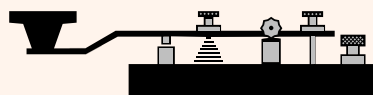


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 298 • APRIL 2023



KEY CLICKS

• **IN THIS ISSUE**

The Prez Sez... a lot about soapboxes, swap & shop, 30m, chapters, awards, a board meeting, and time; QRP tips on line loss; More places to recover your missing watts; Ed N2GSL logs a month of varied operation; Lots of QSO Party action; Some friendly awards; Take a dip in this month's Challenge; QRP rig poll results; An excursion left by the roadside; Sprint reports; Soapbox activity; Nets; A chapter trip report; and more.

• **EIGHT QSO PARTIES THIS MONTH**

New Mexico, Georgia, Nebraska, Michigan, Ontario, North Dakota, Quebec, & Florida. Even if you're not chasing a high score, it's a great chance to get on the air. QRP goes a long way, particularly later in the events when folks are hungry for new callsigns.

• **BOARD HELP WANTED**

We're short a President, Secretary, and SE Director. If you're willing to serve, drop Interim President John, KK4ITX a line at **JLEAHY00@YAHOO.COM**

• **YOUR NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS NEEDED**

Please take a few minutes to tell us about your latest excursion, that thing you built, your favorite rig, or something funny. As long as it relates to QRP CW. Send it to Paul KD2MX: kd2mx@arri.net

• **UPDATE YOUR MEMBER INFO**

Any time you change your QTH, email, or callsign, you can update your member info with a simple online form. First, check your information at <http://naqcc.info/memberlist.php> to make sure the rest of the fields are correct and then fill out the member update form here: http://naqcc.info/member_updates.html

IN THIS ISSUE

Key Clicks	1
Prez Sez	2
QRP Op Tips	3
Power Loss Facts	3
A Month of QRP	4
QSO Party Report	6
Awards	9
Letter Challenge	10
Member Poll	13
Roadside Expediiton	14
Sprints	16
Nets	19
Chapters	21
Sponsors	25
About The NAQCC	26
Contacts	27

THE PREZ SEZ...

I always enjoy reading the **Sprint Soapbox**. Last month I think there were 77 comments which is a fairly good number but always could be better. It's interesting to read about the equipment used and it's refreshing to know that sometimes you're not the only one with a problem.

Overall there were 151 participants up 6 from a year ago it was the 2nd highest in a year. 1,717 QSOs were made, also the 2nd highest in a year. The next Sprint is:

Wednesday, April 12, 2023, 0030-0230 Z (Tuesday, 8:30-10:30pm EDT) see you there!

30m efforts – I have not heard from any of the OPs on their 30m quest yet, for me it has been a flop due to my S-9+ noise which should go away as soon as the Snowbirds return North.

Our QRP Swap and Shop is managed by Michael Brown. This is a free service to our members and saves buyer/seller 13.25% in eBay fees plus sales tax. Make sure to read the listings even if you have everything you need; you don't want to miss a good deal! Look for an email from Michael around the end of the first week of the month, submitting details will be included.

In **Chapter News**, it looks like we may soon have a new chapter coming on board. It takes only a few OPs and a desire to get out and about with some gear, make some contacts, tell a few stories, have lunch and call it a day. If you have a couple of buddies why not try to make a habit of it and share the fun? We would appreciate it if each in your group would spend some time **using the NAQCC call**, just contact the Call Trustee (me) for coordination details. We are always looking for new chapters, only takes a few OPs to make up a team, for more info see the NAQCC Chapter section at the end of this newsletter.

John, KK1X (Awards) reports that he has sent out over 50 certificates for the February Challenge and 60 Sprint certificates.

Our board needs some help: a President, Secretary, and SE Director. These are essentially positions on the NAQCC Board with just a ZOOM Meeting or two a year. Many backend volunteers have been quietly performing all of the regular necessary duties to keep our club ditting away.

The **2023 NAQCC Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors** will be held via Zoom on Saturday, April 29 to elect directors, secretary and president. Any new potential directors will be invited, so please let me know if you have an interest in filling a slot so that I can get an invitation off to you.

This **UTC/EST/EDT/24hr/12hr** time thing causes unnecessary confusion in my old brain so I made up a chart, shown below (shrunk), that helps to keep me on schedule. If you would like a full sized copy just shoot me an email or make yer own!

UTC	EST	EDT	UTC	EST	EDT
	24 / 12 hr	24 / 12 hr		24 / 12 hr	24 / 12 hr
0000Z	1900 / 7pm	2000 / 8pm	1200Z	0700 / 7am	0800 / 8am
0100Z	2000 / 8pm	2100 / 9pm	1300Z	0800 / 8am	0900 / 9am
0200Z	2100 / 9pm	2200 / 10pm	1400Z	0900 / 9am	1000 / 10am
0300Z	2200 / 10pm	2300 / 11pm	1500Z	1000 / 10am	1100 / 11am
0400Z	2300 / 11pm	2400 / 12am	1600Z	1100 / 11am	1200 / 12pm
0500Z	0000 / 12pm	0100 / 1am	1700Z	1200 / 12pm	1300 / 1pm
0600Z	0100 / 1am	0200 / 2am	1800Z	1300 / 1pm	1400 / 2pm
0700Z	0200 / 2am	0300 / 3am	1900Z	1400 / 2pm	1500 / 3pm
0800Z	0300 / 3am	0400 / 4am	2000Z	1500 / 3pm	1600 / 4pm
0900Z	0400 / 4am	0500 / 5am	2100Z	1600 / 4pm	1700 / 5pm
1000Z	0500 / 5am	0600 / 6am	2200Z	1700 / 5pm	1800 / 6pm
1100Z	0600 / 6am	0700 / 7am	2300Z	1800 / 6pm	1900 / 7pm

Don't forget April 18th Tax Day here in the US, always a pleasant day ;-)

HAPPY Easter!!

72/73!
John KK4ITX #7249
VP/NAQCC President



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



TIPS FOR IMPROVING QRP OPERATION

BY GLENN N4MJ #6587

TIP 4 – A BASIC UNDERSTANDING OF LINE LOSS

Having reviewed things that can be controlled via knobs and menus, it is time to discuss a critical item that can make or break a successful QRP station—feedline loss. There are many variables in this factor: the type of line, the length of the line, the condition of the line and connectors. All should all be optimized for success.

It is fair to say that the less expensive the coax the more loss, but there's more to the equation than

just coax. Line length and the frequency being used also come into play.

The longer the transmission line, the more loss incurred, both on reception and transmission. Also, the higher the frequency being used, the higher the loss. This is applicable to any transmission line or type.



FUN FACTS ON POWER LOSS

BY BOB VE6RI #3734

Sources of Loss	Inefficient	Optimized
Cable loss from Transceiver to Antenna Tuner	0.1 dB	0.1 dB
Antenna Tuner	0.7 dB	(no tuner) 0 dB
Feedline to Antenna	0.5 dB	(RG8X (50ft)) 0.39 dB
SWR on Feed Line	(SWR 3:1) 1.25 dB	(SWR 1.25:1) 0.125 dB
Calculations		
Total Power Loss	2.55 dB	0.515 dB
Power Ratio	0.562	0.871
Antenna Efficiency	95%	95%
Power Radiated	5 watts x .562 = 2.81 watts x .95 = 2.66 watts -- this is more than a 15db loss which is significant	5 watts x .871 = 4.35 watts x .95 = 4.13 watts

In the first example, almost half of the power from the PA output is lost! Therefore, it is vital to minimize the power losses for successful QRP operation. If a station can't hear you, then there will be no contact.



A MONTH OF QRP OPERATIONS

BY ED N2GSL #9744

GOAL: OPERATE AND DOCUMENT LOW POWER POSSIBILITIES

As February began, I asked myself what can be accomplished using 5 watts and a wire over the course of a month. During February 2023, 98% of my operating time was spent using 5 watts. The results are in, and the answer is eye-opening for those who are not already die-hard QRP enthusiasts. My mode of choice is CW.

Rigs

At home I used two transceivers, Heathkit HW-9 and Icom IC-718. The IC-718 RF power was set to 5 watts. When in the field activating parks a Venus SW-3B was put to work.

ANTENNAS

The antenna “farm” at home includes: a doublet with each leg about 50ft fed with 450-ohm window line (the center is at about 35ft and the ends slope down to 20ft and are bent into a “Z” to fit the property); an 80-meter EFHW with the station end up at 23ft sloping away up to about 40ft; and a 29ft long end fed random wire vertical with a 9:1 UNUN. In the field a 40-meter EFHW was the main antenna along with Wolf River Coil and Hamsticks.

PLAN

- Document one QRP contact per day.
- Collect data from Parks On The Air activations.
- Summarize the month-long activities.

For the daily contacts the transceiver, band, call, location and the type of contact was recorded. For activations the transceiver, antenna deployed, park, number of unique states / provinces / DX entities, band and number of contacts were recorded.

RESULTS

Basically, the first contact of the day was recorded. For 20 out of the 28 days the Heathkit HW-9 was used. Stations were worked on all bands from 40 to 10 meters with the exception of 17 meters. Contacts were made during the month on 17 meters but these were just not any of the ones documented. Stations were worked in NY, SC, NC, GA, OH, DE, Washington DC, IL, MI, NM, and IN. Ontario was also contacted. DX countries included European Russia, Germany, France, Ukraine, Belgium, Belize, England, Finland, Denmark and Poland.

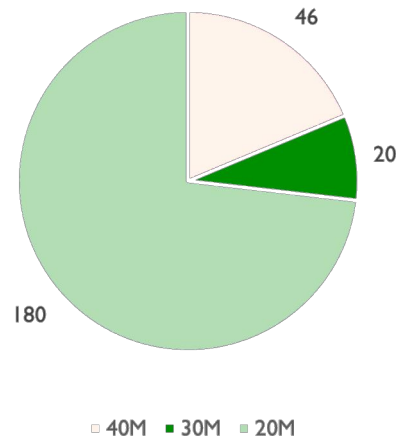


Hunting POTA stations and answering DX station CQ's accounted for many of the documented contacts. There was one ragchew/SKCC QSO and a QRP to QRP QSO with Gill, VE3GON, a fellow LICW Club member. Another memorable contact was with SN550E from Poland, a special event station commemorating the 550th anniversary of Nicolaus Copernicus's birth. I casually participated in a few of the Monday Medium Speed Tests as well as the ARRL DX CW contest. I operated about four hours in the SKCC's Weekend Sprintathon. I made 22 contacts worth 674 points. This placed me 13th out of 27 entries in the QRP class.

We have all heard the expression "I can work them if I hear them," well this seemed to true even at 5 watts. There were only few times that I had to move on and not get that park or not work that DX. True, I did not try to work any exotic or rare DX but I did work at least one station split. Ed, N2EC (also a LICW club member) was activating a park in Washington DC. It was first thing in the morning and the POTA hunters did not have much to choose from so he was busy with a small pileup. I tuned a bit off frequency and gave a call. He heard the "N2," sent "N2?" and I filled in the call and we made the exchange.

Nine POTA activations were completed during the month. Three different parks on Long Island were activated. A total of 246 contacts were logged. Sixteen "Park to Park" contacts were made. On average, 27 contacts were completed per activation. The Venus SW-3B is capable of operating on 40, 30 and 20-meters. Here is the breakdown of contacts per band:

Contacts per Band, Activator QSOs



Germany, Spain, and The Azores were among the DX countries contacted from the parks. It is incredible that I have experienced mini-pileups as a POTA activator and it's a thrill to operate a small radio the size of a deck of cards that can fit in your pocket and be able to communicate with folks all over the country and the world.

Overall, the experience was very rewarding. Documenting my QRP activities confirmed that QRP works and can be enjoyed with simple equipment. Am I preaching to the choir?

QRP is not a limitation but a challenge that more operators should embrace.



NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE

BY DON VE3DQN #5846

NAQCC IS THE LIFE OF THE PARTIES

NAQCC ops submitted 255 of the 293 QRP entries, or 87%.

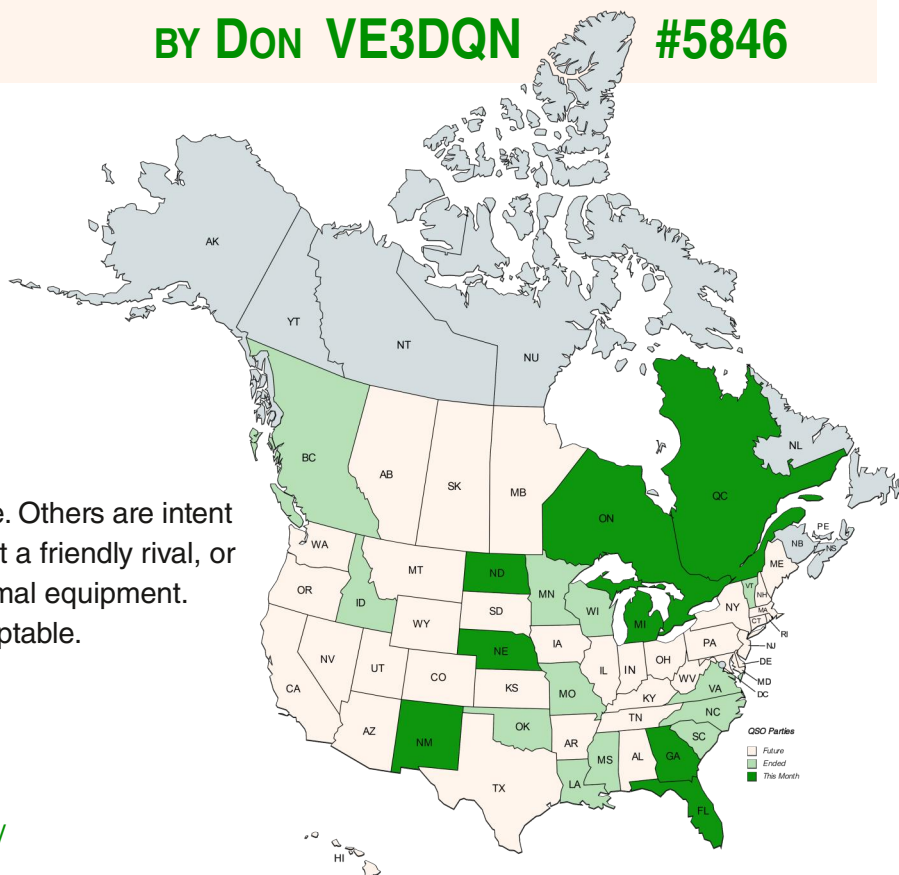
The Challenge is off to a booming start with 38 members making 6,564 QSOs in the first 12 events. Great job!

SET YOUR OWN GOAL

For some, it's beating last year's score. Others are intent on hitting Gold or Platinum, edging out a friendly rival, or working the events with the bare minimal equipment. Just having fun operating is also acceptable.

LEADERBOARD

Complete results at http://naqcc.info/qsoparties_scores.html



Member	Mult	QSOs	Score	Award	Pace
Sean KK9U, #10869	12	877	10,524	Gold	161,441
Lee AA4GA, #5415	12	743	8,916	Silver	136,774
Alan KR4AE, #5847	12	493	5,916	Silver	90,753
Ben AC2YD, #10378	10	534	5,340	Silver	81,917
Steve NI8W, #11335	12	397	4,764	Bronze	73,081
Mike W7LG, #10391	12	324	3,888	Bronze	59,643
Will NQ2W, #4839	12	316	3,792	Bronze	58,170
Brent WT4U, #9019	11	265	2,915	Bronze	44,717
Kevin NN3E, #9851	11	255	2,805	Bronze	43,029
Chris KU4A, #1960	12	221	2,652	Bronze	40,682
Dave AB9BZ, #9309	11	206	2,266	Bronze	34,761
Dick N9EEE, #11389	10	219	2,190	Bronze	33,595
Don VE3DQN, #5846	12	159	1,908	Bronze	29,269
Bob N2EIM, #10373	10	190	1,900	Bronze	29,147
Anthony K8ZT, #412	10	97	970	Bronze	14,880
Robin NG8S, #3261	11	88	968	Bronze	14,849
Rick KYOQ, #9647	6	147	882	Bronze	13,530
Dan W9SAU, #10073	10	86	860	Bronze	13,193
Ernie N2DGQ, #11090	7	112	784	Bronze	12,027

LOW-KEY CONTESTING PRACTICE

QSO Parties bridge the gap between our friendly sprints and “real” contesting. Speeds are generally lower and many of the in-state ops are more interested in filling the log for other goals or the joy of being the “DX” than racking up a high score.

GRAB THAT MULTIPLIER

Even if you can't spend much time on a given event, fire up the rig long enough to grab two quick QSOs to earn the multiplier.

UPCOMING EVENTS

State	Times	IN	Out	Freqs	Links
New Mexico	Apr 8 1400Z to Apr 9 0200Z	RST County	RST ST	1820, 3550, 7045, 14050, 21050, 28050 kHz, 50.095 MHz, 144.09 MHz	rules
Georgia	Apr 8 1800Z to Apr 9 0359Z	RST County	RST ST	1.815, 3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045, 28.045, 50.095.	rules
Nebraska	Apr 15 1300Z to Apr 16 0100Z and Apr 16 1300Z to Apr 16 2200Z	County	ST	35+ kHz up	rules
Michigan	Apr 15 1600Z to Apr 16 0400Z	RST County	RST ST	3.545, 7.045, 14.045, 21.045 and 28.045	rules
Ontario	Apr 15 1800Z to Apr 16 0500Z and Apr 16 1200 to 1800	RST County	RST ST	1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030	rules
North Dakota	Apr 15 1800Z to Apr 16 1800Z	RST County	RST ST	50 kHz up	rules
Quebec	Apr 16 1200Z to Apr 16 2000Z	RST County	RST ST	1.830, 3.530, 7.030, 14.030, 21.030, 28.030	rules
Florida	Apr 29 1600Z to Apr 30 0159Z & Apr 30 1200Z to Apr 30 2159Z	RST County	RST ST	7.020-7.045, 14.025- 14.055, 21.030- 21.050, 28.030- 28.050	rules

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

- Work the QSO Parties. Rules differ slightly by state, so check those. Work at least two stations in each QSO Party.
- Post a summary of your results for each QSO Party to the appropriate page on <https://www.3830scores.com> The links to the submittal forms are on the left side of the page in yellow.
- Under “club” choose “other” and then type in NAQCC. If enough people do that we can get added to the pulldown menu. If you're already committed to another club, don't worry about it. It won't affect our friendly competition, but it's nice to get NAQCC some visibility.
- Some QSO Parties lump CW together with digital or other modes. If that happens, send a note to QSO Party Challenge Manager Don VE3DQN at don@hekman.net and

let him know that you worked strictly CW, or if mixed, how many of your contacts were CW.

- Check the NAQCC Newsletter each month to see how everyone is doing.

NOTES

- Individual QSO Parties will do their own official scoring based on uploaded Cabrillo logs. We're just looking at the summary you post to 3830scores.
- To participate, you must enter as a QRP station. You don't have to limit yourself to CW operation, but only those QSOs will count toward the NAQCC QSO Party Challenge.
- Questions? Read Don VE3DQN's [November article](#) or contact him at: don@hekman.net

QSO PARTY SOAPBOX SAMPLER

Dick N9EEE #11389 I operated "garbage can portable" while visiting family in CA. Unfortunately, I only had an hour and could only work one station, so I didn't qualify for the Challenge. But I did qualify for "the trashiest ham" award.

Don VE3DQN #5846 What I especially enjoyed this weekend was seeing so much activity on 15m and 10m. My four ID QSOs were on those two bands. I couldn't put in as much time as I'd hoped, but still was able to "pad" my total a bit with OkQP contacts.

Dave W0DCX #9611 For the past year, I had a vague notion to get a 1x1 call sign for operating in the 2023 Missouri State QSO Party and to venture out expedition-style to a park in a rarely worked Missouri county. Well, I got the 1x1 call sign, but just couldn't seem to manage the rest of the plan. No worries, I operated as W0C from my home in St. Louis County, running 5 watts from my Yaesu FTDX10 transceiver into my usual multi-band random wire antenna. I really enjoyed myself, racking up 99 QSOs including very faint DX contacts in The Slovak Republic and Germany. A few folks in our local St. Louis QRP Society club did make it outdoors for the event, and it was fun to work some of them during the weekend. Time now to plan for 2024.

Kevin KI4DEF #247 The past weekend's QPs were truly Dickensian. Continuing with my milliwatt quest, I decided to increase flexibility by using a VFO: my Elecraft K1. The K1's minimum power setting of 0.1W provides 250-300 mW RF output, same as my rockbound power in earlier QPs... there were lots of strong signals with accompanying pileups, but weak signals, too. The VFO



Dick N9EEE "garbage can portable"

allowed a version of search-and-pounce—search-and-wait to call OMs after they'd cleared pileups but before they moved on—along a new strategy of wandering around listening for signals near the limit of S/N. Both were surprisingly productive.

Will NQ2W #4839 LAQP - I didn't hear a lot of LA stations. Worked NOAC 4 times as he changed parishes. MSQP - I picked up a few QSOs as I tuned through the bands during breaks from doing chores around the homestead. MOQP - Had fun chasing K5CM as he changed counties. The 1X1 stations were plentiful and busy...had trouble getting through some of the pile-ups. It seemed like there was a new station to work whenever I sat down in front of the radio. The spotting page was quite useful. Very enjoyable!

Lots more soapbox reports at http://naqcc.info/qso parties_soapbox.html

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:

FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Earn points for QSOs with members with more points being assigned to contest/sprint QSOs and especially where you really learn something about who you are working. Or work 200 different members counting each as simply a one-point QSO regardless of type. The choice is yours.

Details:

http://naqcc.info/awards_workedmembers.html

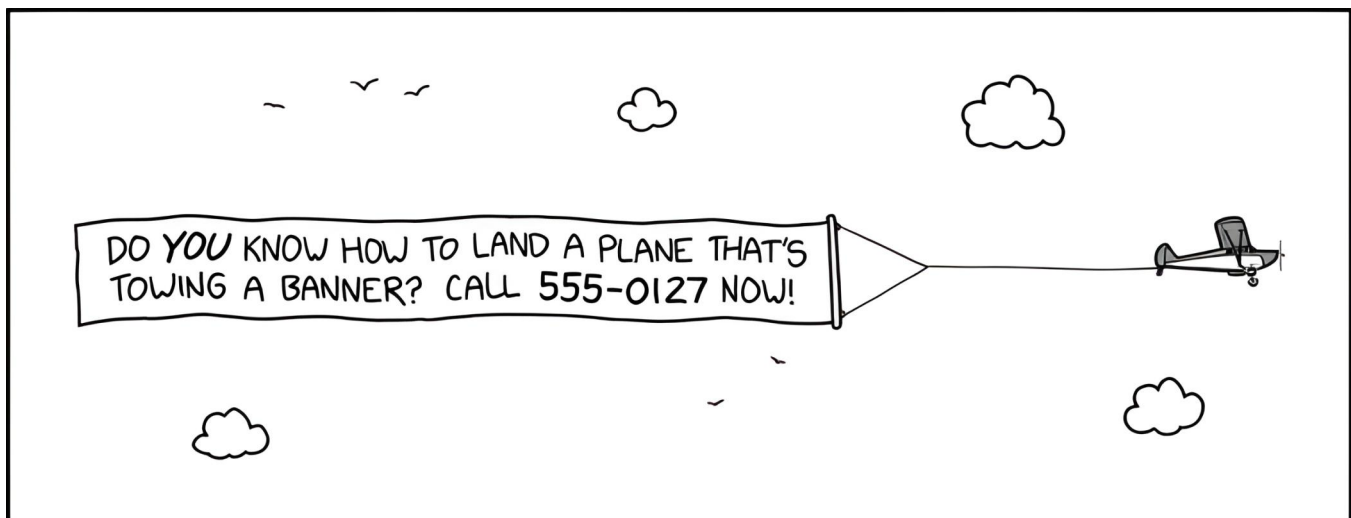
NEW MEMBER AMBASSADOR

Work at least 25 different new members who have joined the NAQCC during the current calendar year. Details:

http://naqcc.info/awards_ambassador.html



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



NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

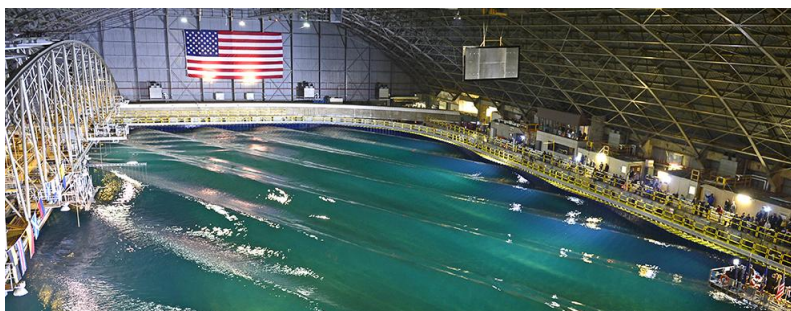
THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: THE MASK FACILITY

You work for the US Navy and your area of responsibility is the fleet of vessels the Navy sails. It is important to determine how a ship will perform at sea.

You could have a prototype of a new design built or take an existing ship and sail it around the world to see how it does in various ocean conditions. That is expensive, time consuming and good luck finding all the various ocean conditions you want to test in.

But what other choice do you have? Make a scale model and head to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Carderock. There you will find the maneuvering and seakeeping basin, aka, the MASK. It is the mother of all swimming pools ... 240 feet wide and 360 feet long and filled with more than 12 million gallons of water.

Its real claim to fame though is the ability to create sea conditions found around the world. Big rolling waves, choppy seas, a tropical storm and more. The edge of the pool contains 216 large, computer controlled, moving paddles which stir the pool and create the desired conditions.



This center is one of the premier test facilities in the world and the home of a great deal of cutting edge research. [Click here for a look at the MASK facility.](#)


WORDS

- US NAVY FLEET
- NAVAL SURFACE WARFARE CENTER
- THE MASK
- 240 BY 360 FEET
- MOVING PADDLES
- CHOPPY SEA
- TROPICAL STORM

CHALLENGE TRACKER:

0	2	3	4	6	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	K	L	M	N	O	P	R	S	T	U	V	W	Y

X Every time you work a new station this month, mark off the lowest box under each letter of the call to track your progress and see what letters you still need. You can download a printable version of this month's tracker at: http://naqcc.info/challenge_tracker.pdf

 Entering the Challenges earns you participation points so you're eligible for the best prizes in the annual anniversary drawings.

SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY

The easiest way is to use the great tool hosted by Robby WB5RVZ. Create an account, choose this month's challenge, and paste in all the eligible calls you worked. It will apply the letters, tell you what you're missing, and fill out the email for you. <http://naqcc.wb5rvz.org>

If you want to do it by hand, or got some but not all of the words and want to pick up a participation point, send an email to

Subject: (your call) NAQCC (month year) Challenge

Body: your call:
word1 - call1 call2 call3
word2 - call1 call2 call3

RULES:

Just make ALL the words from calls of stations you work subject to the General Challenge Rules. (Any spaces in the phrases should be ignored. For example the challenge phrase "INVERTED V ANTENNA" should be treated as if it is the single word "INVERTEDVANTENNA.")

Each letter in a callsign you work during the month can be used twice to complete the challenge words. Complete rules, information, and a helpful tutorial on how to organize your work for an alphabet challenge along with detailed general rules and submission instructions can be found at http://naqcc.info/challenges_rules.html

NEXT MONTH'S CHALLENGE

Next month's May Sports Quotes Challenge will leave you at a loss for words.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202305.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the Guinness® Widget letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202303.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_schedule.html.

Number of Challenges	Members
25+	N4OW KB1M KU4A AC2C N1JI DK1VD K9OSC KA5PVB KD0V WY3H KC5F WY7N KI8I WT4U VE3HUR KI4IO W2ITT AB9BZ NN9K ND9M N1LU KD2MX
50+	WA2FBN W3IQ VE3FUJ NF1U AK3X KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX WB4OMM G3JFS N9SE
75+	PA0XAW PA9CW WI5H
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	W2JEK N8XMS K3WWP

CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

KC5F: I keep thinking I'll just relax, but then with POTA, SOTA and random QSOs I've filled the boxes faster than I'd expected! Lots of fun, though. Thanks, all!

K2CWM: Wow! 3 months in a row! Not bad for this old guy just starting this word game stuff (hi hi)

W1BLU: Lots of fun. Still had to hunt down some 'Y's. Thanks for all of the challenges... fun! 73, Blue

AC2YD: Hey, this was fun ... first time trying it!! Thanks for the inspiration!! 72! -- Ben

KB5ILL: Another fun challenge. I thought the 'P's would hold me up, but it was E. tnx W1EDX who unknowingly gave me the final E i needed.

NOYMA: My first Word Challenge, and Im hooked! I only got one word, but I was close for a sweep!



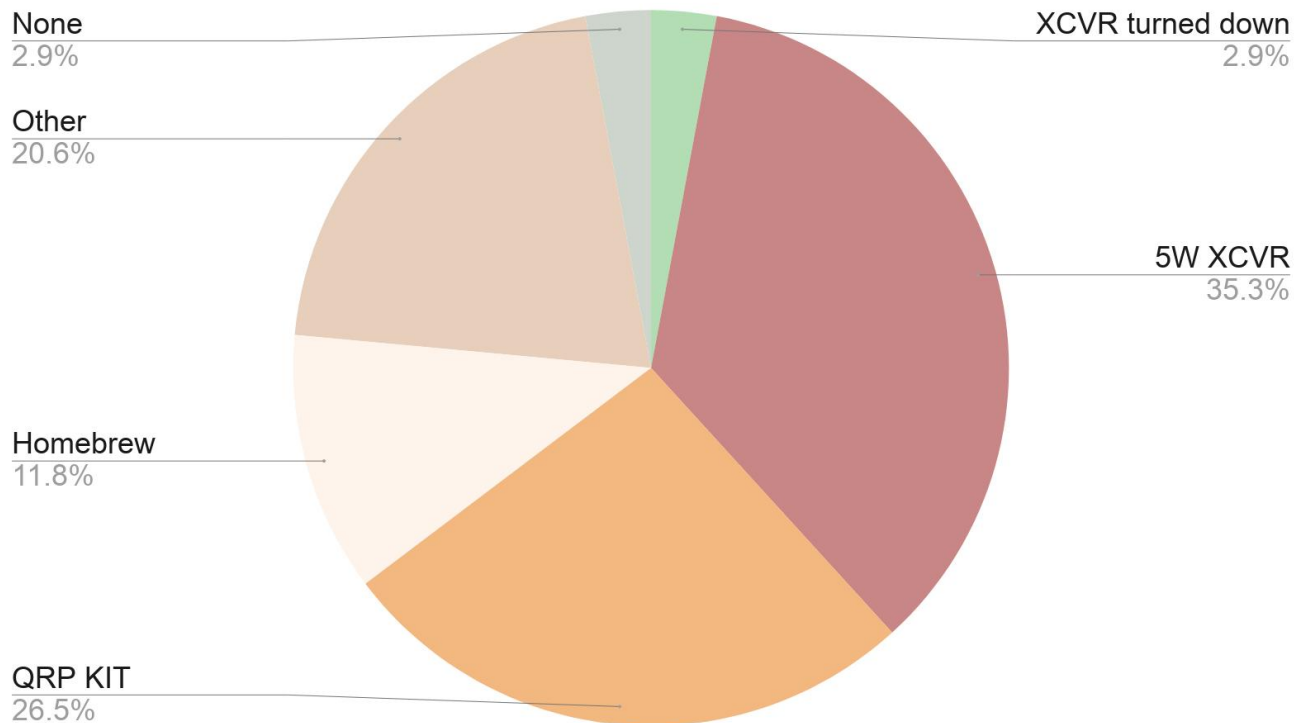
MEMBER POLL

APRIL POLL

What's your main antenna for QRP CW? Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

MARCH POLL

What kind of rig do you use for NAQCC activities?



POLL SOAPBOX SAMPLER

Ben AC2YD - The only rig I use for any/all activity (all QRP CW) is a Hermes Lite 2, "Rig-in-a-box" style, with a Raspberry Pi in the box, at base of 1/4-wave fan vertical for 80/40/20/15/10...

Brian K3ES - Most of my QRP activity is POTA, both hunting and activating. I have and use: KX2, TX-500, TR-35, and TR-45L...

Steve K9NUD - I use a KX2 and a KX3 as well as a Xiegu X6100 in the car. I guess they are mostly QRP, but I keep them at 5 W or less.

Dave WD8KRV - For multiple bands, my Flex-1500 has been a stalwart rig for many years. However, I have the most fun with my Ten Tec 1340 (which I built) and a venerable J-43 straight key.

SEEING THE FOREST FOR THE KEYS

BY BRENT WT4U #9019

Having no proper spirit of cutthroat competition, NAQCC QSO Party Challenge manager Don VE3DQN keeps pointing out to me that a lot of the events are in day-trip range of my home shack in Knoxville.

East Tennessee borders on four states, but not in a flat sort of way. Lots of places to operate on mountaintops with grand vistas. Or, if you prefer, from parking areas and inside of clouds.

THERE WAS A PLAN

The idea was to scoot across the border to Hot Springs for the one-day NC QSO Party and either find a nice place along the French Broad River or take a short (steep) hike either north or south up the Appalachian Trail—it's uphill both ways. A nature picnic sort of outing.

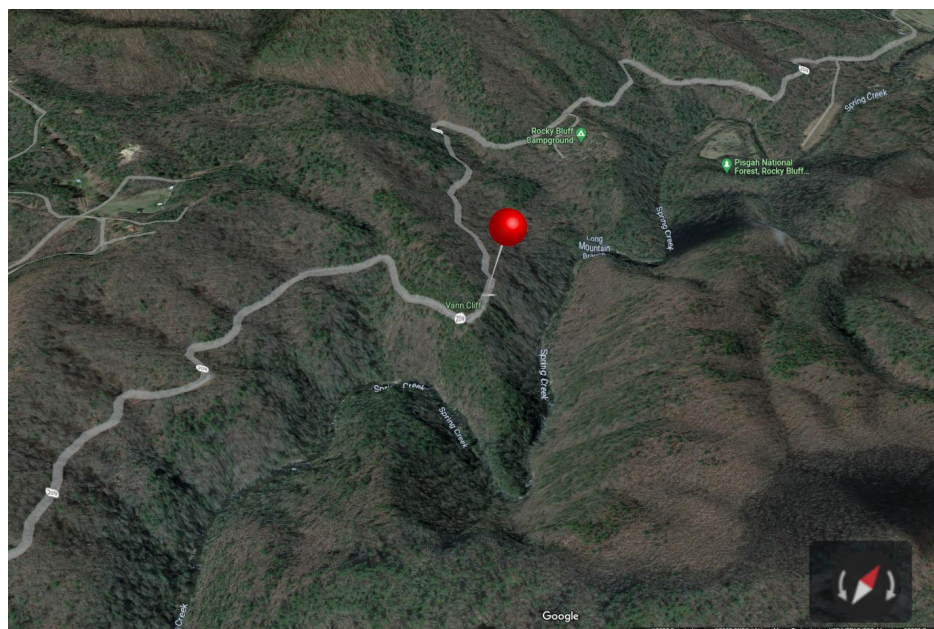


Clouds are frequently less of an “up there” than a “right here” thing in the Smoky Mountains

Instead, I missed an exit, and drove way too far into North Carolina before turning (and turning, and turning) northward toward Hot Springs and Pisgah National Forest, feeling my on-air time slip away in the process.

ANOTHER ROADSIDE ATTRACTION

After entering the National Forest, I kept passing little parking pulloff areas every half mile or so. Eventually it occurred to me that these were probably as good a place as I was going to find on the AT, and I could start *now*. Throw a wire over a tree branch and see if it worked, and if it wasn't fun, go back to plan A.



WIRE IN A TREE

Trying to pull a throw weight back up through a tree is a recipe for leaving it there. Much better to start with a longer throw line (I use 75' of 1/16" Dyneema) and let it land where you can tie it off.

All good until I decided to bring the end down for tuning. I'd managed a good throw to a high branch, so I had to pull a fair bit of line to get to wire. I kept a sharp eye on the other end, the counterpoise dangling its 10' of tie-off cord safely near the ground. Perhaps a tad high, but fine.

Being awkwardly tall, I have a pretty good reach, but for reasons best left to 75m it's hard to see daylight under my vertical leap. With the help of an 18' crappie pole, deft twirling motions, some stretchy bouncing contortions, and muffled snickering from the Propagation Support Possum, I eventually reclaimed the antenna.

ASSETS

There was no chair involved in my vision of sitting on a log beside a trail. When that plan didn't happen, there was still no chair. Also, no log.

I sat in the car. Sideways at first, which torqued my back, restricted my elbow, and caused me to send



The Propagation Support Possum reminding me that this was supposed to be a hiking trip

the sort of straight key code the iambic folk complain about. After a kind soul dropped his speed to 12wpm, generously assuming my copy must be as bad as my fist, I quit pretending I was in the great outdoors and ran the antenna through the open window so I could sit right. In a car. Ugh.

THERE WERE QSOs

The radio part went surprisingly well. Working a QSO Party in a POTA park far from noisy civilization can't hurt. Scored 133 QSOs, 3 European countries, and one giant (temporary) leap up our QSO Party scoreboard. I'll declare the outing a success.

LESSONS LEARNED

- Bring a folding chair, just in case.
- Cars are not designed for sideways sitting.
- Awkward arm position equals QLF.
- When the other end of the antenna lifts into the air, *quit pulling!*
- You really can stop on the side of the road most anywhere and make QRP CW contacts.



NAQCC SPRINTS

APRIL SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Wednesday, April 12th at 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Tuesday, April 11th in North America.

Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202304.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.

MARCH SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202303.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: W0JMW, K9TR, KB2GKC, KD5ZCQ, K3ES, & K2PMD

March Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	110	98	217	4/17
Participants	151	140	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1717	1220	3154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	962	707	1704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	755	513	1450	4/17
20m QSOs	218	196	1232	8/13
40m QSOs	1309	807	2203	4/17
80m QSOs	190	217	1417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	15.6	12.4	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	KN1H	NR1D
W2	AC2YD	K2ZC	KA2KGP
W3	K3JZD	W6WU	AK3X
W4	K4NE	KN4RQD	W4NLT
W5	N5GW	KA6J	KE9DR
W6	K6FA	AI6SL	K6GPB
W7	KC7DM	N7KM	-
W8	W8GG	KD8RGJ	NF8M
W9	WB9HFK	K9QEW	KA9FQG
W0	N0TA	N8LA	AA0W
Canada	VA3NU	VA3KRJ	VE3IIM
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	AA2MX	K3RLL	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	K9DRP	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	W1ZU	K1IX	KB1M
W2	K2OID	WA1GWH	N2ESE
W3	K3ES	K2PMD	KQ3Z
W4	K4BAI	KB9ILT	K4KBL
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WA8SAN W18J (TIE)	-	NG8S
W9	KY0Q	AB9BZ	-
W0	KC2MJT	-	-
Canada	VE3GNU	VE6VIC	-
DX	DK1VD	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	-	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	VE3DQN	-	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	W0JMW	K9TR	KB2GKC KD5ZCQ (TIE)
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	K3ES	K2PMD	-

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+	KJ4R KF7WNS AA0W NN0SS N7QR KC7DM KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU VE3GNU WD4OHD K4KBL N8QY WY3H K6CSL W5UAA AB8FJ NN9K WK6L KC2EGL K2HT KE9DR K1IX K4ORD K5GQ AA5LH N8HWV N1JI W4HH KB4QQJ KC3RN VE3HUR KB9ILT WA2NYY KC2MJT
75+	N8LA KQ1P K4NVJ KD3CA K9EYT WB4OMM K9OSC VE3FUJ WD0K N8BB KB1M N2CN WA1GWH VE3DQN WA2FBN WB9HFK K6MGO NF5U NQ2W WB1GYZ WI5H N8APO
100+	K4KRW K1IEE W4DUK AK3X AA9L N5GW KD2MX NO2D NA4O KN1H WB8ENE KA9FQG N4MJ
125+	K2CWM K4JPN KD0V N2ESE KE5YUM N4FI WX4RM WA8SAN WG8Y N0TA
150+	W9CC K4BAI N8XMS NF8M K3RLL KU4A
175+	W2JEK W2SH W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K2PMD - First-time participant; very cool. I even got a couple of fellow club members from the Skyview Radio Society

KI4DEF - Great to hear so many signals on 40m! I was rockbound on 7038 kHz using my Tuna Tin 2, 300 mW to 44 ft doublet up 35 ft. Only one contact in the short time I could operate, but lots of fun! Thanks to Brian for bearing with me through many repeats!

KN2G - The last snowstorm wiped out my inverted V's, I treated this contest like a grid down event. I set up the buddipole next to our chest freezer, in the house, (under a tin roof no less!) and used battery power. Thanks to the hard work of other members, I scraped up 6 contacts. As much fun as 20 contacts on a "normal" sprint. Am I a compulsive minimalist???

K1MZM - 40 meters had lots of signals and lots of QSB tonight. Thanks for everyone's patience in pulling me through. Not too many signals here on 80 meters. I lost my main antenna in the recent snow storm so I was using a backup antenna which may have been part of the problem. It was good to see so many old friends.

KE9DR - Been 1-1/2 years since my last NAQCC Sprint. Enjoyed it very much. Hope to get on more often. 20 meters was good tonight for first hour. 40 had QRN and 80 was not much action plus QRN. Tnx to all, Bert

KN1H - Happy to be operating from the home shack after 3 months of portable ops on the road. All 3 bands were full of QRPers tonight, worked lots of new and old friends! 72, John, KN1H. IC-7300 and Nye Viking Master Key.



NAQCC 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

Net	Local Time	UTC	Freq +/-	Primary NCS
East Texas QRS Net (ETN)	Monday 7PM CDT	Tuesday 0000 Z	7066 kHz Summer 3566 kHz Winter	Allen KA5TJS (TX)
Midwest QRS Net (MWN)	Monday 7:30PM CDT	Tuesday 0030 Z	7031 kHz	Bob W0CC (KS)
Pacific Northwest 80m QRS Net (PNW80)	Thursday 7 PM PDT	Friday 0200 Z	3556.5 kHz	Stewart KE7LKW (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 PACIFIC NORTHWEST QRS 80 METER NET (PNW80)

Thursday evenings 7 PM PDT, which is Friday 0200 UTC on 3556.5 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Stewart KE7LKW (Washington State)

Mar 03 - QNI (6) KE7LKW NCS, WC7CW, WB7WHG, N7TB, W7ANM, AD7BP

Mar 10 – QNI (9) KE7LKW NCS, WC7CW, WB7WHG, W7ANM, AD7BP, KJ7KDB, KI7SJE, WB4SPB, K7JUV

Mar 17 – QNI (5) KE7LKW NCS, WC7CW, W7ANM, AD7BP, WB4SPB

Mar 24 – QNI (2) NCS WB4SPB, W7ANM

Mar 31 – QNI (6) NCS WB7WHG, KE7LKW/P, WB4SPB, AD7BP, K7JUV, KI7SJE

NAQCC EAST TEXAS QRS NET (ETN)

Monday evenings 7PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0000 UTC,
on 7066 kHz +/- (Summer) or 3566 kHz +/- (Winter)
Main NCS - Allen KA5TJS (Texas)

- Mar 07 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N4NN
Signals good tonight. 599/579. Warm spring like weather in the southern states for sure. All planting stuff HI HI.
- Mar 14 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA
Good signals tonight. 599 both. Andy just back from WI where he completed his new bass fiddle. It taller than he is HI HI. N4NN tried to check in but said signal levels just to low. May need to look at 40 meters soon.
- Mar 21 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YGA, N4NN, AC5EH
Getting noisy on 80 meters. S7/S8 tonight. Signal levels were good. All stations were 589 or better. Great to hear Dwain again. Been a while since he checked in from AR.
- Mar 28 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN
Lots of rain in AR and GA. Cool temps and Andy YGA getting over covid! Did not even know about that one. Sure hope you recover well my friend!

NAQCC MIDWEST QRS NET (MWN)

Monday evenings 7:30 PM CDT, which is Tuesday 0030 UTC, on 7031 kHz +/-
Main NCS - Bob W0CC (Kansas) — Assisted by Dave AB9BZ

- Mar 06 – QNI (4) W0CC, W1TM, W2DIE, K8VBL
QSB; however, Tim, Lille and Tom did a GREAT Job of digging out my signal!
- Mar 13 – QNI (1) W0CC
Minimal QRN. Able to make QSO just before and right after the NET; however, the NET was quiet. I suspect that everyone was saving up their energy for the Sprint tomorrow!
- Mar 20 – No Net
- Mar 27 – QNI (1) W0CC
Several broad signal stations surrounding the Net frequency, so I had to move around to find an open spot and probably lost anyone trying to check-in



NAQCC CHAPTERS

The North American QRP CW Club currently has seven local chapters - Western Pennsylvania, West Florida, Illowa, Downeast Maine, Long Island, Florida, and Green Swamp WCF—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 John KK4ITX.

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 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 President 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/>.

ERNIE WAAVER YOUTH PARK MARCH 25, 2023

Attending :

- Ron, N9EE, IC705, X6100, 20m End Fed Wire
- Rich, KI2X, IC7400, short vertical
- Doug, N8QY, G90, 40m End Fed Wire
- John, KK4ITX, WSPR The Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network on 20m 14.0956 MHz, small homebrew mag loop and short vertical
- Jeff, KG4KMR, FTDX710 with short vertical



- Mark, KD4ZYA, X6100, small mag loop
- Nick, KQ4GJH, visitor

We arrived at the park at 0915 hrs and started setup. Plenty of room in the 12 picnic table shelter and lots of space for our antennas.

LOGs

Ron, N9EE

TIME	CALL	RST	FREQ	COMMENT
0950	W8NI	559/579	14.040	OH POTA
1003	KO8SCA	559/599	14.033	BW2143
1007	N5K	599/599?	14.0305	Pete BW1764
1014	VE3KG	599/599	14.0295	Dave bw2141
1016	AD5A	599/599	14.0274	Mike
1018	K2NV	599/599	14.024	Tony
1045	NA4A	579/559	14.041	
1057	AA9DM	599/599	14.0566	
1113	W5VS	599/599	14.0595	POTA
1118	N3KAE	579/449	14.047	PARK
1128	NB5E	579/559	14.060	GA
1133	K4PUG	589/?	14.060	
1149	N1RBD	599/579	14.0625	POTA, FL



John, KK4ITX

At 1000 hrs using WSPR The Weak Signal Propagation Reporter Network on 20m 14.0956 MHz got 18 spots from his low power rig. At 1105 hrs he got 30 reports from the network. Final report was over 180 spots, but many were duplicates.

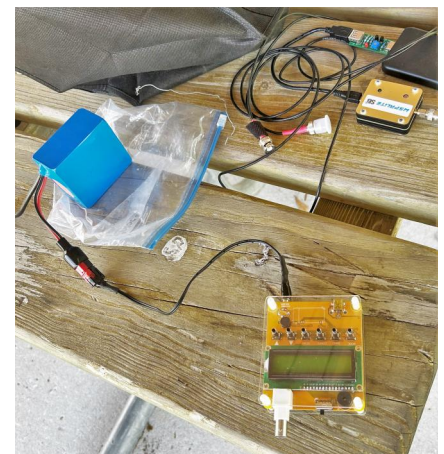
Was very good weather, in the 70s. The mag loops kinda worked, but not as well as the end fed antennas. At 1210 hrs we packed up and QSY'd to our home QTHs.

John's KK4ITX antenna was a homebrew 1/8 wave copied from the Elecraft style and QRPGuys (DS-1).

It has a 46.5" telescopic antenna on the coil. From 12:00 on I was using my Homebrew Loop which has the MFJ-9232 Tuner, Hula Hoop with 4 strands of 16ga trailer hookup wire and a \$4 flea market camera tripod. All in all I had 335 Spots reported some of course were repeats.

The transmitter was setup at 200mW with a SOTABeams WSPRLite

Some of the WSPR log for John, KK4ITX. The final list went on for about 180 contacts. I realize these are not 2-way contacts, but does show what 200mW can do.



Date	Time	Call	Reporter	Miles
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	KN4NBI	1107
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	KE4YMS	749
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	W4WLO	646
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	KB4GM	1034
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	W4MXZ	1139
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	N2TAO	652
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	WA3TTS	1385
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	KV4TT	701
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	KX4O	1226
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	WA2TP	1630
3/25/23	12:26 PM	KK4ITX	WA2N	844
3/25/23	12:22 PM	KK4ITX	WB5RFQ	1389
3/25/23	12:22 PM	KK4ITX	W4WLO	637
3/25/23	12:22 PM	KK4ITX	W4MXZ	1139
3/25/23	12:22 PM	KK4ITX	KB4GM	1034
3/25/23	12:22 PM	KK4ITX	KM4RK	572
3/25/23	12:22 PM	KK4ITX	KF4EAG	864



Doug's 40m end-fed



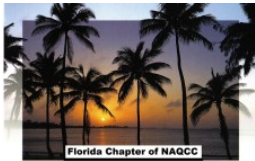
NAQCC LONG ISLAND CHAPTER



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

Questions and comments should go to Howard, WB2UZE.

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>.

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.

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/>.

NAQCC GREEN SWAMP WCF



Items in this section are from the Green Swamp WCF Chapter unless otherwise credited. Questions and comments should go to Gary N3OS.

The chapter's website is <https://www.zaarc.org>.



NAQCC PRIZE SPONSORS



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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.

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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 John Leahy KK4ITX
3513 Aquamarine Way
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 USA

