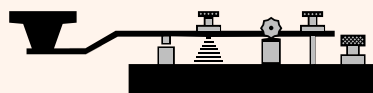


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 273 • MARCH 2021



KEY CLICKS

- **FUND NAQCC WITH YOUR AMAZON PURCHASES!**

AmazonSmile is a simple way for you to support NAQCC every time you shop, at no cost to you. Instead of amazon.com, go to smile.amazon.com and select "North American QRP Cw Club Inc" (type it in EXACTLY like that or it won't come up!) as your charitable organization. Every eligible purchase you make through AmazonSmile will result in a donation to the the club without costing you a cent!

- **THIS ISSUE:**

Member Spotlight on Steve KC5F; A review of the IC-705 and comparison to the Xiegu G90; Improving the homebrew mag loop; A sticky Challenge; Portable Florida Ops, Part 3; Chapter outings; Ambidextrous Morse; and much more.

- **SPRING FORWARD**

Daylight Saving Time kicks in Sunday, March 14th for most of us. Check your Net and Sprint times then take an afternoon nap to make up that lost hour of sleep.

- **HELP WANTED**

It takes a lot of work to keep NAQCC rolling, but it's fun when we share the load. Step up and donate a few minutes a month to run the Twitter Account or take over as Prize Manager or Monthly Challenge Manager so Steve can have time to play on the radio. See the next page for details.

- **RSN?**

Have modern rigs made the tone report in RST a relic? Rick, N6IET makes the case for replacing it with an "N" for noise in his FarnsWord Net report.

- **YOUR STORIES NEEDED**

Are you getting your radio outside, or sitting in the shack melting solder? Stringing up a new antenna or replacing the one the snowstorm took down? Or tell us about your life as a ham for a Member Spotlight. Drop us a line, and maybe a few pictures: kd2mx@arrl.net

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THE PREZ SEZ...

Greetings NAQCC Members!

NAQCC IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD HAMS.

I am soliciting for a **Prize Manager**, **Monthly Challenge Manager**, and **Twitter Manager**.

The Prize Manager maintains our stock of prizes and mails them out to the lucky members - this is a once a month, 20-to-30-minute volunteer work job. You are provided the prizes and are reimbursed for any costs (envelopes and postage).

The Monthly Challenge Manager constructs and updates the HTML pages for our Monthly Challenges, including the online Challenge App. Annually, this requires about 10 hours of work at the start of the calendar year, and monthly, about an hour or two to do the page updates. There are no costs involved.

If you speak Twitter, we badly need someone to take over our feed and help it grow.

Currently, I am doing these (and several other) online updates and could use some help. You don't need a degree in programming, just a desire to do! (Believe me, if I can learn this stuff, you can too!).

Please contact me if you are interested in either position at sszabo1@cfl.rr.com

A review of last month's Club activities tells me we are alive and well, despite the Pandemic! 100+ Sprint logs and lots of Challenge submissions - and lots of new folks participating for the first time! Like many, I am itching to get back out and mingle with ham folks at ham events. Hopefully, in the next few months.

Our Newsletter Editor, Brent WT4U, is always looking for submissions for the Newsletter —anything related to NAQCC, QRP CW. Send Spotlight Editor Paul K2DMX an e-mail if you have something to submit or need more information kd2mx@arri.net

Stay safe, KEEP YER DISTANCE, WASH YER HANDS, and get radio-active!

72/73!
Steve Szabo WB4OMM #5913
NAQCC President



A little bit of QRP on a wire goes a long way!



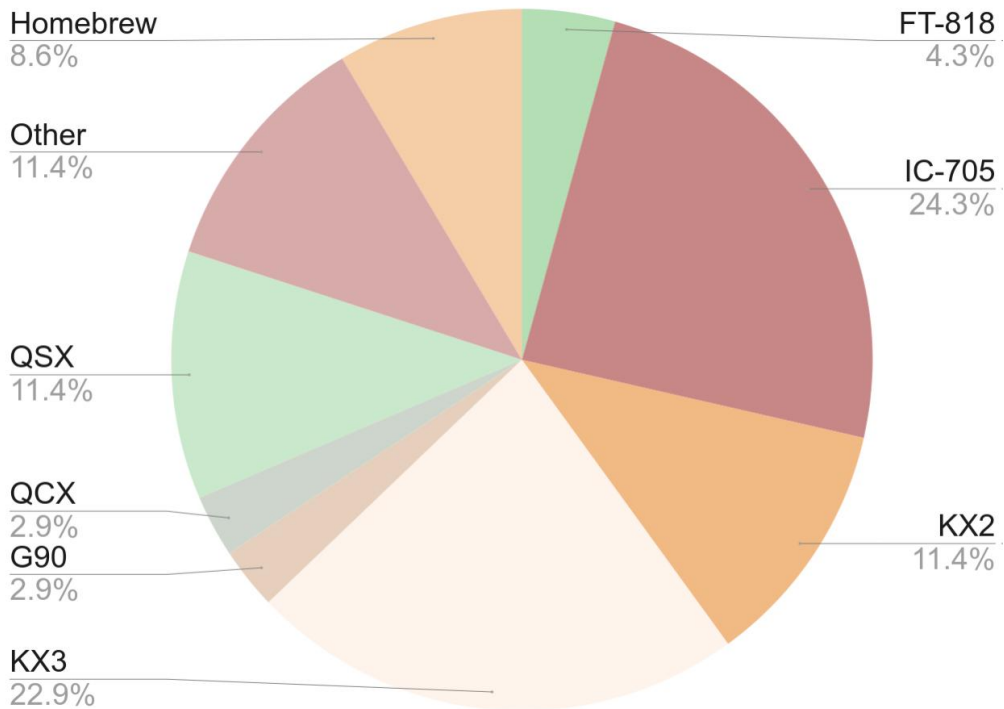
MEMBER POLLS

MARCH POLL

How do you construct your homebrew projects ?
 Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

FEBRUARY POLL

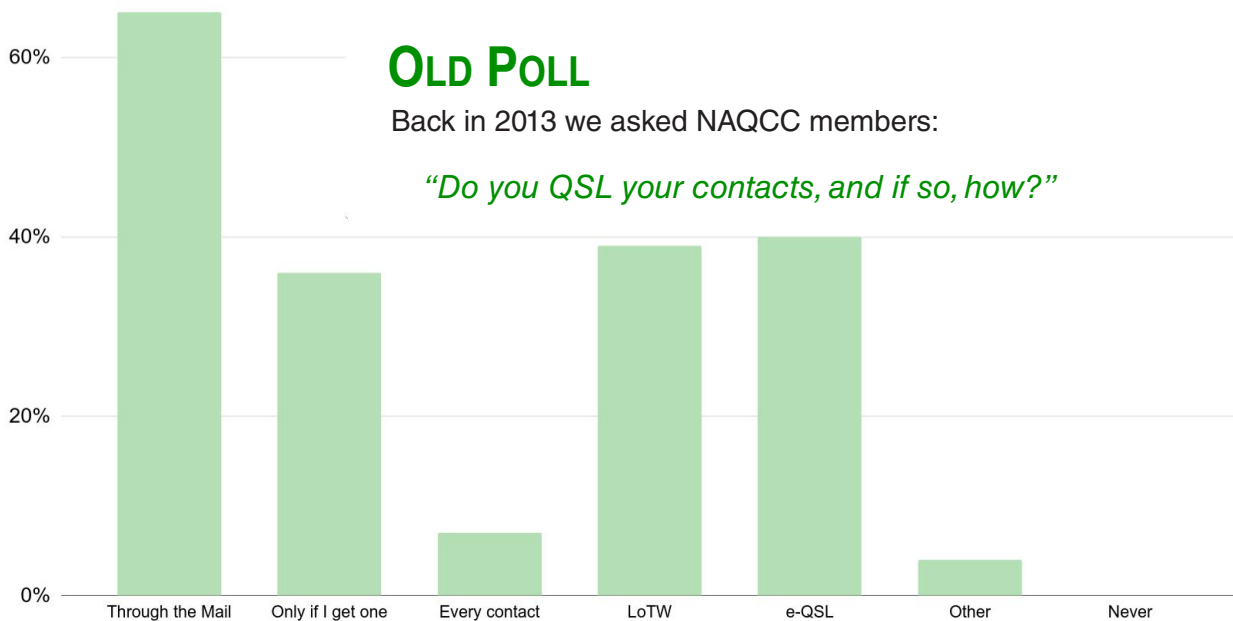
What new QRP rig do you want for your birthday?



OLD POLL

Back in 2013 we asked NAQCC members:

“Do you QSL your contacts, and if so, how?”



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.

STEVE SMITH KC5F #10148

When I was twelve, a friend and I would bike around looking for ham antennas. We found one, and its owner showed us his shack and introduced us to the local club. We both became Novices and things took off! My neighbor was an inactive ham, and he gave me his WWII J-38 straight key that I still use every day. I loved CW, but was afraid of the General written exam and my WN9SRI call expired. But two years later with the “once-only” rule change, I got a new Novice call, and my Advanced a few months later.

GOOD RIGS AND BAD

I started with a Heath Apache and a Zenith shortwave receiver, but then got an HW-16 and was in heaven for a decade. (I wish I never sold it – a TS-120S is a lousy CW rig, and it is all I had for 30+ years...).

I became KC5F in 1979 while in Tulsa. In NC in 1986, I found a good club (W4YK) that liked having another CW op, especially for contests and special events. My kids both got licensed during that time, Tara as KE4PYL at 8 years old and Tyler as KG4NRV at 11. Neither stuck with it, but I’ve kept their licenses current “just in case.”

The day I retired in August 2019, I ordered an IC-7610. I’m now active in SKCC, and noticed people mentioning the “QRP Challenge.” In December 2019 I joined NAQCC and started participating in Challenges and Sprints (and N3A) with the 7610



dialed back to 5w/1w as appropriate, and I’m having a ball!

GETTING OUTDOORS WITH THE WIFE & POTA

My wife is an artist, and when Covid first hit, we talked about safely getting outside. I mentioned POTA and that there were inexpensive rigs like

the G90. She said, "Why don't you buy one?" I love my wife! We've now done 40 POTA activations in 35 parks. She paints while I radio, and we hardly ever see anyone else while we're out. I don't always run QRP, at 20w, but nobody's perfect. But I promise that in a NAQCC QSO I'm QRP!

My wife and I do share one hobby: traditional music on mountain and hammered dulcimers. We've played only one concert in the past year, and even that was recorded (in front of an

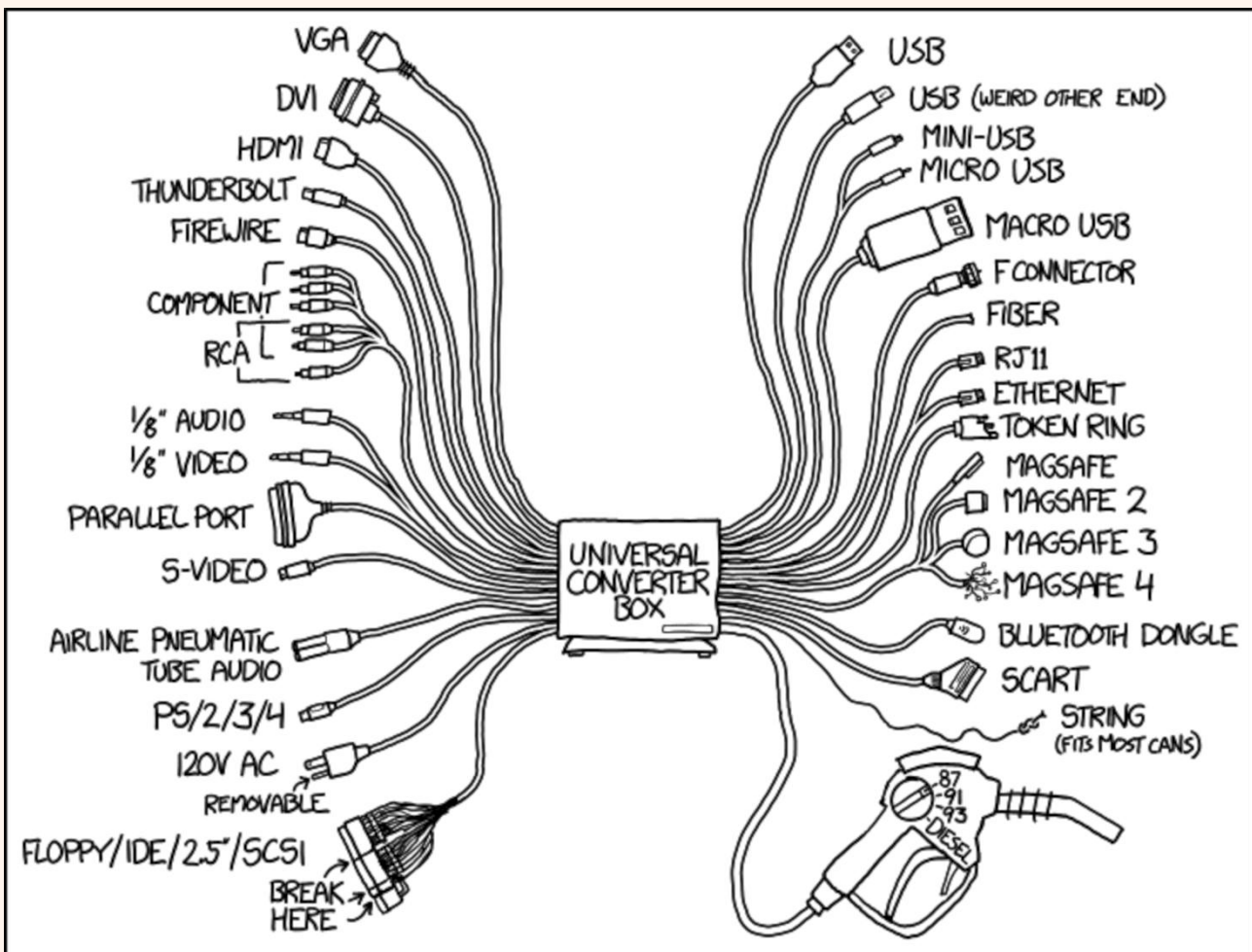
audience of goats at the Carl Sandburg Home) and put online. No in-person club meetings (wncdc.org), either, but we're hoping that changes this summer.

(Oh, and yes, that's a ribbon on the antenna in my picture. Jean bought me a WRC TIA antenna for my birthday, and we celebrated with a POTA outing. As I said, I love my wife!)

73, Steve KC5F
(More info on QRZ)



FOR THE WELL-EQUIPPED JUNK BOX



Comes with a 50-lb sack of gender changers, and also an add-on device with a voltage selector and a zillion circular center pin DC adapter tips so you can power any of those devices from the 90s.

xkcd.com

ICOM 705 – FIRST IMPRESSIONS AND XIEGU G90 COMPARISON

BY RICH KC3MIO #9942



My wife asked me what I wanted for Christmas and my upcoming 70th birthday. After some thought, I told her that she could get me an Elecraft KX3 and I ordered one. But demand exceeded supply and the availability date was repeatedly pushed back. One night, I had a dream that I bought a used Icom 705 and when I woke up, I wondered why I hadn't considered this new radio. I had had a deposit on a 705 but switched gears before they were available (see second story).

I did some research and watched videos from Julian OH8STN, and reviews by Tom, K4SWL on his QRPer website. The 705 stacked up well against the KX3 Shack-in-a bag package and its price, \$1,300, (sans tuner) was lower. I ordered

one from HRO and it came a few days later. After three weeks with the 705, I've only used some of its capabilities, but I have enjoyed operating with this unusual transceiver.

The 705 is basically a portable version of the popular 7300, which was my first radio. If you have used the 7300, you will adapt quickly to the 705. The core of the radio is a 10-watt rig covering 160-6 meters. But that is just the starting point, because the 705 also includes:

- 2 meters and 70 cm
- A spectrum display, identical to that on the Icom 7300
- Bluetooth and Wi-fi connectivity
- A GPS receiver

- General coverage receiver for HF and MW bands, FM, air and weather bands
- Built-in digital mode capability
- D-Star capability
- Internal rechargeable battery for QRP operation

The 705 has a grab-bag of features, a toolkit for creative amateurs to explore. The 705 ships with a 95-page basic manual and a 216-page (!) Advanced Manual can be downloaded from the Icom website.

QRP OPERATION

I used the 705 for the regular January sprint and it worked well on 80 and 40 meters. The 705 lacks a tuner, so I had to use my 135' OCF dipole, since the SWR was very good on 80 and acceptable on 40. Band conditions were favorable and like many other ops, I made quite a few contacts. The spectrum display was very handy for quickly checking 40 meters for signals – unfortunately there were not too many here in the northeast. Using the 705 on the desktop is essentially the same as using a 7300 at reduced power.

With the internal battery, a portable set up is pretty simple – hook up an antenna, ground, a microphone or key and start operating. The microphone doubles as a speaker for phone operation. There is also a built-in speaker.

If you have a power supply or a 12v battery, power can be increased to 10 watts. I have used the 705 with 10 watts and have made contacts coast-to-coast, SSB and CW. As band conditions continue to improve, 5-10 watts works pretty well. Bluetooth allows the connection of wireless headsets – I have used both my Apple AirPods and an inexpensive headset. Untethered operation is handy as you can do other things while you monitor the bands or conduct a SSB QSO. The 705 can be operated remotely through its Wi-Fi connection and optional software.

GENERAL COVERAGE RECEIVER

It's been a long time since I listened for shortwave stations, but a quick check of the 705 picked up many stations. The rig works well on the AM broadcast band and for monaural listening on the FM band. If you are operating portable, the ability to tune the NOAA weather stations (and receive weather alerts) keeps you aware of local conditions.

VHF/UHF OPERATION

I have a small HT, but once I pick up an appropriate antenna, I am looking forward to having a low power base station for 2M/70CM. I know very little about D-Star, but plan to give it a try.

THE “MISSING” TUNER

If you plan on using resonant antennas or other types not requiring a tuner, this might seem unimportant. I have used a 60' doublet for portable operation and a tuner is a necessity. Icom has announced a tuner for the 705, MatPlus has another designed for the 705, and the Elecraft T1 works well with the 705. Emtech's ZM2 is a manual tuner which is also said to work well.

SUMMARY

At \$1,300, the Icom 705 is relatively expensive, but it is line with the cost of the Elecraft KX2/3 packages and these radios are pretty popular among QRP/POTA/SOTA operators. The 705 is a bit heavier and slightly larger than the Elecraft radios. The 705 has a unique mix of features and some of these may prove very desirable.

For more detailed reviews of the 705, I recommend Steve Ford's review in the February, 2021 QST, OH8STN's YouTube channel and K4SWL's website, www.qrper.com.

ICOM 705 VERSUS THE XIEGU G90

After the Icom 705 was announced, I put a deposit on one. As its availability was repeatedly delayed and it became clear that the price was over \$1,000, I had second thoughts.



At the same time, I

became aware of the Xiegu G90, through a QSO and the review in QST. I bought the G90 in April and wrote a review in the NAQCC newsletter soon after. Since then, I've made over 600 contacts with the G90, including several sprints and 7 Parks on the Air (POTA) activations. It's a very capable and fun rig and its 20 watts does a great job. So how does it compare to the 705?

- Both radios are SDRs (software defined radio)
- Both have spectrum displays, although the 705 display is almost as large as the front panel of the G90.
- The G90 does not have full break-in CW
- The 705 has a touch screen display, which allows for a very detailed menu system, with a small number of buttons.
- The G90 spectrum display is fixed at 24 KHz, whereas the 705, like the 7300, allows for adjustment of the span, from +/-2.5 KHz to +/-500 KHz.
- The G90 has 20 watts maximum power compared to 10 watts for the 705

- The G90 has a very capable built-in tuner and a SWR sweep graph that covers 150 KHz; the 705 SWR graph is a bar graph and its smallest increment in 10 KHz.
- The G90 has small buttons and a small screen which may be a deal breaker for some ops.
- The G90 has a CW decoder that is very good (at times) and clueless (at other times)
- Quality control for the G90 is probably not as good as Icom, based on what I have seen on the G90 Google groups. On the other hand, I have not had any problem with my G90, in 10 months of use.
- The G90 sells for roughly \$450 versus \$1,300 for the 705. Add an automatic tuner and the total cost rises to roughly \$1,500 for the total package.

The Icom 705 is a very sophisticated radio, but the Xiegu G90 is still a great value. Which one will I use more? We'll see.

– Rich KC3MIO #9942

MAG LOOP MARK II

BY TOM VE4AKI #8145

Some time back I related my experience with building and using a magnetic loop antenna for portable operation. Although my experience with this antenna was mostly positive some aspects of the design were not.

The previous loop was constructed on a wooden frame using RG-59 coax as the radiating element. The configuration was square, about 28 inches per side. It required some assembly and disassembly to change from transport to operational configuration.

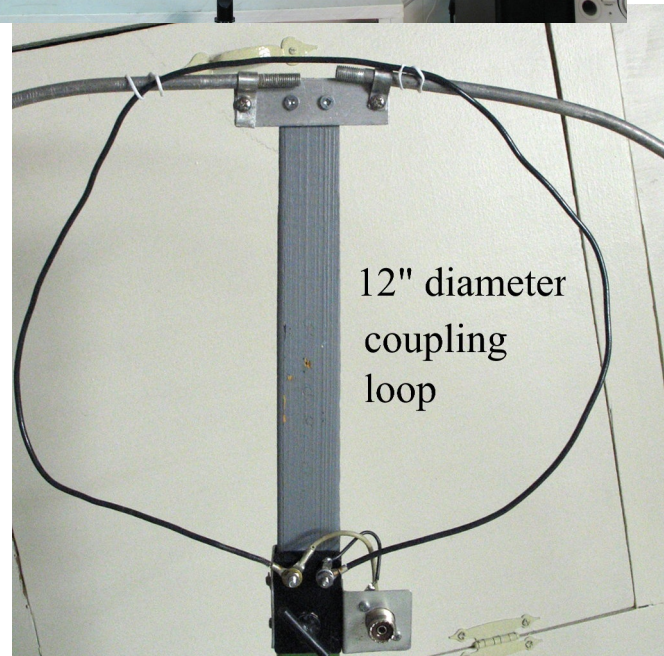
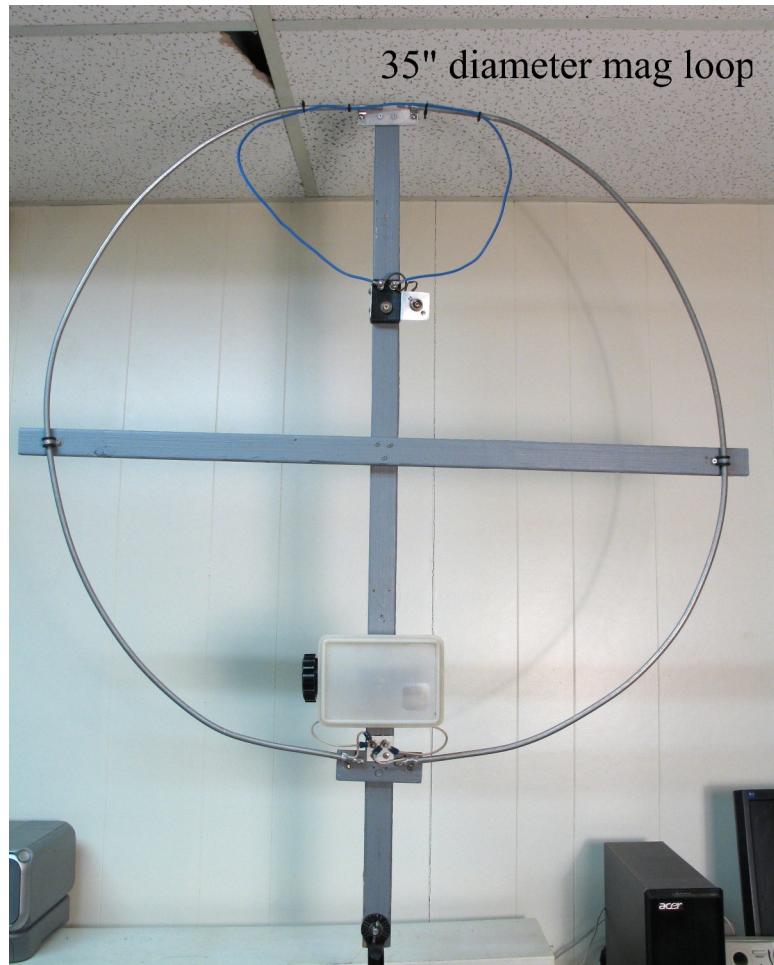
IMPROVEMENTS

My latest version uses a different type of construction. The main loop is formed from a 5/16 inch aluminum rod formed into a 35-inch diameter circle. The loop is mounted on a similar wood cross. The resonating capacitor is an approximately 150 pf. variable of unknown origin. Plate spacing is .075 inch, which should allow for somewhat more power than 5 watts if necessary.

It is mounted at the bottom of the loop in a plastic box with an extended shaft and a large knob for easy tuning. Power is coupled to the loop with a 1 ft. diameter coupling loop of 12 gauge insulated wire. The coupling loop is mounted to a wooden block along with a coax fitting and is adjustable for position.

TESTING

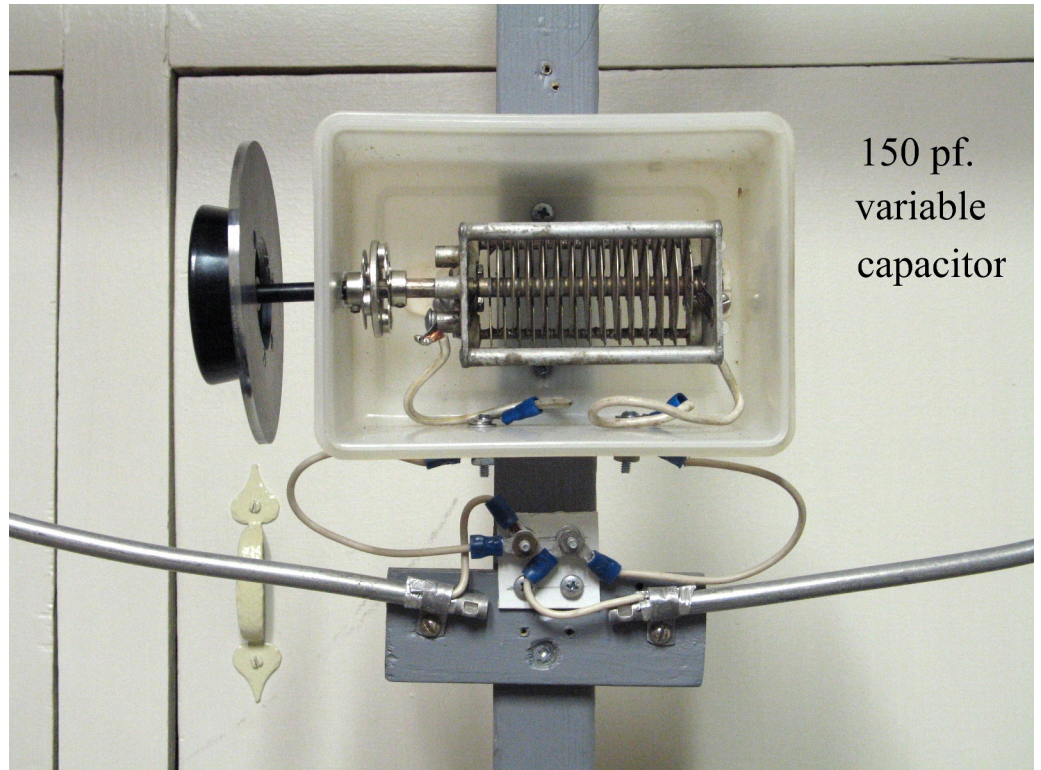
Initial tests conducted indoors, [it is still winter here and today's temperature is *minus* 28°C] were encouraging. Tuning for resonance requires



a delicate touch as there is no vernier on this capacitor. Hand capacitance was not a significant problem. In addition I found that the loop resonated on the 30M band with the capacitor near full engagement. No arcing was experienced at the 10 watt level. Maximum power handling is yet to be tested.

SWR levels of 1.5:1 or less were achieved on 30m, 20m, and 17m.

Further tests outdoors are planned in the near future when the weather permits. Indoor operation at this QTH is fruitless as the house is of stucco construction and signals do not get out well.



73, TOM VE4AKI

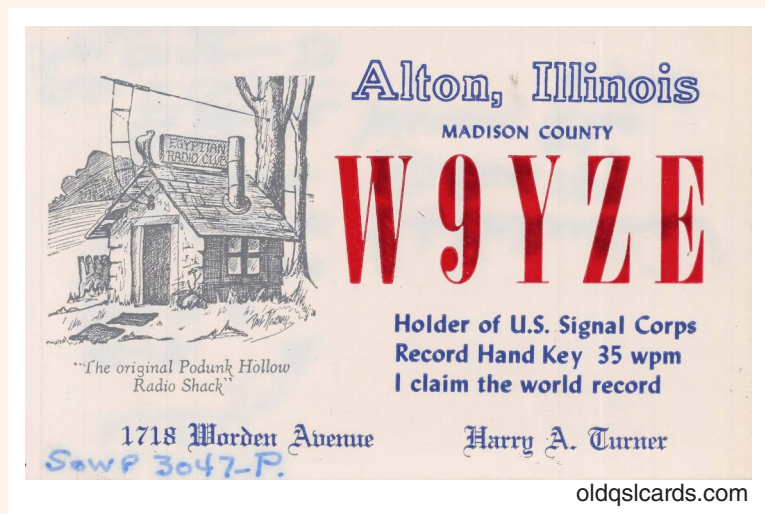


FROM BOB VE6RI #3734

SOMETHING TO AIM FOR

The Morse Code speed record of 35 wpm with a hand telegraph key was accomplished on November 9th, 1942 by Harry A. Turner, W9YZE while in the U.S. Army Signal Corps.

He was listed in the Guinness Book of Records beginning in 1981. Mr. Turner became a silent key on the 21st of December 1994. He was 88.



NAQCC SPRINTS

MARCH SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, March 18, 2021, **0030-0230Z**. That's the evening of Wednesday, March 17 here in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202103.html>.

RULES

Complete sprint rules and instructions on how to submit your log can be found at 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.

FEBRUARY SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202102.html>. High scores can be seen in the tables on the next page.

We would especially like to welcome our first-time regular sprint loggers and hope that they will return to participate often: KF9LI, K6FA, KC3NDU, KW4WA, WR9R, & VA3AMX

February Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	113	106	217	4/17
Participants	147	150	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1213	1193	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	660	726	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	553	459	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	0	0	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	462	418	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	751	767	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	10.7	11.3	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	KN1H	W1PQO
W2	WA2NYY	W2SH	KA2KGP
W3	KD3CA	KC3MIO	K3JZD
W4	WT4U	KC5F	K4JPN
W5	N5GW	KF9LI	KE9DR
W6	K6FA	AI6SL	-
W7	KC7DM	-	-
W8	NF8M	W8CDC	AB8RL
W9	W9CC	WB9HFK	KA9FQG
W0	N0TA	AA0W	NN0SS
Canada	VE3SIF	VA3NU	VE9BEL
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	WA2FBN	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	AA2MX	KJ4R	W4EDN
W5	NA5N	WB4BIN	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	N0DA	N7QR	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	KD0V	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1ND	KB1M	K1IX
W2	WA1GWH	K2OID	N2ESE
W3	NR3Z	-	-
W4	K4KBL	K4BAI	WB8LZG
W5	WI5H	K5WX	N5MHI
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	N8HZM
W9	WR9R	AB9BZ	-
W0	N8LA	N0RZ	KC2MJT
Canada	VE3DQN	-	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	W6GY	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	KF9LI	K6FA	KC3NDU
BUG	KW4WA	-	-
K/K	WR9R	VA3AMX	-
PRIZE DRAWING WINNER			
N5MHI			

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.

Number of Sprints	Members
50+	KF7WNS KD3CA N2CN KB0ETU NF5U K2YGM AA7CU KC7DM NQ2W WI5H WA1GWH WB4OMM KB1M AA0W N8QY WY3H WA2FBN VE3DQN NN0SS K6CSL W5UAA WB1GYZ WB9HFK WK6L KC2EGL VE3GNU K4ORD AB8FJ K2HT KJ4R N7QR KB4QQJ
75+	AA9L K4NVJ NO2D AK3X NA4O KA9FQG N5GW VE3FUJ KN1H WD0K KQ1P N8BB N4MJ K9OSC K6MGO N8LA N8APO K9EYT
100+	K1IEE W4DUK KE5YUM N2ESE WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y KD2MX N0TA K4KRW WB8ENE
125+	KU4A K4BAI NF8M K3RLL K4JPN K2CWM N4FI KD0V
150+	W2SH WB8LZG W9CC N8XMS
175+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

SPRINT SOAPBOX

K3RLL - 1960 E.F. Johnson Speed-X bug to K3 to my HOA non-approved stealth wire on garage roof. It makes me appreciate each and every skilled op who hears me. Big signal here tonight was Larry W9CC. Very high noise level tonight. Sorry for those I missed. I was trying. 72/73 ... Don

K4KBL - Wow what a night !!! 40 meters was great to start with stations N0DA ID, KF9LI NM, N0RS KS and KK7A ID being worked. It was an all time high for me with a combined 40 contacts on 40 and 80 meters. Can't say enough about the HyEndFed antenna. Hope all had a great time.... Best 72'

W1ND - This was a challenging Sprint. Noise here S5-S7 at times. Had to turn off all the lights in the house, including near my rig (that made for some fun operating). Lots of SKCC folks out. Only one 40M contact, can't wait for Spring & Summer when I get two more bands up here. Finally worked Jerry (K4KBL) He peaked at 589 in the QSO just before me. Another fun one.

W3TTT - I think that this is a personal best for me. Bands were great! I hope that everyone had as much fun as I did. RBN had me hitting WA TX and Canary Islands - 5 watts! Fantastic. Started on 40 and called CQ. When getting no more answers, I switched to 80 and it was hoppin'. Rig was an FT-891 cranked down to the lowest power - five watts of course. Ant was my "vertical" wire into a tree. It actually slopes at abt 45 degrees, so who can tell what the rad pattern would be. Power was frm a battery but we don't get extra points for that, do we?



NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY, K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: FLUFFERNUTTER

If you are not from the Northeastern part of the country, the Fluffernutter may not be familiar. If you are, it may bring back childhood memories of a tasty treat. Marshmallow Fluff, a sweet, sticky blend of corn syrup, dried egg white, sugar and vanilla flavoring is one of the costars of the Fluffernutter. Take two slices of white bread ... spread one with peanut butter ... spread the other with Marshmallow Fluff. Stack the slices and you are done. Some adventuresome folks may add a banana to the mix or maybe even some bacon, but that is not really traditional and strictly optional.

CHOMP LIKE AN EGYPTIAN

The idea for marshmallow began in ancient Egypt. The sap of the marsh mallow plant was flavored with honey to make a candy treat. In the 19th century French pharmacists created a medicinal candy, made from marsh mallow sap to ease throat irritations. It became popular and was consumed as a treat. Confectioners jumped on board later in the 19th century and used gelatin instead



of sap to mass produce marshmallows. Frostings and sauces made by melting marshmallows soon followed.

In 1910 Marshmallow Fluff appeared at local ice cream parlors and soda fountains as a topping for ice cream sundaes. Whitman's, of chocolate sampler box fame, first offered Whitman's Marshmallow Whip in 1913. The Curtis Marshmallow Factory's Snowflake Marshmallow Creme followed in 1914.

THE MOTHER OF INVENTION

Co-owner Emma Curtis did a lot of marketing, suggesting dozens of uses for their product. One was a peanut butter and marshmallow sandwich, possibly giving birth to the fluffernutter.

Archibald Query developed a special formula for marshmallow cream in 1917 and sold it to the Durkee-Mower Co. They named their product Toot Sweet Marshmallow Fluff and were selling it by 1927. Query was from Somerville, MA and in recognition of his contribution, the city began the "What the Fluff" festival in 2006. For those of you who were wondering, October 8 is now the official "National Fluffernutter Day."

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The Collins Radio Company name brings to mind a rugged, high end, quality radio with a price tag to match. They were pioneers of some of the first early HF transceivers. Are you thinking KWM-1? Good guess, but roll the clock back to July 1945...

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202104.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGE

The deadline for submissions for our February *Nerf Football Challenge* is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202102.html> and final results will be posted on that page shortly after the 10th of the month.

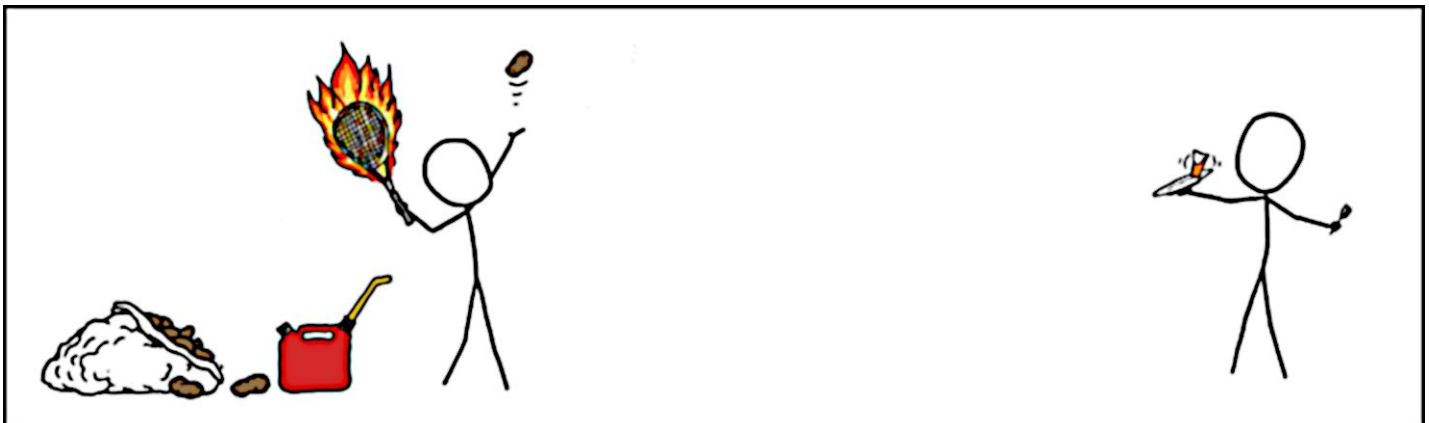
CHALLENGE HONOR ROLL

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

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	AK3X KJ4R W3IQ VE3DQN KU4A AH6AX KD0V K9OSC WB4OMM N1JI KA5PVB WY3H VE3HUR KI4IO N1LU N4OW WY7N KD2MX KB1M
50+	VE3FUJ PA9CW WI5H NF1U N9SE G3JFS WA2FBN
75+	PA0XAW
100+	K1IEE K1YAN
125+	
150+	K3WWP W2JEK N8XMS



MAKING HASHBROWNS



NAQCC AWARDS

You may already be a winner! NAQCC has an extensive list of awards. Check your log to see if you're close, or just need to submit. Complete details can be found at <http://naqcc.info/awards.html>.

FEATURED AWARDS:

30-30

The 30-30 Award is presented as an alternative to the QSO-A-Day Award for those who for one reason or other just can't get on the air each and every day even for such a short period as a month. Note the new DX endorsement.

Time Frame For Qualifying QSO's:

January 1, 2006 0000Z through the present

Basic Award Premise:

Make 30 QSO's on 30 meters during a calendar month.

Categories:

- A - Single Month
- B - Three Months (30-30 Magnum)

QSOs:

Rag chew and DX QSO's are acceptable. Just sitting on the County Hunters Net frequency and racking up QSO's is not permissible. However, you may count a maximum of two QSO's from the CHN each month.

Other:

You can earn as many as 12 Single Month awards per year or as many as 4 30-30 Magnum awards per year. The months for the Magnums do not have to be consecutive. Once a month is used for a Magnum, that month cannot be used again for a future Magnum. That is if you use Jan-Feb-Apr for a Magnum, you can't use Jan, Feb, or Apr for any future Magnums.

If you earn a 30-30 for a single month and get a certificate, you may use that month toward one Magnum award as well.

RECENTLY ISSUED AWARDS:

1000 MPW

Nr	Call	Worked	MPW	Award Date	Notes & Antenna
0572	VK5GG	W7RM	2,835	03/02/21	End fed wire
0571	VK5GG	N7DD	2,754	03/02/21	End fed wire

Alphabet Prefix Award - USA: 50 prefixes minimum

Call	Total	Date updated
KC0ZLR	54	01/04/21



Awards earn you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.



PORTABLE FLORIDA Ops 2020— PART 3

BY GREGG, WB8LZG #1444

THE CONTINUING SAGA OF A WANDERING QRP OPERATOR

IN THIS EPISODE: THE STORY OF “SLINGSHOT SLIM”

After two months of using my portable vertical setup, I was ready for something better. I had filled nearly three pages in the logbook, but the contacts were coming hard and I was missing many QSOs. Many of them could hear me, but never getting my whole call. It was high time I remedied that situation with a better antenna.

I set my sights on the lone pine tree in the yard. In my “go kit” I had 75 feet of 22-gauge wire. The small gauge being primarily for stealth.

With well over 40 years of Field Days, and many other portable ops under my belt, I’m quite accomplished at getting lines and antennas in trees.

WRIST ROCKET

I prefer using a “bow n arrow” for accuracy, but those items were too large to pack in the car. This trip I would use my trusty “wrist rocket.” I rounded up the slingshot, sinkers, fishing line, and twine. A quick survey of the tree and surrounding area showed all clear. No eagles, gators, or other critters in the way.

I unwound a bunch of fishing line neatly so nothing would obstruct my sinkers flight. I got the sinker nestled in the breach, took aim, and let ‘er fly. The first shot was a dud ! It barely went 25 feet. It was evident that I had not used this method in a while.



“Slingshot Slim” aiming for the ionosphere

My second shot had the height, but missed the limb I was aiming for, and I lost a sinker in the process. No time or sinkers left for practice shots. I thought about my old pal Murphy, as I attached the last spare sinker, and hoped he would not show up today. The third time was a “charm,” as I lofted the line over one of the top branches.

STEALTH WIRE

Soon I had some twine up high in the tree and attached one end of my antenna wire. The 22-gauge wire was almost invisible as I hoisted it up right to the top. I tied off the twine and carefully pulled the other end of the wire over the house. I did not want to break it. The small gauge wire isn’t very strong, but it’s practically invisible. Don’t know why I choose 75 feet of wire, must have been what was left on the roll, but it was the



The feed point with 25' of RG58 connected, looking up to the NW

Then went on to work OH, NC, PA, and IN, all with good signal reports. Looks as though I had a winner. The real test was going to be in the upcoming NAQCC sprint.

THE REAL TEST

I had managed only four QSOs in the last sprint, so I had high expectations of doing better now that I had an improved antenna.

On the eve of the sprint, I tuned up on 40-meters. Sure enough, I was not disappointed, my anticipation turned into "QRP joy" as I logged 15 QSOs on 40 and 80 meters in about 1½ hours, during the January 21 sprint.

perfect length. I attached a BNC connector with alligator clip at the corner of the porch. I tied a short piece of twine to the loose end and anchored it to a nearby palm tree. The top was up about 50-55 feet high and the line sloped down at 45 degrees to the feed point right above the station location about ten feet from the ground. I hastily connected the coax and ran inside to test it out.

"807" TIME

The next day, with a successful sprint under my belt, it was time to celebrate my good fortune with friends. The neighbors were having happy hour so I joined in and had a cold 807 and a few laughs.

My efforts proved very fruitful, as I powered up the rig and the speaker jumped to life with loud signals!

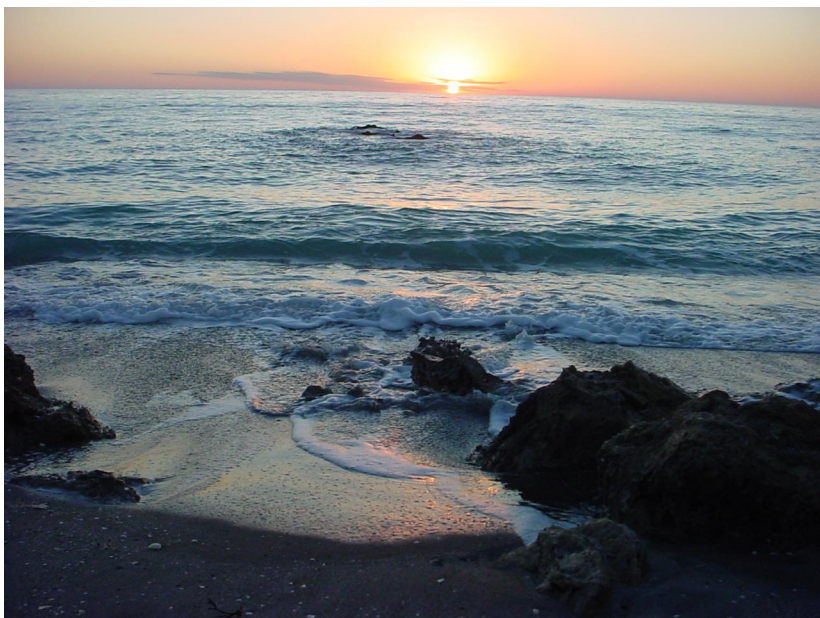
ON THE AIR

Now the big question. Would it load up? A quick run through the bands. 80, 40, 30, 15, and 10 meters all tuned up beautifully. 20 meters had a 3-1 SWR, but I worked this out by adding a couple feet of "counter-poise" wire on the bottom end.

It tuned perfectly on 30 meters, so I gave it a try. I answered a "CQ" from 1-land. I was grinning ear to ear as I logged KM1CC, the Marconi Cape Cod ARC station. So far so good.



Having a cool "807" with my buddies to celebrate my antenna work



The XYL and I took the rest of the afternoon “off.” We went to the beach in Venice, where we searched for sharks teeth in the sand, had another “807,” and relaxed as the sun went down.

“Tune in” next time for more “Monkey shines” and radio fun with your so-journing QRP operator.

73, Gregg WB8LZG

A beautiful way to finish out the day
Photo credit courtesy of my XYL, Vicki Mulder

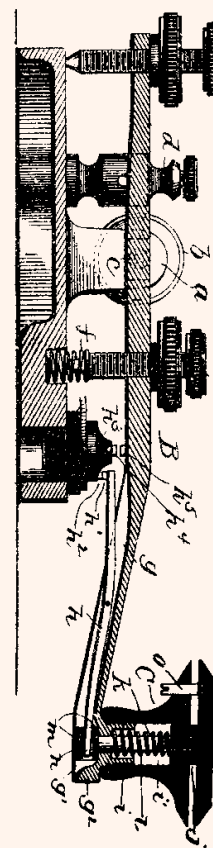
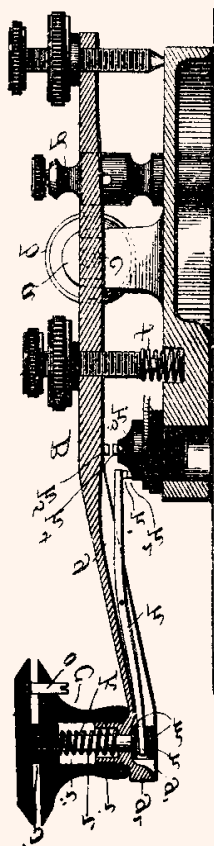


EVER WORK A DOUBLE QSO?

I believe the most common cause of [not-in-log QSO] errors is someone working another station very close in frequency to you, and the timing of the exchange being such that you think he is working you instead of the other station. That has happened to me at least a couple times in my long contesting history.

I have even worked two stations simultaneously a few times. Both were near the same frequency, and when I answered one of their CQ's, they both came back to me, sent their info, and then both received my info when I sent it.

—John K3WWP #0002 (Jan 2008)



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 Mark, W8EWH.

NAQCC Net Schedule				
March 14 changes for Daylight Time in red				
Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Nets (FRN)	Sunday	Monday		
	4PM PST 5 PM PDT	0000 Z	5332 kHz (ch1) Alt = 5348kHz	60m JB NR5NN (CA)
	5PM PST 6 PM PDT	0100 Z	3554 kHz	80m Rick N6IET (CA)
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7PM CST 7PM CDT	Tuesday 0100 Z 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30PM CST 7:30PM CDT	Tuesday 0130 Z 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 4 PM PST 6 PM PDT	Friday 0000 Z 0100 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (WA)
The 1 Land QRS Net (1LND)	This net is suspended Feb–March 2021 as Ed K1RID looks to find a new day/time			

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 QRQ ROUND TABLE NETS (FRN)

Sunday evenings 4:00 PM PST / 5PM PDT, which is Monday 0000 UTC, on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)
 Sunday evenings 5:00 PM PST / 6PM PDT, which is Monday 0100 UTC, on 3554 kHz +/-
 60m NCS - JB NR5NN (CA); 80m NCS - Rick N6IET (CA)

NEW SIGNAL REPORTING SYSTEM?

I (Rick, N6IET), proposed a new signal reporting system that wasn't well received. But I want to bounce it off the readers of this newsletter.

Since the T of RST is no longer useful information on CW, because 99.99% of all rigs use either batteries or well-filtered power supplies, My proposal is to substitute N for background noise level as the 3rd digit. If the S is based on S-meter readings, then the N would also be based on S-meter readings (or some estimate thereof), and one could then derive an estimate of signal-to-noise ratio by subtracting N from S and multiplying by 6 dB to get signal-to-noise ratio in decibels, as now often indicated for the various digital modes and the Reverse Beacon Network, as well as WebSDR stations.

Yes, for most purposes, the only important thing is the R for readability. But many of us are also interested in how well our antennas are working and how strong our signals are compared to last week, or what the propagation conditions are. I often hear people giving an RS or RST but then mentioning what their background noise is in S-units. So why not just include all that information in one RSN report? Simple! Just sayin'.

THE NAQCC FARNSWORD QRQ CW ROUND TABLE NETS ...

... promote head copying skills while encouraging participants to send good, properly-spaced code at 21-25 wpm. We typically go two rounds after check-ins, including signal reports and topical commentary about the weather, the pandemic, recent contests or other CW events, antenna experimentation and/or catastrophes, and HF QRP and portable CW operations.

Anybody who can copy and send at least 15 wpm is welcome to participate – you don't have to be a member of NAQCC.

We want to emphasize the importance of "warming up" off the air prior to each net or CW session on the air to reduce errors, which tend to severely interfere with head copy. I use my sidetone and keyer set to my anticipated speed (or slower, at first) to send the alphabet followed by a pangram (sentence using every Morse alpha character at least once), error-free, if possible, by being especially mindful during the exercise, and that really helps me.

**72, 73, and 77,
Rick N6IET
JB NR5NN (by proxy)**

FRN/60 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - JB NR5NN NCS Sunday 4pm PST (Monday 0000 UTC) on 5332 kHz (Ch 1)

Feb 01 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, W6MK, WJ7S, N6IET, N6VN, AI6SL, K6GVG

Feb 08 - QNS (8) N6IET NCS, NR5NN, K6JJR, N6VN, KW6G, W6MK, K6GVG, AI6SL

Feb 15 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, KW6G, N6IET, N6VN, W6MK, WJ7S, K6GVG, AI6SL

Feb 22 - QNS (9) NR5NN NCS, K6JJR, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6VN, W6MK, KW6G, WJ7S, N6IET

FRN/80 FarnsWord QRQ Round Table Net QNS - Rick N6IET NCS**Sunday 5pm PDT (Monday 0100 UTC) on 3553 kHz±**

Feb 01 - QNS (9) N6IET NCS, KW6G, K6JJR, N6VN, K6GVG, W6MK, AI6SL, N6KIX, WJ7S

Feb 08 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, NR5NN, K6JJR, KW6G, K6GVG, AI6SL

Feb 15 - QNS (6) N6IET NCS, KW6G, AI6SL, K6JJR, W6MK, K6GVG

Feb 22 - QNS (7) N6IET NCS, NR5NN, K6GVG, AI6SL, N6VN, K6JJR, W6MK

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)Monday evenings 7:00 PM CST / **7PM CDT**, which is Tuesday 0100 UTC / **0000 UTC**, on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)

Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

FEB 02 - QNI(4) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA N4NN AC5ES

Conditions were poor last night with some SSB QRM on top of the QSB. Welcome to Dwain from AR. First time on the net I think. Hope for better propagation next week for sure.

FEB 09 - QNI(2) NCS KA5TJS KE5YGA

Andy was the only check in tonight. We had another station try but just too weak. He stayed QRP and was 119.

FEB 16 - No net tonight. Too cold in the garage. Next week I hope.

FEB 23 - Sorry, no net tonight. 5 days without power or water and clearing tree limbs knocked me out. Finally got power Sunday afternoon about 7PM. We will be there next week I sure hope.

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)Monday evenings 7:30 PM CST / **7:30PM CDT**, which is Tuesday 0130 UTC / **0030 UTC**, on 7031 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas)

FEB 01 - QNI W0CC

QRN S-8 Could only hear very few stations on the CW portion of the 40 meter band. Next week will be better!

FEB 08 - QNI(2) W0CC, N4KS Ken had a good signal from Florida!

FEB 15 - QNI W0CC

Received an email, after the Net, from AC0I who thought that he heard the station but he had too much local QRM. Hopefully, Mike will try next week!

FEB 22 - QNI(2) W0CC, KB7KY

Dave had a very weak signal (1-1-9); however, he did an EXCELLENT job picking out my signal! Brent, WT4U emailed that he could hear my signal but, I was not able to copy his. Next week should be exciting!

NAQCC PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 4:00 PM PST / **6PM PDT**, which is Friday 0000 UTC / **0100 UTC** on 3556.5 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

FEB 05 - PNW QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, K7JUV, WB4SPB, KI7SJE

FEB 12 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, N0DA, W7ANM, N7TB

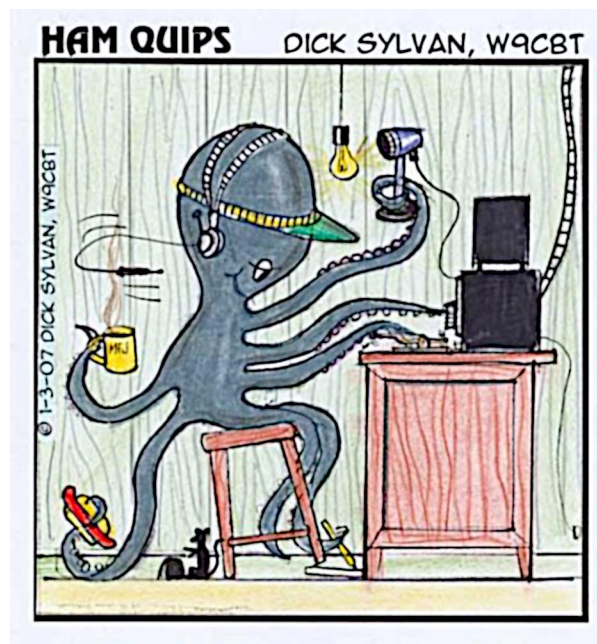
FEB 19 - PNW QNI (8) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, N0DA, W7ANM, K7JUV, KI7SJE

FEB 26 - PNW QNI (7) NCS KE7LKW, AD7BP, WB4SPB, WB7WHG, W7ANM, K7JUV, KI7SJE

NAQCC 1 LAND QRS NET (1LND)

Main NCS Ed K1RID (Maine)

The 1LND Net suspended operations in February and will continue to suspend operations in March as Ed looks to find a new day/time to hold this net.



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.

NAQCC CHAPTER NEWS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has six local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, 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 Steve WB4OMM.

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 Steve, 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 Please contact call sign trustee, Club VP John KK4ITX, to schedule the use of N3AQC.

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/967110089994401/>.

WEEKI WACHI PARK

Spring Hill, Florida
February 26, 2021

Arrived at the park at 8:45AM and had chat with some of the Spring Hill ARC members. Lenny, WS8O had his RV and was setting up to work a few stations on 4n0m SSB and then planned to move on to another park. Lenny was interested in logging as many parks for POTA as he can.

I set up my 2 20m HamSticks as dipole on 10 ft tripod and my IC705 on battery and Z100plug LDG auto tuner for CW. Got all setup around 9:15 and started listening, but 20m was kinda dead. I then decided to put up my 40m OCF dipole on 15 ft flag pole. When I got it put up both 20 & 40m started to improve.

I had antenna switch to switch between 20m HamStick and 40m OCF dipole and on 20m did not see much difference. Of course the OCF would work much better on 40m.

Log for N9EE

All QSOs on CW

Time	Call	his RST/mine	Freq	Comments
0955	NM1I	559/559	14.033	Butch in MA, 400W K3, Vertical
1011	KD8ZM	599/569	7.035	Brady, AL, FT891
1030	KD1RT	539/569	14.062	MA, POTA KFF2438
1043	IK3VUT	529/?	14.023	he tried, but could not get my complete call
1107	N1LJQ	579/579	14.039	Bill, CT, IC7300 100W, Hustler Vertical
1125	KV0I	549/?	14.032	he replied, but could not get my call
1130	WB8CCR	599/539	7.054	Art, local here
1145	NY2PO	599/449	14.021	Pat, NW New York
1151	HA5JA	559/?	14.006	got only part of my call
1156	WB2GAI	599/559	14.051	Ron, NJ, FT1kmp, 75W, 3 ele Yagi





NAQCC FLORIDA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Florida Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Nikki, KM4SBQ.

The Florida Chapter website is <http://wb4omm.com/naqcc-fl-chapter>.

On Friday, February 19, 2021 the Florida Chapter of NAQCC arrived at another one of our favorite parks. We held our latest “Parkpedition” at Gemini Springs Park in DeBary, Florida.

Gemini Springs is 212 acres and was purchased in 1994 through the efforts of Volusia County, the Trust for Public Lands, the St. Johns River Waste Management District and the Florida Communities Trust. Approximately 6.5 million gallons of sparkling fresh water bubble up each day from the two springs.

Gemini Springs is between the town of Enterprise, which was a busy center of



commerce and government in the early days of the Florida frontier, and the city of DeBary. The land passed between several hands before it was purchased by its last private owners in 1969, Sandra and Charles Gray.

We arrived between 9:30am and 10:00am to clear skies and a nice breeze. As we were leaving, the rain started to fall. We got out of there just in time!

This trip we had a total of 4 members/operators in our group to include: Steve WB4OMM #5274; Rick

AA4W #1628, Steve K8SR #10527 and Nikki KM4SBQ #8749.

Rick AA4W #1628

Rick's K1 to a Buddistick Vertical was able to work 3 members on 20M:

WA2NYY NY #6388, KB1M NH #8058, and VE3DQN ON #5846



STEVE WB4OMM #5913 AND STEVE K8SR #10527

Steve's Elecraft KX-3 and a ground mounted Hamstick vertical on 20M and 40M. Steve was able to work 5 members and 1 non member for a whopping 6 contacts.

40M: K4KBL GA #8806, N5GW MS #5353 (worked twice, 1st at 100W and then at 5W),

20M: VE3DQN ON #5846, K2CWM NJ #3457, AJ8S OH #6829 and K1PUG CT.



NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Long Island Chapter unless otherwise credited.

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

No Report

NAQCC ILLOWA CHAPTER



Items in this section are from the Illowa Chapter unless otherwise credited.

Questions and comments should go to Tim, N9BIL.

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

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.

The WPA Chapter has suspended all its activities until further notice because of the virus situation.

NAQCC 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



BUG BRAINSTORM

BY GENE N5GW #5353

Having recently noticed a large number of bug user members of various CW clubs, I decided to try one instead of using my iambic keyer or home brew straight key. I had not used a semi-automatic key since owning a Japanese-made "coffin" bug back in the 1960s; therefore I was apprehensive about a conflict with the timing of my iambic keyer's self-completing dits and dahs.

TWO-FISTED

Then I hit upon an idea: when using the bug, send with my left hand; when using the iambic or straight key, send with my right hand! Hopefully my brain would be able to keep the two separated.

So after thinking it over a few weeks, a leap of faith occurred—I acquired a left-handed bug.

When the bug arrived I had problems right away: the dits came out much too fast, requiring me to add magnet weights to the end of the arm to slow it down to about 13 wpm. Also I had to fiddle with the adjusting screws to get the Morse to sound right. However after several days of practice, I built up enough courage to put it on the air. Several QSOs later I was feeling more confident, and after a couple of weeks on the bug, I felt that I had mastered it, at least at slower speeds.

...AND OF TWO MINDS

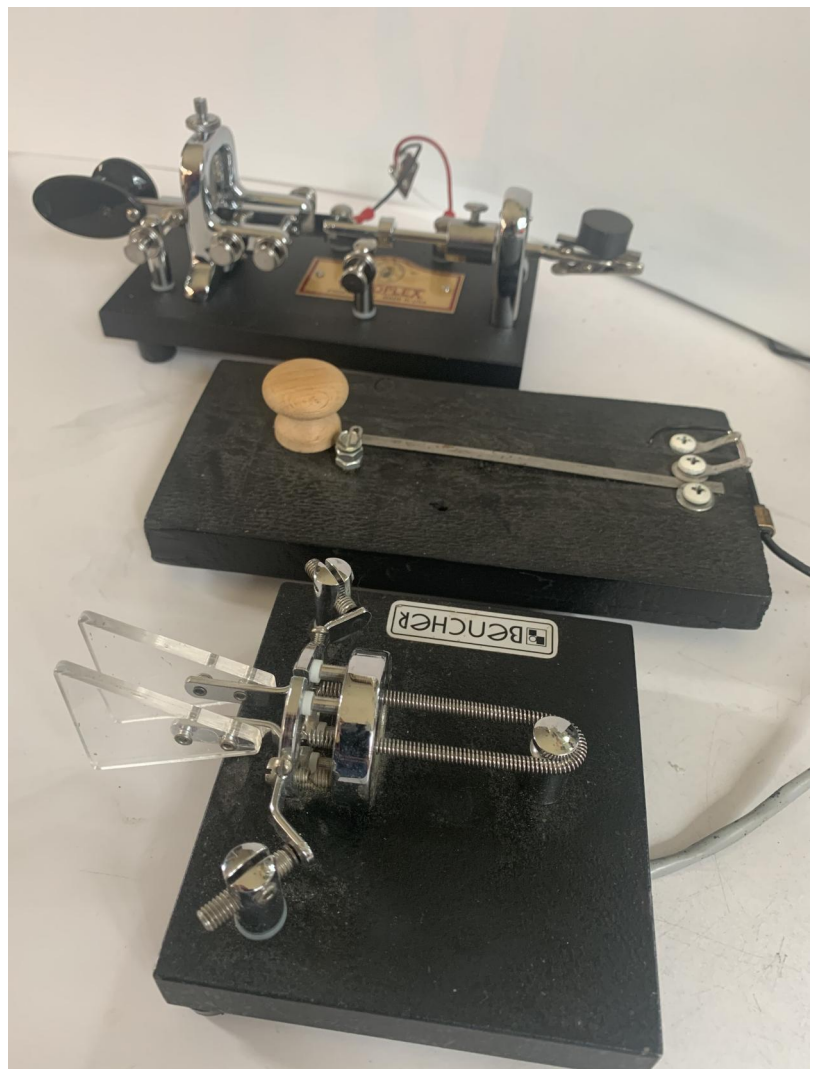
Then I hit another problem: I was having difficulty going back to my iambic because of the difference in timing! For-

tunately, I found that alternating between the two types of different-handed keys for several days allowed my subconscious mind to be able to separate the two.

Now I can send Morse satisfactorily using three different kinds of keys!

The pic shows the three keys—I hope everyone can copy me!

73, Gene N5GW #5353



NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Amateur radio has something for everyone. For a growing number of folks, the challenge of "doing the most with the least" makes QRP (and QRPp) CW operating the greatest thrill available in amateur radio. The North American QRP CW Club Inc. exists to promote and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes, an exciting facet of the hobby.

The NAQCC provides numerous opportunities for hams to operate in QRP/CW activities. For contest types we have a popular monthly 2-hour sprint that runs at relatively low CW speeds and at a fairly relaxed pace to increase code skills and experiment with different antennas. Three special sprints also take place during the year for 160-meter and QRPp (less than 1W of power) 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, sharing information on low power Morse operations. 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 these web pages and we are more than willing to answer any questions about QRP, CW, and simple wire antennas 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.

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.



NAQCC CONTACTS

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NAQCC CW Nets	Mark W8EWH	mark.yergin@gmail.com

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

The North American QRP CW Club Inc., is organized exclusively for scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, and the Georgia Nonprofit Corporation Code to advance, promote, and pursue designing, information sharing, building, and operation of low power, Morse Code enabled Amateur Radio (FCC Part 97) equipment with simple wire antennas for both emergency and personal communications purposes. No dues or membership fees - open to any licensed radio amateur or shortwave listener (SWL) worldwide with interest in CW/QRP operation. Encouraging the use of CW and helping all hams increase CW speed and proficiency is a top club priority. Club activities are dedicated to QRP/QRPp operation, using CW and emphasize using simple wire antennas.

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 be sent to:

Club President Steve Szabo, WB4OMM
536 Central Park Blvd
Port Orange, FL 32127 USA

