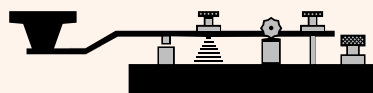


NAQCC NEWS



ISSUE 301 • JULY 2023



KEY CLICKS

• *IN THIS ISSUE*

The Prez Sez... donation issues are sorted out; QSO Parties at the halfway mark; A \$2 dollar-store antenna; A Letter Challenge even Mikey would like; A 3D-printed jig for RF filters; Awards; Chapter activity; Sprint reports; Soapboxes; Member polls; Nets; and more.

Stephen Szabo, WB4OMM, Silent Key

Stephen Szabo, WB4OMM (SK), was an ARRL Life Member and a Quarter Century Wireless Association member. He served as the Section Manager of the ARRL Northern Florida Section from 2014 to 2018. In June 1968, he began his amateur radio journey with the Boy Scouts while on a weekend camping trip to Montrose, New York. He earned his Novice-class license in 1971. Szabo retired from his full-time role as a captain of the Daytona Beach Police Department in 2010, but remained active part-time until 2021. He was a member of the Daytona Beach Amateur Radio Association (DBARA) and served as President from 1992 to 1996 and from 1999 to 2003. He also served as Vice President in 1998, Director in 1990, 1991, and 1997, Secretary in 2004, and License Trustee and Treasurer in 2011 and 2012. Szabo won the DBARA Ham of the Year Award in 1995 and 2009, as well as the President's Award in 1996 and 1997. In 2005, he started the Daytona Beach CERT Amateur Radio Team and had been very active in the club as President until he stepped down in early 2023. Read more about his life and amateur radio journey on his website at www.wb4omm.com.



Stephen Szabo, WB4OMM (SK), in 2018. [Robert Nocero, W4KBW, photo]

• *STEVE WB4OMM IN QST*

The most recent issue of QST remembered a lot of Steve's great work, but forgot what he did for NAQCC. We won't.

• *OPERATE AS N3A*

Our 19th Anniversary celebration is three months away and we are looking for ops to represent all regions. It is a great way to work QRPx2 contacts and acquaint CW ops with our club. More details on page 3.

• *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@arrl.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

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THE PREZ SEZ...

DONATION ISSUES

With the passing of Steve, WB4OMM we lost access to our PayPal account unknown until I tried to see where the donation button on the website went. As luck would have it Dennis, W4DWS a few days before had moved most of the funds to our bank.

Why mention this here? Well, it has been a lesson that needs to be passed on. Please be open to those around you on your various accounts and leave a paper trail that includes usernames and passwords, even the answers to the security questions. Some of the issues have been easy but others like PayPal, not so much. Countless hours have been spent trying to contact a real person at any level of their organization, I have not found a way. None of their methods of "Contact Us" remotely fits our situation and no one responds to any of the chat options.

I believe that we have a new PayPal account under control and the donation button on the home page of NAQCC will again get you to where we need you to go. Please check it after July 6 or so and see if you can wear it out!

GoDaddy, where our website is currently hosted was somewhat easier after proving that I was legitimate with paperwork and finally with a "selfie" of me holding my picture ID near my face with all info perfectly legible.

So please take a lazy summer day and lay out your account details on paper for your love ones and all those folks that you have contact with that rely on you. It's hard enough to lose you without creating more stress than need be. Oh! Update often and print out.

Dennis and I are working on a secure method

that will allow the officers to quickly recover from another event such as this.

As mentioned in last month's column..... **we are in need of new suppliers for shirts & hats and engraved plaques** as both of our former suppliers have closed their businesses due to health reasons. If you are in the business or "hobby" of producing such items I thought that you should have first chances of making an offer to the NAQCC. Please contact me with your questions, thoughts and offerings.

The Monthly Sprint was fairly well attended given bad weather all around the country. The leaders were mostly in the 40 QSO area with the top being 52 and some at 0. Always interesting to read the Soapbox comments.

The mW Sprint ops appeared to have a good time in between static, QSB and storms. It was so bad one op complained ;-) that he had to use 500mW to get a contact at 2232 MPW on 20m, now there's a serious problem!

I had planned to participate in the mW Sprint but life got in the way, hopefully in December I can make it.

13 COLONIES SPECIAL EVENT

There may be time left (July 1-7) for you to try your luck with the 13 Colonies event. (www.13colonies.us) I was successful a few years ago and found it to be quite a fun challenge.

CW ASSISTANCE

Perhaps you are just learning or returning to CW and you have questions on operations or you just need a practice buddy.

Check out the CW Assistance link on our website and you will soon be on your way to refreshing and improving your CW skills.

Until next time,

72/73!

John KK4ITX #7249

NAQCC President



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



19TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

19TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Plans are underway for the week of October 8-14th (UTC) when our volunteers will be operating with our N3A call. We have four signups so far, in the 3, 4, 5 and 8 regions, so we have plenty of room for more ops. We would like to get operators in all 10 call districts plus KP4, KH6, and KL7. We especially welcome any of our members outside of the US and Canada to add some DX flavor to the Anniversary. We also designate special ops who can put out the call during October's regular sprint. We will take all comers for the anniversary but only one op can work from each district during the Sprint. First come, first served!

YOU SET THE SCHEDULE

Unlike the sprint, your operating schedule is totally flexible which means you can be on the air when the bands are open, and you are awake

which is very important! No minimum operation time is necessary – if you think you can do it, we would like to have you. All bands are in play including the WARC bands and hunters can see who is on the air by checking out the database on our website, which lists spots and schedules for our N3A ops. It doesn't matter if you are an old hand or new to QRP CW. With improving propagation, you never know how far you will go with five watts (or less). Coupling your N3A call with Parks on the Air (POTA), Summits on the Air (SOTA) and other special operations can boost your visibility and the visibility of the NAQCC.

SIGN UP NOW

If you would like to participate, please contact Rich, KC3MIO at hamberger@ptd.net

Additional information can be found in the June newsletter. If you have any questions, email me; if you would like we could talk on the phone, too.



NAQCC STATE QSO PARTY CHALLENGE

BY DON VE3DQN #5846

NAQCC ops submitted 497 of the 584 QRP entries, or 85%, totalling 13,860 QSOs

HALF-TIME REPORT

It's "half time" in the State QSO Party season—okay, "60% time" if you do the math—and we don't pick up again until mid-August. Time to pause, tweak those antennas, try POTA if you're not already hooked, set your goals for the 19 remaining SQPs this year.

LEADERBOARD

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

Member	Mult	QSOs	Score	Award	Pace
Lee AA4GA, #5415	26	1,608	41,808	Platinum	117,798
Alan KR4AE, #5847	28	1,487	41,636	Platinum	117,314
Ben AC2YD, #10378	24	1,047	25,128	Platinum	70,801
Steve NI8W, #11335	27	786	21,222	Gold	59,795
Chris KU4A, #1960	25	612	15,300	Gold	43,109
Mike W7LG, #10391	24	553	13,272	Gold	37,395
Sean KK9U, #10869	13	880	11,440	Gold	32,233
Don VE3DQN, #5846	25	420	10,500	Gold	29,585
Kevin NN3E, #9851	22	464	10,208	Gold	28,762
Brent WT4U, #9019	24	423	10,152	Gold	28,604
Will NQ2W, #4839	16	507	8,112	Silver	22,856
Dave AB9BZ, #9309	23	282	6,486	Silver	18,275
Dick N9EEE, #11389	22	287	6,314	Silver	17,790
Rick KY0Q, #9647	16	349	5,584	Silver	15,733
Ernie N2DGQ, #11090	15	255	3,825	Bronze	10,777
Bob N2EIM, #10373	13	238	3,094	Bronze	8,718
Anthony K8ZT, #412	17	161	2,737	Bronze	7,712
Dave N3CKI, #8478	6	424	2,544	Bronze	7,168
Don KI4MZC, #10922	7	255	1,785	Bronze	5,029
Robin NG8S, #3261	14	114	1,596	Bronze	4,497
Dan W9SAU, #10073	12	95	1,140	Bronze	3,212
Kevin KI4DEF, #247	14	74	1,036	Bronze	2,919
Brock W6GMT, #2390	5	101	505	Bronze	1,423

GROWING PARTICIPATION

Frankly, I'm blown away by the NAQCC participation in the SQP Challenge. 52 members have participated, and we've submitting 85% of the entries in the QRP category. I'm also blown away by the scores. Lee AA4GA and Alan KR4AE are on target to achieving the highest award—the Diamond level—in the SQP Challenge. A few of those on target now for the Platinum level could operate "in-state" high scoring SQPs—Texas, New York, Pennsylvania, California, others—and also slip into the Diamond level.

CASUAL CONTESTING

For most of us it's participating that's our goal and our fun. It's why I call this "casual contesting." Achieving a certain award level at the end of the SQP season provides some incentive to get on the air, but it doesn't wreck my day if I don't achieve my goal. I know that next week or next month there'll be other SQPs, and maybe for them I can get more air-time or wrack up points in one of the high-scorers.

If you haven't yet tried the SQPs, there's still time this season to dip your toes in the water. Get on the air, follow the instructions on how to submit your scores, and send us a soapbox comment on your activity.

QSO PARTY SOAPBOX SAMPLER

Chris KU4A #1960 - KYQP: Thanks to all who operated the Kentucky QSO Party. I hope you found enough people to work, always a problem for small states. I have not done much "running" on CW but got over 200 QSOs with minimal difficulty.

WVQP: I think N8II is the big gun in West Virginia and sure enough I worked him early on. Got K3JT, another big gun, and also found W8WVA. Three QSOs is more than I had for a lot of the smaller states!"

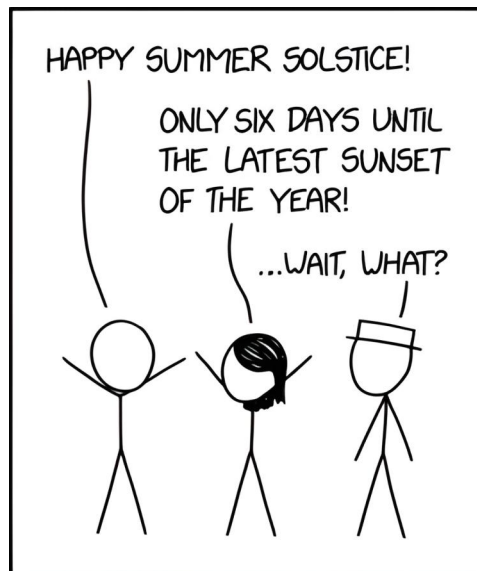
Dick N9EEE #11389 - WVQP: Patience, patience and more patience. Nothing heard all day. I didn't give up. Around 9:45 pm suddenly two WV stations showed up just 1kHz apart. I got my two. Shut 'er down. And whistled my way to the next room.

Thanks for running the NAQCC QP program and writing up the soapbox. It's fun to see how everyone fares at this. --73--

Ben AC2YD #10378 -For WVQP, again very abbreviated op time, with family event and jazz gig during this 12-hour QP, but it doesn't look as if I missed all that much, based on looking at other 3830scores entries ... 7 Qs total, 5 on 40 and 2 on 80, very first Q was W8WVA! See you all in August, and Happy Field Day to all!

Lee AA4GA #5415 - Another week of trying to maintain multipliers - I'm looking forward to some more active QPs in the fall!

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



xkcd.com

WHEN I FINALLY FINISH BUILDING MY GIANT ENGINE CAPABLE OF SHIFTING THE EARTH'S ORBIT, THIS IS THE FIRST THING I'M FIXING.

THE \$2 QUICK ONE VERTICAL / DIPOLE / ZIG-ZAG ANTENNA

BY JOHN VE3IPS #5908

I was on a business trip and I brought my KX3 along to try to get some SWLing in or maybe make some contacts from the hotel. I chose a specific hotel that had a sliding door on the main floor or a very narrow balcony on the second floor that allowed me to get a wire out. But I forgot the Packtenna dipole I was planning on using. Now what?

DOLLAR STORE TO THE RESCUE

I hit up the local dollar store and found a package of 50-feet of speaker wire for \$1.99. Oops, I forgot to get some string as a poor hams paracord. U turn and go back to store. All OK as I rushed back to the hotel to catch some gray line propagation. I started thinking how I could use this based on the fact it would have to be set up as a long wire or a preferred dipole. (Oh why didn't I just get a helium balloon?)

Well I went with the vertical approach as I did not have any suitable ground side to connect to, and I wanted to avoid the possibility of some RF voltages at the radio end with a long wire.

ATU VS SPEAKER-WIRE TWIN-LEAD

I figured I had about 25 feet or so of lead-in to work with, So I stripped the speaker wire down the middle around 25 feet, and used the unstripped wire as lead-in. This made it a balanced twinlead. I heard the lead-in could be 45 ohms or 200 ohms impedance and I just laughed as the KX3 tuner can match a coat hanger in a pork chop sandwich line at Xenia Hamvention nicely. Who cares, right?



Howard K4LXY #7398's original version of this idea on a camping trip. See his blog post at <https://k4lxy.wixsite.com/blog/post/a-crappie-not-crappy-portable-antenna>

THROW IT INTO A TREE AND HIT TUNE

So I tied some string to a water bottle and tossed it in a tree and tied the center of the antenna to another water bottle on the ground and pulled the other side of the antenna to be used as an elevated counterpoise into some shrubs. Inside the hotel shack I jammed the wire into the KX3 tuner and wrapped a bandaid around it (oops why did I not buy some electrical tape – 2 rolls for a buck?) so it wouldn't fall out. I think I used a Q-tip as well.

Bzzzzzzzzzzzzzz rppppppp Ok, matched... ok lets go V V V V V V de VE3IPS dah dit dah

So this stupidly simple antenna works. As I fell asleep I realized it was nothing but a Norcal Doublet variant that was set up as a vertical instead of a dipole. Hey zig-zag it, vertical it, slope it, or whatever it and give it a try.

CANNED-TENNA

When I got home I realized I left the antenna hanging in the tree. So I made another one on a rainy afternoon and I went full St. Louis/Norcal QRP style with ribbon cable and put it into a plastic jar to honour Dave NF0R and Doug KI6DS. It sits in a go box as an emergency antenna. I also have a stronger speaker wire version coiled up and tucked into a sunglass case I got at the dollar store.



This antenna is also known as the Crappie Dipole which also uses speaker wire.



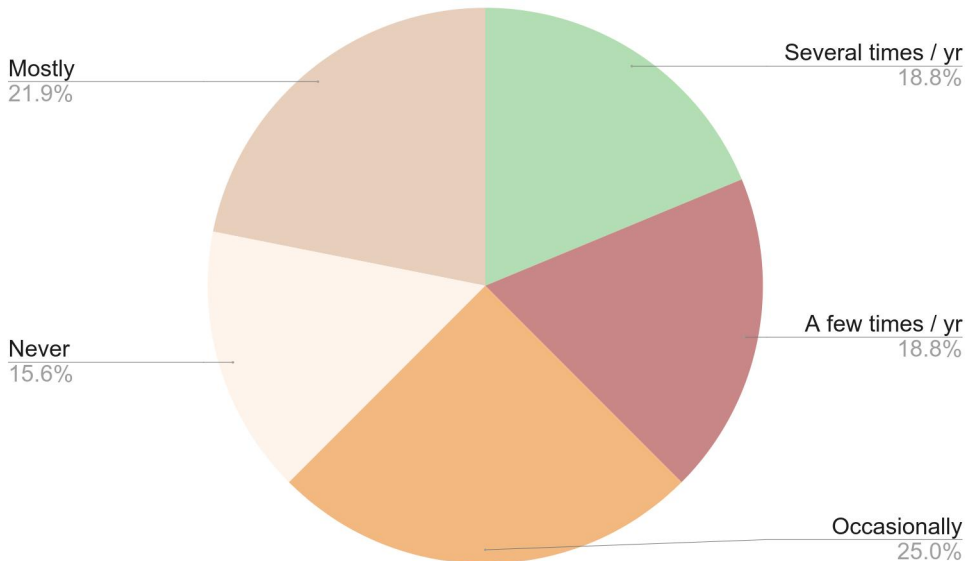
MEMBER POLLS

JULY POLL

Will the onset of summer change your QRP CW operating? Let us know at http://naqcc.info/poll_new.html

JUNE POLL

How often do you take QRP CW portable?



NAQCC CHALLENGE

BY GARY K1YAN #2365

THIS MONTH'S LETTER CHALLENGE: CEREAL MASCOTS

Madison Avenue advertising guys sit down with the cereal manufacturing folks and, at the end of the day, what do you have? Its an appealing box of cereal and a character that will hopefully be strongly associated with the product. Kids, doing a shopping cart drive by in the cereal aisle, will see their favorite character and just have to have that cereal. Adults also make the association and scoop up the product, or so the theory goes.

Lets see if this really does work. This challenge is a list of cereal characters. Do they bring to mind a product? Check out the list and see if those ad campaigns worked on you.



ANSWERS

Buzz the Bee - Honey Nut Cheerios
 Lucky the Leprechaun - Lucky Charms
 Crazy Squares - Cinnamon Toast Crunch
 Sunny the Sun - Raisin Bran
 Toucan Sam - Fruit Loops
 Jean LaFootie - Cap'n Crunch
 Little Mikey - Life
 Loopy Bee - Honey Loops
 Dig Em Frog - Honey Smacks


WORDS

- BUZZ BEE
- LUCKY LEPRECHAUN
- CRAZY SQUARES
- SUNNY SUN
- TOUCAN SAM
- JEAN LAFOOTE
- LITTLE MIKEY
- LOOPY BEE
- DIG EM FROG

CHALLENGE TRACKER:

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	Y	Z	

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

Get a nutritious start to your month with the Cereal Mascots Challenge.

<http://naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202307.html>

LAST MONTH'S CHALLENGES

The deadline for submissions for the Sports Quotes letter challenge is still a few days away. You can see what has been submitted so far at <http://www.naqcc.info/challenges/challenges202305.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 AC2C DK1VD KU4A N1JI K9OSC KA5PVB KD0V KC5F WT4U WY3H W2ITT AB9BZ WY7N KI4IO KI8I NN9K VE3HUR ND9M N1LU KD2MX
50+	WA2FBN W3IQ VE3FUJ AK3X KJ4R VE3DQN AH6AX NF1U WB4OMM G3JFS N9SE
75+	PA9CW PA0XAW WI5H
100+	K1IEE
125+	K1YAN
150+	W2JEK N8XMS K3WWP

CHALLENGE SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K3ES - Great fun! Completed with 3 POTA activations, some hunting, and a couple of SST contacts.

N8XMS - I know that "E" is the most common letter in the English language but it wasn't so common in the calls that I worked. It took me quite a bit of time to collect all of the ones that were needed for this challenge.

PA9CW - All QSO's are made when I was in DM/RP Sota tour. 73 Tonnie

SN9MT - it was really challenging for me. Unfortunately 9 "T" made me crazy ;-)) but QSO with G0TRT in last moment do the job. 73! Mirek

VE3DQN - On the last couple days I couldn't buy an "I" to make a clean sweep of the Challenge. Still, it was fun all the way through.

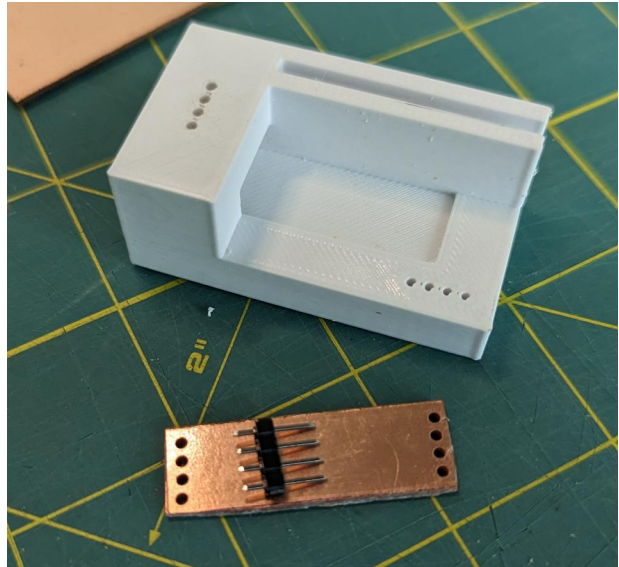


3D-PRINTED JIG AND A HOMEBREW BCI FILTER

BY BRENT WT4U #9019

Here's a quick jig I made to cut and drill RF filter boards compatible with the QRP-Labs.com spec. It's cheaper and easier to buy the lowpass and bandpass filter kits from them, but in this case I needed a high-pass filter to knock out AM broadcast interference, and figured why not make it the same size so it—and any other homebrew filters I make—will fit into QRP Labs band-switching boards and other projects. It's a handy standard. See [QRP-Labs.com](https://www.qrp-labs.com)

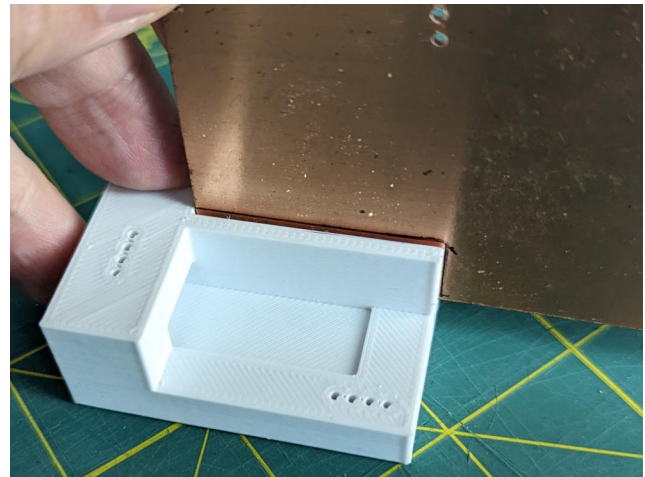
Before resorting to melted plastic, I started by measuring and marking up a board to hand drill. Then I tried again with a center punch and still managed to get a few holes a bit out of line. It doesn't take much, and you get one shot.



OPENSCAD AND A 3D-PRINTER

After 16 nearly acceptable holes, I decided I was better at knocking out quick designs in OpenSCAD than with a drill.

You can download the STL (and the scad file) at: <https://www.thingiverse.com/thing:6105643>



TO USE THE JIG:

- Slide the corner of a piece of copper clad into the slot to mark the size.
- Cut out the board. Be sure it fits exactly into the depression in the jig.
- Clamp on top of a scrap board.
- Drill all four holes. I used a Dremel on low speed and some little PCB bits.
- Flip the board end-for-end and repeat.
- Scribe out the pads as needed.
- Solder on the headers, capacitors, and inductors.

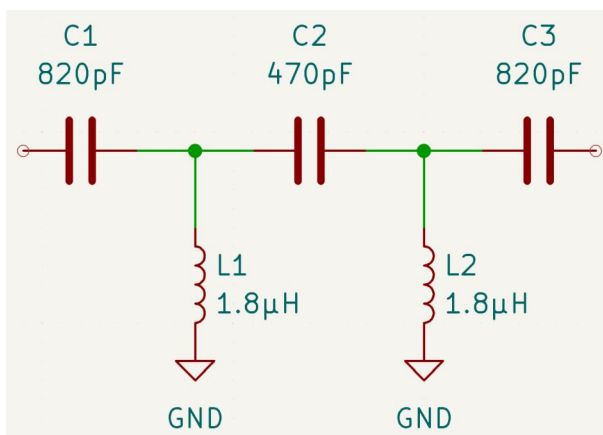


THE FILTER

The idea is to use this jig for any filter I happen to make so they'll all be the same size, and interchangeable with (if not nearly as neat as) the kits from QRP Labs.

This one was a simple 5th-order Butterworth made with "big" 1206 SMD COG ceramic capacitors and axial inductors. The values were borrowed from another good kit supplier:

QRPme.com

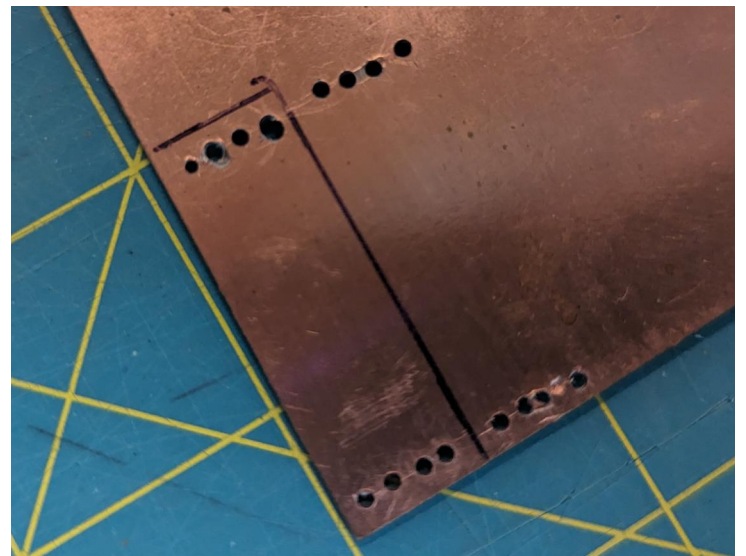


CONSTRUCTION

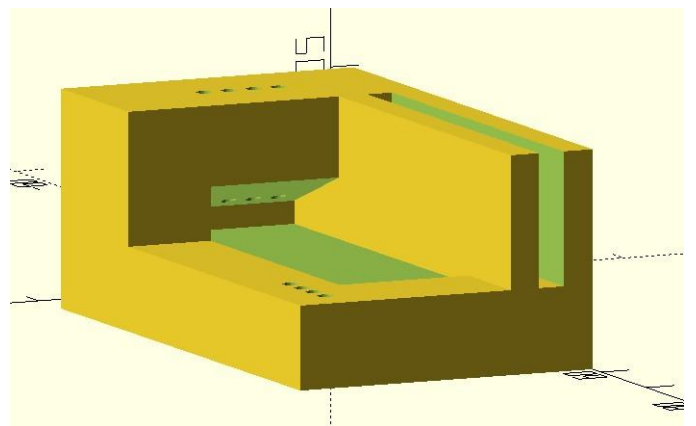
For this Manhattan-ish build with pads marked out by cutting grooves into the copper, the SMD parts are super easy and it's the leaded parts that are awkward. Still, rather straightforward and there's plenty of room for toroids, or even a 7th-order filter if you wanted to shift the cutoff down below the 160m band and needed a steeper curve.

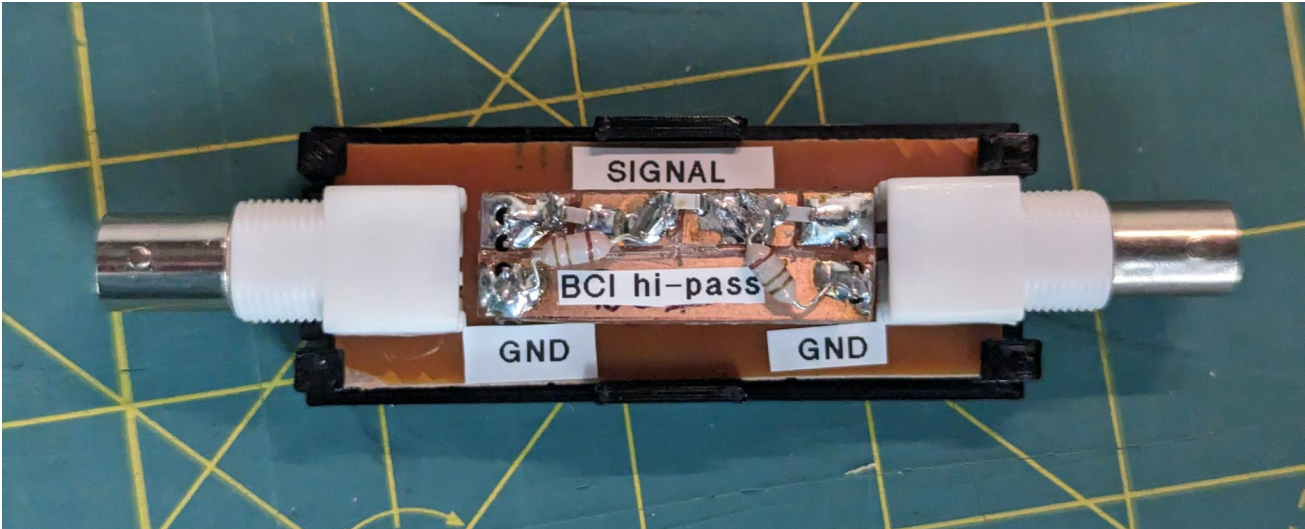
If you're using all through-hole parts, it's probably easier to flip the board over with the parts on top and the copper underneath. Those holes won't be nearly so critical, so you could drill them by eye with a drill press, or freehand using those extra holes in the jig to reduce the risk of snapping a bit. Decide *before* you solder on the headers!

Tip: Seating the headers in a breadboard and dropping the PCB onto them will keep everything squared up for soldering.

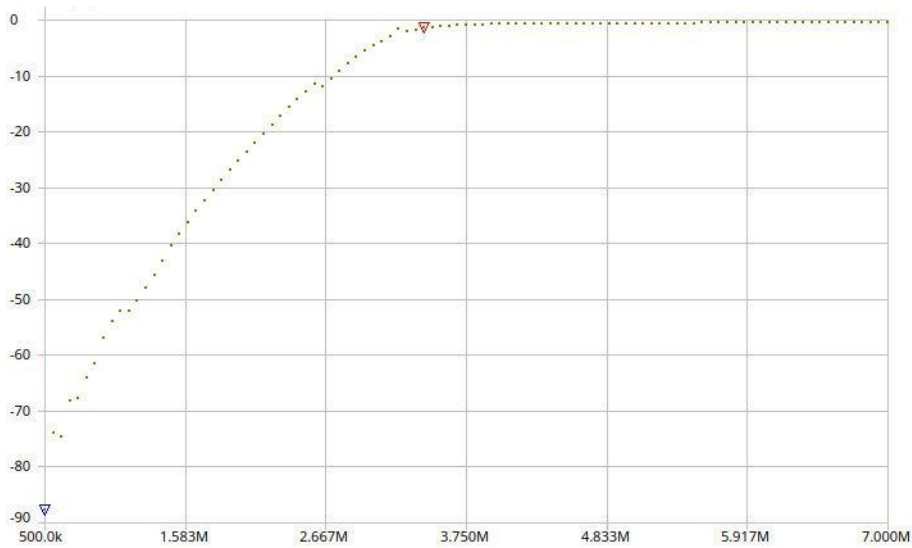


Attempts at hand drilling convinced me that with a big enough pile of scrap boards and an unlimited supply of bits I'd eventually get good at it. I made a jig instead.





The finished board plugged into an inline BNC board, labeled to reduce the chance of inserting it upside down. Be sure to use a .040" drill bit. I grabbed something larger that seemed sufficiently tiny, so the oversized gaps—plus the lack of plated through-holes and the gobs of solder I threw at the problem—make the joints look extra-sketchy.



TESTING

I plugged the finished filter into a BNC adapter board (different project) and hooked it up to the NanoVNA. The curve looks pretty much as predicted with >50dB attenuation down in the broadcast band, about 1dB insertion loss on 80m, and next to none on higher bands.

The next test will be to see if my Kanga Foxx-3 and other simple receivers can now hear something other than the huge regional AM towers lining the ridge a few miles away.

73, Brent WT4U



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:

1000 MILES PER WATT AWARD

Make a QSO using 5 watts or less power and a simple wire antenna in which distance(miles) / power(watts) is greater than 1000.

To show the super-efficiency of CW, this award is issued to anyone who demonstrates that efficiency by making a QSO using QRP or QRPp and a simple wire antenna per NAQCC standards where the distance between stations divided by power in watts is greater than 1000. You can find a distance calculator here.

KMPW 100 AWARD

Make 100 QSOs in which distance(miles) / power(watts) is 1000 or greater.

It is fairly easy to get a 1000 MPW award with the modern equipment in use nowadays. Russ N9IV wants to make it a bit harder and he suggested this award. It involves making not 1, but 100 KMPW QSO's. Even that is not all that hard in reality as I found out when I (K3WWP)

checked my log to see roughly how many such QSO's I had here. I used a great circle map centered on Kittanning, PA and added up all my QSO's from countries that were entirely 5,000 miles or more from my QTH. I didn't count QSO's from countries that were partly inside the 5,000 mile distance nor those countries within 5,000 miles that I worked with less than 5 watts. Going by that premise I have 395 such QSO's, 169 of which are verified by regular QSL card. I mention the verified total because Russ believes all the QSO's should be verified. We address that in the rules below. When you work on your totals, you can find links to distance calculators here.

NOTE: The mileage figures listed in the QRZ.com database are NOT accurate. For example, in checking my Japanese QSO's, all come up to the same exact distance there despite being in many different cities.

Complete details on this award can be found at http://www.naqcc.info/awards_wpxswa.html.



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



NAQCC SPRINTS

JULY SPRINT

Our regular Sprint this month will be on Thursday, July 20th at 0030-0230Z. That's the evening of Wednesday, July 19th in North America. Complete information at <http://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202307.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.

JUNE SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <http://www.naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202306.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: W4QDV, K3GG, & VA3WGX

June Sprint				
	Current Month	Previous Month	All-Time Record	Record Date
Logs	89	87	217	4/17
Participants	125	117	269	2/13
Total QSOs	1,276	1,193	3,154	4/17
Hour 1 QSOs	761	685	1,704	4/17
Hour 2 QSOs	515	508	1,450	4/17
20m QSOs	361	335	1,232	8/13
40m QSOs	872	794	2,203	4/17
80m QSOs	43	64	1,417	2/13
Avg QSOs/Station	14.3	13.7	19.3	9/11

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	K1MZM	KN1H	N1BRI
W2	KA2KGP	KN2G	K2ZC
W3	K3JZD	W6WU	KD3CA
W4	KC5F	W4NLT	W4CMG
W5	KA6J	N5GW	KE5YUM
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	KJ7KDB	-	-
W8	W8GG	NF8M	-
W9	WB9HFK	K9NUD	K9QEW
W0	N0TA	N8LA	AA0W
Canada	VA3KRJ	VA3NU	VE3IIM
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	WB1GYZ	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	NN3E	K3WWP	-
W4	KJ4R	K3RLL	-
W5	WA5RML	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	-	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE3IDS	VE3HUR	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA KEYER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	N2CN	-
W2	K2OID	WA1GWH	N2ESE
W3	KC3RN	K3GG	-
W4	K4BAI	KY4GS N4MJ W4LSV (TIE)	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	KF7Z	KI7LW	-
W8	WI8J	WA8SAN	WB8ENE
W9	AB9BZ	-	-
W0	WU0A	-	-
Canada	VE3DQN	VA3WGX	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	WO7T	-	-
BUG	KF6C	-	-
K/K	NQ2W	-	-

FIRST-TIME ENTRANT HIGH SCORE			
Key Type	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	W4QDV	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	K3GG	VA3WGX	-

JUNE MW SPRINT RESULTS:

Complete Sprint results, including all of the soapbox comments, can be found at <https://naqcc.info/sprint/sprint202306mw.html>

SWA STRAIGHT KEY CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KN1H	WB1GYZ	K1YAN
W2	KA2KGP	KN2G	W2SH
W3	KD3CA	KC3MIO	AK3X
W4	KN4ZXG	KC5F	KA8VZB
W5	N5GW	KD5ZC	-
W6	K6GPB	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	-	-	-
W9	WB9HFK	K9NUD	K9QEW
W0	NN0SS	AA5LH	N0TA
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

SWA BUG CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	-	-	-
W2	-	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	K3RLL	-	-
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	K8NGW	KD0V	-
W9	-	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	-	-	-
DX	-	-	-

GAIN CATEGORY			
KEY	1st	2nd	3rd
SK	NQ2W	-	-
BUG	-	-	-
K/K	-	-	-

SWA KEYSER/KEYBOARD CATEGORY			
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
W1	KB1M	-	-
W2	WA1GWH	-	-
W3	-	-	-
W4	K4KBL	N4MJ	WA4AAK
W5	-	-	-
W6	-	-	-
W7	-	-	-
W8	WI8J	W8GG	-
W9	AB9BZ	-	-
W0	-	-	-
Canada	VE6VIC	-	-
DX	-	-	-

QRPP STATS:

Logs submitted: 40
Total participants: 58
Total QSOs: 308
States/Provinces: 25 + AB & ON

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+	N7QR KF7WNS KC7DM VE3GNU WD4OHD K4KBL KB0ETU K2YGM AA7CU K1IX N8QY WY3H AA5LH K6CSL W5UAA KE9DR AB8FJ NN9K N8HWV WK6L KC2EGL K2HT KC2MJT K4ORD K5GQ N1JI W4HH KC3RN VE3HUR KD9EBS KB4QQJ KB9ILT WA2NYY KD0DK K3JZD VA3NU
75+	KD3CA K9EYT KQ1P K4NVJ KB1M WB4OMM WA1GWH VE3DQN VE3FUJ K9OSC WB9HFK WD0K N8BB N2CN WA2FBN WB1GYZ NQ2W K6MGO NF5U WI5H AA0W N8APO NN0SS KJ4R
100+	KL7IEE AK3X W4DUK N5GW NA4O KN1H AA9L NO2D KA9FQG KD2MX WB8ENE N4MJ N8LA
125+	K4JPN KD0V N2ESE KE5YUM WX4RM WA8SAN N4FI WG8Y N0TA K4KRW
150+	NF8M K3RLL K4BAI W9CC N8XMS K2CWM KU4A
175+	W2SH W8GG
200+	K3WWP KA2KGP W2JEK

SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

K3RLL - Late start when main rig didn't want to come to life. (Looks like I have a job tomorrow!) Swapped out to my early K2. Forgot how nice that old radio is. 20m had a good crowd with some serious QSB but it seemed to empty out about 0100z. Found KC5F easily down on 40m to round out my 'Big Ten'. Hope hear you all on the mW Sprint next week. Thanks for the contacts. 72/73 ... Don

AB4QL - Fun to jump back in for a while. Glad to see some new numbers tonight. QSB was interesting! I got to use my new Begli Sculpture Swing tonight, I think I like it! Barry

WA5RML - Elecraft KX3 @5 wts to a fan dipole hanging on my backyard fence. Most interesting QSO was with Paul, WQ5X who is not a member, but was running QRP with a Yaesu FT-817nd to an antenna hanging on his backyard fence also! It turns out that Paul is a neighbor from a mile or two down the road. Maybe a future NAQCC member. Thanks for the QSOs! 72, Andy

K8NGW - 20M had very deep fading ... I had to time my just right to make the contact! 40M had lots of noise and static crashes. I'll see all of you milliwatt'ers next week!

KA2KGP - The bands were OK this sprint, but 80m. was long & weak. Rig: IC-7000 at 5w. into a G5RV up 25 ft. w/ old German WWII Junkers Straight Key.

KN2G - Thanks WT4U for working so hard to get me out of the mud so early in the sprint. I appreciate all of you who say "tu ken" Unfortunately I have not yet mastered the logging software. I have lost numerous logs trying to work the thing so I can't give you the same courtesy yet.... 72's

MW SPRINT SOAPBOX SAMPLER

KC5F - At a Mexican birthday party, but I stuck the WRC vertical next to my car and made a few contacts in the rain to have taken part. Nothing like the EFHW at home, but at least a few folks heard me! Sorry to VE3DQN for the busted contact. QSB got us and I didn't hear your confirmation... Thanks, all!

NQ2W - I was hopeful that 20m would be the productive band...didn't pan out. 40 was a little noisy but for the most part sigs were solid copy. Couldn't stay for the full 2 hours, so I never gave 80 a try...takes a little too long to switch out the band module in my K1. Thanks for the QRPp QSOs and all the fun that goes along with making them! 72, Will

KN1H - A lot of amazing milliwatt signals tonight. Thanks to Ted, KN4ZXG, for hanging in there! We lost each other a couple of times but got it at last. IC-7300 @900mw out, Nye Viking Master Key.72, John



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 7:30 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)
Wyoming Daily QRS 80 Meter Net (WY80)	Daily 6:30 AM MDT	Daily 1230 Z	3565 kHz	Steve KE7UUJ (WY)

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)

Jun 02 – QNI (4) NCS KE7LKW, WB4SPB, K7JUV, KB7DYP

Jun 09 – QNI (5) NCS KE7LKW, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, KB7DYP, N0DA

Jun 16 – QNI (6) KE7LKW NCS, WB7WHG, WB4SPB, KI7SJE, KC7CW, K7JUV

Jun 23 – QNI (4) NCS WB7WHG, KI7SJE, KE7LKW, WB4SPB

Jun 30 – QNI (7), NCS WB4SPB, N1OIE, N7TB, KJ7DZ, N0DA, KE7LKW/P, W7ANM/P

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

Jun 05 – QNI (1) W0CC

QRN and only a few stations heard on Band. Next week will be better!

Jun 12 – QNI (1) W0CC

On DX watch, the 15 and 20 M band appeared to be busy and, essentially, nothing on 40 M. Next week will be better!

Jun 19 – QNI (1) W0CC

S9 Noise level. Very few stations and they had weak signals.

Jun 26 – QNI (2) W0CC, KI4MZY

S-8 Static. Required phase shifting to copy any station. Again, Brad did a Great Job!

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)

Jun 06 – QNI (1) NCS KA5TJS

Well, no takers on 3.566 or 7.066 last night. I knew that 2 of our guys were out of town and no one else showed up. The noise on both bands was way up and signals were poor off freq. Summer doldrums on the lower band again! Hope for better prop soon.

Jun 13 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

Poor propagations and high QRN on the net tonight. Good copy on YUM but real bad QSB on the others. Also pretty high QRN tonight. I think we will try 40 meters next week on 7.066kc and see if that is better for the hot summer we have coming it looks like.

Jun 20 – QNI (3) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, N4NN

We tried 40 meters last night for the first time this year and it went pretty well. Signals were 579/589 from AR and GA. Lots of QRN and some SSB QRM but good copy in general. Propagations has been terrible here for the last week with solar activity but hope it will quiet down before too long.

Jun 27 – QNI (4) NCS KA5TJS, KE5YUM, KE5YGA, N4NN

40 meters was good tonight. YUM was 579, YGA 599 and NN was 589. Good copy on all and some QRM but not too bad. Think there was another station in there but sent a AS and when called, did not respond. Bad storms in southern AR. GA finally getting some rain. None here in ETX.

MAY 29 – No NET NAQCC WYOMING DAILY QRS 80 METER NET (WY80)

Daily at 6:30 AM MDT which is 12:30 UTC, on 3565 kHz +/-

Main NCS - Steve KE7UUJ (Wyoming)

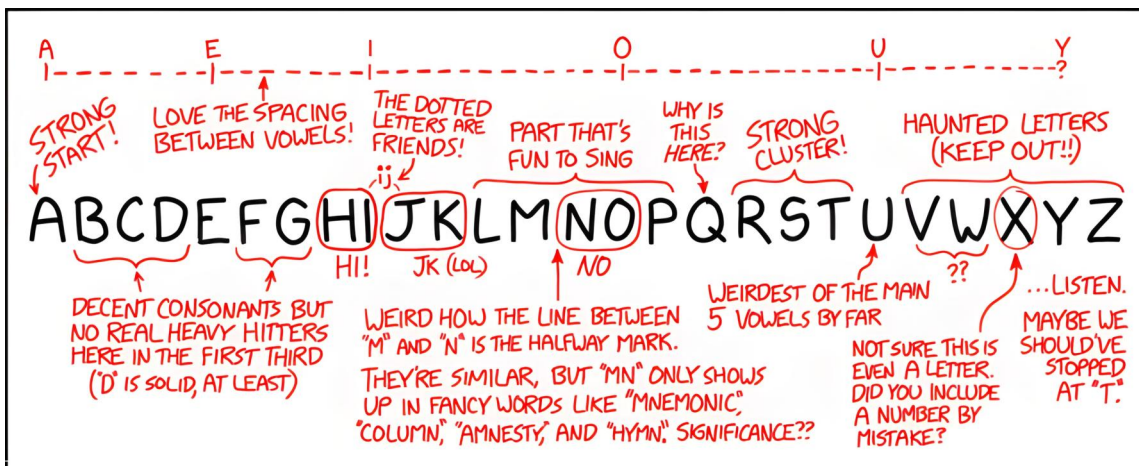
(Listing of stations checking in during the week. # after call = number of check-ins that week.)

Week of Jun 04 – No Nets

Week of Jun 11 – KE7UUJ (1), WB7S (1)

Week of Jun 18 – KE7UUJ (1)

Week of Jun 25 – No Nets



DESIGN NOTES ON THE ALPHABET

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 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 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/>.

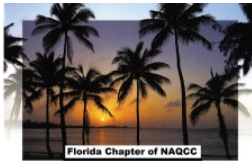
NAQCC DOWNEAST MAINE CHAPTER



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 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 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>.



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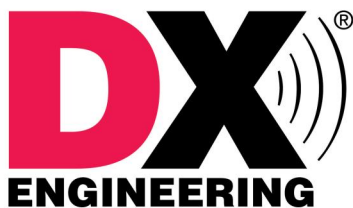

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NAQCC CLUB INFORMATION

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.

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 John Leahy KK4ITX
3513 Aquamarine Way
Zephyrhills, FL 33540 USA

