several different point levels and numerous endorsements for things like single band, home-brew gear, or straight key use are also available. Complete details for the 2X QRP Award can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_2xqrp.html.

AWARDS ISSUED LAST MONTH:

FRIENDSHIP CLUB - 400 point endorsement

0020 - K0ALN 208 04/14/15

FRIENDSHIP CLUB - 600 point endorsement

0018 - W4DUK 305 04/15/15

SUFFIX WORDS AWARD HONOR ROLL

N8XMS 258 04/23/15



NAQCC QRS/QRQ NETS



We have a number of nets (QRS = slow speed, QRQ = higher speed) 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 Net Manager Scotty, NU0S.

NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Farnsword 80 m QRQ Net (FRN80)	Sun 8 PM PT	Mon 0300 Z	3574 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Farnsword 40 m QRQ Net (FRN40)	Mon 8 PM PT	Tues 0300 Z	7123.5 KHz	JB, KR5RR (in CA)
Midwest Net QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 9 PM CT	Tuesday 0200 Z	7117 KHz	Scotty, NU0S (in NE)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 5 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2300 Z	14062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc)	Tues/Thurs 5:30 PM MT	Tues/Thurs 2330 Z	7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
West Virginia QRS Net (WVN)	Wednesday 9 PM ET	Thursday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	John, N8ZYA (in WV)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3574 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)
Great Lakes QRS Net (GLN)	Thursday 9 PM ET	Friday 0100 Z	7117 KHz	David, WA8AXF (in MI)

Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Net Manager-Coordinator #3715

Wow...All I can say is Wow! And thank you! Thank you to all our members and thank you to all of our volunteer Net Control Operators, NCS... The nets have had great activity and I'm very happy to see the net reports roll in every day, I'm like a kid at Christmas...Please continue checking in to your local nets and check the net schedule page for any updates and changes... Hey follow me on Twitter @NU0Slong for live net updates and QRP CW in the field...Please contact me anytime with questions or concerns with any of our NAQCC Scheduled Nets...72/73 Scotty Long NU0S NAQCC 3715...

Quick Notes from our Net Control Station Professional Ops!!!

John Smithson N8ZYA, NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN)

April 01, 2015 Net:

QRM from the digital people was horrible this evening but still checked in a few stations.

April 08, 2015 Net:

Tonight band conditions were the best I've heard for the local stations.

All were 599 signals with the exception of W9YAP.

This morning was the WV Chapter breakfast meeting so we all had something to talk about. Jeff (K9ESE) was using another radio and pushing 2 watts into the copper gutters of his apartment building. Bad storms in the valley this evening but no damage to any of our members.

Myself, and all other in Charleston, were hearing W9YAP at 559 but he failed to check back in when his turn was up. Digital modes are terrible in this area of the band. I'm continuing to do testing on the 80 meter band until the end of the week.

April 22, 2015 Net:

A nice group this evening with good band conditions. I checked in three new stations tonight and all were QRP. A new station from the town next door was KB8BFM, a station in New Jersey, and another in Missouri. It was good to hear them all.

The weather has turned cold again here even in the valley. I talked to a station earlier near Buffalo NY who had a dusting of snow on his car and was surprised to hear we expected snow flurries in the higher elevation in WV. It's also windy, feels like it will snow whether it actually does or not.

72's John N8ZYA

April 29, 2015 Net:

Hello Dave,

It was very nice to hear you last night on the WV QRS net. You had a great signal into Charleston WV. Most of my contacts are local on this net so it's exciting to hear stations from other parts of the country. My station is very simple since I live near the state capital building in a historic district. That means no external antennas so I use either an indoor Isotron antenna or a random wire fed into my Icom 703 running 5 watts into the Isotron and about 3 watts out of the random wire. Last night I was using the random wire.

Thanks for being the NCS in your area too! Last night we had two NCS stations checking into the net. Scotty (NU0S) checked in from Nebraska and of course, yourself. A New Jersey station (WA2DWX) has been checking in also. One of our members (K9ESE) uses the copper rain gutters with his QRP rig so I'm not the only station using compromised equipment. Hi Hi

Congratulations also for being a merit badge volunteer with the Boy Scouts. I still have remnants of my service from that organization. I learned CW from the Boy Scout handbook. I love the outdoors and operate as much as possible from outdoor locations.

Most of the conversation last night was about our club member Steven (KC4URI) who has been in the hospital for about a month now. He is recovering from surgery and still feeling very bad. We're all very concerned about him. We're all keeping him in our thoughts and prayers.

Happy Trails,

John Smithson N8ZYA
NCS WV QRS Net

Allen Matthews KA5TJS, NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)

April 07, 2015 40m Net:

The band was in good shape but lots of SSB QRM toward the last. 3 of 4 were QRP. ***(We do get SSB QRM unfortunately the closer we get to the band edge as ops forget about their lower side band Scotty NU0S)***

April 14, 2015 40m Net:

Band was a little noisy but all signals were good.

April 28, 2015 40m Net:

Considering the thunder storms from the morning, we had good conditions for the net.

Rick N6IET NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) for our vacationing James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California

April 07, 2015 40m Net: ***(Rick thank you for stepping in as net control Scotty NU0S)***

Great net, guys! Mark and Mike were QRP at first, and Mike's signal was 589 despite that half his antenna was still laying on the ground. Mark was Q3 for both me and Chas, so he went QRO after the first round. Mike managed to keep up with our QRQ quite well, I think. I hope he got good practice! Then Rick finally took pity on him and slowed down and read me the riot act for going so fast. :- (In my defense, my keyer was set to 18 wpm, and I did add lots of extra space between words. ;-) I took a poll of who used QSK. It turns out everybody but I was semi-break-in. I often operate that way, as well, as the receiver coming on between code elements is rather distracting. And for some others, using an amp often precludes using full break-in. Nevertheless we had several nice back-and-forth exchanges. That's fun! Rick reminded us of how far north he is in Montana by mentioning that they had some snow the other day. It's been very cool here, but that means mid-60s for us! The other guys reported some QSB toward the end, but everybody remained strong here in LA to the end. I'm looking forward to next week! And my IC-761's signal didn't get "grungy", this time.

72 de Rick, N6IET

April 13, 2015 80m Net:

Hey JB and fellow FRN netizens, Eighty meters can be a real bear to a NCS when the noise level sits at S9!! S7.5 is more normal for me on 80m. I'm trying to get a handle on whether this "white" noise is just atmospheric or is locally sourced because of the dense housing in my neighborhood. Part of my problem is I'm using a vertical, which has a reputation for picking up more QRN than a horizontal antenna. I'm open to any information you guys might have about this issue. Is everybody having this problem? The noise is not "buzzy", but I get intermittent bouts of "buzzy" noise, as well, which happened for about 30 seconds after my first CQ FRN last evening. I had to put the net on hold until it abated. I think it's a faulty/noisy photoelectric light switch that comes on every evening at dusk. It produces 60Hz noise at 20db over S9, and I hear it about the same time every evening as it's getting dark. Bad timing for the net! I called my first CQ FRN using only 5 watts - not on purpose - but it was an interesting experiment. I heard no reply, but it's possible that WU7F responded inaudibly with his QRP signal. He said he'd tried to QNI at 5 watts the first time (to no avail) and then went QRO at 500W!! Stewart, KE7LKW, was running 8 watts from a campsite, and both Mark and I copied him with a Q2-3 readability. He never moved my S-meter off the noise floor. It's fun trying to copy weak signals, but I start imagining I'm hearing something when there's nothing there. I couldn't always tell when he had turned it back to me. Mark's QRO signal earned him a 489 signal report. How bad must the QRN be to have an S8 signal and not be easily copiable? Mark had just as much trouble copying my 100 watt signal as he and I had copying Stewart's 8-watt signal. Nobody else was brave enough to QNI until after QNF at 0332z (a bit early, I know, but we were all having trouble hearing each other). Then somebody with a very strong signal in San Jose called me with a 599+10dB signal (at first). We talked for about 20 minutes, and signed, and then Chas, KW6G, called me with a 589 signal (at first). I included him in the QNI report because he said he'd been reading the mail since about 0325z when Stewart was talking about keeping warm in his tent using a wood stove. (I cautioned Stewart about CO, but I assume he's not stupid, and it was merely in jest.) JB has asked me to take the net one more time this evening. I

I hope to
hear you there!

72 de Rick, N6IET

April 20, 2015 80m Net:

It was just Chas and me this evening. We were strong (despite my S9 QRN) at first but QSB took us into the noise after about 25 minutes.

72 de Rick, N6IET

04-21-2015 40m Net

Great group tonight!

Welcome to first timer WA2DWX/Dave in New Jersey. Dave checked in QRP from 2,500 miles away. Two watts/1000 miles? Never really got good copy, the best was about a 449. Welcome Dave! However, Dave is one of those guys that don't have an email address on his QRZ page - if you know him please pass this on. Also, Ed/WH7TT got home late and checked in right at net close from Hawaii. Really strong QSB kept that one short but good to hear you Ed. Great signals, good copy, early on. Just general conversation tonight, nothing stands out. Well maybe that Mark was using half an antenna and was only going to listen, but, Good signal for a "down" antenna - sure you want to fix it? And, I have not done one of these in a really long time, but you know the "T" in RST? I actually gave Rick/6 a 568 right at net end when his IC761 started going "fuzzy". He's told us about it before but this is the first time I've actually heard it on the air. Almost gave him a T7, but it wasn't quite that bad. Rick/7 was doing what I've started calling /PM, that is Parked Mobile. Using the car rig. Turns out he tried to check into last night's 80m net but the two most QRN challenged guys were the only ones on and they think they heard him but could not copy. Tonight was my first time on CW in 15 days and - - it showed, Plus I did an upgrade to my Pico Keyer firmware and it is stuck in Iambic mode "B" - yuk(!) lots of bad code from here tonight. Thanks for tolerating my straight key fist when I just couldn't cope with the keyer.

The last two plus weeks have been really crazy for me! With Spring Break behind me now, I hope to get in more radio time, and un-fix the keyer. Thanks for your participation!

72/73 Everyone, de JB.kr5rr

April 27, 2015 80m Net:

Great conversations this past evening! Hope y'all enjoyed it as much as I did! And the band cooperated so well, even if it was somewhat noisy. Topics discussed were about; band conditions, noise, paddles, keyers, straight keys, antennas, a little bit of DX (15m was hotter than 20m to Europe this weekend), and the Valley Of the Moon ARC hamfest. I met Rob/n6kix at the VOMARC hamfest for an eyeball QSO and he found a Bencher BY double paddle key for me. Not exactly what I was looking for, but a really nice key, which, after thinking about it for an hour, ultimately followed me home. That prompted a lot of discussion about keys, sending, adjusting them, Iambic versus not, double versus single, great fun! Mike is always on a straight key, so Rick/6 mirrored that, and I had to join in - they both are a whole lot better than me - except for speed you couldn't even tell Rick had gone straight key. Chas is using a Vibroplex single lever paddle like the 1963 vintage one I have been using, but don't like, and sold Saturday afternoon to a gal in our club's CW class, AA6MW. Trying to get her and others in the class to check into Stewart's QRS net on Thursday evenings. 80m Propagation is a real funny thing! Chas, Mike & my QTH's just about make an equal leg triangle with each about 15-17 miles apart. I had them both at 599, they had each other at 339. Rob checked in from about 45 miles away and we all had him at about S8 or so. Rick/6, ~400 miles away in LA, had all of us about 59 at times. Rick/7 in MT checked in but it took a while to figure out it was n7hrk. None copied him better than 239, really in the noise. I worked both Rob and Wyatt last week on FRN hangouts, but more about that tonight. Thanks for your participation!

72.73 de JB.kr5rr

April 28, 2015 40m Net:

Good group tonight, good band conditions with some medium QSB we worked through. Stewart dropped by for a short while. The conversation after that was mostly about sending, especially since mine has deteriorated adapting to the new paddle. I'm still learning to use the Bencher, thanks for putting up with me. I tend to leave my thumb on the dash a bit too long so mess that up. Did the same thing with the single lever so it is a skill building problem. And no, I don't use Iambic modes. Rick/6 sounds like a 15 wpm keyer on a straight key with his Patriot, nice, easy to listen to, and easy head copy. Good sending Rick! I've read that musically inclined hams easily adapt to, and make, really good CW ops. So I asked if Rick/6 played a musical instrument. Short answer yes, he still does. Longer answer, turns out Rick/6, Rick/7 and I all took music lessons and played piano in our early years and some even later. (Wonder where I went awry?) Rick/7 sounds like a W1AW code session - I have copied him at some ridiculous speeds, for me anyway. Sort of did the same thing with Rob/n6kix last week. If you want some great practice at any speed, sked a session with one of the FRN regulars or join in the net.

Thanks everyone!

72/73 de JB.kr5rr

April FRN notes from JB KR5RR: First, a big THANK YOU to Rick/n6iet for NC'ing five sessions! If you need a substitute NCS he's your man. Almost all "regulars" this month. The only first timer, was WA2DWX/Dave checking in QRP from New Jersey - ruff copy but we did get a couple rounds in. As far as DX goes, Dave in NJ at 2,532 miles actually beat WH7TT/Ed in Hawaii at 2,415 miles - both checked in on the same night - a 5,000 mile East/West spread for the net. The round table format is really fun - one never knows what will come up or be discussed. The main topics this month seemed to be: paddles, both single and double lever; straight keys; sending technique especially with straight key; rigs; music as it relates to copying cw; QRN, especially local; a little DX; and of course, propagation. One funny one; actually got to send an RST with the "T" less than "9", as one rig heated up and tone became "grungy" (his term). 80m net averaging about four per session. We thought the 80m band was about done for the summer months, but last week or so not too bad, even though background atmospheric noise levels, particularly static crashes, have increased at least two S units. Did seem like was good for only 500 miles out or so toward end of month. Early in month lost some to QSB. Several net members reported local QRN from plasma TVs, light dimmers, wall warts, and other stuff, that make 80m real tough copy for them. 40m net averaging about five per session. 40m is working much better for us. The real fast band drop out, or going long skip, has diminished significantly with longer days. We have been able to complete nets without losing anyone to QSB.

72/73 de JB.kr5rr

NAQCC CW Net QNI Reports All Stations

April/2015 Please note: *Dates are in UTC*

NAQCC Farnsworth Net (FRN) James (J.B.) Still KR5RR, California 80M, 3.574 MHz

04-05-2015 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, KE6EE, WU7F, N6KIX, (NCS Richard Stutsman)

04-13-2015 QNI (4) NCS N6IET, KE7LKW/7, WU7F, KW6G

04-20-2015 QNI (2) NCS N6IET, KW6G

04-27-2015 QNI (6) NCS KR5RR, KW6G, N6IET, KE6EE, N7HRK, N6KIX

40M, 7.123.5 MHz

04-07-2015 QNI (5) NCS N6IET, WU7F, KW6G, KE6EE, N7HRK/M, (NCS Richard Stutsman)

04-14-2015 QNI (3) NCS N6IET, KW6G, N7HRK/M

04-21-2015 QNI (7) NCS KR5RR, N6IET, N7HRK/M, WU7F, KW6G, WA2DWX, WH7TT

04-28-2015 QNI (4) NCS KR5RR, N7HRK/M, KE7LKW, N6IET

NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN) Allen Matthews KA5TJS, Texas 40M, 7.065 MHz

04-07-2015 QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, K5BRY, KE5YGA, N5RWK
04-14-2015 QNI (5) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N5DRG, KE5YGA, KG0YR
04-21-2015 QNI (7) NCS KA5TJS, N5DRG, KE5YGA, KG0YR, N5RWK, KD5SFK, **N7NET (**hard copy OM)
04-28-2015 QNI (6) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N5DRG, N5RWK, N7NET, KE5YGA

NAQCC Midwest QRS Net (MWN) Scotty Long NU0S, Nebraska 40M, 7.117 MHz

04-07-2015 QNI (7) NCS NU0S, AC8JW, WI2W, KB7KY, AA0W, WB0QQT, **K0NEB (**Hey I caught Joe at the end of my net with his new Elecraft KX3...The rig sounds great Joe!!! Come and join the NAQCC!!!).
04-14-2015 QNI (8) NCS NU0S, KG0YR, WA8AXF, KB7KY, N0WKZ, AD0IV, KF7WNS, W6NFU
04-21-2015 QNI (7) NCS NU0S, WB5HQO, WB0QQT, WA0ITP, KB7KY, K0NG, AB8SA
04-28-2015 QNI (7) NCS NU0S, KK5IB, AA0W, AC8JW, WA2DWX, KB7KY, AC0BQ

NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Net (RMRc) Dale Putnam WC7S, Wyoming 20M, 14.062.5 MHz and 40M, 7.062.5 MHz

04-02-2015 20m QNI (4) WC7S, N7UN, KF7WNS, W3HZZ
04-02-2015 40M QNI (2) WC7S, W9NJY
04-07-2015 20M QNI (10) WC7S, W3HZZ, N6MY, N0WKZ, NX8Z, W5HNS, AA7CU, KO7X/M, KG9W, KA4RUR,
04-07-2015 40M QNI (2) WC7S, N7GES
04-09-2015 20M QNI (7) WC7S W3HZZ, N6MY, AA7CU, N0WKZ, KK5IB, KG0YR
04-09-2015 40M QNI (2) WC7S N7GES
04-14-2015 20M QNI (7) WC7S KU7Y, N0WKZ, W3HZZ, N6MY, KG0YR, N7GES
04-16-2015 40M QNI (2) WC7S N7GES
04-16-2015 20M QNI (7) WC7S N5HDL, W5HNS, AA7CU, K0DTJ, WI2W, KE6OIO
04-21-2015 20M QNI (8) WC7S W6GLP, AA7CU, KA4RUR, AD5A, KA4WOJ, W3HZZ, KG0YR
04-23-2015 40M QNI (2) WC7S, N7GES
04-23-2015 20M QNI (9) WC7S, N0WKZ, K0DTJ, WA2DWX, N6MY, KK5IB, N7UN, AA7CU, KE6OIO
04-28-2015 40M QNI (2) WC7S N7GES
04-28-2015 20M QNI (5) WC7S, WB1VL, AA7CU, K0DTJ, K2WW
04-30-2015 40m QNI (3) WC7S, K7DMB, N7GES
04-30-2015 20M QNI (5) WC7S, K6OIO, KK5IB, WA2DWX, AA7CU

NAQCC West Virginia NET (WVN) John Smithson N8ZYA, West Virginia 40M, 7.117 MHz

04-01-2015 QNI (5) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, K2SQS, KQ3Z, WA8SIE
04-08-2015 QNI (6) NCS N8ZYA, AC8LJ, WA8SIE, W8GDP, W9YAP, K9ESE
04-15-2015 QNI (3) NCS N8ZYA, W8GDP, AC8LJ
04-22-2015 QNI (7) NCS N8ZYA, KB8BFM, WA2DWX, WA8SIE, K9ESE, KG0YR, W8GDP
04-29-2015 QNI (7) NCS N8ZYA, K9ESE, WA2DWX, WA8SIE, AC8LJ, NU0S, WA8AXF

NAQCC Pacific North West QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80) Stewart Fletcher KE7LKW, Washington State 80M, 3.574 MHz

04-03-2015 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, KR5RR, AB7BP, W7ANM, K7JUV, WB4SPB
04-10-2015 QNI (3) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW, W7ANM (NCS Randy Myers)
04-17-2015 QNI (7) NCS WB4SPB, KE7LKW, AB7BP, K7JUV, W7IZ, N7QR, K7ZNP (NCS Randy Myers)
04-24-2015 QNI (6) NCS KE7LKW, N6KIX, WB4SPB, K7JUV, AD7BP, N7QR

NAQCC Great Lakes Net (GLN) David Moss WA8AXF, Michigan 40M, 7.117 MHz

04-03-2015 QNI (5) NCS WA8AXF, WE8UPJ, NI2F, W3HI, KG0YR

04-10-2015 QNI (4) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT, KG0YR, KU4GU

04-17-2015 QNI (2) NCS WA8AXF, K9EYT

04-24-2015 QNI (5) NCS WA8AXF, KG0YR, K9EYT, WA2DWX, KE4YVR



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>.

Last month I was on about the Key-board Code-generator, and about weight adjustment and how it affects the Code Quality that one hears. There are a few other things that affect readability such as Dot to Dash ratio, character spacing, letter spacing, word spacing, and overall uniformity of dot and dash length as well character letter and word spacing. The more uniform those various things are the more readable the code is. Having said that, an introduction of the Farnsworth method, which lengthens the letter spacing or just word spacing without decreasing character speed will help someone who's at or near his/her maximum receiving speed without greatly affecting the sender's comfort-Zone, if I can put it that way. So one has to strive for these things as much as possible.

When one listens to the various "code-generators" on the bands one hears an array of code most of it good and some that appears to need a lot more practice than they think they do, by the sound of their code. One of the worst may be beyond a doubt, a Cootie Op. A Cootie is by far the easiest device to be sloppy with as all the essential items like dot and dash length and all spacing has to be manually created by bumping a Paddle back and forth between two contacts and many ops don't bounce the paddle both ways with the same speed. It just seems to me to be a monumental task to say the least. The number of hand movements are somewhat diminished compared to a straight Key. In that there is only one space to be negotiated between a dot and dash whereas with a straight Key one has two spaces to negotiate, the up and the down space. It seems easier on the hand being a sideways motion rather than an up and down motion, likely make it so. I must say I myself have never used a Cootie and I don't intend to, given the ease with which one can be sloppy. I'll sooner go for a "Bug". I think perhaps its the ease with which they can be made, that makes some Ops use them.

Maybe more on subject later. 72 Brion



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/w9cbt/>.

HAM LINGO " Ham Band "



" Ham Band."



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.

Greetings from Central Texas,

The Month of April was filled with QRP Adventures for the Central Texas Chapter of the N.A.Q. C.C.

Starting the Month off was the Texas State Parks On The Air Contest April 5th, to where the Weather was great for one of the Chapters T.S.P.O.T.A. camp site, Seminole Canyon State Park, but Rain hindered the other T.S.P.O.T.A. Camp Site, South Llano River State Park, it's funny how just a short distance of 150 miles make such a big difference in the ability to stay on air.

Joe K5BRY #6666 Operated from South Llano River S.P. but rain set in with Thunderstorms, so that put a fairly quick end to his operating activities for the day. Joe made only (7) Contacts before the storms became too intense for radio activity.

Joe's station was an Elecraft KX3, a Simple Wire Antenna, and a Buddie Pole Antenna. Unfortunately Joe was not able to capture any photos. Our loss, as the South Llano River State Park is a beautiful location in the Texas Hill Country.

Meanwhile down at Seminole Canyon State Park, those chapter members had better luck with the weather, but not too much better luck with the CW Contacts, we too only had (7) CW contacts, not too much to show for, as we called CW TSPOTA, **Texas State Parks On The Air**, the event is still new enough I suppose people did not know what it was.

But fun was had being in the Great Outdoors, in great State Park and away from the BIG Cities. Closest town is Comstock, and if you blink you have missed it.

The Chapter members at Seminole Canyon S.P. were Larry WB5BEK (#7534), Lester WD4IFU (#7676), Danny N5DRG (# 5861), and Chris KD5GIK.

Our Station consisted of a Yaesu FT897, Elecraft K1, Icom IC700. A 10 to 80 meter Multi-Band Dipole, 40 meter dipole, and a full size 40 meter loop.



Loop Antenna and Multi-Band Dipole Looking into Northern Mexico.



Chris KD5GIK looking into Seminole Canyon @ Amsted Reservoir where it backs into Seminole Canyon from the Rio Grande.

During the weekend of April 23rd it was the Chapters QRP in the Park outing, which coincided with the QRP, To The Field Contest, much better band conditions and much better results.

The Chapter had 25 contacts, worked 15 States, one Canadian Province and 10 N.A.Q.C.C. Members, all in about 4 ½ hours of operation.

Station consisted of Elecraft KX3 (KN5L), Elecraft K-1 (WB5BEK), and a Hendricks PFR-3 (N5DRG).

Antennas were a two band dipole for 15 & 20 meters (KN5L), and an inverted L End fed half - wave for 40 meters (N5DRG). John KN5L also brought his Vibroplex Blue Racer. Very nice!

The WX was spot on PERFECT, about 78 degrees, mostly clear skies and a great cooling breeze.



QRP In The Park Antennas @ Mansfield Dam Dipole 15/20 Mtrs - End Fed half Wave for 40



Central Texas Chapter Members. L to R - KN5L, W5DVG, WB5BEK, KK5E



Larry WB5BEK (#7543)



John KN5L (#4831)



Pat W5DVG, Danny N5DRG (#5861)
Doug WA5WD (#7782)



John KN5L, Russ KK5E (#7540)
Larry WB5BEK
Roy WA5YZD was camera shy!

Lastly, the photo below shows another reason for coming to Seminole Canyon State Park, other than it's remoteness, is the pictographs & Petroglyphs of the indigenous people of the Lower Pecos River, some of this dates back between 1,500 & 3,500 years, per the Seminole Canyon Park staff, and the Rock Art Foundation. <http://www.rockart.org>

I can't think of a single thing that I will be remembered for that many years down the road.



This is from the White Shaman Site on the north side away from the park, about a mile towards the Northwest, and towards the Pecos River.

I hope next month will be just as rewarding as this past months., but it will hard to beat.

Keep Calm
&
QRP On!

Danny -N5DRG # 5861

www.NAQCC-CentralTexas.net

NAQCC EUROPEAN CHAPTER

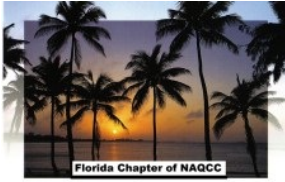


Items in this section are from European Chapter President Matt, MW0MIE, unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to him. The European Chapter website is at <http://www.naqcc-eu.org/>.

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.

NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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



NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER MEMBER NEWS:

On Friday, April 17th, 2015, the Florida Chapter of NAQCC returned to the local park system for our monthly adventure. We held our latest "Operation in the Park" event returning to one of our favorite locations, Hontoon Island State Park, in DeLand, FL.

Located in the St. John's River, and accessible only by a ferry boat, this State Park is a radio friendly location that is quiet and serene.

Evidence shows that inhabitants have been living along the St. Johns River for over 12,000 years. Shell mounds and other artifacts found on Hontoon Island prove that many Native Americans called this place home.

In the 1500s, Spanish Conquistadors founded the city of St. Augustine, and they built a series of missions throughout North Florida. One of those missions is said to have existed here on the island. After the Second Seminole War, settlers formed homesteads along the St. Johns River. Their survival depended on fishing and hunting wild game, along with raising cattle and growing crops like citrus, sugar cane, corn, cotton and sweet potatoes. A former soldier named Hunton acquired the property and established a pioneer homestead on the island. The island has also been a boat yard, a center for commercial fishing and a cattle ranch.

This park, like many of the others we have visited, has a covered pavilion, loads of picnic tables, BBQ grills, restrooms, water fountains and easily accessible adjacent parking. It also has a canoe launch, horseback and hiking trails, marina, and camping sites. On our arrival, we pretty much had the entire park and all the pavilions to ourselves as usual.

All week long before our operation it had rained and was windy off and on (yes, those "April Showers") with temps in the high-80's to low 90's – it goes from "winter" to "summer" here with little transition!! Fortunately, today we arrived to our site with overcast skies and a temp of 74 degrees with 60% humidity, accompanied by a light breeze. It was very comfortable for us to operate.

The ferry operator, a park volunteer named Phil, took one look at us and immediately knew what we were up to – and he asked a gazillion questions as he is looking to get a ham license! He even came by to watch us operate (with more questions) during his break. We provided him with lots of information and resources including local license testing information.

The signals were not good today on any of the bands we used. 20M was nice and quiet, but 30M had some noise. 40M was again, horrible (few weak signals and lotsa noise) just like last month. No joy there!



Steve WB4OMM #5913 brought his ol' reliable Elecraft KX-3 with Vibroplex Code Warrior Jr paddle, running 5W out to a 20M or 30M Hamstick on a ground mounted tripod with 4 radials. He didn't get skunked this month – 4 Qs.

Steve made QSO's with 4 members in 4 different states including regulars Karen W4KRN #3392 in VA; Curt WA2JSG #3457 in NJ; Bob KB3ENU #5334 in MD on 20M; and K1PUG in CT on 30M.



Art WB4MNK #5274 (top) used his Elecraft KX1 running 4W, a Dirt Cheap paddle, 2.2 amp LIPO power supply, 28 FT end fed wire up 15 feet with 16 feet of counter poise. Art made 3 QSOs with non-members in 2 different states - K4VSV-SC, W4OIS-SC, KC4KNN-NC

Darryl AB8GU #6913 (bottom) NAQCC-FL Official cheerleader and all around "supervisor" spotted us on the internet, helped with antennas, transport, and kept us informed on each other's progress.



Don K3RLL #1905 used his trusty Elecraft KX3 running 5W - his antenna was a 31 foot Unun-base loaded all band vertical. His key was a German Palm Paddle.

Don's lengthy list of exotic contacts from Hontoon State Park today included Dale WN0WWY #6289 in KS; and John K4ARQ #5721 in FL.



Wally KG4LAL #6278 brought his Yaesu FT-817 running 5W out to a wire dipole up about 15' in a tree. Scouring the bands he didn't snag a QSO; but not for the lack of trying! In his "defense" (not that it's needed!), Wally spent most of his time displaying/explaining what we were doing and ham radio in general with the park volunteer that came over looking for more information. And Wally, the good sport that he is, stayed with him and provided the answers. Good for you Wally!



Rick AA4W #1628 brought his Elecraft KX-3 too! (We had three KX-3s and a KX1.....).

Running 5W, he fed a zip cord dipole antenna and used a "bug" to make his contact; he worked Dave W1DV in NY, a non-member, on 30 meters.

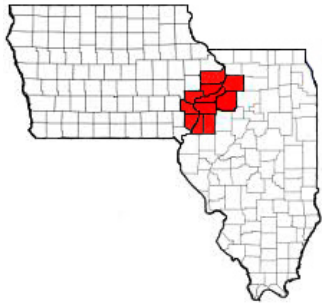
We quit around noon and enjoyed our "brown bag" picnic lunch. As usual the discussion revolved around great ham radio adventures and all of the great facets of our noble hobby. While the band conditions weren't quite "great", the weather was great, the location was great, the food was great....and the friendship was great! A GREAT day!

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

NEXT MONTH: The next monthly outing of the NAQCC-FL folks is tentatively scheduled for Friday, May 22nd, 2015 at 9:00 am. Look for our announcement!

72/73 to all –
 Steve WB4OMM, #5913
NAQCCFL@yahoo.com

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER

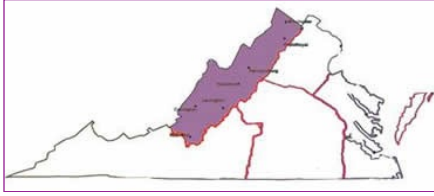


Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions or comments should go to Bob, W9PZ.

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

No report available.

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.

Report From SVQC TTF Effort

April 25, 2015

Howard Zehr, K4LXY, and I set up our stations on a hill that is part of my son's farm. It has a 360 degree view, and is about 1100 feet AMSL.

The weather was cool and threatening rain, with the temperature about 41 degrees F.

I, Russ, K3NLT, arrived first and set up my LNR trail friendly 40/20 meter antenna. (photo 1,2,and 3)





Due to rain threat I set up the station on the dash of my Chevrolet Tracker. (photo 4) It was both dry and warmer than outside on a table as we had planned.



The bands were noisy, and signals that I was hearing seemed unusually weak, however, I began to make contacts and signal reports reflected band conditions both ways. When I returned home afterwards, I discovered that the solar flux was in the 130s and the A index about 12, so no wonder the conditions were in the valley. Still I made a dozen QSOs on 40 and 20, between 9 and 1130 AM, when the rain really began.

Howard arrived about 10 AM and set up his MFJ multiband whip and KX1 in his pickup truck. He also made a few QSOs on 40 and 20 meters. (photo 5 and6)



It was a fun outing in spite of weather conditions. We found areas of our set-ups that we can still refine for better and quicker launching. That is what it is all about! I think we will return to this venue again, as it is close and easily accessed any time, unlike some other places we have tried.

Russell Mumaw K3NLT NAQCC #2906

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.

Several different things are happening at the West Virginia Chapter this month.

This month, we've looked into a method of using CW on the VHF bands. Eric (AC8LJ) uses a Yeasu 817 which has the CW mode built into it and he has been tutoring our club member Joe (KD8SGV) who also uses the same rig. They're only a few miles apart and it's been working nicely for them.

Morse code today is still the most efficient mode of communications ever devised which is decipherable with only the human ear. For that reason, our chapter is constantly encouraging others to learn and use this mode. Jeff's (K9ESE) [school science group](#) has another balloon launch planned soon and several of the kids in the group have expressed an interest in learning CW. Make sure to watch the video from the last launch from the link [here](#). (Take the time to look at "clubs and organization and Dr. Oliver). We hope to eventually get a few new hams out of this group.

Here's an option we're looking at for the school kids: [HT Project for CW](#)

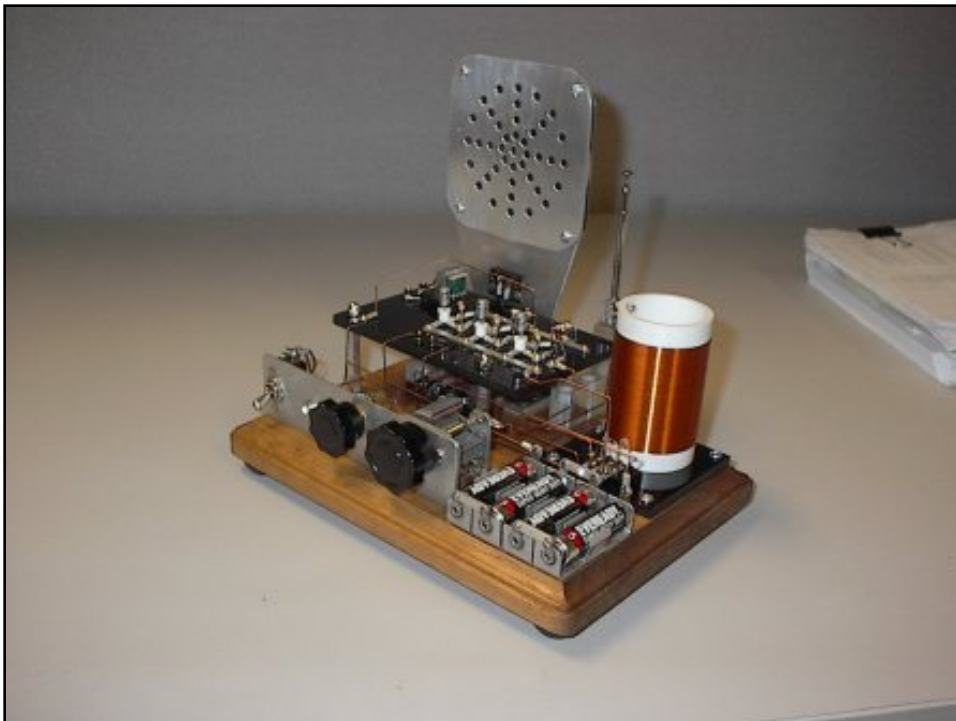
After looking at several low cost options; this seems to be the least expensive alternative. Jeff thinks it can be built for about \$30.

Concerning our weekly QRS CW net; I've done some testing on the 80 meter band this month. The transmit range on the HF bands is difficult to predict and I hoped to hear more WV stations by shifting to the 80 meter band. Needless to say, the results were not encouraging since I could not hear the Charleston stations and most WV stations were still not in a proper range. We will continue to have our 40 meter net as usual on Wednesday nights at 9 PM (local time).

Several weeks ago, I met Dave Lipscomb, KC8YDH, at a breakfast gathering in Charleston and discovered he makes "crystal radios". I've always been fond of these simple receivers and realize the "basic" radio is quite easy to build (no...haven't built one of these yet but plan to do so) but especially like this building method because small kids have no danger of getting "burnt" with a hot soldering iron.



All the connections on this radio are made with copper wire and “nuts and bolts”. I really like the “art” of nice clean, precise routing of the copper wiring which he uses on his radios. He has built several of these crystal sets using this method and even has a “short wave” model.



I consider all these radios as much a work of “art” as they are interesting “non solder” projects.

On a sad note, our club member Steve Ashcraft (KC4URI) has been in the hospital for several weeks.

He was originally in a Parkersburg hospital and is now in a Morgantown hospital recovering from abdominal surgery. We all wish him a full recovery and a return to good health.

Steve is my "camping" friend and we spent many days last year with our radios operating from different sites in the state.



I attended the Fayetteville Hamfest last week and met some new folks. Our club member Eric (AC8LJ) visited the Athens Ohio Hamfest.

Our family has an annual gathering on the Outer Banks of North Carolina the first week in May. I'll be taking the QRP rig with me, along with an assortment of dipoles. I'm sure to work a few more Caribbean and South American stations.

Happy Trails,
N8ZYA

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 first installment of the NAQCC WPA Chapter News is an excerpt from John's (K3WWP) web site diary at http://k3wwp.com/home_ss_diary.html written by Mike KC2EGL after our day of activity.

John is taking the night off from his diary and asked me to fill in again. Our day started when I arrived at John's QTH around 9AM EDT. First order of business was to perform 'surgery' on a figurine on John's lamp in his shack. A while back John's lamp (which is a bowling trophy) fell off the shelf. The bowling figure broke off at the left leg and right hand where it was attached to a ball. I brought along a container of 'Gorilla Glue' to see if we could mend the ailing bowler. At this moment we think the 'surgery' may have been a success. [It was a complete success, and the bowler can now finish many more hundreds of frames, I hope. Incidentally, the trophy was not for my bowling prowess - I don't have any, but just a generic type trophy. - K3WWP]

We followed up by working some dx in the MM contest. We worked six stations each. After logging some dx we took off for lunch at Ponderosa preceded by a visit to Radio Shack to purchase an adapter so we could update the data base in my telescope later on.

After lunch we drove over to Tom WB3FAE's QTH to begin our [NAQCC] Field Day Planning. Tom has a very nice location that will give us plenty of space to set up at least three antenna's. We then returned to John's QTH to begin the updating process of my telescopoe. A Celestron 9.25" Schmidt Cassegrain Scope. After two plus hours of trying to get both John's and my laptop to work with the updating process we gave up. John found out that not all USB to Serial adapters are compatible with all laptop's. We found out that this particular adapter did not want to play with our HP computers. We took a little walk of roughly two and a half miles before we returned to Radio Shack.

By this time it was time for dinner so we headed over to Clarks Landing for dinner. We should have tried this place before. The food was excellent and the portions were HUGE!!! Then it was back to John's for an episode of 'Are You Being Served?'. One of the funniest British comedies of all time.

Since Mother Nature did not allow us to go stargazing we took it easy the rest of the evening. We did some computer stargazing via Starry Night and Voyager. Two excellent programs to explore the universe without the need for clear skies.

That pretty much sums up the day. I am about to get ready to load the car and head North. Until next time. See you on the radio (as Charles Osgood used to say as he closed his Sunday morning TV show.).

de Mike KC2EGL

The FD Mike mentioned is being planned as a 3 (or 4) person operation using the NAQCC club call of N3AQC. Previous NAQCC FD activations have gone quite well. Using only QRP and CW we made more contacts than the local ham radio club using QRO and SSB. One was done from Tom's (WY3H) location in nearby Garretts Run, and last year we operated from my (K3WWP) front porch after Mike's (KC2EGL) tent proved too big for my small back yard. This year we will have no space restrictions. Tom (WB3FAE) has a house set on a large lot with tall trees from which to hang antennas. We will have K3WWP, KC2EGL, WB3FAE, and possibly K3RLL as operators. If 15 and 10 cooperate, we should be able to

operate 3 (or 4) bands simultaneously. It will be something to look forward to in late June.

In early June, the WPA Chapter will be setting up a table at the Butler Breezeshooters hamfest on June 7. That's always a lot of fun as we get to meet some local (and some not so local) NAQCC members in addition to signing up a few new members. We also demonstrate the effectiveness of QRP and CW by setting up a minimal antenna outside the building and feeding it with our KX3 rigs. Although it's kind of hectic operating under such conditions, each year we manage to work some DX with the simple setup and hopefully show the QRP/CW doubters/bashers that such minimal setups do work, and work well.

After Mike attended the local club meeting on April 22, he stopped by with a large pepperoni/anchovy pizza which we devoured in no time at all. Then it was off to the shack for a little DX. Conditions weren't all that good, but Mike did manage to work a couple DX stations (both Cuba if I recall correctly). Then we did another of our favorite things - worked on a Hidden Object computer game.

Perhaps this month (May), we'll have the first of our several yearly parkpeditions where we operate from the great location at Kittanning Community Park, and have a great time. Also we will be looking into doing another subpedition from the submarine USS Requin in Pittsburgh. The Requin has been scheduled to go into dry dock for some routine maintenance, so should that happen this year, we are not sure just when (or if) we can operate from there.



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 Chuck, N8NK, #7519 —

Thank you so very much for including the link to the MRHS in the NAQCC April Challenge announcement.

I read every one of the 'incredible radio tales'. Reading these accounts was very emotional for me even though I've never had anything to do with maritime communications. Maybe because i grew up in the time of transition from vacuum tubes to solid state technology in ham radio. As a teenager, our family TV set had tubes. The picture was black and white. The inside of the TV was light up like a star filled night. The heat and the smell is forever burned into my brain. It was magic to me.

The inclusion of the link to the MRHS in but one of the things that make the NAQCC a WONDERFUL radio club... QRP and otherwise.

The NAQCC is the very best radio club I've ever seen in my 42 years as a ham. Thank you and all the others who make this club possible!

Chuck, N8NK

From Jim, K0FNR, #6852 —

Jim sent this email regarding the April Fools joke in the newsletter last month. - Editor

For a brief moment I thought my call on p15 of the Oct 14 issue would be immortalized--- then I started laughing-- well played !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Ms Piltdown herself comes from a dubious nonexistent lineage.

:-)

73

Jim, K0FNR

From Andy, N2CN, #6028 —

Here is a link to a video demonstrating a new method for copying high speed CW. Those of you who have "hit a wall" in your efforts at increasing your copy speed might want to take a look at it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IwPlxdWORLs>

From David, N0WKZ, #6828 —

Job or Adventure?

As always, I am going to taste, swish around in my mouth, and savor each and every experience in Radio that I am lucky enough to get. Like cheese tasting or biting into one of those awesome gourmet burgers you get at some place like Applebees or Fridays; those frightening experiences in life are ones to be relished for their power to shake your nerves and heart both.

I have been practicing CW, or rather Morse Code, for a long while now and yet I am still shakin in my boots when I attempt to make contacts. The funny part is that I work almost daily with my Elmer W0IIT like a seasoned pro, and recently I have been able to check into a local and regional CW net. Outside of that, you might say I've got a mean set of the jitters. Key fright.. Ouch! But hey, maybe there are one or two others out there who will say to themselves, "*Wow, I am not the only one...*"

After an enjoyable check in on the Rocky Mountain Regional net this evening, I was marching about the house, patting myself on the back and reveling in my glorious triumph; thinking myself master of the CW universe. Ya, right. After a bit though, I went back to my rig and began to work on a T match problem I have been having. As I was just finishing my work, I heard a fellow operator calling CQ in my earphones. I knew by the call that the operator must be out east some place so I wrote down the call and listened too see if I might be able to try this one. This is a bit of a process for me as I always go through a line of reasoning that includes the old self-talk statement that "*no one is going to do it for me.*" There was some QSB and lots of noise but I thought that I might zero beat and key out the call sign to myself real fast. "*Maybe I will try this one,*" I thought to myself. As I started to key out the call, I suddenly realized I was sending. I was live. I had left my transmitter keying circuit live after the net. Holy cow!

Without missing a beat in my mind, I knew I had to keep my composure and keep going. *Maybe I wont' be heard. Yes, that's it!* Rationalization rarely works for me. So half excited and half terrified, I kept going. And to be sure, that whole not being heard thing has happened too many times for me to count. But not tonight. Sure enough, I got a call back! There it was now; that sudden shrill excitement that climbs up your windpipe into your throat when you make a contact. That never gets old. Unfortunately, just after exchanging RST and name, QSB started having fun. NO! Not now! RRR!!!

CW and Morse Code are not a job, but they sure are an adventure. They are that specter that haunts each of us just around the corner: stretch and growth. The painful chasm that separates stagnation and the push onward and forward..

If you struggle with CW and perhaps with self-confidence; do not give up. Stay the course and just do your best. It will pay off.

D Keath - N0WKZ

From Danny, N5DRG, #5861 —

KX3 QRP RADIO vs BIG GUN AMPLIFIERS: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kiuO0ddcJFQ&feature=youtu.be>

Great stuff!!!!!!!
DG.

From Doug, WA5WD, #7782 —

I have just joined the NAQCC. I am looking forward to learning CW and I'm very interested in QRP. Toward this end I have built a Rockmite40 and have assembled a STM32. I am constructing an Ensemble RXTX to hopefully go with it. I have an Yaesu FT-2000, but I feel that may be just a little overkill for QRP.

I will probably join up with the Central Texas group since I live in Austin. I just really wanted to say 'Hello' to the group and all of it's members. I have only just begun to really study CW, so please go easy on me when you hear a tiny(and slow) call from WA5WD. NAQCC # 7782.

Thanks to everyone, 73 Doug Riffey

From Paul, N8XMS, #0675 —

I was fortunate enough to win the random prize drawing for the March Challenge and I chose a poker chip finger rest made by Gregg, WB8LZG. The finger rest looks great and actually does enhance my straight key sending. Thanks to Gregg and thanks to the NAQCC!



From Danny, N5DRG, #5861 —

Just found this while seeing who has seen my new 10 meter beacon. Just plug in where you are and where you want to go DX speaking and read the circular graph for times and band to use. It uses the daily current solar information. <http://www.voacap.com/prediction.html>

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

It was a joy on April 1st to find that the path to Europe on 20M after 0000Z was solidly open again for the first time in a while. That should help quite a bit in continuing my DX-a-day streak throughout the summer. However overall it was pretty spotty during the month with some evenings providing nothing while others produced some very nice easy European (and Asian/African) QSOs. Nevertheless the

streak did continue throughout the month reaching 791 days, although on a few days it was a bit rough getting the QSO. One day it took until late afternoon, and I was fearing the streak was going to end until I worked FS5PL on 15 meters.

On April third, although I didn't think of it at the time, my ham 'career' reached 52 years. It dawned on me a couple days later when I started to send "...been a ham for....", then realized it was now 52 years, not 51. I guess I forgot since I hadn't done much rag chewing lately where I get to the point of saying how long I've been a ham. When working mostly DX, I don't get to that point very often. Just as a stat thrown in here, in 2015 as of April 30, I've had 853 QSOs, of which 717 or 84.1% have been DX. Of the 134 non-DX QSOs, 86 have been in contests/sprints, leaving only 50 rag chew type QSOs.

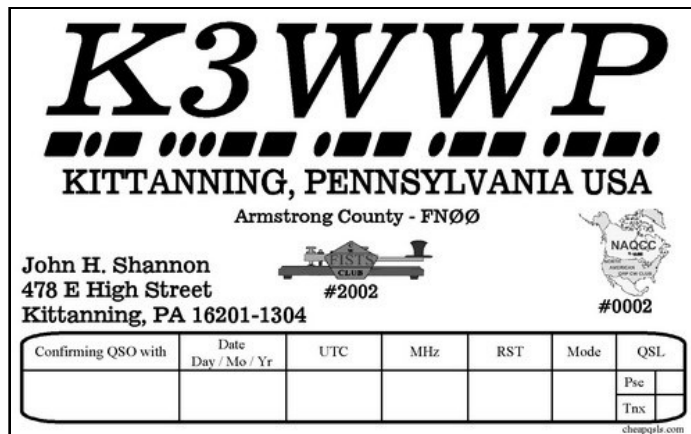
The month brought several new prefixes, mostly those special European prefixes with the double (or triple or more) numbers in the calls. Too bad the USA doesn't do more of that kind of thing rather than just using 1X1 calls for special events. I may be wrong, but the only multi-number USA calls I can recall have been some in the the bicentennial year of 1976 and W100AW last year.

There were also some new band countries as well. Most notably SU9VB on 15 meters. Only my second ever Egypt QSO, the first being SU9NC which was worked from my late cousin's house a couple miles from here back in the early 2000s. In fact now I see not only was it most notable, but the only one. HI.

The NAQCC "American" challenge was finished on April 8 with all DX stations providing the necessary letters/numbers. The very next day, I finished the European Chapter challenge.

As usual, I entered our sprint with the intention of getting to 20 QSOs as fast as I can, then shutting down. It took just over an hour this month.

It was nice to be eligible for some NAQCC prizes since retiring as an officer of the club. I won 100 free QSLs for referring the most new members to the club the first quarter of 2015. I received a 'proof' of the card via email for approval. Here is an image of the card which I readily approved. I like having our club logo on it along with the FISTS logo. Those are the only two clubs in which I am at all active.



Of course, other activities besides ham radio fill up my months here. Briefly, it was time to clean up the yard, prune the rose bushes, plant some bean seeds outdoors, and continue to nurture my indoor tomato plants preparatory to putting them out sometime early next month. We've had a lot of rain here plus melting snow upstream which has kept the river too high for fishing. Hopefully it will be going down now and I can start my fishing season. As usual in this almost permanently cloudy location, not much in the way of astronomy, but I have had the opportunity to check on Nova Sagittarii a few mornings. It remained fairly bright for almost the whole month with a couple of fades thrown in here and there. It's wonderful to be able to engage in some long walks again now that winter weather has departed for the most part.

In case you're interested (although I honestly don't know why - HI), more personal news is in my web site diary at http://k3wwwp.com/home_ss_diary.html. Also a lot of good relevant info to help you succeed with your QRP/CW setups is probably a better reason to visit my site.

From Chuck, N8NK, #7519 —

From Chuck N8NK #7519 – 1000 mpw - On January 11, 2014 I had a nice QSO with Suke, JM1OLW near Fukushima. I'm sure many of you have worked him. He's very active. I generally ran 5 watts due to my antenna: an indoor apartment antenna that was 40' long and non-resonant. It was fed with home brew open wire ladder line. This one particular day though Suke was louder than normal. The sun was busy and the Gods of Sunspots had blessed us. I had to try so I turned down my output power to a smidge under 1 watt, and Suke came right back to me! My report was a 449... and it thrilled me.

I use the term 'was' above in regards to my antenna because I've moved and no longer live in Seattle. I'm back in my home state of Michigan where I belong, back in the heart of QRP land. Back in Hockeytown, home of the mighty Detroit Red Wings! I'll be off the air for a few months but am really looking forward to making contacts during the various NAQCC chapter events that happen a lot on 'the right side' of the Mississippi as well as more of the sprints. *(Welcome back to Michigan Chuck! Unfortunately the Red Wings season has ended but 24 consecutive trips to the playoffs isn't too shabby, and the Tigers are off to a good start! - Editor)*

Here's my QSL card from Suke. QRPp works!



<input type="checkbox"/>	TO RADIO	N8NK / QRP				CONFIRMING OUR QSO
<input type="checkbox"/>	DATE	JST/UTC	MHz	RST	2WAY	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Jan. 11, 2014	23:48	28	449	CW	
<input type="checkbox"/>	RIG	ANT				<input type="checkbox"/> PSE QSL TNX <input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	OP. JM7OLW KOUSUKE MATSUMOTO					
<input type="checkbox"/>	QTH. 64, KAKINOSAKU, YUI, NIHONMATSU-CITY, FUKUSHIMA					
	969-1404 JAPAN					
	<i>THX again Chuck</i> <i>very good job with your 1w</i>					
	<i>Suke</i>					



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 Manager Paul Huff, N8XMS
9928 Eckles
Livonia, MI 48150
USA



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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