

# NAQCC NEWS

ISSUE 244 OCTOBER 2018



## KEY CLICKS

- **OUR ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IS HERE!** The week long celebration for the NAQCC's 14th anniversary runs from 0000Z October 8 through 2400Z October 14. Almost 50 members have volunteered to put our special N#A callsigns on the air from all over the country, with special certificates and QSLs available for those who work them. The special event stations will spot themselves on [http://www.naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php) in almost "real time" so check that spotting page often.

Member/participants in our anniversary sprint that week who submit a log by the submission deadline will be automatically entered into a random drawing where 10 really great prizes will be awarded. The drawing will be held online shortly after the sprint results have been finalized, and will be announced in an email to the membership. Winners will also be notified by email.

There will also be a special anniversary prize drawing for our October challenge! It's an alphabet challenge so simply complete at least one of the words, and submit your report by the deadline, and you will automatically be entered into the prize drawing. The drawing will be held shortly after the submission deadline and the winners will be notified by email.

The entire week should be a lot of fun and a great chance to promote QRP/CW operating and the NAQCC. You can find more information about the celebration on page 3 and at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

- **ARE YOUR PARTICIPATION RECORDS CORRECT?** Since we use our participation records to determine who is eligible for the top tier prizes in our anniversary sprint drawing described above, please take a moment to check our records at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html) for accuracy. If you see a mistake please contact Hap, K7HAP. You can find his contact information on the *Contact Us* page of our club website.
- **N8XMS INTERVIEWED FOR PODCAST.** Club president Paul, N8XMS, was interview by Bruce, N9WKE, for his *DitDit.fm*, "The Podcast For Morse Code And CW Operators." Bruce and Paul spent about 25 minutes talking about learning CW, QRP, and the NAQCC. You can find the podcast at <https://www.ditdit.fm/shows/episode-21-naqcc>. (By the way, Bruce is also a member of the NAQCC.)

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- **CHANGES FOR THE SWAP & SHOP WITH NEW OPTIONS.** Club VP John, N8ZYA, has been in charge of our monthly swap & shop emails for a number of years. He has done a great job with that service to our members but is now turning it over to Joe, KW1K. Joe has set up a special email address where you can send your s&s postings. It's [naqccswap@kw1k.net](mailto:naqccswap@kw1k.net). Watch for monthly announcements from him about submitting your items. In addition to our monthly swap and shop email listings we are now allowing members to also post their QRP/CW items on a special FaceBook page called "NAQCC - Sale and Seek" that is linked into our club page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2086110044999657/>. Pictures can be included with the FaceBook listings but remember that it is a "closed" page and only members can post to it. Jerry, K4KBL, is the manager of the FaceBook pages. Please remember that all items posted to either s&s must be strictly related to QRP/CW operating.
- **PRIZE MAILING BUSTED BY US CUSTOMS.** We recently had a prize that we were mailing to a member in Canada returned to us by the Post Office with a note saying that an "Export Customs Form" would be required along with a fee of \$11.00 to file that form. This was for a poker chip finger rest - a small disk of wood about the size of a silver dollar and weighing less than an ounce! We have internationally mailed out many such prizes in the past without any problem so this is apparently a change in policy or a crack down by the Post Office and/or US Customs. We feel that this is a ridiculous situation but unfortunately it is something that we will apparently have to live with. **Consequently, we will no longer be able to mail out our sprint and challenge prizes to non-US hams.** We certainly apologize to our many Canadian and DX members and hope that you will be understanding of the situation. By the way, I can neither confirm nor deny the rumor that we managed to somehow get the prize to that Canadian member anyway!
- **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."

Happy Thanksgiving to  
our Canadian Members!



# NAQCC 14TH ANNIVERSARY!



Time does fly when you are having fun and it's hard to believe that we are now going to be celebrating the 14th anniversary of the North American QRP CW Club! Here is a rundown of the great activities that you can participate in.

Our party will run from 0000Z October 8 UTC (Sunday evening October 7th in North America) through 2400Z October 14 UTC (the following Sunday evening). 47 NAQCC members (see the list at the end of this article) are teaming up to put special event stations N1A, N2A, N3A, N4A, N5A, N6A, N7A, N8A, N9A, and N0A, on the air using QRP/CW from every call district in the United States. QSLs and certificates are available for working these stations and a very special certificate can be earned for sweeping all 10 call districts. There is no set schedule for N#A operations but they will all be spotted using our special webpage at [http://www.naqcc.info/spot\\_schedule.php](http://www.naqcc.info/spot_schedule.php). QSL information can be found at [http://www.naqcc.info/main\\_n3a.html](http://www.naqcc.info/main_n3a.html).

On Tuesday evening of that week all 10 N#A calls will be participating in our special anniversary sprint (0030-0230Z, Oct 10 UTC) and that could be a good time to try and pick up that call district sweep. Every member who makes at least one sprint QSO and submits their log by the submission deadline will be automatically entered into a drawing where 10 great prizes will be given away. I won't reveal what the prizes are other than to say that for a club with no membership dues, the monetary value is significant. Sprint details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201810.html> and information about the prize drawing is at [http://www.naqcc.info/prize\\_drawing\\_14th\\_anniv.html](http://www.naqcc.info/prize_drawing_14th_anniv.html).

Those of you who enjoy taking on our monthly challenges also have something special this month. You will have the chance at winning one of three nice prizes. A drawing will be held shortly after the challenge submission deadline in November and any member who completes at least one of the alphabet challenge words and sends in their report will be automatically entered in the drawing. Details about both the challenge and the drawing can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201810.html>.

So turn on your rig, tune-up your antenna, and get ready to have some fun celebrating the 14th anniversary of what I claim is the best club in the world dedicated to QRP/CW operating!

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We would like to thank the following NAQCC members who have volunteered their time and equipment to put our special callsigns on the air during our celebration week.  
Calls in red will be operating N#A during our sprint.

N1A - AB1VL K1IX WB1HGA K1RID W2APF W4YFJ **NF1U**  
N2A - N2JJF **NW2K** WA2AKV K2CM K2YGM  
N3A - K3WWP KC2EGL AH6AX **N3HEE** K3EW W3TTT N3IOD NR3Z  
N4A - **K7EK** K4KBL K4ARQ WB4OMM N4PIR K4BAI W4CGC  
N5A - KA5PVB **NF5U** WA5ZKP WA5LSV  
N6A - **N6IET** AF6DM  
N7A - KG7WHX N6XJP N7CQR **AF9W**  
N8A - **N8XMS** AC8JW KD8RUQ  
N9A - NI9M **AC9EZ** NX1K  
N0A - **KD0V** W0EJ K0NIA W0IIT

# WHEN LIGHTNING STRIKES

BY DAVE, N6XJP

*This is not so much an article as it is a public service announcement. Dave is one of the N7A operators for our special anniversary event this month. A few weeks ago he sent me an email saying that he might not be able to operate in the celebration due to a lightning strike that fried most of his ham gear. In subsequent emails he told me the details and I am repeating them here as a warning reminder to all of us about the incredible power of Mother Nature. - Editor*

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## ***From his initial email...***

Paul....I'm in big trouble. We had a lightning strike a couple weeks ago.

It struck a 200 year old Saguaro cactus about 8 feet from the back of the house. The cactus was....was....about 25 feet tall. Blew the top 12 feet off. Off! And dissolved everything inside. It sits rotting now, smells real bad and is producing bugs. It also killed two 3 foot barrel cacti next to it. All this stuff is going to be removed by professionals next week...at a cost of about \$1200.00.

That's the good news.

The bad news is, among other things, it fried my PC (note that I am on my iPad), fried the front end of my TS 440, "rearranged" the firmware of my KX3, burned a 30 meter end Fed HF antenna, and scorched the ground around the top of my grounding rod.

This lightning was almost out of the blue. I don't operate, and unplug stuff during storms. This one surprised us! Loud? You cannot even imagine. I'd say around 140-150 decibels. Painful. Scared the crap out of us and the cats. We were just inside the wall next to the Saguaro. So, a million volts later, I'm dead in the water.

I have an old QRP rig I built years ago....(I think it's a YouKits or similar), rather rudimentary, and would have to operate on battery, fashion a new antenna (easy to do), and will only have 30 meters...10.105 - ~10.115ish. But I have no way to log other than paper and pencil.

So. I think it's best for you to find a replacement. If you absolutely need me, I'll give it a go, but may have to mail in the logs...assuming I can even contact anyone.

Whaddaya think?

Dave  
N6XJP

## ***From a followup email...***

The Saguaro was estimated to be between 150-200 years old. It was about 30 feet high and had 21 arms. See the windows in the background...we were sitting right inside there. Loud? You have no idea! Im a retired fighter pilot... I understand noise. This was literally earth shaking. It was about 1700L, not dark at all, but the light was blinding. Although not a long period, just blinding. Hair up on



my arms, cats scrambled. I knew it was close, but not how close til I walked outside. There was smoke coming out of the top. By the way, the top 12 feet was on the ground, several arms were separated already. I have since had the arms and top removed. The rest will be "disassembled" and removed Tuesday the 18th.

So, one ham might ask, "how is your grounding system"? Ha. Unless it is unplugged from the wall, unless it is separated from the antennas, your equipment will be fried. An 8 foot ground rod? Ha. This is monsoon season in southern Arizona. The ground was near saturation. See the two barrel cacti on either side? They are both fried, and dying. They will have to go as well...they are rotting from within.

Oh. My antenna was (Was) an ended HF 65 foot wire hanging from the left corner of the patio...HOA notwithstanding....shhhh.

Thunderstorms are the most powerful, destructive forces on earth. We are lucky to be alive.

Cheers, 73

Dave  
N6XJP



*Here is a "before" picture of Dave's beautiful 200-year old Saguaro. Go to the next page to see the "after."*



### **WOW! A LESSON FOR ALL OF US!**

*I'm pleased to report that Dave is hoping to at least do a little operating as N7A during our anniversary celebration - although with limited resources. If you hear him be sure to congratulate him on the fact that the Saguaro was a taller and juicer target for the lightning than that chimney on his house!*



# PORTABLE OPERATING TABLE BY DEJAN, SA3BOW

For simplicity and comfort I try to find a bench table waiting for me in the great outdoors. And there often are. Even in surprising places. I think they are placed and managed by radio loving gnomes because there are almost always in a nice spot with fine take off angles in at least one direction. The tables are seldom made to my measures. My knees does not fit under or they demand some acrobatic movements. So I bring an "app" made by my fabulous XYL. Here I present the 2.2 model.



How to:

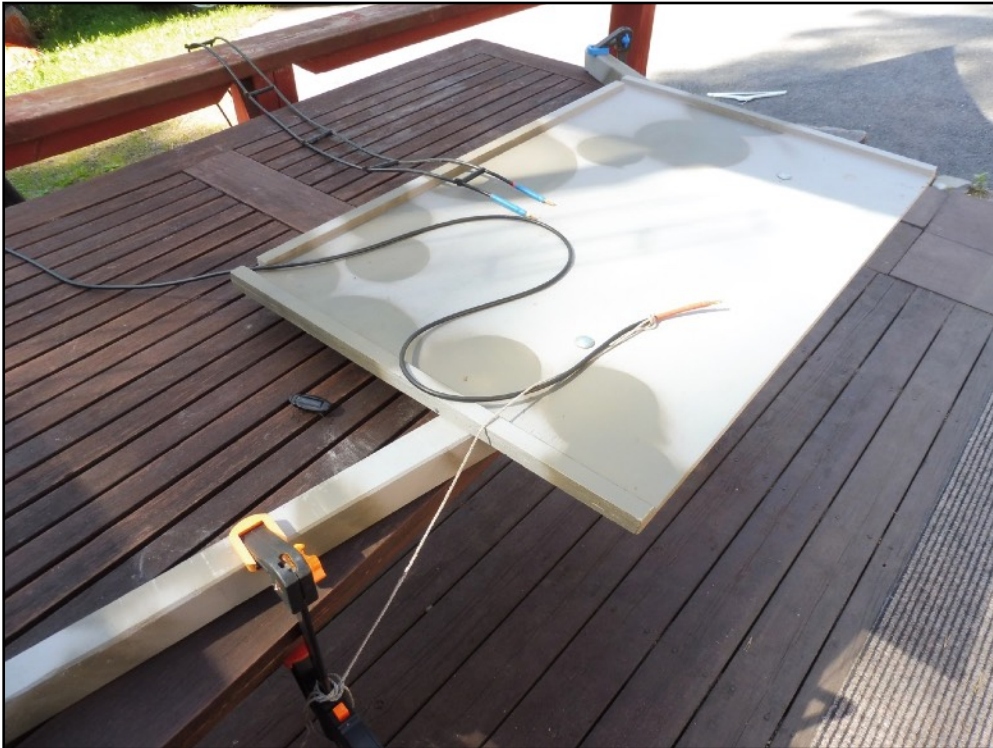
Get some construction plywood. Any 5-layer will do. The cheaper the better. They are made from less dense wood and stiff enough without adding unnecessary weigh. Cut to size. My tables have evolved to be smaller and lighter. But it is easier to saw off than to saw on..... Test!

The two supporting beams where from start 2"x2". Way to sturdy. Now they are even tapered on one side. Find 2 wagon bolts and wing nuts and two washers.

I definitely advocate a rim. XYL left the corners open. Me likey! Rain, crumbs, cables...they all benefit from it. XYL made the rim by cutting ribs of the plywood and glued them with some fancy modern glue that need no clamping. One spread the glue and give the rim a good wacking with a rubber mallet. She used no screws. This table has been stored outdoors in cold Swedish winter without splitting. Add some cheap paint to fight rain and sausage dripping. Clamp with modern cheap single hand operated clamps.

*(Two more pictures are on the next page.)*





# 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.

## DAVE KUKULKA, AB9BZ, #9309



I became very interested in electronics while in grade school, back when CB's were very popular. I couldn't afford a CB radio but I had a multimeter and a huge Tektronix oscilloscope to tinker with. I would hang out at Radio Shack, Olson Electronics and Howards Electronics in Chicago looking for components for that next circuit to fix or build. I used to love reading Radio Electronics and Popular Electronics magazines and would get many ideas from them.

I began working in electronics/radio in the 80's while serving in the US Navy, receiving an Electronics Technician rating with specialties in HF communications, then later mainframe computers. While serving in the Navy, my hobby interests turned to computers, starting with the Timex/Sinclair ZX81, then Commodore 64/128, and finally IBM machines. However, while onboard ship I picked up a Sangean ATS-803 and began shortwave listening.

I got started in ham radio 18 years ago, after earning a degree in Computer Information Systems and while working my 48+ hour full time job. I needed a new challenge to pass the time that was previously spent in class or studying. I worked the midnight shift, six days a week, so I would be up at 2:00AM on my day off, a perfect time for working with the radio.

I had to pass the 5WPM code test for the General, so I spent a few months listening to code tapes while driving to and from work. Then I picked up a Small Wonders Labs SW-40+ QRP transceiver kit as well as a Ten Tec Argosy and made a few contacts at 2W at a very slow speed. It was quite a thrill for me to make contacts using QRP and my simple wire antenna.

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I took a break from ham radio when I decided to resume my studies in grad school for Computer Science. And then later again took another break, but recently had my interest reignited while chatting with a coworker. It is interesting to see how the ham radio hobby has evolved over time, and it is challenging to get back into the original digital mode of operation - CW.

I really enjoy building radio kits, antennas, keyers, etc. and getting them on the air. I have built the Small Wonders SW-40+ twice (sold the first), Pixie II, PSK-20 Warbler, a uBitx, a few antenna tuners, and accessories such as the K1EL K10 keyer and a Hi-Per-Mite active audio filter. I'm awaiting the arrival of a QCX-20 and QCX-40 for this coming fall/winter projects. Getting my CW up to a usable speed again has been a real challenge for me. It seemed that no matter what I did, I could not get my speed above 10WPM.

I was fortunate enough to get into a CWops class last April which really helped to keep me focused and motivated to move forward. My instructor, Jack, W8KR is very passionate about CW operating and his guidance has been so very helpful and appreciated. I have recently started on the CWops Level 2 journey in September with Mark, K5GQ and again feel fortunate to have another very dedicated and knowledgeable instructor.

After completing level 1 of the CW Academy, I started working some sprints. It has been quite a challenge making just a few contacts. I'm still working on finding an effective antenna that I can quickly and easily deploy in the field. I've tried a linked dipole, end-fed half wave and a Crappie Pole vertical.

I hope to improve my CW proficiency over the next few months and I'm looking forward to working you on the bands soon.



# NAQCC SPRINTS

**CURRENT MONTH'S SPRINT:** This month is our big 14th anniversary celebration and we are hoping for maximum participation in our sprint. The sprint will be October 10, 0030-0230 UTC. That's the evening of Tuesday, October 9, here in North America. Every member who participates in the sprint, makes at least one QSO, and submits their log by the deadline will be automatically entered into a random drawing for a great list of prizes. You can learn more about that in the article earlier in this newsletter. Complete information about the sprint can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201810.html>.

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_rules.html). On that page you will also find information about the different computer loggers that are supported for our sprints. The membership data files for those supported loggers can be downloaded at <http://naqcc.info/contests.html>. **Please be sure to always get the latest membership data for your logger about a day before the sprint.** A complete schedule for our upcoming sprints can be found at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_sked.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_sked.html).

**LAST MONTH'S SPRINT RESULTS:** In September we continued to be plagued by the poor band conditions with only 94 submitted logs showing 119 total participants. "The few, the proud, the brave" that did give it a try still had plenty of fun. This soapbox comment from VE3RDE sums it up pretty well, "*Possibly the worse propagation condx ever for me. Yeech! Oh well, still fun to pick people out of the noise. See you next month!*" Complete sprint results, including some great soapbox comments, can be seen at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint201809.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables at the end of this section.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: AC9EZ K3ESE K5YNC K7EK WA4AAK(non-member) WA6EEM(non-member)

**ARE YOUR PARTICIPATION RECORDS CORRECT?** Since we use our participation records to determine who is eligible for the top tier prizes in our anniversary sprint drawing described above, please take a moment to check our records at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_participation.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_participation.html) for accuracy. If you see a mistake please contact Hap, K7HAP. You can find his contact information on the *Contact Us* page of our club website.





SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	K1IEE	WB1GYZ
W2	W2SH	KA2KGP	W2JEK
W3	K3ESE	AC2C	KD3CA
W4	K4KBL	NA4O	K2UFT
W5	KA5TJS	WI5H	
W6			
W7	KF7WNS	KC7DM	
W8	WB8LZG	NF8M	N8BB
W9	WB9HFK	AC9EZ	N8HWV
W0	NN0SS	AA5LH	KD0DK
VE	VE3RDE	VE9BEL	
DX			

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1			
W2			
W3	K3WWP		
W4	KI4EZL		
W5	NF5U	K5GQ	
W6			
W7	N7QR		
W8	AB8FJ		
W9			
W0	KD0V		
VE			
DX			

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	KC1DVT	WA1GOV
W2	WA1GHW	N2ESE	K2YGM
W3	K3RLL		
W4	KB9ILT	N4MJ	WB4OMM
W5	K5MBA	K5YNC	KE5YUM
W6			
W7			
W8			
W9	K9CW		
W0	K9OSC	WZ0W	N0AR
VE	VE3DQN	VE3GNU	VE3SV
DX			

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK			
BUG			
K/K			

FIRST TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	K3ESE	AC9EZ	
BUG			
K/K	K7EK	K5YNC	
SPRINT PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
AC9EZ			

	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	94	106	217	4/17
Participants	119	140	269	2/13
Total QSOs	952	1289	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	564	696	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	388	593	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	14	114	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	853	1107	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	85	68	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	10.1	12.2	19.3	9/11

**SPRINT HONOR ROLL:** We honor the following members for their outstanding participation over the years in our regular sprints. Exact counts can be seen at [http://naqcc.info/sprint\\_dates.html](http://naqcc.info/sprint_dates.html).

NUMBER OF SPRINTS	MEMBERS
50+	NU7T(SK) WD0K K6MGO KB8FE KQ1P KA9FQG NQ2W WY3H AA7CU N8QY K9OSC KB0ETU K6CSL K9EYT N5GW AK3X K2YGM KC2EGL VE5BCS(SK) N8LA KN1H K4ORD KF7WNS N4MJ WK6L KD3CA AB8FJ
75+	K4NVJ W4DUK KE5YUM KB3AAG WB8ENE K4KRW N2ESE VE3FUJ WX4RM WA8SAN NO2D N0TA WG8Y N8BB AA9L NA4O
100+	K4BAI KU4A KD2MX NF8M K4JPN K3RLL K1IEE KD0V WA2JSG N4FI
125+	W2JEK W9CC W2SH WB8LZG N8XMS
150+	KA2KGP K3WWP



# NAQCC CHALLENGES

**CURRENT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** This month we have our special 14th anniversary alphabet challenge where every member who participates, completes at least one of the words, and submits their report by the deadline will be automatically entered into a random drawing for three great prizes. Details can be seen at <http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201810.html>.

**NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** In November we will have the "Kilroy Was Here" alphabet challenge. Details can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201811.html>.

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>. Detailed general rules for our challenges can be found at [http://naqcc.info/challenges\\_rules.html](http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html).

**LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE:** The deadline for submissions for our September "Grid Square Bingo" challenge is still a few days away but preliminary results seem to indicate that this has been one of our toughest challenges ever. (Personally I didn't even make a one-card "bingo" for the participation point. A lack of available operating time in my schedule certainly contributed to that.) You can see what has been posted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges201809.html>. Final results will also be available there shortly after the 10th of the month.

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**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](http://www.naqcc.info/challenges_schedule.html).

NUMBER OF CHALLENGES	MEMBERS
25+	PA9CW NF1U WI5H KU4A K9OSC KD0V PA0XAW WY3H N1JI VE3HUR N9SE N1LU KD2MX WA2FBN
50+	VE3FUJ NU7T(SK)
75+	K1YAN
100+	K1IEE
125+	N8XMS W2JEK
150+	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: WAC Simple Wire Antenna Award

This is the classic Worked All Continents award with our usual club twist - you have to do it with CW/ QRP and a simple wire antenna. See <http://www.naqcc.info/faqsinfo.html> for our club definition of a "simple wire antenna." Essentially it's a non-gain type of antenna even though it might not actually be made of wire. The award has endorsements for 2XQRP and QRPP. You can see complete details at [http://www.naqcc.info/awards\\_wacswa.html](http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wacswa.html).

## RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

None



# 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](http://naqcc.info/cw_nets.html). Questions should be directed to Net Manager Wayne, NQ0RP.

## NAQCC NET SCHEDULE

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord 40m, 60m, and 80m QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday 6:00 PM PT 6:30 PM PT 8:00 PM PT	Monday 0100 Z 0130 Z 0300 Z	7056 KHz 5348 KHz ch2 3556 KHz	40m JB, NR5NN (in CA) 60/80m Rick, N6IET (in CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7 PM CT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7065 KHz	Allen, KA5TJS (in TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30 PM CT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 KHz	Bob, W0CC (in KS)
Rocky Mtn Regional/Continental 20/40 QRS Nets (RMRc)	Tues & Thurs 4:00/4:30 PM MT	Tues & Thurs 2200/2230 Z	14060/7062.5 KHz	Dale, WC7S (in WY)
Pacific Northwest 80 m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 KHz	Stewart, KE7LKW (in WA)

**Note:** On the rare occasions that there is a conflict between one of our scheduled nets and one of our regular sprints the sprint will take precedence.

## NET CONTROL STATION REPORTS

### NAQCC FarnsWord 40m, 60m and 80m QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)

Sunday evenings 6:00 PM PT, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 7056 kHz +/-  
 Sunday evenings 6:30 PM PT, which is Monday 0130 UTC, on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)  
 Sunday evenings 8:00 PM PT, which is Monday 0300 UTC, on 3556 kHz +/-  
 40m NCS - JB NR5NN (California); 60m/80m NCS - Rick N6IET (California)

FRN/40 at 6PM PST Sunday (0100 UTC Monday) on 7055.5 kHz ±  
 Sep 2 QNS (3) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, K6GVG  
 Sep 9 QNS (5) NR5NN NCS, N6IET, W7SAG, K6GVG, KW6G  
 Sep 16 QNS (4) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, W7SAG/p, KW6G  
 Sep 23 QNS (4) NR5NN NCS, KW6G, K6GVG, N6IET  
 Sep 30 QNS (1) NR5NN/m NCS (nothing heard by anyone)

FRN/60 at 6:30pm PST Sunday (0130 UTC Monday) on 5348 kHz (Ch 2)  
 Sep 2 QNS (6) N6IET, AI6SL, N6KIX, NR5NN, KW6G, K6GVG  
 Sep 9 QNS (6) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, K6GVG, NR5NN, KW6G, W7SAG  
 Sep 16 QNS (3) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G  
 Sep 23 QNS (4) N6IET NCS, NR5NN, KW6G, K6GVG  
 Sep 30 QNS (7) N6IET NCS, AI6SL co-NCS, NR5NN co-NCS, K6GVG co-NCS, KW6G, WI6O, N6KIX

FRN/80 at 8PM PST Sunday (0300 UTC Monday) on 3556 kHz ±  
 Sep 2 QNS (5) N6IET NCS, K6GVG, KW6G, AI6SL, KE6EE  
 Sep 9 QNS (5) N6IET NCS, AI6SL, K6GVG, W7SAG, KW6G  
 Sep 16 QNS (4) N6IET NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, NR5NN/m  
 Sep 23 QNS (3) N6IET NCS, K6GVG, KW6G, (N6KIX)  
 Sep 30 QNS (7) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K0DTJ, K6GVG, AI6SL, NR5NN/m, WI6O

NVIS hardly ever happens anymore on 40 meters, which makes having a roundtable net problematic. And on September 30, the band was so long that nobody could hear each other, so the 40-meter net basically didn't happen. This will probably be the norm for the next couple or three years, so JB and I have decided to give up on having an FRN/40 net, at least until further notice. We'll miss Polar Bear Rick NR7HRK/m and other distant stations that used to occasionally check in on FRN/40 and ended up being called upon to relay amongst the rest of us.

But we'll still have FRN/60 (or whatever JB decides to call it) and FRN/80. We don't always enjoy NVIS on 60 meters, either, but it's frequent enough to keep on trying. And JB has agreed to take over the 60-meter net (again) beginning on Sunday, October 7. I think he's moving it up to 18H00 PDT (0100z), but I haven't confirmed that with him. Check the October Newsletter and/or the NAQCC website.

72, 73 and 77,

Rick N6IET

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**NAQCC East Texas QRS Net (ETN)**

Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC, on 3561 kHz +/-  
 Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

2018/09/11 No net tonight. We had thunder storms in the area and I was unplugged.

2018/9/18 QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA

Just Andy last night but we had a great QSO for 20 min. and I was QRP. We were 599 both ways. Good band last night with low QRN here.

2018/9/25 QNI(1) NCS KA5TJS

Called for about 15 min. with no results. Guess the band was long last night or folks had something else to do HI HI.

Allen KA5TJS

=====

**NAQCC Rocky Mountain Regional/Continental QRS Nets (RMRc)**

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:00 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2300 UTC, on 14060 kHz

Tuesday/Thursday at 4:30 PM MST, which is Tuesday/Thursday 2330 UTC, on 7062.5 kHz.

Main NCS - Dale WC7S (Wyoming)

No Report

=====

**NAQCC MIDWEST QRS Net (MWN)**

Monday evenings 9:00 PM CST, which is Tuesday 0300 UTC, on 7117 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC

2018/09/10 NCS W0CC

QRN S-7. Heard some activity around 7.025 and other (local) Net (7.063).

Suspect that the band will improve as the length of daylight shortens.

2018/09/17 NCS W0CC

QRN: S 7-9. Unable to complete QSO with K4JER (?). Much more activity at 7.031. Will try here next week.

=====

**NAQCC Pacific Northwest QRS 80 Meter Net (PNW80)**

Thursday evenings 7:00 PM PST, which is Friday 0300 UTC on 3556.5 kHz.

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

2018/09/07 QNI (5) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW, W7ANM, WB4SPB, KG7VTO

2018/09/14 QNI (5) NCS KG7JEB, KE7LKW, WB4SPB, KG7VTO, K7JUV

2018/09/21 QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, AD7BP, WB4SPB.

2018/09/28 QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, KG7JEB, AD7BP, WB4SPB, W7ANM. K7JUV, N6KIX.

73,

Stewart KE7LKW, Randy WB4SPB, George WB4SPB

=====



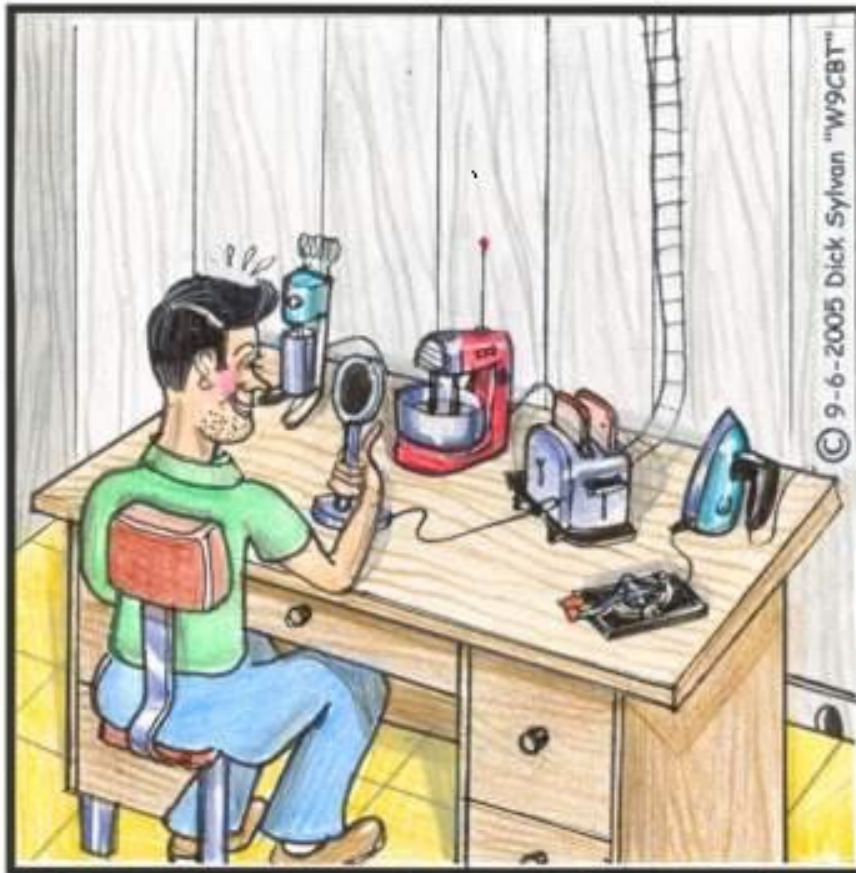


# HAM QUIPS



Dick Sylvan, W9CBT, #2062, has been a QRP/CW operator for a long time. He is also a very accomplished ham radio cartoonist and his work has appeared previously in the K9YA Telegraph newsletter. His book "HI HI - A Collection of Ham Radio Cartoons" is available at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com).

## HAM LINGO "Appliance Operator"



"I Resent The Accusation That I'm An Appliance Operator. I Build All My Own Equipment."



# NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has eight local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Virginia, West Florida, Central Texas, Illowa, Delmarva, Downeast Maine, 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 Vice President John, N8ZYA, at the email address listed on the last page about a week before the operation. Please be sure to include the UTC time for the event and not just the local time.

A report about your chapter activity should appear here. Please send them to KD2MX or N8XMS at the email addresses listed on the last page.

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

Chapter Reports Begin On The Next Page

## NAQCC WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA CHAPTER



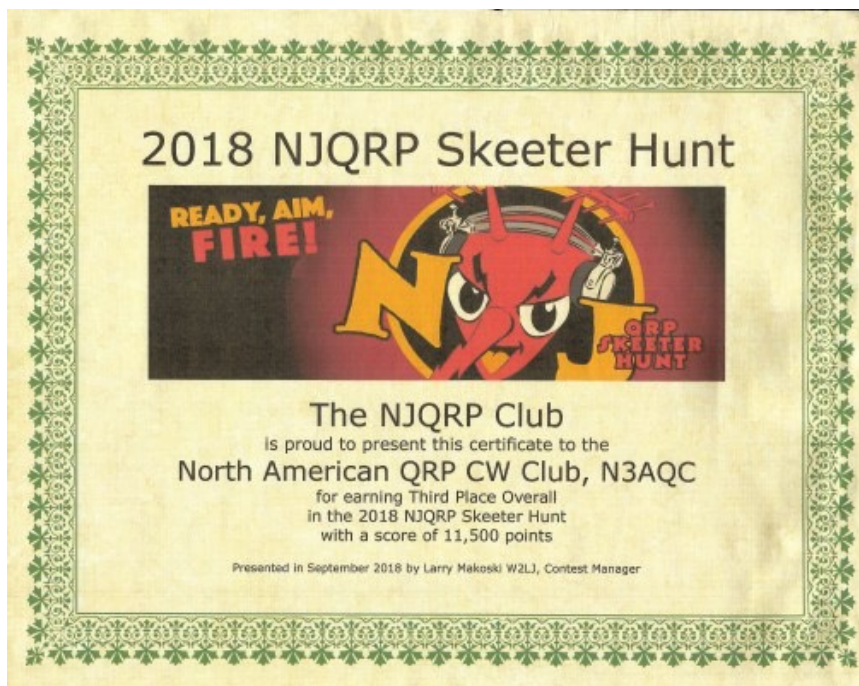
Items in this section are from the Western Pennsylvania Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, K3WWP.

September 9 - Despite rain from Gordon, Mike KC2EGL, Tom WB3FAE, and I (K3WWP) attended the annual BCARA (Butler County ARA) hamfest in Unionville, PA at the firehall. Usually an outdoor affair, because of the rain, the events were moved inside the firehall. There weren't as many exhibitors as usual probably because of the weather. Still it was fun fellowshipping with the BCARA members and other visitors. It was unusual not seeing Bob WC3O, whom we see at virtually every hamfest we attend. However it dawned on us that at the time he was in Italy visiting with the Begalis, the folks who make those wonderful keys. We hope he had a great time. I think he said that was his first time going 'across the pond'!

When Mike and I got home, of course we checked the bands and worked some DX. We both worked DR18WRD and UR3IDD/MM, and Mike worked F5IN and perhaps 1 or 2 more. I can't remember now.

Of course we had our meals. Before the hamfest it was the breakfast buffet at Ponderosa in Butler, and before Mike headed home, it was off to Wendy's here in Kittanning.

September 17 - Mike and I received our certificates from Larry W2LJ for our work as N3AQC in this year's Skeeter Hunt. As you see here, we finished third overall despite thinking we didn't do all that well because of poor conditions. I guess the poor conditions were widespread.



That's it for chapter news. Mike and I got together a couple more times, but they weren't really chapter events. I'll save them for my personal news below in the newsletter.

## NAQCC WEST FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Ron, N9EE.

The chapter's web site is at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

### NAQCC-WFL

West Central Florida Chapter

Did a event at the Gulf Coast ARC picnic Sept 15th at Crews Lake Wilderness Park in Pasco County.  
Had a very good time.



Photo is me at the picnic. Had finnnne time.

Worked IA and NJ station. on 14.060 MHz. Ant was pair 20m HamSticks as dipole up like 8 ft. Rig FT817 with Z817 tuner.

Now in late September see the bands are getting better so will be planning some outings here in Hernando Co, Florida.

73, ron, n9ee



## NAQCC WEST VIRGINIA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the West Virginia Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to John, N8ZYA.

The chapter's web site is at <http://n8zyaradioblog.blogspot.com/>.



It's with great sadness that I announce the passing of **Steve Ashcraft KC4URI** early on the morning of September 9. Steve struggled with health issues for several years.

I met Steve in the early formative years of the West Virginia Chapter of the NAQCC Club. Steve was one of the most interesting people I've had the pleasure of knowing in this short lifetime. His background was very diverse and professional in several different occupations.

Steve and I have operated together from several different locations in [West Virginia](#). In addition to being a member of the **NAQCC Club**, he was a member of the **Flying Pigs Club**, the **ARCI Club**, and the **Fists International Club**. You could also find Steve on the **Sunrise Net** most mornings.

John Smithson N8ZYA



## CENTRAL TEXAS CHAPTER



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

The chapter is located in the Austin, TX area and maintains a website at <http://www.naqcc-centraltexas.net/index.html>.

No report available.

## DELMARVA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Delmarva Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Bill, N3IOD.

The chapter is located in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia area.

No report available.

## DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER

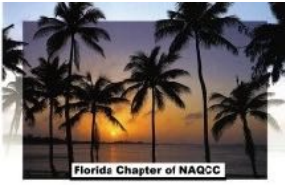


Items in this section are from the Downeast Maine Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should be directed to Jeff, KA1DBE.

The chapter is located in the Hancock and Washington counties area of Maine.

No report available.

## NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



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

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb40mm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

No report available.

## NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Mark, KONIA.

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

The Illowa Chapter website is at <https://sites.google.com/site/naqccillowa2/>.

No report available.



# 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 your 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 Tom, W3ATB, #9553 —

I was wondering if you'd consider mentioning my brand new QRP contest in the October newsletter?

<https://w3atb.com/leaf-peepers-qrp-contest/>

I call it the Leaf Peeper QRP Contest because QRP signals remind me of peeping chicks and here in New England we call all the tourists that flood here to see the fall color display - leaf peepers.

Those who want to participate can get a Leaf Peeper number up to about 15 minutes before the contest begins. The number assignment process is completely automated.

Thanks if you can promote this new contest. Already well over 100 QRPs have signed up.

72  
Tim  
W3ATB

From Merlin, KD0V, #2003 —

*Merlin had the opportunity to demonstrate the effectiveness of QRP/CW communications at a park activity with a local ham radio club. He thinks that he is the only CW operator in the group and was hoping to get some others interested in the mode. He also operated QRP of course. He is prominently featured in the first 4 minutes and last 3 minutes of the YouTube video. - Editor*

Considering the poor band conditions and the Buddistick antenna it went well. I had 6 QSO's. The people there were surprised that I could come in and get setup and operating so quickly, about 20 minutes.

Here is a you tube link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZWzuPTWVze4>

This was the third time that the St. Peter, MN ARC has tried a Park Event this year and the only time any body has made a contact on HF. They are learning. Some of the key players in Minnesota Emergency communications have been participants all three times. People who only operate at special events are not very well prepared. They are starting to learn that.

From John, K3WWP, #0002 —

Only a couple things worth mentioning this month. I'll do so briefly, then refer you to my web site diary at [k3wwp.com](http://k3wwp.com).

Speaking of the web site, it became 22 years old on September 8, making it one of the older ham radio sites on the Internet, perhaps one of the oldest that has been updated every day since then. I told the story of how it came about in my diary.

September 20 - A surprise visit from Mike a week early from our usual 4th Wednesday pizza night. That was the night of our NAQCC sprint, so we both made a few QSOs in it. A couple computer games, then Mike headed home.

September 22 - Another day with Mike concluding with a Pirate baseball game that evening. My first night game at PNC Park and my first one period in a good many years. It was a real joy especially with the Pirates winning. Another first in a long time at games I've attended. More info and pictures in my diary.

Because of my strong local noise, I've had to do a lot of switching antennas between xmt and rcv to get the best S/N level. I finally got around to modifying my antenna switch to make it simpler. The story and picture are in my September 28 diary entry.

From Blake, KD2OUQ, #9610 —

*I recently received this email from one of our newer members. Blake is a recent graduate of the United States Military Academy at West Point and is currently on active duty at Fort Bragg, NC. If you would like to help he can be contacted through his [QRZ.com](http://QRZ.com) listing. - Editor*

I'm an avid ham radio operator and have always used SSB or digital. I've always longed to learn CW and become proficient at it. I have been trying to learn CW for a couple of months now and am looking for someone to make some QSOs with to practice. I saw your email on NAQCC and thought I'd send you an email. I'm #9610.

Would you be interested in helping me?

Thank you in advance.

73 de Blake KD2OUQ



# NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

From NAQCC President Paul Huff, N8XMS

Amateur radio has something for everyone. SSB, FM, AM, the digital modes, and QRO power levels all have their place in this great hobby and we certainly recognize the importance of these modes as well as the enjoyment that they give to many. But for a growing number of hams the challenge of *“doing the most with the least”* makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio, and the North American QRP CW Club exists to promote this exciting facet of the hobby. As part of our focus we also encourage, but do not limit operators to, the use of simple wire antennas.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to enjoy QRP/CW operating. For contester types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp operators. For a month-long activity we offer our members a Monthly Challenge that can be anything from forming a list of words from the calls of stations worked, to making a prescribed number of contacts using home-brew gear. There is also an extensive awards program to recognize the significant QRP/CW accomplishments of our members.

We also serve as a resource for people who are just getting started in QRP and/or CW. Our slow-speed CW nets are a great place for beginners to practice Morse code under real on-air conditions. Beginners will also find a wealth of helpful information on our club website and we are more than willing to try to answer any questions about QRP and CW that you might have. An extensive monthly newsletter is filled with useful projects and news from fellow QRPers.

A number of local NAQCC Chapters offer opportunities to get together for in person socializing and QRP/CW activities. Portable operations are especially popular with the local chapters.

Whether you are a veteran ham radio operator who is looking for a new challenge in the hobby, or a beginner who is intrigued by the possibilities of QRP/CW communication, we cordially invite you to join us. Membership is free and the benefits and fun are significant.

The North American QRP CW Club was founded in 2004 by WY3H and K3WWP and now has over 9500 members world wide. Membership is free and anyone interested in CW/QRP operating is welcome. Complete information about the NAQCC, including a membership application, activities schedule, and useful resources, can be found on our website at <http://www.naqcc.info/>. Inquires can also be sent to

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



Additional contact information can be found on the next page.

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Illowa Chapter	Mark - K0NIA	iowamv@gmail.com
West Florida Chapter	Ron - N9EE	n9ee@tampabay.rr.com
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Member Submissions Member Spotlight	Paul - KD2MX	kd2mx@arrl.net
Facebook Page Manager	Jerry - K4KBL	digilink@gmail.com
NAQCC CW Nets	Wayne - NQ0RP	wayne.dillon@gmail.com

NOTE: These email address are not automatic links.  
They are given here in graphic form to avoid harvesting by spambots.

#### REPRINT POLICY

Unless otherwise stated in the article, local clubs and other ham radio organizations are free to reprint featured articles from this newsletter, provided appropriate credit is given to the North American QRP CW Club and the author of the article. If at all possible a link to the club website at <http://www.naqcc.info/> should be included.